

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

A look at the importance of co-curricular involvement at WLU ... **PAGES 14-15**

PRICEY PILLS

Why the cost of birth control pills on campus is rising ... **PAGE 18**

CARBON NATION

A point/counterpoint discussion of Dion's carbon tax ... **PAGE 21**

Volume 49 Issue 7

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

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Hawks romp over Lancers

In front of an enthusiastic homecoming crowd, Laurier bounced back with a 33-18 victory

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

In front of a homecoming crowd of 8,249 fans, the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks football team rebounded from last week's devastating 41-7 defeat to experience a romp of their own. Battling the Windsor Lancers, the Hawks prevailed with a 33-18 victory.

"The first win after a few losses is the hardest one to get, but we persevered, and the coaches did a great job all week of prepping us," said second-year quarterback Luke Thompson. "We made some switches on the offensive line and that was really key today. The protection was awesome, and they gave holes for us to run. They really answered the call."

Thompson led the offence through a significantly more promising game than Laurier has wit-

nessed all season. While they came out a little slow in the first quarter-finding themselves behind 15-8 just before the half-time whistle - the Hawks decided it was time to turn up the heat. Thompson connected with third-year receiver Josh Bishop for a 29-yard catch and a touch-down with 18 seconds remaining on the clock. Kicker Chris Mamo then tied the game at 15 with his conversion.

"We were down 15-8, our offence could have packed it in, but we reached deep inside ourselves and managed to drive down the field," said Thompson who completed 17 of 25 on the day, throwing for 302 yards.

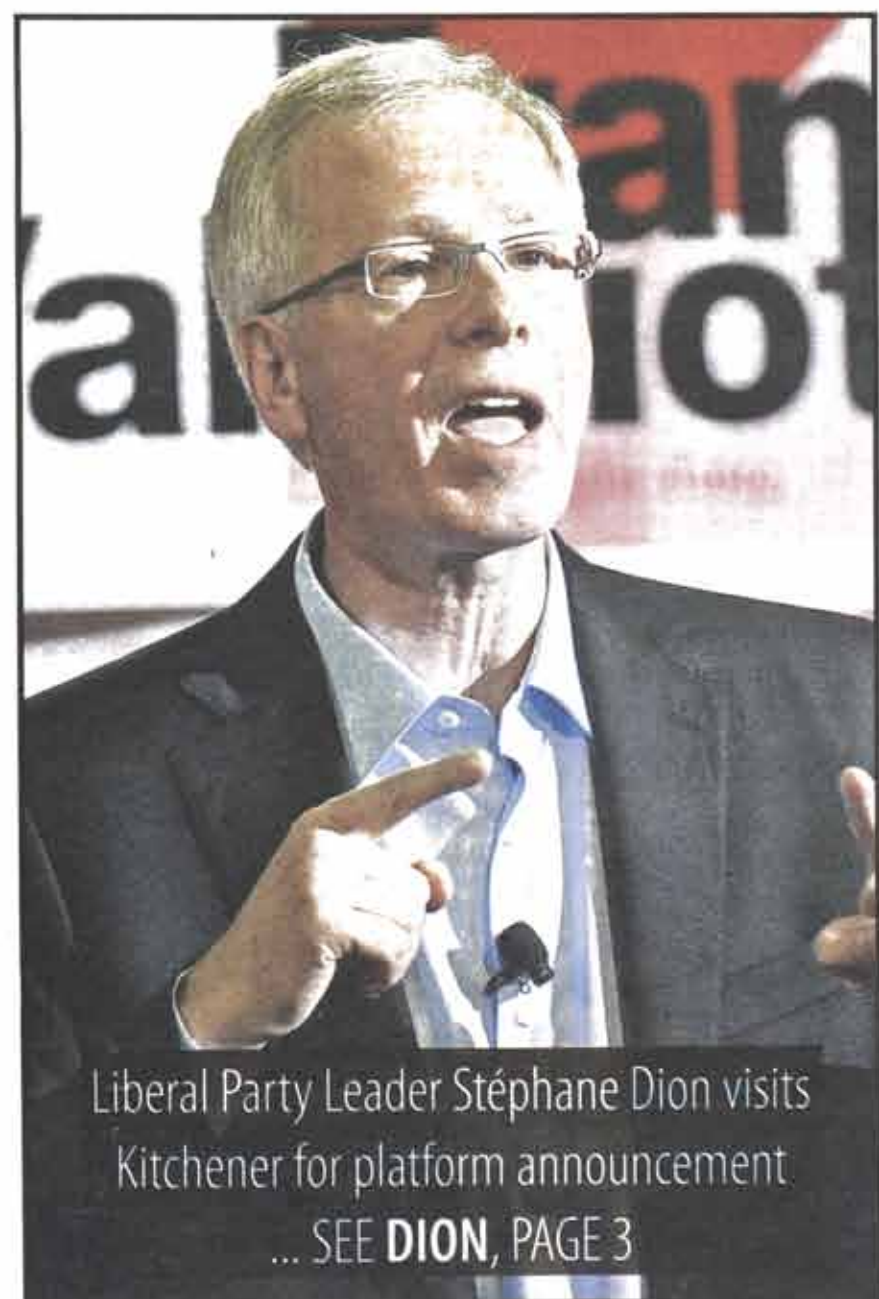
"I gave Josh Bishop the ball, and he made a huge play, and we were able to gain the momentum going into halftime."

- SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 12



RYAN STEWART

SACK TIME - Lancers quarterback Sam Malian takes a hard hit from Hawks linebacker Giancarlo Rapanaro.



Liberal Party Leader Stéphane Dion visits Kitchener for platform announcement

... SEE **DION**, PAGE 3

RYAN STEWART

WLU full-time faculty negotiations underway

The university and WLUFA have been at the bargaining table for three weeks, but some major issues still remain undiscussed by the two parties

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

Negotiations between university administration and full-time faculty are in progress after commencing on September 1.

The two parties exchanged their proposals on August 27, after the expiration of the three-year contract on June 30.

Until a new agreement is reached, both groups will meet on Tuesday and Friday of each week to negotiate.

According to Media Relations Officer for the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA) Herbert Pimlott, because of

the administration's negotiating team's commitments and because faculty members are teaching, the two sides have only been able to set up times to meet twice a week to negotiate.

The WLUFA website's most recent update has reported that "this schedule probably does not provide enough time to negotiate a settlement before the end of the fall term."

So far, administration and the faculty association's bargaining team both report few updates.

"We have begun negotiations quite recently and the administration's team is meeting with the WLUFA team twice weekly ... and

that's really all we have to report right now," said Judy Bates, President of WLUFA.

Jacqui Tam, Director: Public Affairs and Publication for the university, has said that no major issues have been tackled as of yet.

"Obviously we're still in very early stages...we haven't gotten into anything like salary or workload or anything like that," explained Tam, commenting that "normally in negotiations of money, salaries are ones that usually tend to be fairly intense and require a lot of attention so I think that it'd be pretty safe to say that that'd be one of them."

- SEE **WLUFA**, PAGE 2

THE CORD WEEKLY

- The tie that binds since 1926 -

phone: (519) 884-1970 ext. 3564

fax: (519) 883-0873

email: cord@wluwp.com

The Cord Weekly

75 University Avenue West

Waterloo, Ontario

N2L 3C5

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

VOLUME 49 ISSUE 7

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Really? But what if you get really ugly fat girl panties?"

- Sports Editor Lauren Miller on purchasing used school girl panties from vending machines in Japan.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Discombobulate - To throw into a state of confusion; to befuddle or perplex.

CONTRIBUTORS

Erinny De Bino	David Longborough	Mark Ibrams
Anna Dunham	Paula Miller	Rob Scott
Leah Irvine	Andrew Miller	Frank Joss
Madison Gump	James Stangor	Alana Waller
Heather Clark	Jennifer Kim	Esther Okonoi
Karen Lattimer	Sharon Raitchuk	Shady Wang
	Maria Schaffel	

WLUSP STAFF

Copy Editing Manager	Meredith Barrett
Copy Editors	Caitlin Henderson
	Ariel Kropp
	Gina MacDonald
IT Manager	Kayleigh LeBlanc
Distribution Manager	Nicole Verber

WLUSP ADMINISTRATION

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VP: Advertising	Angela Foster
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All advertising inquiries should be directed to VP: Advertising Angela Foster at 884-0710, ext. 3560 or angela@wluwp.com

COLOPHON

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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

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

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

The staff of The Cord shall uphold all commonly held ethical conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or 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 as 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.

Full-time contract talks are in progress

Salary, workload and class sizes have not yet been discussed. For the first time, both negotiating parties have agreed to a bargaining protocol

- FROM WLUFU, COVER

"To get into details beyond that is really just moving things out of negotiating at the table and starting to negotiate publicly and we really don't want to do that," she added.

Tam did, however, mention that seven editorial changes, only dealing with the wording of specific articles, have been made.

According to WLUFU's website, there are many contentious issues: "This time around the administration proposals appear to be unprecedentedly adversarial in terms of the character and number of changes they are seeking in the collective agreement."

The website outlines a variety of changes the administration has proposed that the faculty association is unhappy with, including relocating the WLUFU office to 202 Regina and charging for the use of meeting rooms.

As well, WLUFU's site outlines

concerns about the elimination of the Special Voluntary Exit or early retirement plan (SVEP) and the dismissal of department chairs.

"WE'RE STILL VERY MUCH IN THE EARLY STAGES OF BARGAINING AND THE IMPORTANT THING RIGHT NOW IS REACHING A DEAL THAT'S FAIR AND EQUITABLE FOR BOTH SIDES."

- Jacqui Tam, Director: Public Affairs and Publication at Laurier

The site also reports complaints on the issue of workload pressures, which have not been addressed, and general salary and compensation increases.

Moving into the third week of negotiations Pimlott explained that "there's a lot to be determined over the next few weeks."

Tam noted that both sides have agreed to set up a bargaining protocol, which has not been done in past years.

"We did set and agree to, with the faculty association, a bargaining protocol. We saw that as a really positive step that we were able to sit down with them and say 'Okay, these are sort of the factors or conditions around which bargaining will take place.' We saw this as a really positive step to make sure that that common understanding was there," she stated.

"We're still very much in the early stages of bargaining and the important thing right now is reaching a deal that's fair and equitable for both sides."

WLUFU Full-time negotiations 2005

June 22 - WLUFU and university administration exchange proposals

September 20 - WLUFU executive advised by negotiating team to file for a conciliator; contentious issues included compensation package, workload and large class sizes

October 26 - Conciliator meets with both groups

November 12 - After nearly five months of negotiations, a tentative agreement was reached between the two parties

November 21 - Read-through of agreement for faculty members

November 21-23 - Faculty vote on whether or not to ratify tentative agreement

November 23 - WLUFU votes 94 percent in favor

Group promotes green space

Last Friday, Laurier's Ecohawks held their own tribute to Park(ing) Day, an international event organized to promote the reduction of motor vehicle traffic and parking spaces at the university

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

WLU's Ecohawks raised awareness about alternative transportation and green space last Friday with an event called Park(ing) Day.

The event took place in Visitor Parking lot 20 and members of the campus organization occupied parking spaces, setting up a picnic table and BBQ.

According to Amanda Solmes, coordinator of the Ecohawks, the event was intended to show that even small amounts of space can be used to create more green space if individuals reduce the amount of individual cars they bring to campus.

"[Park(ing) Day] is just supposed to promote alternative transportation and the fact that this space can be used in a better way, like an actual green space or a park or something like that if we did cut down on cars," explained Solmes.

The yearly event was first created in San Francisco, and Solmes' fellow coordinator Reyn O'Born stated that internationally, groups "take back parking spots and try to

take cars off the road by building their own little parks."

Ecohawks are planning a variety of activities to raise students' environmental awareness.

Over O-Week, the organization instituted "waste-free meals," at which the remnants of meals were composted.

This effort will continue throughout the year with a compost bin in the dining hall, which Solmes and O'Born have reported as successful so far.

In addition, with the 50 cents per student Ecohawks collect each semester through their "Green Fee," the group plans to hand out reusable water bottles to discourage disposable ones.

The group also plans to install five additional water coolers around campus similar to the ones in the 24-Hour lounge.

The fixtures will likely be placed in the concourse, Bricker Academic, the science atrium, the library and the Peters Building.

The group will also hold a Green Fair on November 28 in the Concourse, at which vendors will sell green and chemical-free products.



SYDNEY HELLAND

GREEN GROUND - Ecohawks work to reduce motor vehicles at WLU.

> VOCAL CORD

"What did you do this past Homecoming weekend?"



"It was my birthday on Saturday. I went to the football game and then went out for dinner. I climbed a fence."

- Carson Rellinger,
Second-year Computer Science



"I went to the game and I worked at my job at the arts studio on Regina Street."

- Allyson Baggle
Fourth-year Global Studies



"I went to the swim team party."

- Tyler Chin-A-Loy
First-year Environmental Studies



"I just hung out with people on my floor in King Street."

- Ruth Li
First-year Business



"I watched the football game, then went out with the guys. We went to a few keggers."

- Jay Dhan
First-year Political Science

Compiled by Jennifer Rae,
photos by Mara Silvestri

Liberals propose boost in student funding

Stéphane Dion promises to introduce new system of education bursaries

DAN POLISHUCK
WEB EDITOR

With the 2008 election campaign in full swing, Liberal leader Stéphane Dion visited Kitchener last Wednesday to announce several major initiatives.

While Dion's early afternoon appearance at Conestoga College had to do with a proposed spending initiative on early childhood care, it was the announcement he made at the University of Western Ontario in London earlier that morning that could potentially affect the accessibility of post-secondary education in Canada.

The three-pronged proposal would see a complete overhaul of the current aid system, in which students get a tax credit through a very complex process.

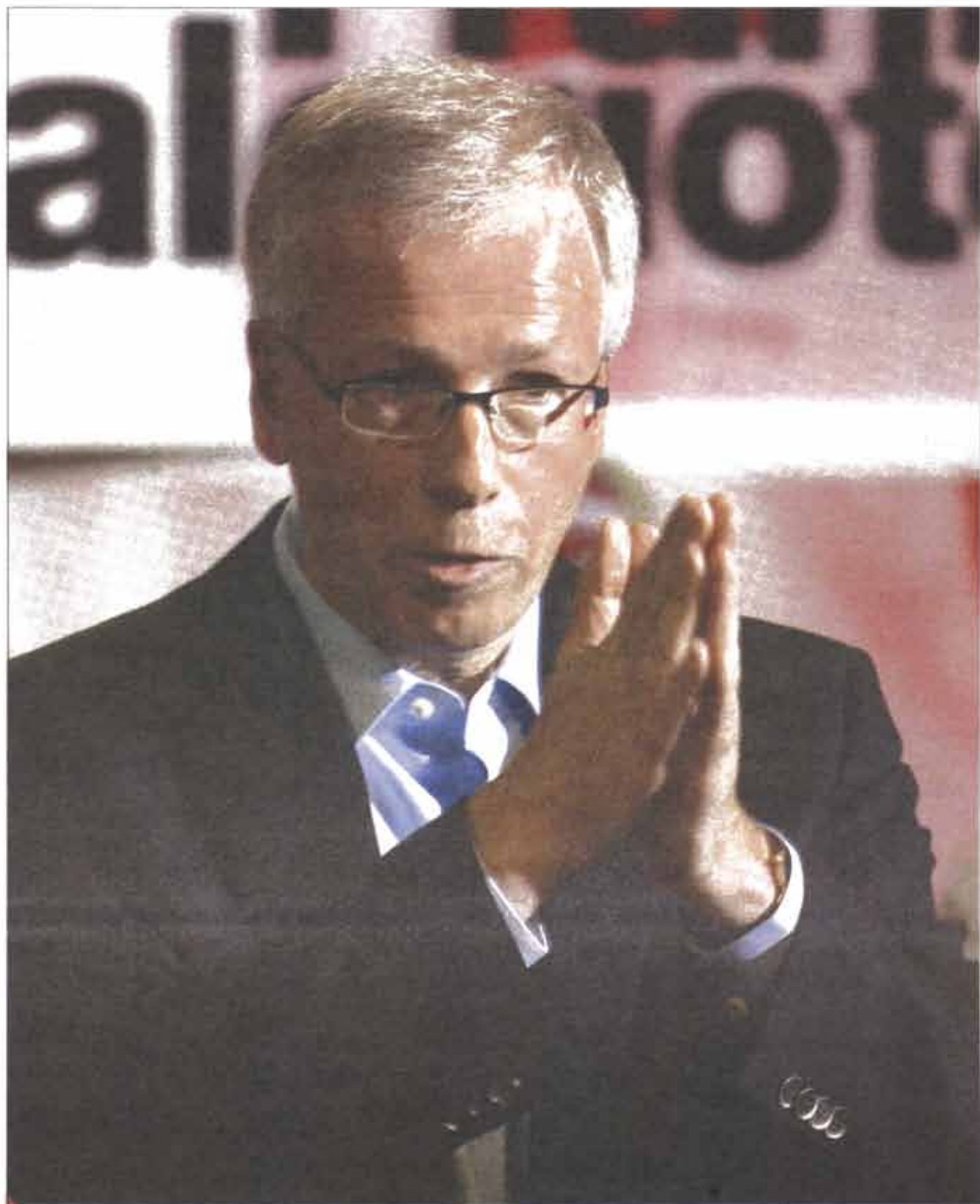
In its place, Dion promised the Liberals would introduce bursaries worth \$3500 for those in need of serious financial aid.

Aside from this, Dion called for a universal-access system for loans in place of one where students are granted access to funding depending on their parents' income level.

In the proposed system, loans valued up to \$5000 a year would be made available.

According to their estimates, the party would look to send out 200,000 bursaries valued at \$3500 within four years and a federal education fund worth \$25 billion would be built within 20 years.

With high profile party members Ken Dryden and Bob Rae at the rally, Dion expressed confidence in his party and its ability to win the forthcoming election on October 14.



RYAN STEWART

DION DOES KW - The Liberal leader made a stop at Conestoga College's Doon Campus last week.

"I know where I want my country to go ... but I know I need to work for all Canadians," said Dion.

Dion also responded to comments made by Conservative leader Stephen Harper a day earlier, suggesting the Liberals were unfit to lead the country through economic uncertainty.

"Bob Rae and the NDP took a

slowdown [in Ontario] and turned it into the biggest recession in 50 years," charged Harper.

"A Liberal government will not cause a deficit," Dion expressed, adding, "we'll put this economy on track again."

The quips came in reference to Rae, who served as the NDP Premier of Ontario from 1990 to 1995.

After losing office to Ontario Progressive Conservative leader Mike Harris, Rae left politics in 1996. During this time, he served as Chancellor of WLU from 2003 to 2008.

In March of 2008, Rae won a federal by-election in Toronto Centre, where he ran as the Liberal candidate.

WLU graduate, minivan collide

Accident during Homecoming sends Laurier graduate to hospital with head injuries

JEREMY TREMBLAY
NEWS EDITOR

A section of Albert Street between Bricker and Ezra was closed to traffic for over an hour last Saturday after a minivan and pedestrian crashed around 1:20 in the afternoon.

The pedestrian, 22-year-old Wade Flemming, was taken to Grand River Hospital with head and neck injuries, according to the Waterloo Regional Police.

His body struck the front of the

minivan, breaking a headlight, denting the hood and shattering a small area of the windshield.

Fleming graduated from Laurier in 2007.

A number of witnesses who spoke to *The Cord* were unwilling to comment on the incident.

Members of the police service's traffic branch were called to the scene to investigate. The van was later towed away at around 3 p.m.

To date, no charges have been laid and the collision remains under investigation.



LAURA TOMKINS

STREET CLOSURE - Charges have yet to be laid in Saturday's collision.

Restructuring to bring admin in line with growth

Organizational changes to shift focus of WLU's top-level management; VP: Academic to take a greater leadership role in planning

JEREMY TREMBLAY
NEWS EDITOR

The details surrounding a recently announced plan to restructure several administrative areas of the university are in the works, though are not yet finalized according to president Max Blouw.

The changes were instituted to help realign Laurier's administration with the growth that has taken place in recent years, he explained.

"I recognized fairly early that the university has changed quite dramatically and that some of our systems haven't reflected the reality of that rapid transformation," added Blouw.

According to VP: Finance Jim Butler, whose office will see the addition of an Assistant Vice President: Administration, the changes should help alleviate a workload that has seen significant growth in recent years.

"My portfolio is a quite large one and it's grown in its complexity," he explained, adding that the volume of work has slowly built over time, though it has become an acute situation over the last three years.

Another addition will be made to the VP: Academic's office, where the position of Assistant Vice President: Academic Services will be created.

The new position will "manage the operations of key staff areas that support the academic operation of the university," according to a document outlining the new position.

According to Acting VP: Academic Leo Groarke, this will allow

for the focus of the VP: Academic to shift more towards academic planning.

"The goal here is to give the VP: Academic and the office more opportunity to have a kind of leadership role in the developing of academic programs and policies and academic direction for the university."

"THE UNIVERSITY HAS GROWN DRAMATICALLY, AND WITH THAT GROWTH ... WE'VE MADE THESE ADJUSTMENTS TO ENABLE PEOPLE TO DO THEIR WORK BETTER."

- Max Blouw, President of WLU

Areas that will answer to the new Assistant VP – that currently report to the VP academic – include Information and Technology Services, the Office of the Registrar and Teaching and Support Services.

With the ability for the VP: Academic to focus on planning, Groarke said that "the first thing is to give the VP: Academic more time to work with the deans on the major academic issues facing the university.

"That would be, will the university continue to grow, to what extent will this be a university that does graduate as well as undergraduate programming, what are key areas of excellence that we want to focus on both in teaching and in research, what are we doing in the context of possible new campuses,

how are we distinguishing between Brantford, Kitchener and Waterloo: all those sorts of questions," he explained.

A final decision has yet to be made on whether the new position will be hired internally or externally, though Groarke explained that he expects the hiring committee responsible will look both internally and externally for candidates, adding "but I have to meet with the committee to decide that."

Within the President's Office, the position of Special Advisor to the President will be eliminated upon the retirement of Arthur Stephen, who currently holds the position.

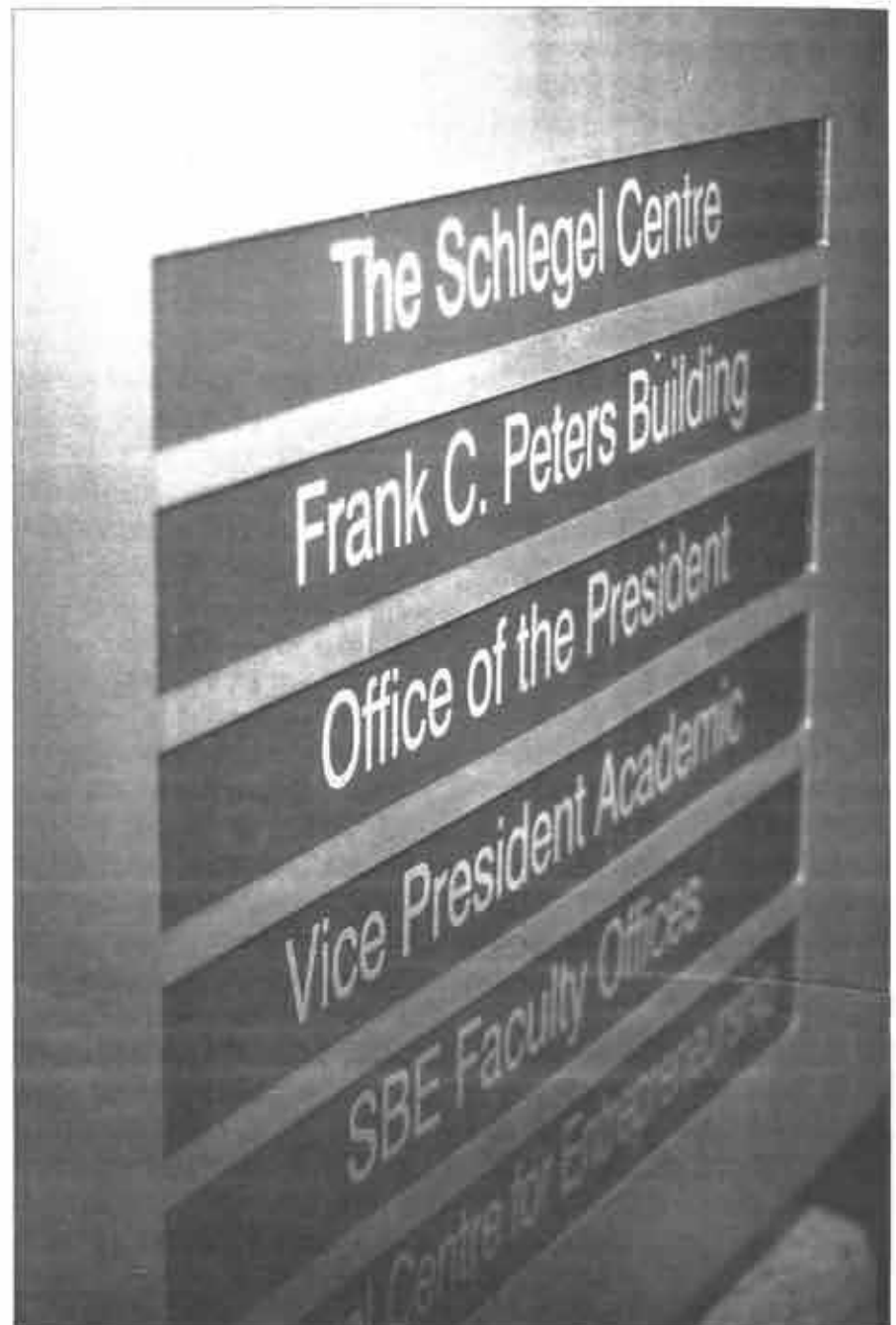
"My sense is that a special advisor is of a lower priority for me than having an assistant VP to assist the VP: Academic.

"It's a realignment of resources to ensure that we have the right kind of support where we can best use it," explained Blouw.

The changes were first discussed internally this past spring before being announced on the WLU website on September 11.

The majority of the changes will be effective as of January 1, 2009, though according to the release on the WLU website some may happen earlier.

They will affect the offices of the VP: Finance and Administration, VP: Academic, VP: Development (currently the VP: University



RYAN STEWART

OFFICE SHUFFLE - WLU's administration is undergoing restructuring

Advancement), Associate VP: Research, the University Secretariat and the Office of the President to varying degrees.

"The university has grown dramatically," explained Blouw, "and

with that growth, some positions had too many direct reports. Some positions required more support than they had, and so we've made these adjustments to enable people to do their work better."

Waterloo women march for safety

Laurier individuals supported Kitchener's Take Back the Night protest against violence towards women last Thursday

MADHAVI GANJU
STAFF WRITER

Laurier's Women's Centre supported an annual event hosted by the Kitchener-Waterloo Sexual Assault Centre (KWSAC). The event, called Take Back the Night, was a march in which participation was open to all women and transgender individuals.

The protest was held on September 18 to combat violence against women. Kate Klein, the arts coordinator of The Women's Centre at Laurier, explained how the event was organized to "protest the fact that women can't go out past dark without accompaniment, without fear."

She believes that, as women

"it's a violation of our rights that we should have to have somebody accompany us when we go out at night."

Members of this protest from Laurier met in the FNCC quad at 5:30 pm. Once everyone gathered there, they walked down to the starting point of this march – Brewmeister Green, at King Street and William Street in Kitchener, where people spoke about violence against women.

The march itself began at 7 pm, when other participants joined, including female students from Waterloo University. The hundreds of women and transgender individuals in this march occupied an entire lane of traffic in the downtown streets of Kitchener. The police also

showed their support by escorting the entire group.

At Kitchener City Hall, the walk's endpoint, men participated by meeting the demonstrators for food and celebration.

"THE STREETS ARE UNSAFE NOT BECAUSE WOMEN ARE WALKING THERE ALONE BUT BECAUSE THERE ARE PREDATORS OUT THERE."

- Kerry Adams, Women's Centre events coordinator

At Laurier, Little House males showed support by organizing the

Men's Walk of Support BBQ, as part of this event.

Carolyn Sacks, the communications coordinator of the WLU Women's Centre, said that the protest was a wonderful way to get to know

a lot of women on campus and from the Kitchener-Waterloo community.

"It was just a time for everyone to get together, march together," said Sacks. "It is important for men and women and any gender identity alike to be equal in especially walking at night alone."

WLU's Women's Centre events

coordinator Kerry Adams said that "the event went very, very well."

The protest was for women to be themselves, as she clarified, stating that it wasn't "about women changing their behavior in order to be safe, this [wasn't] about walking home in groups or not drinking so much at the bar, this [was] about the protest for the fact that women have had to change their behavior these days."

She further explained how the protest wasn't about encouraging women to be safe, but instead, it was about encouraging everyone to know that things can be different.

"The streets are unsafe not because women are walking there alone but because there are predators out there," said Adams.

ELECTIONIN

Seat projection estimates Conservatives close to majority

A recent prediction by the Laurier Institute of Public Opinion and Policy (LISPOP) has forecasted that a majority government for the Conservative Party may be in sight.

Using a regional-swing model designed by Laurier Political Science Professor Dr. Barry Kay, the institute has averaged six polls conducted over 6,000 Canadian individuals to create their latest seat projection.

The most recent results released on Tuesday show 151 Conservative, 97 Liberal, 26 Bloc Québécois and 34 NDP seats, placing the Conservatives extremely close to their much-desired majority government.

LISPOP's projection is meant to show how public opinion translates into actual seat counts, and is not intended as an actual prediction of the federal election's outcome.

All-candidate meeting to take place at WLU on September 29

Members of the Laurier community will have the opportunity to exercise their political voices this upcoming Monday due to the efforts of the Social Innovation Research Group (SIRG).

The organization is playing host to an all candidates meeting in anticipation of the fast approaching federal election with the purpose of discussing relevant issues before votes are cast on October 14.

An all candidate meeting was held at RIM Park in Waterloo last night at 7 p.m. Candidates present included Cathy MacLellan from the Green party, Cindy Jacobsen from the NDP, Peter Braid of the Conservative party, Kyle Huntingdon of the Canadian Action party and incumbent Andrew Telegdi of

the Liberal party.

As well, three new candidates were added to the ballot - Mark Corbiere as an Independent, Ramon Portillo of the Communist Party and Jason Cousineau of the Libertarian Party.

Local candidates in the ridings of Kitchener Centre and Kitchener-Waterloo have been invited to Monday's event, which has been structured to involve a series of scripted questions that the candidates have received in advance as well as an open debate portion during which members of the audience will be able to ask questions of their own.

"We asked community organizations what they would want to ask of the candidates - and now we are giving them the chance," explained Tamatha Trenholm, the Project Coordinator of the SIRG.

The four pre-planned questions have been designed by local groups and cover a wide range of topics including student debt, the environment, safety and crime prevention and the concern of lost industry jobs in the area.

Trenholm is urging students specifically to take part, saying, "At the moment the largest voting population in Canada are those over the age of 50, so decision-making regarding policies in all of Canada are being made by these people.

But it is us who will be living under these policies for the next 50 years. It's easier to make changes now than to try to reverse it all later."

The debate will take place Monday September 29 beginning at 7 pm at 120 Duke Street West in Kitchener. There is no cost to attend the event.

Parties criticize Tory arts cuts

Liberal, NDP and Bloc Québécois party leaders have banded together and expressed concern relating to the prime minister's treatment of Canadian culture.

Last night Jack Layton of the NDP and Gilles Duceppe of the Bloc Québécois protested with an

audience of artists in Montreal regarding the \$45 million cuts to arts programs which were announced in August.

CBC.ca reports that Layton said yesterday afternoon that if elected the NDP would not only reverse the cuts, but would invest an additional \$125 million into cultural programs.

The Conservative leader continues to stand by his decisions, with *The Globe and Mail* reporting that Harper referred to issues relating to arts cuts as "a niche issue for some," when speaking in Saskatchewan yesterday.

This week the prime minister has instead chosen to focus his campaign message on harsher sentencing for criminal activity.

This includes a bill, which would remove house arrest as a viable op-

tion for thirty particular offences including theft, break and enter, and certain drug charges.

On Monday Harper also announced a proposal for youths aged 14 and over to be subject to adult sentences if they commit serious crimes.

Skinny-dipping controversy results in candidate resignation

NDP candidate Julian West has resigned from his candidacy in Saanich-Gulf Islands, Vancouver after allegations have been made publicly that he went skinny-dipping with a group of teenage girls

at an environmental conference in 1996.

According to *The Globe and Mail*, the NDP party and Jack Layton in particular have defended West, claiming that the accusations of the incident - which occurred 12 years ago - are nothing more than a political attack.

Though he will no longer continue to participate in the election campaign, his name will still appear on the ballot because he did not withdraw in time.

The post-secondary mathematics teacher, who is in his mid-forties, has since apologized for his "error in judgment" and hopes the election can now focus on the issues at hand.

-Compiled by Laura Carlson, Jennifer Rae and Rebecca Vasluianu

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☉ CANADAIN ☉

Second knifing on Greyhound bus within the past two months

WAWA, ON – Amidst ongoing inquiries into the safety of inner-city bus travellers, details of another act of violence aboard a Greyhound bus emerged this past Sunday.

A 20-year-old man has been hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries after being attacked by fellow passenger David Roberts while riding the bus west between Toronto and Winnipeg.

The victim is said not to have known his attacker, whom witnesses claim stabbed him in the chest with a knife before demanding to be let off of the bus.

The incident has become even more alarming with the release of information revealing that Roberts was put on the bus by Ontario Provincial Police in Wawa, Ontario, who actually purchased his Greyhound ticket for him using social assistance funds.

Although the situation surrounding his initial involvement with police remains unclear, it has been determined that Roberts had requested psychological help and was evaluated in-hospital.

There, Roberts was deemed not to be a threat.

At this point, Roberts reportedly asked to return home, after which police bought him a ticket and accompanied him to the bus.

Roberts was arrested on the side of the Trans-Canada Highway shortly after the attack took place.

He has since been charged with aggravated assault and two counts of breach of probation.

This most recent attack comes just weeks after a killing aboard a Greyhound bus in Manitoba involving a young passenger who was decapitated by a stranger sitting beside him.

Greyhound is currently working in partnership with Transport Canada on a "risk assessment" in an effort to evaluate bus security.

The review has been underway for a year and a half.

Windsor faculty on strike after negotiations broke down last Wednesday

WINDSOR, ON – Faculty members at the University of Windsor are still on strike a week after legally walking off the job September 17 at 2 a.m.

The faculty's collective agree-

ment expired June 30 of this year, and negotiations began on June 3.

Faculty members approved of the strike with a 96 percent vote.

Salary and the hiring of part-time faculty members were major points of contention during negotiations.

The University of Windsor has declared that faculty will not be able to have applications for research funding while on strike unless they cross the picket line.

In response, Jim Turk, the president of the Canadian Association

of University Teachers, said: "I am speechless that any university would, in a short-term dispute over a collective agreement, threaten the long-term future of the faculty and of the university by blocking new research grant applications."

The Windsor University Faculty Association has also been presented with a \$1 million line of credit from the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

- Compiled by Jennifer Rae and Jeremy Tremblay

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2 - 4 p.m.: Lakehead University, University of Toronto, Wilfrid Laurier University

Tuesday, September 30, 2008 • Paul Martin Centre

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.: Nipissing University, UOIT, Queen's University, University of Western Ontario

Wednesday, October 1 - Friday, October 3, 2008 • Career Development Centre

Representatives from Faculties of Education in New York and International Educational Consultants

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Rwanda's female rule

For the first time in the world, there is a female majority in Parliament. 44 of the 80 available seats went to women, along with high hopes of change

ALANNA WALLACE
CORD INTERNATIONAL

Rwandans participated in their second parliamentary election last week since the end of the genocide fourteen years ago, which left almost one million Rwandan Tutsis and moderate Hutus dead. The election has led to a female majority in Rwanda's Chamber of Deputies, and it has become the first nation in which women outnumber men in Parliament.

The polls opened on September 15 at 6 am and closed at 3 pm. Voters were choosing candidates to be elected to the Chamber of Deputies, where 53 directly elected members and 27 indirectly elected members sit. The ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) includes six coalition parties. Two other parties participated in the election, though they support current President Paul Kagame. Opposition parties remain in exile, leading some to believe this year's election was a mere democratic smokescreen to please the international community and observers from the European Union.

President Paul Kagame was a key actor in the establishment of the Tutsi-led RPF, which started as the rebel force that ended the genocide and took control of the Rwandan capital Kigali in July 1994. The RPF ended up winning 78 percent of the seats in the election, while the Social Democratic Party and Liberal Party took seven and four seats, respectively.

Of the 27 indirectly elected seats of parliament, 24 are required to be filled by women, two to be held by youth members and one for the disabled. These indirectly elected individuals do not represent a particular party. These candidates were chosen between September 16 and 18.

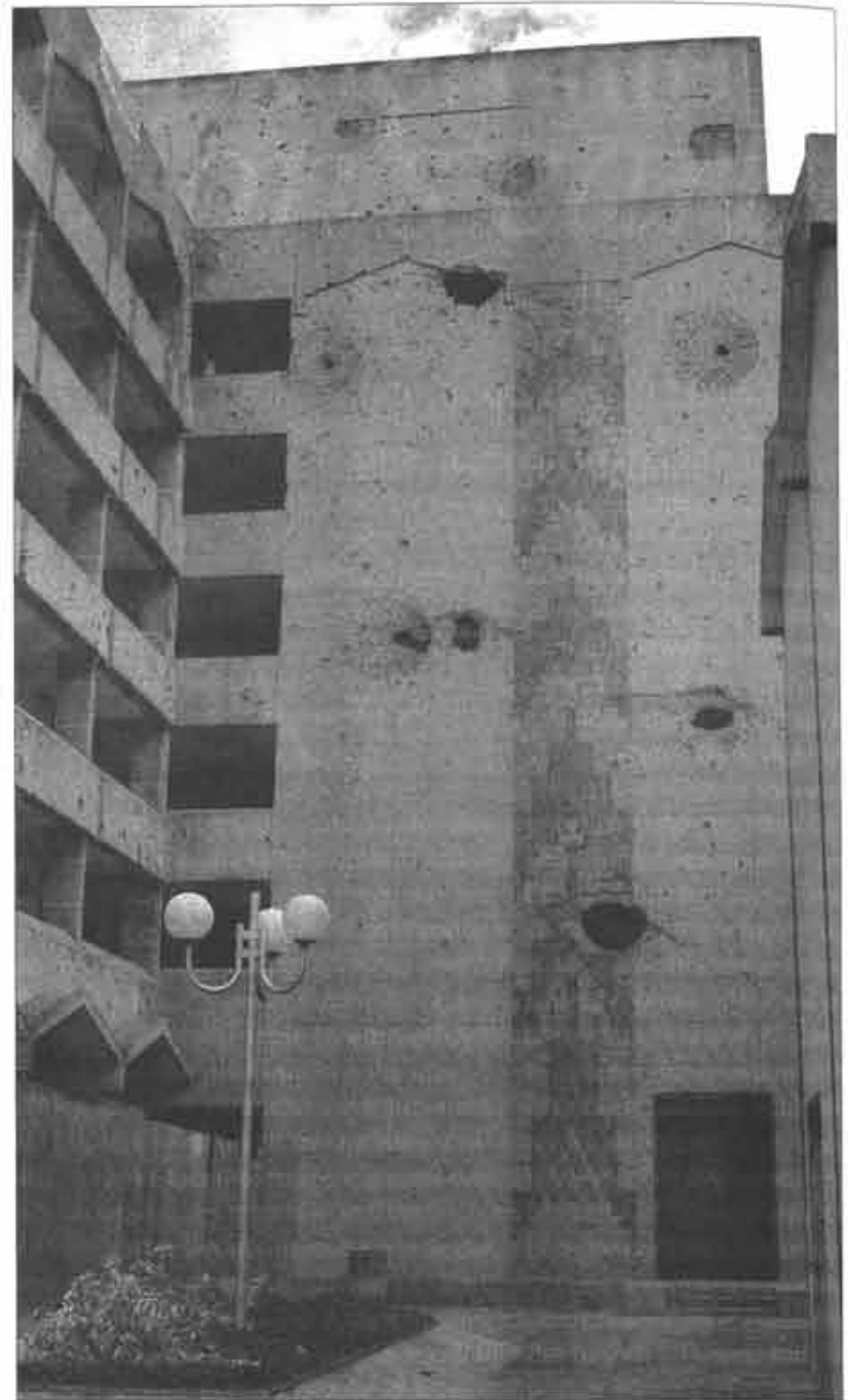
Rwanda's post-genocide constitution ensures a 30 percent female quota in the Chamber of Deputies. The last parliament was 48.8 percent female - the world's highest rate. After last week's election, about 55 percent of those elected were women, making it the first country where women outnumber men in parliament. Women received 44 out of the 80 seats.

The representation of women

in politics is largely as a result of the constitution's quota of females that must be met by the Rwandan parliament and in other nations of Sub-Saharan Africa. However, women in Rwanda have had the right to run for office since the nation gained its independence from Belgium in 1962.

The Rwandan government strives to create a knowledge-based economy through an effort called "Vision 2020". With the rise of female representation in politics comes a 40 percent increase in female literacy across the nation. The large government push for gender equality has also helped create more jobs for women in various economic sectors. Perhaps as a result, Rwanda's economy grew by six percent last year.

Nonetheless, Rwanda's democracy is still scrutinized for its one-party domination at the polls. President Paul Kagame is not without criticism either, after the way his party took military control after the horrors witnessed during a genocide that arguably began with the assassination of the nation's former president.

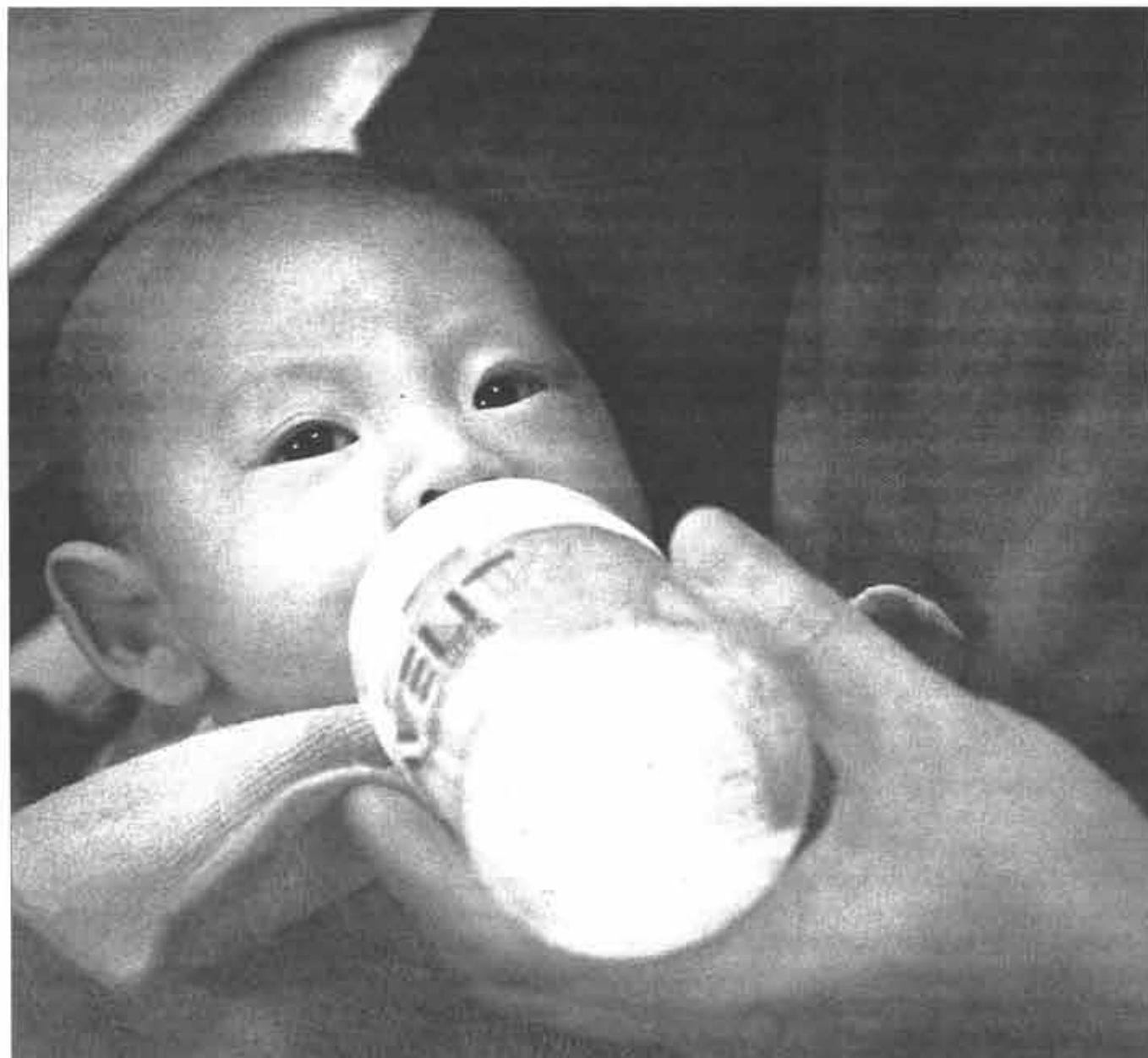


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SHOT DOWN - Parliament buildings in Rwanda are seeing a new light since the genocide in 1994, with the election of a female-majority.

Four Chinese babies die from melamine in milk

13,000 infants have fallen ill after a chemical was found in their milk. Over 100 of these are still in critical condition despite the recent product recall



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BOTTLE-FED BABY - A Chinese baby takes his milk, oblivious to the potential danger he's in at each meal.

ALISON SCHOFIELD
CORD INTERNATIONAL

In China this week, thousands of parents have been stricken with panic and grief, as an estimated 13,000 children are sick due to contaminated milk products.

The crisis surrounding tainted milk became public early last week when the Sanlu Group recalled its products. Although the products were only recalled this month, parents have been complaining of children's health problems since March, reported the *New York Times* on September 15.

Later in the week, it was discovered that ready-liquid milk from three of the largest milk manufacturers in the country has also been contaminated. As a result, milk products from these companies - Mengniu Dairy Group Co., Yili Industrial Group Co., and Bright Dairy - that tested positive for contamination were recalled.

The milk is said to be contaminated with melamine, a chemical that is used in the manufacturing of plastics and fertilizers. As a result, many children have become sick with kidney stones, which can lead to kidney failure. As of September 19, four children have died from contaminated milk, reported the Associated Press.

It has been suggested that suppliers and farmers, dealing with the increasing costs for feed and labour, have watered down the milk

and added the chemical. Melamine is high in nitrogen and is able to give the illusion of high protein levels, allowing for cover-up of the protein deficiency that occurs after watering the milk down.

Chinese officials believe that representatives from chemical companies have been contacting farmers and telling them that adding melamine is a good idea. Officials don't believe that farmers would have the ability to come up with this solution on their own, reported the Associated Press.

Melamine was also found in pet food in the United States last year, the source being traced to a Chinese ingredient found in the food.

Although milk products are not imported from China to the United States, the US Food and Drug Administration is still inspecting food products at US ports, reported the Associated Press on Friday. There are no Chinese milk or formula products sold in Canada, though yogurt products from Mengniu Dairy Group and Yili Industrial Group are sold at a Chinese grocery chain based in Vancouver. Many grocers have already pulled these products from the shelves. According to the CBC, tests for melamine are being run on the products and the results are expected back early this week.

In response to this national crisis, China's food safety agency website says the government will "severely punish those involved."

Worst economy since the Depression

Financial expert discusses the economic crisis in the United States as it worsens heading into the 2008 presidential election

PAULA MILLAR
STAFF WRITER

The financial world woke up last Monday to a very different Wall Street. The onset of what some are calling the worst financial crisis to hit the US since the Great Depression forced federal regulators to work into the weekend. Rescuing America's banking sector, already battered by this year's housing market meltdown, may avoid a complete financial system collapse. Today, the livelihoods of the nation's most vital financial institutions remain at stake.

Dr. John M. Curtis, a distinguished fellow of the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), agrees a government-orchestrated financial rescue is crucial. "Financial markets anywhere in the world are based primarily on confidence, and good regulation backed up by good economic policy and all that has begun to unwind," said Curtis. He believes that instability in the world's largest economy will lead to a "domino effect," which will impact economies across the globe due to the international nature of credit markets.

The domino effect was in full force last week in the US. On Monday, the collapse of the fourth-largest US investment bank, Lehman Brothers, began a whirlwind

week of turmoil on Wall Street. The day after, US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson was forced to offer an \$85 billion rescue package to American International Group Inc. (AIG), America's largest insurance company.

On Saturday, President Bush announced his plan for a \$700 billion bailout to the financial industry in order to buy up troubled mortgage assets and unfreeze the country's credit markets. Finally, Sunday marked the end of an era on Wall Street with the conversion of America's two remaining major investment banks to holding companies, now allowing for more government regulatory control over the lending industry.

Many American taxpayers are lashing out against this latest bailout. They feel that the banks they are now saving are those responsible for the US housing market meltdown and the financial industry crisis. Regardless, Dr. Curtis feels that "\$700 billion is the least amount the bailout could possibly be." He explained that, while this amount will cover vast mortgage-based loans, it will not be enough to cover any other possible assets.

President Bush defended his rescue package, saying, "It's a big package because we have a big problem ... the risk of doing nothing far outweighs the risk of the package." Dr.

Curtis feels Bush's atypical reaction to the economic crisis underscores the severity of the situation.

Many experts agree that the financial crisis is undeniably changing the tone of the presidential race. In recent weeks presidential hopeful John McCain has tried giving Republicans reason to be optimistic. Consistent reiteration of his lengthy foreign policy experience, the introduction of his vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin and

the well-received Republican convention all appeared to be bolstering the McCain campaign.

However, with the economy emerging as the major issue, Americans may be wondering which party will be best able to get the US economy back on track. Dr. Curtis feels that "People are future-looking ... and it will depend on which candidate is more credible in saying there is a mess here ... and their party has a plan to fix it up."

The scale and implications of this pending global financial crisis will likely be front-page news as long as the scope of the financial crisis continues to widen, and turbulent financial markets undermine confidence in the banking system. Dr. Curtis believes the state of the American economy will be issue number one for as long as it remains the biggest news story.



NYSE FALLS - Wall Street continues to struggle with the continual downfall of the American economy.

Religious violence in India

An outbreak in Orissa killed 16 people and nearly 200 have been arrested

SHAGUN RANDHAWA
STAFF WRITER

The death toll is on the rise in India as violence between Hindus and Christians escalates with each passing day. The world has been watching in horror as innocents are tortured and forced to convert while holy places of worship are vandalized in one of the world's most religiously secular countries.

Almost 200 people have been arrested in Orissa after riots erupted all over the state in response to the murder of a local Hindu leader, Swami Laxmananda Saraswati. Hindu extremists have said that Saraswati had been killed by Christian missionaries, who were retaliating after he had broken up prayer meetings that revolved around the killing of cows and forced conversions of Hindus to Christianity.

Surender Jain, spokesman for the right-wing Vishwa Hindu Parishad, claims that "Christians are stealing land from poor tribals for churches.

They are getting foreign money to fund mass conversions. Swami knew this and was trying to stop it. That is why he was killed," as reported in *The Guardian*.

The Times Online reports Kama-

lini Naik, who was seven months pregnant, as one of the women who was forced to convert to Hinduism by an attacking mob. After her refusal, witnesses relayed that she and her one-year-old son were cut into pieces.

State authorities report 16 deaths so far, but the Catholic church disagrees. They have recorded 36 deaths and there are fears that the toll is much higher.

The mobs are burning their victims, making it difficult to distinguish the actual number of deaths from the attacks.

Nearly 50,000 Christians have been forced to flee, and over 3,000 homes and 115 churches have been destroyed.

Orissa is a state with a history of religious intolerance. Last year, around Christmas, nearly 100 churches were razed and the deaths of five Christians were recorded.

The state is one of India's poorest regions, with low-caste Hindus and tribal populations that account for one of the world's most impoverished peoples. Christian converts come from this group, mainly attracted to the opportunities to study at church-run schools and to escape Hinduism's rigid caste system.

Presently however, citizens who are at the bottom of Hindu society and convert to Christianity are not eligible for the public sector jobs that are reserved for these low-caste individuals. Those who do convert can take advantage of India's vast affirmative action program.

On September 20, nearly a month after the ethnic disputes broke out in the tribe-dominated district, the Orissan government sent out a missive to all district administrations and police to implement the Orissa Freedom of Religion Act, 1967. This act aims to prevent illegal conversions.

The attacks spread out from Orissa to other parts of India as well. A 150-year-old church in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, was set on fire last Thursday, which led to all Christian missionary schools and colleges in the state being closed down the following Friday in protest.

Almost two dozen churches in Karnataka have been attacked, with three churches near the city of Bangalore ransacked last Sunday. Officials say the vandals belonged to the right-wing Bajrang Dal Hindu group, leading to the arrest of Mahendra Kumar, head of the Dal's branch in Karnataka.

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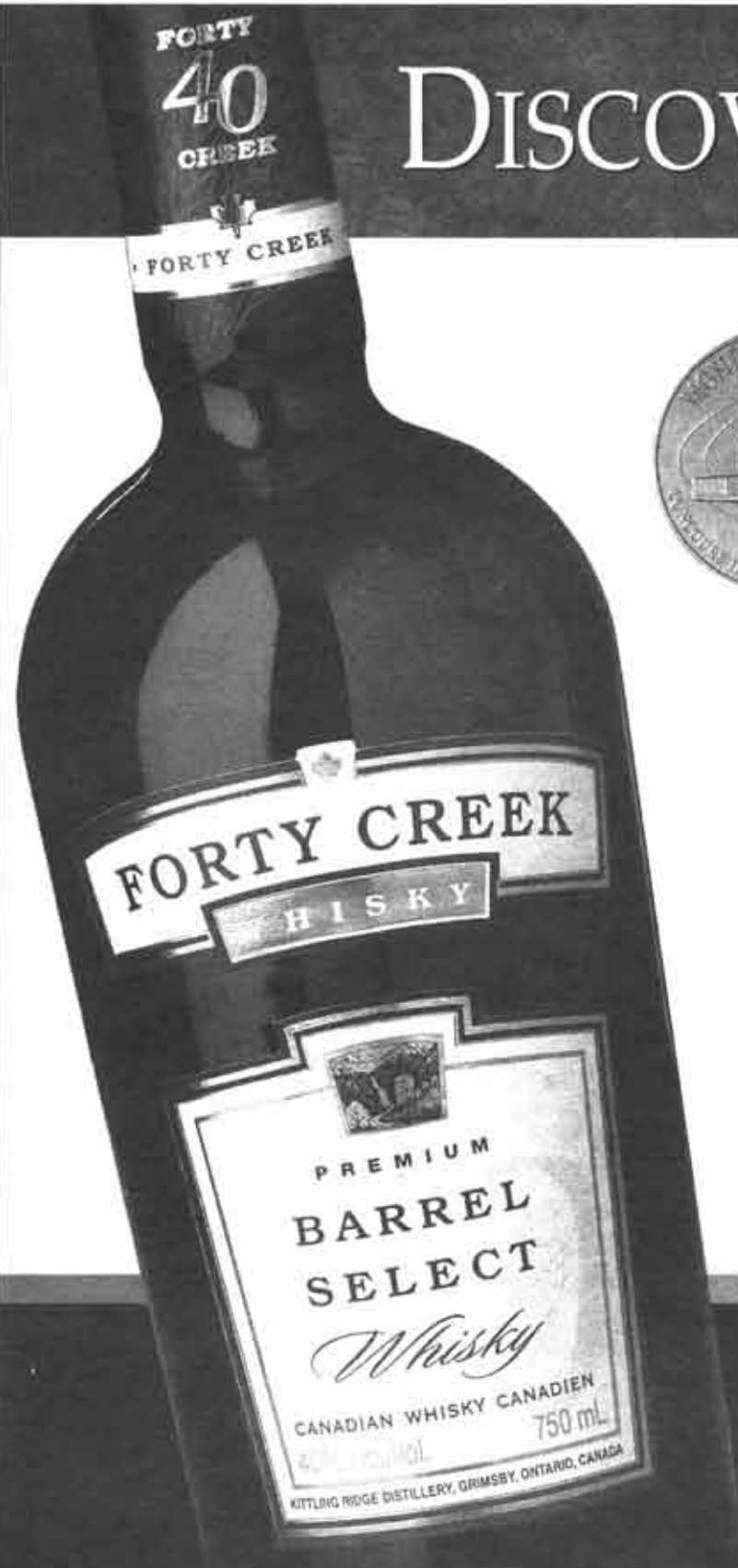
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Women's soccer draw against York

The Hawks managed a 0-0 result against the defending CIS Champions

ANDREA MILLET
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women's soccer team met up with the number two nationally ranked York Lions this past Sunday in their sixth regular season game. The team fought hard against the Lions and in the end the two evenly matched teams finished in a scoreless draw.

"I thought it was a very good performance from both teams," said Head Coach Barry MacLean. "They are as good a team as there is in Canada and I think we played them evenly for 90 minutes."

The women took to the field with confidence, playing strong right from the start. They moved the ball effectively, the defence working together to keep the Lions away from their net. Both teams put on a display of their strength and skill, each allowing the other very few chances for points.

"[The defence was] fantastic. York is used to scoring three or four goals a game and they didn't

really get even a good chance," said MacLean.

The second half played out much like the first, with both teams battling closely and neither willing to let up and concede a goal. The Hawks' defence was able to keep in check with York's star goal scorers Alicia Donaldson and last season's OUA West and CIS MVP Stefania Morra, who have a combined total of eleven goals already this season.

While the Hawks came out strong with a shot on goal in the fifth minute of the second half, the Lions' keeper Stephanie Bagnarol tipped it over the cross-bar and it wasn't until the last five minutes of play that Laurier had another close attempt for a goal. Defensive player Nicole Currie fired a long shot that was once again denied by Bagnarol. At the final whistle the score remained 0-0, which seemed an appropriate reflection of the closeness of the game.

"Either team could have nicked the result but I think our result, 0-0, was fair," said MacLean.

Laurier also travelled to Waterloo

on Saturday where they played the Warriors. First-year forward Sarah Houghton was brought down in the box and took the penalty, putting the ball past the Warriors keeper and securing a 1-0 victory for the Hawks.

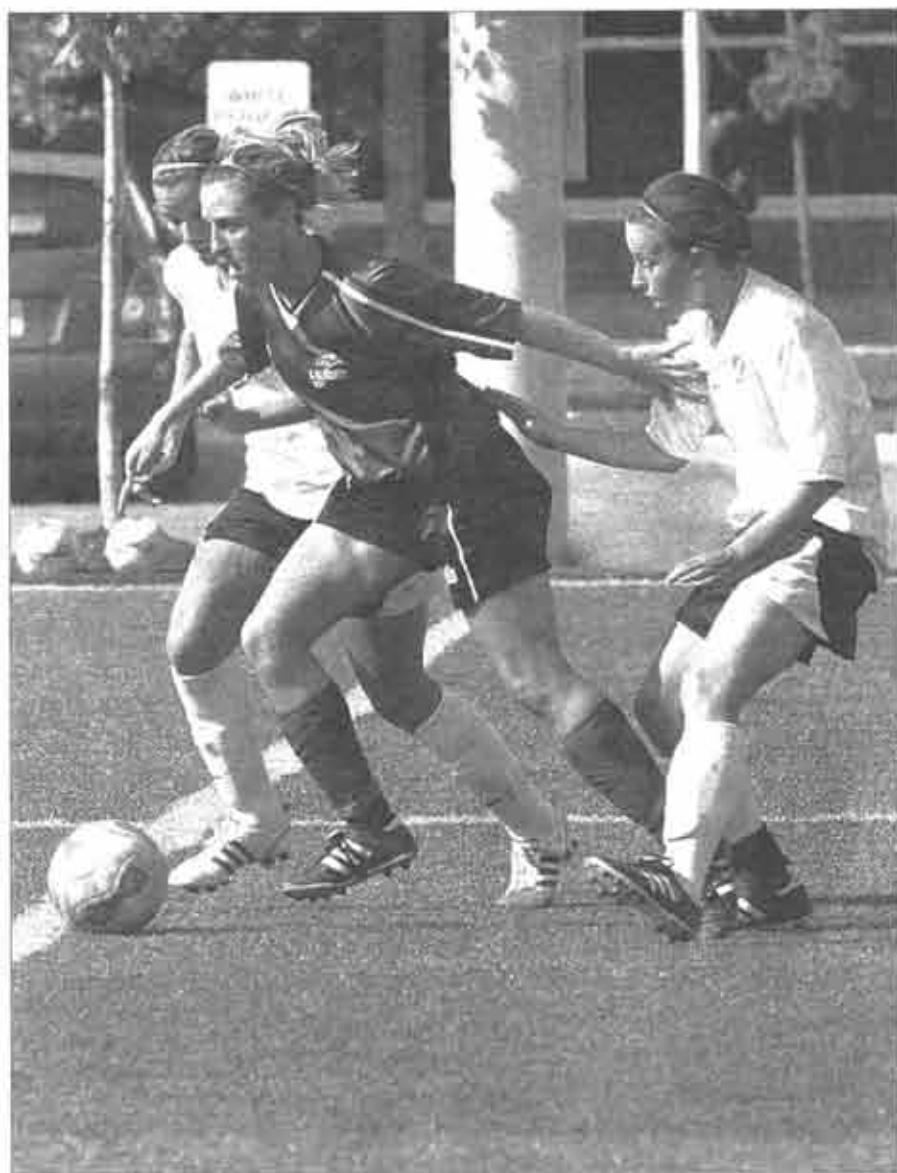
The Hawks appear to be moving in the right direction as they are starting to demonstrate their skill as a unified team. The younger players are getting more time on the field and are settling in with the team.

"At first I'm sure it was tough for them, but they definitely have fit in. They've found themselves a home," said midfielder and team captain Sara Hopper.

As the Hawks prepare for their next game, and the rest of the season, team morale will be a key to their success.

"Just confidence and believing in each other," said Hopper. "I don't think they realize how good they are."

Next up, the Hawks will play host to the Western Mustangs on Saturday September 27. Kick-off is at 3:15 pm on Alumni Field.



Laura Tomkins

SMOOTH STEAL - Midfielder Sara Hopper takes the ball from York.

Men tie CIS first-ranked York Lions

In a game filled with controversy, Wilfrid Laurier escaped the effort with a 1-1 draw against York

LUKE DOTTO
STAFF WRITER

In a truly inspiring performance, a young, defiant Golden Hawks men's soccer squad battled back from an early penalty-shot goal and an early red card to third-year striker Dara Shahin Herbod and

shocked the CIS by completely out-playing the perennially favoured York Lions.

"Unbelievable," commented Head Coach Mario Halapir, describing the unranked Laurier squad's 1-1 draw with the number one ranked team in the country.

The match was supposed to be

a barometer for how far away the team was from competing with the best in the nation, but nobody should have to ask that question now.

Within the first 15 minutes, the Hawks never left the Lions' end, accumulating free-kick after free-kick.

Finally, the Lions managed to break through and, with the help of a hapless referee, were awarded a penalty-kick.

Halapir had select words for the call. "I don't know the terminology, but that was crap," he said.

The Lions capitalized as goalie Yousef El-Abbar guessed the right side, but couldn't quite grow arms long enough in the split second it took the ball to travel from the spot to the goal.

In what seemed like a sadistic gesture from the soccer gods, the Hawks were down 1-0 early, despite out-working and out-chancing the Lions.

Enhancing the woe was a red card handed to Herbod for a phantom punch that the referee "heard," according to Halapir, who was given the explanation at the half.

Playing a man down and a goal down, the rest of the squad remained relentless and finally, in the 90th minute, third-year defender Matt Smith was called upon to take a free-kick at the top of the box.

Striking a low shot to the left side of the goal, York's gargantuan goalkeeper was unable to correctly track the ball, as it was screened by the four-man wall his defence had set up.

The Hawks bench exploded, and so did the water bottles that York Head Coach Carmine Isacco had just smashed against the ground.

After one of the program's most important results since the 2001 CIS Championship, Halapir had to let the praises fly.

"We don't have the most skillful team, but these guys, the progression they've made from the first day to now is unbelievably amazing."

The mental fortitude of the squad to stick with the team-first preaching of the coaching staff is finally paying dividends.

"Their commitment is superb, the commitment to trying to do what we tell them to do, I appreciate every effort. I'm ecstatic with the performance," said Halapir.

It's been proven regularly on the professional stage, that no matter what the skill level of your opponents, heart is just as equal a quality, which was undoubtedly the deciding factor in Sunday's matchup.

"If the other team had equalled the heart today, it might have been a different story; heart and effort will take you to a certain level, I hope it will take us very far."

Prior to Sunday's game, the Hawks picked up a 2-1 win as they travelled across town to tackle the rival Waterloo Warriors on Saturday.

The Hawks will now welcome the Western Mustangs and Windsor Lancers to Alumni Field next weekend. Western sits just two points ahead of the Hawks for second spot in the OUA west, and Windsor sits two points behind.



Laura Tomkins

BATTLEFIELD - Midfielder Alex Doma wins the ball during the Hawks' tough and physical match against the York Lions on Sunday afternoon.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
September 15-20, 2008

RECENT SCORES

09.21.08

M Baseball 2 - McMaster 7
W Lacrosse 18 - Western 2
M Soccer 0 - York 1
W Soccer 0 - York 0

09.20.08

M Football 33 - Windsor 18
M Baseball 2 - Western 7
M Soccer 2 - Waterloo 1
W Soccer 1 - Waterloo 0
W Lacrosse 20 - Guelph 3
W Lacrosse 19 - McMaster 4
M Baseball 3 - Western 2

09.19.08

M Baseball 1 - Guelph 6
W Rugby 12 - Waterloo 20

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

09.26.08

M Hockey vs McGill
Life Arena, Rec Complex, 7:30 pm

09.27.08

W Rugby vs Western
University Stadium, 1:00 pm
M/W Soccer vs Western
Alumni Field, 1:00 pm/3:15 pm
M Baseball vs Toronto
Bechel Park, Waterloo, 3:30 pm
M Hockey vs Ottawa
Sunlife Arena, Rec Complex, 7:30 pm

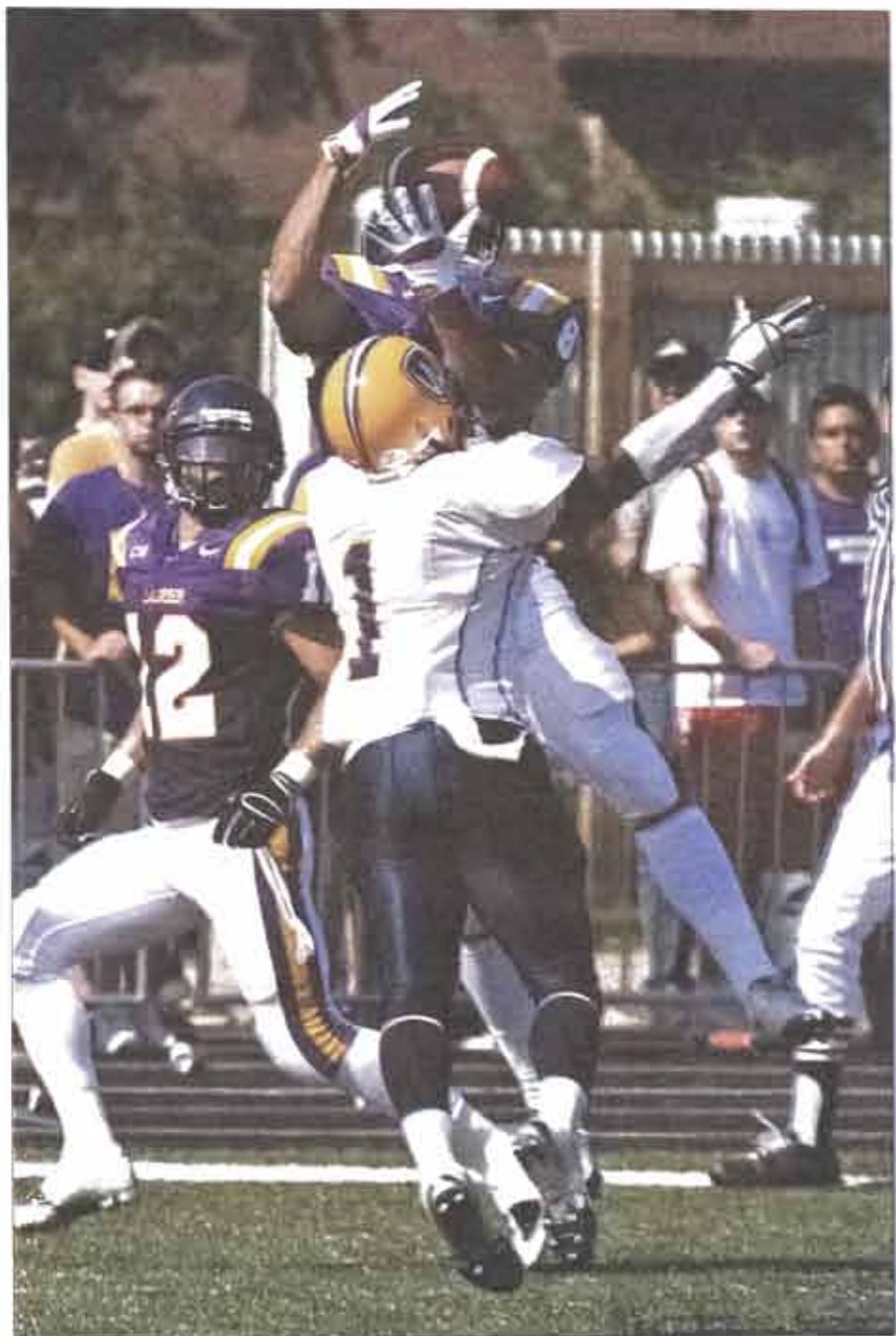
09.28.08

M/W Soccer vs Windsor
Alumni Field, 1:00 pm/3:15 pm

QUARTERBACK STORIES

MIKE FITZGERALD, Football
Dara Shahin Herbod, Soccer
Heather McHardy, Women's Lacrosse

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RYAN STEWART

HIGH FLYER - Josh Bishop makes a huge catch for a touchdown.

Hawks soar to victory

WLU take down the Lancers at home to bring their season record to 2-2

- FROM FOOTBALL, COVER

The drive was the turning point in the game for the Hawks, for they came out in the second half to put away the Lancers, and never looked back. Early in the third quarter, Thompson threw a lateral pass to rookie receiver Shamawd Chambers who ran it 15 yards for a touchdown, his second of the day. The quarter wrapped up with fifth-year running back Ryan Lynch taking the ball into the endzone to put the Hawks up 29-18. Lynch finished the day rushing for 127 yards in 24 carries, his best of the season thus far.

"We came out in the second half, and scored twice against the wind and just put them away. I can't even begin to tell you how good it feels right now," commented Manager of Football Operations and Head Coach Gary Jeffries. "We just started making plays. We started going to the outside and Luke Thompson just made plays. That last drive in the first half was huge."

The fourth quarter was filled with a series of failed comeback attempts by the Lancers. The Hawks defence was ready and waiting every time to shut them down.

They were also able to hold Lancers star running back and current CIS all-time leading rusher Daryl Stephenson to a mere 61 yards in 10 attempts.

"WE MADE SOME SWITCHES ON THE OFFENSIVE LINE AND THAT WAS REALLY KEY TODAY. THE PROTECTION WAS AWESOME, AND THEY GAVE HOLES FOR US TO RUN."

-Luke Thompson, quarterback

The key to the Hawks victory was a much improved offensive line.

"We needed to make adjustments on the o-line, incorporate a better blocking scheme, give our quarterback some time and open

up some room for our running backs," said Bishop. "It was a major focus for us, we had an eye-opener last week, and it was what we needed. It happened early in the season, so we could fix it and come back to play games like this."

"We're just going to keep moving forward, hopefully they will grow and they'll have some chemistry together and we'll just keep getting better and better," said Thompson about the new offensive line arrangement.

"This moment right now is the greatest feeling, to play like we just played. We definitely did a better job, [the guys] worked real hard all week. We were better today," said Jeffries.

The Hawks will return to action next Saturday against cross-town rivals the Waterloo Warriors in their new stadium.

Baseball Hawks drop to 4-6

The Hawks came away with only one win, and sit in fourth place in the OUA

JAMIE NEUGEBAUER
STAFF WRITER

The Golden Hawks men's baseball team ended a weekend of four games in three days on Sunday with a 7-2 defeat at the hands of the McMaster Marauders. First-year pitcher Jack Malone took the loss for the Hawks, giving up six runs before the seventh inning.

Despite the seven runs posted by the Marauders' offence on the afternoon, it was Chris Piccini's pitching that was truly the story. The McMaster hurler displayed a solid confidence in his breaking ball, and kept the Hawks' hitters guessing.

Malone started shaky on the

Hawks' mound, giving up three runs by the end of the second inning. As well, the Hawks' defence continually let him down, committing five errors in the game.

Hawks third-baseman Ryan Pannas got Laurier on the board in the third inning, driving in veteran Scott Mahn from second base with a single. But it wasn't enough.

It wasn't until the eighth inning that the Hawks could score again when first-baseman Curtis Young picked up an RBI.

The Marauders added another run against Hawks reliever Josh Wood, bringing the final to 7-2 in favour of McMaster.

"We seemed tired and weren't able to recover once we got down

early," commented Head Coach Scott Ballantyne. "We made some uncharacteristic mistakes, and it was just one of those games."

Since scoring 20 runs in the first three matches, the Hawks' offence has floundered, scoring only 11 runs in seven games.

"It's not a matter of us not getting hits - in 5 of those last 7 games, we've out-hit our opponents - it's a matter of getting lead-off runners on base and then doing the little things to move the runners along and into scoring position," said Ballantyne. "We have not made the necessary adjustments against the pitchers that we have been facing the second, third and fourth time through the batting order."



RYAN STEWART

THIEF! - Fourth-year Scott Mahn successfully steals second base.

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The classroom and

Where your university learns

With so many students at Laurier opting to partake in, if not focus on, extra-curricular activities while in school, **The Cord** looks at how these endeavours impact academics and assess how such involvements can have an effect on a future outside of WLU

LAURA CARLSON
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

Upon entering university, Laurier students are inundated with various facets of campus life that they can get involved in, all of which aim to enhance the undergraduate experience.

One is granted a plethora of opportunities, ranging from those within the largest volunteer base of the school – the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) – to smaller working groups, such as those operating under the Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group (LSPIRG), which aims to inspire social change.

Various chances to get involved exist in other on-campus groups such as Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications (WLUSP), Residence Life, the Diversity Centre and Greek Life.

At Laurier in particular, students are recognized for gravitating towards co-curricular activities while they simultaneously complete their undergraduate degree.

"What I found challenging, what I found inspiring, all of that came from co-curricular stuff," said Sean

Geobey, a Laurier political science and economics graduate.

By the time he left Laurier in 2006, Geobey had been actively involved with the Sigma Chi fraternity, worked as both a WLU teacher and research assistant, held a research position with WLUSU, was highly involved with WLUSP and founded LSPIRG, which has since grown from a campus club to a corporate entity.

"The expectations I had of the intellectual environment of a university weren't being met inside the classroom," said Geobey.

"Those academic classroom things seemed like the dues I had to pay in order to get an education."

Since leaving Laurier, Geobey has gone on to do his masters in economics at Queen's University, has worked for the BC Ministry of Health and is currently doing his PhD in management and science at the University of Waterloo.

Although academically he performed "moderately well" – some of which he

attributes to "routinely" putting his co-curricular commitments ahead of his academics – Geobey feels that this didn't necessarily hinder him when applying to graduate schools.

"THOSE ACADEMIC CLASSROOM THINGS SEEMED LIKE THE DUES I HAD TO PAY IN ORDER TO GET AN EDUCATION."

- Sean Geobey, Laurier graduate

"I know other people that had great co-curricular involvement and solid transcripts, I'm not one of them," said Geobey. "Despite that I still got into a very good graduate program ... and I still ended up getting into a very good PhD program."

Joan Norris, dean of graduate studies at Laurier, echoes Geobey's sentiment.

"I always tell students that grades are important, but we also look for a fit between the student and the program," said Norris.

"One way a student can show that there is a fit is by demonstrating that they have some relevant experience."

Norris also noted that graduate schools aren't too concerned with how long students take to complete their degree, that various types of involvement are desirable – even if it is not specifically related to one's area of academic interest – and

that that there may be some exceptions to the "B level" entrance average.

"We do make some [grade] allowances ... but the program has to make the case and be willing to take on the student under those circumstances," she added.

"There are some programs, especially the professional programs, who will weigh life experience, prior learning – that type of thing – more heavily than a straight, research-based academic program," said Norris.

Anthony Piscitelli, who graduated from Laurier in 2006 with a political science degree, noted that, though his academic performance has somewhat hindered his ability to get into graduate school, his co-curricular involvement has set him apart when looking for work upon leaving WLU.

Such extra-curricular activities during his six-and-a-half years at Laurier include various positions in WLUSU, including VP: University Affairs and a director on the Board of Directors (BOD), sitting on the Board of Governors (BOG), serving as the president of WLUSP and the executive director of LSPIRG.

Currently, Piscitelli is working as the violence and prevention coordinator with the Region of Waterloo Community Safety and Crime Prevention Council.

"This job ... would not have been within my reach without the extra-curricular stuff," said Piscitelli.

Though he notes that his breadth of different positions have helped him achieve his current success, he feels that, after entering the workforce, such experiences may only provide a stepping-stone.

"In terms of the entry-level jobs, they're great, but now when I go for jobs there's kind of this perception that 'oh, that's just

a student job," said Piscitelli.

Despite this, Piscitelli has found experiences valuable, most notably because of the analytical skills he developed in his extra-curriculars.

Jan Basso, director of co-op and career services, notes that cases such as Piscitelli's, in which the student has led co-curricular involvement, set one apart when seeking employment after school.

"Employers look at the kinds of activities students have been involved in outside of the program," said Basso.

Similar to graduate schools, the importance and type of co-curricular involvement versus grades depends on the particular field one is entering.

"In the accounting industry ... want to see transcripts, they want to see good grades, but there are many industries that don't ask student transcripts," said Basso.

"That doesn't mean it's not going to come up ... but I think that [co-curricular experiences] are equally important in terms of an employer's assessment of a candidate."

Such experiences, such as those gained in student governance, are often available to young adults in various environments.

When reflecting back on his time at Laurier, 2006 graduate Andrew Pike, who held multiple positions on campus including coordinator of Foot Patrol, student director and student governor, found he now uses the skills he obtained from co-curriculars in his current job in the finance department for the Region of Waterloo.

"Outside of the classroom I learned way more things that are applicable to the real world," said Pike.

"I got to essentially see ... the way business is run, and that's not something you can do in the classroom. You



and co-curricular: *learning really takes place*

... said Piscitelli. This, Piscitelli has found his valuable, most notably being analytical skills he developed in extra-curriculars. ... director of co-op and career notes that cases such as Piscitelli, which the student has lots of involvement, set one apart from employment after school. ... look at the kinds of activities have been involved in out- program," said Basso. ... to graduate schools, the im- and type of co-curricular in- versus grades depends on the field one is entering. ... accounting industry ... they transcripts, they want to see es, but there are many other that don't ask students for " said Basso. ... doesn't mean it's not going to but I think that [co-curricular s] are equally important in an employer's assessment of a

hear them talk about it ... but when I was on the Board of Governors I actually did it."

Dan Preston - a sixth-year business and math student who has been involved in activities such as Greek Life, Orientation Week, Fashion 'N Motion, and currently serves as WLUSU VP: Human Resources - notes that he, too, feels that he has built himself a skill set which will distinguish him when he is looking for a job.

"Being able to talk about leading a group of 750 people or managing a \$100,000 budget is just experience that most people my age don't have," said Preston.

"The autonomy and the responsibility you get as a student leader on this campus is outstanding."

"IT'S SO EASY TO FORGET ... THAT YOU'RE HERE TO ACTUALLY STUDY AND NOT HERE JUST TO PLAY FOOTBALL."

- Chis Mamo, Laurier varsity football

While Preston notes that such leadership experiences can be very time-consuming - such as his current VP position, which can reach 40 to 60 hours per week - he receives As in the majority of his classes, something he didn't always achieve in his classes on the UW campus (a requirement of his double degree program).

"Waterloo, yeah they might ... produce some really top students, but I think that at Laurier we produce top people," said Preston.

"At Laurier if anything, people com-

plain that people approach you too much to get involved and that people try to cram getting involved down your throat."

Though he has a heavy academic and co-curricular workload, Preston feels that he has been able to strike a balance between the two, something many others on campus are constantly trying to obtain, such as those involved in athletics.

Chris Mamo, a fourth-year sociology student and kicker for the Laurier football team, currently heads the Athlete Academic Success Program, which offers study sessions and workshops for athletes in first-year and those on academic probation.

"Football, or any sport really, is a massive commitment," said Mamo.

"I think it's up to 30 hours a week including games."

While Mamo achieves success in both athletics and academics, reflected in the fact that he has been on the Honour Roll every year and boasts an 11.3 GPA, he notes how challenging it is at times.

"It's not easy to stay [academically] motivated," said Mamo.

"When your coaches are constantly talking to you about the importance of the game, and you love the sport so much, it's so easy to forget ... that you're here to actually study and not here just to play football."

When athletes are put in positions where choices must be made between the two, Mamo notes that "pretty much all the time football is chosen."

"It's those indirect conflicts that often make your marks suffer and really stress the importance of time management."

While Mamo has come across professors who have been accommodating his

schedule, mostly when it comes to games, he doesn't feel that any exceptions are, or should be, made to athletes.

"There are a lot of people at the school that are very supportive for us, but they're not going to cut us any slack," said Mamo.

Certain faculty at Laurier, such as those in the communications department, are actually subject to policies that discourage professors from allowing students to give their extra-curricular commitments priority.

"Where there are conflicts, at least in our department, we make it pretty clear that academics come first," explained Jonathan Finn, department chair of communication studies.

Personally, Finn doesn't accept co-curricular involvements as an excuse for someone missing class or being unable to complete coursework, though he is often put in a situation where students ask this of him.

"That is something I run into a fair amount which I find a little bit upsetting," said Finn.

"Students assume that they'll be

treated differently because of their participation in certain kinds of activities."

Though striving for a balance between co-curricular involvement and academic success is something that many students struggle with, those who opt to be involved in various facets of campus life seem to achieve a level of education that others may miss out on.

"I think that more experiential learning is necessary to properly prepare people for the 'real world' outside of university life," noted Dan Allison, former president of WLUSU and the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Allison has held multiple other leadership positions at the university, including a residence life don, icebreaker and currently works in the office of the Dean of Students.

"That balance becomes so necessary," said Allison.

"All that supplemental learning is paramount and I think universities need to do more of it."

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story



GRAPHIC BY TRISH STOTT

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The price of protection

Laurier's female students experience an increase in the cost of birth control pills at Health Services, with new prices ranging from \$7 - \$25 per pack

BRITTANY DA SILVA
CORD STUDENT LIFE

The price of sexual protection has increased on campus recently. Women who have previously purchased birth control pills from Laurier's Health Services will now find that the same pills they have taken in the past are getting more expensive.

Previously, women could expect to pay between \$7 and \$20 per package. With the new increase in price, the cost ranges from \$7 to \$25 depending on the brand purchased. Some women may find that the price of their pills has hardly changed, if at all, whereas others may be paying at least a few dollars more per month.

Many women on campus do not know of this change - but those in the know are unimpressed. "It makes me angry," said Ashley Pratis, a first-year geography and religion major.

"Those who have to pay for university don't necessarily have tons of money to spend. The birth control pill is heavily relied upon by a majority of women, especially at this age," Pratis continued.

There are always risks when it comes to increases such as these, which leaves some apprehension concerning the future for female students.

"The price increase may cause some women on campus to either discontinue the use of their birth control or not go on it to begin with," said Lauren Lombardi, a second-year business student. "If that happens, then there will be an even higher risk of getting pregnant for these women, all because the price of their protection was too high."

The impact on women across campus is obvious, but is the university really to blame?

Karen Ostrander, RN and the manager of Health Services, shed some light on this issue: "Contraceptive pricing at Health Services has been quite stable with no price changes in at least seven years." There is little that the university itself can do concerning the price increases lately, according to Ostrander.

"Health Services dispenses contraceptives on a cost recovery basis," said Ostrander. This means that the manufacturers of the pills supplied on-campus are raising their prices, leaving the university with few options. To avoid switching to generic brands, Health Services will still offer everything they had previously, just at a new price.

"The increase is not staggering, especially when you consider the convenience and privacy students enjoy when making these purchases through Health Services," said Victoria Kennedy, a second-year honours English student. "I don't see women backing off from buying birth control because of a few dollars. Pregnancy is a far more expensive consequence."

It is still less expensive to buy birth control pills through Health Services than it would be at a pharmacy. Off-campus, oral contraceptives can run between \$15 and \$35 a month, plus a dispensing fee of around \$7 to \$13. In contrast, Health Services offers pills for less and will never charge WLU students a dispensing fee.

Although it is not recommended to change brands solely based on cost, alternatives can be explored.

"Students who were on the pills

that were affected can see the physician to discuss switching to a different type of pill," said Ostrander. "Women who are impacted by this change are encouraged to come in to Health Services, and discuss their options with a doctor or nurse."

There are also many other options when it comes to contraceptives at Health Services. On top of offering 14 different types of oral contraceptives, Ostrander informs that there are vaginal rings for \$10 a month, the patch for \$7 a month and an injection of hormonal contraception for \$27 a month, all of which require a prescription from a physician.

There are also emergency contraceptives for \$12, which at pharmacies can run up to \$40 each, and condoms in packages of 12 for \$5. Vaginal sponges are also available over the counter at pharmacies, but are seen as a less reliable form of protection.

If women are passionate about the issue of rising costs of birth control, attempts at change can be made, said one student. "The only real power students have in this instance is the power of boycott and petition. But boycotting means that we are sending young girls out there unprotected," said Kennedy. "I would recommend writing letters, but only after informing themselves fully about the issue, and the fact that it has to do with more than just Wilfrid Laurier."

For any further questions, or to find out if this issue affects you, visit or contact Health Services. They are located on the second floor of the Student Services building and can be reached by phone at (519) 884-0710 ext. 3146.



PINK PACK - The cost of birth control pills is on the rise at WLU.

LAURA TOMKINS

Talentegg.com hatches graduate careers

New website connects current and graduate students with corporations to land the perfect degree-specific summer jobs, internships and careers

NICOLE WRAY
STAFF WRITER

Like many students graduating from university, Lauren Friese found herself facing the prospect of finding a meaningful career. Instead of being overwhelmed, Friese embraced this prospect and is now the founder and president of Talent Egg - a career hub for students looking for meaningful entry-level careers, summer, or co-op job opportunities.

"I had no idea how to get a job after university without having a connection. I didn't feel like I was given any direction at university...

it was a common problem," explained Friese.

After graduating with an arts degree in economics from Queen's University, then moving to London, England to get her Master's degree, Friese noticed that "there were all sorts of websites that could help students move into the workforce [in the UK], I thought I could bring this model home."

Friese's realization of this idea came in the form of Talent Egg. Unlike other job search sites, Talent Egg has a distinct focus on finding a career with a company that you are excited about, not just a job.

"The core difference is the focus

on a career, your first career out of university," said Friese. "Talent Egg is for your first role after graduation, or a meaningful summer job. We are focused on the company, and the culture of the company rather than a specific job. Top employers, top opportunities, not just jobs."

Without any solid job connections, it can be extremely difficult to secure an interview with a company that you may be interested in working for. Talent Egg is about promoting your soft skills, and translating these as assets to potential employers.

The website allows you to create a "Talent Card" that will show

potential employers your top life experience, your top academic experience, career areas you are interested in and core skills you possess as well as references.

With a Talent Card, you are able to seek out potential employers, and employers are able to send you personalized e-mails.

"My personal belief is that [if] resumés when coming out of university are focused on the wrong thing, they can take your focus away from core skills and what you can really bring to the role," said Friese.

Friese is passionate about Talent Egg being an outlet where "students can express themselves and say what life experiences they have had that would make them good candidates for a job."

Talent Egg allows students and recent graduates from business

or arts degrees to search from a wide variety of career areas to find employers.

An arts student herself, Friese is a shining example of the value of soft skills obtained with an arts degree.

"I want arts students to know that there is a place that they will be seen as meaningful candidates... Intelligence, not knowledge; that is my personal passion in this project. I don't have a business degree and I am running a business," said Friese.

Talent Egg has a roster of about 85 employers. This number is growing by roughly two companies a day.

To find out more information about how you can "hatch your graduate career," go to www.talentegg.ca.



GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION

Innovation in Canada's universities

Across Canada, universities are initiating programs to interest the many students who are looking for a different academic experience. In addition to their degree, participants in these unique programs gain useful skills towards a rewarding career

HEATHER GIES
CORD STUDENT LIFE

University students, regardless of their institution of choice, can relate to one another when it comes to the topics of going to lectures, writing papers, and managing a balance of school, work, and weekend partying.

However, with some Canadian educators offering drastically different options for students, perhaps the university experience doesn't have to be so generic after all.

Some Canadian universities are beginning to stand out by stepping away from the norm with truly unique program initiatives.

One example is found in Quebec, where the Université de Sherbrooke and Bishop's University have a partnership that offers a Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Liberal Arts double degree program.

Similar to the Wilfrid Laurier and University of Waterloo double degree business and math option, students of this program must attend classes at both institutions to obtain their degree.

However, Duncan Horne, VP: Academic Affairs for the Student Representative Council at Bishop's, explained that students' time studying each discipline is divided yearly or by semester, and they are not required to have classes at each location simultaneously.

Horne explained that the Engineering Liberal Arts degree is a relatively new initiative. "It's still fairly small," said Horne. "It is more of a pilot program as of right now, but we do have students in it."

Furthermore, the program requires that students study in both French and English. As a result, the graduate engineers will have established fluency in both official languages, and a foundation of social, political and cultural understanding in which to practice engineering.

The program itself offers a lot of diversity to students, as there is wide range of content in the composition of the degree. "It's two very different areas that they are drawing from: Liberal Arts and Engineering," said Horne. "But it gives [students] the benefits of taking classes in religion, philosophy, classics and they also have their skills that they learn in the engineering program."

This background, combined with the language component of the program, equips students with an abundance of what Horne describes as "mergeable skills."

Another partnership has also recently been established, but rather than taking advantage of the close proximity of fellow universities – as is the case with Sherbrooke and Bishop's – the University of British Columbia has looked toward international educational co-operation.

Earlier this year, the University of British Columbia (UBC) signed an agreement with the University of Hong Kong, linking the two educational institutions through a collaborative law program. Set to officially launch in 2009, this innovative program will allow legal students to practice and study in their own country and abroad, to expand their knowledge from an academic standpoint, but also in terms of cultural exposure.

Another unique studying opportunity is a Canada-Japan co-op program that is offered through a number of universities across the country. The universities of Alberta, British Columbia, Calgary, Ottawa, Toronto, Waterloo, Victoria, as well as Queen's and Simon Fraser, are all participants of the Japan co-op initiative.

Through the program, students receive co-op placements for eight- or twelve-month work terms with participating business or indus-

try locations in Japan. Aside from gaining valuable work experience in their field of study, they are able to benefit socially from being immersed in a new culture.

Although the program is technically open to students in all fields of study, Tony Munroe, co-op coordinator at the University of Waterloo, explained that the majority of placements available are in the technical disciplines.

"The focus is very much on students in engineering, science, math," said Munroe. "They have started to tap into opportunities that are more business-related ... and there are some English teaching positions, but not nearly as many of those as there are technical positions."

Since work placements are out of the country, the hiring process is approached differently than some other co-op programs. "Co-op Ja-

pan is often not an interview process," explains Munroe. "It is often a decision that is made in Japan based almost solely on the resume that has been submitted and the marks." Once students are accepted into the program itself, correspondence between the student and the potential employers in Japan begins.

Co-op Japan is a truly unique experience, and Munroe indicates a number of positive outcomes. He notes the cultural benefits, as students are able to "expose themselves to a very different part of the world and a different social network and social structure."

Furthermore, the program confronts students with a substantial challenge, as many of the individuals with whom they interact do not necessarily have advanced knowledge of the English language.

"While it provides the opportu-

nity to get some technical experience," says Munroe, "it also provides an opportunity to apply or to develop certain soft skills in terms of communication, adaptability [and] flexibility."

With increased participation in post-secondary education, a bachelor degree simply does not have the same outstanding value it once did. However, with unique programs like these being initiated, Canadian educators are providing students with the opportunity to gain essential qualities and experience to help them stand out.

Furthermore, a developing trend in co-operative programs both between institutions within Canada and abroad allows for new avenues of academic pursuit to be explored with additional social and cultural benefits.

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Faculty negotiations must not cause strike

Now that the negotiations between the university administration and the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA) have begun regarding the renewal of the full-time faculty contract, both sides must acknowledge their roles in preventing a similar situation to the part-timers strike that occurred last March.

In particular, both WLUFA and the university need to recognize their obligations to students during these negotiations. The largest issue in last year's contract academic staff (CAS) strike was a general lack of communication with the students, who were left in the dark about their academic futures.

This time around, it's important that both sides communicate with students as much as possible, to the extent that this doesn't disrupt negotiations. Also, policies should be set in place so that, in the case of another strike, students, professors and administrators alike know what to expect.

But, consider the fact that any potential strike would not happen

for quite some time, there are some things to be positive about. Simply knowing that the two sides have established a bargaining protocol outlining the issues that need to be discussed is cause to believe that the talks may go smoother than last year.

Both WLUFA and university administration at Laurier should realize how important it is for them to dissuade professors from walking off the job. WLUFA should not expect to have the same support from the students as they did regarding the CAS, as the full-timers are not perceived to be under the same unfair conditions of employment.

As for the administration, a strike is equally undesirable. Allowing classes to be cancelled twice in one year due to labour negotiations reflects very poorly upon the university.

But, as is always the case in such scenarios, it is the students who would suffer most from a strike. For our sake, let us hope that the two sides can come to a timely conclusion.

Co-curriculars and schooling should be complementary

Anybody who has attended Laurier for more than a day should have an idea of how heavily emphasized extra-curricular activities are on campus.

In fact, it's no stretch to imply that students can be pressured into some sort of involvement in clubs or organizations around WLU. Our school is one that highly values our volunteerism - more than we value our academics.

This has mixed consequences. On one hand, much can be learned from the experiences of Laurier grads that devoted their time as undergrads to co-curricular involvement.

Almost unanimously, these people state that the practical experiences they have gained outweigh - or at least match - the importance of their academic learning in preparing them for the future.

It is evident that the highly theoretical nature of a university education can often restrict people from gaining these practical experiences. Getting involved in extra-curricular activities can even help students decide where their career paths will take them.

On the other hand, this culture says something about the education Laurier offers. With so many students finding that co-curriculars are a necessary part of the university experience, perhaps the school needs to reevaluate what their academic programming should offer.

Specifically, many people find they aren't challenged academically until their third and fourth years of study. Smaller class sizes and more demanding curriculum could help bring the focus back to academics.

Any university should strive to provide the highest quality academic experience possible. Perhaps Laurier's "get involved" culture is compensating for this.

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.

THE CORD WEEKLY

Editorial Board 2008-2009

Editor-in-Chief
Alex Hayter
ahayter@cordweekly.com
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3563

News Editors
Jeremy Tremblay
jtremblay@cordweekly.com

Rebecca Vasiliuanu
rvasiliuanu@cordweekly.com
(519) 884 0710 ext. 3564

Sports Editor
Lauren Millet
lmillet@cordweekly.com

International Editor
Heather MacDonald
hmacdonald@cordweekly.com

Special Projects Editor
Laura Carlson
lcarlson@cordweekly.com

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kpritchard@cordweekly.com

Student Life Editor
Michelle Caldaroni
mcaldaroni@cordweekly.com

Arts & Entertainment Editor
Daniel Joseph
djoeph@cordweekly.com

Opinion Editor
David Shore
dshore@cordweekly.com

Graphics Editor
Julie Marion
jmarion@cordweekly.com

Web Editor
Dan Polischuk
dpolischuk@cordweekly.com

Photography Managers
Ryan Stewart
rstewart@cordweekly.com

Laura Tomkins
ltomkins@cordweekly.com

Print Production Manager
Sydney Helland
shelland@cordweekly.com



GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION

Drinks need to be allowed in bathrooms

Bars should be more sensitive to the safety requirements of their patrons



MICHELLE CALDARONI
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

Time and time again, I find myself in a fight with a bouncer. This fight is never one that occurs because I'm being drunk and obnoxious, nor because I'm trying to use a fake I.D. This fight happens because I'm trying to protect myself. In October of 2006, I was pleased to hear that the Ontario liquor laws were changed to allow patrons of bars and restaurants to carry their drinks with them into hallways and washrooms. Free of charge, licensed establishments are now able to apply to have their licenses amended to include these crucial areas.

So, what happened to Kitchener-Waterloo's bar scene? Nothing.

As a young, female student, I'm outraged that I am encouraged by bar security to leave my open drink on a ledge somewhere, or to chug it down before heading to the washroom.

The argument against carrying my drink with me to the washroom is as follows: I may spike my own drink, and it is unsanitary to have food or drink in a washroom facility. May I say, these arguments are full of shit.

Proper screening at the door - which is something that bars

should be doing to begin with - would prevent any illegal substances from being brought into the washroom with me and furthermore at least I would be aware of what is going in my drink. Unsanitary? Give me a ledge to put my drink on in the stall.

These negative arguments are flimsy and are simply covering up the fact that bar owners are too lazy to keep their patrons safe.

FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT TO SAFETY, BEFORE THE COST BECOMES TOO HIGH.

We all - females especially - hear the warnings of leaving our drinks unattended. Horror stories and public service announcements about GHB/GBL and Rohypnol inform us of the great dangers of putting our drinks down.

In 2005, there were 449 reported date rape cases in the Waterloo region - a figure that is likely to represent only 10% of all cases, according to the *Waterloo Region Record*.

However, very few bars or nightclubs or restaurants in the KW area have obtained the not-so-new extended license.

What does this inaction tell me? Bars and nightclubs - and even the municipality of Kitchener-Waterloo, through the lack of encouragement to student-frequented

businesses to obtain this license extension - do not care if I become a victim of date rape. Yet still, bars and nightclubs thrive because they don't show the young, female students the respect we deserve, nor do they exhibit the responsibility I would expect.

It is the responsibility of the community - as well as the individual - to encourage and promote safety within said community. It is

more effective to prevent a problem from happening than cleaning up the pieces afterward. In Kitchener-Waterloo, there is a barrier in the business community that is putting students in danger by denying them the right to protect themselves.

As most students agree, I'm sure, for the amount I pay for a drink, I should be allowed to bring it wherever I want. But this is not the point.

The point is that inaction by the bar and nightclub owners puts me, and every other student in the KW area, in danger of being a date rape victim.

Next time you go out on a Saturday night, and you feel the need to break the seal but still have half a cocktail left, challenge the bouncers and demand to speak to the owner or management. Fight for your right to safety, before the cost becomes too high.

letters@cordweekly.com

Point/Counterpoint:

Debating Dion's carbon tax



Dion's proposed carbon tax is a much-needed policy for Canada



JOSH SMYTH
THE EXAMINED LIFE

This election, even more than most, has been remarkable for its almost complete lack of substantive policy debate. Most of the wrangling that has gone on so far has been over the more ineffable stuff – personality, leadership, fashion sense; we all know the drill.

The one major policy change that has been raised is the carbon tax, or "Green Shift," which, after being a major Green Party plank for many years, was picked up by the Liberals. Until the last few days, it was the centrepiece of their campaign.

Dangling a new tax at election time is risky at best, and was definitely blood in the water for the Conservatives. We've all heard the moronic radio ads or seen the flyers raging about "Stephane Dion's tax on everything!" This is an intelligent strategy on their part, because they know full well that if the carbon tax is actually debated on its merits, they don't have a leg to stand on.

YOU'D BE HARD-PRESSED TO FIND AN ECONOMIST WHO IS AGAINST CARBON TAXES. IF REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS IS THE GOAL, THEY'RE THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY OF GETTING THERE. PERIOD.

The Liberal and Green carbon tax proposals differ on the details, extent and level of the tax, but the basic concept is the same. Both parties are proposing a "revenue neutral" carbon tax. This is actually a pretty simple concept; for every dollar a carbon tax brings in, a dollar will be cut from another tax.

In practice, the tens of billions of dollars that a carbon tax would bring in would allow the government to cut the income tax and payroll tax rates. It all comes back to a simple idea – that we should tax things that are bad for society (like pollution) instead of things that are good (earning money or employing people).

There is one basic assumption here, though – that we, as a society, value income more than environmental degradation. The carbon tax hinges on this; thankfully, it's pretty difficult to imagine a world where people would rather have a smoggy day than 50 more dollars in their pockets.

The carbon tax has another great advantage. It puts a unit price on carbon that people and companies can account for. Once the tax is in

place, you know that energy will cost a certain amount more in the future. This lets people plan intelligently around it and adjust their purchasing decisions accordingly.

You'd be hard-pressed to find an economist who is against carbon taxes. If reducing carbon emissions is the goal, they're the most efficient way of getting there. Period. Lest we forget, Stéphane Dion is not the only Professor Steve in this election. Stephen Harper is an economist himself. When he says that carbon taxes will cause a recession, he is simply lying.

The confusion that the Conservatives are exploiting is this: that while a carbon tax is revenue-neutral, it is not economically neutral. By putting a price on carbon, it makes heavily polluting industries less competitive. This can lead to job losses in high-polluting industries.

Carbon taxes can also be regressive, as poor people use a larger fraction of their income on consumption of carbon-heavy stuff (like gasoline).

Both of these problems are way overstated. Yes, a carbon tax would hit consumers in the pocket; it would also, however, lower their income taxes. The end result is a consumer with roughly the same amount of money, and an incentive to save more money by changing their lifestyle to one that uses less carbon. It's difficult to see the problem here.

More broadly, the Conservatives' scare stories of lost jobs should be taken with a spoonful of salt. Sweden and Germany both have carbon taxes 5-15 times greater than the Liberal proposal, and haven't collapsed for it. There will be job losses, yes – in industries that rely on environmental damage to give them a competitive edge. Is that really so terrible?

There is a potential debate to be had here. The NDP is pushing a cap-and-trade system that keeps the cost of carbon farther away from individual consumers. It would, though, be both inefficient and unnecessarily damaging to the economy for the reductions involved. The Conservatives are pushing an "emissions intensity" approach that wouldn't reduce total emissions at all.

The carbon tax/green shift has tremendous advantages over both approaches, but the trick is to expose them. As Conservative PM Kim Campbell once put it, "an election is no place to discuss serious issues." Let's hope she was wrong.

letters@cordweekly.com



Suggesting a carbon tax was political suicide for the Liberal leader; a cap-and-trade program would have been better



DAVE SHORE
OPINION EDITOR

It is becoming clearer by the day that the final decision in the upcoming federal election hinges largely on Stéphane Dion's carbon tax proposal.

While environmental policy is a pivotal topic in each party's election platform, it is the Liberal leader's particular environmental stance that will be the most tangible factor in the outcome of this election.

This being primarily due to the reason that the only other party to have a legitimate shot at winning the whole thing has a green plan so backwards that, if it were coming from any party other than Harper's Conservatives, it would have to be regarded as a bad joke.

In fact, Harper's plan seems to be aimed at convincing Canadians that the imposition of a carbon tax will destroy our national economy, and somehow deteriorate national unity. He offers very little in the way of his own environmental action plan.

As far as environmental (and sound economic) arguments go, it's a petty and misleading way of steering the dialogue in Harper's favour.

The only problem is that it seems to be working, so we've no choice but to take it seriously. The debate Canada should be having is how to properly implement a green shift. Instead, we're debating over whether we should have one at all.

In light of this, it can be said in retrospect that Dion most certainly made a fatal move in introducing his carbon tax. For a leader that sincerely wants to impact environ-

mental change in Canada, being married to the idea of imposing a carbon tax was a poor way to go about it.

Would such a tax cut back Canada's carbon output significantly? Yes. Would it decimate our economy? Probably not. But, would it scare off far too many otherwise-Liberal voters? Well, evidence shows that it likely has.

One possible reason for this is simply the use of the word "tax." Many bloggers and political analysts have suggested that in the US, both Obama and McCain have proposed cap-and-trade programs simply because the use of the word tax would be too unpopular amongst Americans.

For a country that has been under Conservative leadership for the past three years, and – by any pollster's best guess – looks poised to bring that same leadership back as a majority, it's no stretch to assume that Canadians might fear that "t-word" as well.

The cap-and-trade concept for reducing carbon emissions would have been a much better policy option for Dion. Not only does it hold far more political traction, but it could also have a better impact on the environment in the long run.

In Canada, only Jack Layton's New Democrats are proposing to implement the cap-and-trade system. Essentially, rather than place a direct price on carbon emissions, this system would sell a limited number of emission permits to companies across the country, and then allow companies with excess permits to trade them to those that need them.

Economically, cap-and-trade systems and carbon taxes have nearly equal effects. Both limit the amount of carbon emissions, and both will raise prices of consumer goods. One of the main differ-

ences between these programs is that carbon taxes determine the price of emissions, and let the level of emissions work themselves out. Cap-and-trade systems set the level of emissions, and let the price work itself out.

If the goal is to diminish the level of emissions, why not regulate that immediately through a cap-and-trade program rather than let it be determined through the market?

Furthermore, Layton's plan dictates that the revenues from the initial sale of permits would go towards investing in green jobs and green research. More than anything else, this sort of long-term approach to the environment is what Canada really needs.

But, perhaps more importantly, the cap-and-trade system is being adopted worldwide. It is the official policy of the European Union, and will soon be the policy adopted by our neighbours to the south.

It would have been much more difficult for Harper to diminish Dion's credibility on a policy choice that has gained so much traction worldwide.

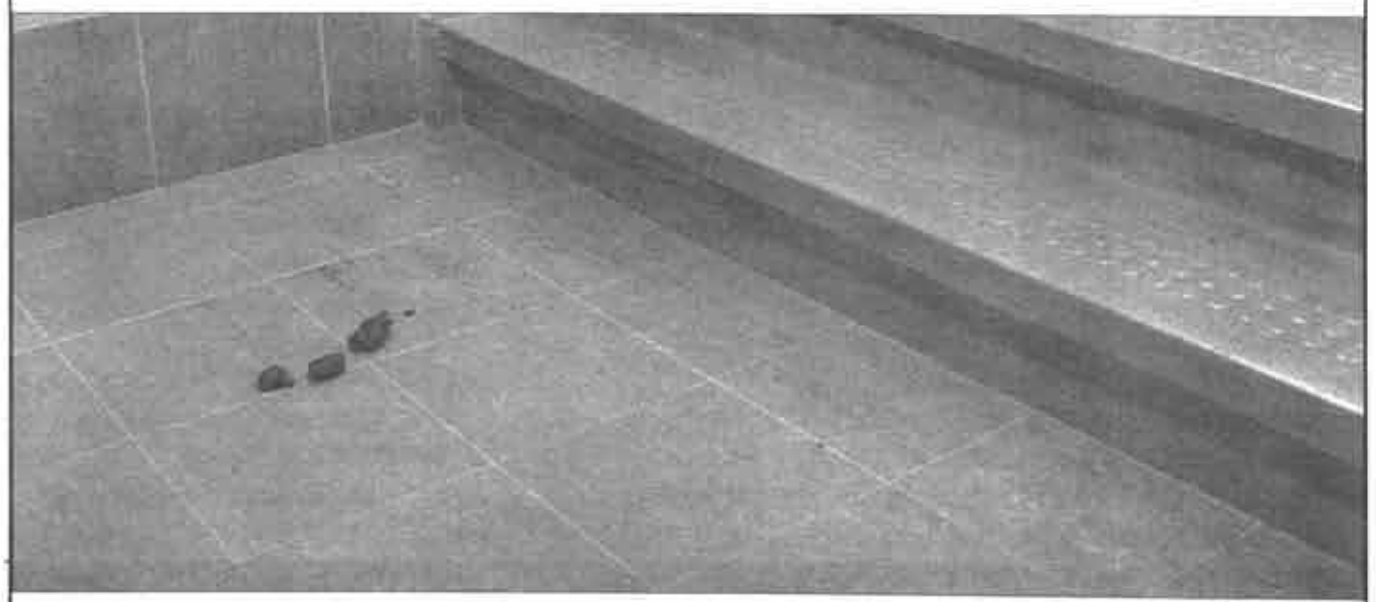
Even if Dion believes that a carbon tax is the best thing for Canada, he would surely concede that a cap-and-trade system would be far better than anything Harper has planned.

Dion may think that Canada needs a carbon tax. What Canada really needs is a leader who's willing to make real and lasting changes to the country's environmental policy.

And, most unfortunately, with Dion's carbon tax proposal so crucial to his platform, it's becoming ever clearer that Canada won't get that.

letters@cordweekly.com

Campus Pooptorial



POOP, BUT NO SCOOP - Fecal matter, likely belonging to a dog, lying in the stairwell to the FNCC.

SYDNEY HELLAND

Men must play their part to end rape



KEREN GOTTFRIED
RESIDENT GADFLY

I have always been a rather quiet activist.

I have been a part of many human rights and social justice movements throughout my time in high school and university. I have served as a political representative, organized and supported fundraisers, and coordinated educational campaigns.

I generally view rallies as narcissistic activities that are better at making participants feel good

about themselves than effecting social change.

In a surprising turn of events, last Thursday I found myself a part of a crowd taking up a full lane of traffic on King Street, waving a picket sign and screaming at the top of my lungs:

"Wherever we go, however we dress, no means no, and yes means yes!"

I decided to take part in a demonstration: Take Back the Night. Joined by women and transfolk from the university and greater community, we marched from Uptown Waterloo to Kitchener City Hall.

After years of not feeling safe at night, learning that more and more

of my friends have been sexually assaulted by their male partners, and dealing with my own history, I have decided to raise my voice.

Did I feel good about myself? Absolutely. Did I reduce the number of women who will be sexually assaulted? I doubt it.

Let me be less glib. The rally is not just about superficial good feelings.

Women deserve a space to support one another, to support survivors of rape, and to generally respond to frightening facts and personal experiences.

According to Statistics Canada's 2003 report, 98 percent of sexual offenders are male. 51 percent of the female Canadian population has

suffered at least once from male violence since the age of 16, 39 percent of which was sexual.

Women have a right to be mad, and we have a right to stop traffic if that is what it takes to make people listen.

But let's not fool ourselves into thinking that we are going to end sexual violence through rallies. Quite frankly, we should not fool ourselves into thinking that we, as women, are actually in control.

Women have both a right and an obligation to lead projects and policies directed towards ending sexual violence.

We can be researchers and policy advisors and occasionally even acquire positions of political power.

We can draw media attention to the problem and make rape something that people talk about. We can donate to or volunteer at support centres for victims of sexual assault. The list goes on.

At the end of the day though, ladies, it is still our often smaller, weaker bodies underneath a larger, physically stronger male's.

The irony is painful. One main purpose of Take Back the Night is to allow women to experience something as simple as walking in the dark without the support of men.

Autonomy and self-sufficiency have been basic tenets of the women's movement since Nellie McClung.

The fact is that rape will only

end when men decide they don't want to do it anymore, and begin to discourage their male peers from committing such crimes.

Take this as a demand for men to get off their asses and do their part. You have a role to play in the future of feminism and women's rights.

Okay, some men are off their asses. Take Back the Night was supported by volunteers from the Men's Anti-Rape Coalition (MARC) Project, an advocacy group based in Kitchener-Waterloo that runs workshops for men.

To the busy student who cannot volunteer or take workshops, fear not, as you have the most important job. Everyday actions are what perpetuate or shift gender stereotypes that lead to sexual assault.

The next time your buddy cops a feel while passing a woman at a bar and then seeks a high five, throw a beer in his face instead. Or, better yet, explain to him that sexual assault is against the law.

Mostly, just get consent. Do not think you know what your partner wants, that a "no" is a "yes" in disguise, or that women like forceful men in bed and that justifies you being a little bit aggressive. These are excuses. Do you really want to be responsible for the life-long trauma and depression of another human being?

letters@cordweekly.com

Letters to the Editor

Remembrance is important

While I agree with Greg Whitfield's point-of-view about the exploitation and fear of 9/11 to push political agendas, like the American occupation in Iraq for instance, the swaths of relativism discredit any gains of his argument.

I am sure if one were to ask survivors of Auschwitz about their experiences, they would describe them as something beyond the comprehension of a mere "t-shirt." The point of Holocaust remembrance is not just "never forget," but "never again." 9/11 is relevant because it shattered the myth of liberal democracy as the "end of history," as coined by Francis Fukuyama, and further theorized by Jean Baudrillard as the "absolute event." As such, members of liberal democracy should be cognizant NOT to give into fear and exploitation that have already given rise to the occupation of Iraq. To do so would allow political actors, in a quest for consolidated power, to undermine civil rights and institutions. If this is a familiar echo, it should be. Would the result be a renewed Holocaust? How many lives, exactly, have been lost in the name of 9/11, directly or indirectly?

For one to reduce 9/11 and the Holocaust to sheer surface-level slogans represented by "t-shirt of the week" hipsterisms misses the political point altogether. Unless, of course, we are meant to be the new "good Germans," the "good consumers," and blindly buy into whatever is consumable and vapid at the time, including the practice of forgetting out of simple convenience.

-T.A. Pattinson

Agnostics just don't get it

Upon reading Keren Gottfried's opinion article on the question of

agnostics being atheists, I was delighted; not merely by the content of her bold piece but the prospect of all the unfavourable responses she would receive from some of the university's die-hard agnostics and the opportunity of reading their opinions on the subject.

However, I was unfortunately disappointed with the responses she received in that both individuals failed to even grasp her main concerns, let alone properly address them. Firstly, T.A. Pattinson is not even an agnostic seeing that his ennuï, or lack of concern, toward supernatural deities or interplanetary teapots would better place him into the camp of apatheism, a view that is delineated by pragmatic atheism. He might not care about the existence of a god or a space-faring teapot but he acts as if there wasn't one to begin with. Though, if he chose to continue calling himself an agnostic his apathy would only solidify Keren's point of the intellectual laziness of people like him.

Tori is rather surprising that despite her indecision over a god's existence, she takes offence over a person questioning that view and puts up the walls a religious person might use whenever their views undergo critical scrutiny. For instance, how is religion a private matter when it influences our society so much from political/scientific issues to family/dietary manners? It certainly isn't when a large portion of the American electorate believes that modern science should be taught alongside a creation myth of one particular religion. What's wrong, also, with being offensive or using strongly worded adjectives when stating a point of view? Tori doesn't elaborate, just fusses and believes that that somehow justifies her lack of opinion.

When you get down to it, agnosticism is not a happy median between two "extremes" since it concerns itself with knowledge ("a" meaning "without," "gnosis" meaning "knowledge") and not belief like theism and atheism. There's no halfway point between belief and non-belief in teapots,

unicorns, or gods. Some people, however, just don't seem to get it.

-Anatolijs Venovcevs

Don't take copyright laws lightly

I am writing in response to Jeremy Tremblay's ill-informed, limited knowledge of Copyright Law. First, let me remind you what it means: "the right to copy." It is not the right to take and do whatever you want with a lecture without my permission. That is known as the "moral" right to own my own work. I prefer that students learn to listen and interpret what they are hearing on the spot. There will be countless times in the future when they will have to assimilate and understand something without the aid of technology. It's called listening and learning. I teach Copyright and refer to the legislation quite frequently in my research. I advise Jeremy to at least read it. You also mention UBC's pilot project to allow students to hear recorded lectures, word for word. I was well acquainted with UBC's project while I taught there. Only professors who have agreed to have their lectures uploaded to iPod are part of the project. I will never do that. If I find that students are recording my lectures they will have to speak to my lawyer.

-Martin R. Dowding

Assistant Professor
Communication Studies

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

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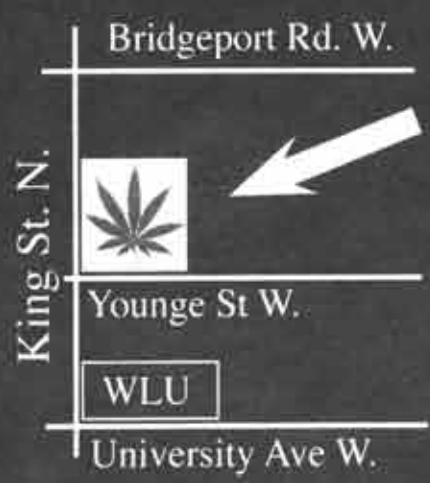


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WCRI: A Whole New Way to Live Together!

Ghosts and jokes

Ricky Gervais' new romantic comedy *Ghost Town* is just the beginning of a strong career in America

TREVOR LOUGHBOROUGH
STAFF WRITER

Audiences in North America haven't really been exposed to Ricky Gervais much. And it's a damn shame, because his TV work (the original British version of *The Office*, the sitcom *Extras*) are consistently hilarious, and we've sort of been left out. But, luckily for us, Gervais gets his Hollywood leading-man debut this fall with the romantic comedy

Ghost Town.

The romcom has experienced a strange resurgence, led by Judd Apatow flicks like *Knocked Up* and *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*, which managed to take the romantic comedy structure and twist it enough to rise above the clichés that plague so many other films. Apatow has no involvement in *Ghost Town*, but it seems to want to follow his example.

Unfortunately, the movie itself

remains extremely conventional, elevated only by the scenes in which Gervais is really allowed to let loose and improvise.

The plot of *Ghost Town* follows Gervais, who plays misanthropic dentist Bertram Pincus, who nearly dies during a routine colonoscopy, and comes to consciousness with the ability to see and talk to the ghosts that wander New York. Much to Bertram's annoyance, all of them become very interested in

having him solve their problems, but Frank, played by Greg Kinnear, manages to strike a deal with Pincus.

He promises to keep the other ghosts away if Bertram helps sabotage the engagement of Frank's widow, played by Téa Leoni. Of course, Bertram can't quite stay impartial while doing his job, for what sort of romantic comedy would this be without a love triangle?

The first half of this movie really is very funny. Gervais' Pincus has this adorably nasty quality to him, and he's just a lot of fun to watch as a constant stream of people, living and dead, push him into further rages. The scenes with his surgeon (fellow improv. actress Kristen Wiig) in particular have fantastic timing and get some big laughs. His initial encounters with Leoni, up to the first time he meets her fiancé (Billy Campbell) work great, as the whole purpose of these scenes is to provide moments for Gervais to cause actual laughter in Leoni.

Since it's pretty obvious that much of the dialogue is improvised (and hilarious), her laughter is very genuine. Had the movie maintained this quality throughout, I would have been very pleased with it. However, that is not the case.

After about the halfway point, the film struggles with the transition to more emotional terrain. I know romantic comedies must conform to expectations to a degree, but the film becomes mired in clichés and cheesy lines.

The jokes suddenly stop coming



Ghost Town

Director: David Koepf

Starring: Ricky Gervais, Téa Leoni and Greg Kinnear

Release Date: 19/09/2008

Rating: B-

jointed from the rest of the movie, as the narrative fails to push forward at any sort of pace, and there are hardly any jokes to compensate.

Overall, I'm glad this movie came out, as it gives Gervais a chance to become more familiar to North American audiences. Without him, I have no doubt that *Ghost Town* would have been pretty forgettable, so I hope that in the future he has a chance to make a good movie great, instead of keeping a decent movie from being terrible.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

THE SPECTRE OF COMEDY - Greg Kinnear and Ricky Gervais both bring some good laughs in *Ghost Town*.

Vicky Cristina is quite mediocrationalona

Woody Allen's most recent release *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*, now showing at the Princess Cinema, is a disposable piece of cinema

ANNE DONAHUE
STAFF WRITER

An edgy, funny and critically acclaimed Woody Allen film was long overdue, following the embarrassingly bad *Scoop*, and the forgettable 2007 release of *Cassandra's Dream*. Hence, when Allen embarked on his latest film venture and cast Academy Award-winning Javier Bardem and Academy Award-nominated Penélope Cruz alongside Scarlett "Scar-Io" Johansson, eyebrows were raised and intrigue was piqued. Might Allen come close to the fame of his former glory days? Could *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* be the new Annie Hall?

Not entirely. In an attempt to be witty and unconventional, *Vicky Cristina* becomes a victim of cliché and mediocrity. Following college graduation, two best friends (who couldn't possibly be more different) embark on a trip to Barcelona, each hoping for an experience that will bring some sort of uniqueness or pick-me-up to their otherwise unfulfilled lives.

Johansson reprises her stereo-



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

INSANITY - Penélope Cruz brings special power to her performance.

typical role as an innocent-yet-shockingly self-aware seductress, while Rebecca Hall downplays her qualities to portray the "not obviously pretty, but smart and independent" best friend. Upon meeting tortured artist Juan Antonio (Bardem), the girls each fall in love, but it is not until the return of Juan Antonio's clinically insane ex-wife (Cruz) that the mix of hilarity and drama ensues.

The premise has potential, but it is the obvious stupidity of both

Johansson's and Hall's characters that make the film so frustrating to watch. While Vicky refuses to take control of her own life, Cristina appears pathetic and needy, leaving audiences wanting to hurl something at the screen in hopes of knocking some sense into her.

Cruz is the film's saving grace - her scenes with Bardem are filled with passion and energy one would not expect from an Allen film. Cruz plays insane beautifully - casting any inhibitions aside to give a raw,

aggressive and relentless performance normally reserved for actresses like Angelina Jolie or Julia Roberts circa *Erin Brockovich*. Cruz cares not whether her character is likeable or understood, and it is this lack of vanity that is missing from every other aspect of the movie.

Javier Bardem differs exponentially from his character in *No Country for Old Men*, proving he is capable of playing a believable romantic leading man. Although the performance has nowhere near the eccentricity of Cruz's, he portrays his character convincingly, allowing audiences to forget his infamous turn as a psychopathic assassin in his Academy Award-winning role.

Despite the best efforts put forth by Cruz and Bardem, *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* is expendable. Allen ought best to find a new muse, as Johansson seems to have lost the magnetic quality that made her so famous in 2003's *Lost in Translation*. He would also be better suited to stop producing pretentious comedy-dramas and return to the type of filmmaking that made

him so universally appealing: likeable characters, simple stories and enough cynicism to make them both realistic.



Vicky Cristina Barcelona

Director: Woody Allen

Starring: Javier Bardem,

Penélope Cruz

Release Date: 15/08/2008

Rating: C

Apostles hit Starlight

Esther Wheaton spoke with Andrew Whiteman of the band Apostle of Hustle before their show last Saturday night at Starlight Lounge

ESTHER WHEATON
CORD A&E

Apostle of Hustle appeared at the Starlight Lounge for a Saturday night full of good music; the penultimate show of a short Ontario tour.

"The worst thing about being on tour is that you're on tour, and the best thing is that, thank God, you're on tour," said Andrew Whiteman, leader of Apostle of Hustle and guitarist for Broken Social Scene, in an interview with *The Cord*.

The Starlight, nearly empty at the beginning of the opening act, filled up rapidly when Apostle of Hustle took the stage. The crowd was more appreciative of the music than lively - an atmosphere not unusual at the Starlight.

Though Apostle of Hustle have been touring with Inuk throat singer Tanya Tagaq, the concert at the Starlight featured a different supporting act. Sebastian Grainger and the Mountains opened with their own brand of intense, wall-of-sound rock, featuring catchy piano riffs, impressive guitar solos, and bass lines that could re-adjust your heartbeat - so loud, in fact, that

they occasionally drowned out the lead guitar.

Following the always-enchanting Grainger, Apostle of Hustle took the stage to an enthusiastic but subdued crowd. With their indie-rock sound blended with Cuban rhythms, defined by intricate drumbeats and complimented by virtuosic guitar playing, Apostle of Hustle's minor-key mood set the scene at Starlight.

The concert's highlights included an energetic rendition of one of their most popular songs, "My Sword Hand's Anger," "E-Z Speaks" - a tribute to a deceased poet from LA, the much-requested "Cheap Like Sebastian" and the final encore, in which the drummer Dean Stone left the stage and Andrew Whiteman accompanied bassist Julian Brown, singing a bare but beautiful version of "Chances Are".

While the mix was a bit bass-heavy for the opening act, it was near-perfect for Apostle of Hustle. The drums were well down, and the bass, vocals and guitar were all clearly heard, showing off the musicians' serious talent - particularly that of Andrew Whiteman, whose brilliant guitar solos and melodic

riffs blew everyone away.

Whiteman, growing chattier as the night wore on, told the audience that *Eats Darkness*, their new album, scheduled to be released in March, will be leaking in December. "Recorded music should be free," he said, inciting cheers from the crowd. Whiteman and Brown dropped interesting pieces of relevant news in between songs, too, which was appropriate considering the often-political nature of Whiteman's lyrics.

When asked to explain the significance of song titles like "Fast Pony for Victor Jara" and "Jimmy Scott Is the Answer"; Whiteman pointed out that having specifics in songs is sometimes good. "Name-dropping," he said, "sometimes helps people get a fix on what's happening."

What's happening for Apostle of Hustle this fall, now that their newest album has been recorded? "We're doing a cabaret in Toronto with some modern dancers at the beginning of October, and the Tagaq thing, and we're recording with a Haitian Vodun priest in January," said Whiteman.

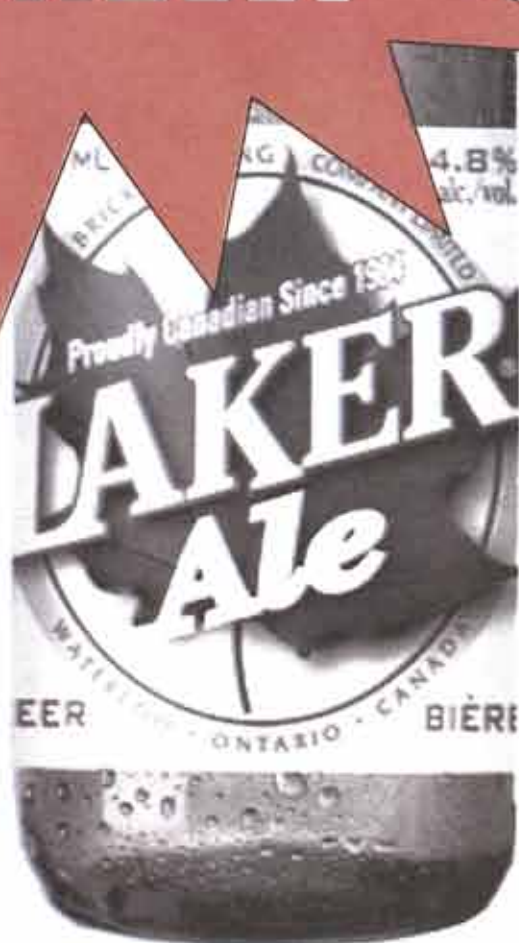
"It's exciting."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

STRIKE A POSE - Apostle of Hustle looked a bit happier last Saturday.

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Russell Peters takes comedy to another level



SCOTT HARRIS

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT - Russell Peters filled the Kitchener Auditorium full of jokes about deaf people and the mentally handicapped – not to mention his typical racially-charged fare.

Canada's favourite funnyman entertained a Homecoming audience at The Aud last Saturday night

SYDNEY HELLAND
PRINT PRODUCTION MANAGER

The seats of the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium Complex (The Aud) were thronged with fired-up spectators this past Saturday evening, all eagerly anticipating the appearance of legendary Canadian comedian Russell Peters.

DJ Junior Flow spun tracks to keep building the level of suspense, as if it wasn't high enough already.

Shortly after five complete circuits of "the wave" and the crowd's persistent chanting, the lights dimmed and the show's host, comic and close friend of Peters', Jean Paul, graced the stage.

After getting several good laughs

from the audience, Paul introduced the show's opening act: comedian Ali Rizvi. Unsurprisingly, Rizvi's original little people and amputee jokes did not elicit many laughs.

Despite Peters' shows being known for their controversial content, Rizvi came across as quite offensive and crude, especially considering his reputation as an emerging comic failed to precede him.

On top of that, his humour was plainly derivative of Peters' style, and didn't add much to the night.

Thankfully, the show was instantly saved when Peters sauntered on stage.

Without wasting any time, he took inventory of the crowd's di-

versity and began his hilarious routine of racial impersonations and stereotypes.

The jam-packed arena erupted with laughter as Peters satirized various cultural groups. From his classic Indian parodies to noting how innocuous curse words sound with an Irish accent, Peters had the crowd in stitches.

"I was impressed by the stuff that he seemingly just pulled out of the air, and just how well-crafted his act is," said Laurier alumnus and audience member, Jason Shim.

However, Shim also noted that Peters' act got progressively more insensitive as he began pulling out jokes that ridiculed deaf people and the mentally handicapped.

"There were ... some points that I just didn't think were all that funny and I mean, these kinds of sensitivities differ for everyone," he said.

Despite the discomfort felt by many due to various callous quips, Peters was called back on stage for an encore. For his encore, Peters lightheartedly teased his overly supportive mother, and finished with incredibly clever observations of romantic life.

The show overall was a resounding success. "It was outstanding... The way that [Peters] does things takes it to another level," said Alumni Relations Director Brian Breckles.

When asked why the show was held in The Aud as opposed to the

WLU Athletic Complex, where Homecoming festivities are usually held, Breckles explained that the A.C. posed far too many limitations on numbers, and that to book an act of Peters' calibre, a significantly larger venue was in order.

Regardless of The Aud's immense capacity, Peters' show still felt quite intimate, and especially taking into account the diversity and familiarity of the audience, it was very appropriate for a Homecoming act.

In anticipation of next year's Homecoming, Breckles hinted that there are bigger and better comedy acts to come.

Judging by the success of the show, next year's headliner will no doubt fill seats and leave students and alumni alike rolling in the aisles.

Shad K spits all up in Waterloo's face

Laurier graduate and Polaris Prize nominee played the Starlight Lounge last Thursday to a packed and enthusiastic crowd

DANIEL JOSEPH
A&E EDITOR

It can be argued rather easily that Waterloo doesn't get enough hip-hop flavour in its local music scene, but there are the occasional exceptions, and last Thursday Laurier graduate and Polaris Prize-nominated hip-hop artist Shad K performed for a packed crowd.

While the Starlight tends to pull some of the best talent from across Canada, it isn't regularly sold out unless the artist is featured often on MuchMusic and radio. Shad and opening act Hey Ocean! both pulled considerable crowds, and people were noticeably talking about both groups with avid anticipation.

The opening performance, Mantis and his hip-hop accomplice Justice, hit the stage and did their best to coax enthusiasm from the crowd. Their rhymes were successful, yet it seemed (in the setting) that the production was slightly on the weak side. Despite this, it was great to see such a kinetic duo.

Hey Ocean! walked calmly on stage to begin their set to a mass

of enthusiasm from the audience. While there were some in the crowd who lacked tact and decided to vocally profess their love for lead singer Ashleigh Ball, the heckling was gracefully ignored and the set proceeded smoothly.

Working through songs from both of their records, Hey Ocean! put on a tight set that showed their chops well; Shad's performance on the song "Vagabond" was a great warm-up to his following set.

After a short wait - and more people crowding to the front - Shad came on to the stage with Dan Klenner (of Hey Ocean!) on drums, bassist Ian Koiter and DJ Teelo. An in-control Shad seemed entirely comfortable with the zealous crowd - and offered a shining example of a seasoned performer.

Some hiccups occurred during Shad's set in the form of technical difficulties, and a few guitar-led tracks could not be performed, cutting the setlist shorter as a result.

While Shad waited for the sound guy to figure out the problem, the rapper appeased the audience with some free-styling. These off-the-

cuff rhymes, full of self-deprecation and pop-culture references, kept the crowd laughing and distracted from the guitar glitches.

When it was clear that the acoustic axe was a lost cause, Shad continued with the set and threw out hits "The Old Prince Still Lives at Home" and "I Don't Like To" from his album *The Old Prince*.

Shad finally finished the set and, as per the social custom, returned for an encore. Once again regaling the crowd with improvised rapping, Shad admitted that he was out of material and would end the show with DJ Teelo spinning some tracks for our continued entertainment - a slightly muted end to a powerful show.

After Thursday's show, it's obvious that Waterloo needs its fair share of live hip-hop. Shad provided more than that - and here's hoping that the currently BC-situated rapper doesn't forget where his fans are from.

Daniel Joseph's previous interviews with Shad and Hey Ocean! can be found on Cordweekly.com.



RYAN STEWART

THAT'S A RAP - Shad's guitar didn't work, so he stuck to the mic.