

THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

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Wednesday, February 24, 2010

thecord.ca



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Left: A visibly upset Jean-Michel Rizk after the Hawks were eliminated by the Guelph Gryphons. Right: Kate Psota shows her frustration during the Hawks shocking OT loss to Windsor.

Tough week for Laurier hockey

The men's team was eliminated in the first round of the playoffs, while the women saw their run at a perfect season end in the final game of the year. **Sports, pages 22-23**

Class sizes up by 13.5 per cent

Student-faculty ratio not representative of actual increase

MIKE LAKUSIAK
STAFF WRITER

Since the fall, there has been discussion among students, faculty and administration on the effects of noticeably fuller lecture halls, fewer course offerings and a general perception on campus that class sizes have increased.

Larger classes are perceived as detrimental to classroom experience. As a result, many questions have been raised on what factors have contributed to the situation, what the school's perspective on it is and what students can expect in the future, especially since many students cite small classes and individual attention as part of Laurier's reputation and a factor in their initial decision to come here.

Student-faculty ratio

Just prior to Reading Week, the school released the student-to-faculty ratio for the 2009-10 academic year, a value that seemed to indicate that contrary to perceptions on campus, the situation was improving as the ratio had dropped from last year.

Looking more closely at the methods used to calculate the ratios from year to year, the current ratio was calculated using an equation that factors the full-time equivalency of part-time contract academic staff differently. This was due to changes in a new collective agreement between faculty and administration that came into effect last February.

The Cord acquired an adjusted ratio this week that shows a slight increase in the student-faculty ratio,

from 21.4 to 21.8 students to each faculty member over last year.

The ratio for every faculty excluding the graduate social work program and the Brantford campus increased; Brantford's ratio dropped significantly due to new hiring.

Average class sizes

Another change that occurred with the new collective agreement was a reduction in the required course load faculty members must teach.

"Previously a faculty member was required to teach five courses over the course of the full year, but they get relief from teaching duties depending on their research and involvement with committees," said Kevin Crowley, director of news and editorial services at Laurier.

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Director resigns from WLUSU board

LAURA CARLSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

At an emergency in-camera Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union board of directors meeting that took place just prior to Reading Week, director Peter Hanna resigned from his role following the decision of the board to allow chair Saad Aslam to remain in his current position.

"I was hired as vice-president university affairs [and] the board had to decide if they wanted to keep me around in my capacity as a director and they did choose to do so," said Aslam.

"I will fulfill my responsibilities as a director and chair of the board and also work on transitioning to vice-president of university affairs next year."

Although details of the Feb. 10 in-camera meeting cannot be discussed, Hanna said that he resigned because of the outcome.

"A lot of board members did not agree with [the outcome].... It was really close and with that outcome I think we're putting the corporation at risk," said Hanna.

Hanna noted that because he is currently on co-op, he hasn't been able to attend any meetings this semester and is not comfortable remaining on the board for the rest of his term.

"With me not being there and this in place, if anything happens I don't want to really have myself backing it," he said.

Though he had no intentions of resigning from his director position prior to the in-camera meeting, Hanna did note that he had thought about it previously, as he has had many frustrations with both the chair and the board has a whole over the past year.

"I've really disagreed with a lot of things and I've tried to voice my opinion, but you're only one member."

—Peter Hanna, resigned WLUSU director

"I've really disagreed with a lot of things and I've tried to voice my opinion, but you're only one member. A couple of directors have now quit and a lot of it was just the unwillingness of the board to see eye-to-eye and negotiate with each other," said Hanna.

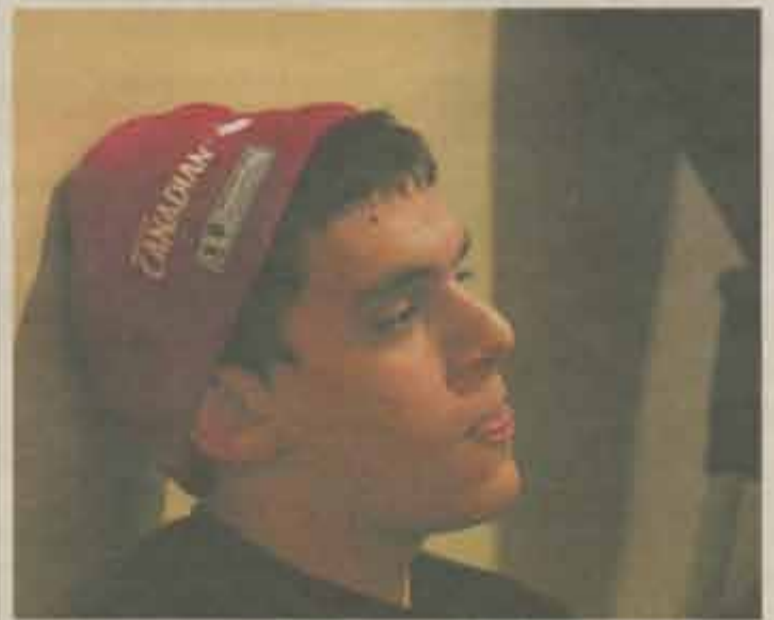
"I think that's the major flaw of the board and the reason why we're not as productive as we should be. Instead of trying to work together we just argue and [individuals] try to ... pass their own agenda."

With both Hanna and Justin Glover having resigned this semester, the board now only has 13 directors.

Though it is reduced from its standard 15 members, Aslam doesn't feel that this will have a significant impact on how the board operates.

"Justin [Glover] was missing a lot of meetings and Peter [Hanna], since January, hasn't been here so I

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YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Peter Hanna following the Feb. 10 in-camera board meeting where he resigned from his position as a director.

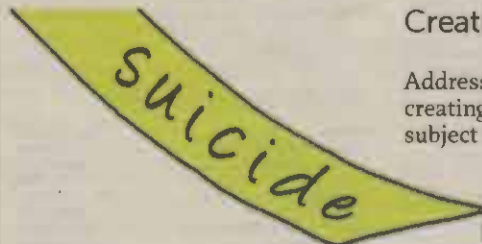
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Fashion as expression

Staff Writer Anne T. Donahue discusses trends and the role they play in identifying who we are

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Creating dialogue

Addressing the importance of creating dialogue on a sensitive subject to aid those who suffer

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Obama hears China roar

Sino-American relations heat up as China tries to capitalize on the U.S.'s waning global influence

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Editor's Choice
In Pictures: K-OS plays
Starlight
thecord.ca

Editor-in-Chief Laura Carlson • lcarlson@thecord.ca



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Waterloo was hit with a mini blizzard Monday after a warm Sunday; a frigid welcome home for students returning from spring break.

This Week in quotes

“Hey, I can only afford to go to Cuba once a year.”

-Dean of students David McMurray paraphrasing a student senator's rationale behind not wanting a fall reading week instituted in 2000



“Do we have to vote on that? I have no idea what's going on.”

-WLUSU chair-elect Kyle Hocking soon after being elected for the 2010-11 term

“It's a compilation of anger, disappointment and embarrassment.”
-Men's volleyball head coach Shayne White on the way his team finished the season.

“Brantford has been a big passion of mine. I know, irony.”
-WLUSU director Greg Evans making reference to an Open Forum question in which he was accused of making fun of the Brantford campus in the boardroom.

“You can look forward to getting more information on it in our annual report, which we will be releasing on an annual basis from now on.”
-President of PRISM David Silva when asked about the cost of installing new computer printing consoles in Peters and SBE buildings.

“We really have nobody but ourselves to blame.”
-Women's hockey head coach Rick Osborne after the team suffered their first and only loss of the year in their regular season finale versus Windsor.

“Mmmm, ballot eating time.”
-WLUSU chair Saad Aslam speaking to his method of destroying secret ballots.

Bag O' Crime

Fire
Location: Outside Peters Building
Reported: Feb. 20 @ 9:26 a.m.
A special constable responded to the area outside the main entrance to the Peters Building after receiving a report of the smell of smoke. The cause of the smoke was found to be a small fire in a waste bin near the main entrance. The fire was extinguished with a fire extinguisher and the cause was believed to be a cigarette butt carelessly discarded in the container.

Liquor Offence
Location: Residence
Reported: Feb. 20 @ 11:38 p.m.
While conducting a premise check of a residence, a special constable came across a group of residents playing “beer pong” in the first floor hallway. The matter is being referred to residence staff.

Theft Under \$5000
Location: Residence
Reported: Feb. 21 @ 12:08 p.m.

Special Constable Services received a report of a stolen fire extinguisher from the first floor hallway of a residence. The building was checked but the extinguisher was not found. No suspects.

Break and Enter
Location: Residence
Reported: Feb. 21 @ 3:32 p.m.
Special Constable Services received a report that an exterior door leading to the 24-hour lounge had been tampered with. Investigation revealed that someone had attempted to pry the door, causing the damage. It appears that entry was not gained. There were no identifiable marks to warrant calling the Regional Police Forensic Identification Unit in. There are no suspects at this time.

If you have any information regarding these or any other incidents please call 519-885-3333 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. The Bag O' Crime is submitted by WLU Special Constable Service.

From the archives

5 years
Students protest Rae's tuition rise
Approximately 50 to 60 students gathered outside the Aird Underpass to rally against Bob Rae's recommendation to lift the current tuition freeze. The protest was organized by the Graduate Students Association, who made the argument that increasing tuition would put students in greater debt, which would discourage them from pursuing graduate studies.
Printed Feb. 16, 2005

25 years
Work program changes affect summer jobs
The proposed Challenge '85 program - which the NDP and Liberal parties were not in favour of - was proposed in an attempt to create more jobs for students during an economic decline. During the previous summer, it was estimated that around 180,000 students could not find summer jobs. Students were to apply to the program and be placed in jobs related to their prospective careers.
Printed Feb. 28, 1985

Vocal Cord
What has been Canada's greatest achievement at the 2010 games so far?



“Jon Montgomery winning the gold medal in men's skeleton.”
-Travis Herron
Third-year English



“Alex Bilodeau winning Canada's first gold medal on home soil.”
-Shabeen Hanifa
Fourth-year sociology



“Maelle Ricker winning the snowboard cross.”
-Alyson Coons
First-year environmental studies



“The beat poet who performed at the opening ceremonies.”
-Andrew Fryer
Third-year English

Compiled by David Goldberg
Photos by Nick Lachance

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Watch video vocal cord

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75 University Ave W
Waterloo ON N2L 3C5

519-884-0710 x3564
Fax: 519-883-0873

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Advertising
All advertising inquiries should be directed to General Manager/Advertising Angela Foster at 519-884-0710 x3560 angela@wlusp.com

Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief	LAURA CARLSON lcarlson@thecord.ca
Photography Manager	NICK LACHANCE nlachance@thecord.ca
Photography Manager	YUSUF KIDWAI ykidwai@thecord.ca
Graphics Editor	TRINA SCHMIDT tschmidt@thecord.ca
Web Editor	DAVID GOLDBERG dgoldberg@thecord.ca
News Editor	LAUREN MILLET lmillet@thecord.ca
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Local and National Editor	LINDA GIVETASH lgivetash@thecord.ca
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Features Editor	SHANNON BUSTA sbusta@thecord.ca
Opinion Editor	KIMBERLY ELWORTHY kelworthy@thecord.ca
Sports Editor	JUSTIN FAUTEUX jfauteux@thecord.ca

Volunteers

Copy Web Editor	Adam Lazarato
Copy Editing Manager	Gina Macdonald
Copy Editors	Kathryn Dobosh Laura Malone Nataja Panneroche Kristen Rowant Joelyn Smith Tynith Perry-Mills

Contributors

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

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Opinions expressed within The Cord are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board. The Cord, WLUSP, WLU or CanWeb Printing Inc.

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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 of commission has occurred, that error shall be acknowledged promptly. When statements are made that are critical of an individual, or an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity to reply at the earliest time possible. Ethical journalism requires impartiality, and consequently conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest will be avoided by all staff.

The only limits of any newspaper are those of the world around it, and so The Cord will attempt to cover its world with a special focus on Wilfrid Laurier University, and the community of Kitchener-Waterloo, and with a special ear to the concerns of the students of Wilfrid Laurier University. Ultimately, The Cord will be bound by neither philosophy nor geography in its mandate.

The Cord has an obligation to foster freedom of the press and freedom of speech. This obligation is best fulfilled when debate and dissent are encouraged, both in the internal workings of the paper, and through The Cord's contact with the student body.

The Cord will always attempt to do what is right, with fear of neither repercussions, nor retaliation. The purpose of the student press is to act as an agent of social awareness, and so shall conduct the affairs of our newspaper.

Quote of the week:
“If you go into the filing cabinet in my room there is a gun and some bullets. Load it up for me and then you can shoot me in the head when I get home.”
-A text message from Web Editor David Goldberg following Team Canada's loss in men's hockey to the U.S.

NEWS

News Editor Lauren Millet • lmillet@thecord.ca

Campus Clubs policy available online

Past confusion for students regarding procedures and finances prompts speedy release of the new guidelines

TARYN ORWEN-PARRISH
STAFF WRITER

Laurier's Campus Clubs policy is now available on the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union website. The 10-page document details funding distribution and disciplinary procedures, donations and sponsorship procedures as well as operating policies.

"The Campus Clubs policy is an operating document for all club members to be able to access and use a reference for their daily activities, as well as outline what their responsibilities are and how they can access the resources that are available to them," explained Lawrence Maclin, assistant vice-president of Campus Clubs and faculty.

Jason Verhoeve, vice-president of clubs and activities, explained that before being made available online, those seeking information about campus club guidelines were required to consult different documents or visit the campus clubs department.

"These policies and rules have always been in place but in different areas. So they've been written down but never put into one formalized document that you could say 'this is the overarching guide for clubs to follow.'"

Alongside programming and services manager Bill Kitchen, Verhoeve and Maclin have been working on creating an accessible, simplified Campus Clubs policy since early November.

Although discussion regarding Campus Clubs policy was brought up at the Jan. 27 board meeting – in which they asked for a board direct

inspection to analyze the finances and policies of campus clubs – Verhoeve explained that this document would have been produced regardless of if the board requested the information.

"This document was probably 95 per cent complete prior to the board direct inspection," said Verhoeve. "This was something that was provoked well before [the board meeting]."

Verhoeve clarifies that there have been little changes made to the actual policy.

"It's important to say, first off, that it's not a new policy by any stretch of the imagination. It's something that we've had in place, we just haven't had it in a formalized document that was easy for club members and people within faculty associations ... to be able to actually find online and readily have available to them."

He further explained that the policy includes two new mandates. The first is the transition policy, which allows for clubs to apply for reinstatement before Sept. 1. This policy will particularly benefit clubs that operate during the summer months, such as Laurier's Dragon Boat Club.

The second mandate is the rollover policy, which will become effective in January 2011. The rollover policy permits clubs to apply to carry forward fundraised money to be used in organized future events. While in the past clubs have had separate bank accounts off campus, the students' union is also in the process of having the funds under one account.

The single bank account will facilitate the distinction between student fees and fundraised money.

“

It's ensuring that we as an organization are spending student dollars effectively and in a manner that they're supposed to be spent.”

– Jason Verhoeve, WLUSU vice-president of clubs and activities

Verhoeve explained that the rollover policy "ensures that clubs are using money in an effective manner and that fits within the guidelines of WLU and of the students' union."

Verhoeve is confident that the Campus Clubs policy will have a positive impact on Laurier students. "I think it's a very effective document in that it allows the students to see that knowledge firsthand and keeps our end in the check and balance," said Verhoeve. "It's ensuring that we as an organization are spending student dollars effectively and in a manner that they're supposed to be spent."

Maclin shares Verhoeve's predictions for the policy. "We're providing clubs the opportunity to transition and to be able to set themselves up for success in future years."



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Hocking elected chair

LINDA GIVETASH
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

The incoming board of directors for the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union has elected Kyle Hocking as chair of the board at their first meeting on Feb. 10.

Also up for election was returning director Chris Oberle. Both candidates were nominated by incoming board members and were subjected to a series of questions from directors and members of the gallery.

When questions were completed, the board casted their votes on a secret ballot.

In an interview with The Cord following the election, Hocking expressed his priorities for training the new board, which predominantly consists of first-time directors.

"That was something we lacked a little bit in the [2009-10] board and so the learning curve was a little bit steeper," explained Hocking, reflecting on his experience as a director on the current board.

Ensuring that new board members adapt to their roles quickly is something Hocking believes will ensure that the board accomplishes their goals.

"I'm going to be communicating

with the board almost on a daily basis just with dates and things that I'm working on, meeting with them one-on-one, making sure that they're all comfortable and they're accomplishing their goals as well," said Hocking.

Hocking's plan in training the new board seemed already underway, prior to him even being elected to chair. "I've talked to a few past chairs who are interested in helping me out with that and I know [current chair] Saad [Aslam] is going to help me out with that as well," he said.

Reviewing and implementing a new ends policy for the union is another of Hocking's priorities.

He currently sits on the board ends policy committee, but he believes there are flaws in the current document which he expressed has a stronger focus on means rather than ends.

"The fact that skill development is a priority for the board and the union as a whole right now is not the way that I think the union should operate," he stated.

"Our priority has to be lobbying for students, drafting letters of intent and taking stances," Hocking continued, expressing his ideals for the ends policy.

Computer consoles added in SBE building for printing needs

ANDREA MILLET
LEAD REPORTER

PRISM, an organization providing technological resources for students at Laurier, has placed two new printing consoles in both the Peters Building and the Schlegel Centre, which will be available for students to use within the next few weeks.

Each of the two consoles houses two computers and connected monitors that will allow students to either connect wirelessly or to print locally, accessing files on the computer provided at the console.

As students are relying more and more on laptops and portable technologies, PRISM is working to create more mobile services to better meet students' needs.

According to president of PRISM David Silva, there are two computers in each console so that one can be used for students on the Laurier wireless network solely for the purpose of printing while the other can be used by students who need to take time to search, for example to download from their email, without incurring lineups.

"It will hopefully minimize wait times for the stations and speed up

the process."

Printing access through these stations will be available by OneCard swipe to any Laurier student, as Silva explains that they have no way to limit the access to PRISM members and that they have no desire to do so.

"It is a PRISM initiative available to all students ... we've been looking at just giving back and helping students," said Silva.

To connect wirelessly to the printing console, students can visit the PRISM website and install a driver which will then identify the printing stations on their computer and allow access for printing.

The printers will allow for black and white pages and will cost five cents per page, the same as all other PRISM services.

These consoles are intended to save time for students who need to print, enabling them to avoid having to log into lab computers.

While PRISM is not releasing the cost for purchasing and installing the kiosks, Silva explained that they were under-budget on the project and that more information would be available when they release their annual report.



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Students will soon be able to print wirelessly or bring their electronic documents to the console.

Class sizes increase

cover

"It dropped from five [courses] to four [courses] and there's a cost to doing that," said Crowley.

In a meeting two weeks ago between The Cord and representatives from university administration, vice-president of finance Jim Butler explained the impact this reduced course load may have on average class sizes.

"We were happy to go in [the research] direction, realizing of course that research does put a strain on their ability to teach," said Butler.

"A one-course drop like that is a 20 per cent reduction, and you would expect class sizes to go up 20 per cent, but they went up by 13.5 per cent," he continued.

"Our attempts to mitigate that, I think, have been partially successful because you didn't get a full 20 per cent impact, you got less than that."

The average class size among undergraduate faculties went from 56.2 students per class last year to 63.8 students this year, excluding music courses because of one-on-one instruction in that faculty.

The increase of 13.5 per cent is significantly higher than the five per cent increase suggested by administration earlier in the year.

"I remember arguing that it might be five per cent in a couple of places, but my God I'm sure it's more than that overall," noted faculty association president Judy Bates.

"I'll bet you could find places like social work where it wouldn't have gone up by that much, but arts, science and SBE must have gone up enormously."

For example, in a large first-year lecture of even 200 students, a 13.5 per cent increase in size amounts to 27 extra people.

Even in an upper year course of 50 or less, there may be seven or more students than last year.

“

I remember arguing that it might be five per cent in a couple of places, but my God I'm sure it's more than that overall.”

-Judy Bates, WLUSA president

This of course, takes into considering that the 13.5 per cent value is an average, so there may be many more or less students in a given class or faculty than usual.

"If you're noticing larger class sizes, that would be true," said Butler. "The hike [is] because of the teaching load change and there's also an increased enrolment over what we had budgeted for in the previous year."

He also mentioned the importance of government funding and the problems presented by insufficient support from the province, problems that become apparent in the classroom.

Even a 13.5 per cent increase in average class size, Bates concluded, "Makes a huge difference to the way you can teach or at least the way you can have assignments and evaluate students."

Butler noted that there is some hope in the form of increased money from the province saying that the funding "would enable us to hire additional faculty and address some of the class-size issues."

"You can't do that if the government's not going to give you the money for the growth."

Restructuring combines IT groups under new manager

ANDREA MILLET
LEAD REPORTER

Richard Godsmark, previously the manager of Laurier's OneCard office, has now been given new responsibility as the interim manager in the Information Technology department.

An information communication technology review from earlier this year recommended ways to look into improving IT services on campus, one of which was to combine the residence network and central ITS network into one large group.

"We had two small units with three technical people in each performing essentially the same function: keeping the network running," said assistant vice-president of academic services Tom Buckley.

"We've brought two teams together with an eye to improve

service delivery and help position us for what will be a major renewal project involving our network starting this summer."

Godsmark will remain with the OneCard office and still holds his responsibilities there, but he has now been given additional responsibility, working with the IT department to oversee this combined group and work to improve the services provided at Laurier.

Buckley explained that as the manager of this new group, Godsmark will be working with his team to improve student services, such as wireless accessibility and activity as well as e-mail reliability on campus.

"Our highest priority project is re-designing and renewing our physical network," said Buckley.

"We need to fix the core network and so this move brings the people who work at Laurier with those skills together on one team with

one manager to help us through that transition."

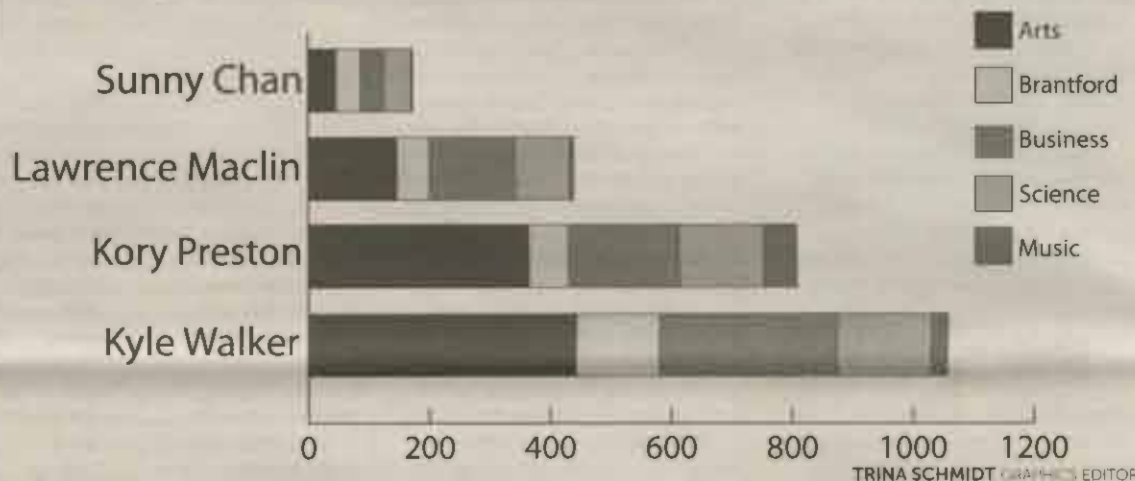
While the restructuring has now doubled Godsmark's responsibilities, it is not the administrations intention to neglect either area.

"We recognize the importance of, number one, getting the physical network behaving the way it needs to and we also recognize the need for the OneCard operation to continue to function as it is," said Buckley.

IT restructuring has also come into effect with Printing Services, who will be expanding their location to where the Hub is currently situated. They will also be improving equipment to increase what the department can offer; improving the accessibility of services available for students.

The new printing centre is set to be open for students by September of this year.

Approximate WLUSU election votes by faculty; final numbers available next week



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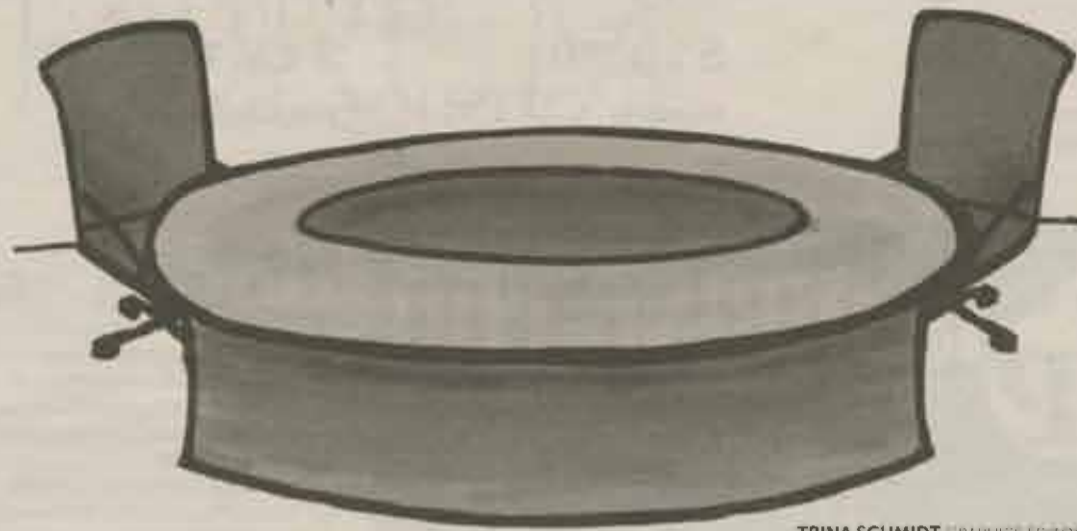
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TRINA SCHMIDT GRAPHIC'S EDITOR



Scott Martins
Brantford

WLUSU hires new VPs

News Editor **Lauren Millet** speaks with next year's management team to discuss their visions and goals



Saad Aslam
University affairs

Background: Current associate vice-president internal operations at Brantford; Foot Patrol (general, executive and co-ordinator); GO-Team (Orientation Week).
Most unique quality: "My passion for the students' union. I'm willing to go above what is expected of me to get the job done as long as it benefits the students."
Main goal: "I would like to further advance the communication between Brantford and Waterloo, especially at the co-ordinator level. This past year was the first year we had a joint summer conference, and it worked really well... to network and share ideas; I want to build off of that."

Background: Current chair of the board of directors; volunteer with LSFL; internal affairs committee; general member of the Eco Hawks; CASA ambassador.
Most unique quality: "I have a really good sense of humour, and that has enabled me to take bad news really well. I think sometimes things don't always go right, but it's important to be able to put it behind you and you'll come out on top."
Main goal: "I want to make the students' union a champion of representation and advocacy... the position has drifted away from representing students and providing advocacy for their essential needs."



Pam Blomfield
Public affairs

Background: General volunteer with BACCHUS; shine booster for Shinerama; History Students Association (executive and vice-president administration); sign promotions executive; executive on the elections committee for the 2010 WLUSU elections.
Most unique quality: "My ability to make any situation as positive as possible. No matter what is going on I try to put a positive spin on things, which makes things a lot easier to deal with especially when you're put in stressful situations."
Main goal: "I want to get more students involved in volunteer opportunities. I think we can get a lot more students involved if we promote our department more effectively this year and ensure that students know the opportunities that are available to them."

Background: Current assistant vice-president of first year experience; Icebreaker; hiring committee (general and executive).
Most unique quality: "An open mind. I think right now we're at a standstill with a lot of the programming we have on campus, and I'm hoping to work with some new ideas and new people to collaborate on events and make sure all of the student activities are successful."
Main goal: "Collaborating with everyone on campus, such as residence life, athletics and groups like the office for student diversity and the Laurier international office, just to ensure that everyone on this campus has a chance to get involved in all of the events that we run and we can get involved in all the events they run."



Burton Lee
Clubs and activities



Heather Budd
Services

Background: Current BACCHUS co-ordinator; member of the business campus club ISAC; Head-start ambassador.
Most unique quality: "I bring a lot of passion to the services department. I care a lot about individuals; I love listening to people, hearing their thoughts, constructive criticisms. I'm really passionate about the role."
Main goal: "I want to focus on membership training and member development. It will start with a successful transition of the co-ordinators and then training for the rest of the general volunteers."

Background: Current GO-Team executive; bar promotions for the Turret and Wilf's; Activities team executive.
Most unique quality: "My approachability, because I really want everyone to feel as comfortable as possible coming to talk to me....That's really important because it will always be a really welcoming atmosphere."
Main goal: "Combining the hiring committee with the recruitment committee. Hopefully it will result in being stronger on both ends. The two were slightly overlapping this year and because they are a new committee, recruitment didn't have as strong of a role."



Katie Mooney
Administration

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Applications and job descriptions can be picked up from the WLUSP office located in the basement of Macdonald House Rez. Applications are due on Fri. Feb 26, at 12:00 noon.

Any questions should be directed to:
Bryn Ossington at bryn.ossington@wlusp.com

News in brief

WLU sells GOTransit tickets

Starting on Monday, the Centre Spot began selling GOTransit tickets for the daily buses that stop at Laurier outside Clara Conrad Residence on University Avenue.

Prices vary depending on where one is planning to travel, and buses make various stops before ending up at Square One in Mississauga.

Tickets available from the C-Spot include single-ride tickets (which must be used within four hours of purchase), as well as two and 10-ride tickets, which never expire.

Tickets will still be available for purchase from bus drivers; however, according to retail services manager of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union Sue Dawson, purchasing tickets in advance will decrease wait times, as buses have

been delayed because of the time drivers have had to spend processing the ticket purchases.

Dean of arts clarifies proposed restructuring

Dean of arts Mary-Louise Byrne has released a statement clarifying possible changes various departments within the faculty of arts.

In an e-mail Byrne sent to all arts students, Byrne clarified that no programs would be cut immediately and that the faculty of arts is proposing to merge the administration, not the programs, of cultural studies, classical studies, women and gender studies, medieval studies and North American studies.

—All compiled by Laura Carlson

Second director to resign this term

cover

think people have got used to having 13 directors. We'll definitely miss their insight and input but I don't think it will affect team dynamics very much," said Aslam.

Though Hanna said that he is frustrated about resigning, he feels that "it was what was needed."

"It's unfortunate because students in the end did vote me into the board.... [But] I don't think that me

being a director will make the student body any better than the current state it's at."

Hanna noted that while he encourages chair-elect Kyle Hocking to bring forward much-needed policy changes to the incoming board, he is less optimistic about what the current board will accomplish in the rest of their term. "I really don't believe that the board will get too much done productively in the near future," said Hanna.

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LOCAL

Local Editor Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca

Enjoying the winter cold



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

In light of the Ice Dogs Festival, sculptor Cathy Coulter saws a block of ice into what will be a husky.

LINDA GIVETASH
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

Citizens of Waterloo and their pets embraced the cold weather to participate in the seventh annual Ice Dogs Festival in Uptown Waterloo on Saturday afternoon.

This was a transition year for the event, as it moved from its traditional venue in the Regina Street parking lot to the public square.

"I was confident it would be a successful event," said Angela Vieth, city councillor for ward three. Vieth expressed how impressed she was by the high turn-out that was seen early in the day. It was estimated that 2,000 people attended the event.

Festival events included ice sculpting, an ice slide and dog sled rides for children and displays of the National Service Dogs.

This year, the new skating rink in Uptown Waterloo brought new activities to the festival.

"We've got public skates in between various demonstrations by community groups," said Colleen Dostle, festival co-ordinator for the City of Waterloo.

"We're going to have the skating club here to do a demo and the Concordia Club to do an ["EisStock"] ice sledding event," said Vieth, regarding the specific rink events.

Cathy Coulter, a University of Waterloo fine arts graduate and an ice sculptor for Iceculture Inc., used

a chainsaw, chisels and grinders for her role in the festival, which involved cutting and designing blocks of ice.

"I am going to be carving a husky for the dog festival and then a figure skater a little later," she said.

"The one thing about having [previous festivals] in the Regina Street lot is that we had to tear down all the ice sculptures to get it back to being a parking lot on Monday," explained Dostle.

In the public square however, the sculptures are not an obstruction to weekday business. "All the ice features will stay up until they melt," Vieth assured, allowing anyone who missed the festival to still enjoy the works of art.

KW in brief

Bus driver attacked

On Feb. 22, a Grand River Transit bus driver was punched in the head by an exiting male passenger at King Street North and Bridgeport Road.

The suspect, described to be in his early 20s, allegedly stole a book of GRT transfer passes during the altercation.

The bus driver received only minor injuries.

Stabbing at nightclub

Early in the morning on Feb. 22, a man was stabbed during a fight in Elements Night Club in Kitchener. The fight began just after 2 a.m. on the dance floor between two male patrons.

After they were separated and the suspect was escorted out of the club, it was discovered that the 26-year-old victim was stabbed. Police are looking for the suspect and waiting on images from the security videos in an attempt to identify him.

Emergency food distribution increases

The House of Friendship, located in Kitchener, distributed a record number of emergency food hampers this month.

On Feb. 16, a total of 278 hampers were distributed. In 2009, distribution was up nearly 17 per cent from the previous year.

Food hampers are made by the organization from both food and monetary donations from

community members and local organizations.

Mugging suspect arrested

On Feb. 19, a 21-year-old man walking alone on King Street in Kitchener was approached by another man with a knife. He was not injured and called the police himself.

The 33-year-old suspect was later arrested and charged with robbery, uttering threats and four counts of mischief.

Aircraft flies low across KW

On Feb. 18, a Hercules military aircraft flew low over the cities of Kitchener and Waterloo.

The aircraft had been sent to an unidentified area in Waterloo by the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Trenton after it received a signal from an emergency locator transmitter. It was, however, a false alarm.

Merger question passes

Waterloo's city council passed a motion to pose a referendum question regarding the city's merge with Kitchener at the Feb. 22nd meeting.

The question posed by mayor Brenda Halloran is worded: "Do you support the members of Kitchener and Waterloo councils engaging in discussions about the advantages and disadvantages of merging in the cities of Kitchener and Waterloo?"

-All compiled by Linda Givetash

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NATIONAL

National Editor Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca

Funding leaves students hungry

Students campaign to improve funding for OSAP's \$7.50 per day food allocation

LINDA GIVETASH
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

From Mar. 8 to 26, seven students from across the province will participate in the Food For Thought Campaign run by the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) to advocate for better funding.

The students will be living on \$7.50 to represent the mere \$226 per month food and nutrition allocation prescribed by the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP).

"We're really working to draw attention to the fact that currently the Ontario Student Assistance Program is chronically underfunded and does far too little to support students," said Dan Moulton, president of OUSA.

The participating students will share the difficulties of their experience over the course of the three weeks through blog entries, video blogs and other elements of social media posted on OUSA's website.

Wilfrid Laurier University student Nick Gibson is participating in the campaign to raise awareness about the difficulties students have in funding their education.

"We can't be just giving out money with no sort of responsibility and

I understand that from the government's point of view, however, students have to focus on academics," said Gibson.

"For them to have to take time out of their lives to worry about how they're going to get food, let alone the other little things that come up. That certainly wears on you."

Maintaining a healthy and balanced diet with the additional complications of spending hours away from home and on campus is no easy task on such a tight budget.

"Sometimes it may come to the point where I have to skip a meal. That's the sort of thing we're trying to point out, that no matter how frugal you try to be at some points it's going to be unhealthy," said Gibson.

Treating food as a social excursion will be near impossible with such little money to spend.

"The idea is just to limit going out as much as possible," said Gibson. "Any time I go out, even to Wilf's ... I've just got to totally basically eliminate and be a really, really shrewd grocery shopper."

Groceries will be the most effective way for students to sustain themselves, since fast food - even on campus - will not ensure enough meals in a day with only \$7.50 to spend.

March 2010	
8 Monday	8:30 - Class 11:00 - Essay Kraft Dinner 6:00 - Club meeting Pizza Slice
9 Tuesday	Starbucks Latte 10:30 - Class 12:30 - Class 2:30 - class Crackers
10 Wednesday	THE CORD 10:30 - gym 12:30 - midterm Pita 4:00 - Essay 6:30 - Class 7:00 - meeting
11 Thursday	blueprint 9:00 - meeting 10:30 - class Kraft Dinner... 4:00 - Splurge - Redbull 7:00 - Class
12 Friday	9:30 - Class Bagel (w/ cream cheese) 2:30 - Pick up kev 6:00 - Gym Small TTI Salad
13 Saturday	cereal 14 - small fruit cup 11:00 - study 12:30 - essay Stay In... Popcorn & Movie Night

TRINA SCHMIDT GRAPHICS EDITOR

With a busy schedule of classes and co-curricular activities, eating on a tight budget isn't healthy.

"The realistic nature of this campaign is that we're demonstrating that of course students can't live off so little per day in food and nutrition allocation," explained Moulton.

The food allocation is only one of the areas that OUSA has noted failures in the method which OSAP calculates the needs of students.

"When you calculate from wherever - academic materials, the cost of living, the weekly allowance - these are figures that are drastically lower than they need to be and we need to see our government stepping up and investing in this program," said Moulton.

"Hopefully we'll see some change in the right places," said Gibson.

The cost of food at Laurier
\$9.49

Gourmet burger and fries
Dining hall

\$4.04

Small pasta salad
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\$6.59

Chicken Caesar pita
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INTERNATIONAL

International Editor Paula Millar • pmillar@thecord.ca

The turbulent U.S.-China relationship

As America's global influence continues to wane, the Chinese seek to dominate in the Year of the Tiger

NIKICIA PHILLIPS
CORD INTERNATIONAL

In addition to managing a dismal domestic economic situation, two foreign wars and a negative country image, U.S. President Barack Obama must tackle another hurdle: China.

This past Thursday, Obama was subject to considerable disapproval from China when he met with the internationally-revered cultural and religious leader the Dalai Lama in a low-key meeting at the White House.

Beijing views the exiled spiritual leader as an antagonistic separatist leading the Tibetan secessionist movement from China.

China strongly emphasizes issues of national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and denounced the

meeting as complete disregard for these international norms.

Despite Washington's attempt to downplay the controversial encounter by making it a discreet and simple matter, the Chinese Foreign Ministry promptly summoned Jon Huntsman, the American Ambassador, to Beijing and chastised the U.S. for demonstrating such disrespect.

The spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Ma Zhaoxu, issued an official statement, saying, "The U.S. action seriously interfered in Chinese internal affairs, seriously hurt the feelings of China's people and seriously harmed China-U.S. relations."

The backlash from this meeting is just one of the many thorns in the American-Chinese relationship. Some key aspects of Obama's foreign policy conflict with that of China, particularly regarding issues of restricting Iranian nuclear development and rebalancing foreign currencies.

Moreover, China recently condemned the current U.S. administration's announcement that they would proceed with a \$6.4 billion arms sale to Taiwan. The U.S. is bound by the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 to provide the Asian island with weapons deemed necessary to defend it. Nonetheless, the arms sale is seen as American interference in Chinese internal affairs, as there exists a highly contentious and complex political

relationship between Taiwan and China.

However, there have been arms sales between the U.S. and Taiwan in the past, and China knew about this deal for some time as it was negotiated under the Bush Jr. administration.

Consequently, China may simply be trying to flex its muscles and assert its position in international politics.

Due in part to its success during the financial crisis, China has fast-tracked down the path to world superpower status. *The Economist* reports that "China is rather prone to having fits, or at least seeming to have them" and that it can afford to now with the global balance of power shifting.

CNN chief foreign affairs analyst Fareed Zakaria explains, "[China] doesn't need the U.S. as it did ... this is producing a China that is more parochial, more inward-looking and potentially more adversarial in its relationships with the West."

Some experts believe that China's anger towards the U.S. is not simply a facade and a trade war may ultimately erupt, characterized by economic sanctions and protectionist policies.

Hints of a troubled bilateral trading relationship appeared this past September when Obama permitted a 35 per cent tax on Chinese tire imports to prevent the loss of thousands of American factory workers'

jobs. China retaliated by threatening to apply similar harsh tariffs to American products.

In addition to the Dalai Lama meeting, the Taiwan arms sale and the implementation of tariffs, a communications battle ensued between the U.S. and China this year. In January, Google threatened to pull out of China because of extreme censorship and reports of the government hacking into e-mail accounts.

All of these issues beg the question of how the U.S.-China relationship

will unfold during this new era of waning American power and increasing Chinese influence.

Undoubtedly, China has become a key player in international politics. Zakaria articulates the main challenge, saying, "If [the West] can allow China some space in the international system, that is commensured with its increasing profile, or are we going to draw the line so low that anything they do is a challenge to us?"



LSPIRG is hiring!

LSPIRG is looking for Laurier undergraduate students to apply for the following 2010 - 2011 positions*:

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The positions run from August 30th, 2010 - April 22nd, 2011 at 14 hours per week. Note: successful applicants will work an increased number of hours (35 per week) in the first two weeks.

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Application Deadline: Noon on Monday, March 8, 2010

Interviews for selected candidates: March 12th, 23th, and 14th

*Complete job descriptions are available at www.lspirg.ca

Come out to our **Hiring Info Session** to meet current staff, ask questions, and better understand the positions and LSPIRG. Wed. March 3rd, 2010.

6 - 7 pm @ the Centre for Community Service Learning (187 Albert st., behind the WLU library)



World in brief

-Compiled by Paula Millar

CRIMEA, UKRAINE

Feb. 19 marked the anniversary of the USSR's most generous gift – Crimea. Soviet leader Khrushchev officially handed over the republic in 1954. Ever since, pro-Russia activists have begged the question, "Nikita, what have you done?"

DORSET, BRITAIN

Bad drivers of Britain beware: a "No Excuses" campaign to counter driver inattention is in effect. The *New York Times* reported that, considering human error is behind nearly 90 per cent of car crashes, "There's no such thing as a dangerous road."

MOSCOW, RUSSIA

The *Moscow Times* reported that Josef Stalin billboards are going up in downtown Moscow for the May 9 Victory Day celebrations. Moscow City Hall defended the decision saying that the display will archive the Soviet defeat of Nazi Germany.

LOWER MERION, U.S.

The BBC reported that a school in Pennsylvania is facing legal action for spying on students via remotely activated webcams on laptops. It is alleged that embarrassing images, containing "various stages of dress or undress," were captured on film.

Vacationing in the developing world



MARIE ANDIC
CORD INTERNATIONAL

Fresh off the heels of reading week, many Laurier students are returning to campus tanned and happy after vacations in sunny destinations. While enjoying a sushi dinner recently, I overheard the conversation of one such student reminiscing about her holiday in Mexico.

She made a comment along the lines of "I never tipped in Mexico. They should be happy; it's awesome they get to spend all day at a resort." While I understand the desire to vacation in such a destination, I think it is important that we understand the economic realities of the nations we choose to visit.

Popular vacation destinations, particularly for university students, include Mexico, Cuba and the Dominican Republic. These are not prosperous nations. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in Mexico is \$13,200. Cuba is even lower at \$9,700. The Dominican Republic has a GDP per capita of only \$8,200. To put this in perspective,

the United Nations Development Index reported that as of 2009, the GDP per capita of Canada is \$38,400.

While these nations are far from the poorest of the world, they remain less than prosperous by Canadian standards.

As a result of these countries' relative poverty, vacations to these destinations remain inexpensive. A seven-day all-inclusive stay at a four-star Mexican resort was advertised this week for only \$712 before taxes. A Cuban vacation of the same quality and length was advertised at \$788 before taxes. A seven-day stay at a five-star hotel in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic was only \$497 before taxes. While we may celebrate the availability of such affordable vacations, it is important that we consider how such affordability is achieved.

These low prices include a hotel stay, flights, food and often open bars and entertainment. A large portion of the vacation price is allotted to your flight. I was unable to find a return flight to Mexico for under \$500 this March. This leaves your hotel stay at a few hundred dollars at most. Your stay requires the hard work of many staff members, including chambermaids, waiters, cooks, bartenders, custodial staff, receptionists and managerial staff.

In order to achieve competitive pricing, the staff at resorts in vacation destinations is poorly paid. According to *worldsalaries.org*, a Mexican chambermaid can expect an average monthly income of \$261 USD for a 50-hour work week. The receptionist who greets you upon your arrival makes a slightly larger monthly salary of \$355 USD based on a 51-hour work week.

You might argue that visiting such destinations fosters economic growth through support of the tourist industry. This may be true, but the majority of the price of your vacation goes directly into the pockets of wealthy resort owners or the multinational organizations who own resort chains. A chambermaid in Mexico earns a yearly salary of just over \$3,000, which is \$10,000 short of the Mexican GDP per capita. This accounts for the price of maybe three vacations in a resort that hosts thousands of tourists yearly.

These nations suffer from extreme inequality. The poorest half of the Dominican population accounts for just one-fifth of the GDP, while the richest 10 per cent enjoy almost 40 per cent of the GDP. Of the entire population, 42 per cent live below the poverty line. Very little of the money you spend on your vacation will end up in the hands of the blue-collar workers who made it possible.



YUSUF KIDWAI FILE PHOTO

To achieve competitive pricing, the wages of resort staff suffer.

While I understand the draw of affordable vacations, particularly among university students with limited finances, it is important that we understand where our money is going and who exactly benefits from this system. Workers at these tropical resorts are not "lucky" to earn low wages waiting on foreigners hand and foot. They are the victims of a world system of inequality which forces them to seek low paying, unskilled positions.

I understand that Canadians will always vacation in destinations such as Mexico, Cuba and the Dominican

Republic. I only encourage travelers to make informed decisions on their choices of destination. In Cuba, for example, a vacationer has the option of staying in a small, privately-owned Havana hotel rather than a resort complex.

If this is not your choice, please at least remember that these workers are not lucky to have us giving them patronage. We are lucky to be able to visit such destinations and owe them, at least, our appreciation for the hard work that they do for low wages.

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FEATURE

Feature Editor Shannon Busta • sbusta@thecord.ca

Realities of a global water crisis

A few weeks ago, this features editor had the bright idea to write a story on water. "How unlike anything we've published this year," I thought. I envisioned a unique and informative piece addressing the ways in which water functions in our body and our environment. Not only was it going to be fresh and original, it was going to be fairly straightforward. Right. To put it nicely, my research presented me with far more worry inducing information than I was at first ready to hear. So here I am, writing my adapted feature on water, having learned more than I wanted to and yet not as much as we all need to. More than anything, I learned this:

The world is running out of clean fresh water.

SHANNON BUSTA
FEATURES EDITOR

Research is an essential part of the process involved in preparing a feature for print. As part of my research for this feature I decided that I would wake up Monday morning and keep track of the amount of water I used in one day. Within the first hour I had flushed a toilet, washed my hands, had a 20 minute shower, used countless water-based products like shampoo, body lotion and toothpaste, washed dishes, made a cup of tea, bought a coffee and consumed a salad. Within this first hour, I completely gave up trying to keep track of my water consumption.

Our usage of water

Maude Barlow, arguably one of the most knowledgeable individuals on the planet when it comes to the global water crisis, tells us in her book *Blue Covenant* that "the average human needs 50 liters of water per day for drinking, cooking and sanitation."

Sadly, I likely used close to 10 times that in the first hour of my day. The average shower uses roughly 15 litres of water a minute, meaning I used somewhere close to 300 litres during my 20-minute shower.

Unfortunately my water usage does not qualify as abnormal. The average North American uses almost 600 litres a day; 12 times Barlow's quoted amount.

Our gross over-usage of water is made all the more disturbing when compared to the usage of those in other parts of the world. The average inhabitant of Africa uses only six liters per day.

The realities of the global water crisis

One billion people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water and close to two billion people now live in water-stressed regions of the planet. The reasons for this include climate change, pollution and rapid population growth.

"The issue of access to water is linked to the broader problem of global inequality," Wilfrid Laurier University global studies professor Alex Latta highlighted.

The lack of consistent sustainable economic development in the global south means that water and sanitation infrastructure has not kept up with population growth and the increasing population shifts from rural to urban locations.

"A lot of people do have access to water, but it is not really fit for consumption," Latta continued. "If you do not have sanitation infrastructure you can be surrounded by water but it won't be fit to drink."

Sadly, each year more children are killed as a result of consuming dirty water than by war, malaria, HIV/AIDS and traffic accidents combined.

This is what Barlow refers to as a "twin water crisis," one of both scarcity and inequity. We are rapidly depleting our global supply of clean water through the contamination of our fresh water resources, in addition to overusing in the global north.

Canada's water woes

As residents of an affluent Canadian city that boasts an excellent water and sanitation infrastructure, it can be difficult to imagine the lives of those for whom water is more valuable than gold.

Laurier's sustainability officer Sarah English recognizes that Canadians live in somewhat of a bubble when it comes to appreciating the severity of the global water crisis. "Because we are in Canada and have access to what we think are abundant sources of water, it doesn't really hit home that there is a water crisis going on."

Canada possesses between 16 and 20 per cent of the world's fresh water supply, but according to Jim Greer, a biology professor and the chair of the Laurier Institute for Water Sciences, "Only about six to seven per cent of Canada's fresh water is renewable and most of that flows north. In the south, renewable and accessible freshwater is only at approximately 2.5 per cent."

Latta also emphasized how misleading Canada's high water statistics are. "We are using and abusing our water supplies in ways that are going to get us in trouble," he cautioned.

English was particularly concerned with the water here in Kitchener-Waterloo. "Most of our water comes from ground water sources," she said. "And we don't even think twice about that and how our daily activities affect ground water."

Despite the fact that we pay little attention to the health of our ground water, currently the water in Kitchener-Waterloo is incredibly safe. English goes out of her way to be an example for others by walking past the water cooler next to her desk at the sustainability office and filling up from the tap.

Increasingly individuals are relying on bottled, commercialized water instead of municipal supplies. According to Barlow, 30 years ago only a small portion of the population drank bottled water.

Addressing the issue at home

"Within the Canadian context, we can do a lot to address the water issue in our own lives by moving away from the commercialization of water," Latta explained.

Many people are unaware of the fact that municipal water systems are held to higher standards of inspection than commercial bottled water is. Translation: you are wasting your money.

The commercialization of water costs the consumer unnecessarily and contributes greatly to the amount of plastic in our landfills. More than this, when individuals buy into commercialized water, they divert support away from public water services.

"Once you become a consumer of public water supplies, you need to invest yourself in the protection of those water sources," Latta urged.

So how do we begin investing in our most precious resource? A good place to start would be to attend World Water Day information sessions taking place on March 22, at Laurier.

Organizers of the event hope to highlight the research that is being done at Laurier and to raise awareness about water issues in the Waterloo community.



A brief overview of what you need to know

The WorldWatch Institute has declared, "Water scarcity may be the most under appreciated global environmental challenge of our time."

- The average human needs 50 litres of water per day for drinking, cooking and sanitation. The average North American uses almost 600 litres a day. The average inhabitant of Africa uses six litres per day.

- More children are killed by dirty water than war, malaria, HIV/AIDS and traffic accidents combined.

- Half of the world's hospital beds are occupied by people with an easily preventable water-borne disease, and the World Health Organization reports that contaminated water is implicated in eight per cent of all sickness and disease worldwide.

- Receding glaciers at sea are another loss of freshwater, as they melt into saltwater and add to the rising oceans.

- Desalination technology might seem like a potential solution to our global water crisis, however, desalination plans are highly polluting. For every litre of water that is desalted, another litre of pollution is pumped back into the sea.

- By 2050, after we add another three billion people to the population, humans will need an 80 per cent increase in water supplies just to feed ourselves. No one knows where this water is going to come from.

Information sourced from Maude Barlow's *Blue Covenant*



FEATURE

Supporting survival

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), one person worldwide dies by suicide every 40 seconds, and despite having a high incidence, particularly among those of a university age, the issue is treaded tentatively by the media and remains widely taboo.

"If we don't talk about [suicide] then we continue to sweep this under the carpet," said Rory Butler, founder and CEO of Your Life Counts, an on-line resource for individuals suffering from self-destructive behaviour.

However, creating dialogue about suicide has become a difficult task, especially for the media, which rarely explores the issue. Some believe that publication of details of suicide

influence copycats; others suggest that to avoid sensationalism and out of respect to the family, these deaths should not be labeled as suicides.

In recent years, some university suicides have been widely publicized, such as that of Nadia Kajouji, a Carleton student who died last March, while other deaths have been shrouded in mystery, such as that of Dave Laforest in last year's fire in Laurier's Waterloo College Hall residence.

The fire, which broke out in Laforest's room on April 14, 2009, caused over one million dollars in damages and left approximately 320 Laurier students in hotel rooms during final exams. On Jan. 13, public affairs co-ordinator for the Waterloo Regional

Police Service (WRPS) Olaf Heinzl confirmed to The Cord that the cause of the fire had been determined to be "incidental to the actions of the victim."

The events that transpired last year were never publicized as a suicide, though speculation spread throughout campus regarding how the fire started, and students searched for answers that were stifled by a criminal investigation into the events.

Often, it is the result of a family's wishes that suicides remain unpublicized, and it is widely assumed that media will not report such events if they are not approved by the family of the victim.

The Canadian Psychiatric

Association (CPA) published a statement on reporting on suicides, including mentioning that the publishing of suicides contributes to copycat suicides for those under the age of 24.

The struggle that prevails is what means of advocacy for positive mental health and addressing self-destructive behaviour will be best for preventing further suicides.

"[Suicide] is the second-leading cause of death among our youth next to traffic accidents and yet very few people in the country actually know about it," said Butler.

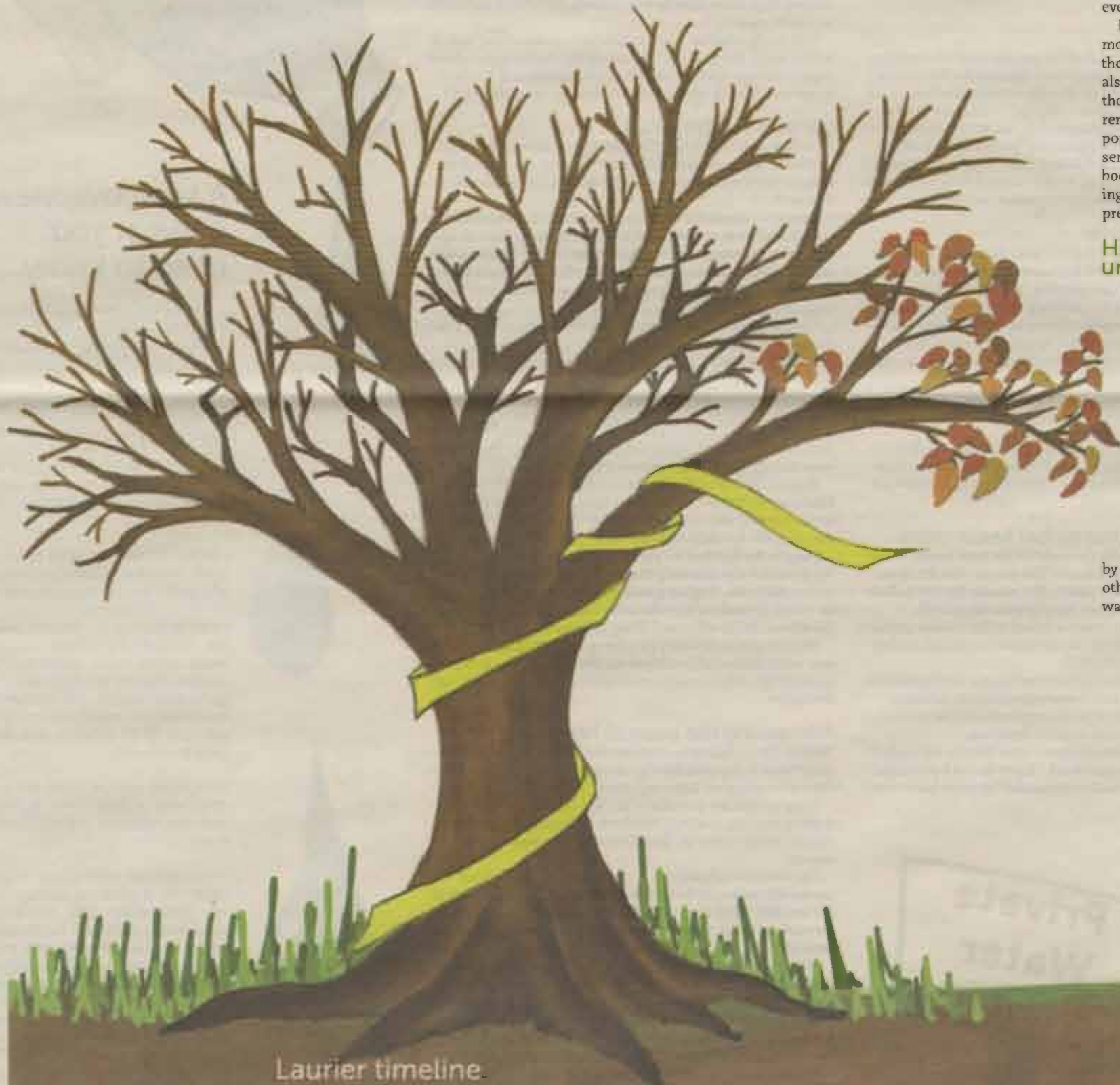
Here at Laurier, when suicide is reported or even speculated on, dean of students David McMurray said, "It's the absolute worst thing that could ever happen – to lose a student."

However, with the tight-knit atmosphere of the Laurier community, there are many avenues for individuals experiencing self-destructive thoughts or behaviour, some of which remain underutilized by the student population. There are also prevailing sentiments that suicide remain taboo in an effort to respect those dealing with such issues, whether past or present.

High incidence at universities

The pressure put on university students has been one of the reasons for speculation around the creation of Reading Week. Rumours have swirled for years that Trent University has two reading weeks as a result of an alleged high suicide rate among students. This is a misconception, as Trent's extra reading week in their schedule is meant to mirror that of Oxford University.

When two Laurier students died by suicide within a month of each other in 2000, McMurray said there was prolonged discussion among



Laurier timeline

Scott Whitehead, 2000
On Oct. 8, 2000, Scott Whitehead, 21, died by suicide. He had been struggling with depression and had been hospitalized in the weeks leading up to his death.

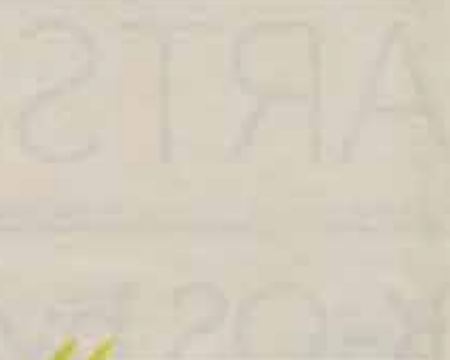
Chris Larsen, 2000
Chris Larsen, 21, died by suicide on Oct. 10, 2000. He had been struggling with depression and had been hospitalized in the weeks leading up to his death.

Julie Robbins, 2007
Julie Robbins, 21, died by suicide on Oct. 13, 2007. She had been struggling with depression and had been hospitalized in the weeks leading up to her death.

Lee Maggiasomo, 2006
Lee Maggiasomo, 21, died by suicide on Dec. 10, 2006. He had been struggling with depression and had been hospitalized in the weeks leading up to his death.

TRINA SCHMIDT

Depicted here is the yellow ribbon for suicide awareness bringing a tree from the epic poem with those lost to suicide bound to it back to life.



In Depth Editor **Alanna Wallace** explores the sensitivity of suicide on university campuses, highlighting Laurier's history of tragedy and resilient community

student senators regarding instituting a fall semester reading week at Laurier.

"Ultimately it was students just didn't feel they wanted to lose summer work time by starting earlier," explained McMurray. "And they definitely did not want to shorten O-Week."

The debunking of what is supposedly a Reading Week myth doesn't stop speculation, especially since the trend of university suicides is nothing new to many universities, including Laurier.

Over the past 10 years, there have been four student suicides reported as such by The Cord and an even greater number of deaths that have lacked concrete explanation. Butler explained that often the circumstances that are inherent in university life can lead to a feeling of being overwhelmed on the part of students.

"For a student who is just feeling that they just can't take it any more, there can be this kind of knee-jerk reaction that can lead them to take their life," said Butler.

Statistics Canada reported in 2005 that suicides among those aged 15 to 24 has increased by 29 deaths since the previous year, with suicide being responsible for 24 per cent of all deaths among those aged 15 to 24.

McMurray echoes these sentiments, explaining "the Net Gen demographic puts so much pressure on itself."

The millennial students characteristically are high achievers, goal setters, very connected all the time, possess strong communication skills, but also put very high expectations and pressure [on themselves]."

Supporting to save

Butler said that despite their busy schedule everyone, including university students, needs to be more attentive to each other's mood and personality changes, and more perceptive

when it comes to their neighbours.

"If there is a student that isn't coping and you're aware that that individual isn't coping well, then it just may be that that person can't reach out for help themselves," said Butler.

"I think we've got to look out for one another."

"There can be so many demands upon our time," said Butler, speaking specifically about university students' busy schedules.

"We can be concerned about our fellow but we may be too busy to look in on them. I think it's a matter of making the time."

The Laurier campus has numerous outlets of support for students, many of which are paid for through student fees and are underutilized by many students.

McMurray explained that Counselling Services is visited by approximately 28 per cent of first-years and over 30 per cent of second-years,

demonstrating that some Laurier students are utilizing the services available for them to ensure better mental health.

After the suicide of a student in the middle of the night, McMurray said there was a belief in the need for round-the-clock awareness. He added that some of the extended services offered have been created in response to past tragedies, including the online services offered by Counselling Services.

For some, this 24-hour awareness must start with each individual looking out for their peers, particularly in a university setting like Laurier, which is often characterized by a strong sense of community.

First-year English student and Cambridge resident Ashley Newton has struggled with issues of suicide herself, and joined a suicide prevention group in her grade 11 year of high school. With experience on the issue, she applauds Laurier's efforts to make services like PEER Help Line visible

to students who may need help.

"It's really important to know that there are people out there that can help and that suicide prevention is a very serious thing," said Newton.

"If people are aware of it they can help others, and it makes people's lives that little bit easier if they know they're not alone."

The role of residence life

When peers aren't able to look out for one another, for first-year students it's often dons who must take up the responsibility.

The Cord reported in October of 2002 that the suicide of first-year student Julie Robbins had led to the arrangement of a training session for residence life staff that would deal with mental health to "help the residence dons recognize the signs of stress, depression and other mental disorders."

Kyle Walker, who has been a Laurier don for the past three years explained that don training, taken over 10 long days, provides dons with the knowledge to help their incoming first-year students.

"[Residence life] anticipates student issues, they anticipate the times of year these issues are going to come up," said Walker. "Laurier is really committed and proactively creates solutions as opposed to ... being reactive."

Walker said that in his three years of training he has never felt underprepared for his role as a support system for his students.

Newton also expressed her positive feelings towards the support of her don, who she said "is so helpful."

"She's always willing to talk to anybody about anything."

In preparation for the difficult task of overcoming issues like suicide, Walker explained that residence life has previously told incoming dons of a past don who received a letter from a student years after their

graduation.

"The student was about to commit suicide that evening," said Walker.

The letter said that as a direct result to the time and concern paid by a don who took the student out to lunch that same day, their life was saved.

Along with dons being an integral component in the support of struggling students, Walker advocates for Counselling Services as an important component in fostering positive mental health of students.

"I would argue that Counselling Services might be one of the best resources on our campus," said Walker.

"A lot of students don't know that that's an incredible resource where if suicide happens around you and you don't know how to cope with it, you could still go to them."

The impact on campus

Along with the changes to support services including don training on campus, McMurray, who has been at Laurier since 1999, explained that the mood on campus alters drastically when students lose a peer to suicide.

"When a tragedy does hit, you feel it," said McMurray. "There's a definite hush and you could feel the grief, you could feel the tension, you could feel the uncertainty ... there were a lot of students who were absolutely frightened by this."

Two suicides were reported as front page news in the year 2000, and both stories were contributed pieces written by close friends of the deceased.

The Cord received heavy criticism for breaking many of the guidelines set out for the media when reporting on suicides, including not reporting suicides on the front page.

However, The Cord felt that the coverage of Chris Larsen and Scott Whitehead's deaths were in the best interest for advocacy and promoting discussion.

McMurray recalled how awareness has increased exponentially over the

“It’s the absolute worst thing that could ever happen – to lose a student.”

–Dean of students David McMurray

last 10 years regarding the "array of mental health issues that students are struggling with."

"[The coverage in The Cord] created an incredible level of campus awareness several years ago," said McMurray.

He recalled when he stocked his car's trunk full of Cords to be given out at the funeral for Larsen in 2000, as the front cover displayed a contribution by Larsen's floormates explaining his death and remembering him in life.

"It was topic of conversation amongst students, so it brought out some of those mental health issues that are not always front and centre," said McMurray.

Resources on campus

- Chaplain's Office
- Counselling Services
- Office for Student Diversity
- PEER Help Line
- Rainbow Centre
- Security Services Department
- Women's Centre

The media and suicide

Guidelines have been proposed by numerous agencies, including the Canadian Press, which outline that news sources should respect the wishes of the family of the victim when reporting on causes of death like suicide or diseases such as AIDS.

However, the guidebook proposes that if the case includes someone in public life, "The right to privacy in such matters can be outweighed by the public's right to know."

The CPA guidelines include not reporting on the details of the method used for suicide and frown upon the use of the word "suicide" in a headline. They denounce the admiration of the deceased and front-page coverage, among other guidelines. Butler, however, speaking about how media reports on suicide, believes that "there needs to be some sort of sensitivity as to how this is all handled."

For current editor-in-chief of the student newspaper the *Fulcrum* Emma Godmere, it is the Sept. 12 death of Michel Garipey, a University of Ottawa student who jumped out of his residence window, that resonates with her as an important lesson in reporting on suicide on a university campus.

"What it ultimately came down to was informing the students," explained Godmere, about how they covered Garipey's death. "It was clear that there were a lot of students on campus at that time who did witness it and had questions themselves."

Private acts of suicide are not generally reported on, unless the popularity of the individual makes the story an important one for a certain demographic.

However, with more public incidences of suicide, Godmere explained that there is an interest in report-

ing on a subject normally ignored by the media. Aside from publishing what is important for public knowledge, the media has an important role in creating awareness for suicide prevention.

"Apart from wanting to respectfully and properly set the story straight, our next biggest concern was definitely shedding light on some of those issues [of awareness]," explained Godmere.

The reporting of deaths remains at the discretion of the media outlet, and often one incident is covered in a number of manners by various publications.

The *Fulcrum* referred to the death of Garipey as "an incident," though it was heavily implied that he died by suicide; other media outlets such as CBC explained the student "jumped to his death."

The Cord's history of reporting on suicides has often been heavily criticized.

In 2000, after two front-page contributions regarding two Laurier students who had died by suicide, The Cord received numerous complaints about the coverage, prompting the editor-in-chief at the time, Asad Kiyani, to write a signed letter to the Laurier community.

Kiyani expressed the difficulty in balancing coverage on student suicides and justified why discussion regarding suicide at Laurier is vital to the health of the tight-knit campus. Such a private act in such a public forum often results in Laurier students expecting closure and answers

"Every person at Laurier is vital, in some fundamental way, to how this school functions as a whole," he wrote. "The loss of any individual, no matter if we knew them personally or not, adversely affects us."



ARTS

Arts Editor Rebecca Vasluianu • rvasluianu@thecord.ca

K-OS hypnotizes Starlight

The songwriter and rapper put on performances for an eager crowd last Tuesday and Wednesday



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Toronto-based artist K-OS put on an eclectic, passionate show.

SAM RICHES
CORD ARTS

When K-OS took Starlight's stage on Feb. 17 for the second night in a row, the rather timid crowd was quickly transformed as he filled the club with the energy of his performance.

Throughout his career K-OS has displayed an affinity towards following his own path.

His individualism, combined with an eclectic musical focus, has resulted in an artist capable of putting on a musically ambiguous and captivating performance.

K-OS carries an intimate relationship with his songs, staying closely involved from the point of creation into the final details of production and distribution.

He strays from the contemporary and popular trends in hip-hop, focusing on his own musical values and often incorporating sounds from a wide variety of musical genres.

His performance on Wednesday highlighted several examples of this, one notable occurrence being "Stairway to Heaven Only Knows" – a refined blend of K-OS' "Heaven Only Knows" and Led Zeppelin's classic, "Stairway to Heaven."

He kept the crowd involved while performing fan favourites such as "Crabucket" and "Sunday Morning", often interjecting the set with rock interludes.

Perhaps the cost of expelling so much energy into his performance,

K-OS cut the set quite short, ending the show just after midnight.

The transient nature of the show did not seem to disappoint however, as the crowd remained engaged and continued to dance the night away long after the set ended.

While it was obvious K-OS was well beyond the point of sobriety, he was able to maintain his focus and keep the show entertaining.

It is well documented in the K-OS fan community that at times his shows are an incredible experience and at others his talent can be lost in the bottom of the bottle.

“

I've been drinking y'all.”

– K-OS, apologizing for a mistake during his show

On Wednesday day night, K-OS was able to hold a balance and display his abilities.

He made only a few mistakes and at one point quietly admitted, "I've been drinking ya'll".



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

In review: February romances

Dear John

Directed by: Lasse Hallström
Starring: Channing Tatum and Amanda Seyfried
Release date: Feb. 5, 2010

★ ★ ★ ★

COMING TO THEATRE



Dear John is able to captivate the attention of all age groups. After sitting in a theatre with everyone from giddy middle school girls to seniors, I realized that this movie is more than just a spectacle for those Channing Tatum obsessed fans to my right.

From the woman who directed *Chocolat*, the movie itself was about two youngsters who fall in love over the span of two weeks. The main character, John Tyree, is a soldier on leave from the United States army.

Savannah, a student on spring break, encounters John at the beach

after an incident with her bag.

Throughout the movie, Savannah's devotion to those with autism becomes apparent, especially when an impulsive decision on her part has John extending his tour for several years.

After many struggles and the loss of people close to both John and Savannah, the two lovers find their paths crossing once again. Dear John has many surprising moments and it is a decent story.

However, the ending leaves much to desire, as comments from the audience strongly suggested.

–Deanna Sim

Valentine's Day

Directed by: Garry Marshall
Starring: Ashton Kutcher and all of Hollywood
Release date: Feb. 12, 2010

★ ★ ★ ★

COMING TO THEATRE



A love story. After the 2010
2.12.10

Despite the lure of a huge all-star cast, the involvement of producers from *He's Just Not That Into You* and the director of *Pretty Women*, *Valentine's Day* is medley of bad storylines. There are three principle reasons why.

Firstly, the writer Katherine Fugate (who also directed 2004's *Prince & Me*) has resorted to all the predictable romantic narratives of movies past. Whatever attempt there is at originality and making the film and its characters cute becomes unrealistic and annoying.

Bad acting is the second reason, which seems to be a result of Fugate's disappointing script. The Hollywood cast is incredible and all the actors do know how to act, but there are simply too many cringe-inducing moments.

While Jessica Biel, Jamie Foxx and Jessica Alba are especially unappealing, Anne Hathaway, Toopher Grace and Jennifer Garner are somewhat charming.

The last reason is also the selling point of the film: multiple plotlines. With so many stories and so many actors to cater to, the actual narratives are cut too short.

There is not enough time to develop the characters' personalities and to allow the audience to care about them and their troubles.

While *Love Actually* had charm and *He's Just Not That Into You* had substance, this film just has a sub-standard script and the hope that a big cast will make up for it.

–Elise Cotter

Arts bites

The latest in entertainment news

Lil Wayne avoids prison (for now) with poor dental hygiene

Lil Wayne had his one-year prison sentence postponed as a result of emergency dental surgery.

The rapper, who was supposed to serve his sentence starting Feb. 9, received eight root canals and had his \$150,000 diamond-encrusted "grills" fixed up during an eight hour procedure last week.

Wayne was sentenced to jail on weapons charges last year stemming from being caught with a loaded pistol in 2007.

Felons everywhere have stopped brushing their teeth in hopes of avoiding payment of their debt to society. Candy consumption among gun-toting rappers has also increased substantially.

–Mike Lakusiak

LMFAO rapper fights politician on plane

Skyler "Sky Blu" Gordy, one half of "electro-hop" group LMFAO, claimed to have punched potential 2012 U.S. republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney during an altercation on a flight from Vancouver to Los Angeles last week.

According to Gordy, he was "condor gripped" by Romney after reclining his seat into the former governor of Massachusetts. He responded with a punch to the face.

Romney didn't retaliate but did not laugh his ass off either.

–Mike Lakusiak

Sean Penn charged with battery for kicking paparazzi

Two-time Academy Award-winner Sean Penn was charged on Friday with misdemeanor battery and vandalism resulting from an incident in October when he kicked a photographer several times and broke his camera.

Penn faces up to 18 months in prison if convicted. He spent 60 days in jail for punching a photographer in 1987 while already on probation for beating up a musician who attempted to make out with his then-wife Madonna.

Penn is set to go before a court in March, which will determine if he will be going up the *Mystic River* for a year and a half.

–Mike Lakusiak



"Fashion is not something that exists in dresses only. Fashion is in the sky, in the street, fashion has to do with ideas, the way we live, what is happening." – Designer Coco Chanel

Finding your fashion

Exploring the diverse styles found on campus and why students adopt them



PHOTOS



ANNE T. DONAHUE
POP WITHOUT THE CULTURE

Looking around the sea of jogging pants, athletic wear and other "student-uniform" ensembles, you're bound to see something that's come to define our demographic labels.

This is not meant in the capacity of "jock", "hipster", "skater" or any other subculture (though I'm sure you see much of those as well), but in the way of name brands, logos and trademarks.

We support them, we "love" them, we shell out hundreds of dollars – but do we know why? We have all been attracted to something based on what it represents or who we've seen wearing it.

Even the most independent and free-spirited thinkers have found themselves dabbling in label-speak, gravitating toward various companies as a result of their spokespeople, or even a person in passing to whom you've given mental kudos.

But to be inspired is one thing, and to be a sheep is another. Are we wearing what we wear because it's "cool"? Or are we wearing what we wear because it's an extension of our being?

Are we yoga pants and headbands because that's who we relate to, or are we skinny jeans and high tops because that's what's in?

It's easy for us to roll our eyes at such sentiments and declare, "Whatever – I wear what I want," but is that still a phrase that's entirely relevant? Are we actually wearing what we want or are we wearing what companies tell us we want?

Sure, we can claim to be free thinkers (and most of us are), but to be independent is to question, and if you can't defend your decision to wear Lululemon over Guess, perhaps our decisions and investments need to be re-evaluated.

Are you thinking when reaching for your vintage vest or TNA hoodie first thing in the morning?

Now, this isn't to say that brand names are necessarily bad, or that vintage is necessarily better – currently, hipster-inspired fashion is in full force as attributed by the deluge of fashion kids infiltrating Queen West – but when choosing the \$100 sweatshirt over the \$20 alternative, is there a reason? And if so, what is it?

It's hard to believe we're all die-hard yoga aficionados or truly believe in American Apparel's "Free L.A." campaign.

It seems more likely that some of us have bought into the mottoes middle-aged men in suits have orchestrated in their Madison Avenue high rises. Regardless, the seeds of self-reflection need to be planted: what are we really trying to say?

And it's important to stress that our vintage-wearing, non-label committing personalities are not to remain unscathed.

As thrift finds and indie brands become more prevalent, they've undoubtedly aligned themselves with a specific "scene", leaving the question: is it the clothes we're drawn to or the status they bring?

Or does vintage continue to be an extension of art, with various pieces working to build a tapestry of originality?

It looks like there are more questions to ponder when waking up for that early class. Regardless of how we justify it, fashion is an extension of ourselves, and it speaks volumes about who we are.

Don't deny it – even those who opt for comfort over style are still saying something.

But the important thing is that instead of simply embracing a logo, a brand or a lack thereof, we question why we're embracing it and why it's so important to align ourselves with a specific subculture.

And if you can get dressed, go out and truly defend your choices – whether it's your UGG boots, your DC sweater or Value Village granny blouse – flaunt them with pride, nod in agreement with this article and continue keeping it real.



SYDNEY HELLAND FROM THE

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Do you have an IDEA?

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CONTACT Nikki at nicole@lspirg.ca

Upcoming events

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Princess Cinema
Feb. 24

Oscar short films
Princess Cinema
Feb. 24 - 25

Hive by Janet Morton
Robert Langen Art Gallery
Feb. 24 - April 3

Opera: A Little Night Music
Laurier Theatre Auditorium
Feb. 26 - 28

Musician Jay Malinowski
The Starlight
Mar. 9



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Lead vocalist Mike Vukovich and his band Funk in the Oven stole the show on Thursday, Feb. 4 at Wilf's with their unique style.

The battle is over

Funk in the Oven was chosen as the Last Band Standing

LAURA SEDGWICK
STAFF WRITER

After a year-long battle of the bands, beginning on Oct. 30, musicians Funk in the Oven were announced as the victors.

A-Team's annual Last Band Standing (LBS) came to a close on Thursday, Feb. 4.

The competition's champions were announced after beating out 11 other bands, including two preliminary winners, The Dirty Nil and Insignia, and wildcard Third District.

Along with the title of being the "Last Band Standing", Funk in the Oven received \$1,000 and an opportunity to perform alongside last year's LBS champion, Sound Foundation.

"There was tight competition," said judge and Sound Foundation saxophonist, Nate Payne, after the show. "It wasn't like Funk in the Oven was just miles above the rest, but it was pretty clear who the winner should be."

Funk in the Oven was the first band to hit the stage that night, filling Wilf's with their feel-good, high-energy tunes.

Their creativity and originality was dazzling and their set flowed flawlessly. Lead vocalist Mike

Vukovich's charismatic personality captivated the crowd and promoted audience interaction.

Though the band's eccentric yet professional demeanor set them apart in more ways than one, judge Payne was particularly impressed with their genuine musicality and composition.

"Any band can throw down a solid groove," commented Payne.

"But these guys could really put it together. They were tight as hell, and funk music isn't easy to play. There are a lot of intricacies and different chord structures that go into it."

Payne lauded Funk in the Oven's saxophonist, David Vukovich – the lead vocalist's brother – explaining that he was a large part of their charm.

"He doubled on instruments; he played baritone and tenor and knew how to do both. He's only been playing for two years and is already at the stage he is at which is pretty impressive."

Sharing a taste of their unique flare, vocalist Mike Vukovich metaphorically interpreted Funk in the Oven's music as being like "a baby otter vibrating from leaning against a subwoofer" and their physical style "like looking through a kaleidoscope with beer goggles."

When speaking with The Cord after the show, Vukovich said of music

in general that he thinks it's "in a transitional period."

"I haven't really liked the stuff that's been going on for the past 10 years but more recently I've been hearing some good stuff happening," he said. "Hopefully that will transition into something even better."

Though obviously happy that their band came out on top, Funk in the Oven's members were also impressed with the other performances.

"We genuinely enjoyed them all," said Vukovich. "And Third District [the final band of the night who also had performed with Funk during the preliminaries] has really improved since the last time we saw them," added Kim Manning, Funk's keyboardist and vocalist.

The second band to perform was Insignia. Their melodic approach was a nice contrast to Funk's buoyancy.

Their style, which was borderline hardcore-grunge, provoked a brief mini mosh-pit.

Next to hit the stage was The Dirty Nil. Payne noted after the show that he was impressed with their "early punk feel."

The night's victors Funk in the Oven will perform with Sound Foundation at Wilf's on Monday, March 8.

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DOUG IS TURNING 50!

Happy 50th birthday Doug from everyone at Distribution Services



Olympics UPDATES

A collection of some of the most hilarious Facebook and Twitter updates seen since the Olympics have started. To submit your favourites, e-mail lecarlson@thecord.ca. The cord.ca will be updated with reader submissions daily and the best will be printed in next week's paper.

Matt Peters Pierre McGuire says and I quote "I have never seen the Germans this aggressive"..... honestly!?!?

Ledger_Yankees I mean, what more can happen to Canada at this point? Alex Trebek gets hit by a truck? Maple trees go extinct? Celine Dion puts out an album?

Kevin Campbell has never hated Corey Perry more than he does right now. And he was a London Knight. Babcock, sit Brodeur and Perry next time and save Canada some aneurisms.

Kory Preston Dear Korea, thank you for heeding my warning and promptly allowing Canada to pass you (be it actually a tie but Canada is listed first alphabetically) in the medal standings. Your cooperation has not gone unnoticed. On the otherhand, Norway stop being clowns. Put on real pants and stop winning medals. I have had enough of your garbage.

ArdenAtGazette I don't want to live in a country where the ice dancers are better than the hockey players.

gastonreport
SCCCCCCOOOORRRRRREEEE
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

colinlefevre
RT @D_Hock: RT @matt416 Being a Leafs fan prepares you for this kind of disappointment. #goCanada

saadaslam RT @katieeperry: i'm starting to think the#olympics is really about america beating other countries at sports we don't even like that much.

David Hufnagel going for a RUN. I wish watching the Olympics was enough to get in shape :(

laurenleto We have to let Canada win, guys. If we don't, they'll have nothing left to be proud of.

reggie_bush Not gonna lie there aren't a whole lot of black people in Vancouver! I think I saw a total of 6 and me and my boy were 2 of them! Lol!!

Darren Dreger When asked about Brodeur's play tonight, Babcock said "we would have liked to be better in that area"

tomflem Do you think we can get #Harper to #prorugethe #Olympics now to avoid embarrassment? He's done it before ... #cdnpoli #vancouver2010

Patricia Eyolfson Dear life: Please go on hold while I watch the olympics. Thank you, kindly. Patricia

audiotaco they should hire someone to write a musical score for the olympics- using the pirates theme song is not ok. is john williams available

Housing

3 BEDROOM apartment for rent-close to university - Available September 2010 - Call 905 509-3282 or e-mail gord010@sympatico.ca

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Photo contest

We want to see pictures of your adventures from Reading Week. The deadline for submissions is February 26 at 4 p.m. Send your submissions to photography@thecord.ca

Correction

The dates for collection of the 2010 Keystone yearbook in the WLU'er dayplanner are incorrect. The books will be available in the Concourse on March 23, 24 and 25 between 10 am-4pm. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Dear LIFE

Dear Life is your opportunity to write a letter to your life, allowing you to vent your anger with life's little frustrations in a completely public forum.

All submissions to Dear Life are anonymous, should be no longer than 100 words and must be addressed to your life. Submissions can be sent to dearlife@thecord.ca no later than Monday at noon each week.

Dear, Life,
To the "Guy Who Does Not Like Bigots", how do you "do some research" on whether someone is a homophobe? I'm just curious....I googled it and came up with nothing? Sincerely,
How Do You Research a Homophobe?

Dear Life,
Why does everyone at this school hate the Pita Shack? We have

feelings too. Sometimes your "thank yous" kinda sound like go #*!@ yourself; we do our best to wrap properly and sometimes can't help if the pitas fall apart. Oh, sorry for filling up the pita so you don't get ripped off; mommy's OneCard money is sure going a long way. And if you ask for a whole wheat pita with a chicken/steak stir fry....Good luck.
Sincerely,
Buy a Salad

Dear Life,
Why is it that some students believe that the computer lab in the Concourse is a space for a group meeting? Moreover, do they honestly feel that everyone enjoys being distracted by their debate to do a powerpoint presentation or not?
Sincerely,
Book a Room in the Library

Dear Life,
Why is it that people insist on wearing sweatpants out of the house? I understand that some may think I am strange for being a little stylish, but is that really so bad? Jeans and a sweater aren't uncomfortable.
Sincerely,
I Actually Take Pride in the Way I Dress

Dear Life,
I find that, lately, most of the Dear Lifes are pretentious, holier-than-thou jerks who need to get off their high horses and realize they're in the real world. And yes, I realize I'm using Dear Life to say this, but I'm assuming the people who write to Dear Life read it, and so will hopefully hear my message.
Sincerely,
No, You're the Pompous Jackass



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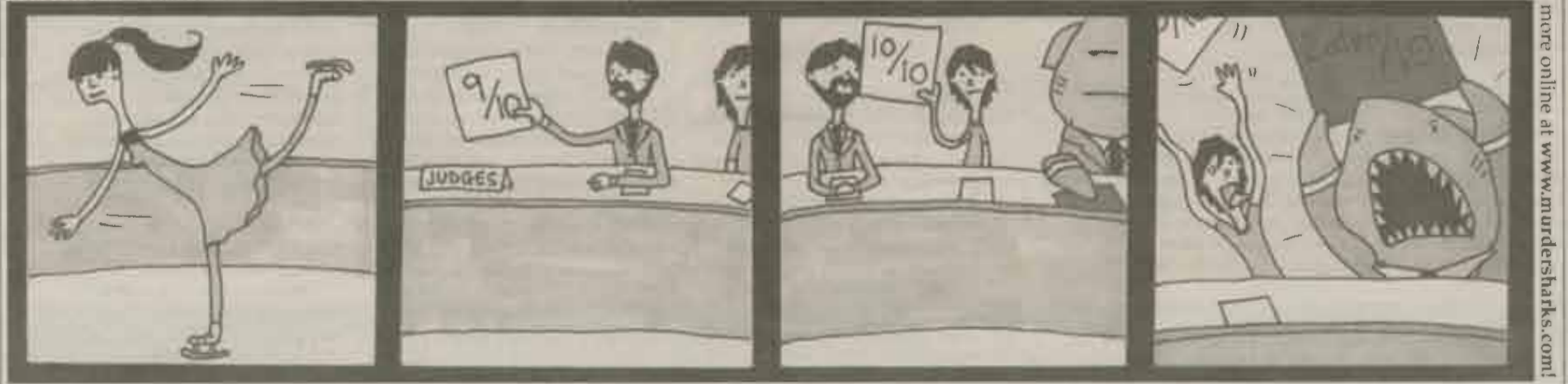
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EDITORIAL

Editor-in-Chief Laura Carlson • lcarlson@thecord.ca

VANOC not tarnished

Media across the world have coined the 2010 Vancouver Olympics as one of the worst Olympics in history. The *Times of London* went so far as to print a headline that read "The Wreckage of a Tarnished Games."

As Canadians, we have a right to defend ourselves and, in particular, the fact that our Olympics are extremely successful when you look at them in context of other Games.

It's true that Vancouver has been experiencing abnormally high temperatures, which the media have blamed on a lack of organization; weather has also been a hindrance to certain outdoor events.

However, given the circumstances, event organizers have done an excellent job dealing with what they have been handed. Officials are ensuring that the athletes compete in the best conditions possible by shipping in truckloads of snow from northern Vancouver or delaying events for a few days.

The media seem to have forgotten previous Olympics that have had much more severe problems than anything seen in Vancouver.

There was the organizational disaster and commercial greed, as well as the pipe bomb which killed two people and injured 111 others during the 1996 Atlanta games, the 1976 games in Montreal that bankrupted the entire city, not to mention the fact that Hitler used the 1936 Olympics as Nazi propaganda.

Furthermore, the 1972 summer Olympics in Munich saw members of the Israeli team captured by terrorists, resulting in Black September where 11 Israeli athletes and coaches were killed.

The media needs to take a step back and look at the bigger picture when reporting on the Vancouver Olympics.

Organizers of the Vancouver games have worked tirelessly to ensure that they run smoothly; when trying to put on an event of this stature, there are always going to be glitches.

The fact remains that overall, the 2010 games have proven to be a success for both the athletes as well as the fans, and the world has not seen a more passionate group of supporters cheering the athletes to victory.

-The Cord Editorial Board



MAYA UEMURA CORD GRAPHICS

Laurier must uphold its small-scale status

If you want to be successful, you get some form of post-secondary education – we live in a society where this really isn't a question. We're brought up to believe that that's just the way things work, and it's different today than it was 25 or 50 years ago.

With the increasing necessity of post-secondary education in the workforce, Laurier has seen a rapid expansion in enrolment in the past few years.

Laurier – which is now a medium-sized school – is stuck with the reputation of being a small campus, and students who enrol here expect that Laurier will provide the sort of individual attention and closeness that other universities lack.

At large schools, such as the University of Toronto, it's not unusual to have first-year classes made up of 500 students, which is why students from other schools may laugh at you when you complain about your "big" lecture of 100 people at Laurier.

Although Laurier is experiencing constraints, it is not the only school experiencing financial distress. Despite this, the bottom line is that Laurier has their small-school status to uphold – there is no substitute for a small class size and a professor who knows your name and marks your essay themselves.

Laurier, and the entire post-secondary system, needs to re-evaluate what they are providing students. University should be a place to learn, to get a quality education, to work hard and to get a valuable degree upon graduation.

But at the rate universities are growing, it seems that an undergraduate degree is simply a bunch of mass-scale, impersonal lecture halls where you only need to pay attention to the right things in order to check the right boxes on that Scantron card.

-The Cord Editorial Board

This unsigned editorial is based off informal discussions and then agreed upon by the majority of The Cord's editorial board, which consists of 14 senior Cord staff including the Editor-in-Chief and Opinion Editor. The arguments made may reference any facts that have been made available through interviews, documents or other sources. The views presented do not necessarily reflect those of The Cord's volunteers, staff or WLUSP.

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Young Canadians ignore real issues

While students dedicate time to entertainment, the same commitment is absent when it comes to the news



LINDA GIVETASH
LOCAL AND NATIONAL

Despite all the information young people are exposed to today through television, the Internet and Smartphones, we still seem to hold a level of disengagement and overall ignorance of current events.

That's not to say we're completely disengaged from important issues.

Looking close to home, each year we manage to somehow surpass quorum for the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union elections.

This year an astounding 20 per cent of our student body were not only aware that the election was occurring, but also chose to take part in the voting.

But that's only 2,600 students – down from the previous year's turnout of 2,800 students – who recognized the importance of the democratic practices of our union and care to have a voice in who governs it.

Given our disregard for our own campus politics, which we all directly pay for in up to \$55.60 in union dues each semester, it is no surprise that students remain ignorant to our nation's politics as well.

Our federal government has prorogued parliament twice since the last election.

The most recent has resulted in anti-proroguing movements online and rallies across the country, receiving ample amounts of media attention. Despite all the public discussion, there are still students who can't even vaguely explain prorogation.

The lack of political engagement among our age cohort was clear at the anti-prorogation rally in late January held in Waterloo, where barely a third of the crowd of over 500 people were students.

Members of the Young Liberals and Campus Greens were involved; however, in a city with two universities and a college, the crowd should have been predominantly made up of young faces.

Furthermore, the winter Olympics this month has managed to captivate millions of young Canadians, making it nearly impossible for people to be unaware of death of the Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili.

Yet beyond being the homeland of the deceased athlete, the former Soviet nation remains undiscussed by Canadian youth. Few seem knowledgeable about Georgia's continuous conflict with Russia, including the 2008 war that erupted in the state of South Ossetia which displaced tens of thousands of people.

Although the vast majority of students appear to be disengaged with politics and international affairs, perhaps it is because our interests are attached to other issues.

To date there are over two million people advocating for Facebook

to stop changing their design layout through the group "CHANGE FACEBOOK BACK TO NORMAL!!"

A quick skim over the members list reveals a multitude of young people in their teens and early 20s working together towards a completely trivial goal.

That voice advocating for changes online also participates in the realm of reality, taking part in what is aired on television.

Over 33 million votes were cast during the course of the sixth season of Canadian Idol, giving Alberta's Theo Tams the top spot.

Recognizing that these are the real concerns of our generation, it is no surprise that students can be overheard saying, "What's the election for?" On the day of the WLUSU Annual General Meeting, or the a quiz-zical look on their faces when confronted with the term prorogue.

Our world is more transparent than ever, with technology and mass media spreading information on current events instantly.

Young people, especially those of us fortunate enough to receive a post-secondary education and therefore learn to look at the world critically, have the opportunity not only to be informed but to make change.

There are countless mediums to have your voice heard and to influence the course of history.

However, for too many of us, it seems that our influence is centred on who will be the next Canadian Idol rather than the next prime minister.

THE FORUM

Opinion Editor Kimberly Elworthy • kelworthy@thecord.ca

Letters to the Editor

Laurier Chaplain has become obsolete

Re: *Have a subversive Sabbath, Feb. 10*

As we progress into the 2010s I still wonder why we have a chaplain here at Laurier.

Brian Bork speaks of his childhood Sundays as being quiet and peaceful.

But he is painfully unaware of the fact that back in those times the Lord's Day Act prohibited businesses from operating on the Sabbath.

It was an offence against freedom of religion and was discriminatory towards non-Christians.

Thankfully, with the application of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms section on religious freedom, it was finally overturned. Perhaps Bork wants to return to those times, but for me and many others who want to progress towards a more secular and free world, the Sabbath represents repression.

As for his position as chaplain, I feel that it is terribly redundant and out of date.

If I am not mistaken, we do have Counselling Services and many other places such as the Women's Centre, Rainbow Centre and a Peer Help-Line from which to seek guidance.

Besides that, the Chaplain's

Office is an affront to separation of church and state.

You need only read his article to see that he represents one and only one religion, that of Christianity. His high appraisals of the Judeo-Christian tradition and claims that the Sabbath was written into creation and the cosmos serve only to alienate those of different religious backgrounds or no religious background.

In a time when budgets are tightening, I have a proposition to kill two birds with one stone: get rid of the Chaplain's Office.

—Andrew Chai

Olympics should not be celebrated

Re: *Celebrate Canada's Olympic athletes, Feb. 10*

I am highly disappointed at The Cord's Editorial Board for their dramatic show of apathy toward the enormous economic, social, environmental and cultural costs of the Winter Olympics as presented in the last issue of *The Cord*.

The global convergence to protest the Olympic games and the groundswell of dissatisfaction among ordinary Canadians is not merely a

by-product of malcontents who have an axe to grind with the capitalist system, it is deeply rooted in the blatant human rights violations and environmental damage created by this event.

Such issues should not be ignored but revealed to the world as the true cost of the Olympic phenomena.

Hypocritically, despite the claims to the contrary, the Editorial Board does exactly that — brushes over the multi-billion dollar debt, the theft of Native land, the criminalization of the poor, blatant plagiarism of native culture and enormous environmental damage, among many other things, as if these were worthy sacrifices for a two-week party to showcase an idealized version of Vancouver. It's not.

The repercussions of these Olympics will be felt for decades by ordinary citizens who have to carry the costs.

While men and women, Canadian or not, should be admired, respected and honoured for their hard work and diligence to become some of the best athletes in the world, these Olympics are nothing to be proud of as they are antithetical to what Canada should be about — tolerance, equality, environmental sustainability and justice under the law.

—Anatolijs Venovcevs

Harper pulls out of HIV partnership

The "Friday strategy" of evading fallout by burying bad news ahead of the weekend is perhaps the longest-standing PR strategy in Ottawa.

Accordingly, as Canadians left work Friday to watch Montgomery's thrilling gold-medal skeleton performance, it was quietly announced that Canada was pulling out of a \$139-million partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to develop HIV vaccines for clinical trials.

With some 33.4 million people in the world afflicted with HIV/AIDS, the weight of Mr. Harper's decision could hardly be greater.

Yet, somewhat ironically, Canada's own HIV Vaccine Plan (introduced by Mr. Harper in 2006) best captures the regrettable nature of this announcement:

"We have an ethical responsibility to contribute our fair share of skills and resources to domestic and global efforts to develop and distribute HIV vaccines ... Because developing HIV vaccines is a global effort, Canada must be involved. We can make a difference."

—Kyle Gerow
President, Dignitas Youth - WLU

Purpose of board chair under question

Re: *Hocking elected board chair, posted on thecord.ca Feb. 11*

The position of chair needs to be one that can go to the president's office, to go to a VP's office and smash their door down.

—Luke Dotto

Really Luke? I completely disagree. The board and especially the position of chair are not in place to impede management.

—Peter


I think a good chair is able to keep management in line with the board's prerogatives without impeding the agenda that they would like to accomplish as well.

—Joe

Continue the debate online at thecord.ca

Letter policy

Letters must not exceed 250 words. Include your full name and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00 p.m. noon Monday via e-mail to letters@thecord.ca. The Cord reserves the right to edit for length and clarity or to reject any letter.

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OPINION

Opinion Editor Kimberly Elworthy • kelworthy@thecord.ca

WLUSU needs electoral reform

Using a ranked ballot system would be representational



IAIN MCCAULEY
letters@thecord.ca

Following the yearly student herding that is the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union election in early February, a new president was selected to lead the students' union for the upcoming year.

While Kyle Walker will claim legitimacy in this election because he had the most votes, winning the most votes in his case does not necessarily equate a majority of support.

To declare a majority, one must have more than 50 per cent of the vote and Walker's success was dictated by receiving 43 per cent.

Unfortunately, given the current electoral system it is extremely difficult to declare a majority when there are more than two candidates running.

WLUSU needs electoral reform where the president would be required to gain a majority of support (over 50 per cent) in an election, which can best be achieved through a ranked balloting system.

To be fair, last year the WLUSU board of directors made note of the need for electoral reform and

recommended that the union switch to a single transferable vote (STV) ranked ballot system.

At the time it was passed, this was dependant on switching to on-line voting; since neither of these has yet to come into effect, WLUSU has thus far failed to bring about the necessary changes to ensure a representative voting system.

Although Canadian politicians often experience similar percentages to Walker's – local MP Peter Braid only received 36 per cent of the vote in the last election – this is not something that we should strive for.

To either use Canada's model because it is there, or to defend WLUSU's archaic electoral structure based upon its similarities with this model shows an acceptance of the status quo, not an acknowledgment that progress is essential in governance.

What we need of WLUSU is evolution, not stagnation.

A necessary step in electoral reform is a progressive ballot system which ensures that a president has a majority of the votes to be elected.

Possibilities could include a ranked balloting system where voters select candidates in a numerical order in which they rank the candidates from their most to least favourite.

Candidates are removed and votes recounted until one candidate has a majority of the votes.

This process ensures that the

To declare a majority, one must have more than 50 per cent of the vote and Walker's success was dictated by receiving 43 per cent.

winning candidate has the majority of student support.

A ranked balloting model is a means of graduation from our elementary selection process and constructs an election process where students maintain control, as opposed to an inadequate voting process controlling us.

Where ranked balloting is used:

- Conservative Party of Canada
- Ireland
- Australia's Senatorial Elections

Rank any number of options in your order of preference

*In the first round of counting, nobody received 50 + 1 per cent of votes

- 1 **Sunny Chan**
Chan is my number one choice. If he was the lowest ranked in the first count, my second choice (Maclin) would be used. Chan is eliminated from any further counts.
- 4 **Kyle Walker**
- 2 **Lawrence Maclin**
If nobody receives 50 + 1 per cent of votes in the second count and Maclin has the lowest number of votes, a third count would decide between Walker and Preston. My vote would go to Preston.
- 3 **Kory Preston**
In the final count, my vote went to Preston, but since Walker received more than 50 per cent of the vote he was declared the president.

TRINA SCHMIDT GRAPHICS EDITOR

The ideal ranked ballot system

- Voters select candidates in a numerical order; they rank the candidates from their most to least favourite.
- In the case that no candidate has gained a majority in the first vote count, candidates with the least number of votes are removed from the race and those who have voted for them transfer their ballot to the candidate they have ranked second. If students chose to have no secondary candidate, their ballot is thrown out following the elimination of their candidate.
- Candidates are removed and votes are recounted until one candidate has a majority of the votes.

THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

is hiring editorial staff for 2010-11

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SPORTS

Sports Editor Justin Fauteux • jfauteux@thecord.ca

Curlers come up short in OUA final

For the second year in a row, the Hawks took home the provincial silver medal

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

Last weekend, the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women's curling team fell just short of the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) gold medal, losing in the provincial championship to the Waterloo Warriors.

This was the second year in a row that the Hawks only managed to come away with the OUA silver medal; however, making the OUA finals meant that the team automatically qualified for the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championship.

"Obviously it was disappointing, coming so close, but overall, we're happy with the way we performed," said head coach Gary Crossely, who is in his first season at Laurier.

"The championship was a really tight game that could've gone either way and in the end we came up short, but we're excited to get a chance to play at nationals."

The gold medal match came down to an extra end as the teams battled to a 5-5 tie at the end of regulation. On the final shot of the match, Laurier skip Danielle Inglis left the rock just a bit too short, leaving the Warriors closer to the button and giving them the win.

"I thought we controlled the entire game," said fourth-year Laura Hickey, the team's second. "I still think we're a stronger team than [Waterloo] and in the end it came down to a couple missed shots. But now we're just really excited about getting to go back to nationals. We've had a lot of success there in the past couple years, and we know what it takes to win."

The Hawks do indeed know what it takes to win at the CIS championship, as this year they will be going for their third consecutive national title. According to Hickey, one of the keys will be gaining positive energy early, as well as "controlling the controllables."

"It's all about getting momentum," said Hickey of succeeding at the national championship. "Obviously we all know we have to come out and play well, but getting that first win under your belt really helps to propel you forward and get everything going."

The Hawks will head to Edmonton March 10 to take on the nation's best curlers, and Crossely is confident in his team's chances.

"Overall, I think we've had a really good season, and I know we have what it takes to compete [at nationals]," he said. "I'm really looking forward to what should be a great experience in Edmonton."



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

After coming away with the OUA silver medal, the Hawks will compete at nationals next month.

Hawks miss playoffs

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

"It's a compilation of anger, disappointment and embarrassment."

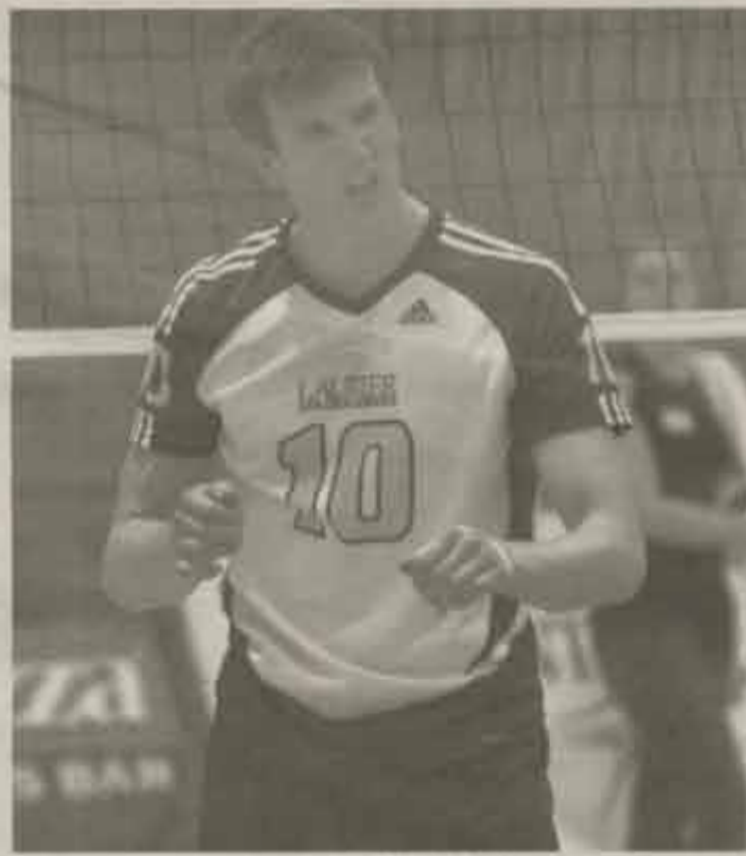
That was how Shayne White, head coach of the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks men's volleyball team, felt following his team's disappointing end to the season.

Coming into their final three matches of the regular season, the Hawks were battling the University of Toronto Varsity Blues for the final spot in the post-season. Riding a two-match winning streak, the purple and gold needed at least two wins combined with at least two losses by the Blues, to claim the playoff berth.

While the Blues left the door wide open for the Hawks, going 1-2 in their final three matches, the inexperienced Laurier squad stumbled through their crucial three matches, losing to both the Windsor Lancers and Queen's Gaels, only managing to defeat the Royal Military College Paladins, who ended up going 0-20 on the season.

"We are very disappointed with the way we finished the season," said White.

"Against Windsor, we just didn't come out well either mentally or physically, and then mathematically, we were eliminated from the playoffs before the Queen's match, so we played a really mixed line-up, and gave our first-years the majority of the playing time. We really didn't care about the outcome of that



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

The men's volleyball team had a frustrating end to their season last week, going 1-2 in their final three games and missing the playoffs.

match."

Considering the fact that this team features no players older than third-year, some growing pains can be expected.

However, last year the team only boasted one fourth-year player and was largely made of second-years; and that Hawks' squad made the playoffs, breaking a 10-year post-season drought for Laurier men's volleyball.

According to White, 2009-10 was simply an off-year for the purple and gold.

"We saw some really good development last year, but this year I don't think we showed much

improvement technically [or] tactically; even our team cohesiveness wasn't that good," he said.

"I'm not sure [what happened], this year was just a bad year."

Looking to the future, White acknowledges that the Hawks have a long road ahead of them in order to get back to the playoffs.

"It'll be a difficult transition [into next season]," he said.

"We'll see how things develop, but a number of things need to happen over the off-season. We'll need some guys to improve and we'll definitely need some recruits to come in and fill some holes that we have right now."

Sports in brief

Laurier figure skaters take sixth at provincials

Last week, Waterloo's RIM Park Arena played host to the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) figure skating championship. The Hawks finished sixth while the Guelph Gryphons took home first place.

Laurier received strong individual performances from Michelle LaMarche and Andrea Green, who came in first in the intermediate similar pairs, Adam Arscott, who took second in the men's open free skate, and Alitsha Burden and Brittany Maksymyk, who finished third in the senior similar pairs.

—Compiled by Justin Fauteux

Swimmers find success at nationals

The Laurier women's swim team took home their best finish in 10 years at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships, finishing tenth overall. The Calgary Dinos took home the top spot at the meet which was held at the University of Toronto.

Individually, the Hawks were once again led by fourth-year Whitney Rich, who swam personal best times in the 200-metre individual medley and the 50-metre breast stroke, while finishing fifth and sixth respectively.

—Compiled by Justin Fauteux

Gordon wins three OUA awards

Julie Gordon, a first-year on the Golden Hawks' women's volleyball team, took home three provincial awards over the weekend. The native of Barrie, Ontario won the Ontario University Athletics (OUA)

west division's rookie of the year award and was also named to the all-rookie team, while achieving second-team all-star honours.

Gordon led the Hawks in kills (143) and blocks (67) this season, as well as service aces (32), which was also good enough for third in the nation.

—Compiled by Justin Fauteux

Men's basketball playoff bound

Last Wednesday, Laurier's men's basketball team took on the Brock Badgers in a game where the winner would head to the post-season and the loser would be eliminated. The Hawks came out on top 75-68, clinching the final playoff spot in the OUA west.

The purple and gold then finished their season with a victory on Saturday afternoon, downing the Waterloo Warriors 67-63.

The Hawks head on the road tonight to open their post-season versus the Western Mustangs.

—Compiled by Justin Fauteux

Women's basketball finishes season on winning streak

After defeating the Brock Badgers and the Waterloo Warriors last week, the Golden Hawks' women's basketball team now heads into the post-season riding a two-game winning streak.

The team finished in the sixth and final playoff spot in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) west division and will take on the Lakehead Thunderwolves in Thunder Bay tonight in a single-game elimination playoff match-up.

—Compiled by Justin Fauteux

Hawks can't finish perfect season

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

The team playing spoiler may have changed, but the result remained the same as the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women's hockey team saw their drive for perfection end in the final game of the regular season for the second year in a row.

The Windsor Lancers took over the role the York Lions played last year and shocked the unbeaten Hawks, handing them their first and only defeat of the season, taking the game 2-1 in overtime, leaving the Hawks with a 26-0-1 record.

"Initially, it was pretty shocking," said Hawks' head coach Rick Osborne after the loss. "But when you really look at it, I thought the game was a typical Laurier-Windsor game. They were playing to get one good break, and they finally got one with less than two minutes left and that momentum carried them right into the overtime."

The Hawks took the lead just over eight minutes into the game on second-year Abby Rainsberry's fourth goal of the year, but they were unable to extend their advantage thanks to a stellar performance from Lancer's goalie Jamie Tessier, who stopped 52 of Laurier's 53 shots.

"We've had issues with Tessier stoning us in the past," said Osborne. "We held a pretty large advantage in shots, but we just couldn't finish."

With Tessier holding her team in the game, the Lancers tied it up late in the third period and sent the game to overtime. That tying goal also ended Hawks' goalie Liz Knox's attempt at breaking the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) record for career shut-outs.

Full of energy after their late-game comeback, Windsor's Ashley Kirby scored midway through the



The Hawks found themselves in an unfamiliar position last Monday, losing for the first time all season.

YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

overtime period, giving the Lancers a playoff berth and sending the Hawks home one point short of a perfect season.

"We really haven't been all that sharp the entire second half [of the season] and I think you can attribute that to the fact that we would keep winning, even when we didn't play that well," said Osborne. "This was actually a good wake-up call to get heading into the playoffs."

The Hawks won't have to wait long to get a chance at exacting some revenge on the Lancers, because while the purple and gold were enjoying their bye week,

Windsor pulled off another upset in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) quarter-finals. Riding more incredible goaltending from Tessier, the Lancers defeated the number nine nationally-ranked York Lions, qualifying them for a date with the Hawks in the provincial semi-finals.

"I'm not worried at all about the way we'll bounce back," said Osborne of the Hawks' coming rematch with the Lancers. "We have as much depth as any team in the country, we definitely have the goaltending, and on top of that we have the conditioning level to raise expectations once again this year."

The best-of-three series starts tomorrow night at the Waterloo Recreation Complex, with game two going Saturday in Windsor. If necessary, game three will be in Waterloo.

As the team turns their attention to the playoffs, four Hawks were recognized by the OUA for their outstanding regular seasons.

Knox was named player of the year, while Candice Styles won the rookie of the year award. Knox was also named a first-team all-star along with captain Andrea Ironside, while Styles and fellow first-year Maureen Mommersteeg made the all-rookie team.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
February 22-28, 2010

RECENT SCORES

02.21.10
M Hockey 3 - Guelph 5

01.20.10
M Basketball 67 - Waterloo 63
W Basketball 53 - Waterloo 51
M Volleyball 1 - Queen's 3
M Hockey 3 - Guelph 2

02.18.10
M Hockey 0 - Guelph 3

02.17.10
M Basketball 7 - Brock 68
W Basketball 63 - Brock 55

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

02.25.10
W Hockey vs Windsor
Sunlife Financial Arena, 7:30 p.m.

02.28.10
W Hockey vs Windsor (if nec.)
Sunlife Financial Arena, 7:30 p.m.

LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Jesse MacDonald
Men's Basketball

Megan Grant
Women's Basketball

Come Support the Hawks!

www.laurierathletics.com

LAURIER SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB AND ASM PRODUCTIONS PRESENT...

Lots of free giveaways, prizes and swag!
First 60 people get their very own unique LSSC Rail Jam T-shirt
Followed by Coors Lite after party at Will's

Check out our Facebook page, search:
THE YABBA DABBA RAIL JAM!

Sponsored by Vans, Spy, Sanction, Bonfire, Pro-tec, Norris, Technine and various other snowboard companies

Feb. 27th 5 - 8 p.m. at St. Michael's Campus parking lot
Registration at 3 p.m., e-mail Laurier.skiboard@gmail.com
Rock on to tunes while watching some AMAZING Laurier students as well as professional ski and snowboarders hit some rails

Coors LIGHT, Gnomis, 454UNUS

Men's hockey eliminated in first round



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

The Gryphons celebrate during their series-clinching win over the Hawks on Sunday. This year was the first time in five seasons that Laurier was eliminated in the first round.

JAMIE NEUGEBAUER
STAFF WRITER

If at the beginning of the year you had said that the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks men's hockey team would be booted out of the first round of the playoffs by the Guelph Gryphons, you would have been branded insane.

Although the Gryphons' coaching staff reloaded the program by adding seven Canadian Hockey League veterans, nobody expected them to come together this fast.

Nevertheless, with a third consecutive Guelph victory at the Waterloo Recreational Complex on

the evening of Feb. 21, the youthful Gryphons took the series in three, winning the final match by a score of 5-3. Timely goaltending and a strong offensive game plan that focused on capitalizing on forced Laurier turnovers gave Guelph the edge, as Laurier was unable in games one and three to win at home.

"We're obviously disappointed," commented a resigned Laurier captain Jean-Michel Rizk. "We should have showed up, we should have been better."

Guelph forwards Edward Gale and Kris Belan shared the series lead in scoring with four points apiece. Leading the way for the Hawks — who failed to find timely scoring

throughout the first and third games — was season scoring leader Paul Bradley, who notched a goal and two assists.

Veteran net-minder Scott Van Bommel was superb in the Gryphons' net. He stopped 85 out of 91 shots over the three games, good enough for a .934 save percentage and a goals against average of 2.00.

"It is to Guelph's credit," Rizk continued. "Their goalie played great. He stood on his head; we fired everything we could at him and he was ready."

Fifth-year goaltender Jeff MacDougald played every minute in the series for the Hawks and was solid in the face of a tremendous Gryphon

offensive storm. He kept the team in the games, stopping 102 of 110 shots for a save percentage of .927.

Nevertheless, MacDougald, who in his second year was named a Tournament All-Star at the National Championships in Moncton, New Brunswick, allowed some soft goals in the third game — including an un-screened point-shot from just inside the blue line by Guelph rookie Matt Lyall that turned out to be the game-winner in game three.

"It's emotional obviously," MacDougald began. "It's been a great four and a half years at Laurier. I'm frustrated that it ended a bit shorter [this year] than we expected, but looking back, these years at Laurier

have been the best four and a half years of my life."

This season was one of the worst in recent memory as the Hawks only beat top-three Western Conference competition twice all year, compared to eight defeats. There are, however, many positives to take from the year as the recruits who made their debut were given key experience, and were in many ways at the heart of the team.

"A lot of rookies played real well this year," said Rizk. "You think about Jason Bergeron and Mitchell Good and our young defensive corps as well as [Ryan] Daniels in net, there are a lot of positives that can be taken."



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Vancouver 2010

Canadian athletes: Success or failure?



JAMES CHOLERAS
STAFF WRITER

After 11 days of competition, would the results achieved by the Canadian Olympic team be considered a success or a failure?

It all depends on who you ask. A member of the media would tell you that Canada's performance so far has been a colossal failure, as countless medal favourites have "choked" and come away empty-handed, having let the pressure get to them. They would probably read you a list of athletes who were supposed to win and didn't.

They would probably talk begrudgingly about the Own the Podium program which cost hundreds of millions of dollars and isn't producing results. Needless to say, they would probably focus on the negative.

However, an average Canadian spectator would likely tell you that the games have been a great success (except of course for men's hockey, where anything less than an undefeated run to the gold medal was always going to be considered a failure).

They would glow with pride when talking about Alexandre Bilodeau, who captured the hearts of every Canadian when he won the nation's

first gold medal on home soil with his breathtaking run in the free-style moguls on the second day of competition.

No doubt they would also mention Christine Nesbitt, who won a gold medal in the 1000 metre women's speed skating event, which coincidentally was on her 20th birthday.

And who couldn't love Jon Montgomery's celebration after winning his gold medal in skeleton, pumping his fist, and then high-fiving fans as he made his way through Whistler.

It all comes down to perspective. Yes, there have been athletes who have fallen short of expectations, but that is no reason to call the Olympics a failure for Team Canada. Lots of athletes have turned out amazing performances and have broken personal records.

These accomplishments should not be dismissed simply because they did not result in a medal. Many of Canada's most likely podium threats, such as curling and women's hockey, have yet to award medals.

The media criticism of Team Canada is unwarranted and unpatriotic. I'm sure Melissa Hollingsworth, who didn't earn a medal for skeleton despite coming into her final run in second place, feels bad enough already without having to hear herself be called a choke artist by every broadcaster and journalist in the country.

While it hasn't been a perfect ride for Canada so far in Vancouver, Canadians should still be proud of our athletes and all they have accomplished.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

While some athletes have disappointed fans, Canadians should keep performances like Jon Montgomery's gold medal in mind.

Medals: Top 10

(as of Wednesday, Feb. 24)

				TOTAL
U.S.A.	7	9	10	26
Germany	7	9	7	23
Norway	6	5	6	17
Russia	3	4	6	13
Canada	6	4	1	11
Korea	5	4	1	10
Austria	4	3	3	10
France	2	3	5	10
Switzerland	6	0	2	8
Sweden	3	2	2	7

Laurier connections

John Morris Men's curling



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Morris was a Laurier student from 1998-2001. The native of Gloucester, ON majored in kinesiology and physical education, while playing for the Golden Hawks men's hockey team.

He is currently part of the Canadian men's curling team, who went 9-0 in the round robin portion of the tournament. The team is currently awaiting the result of a tie-breaker between Great Britain and Sweden to find out who they will play in the semi-finals tomorrow night.

—Compiled by Justin Fauteux

Low-profile athletes picking up the slack



While athletes like Emily Brydon (left) have failed to live up to their lofty pre-Olympic expectations, others such as snowboard cross gold medalist Maelle Ricker (right), who came into the games as a relative unknown, have taken over the spotlight.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



KEVIN CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

In hockey, they would call it secondary scoring; when the unlikely heroes steps up and delivers when the big guns just aren't firing.

So seems to be the case as the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver rolls on.

The expected medal hopefuls going into the games have largely faltered and sputtered to that dreaded fourth place finish or worse.

To name a few, Canada's speed-skating Hamelin brothers, heavily favoured to finish on the podium, ended up in fourth and fifth place

in the men's 1000 metre short-track speed skating.

Dominique Maltais, Canada's top hope for a women's snowboarding medal, didn't even qualify for the finals thanks to a tumble on the course.

Jessica Dube and Bryce Davison, Canada's darlings of figure-skating, hoped to seize the moment after a horrific accident on the ice saw Davison's skate slash Dube's face open in 2008, but finished no better than sixth.

Jeremy Wotherspoon, speed skating in his career swan-song at the games and Canada's best chance for the men's 500 metre skate, ended up in ninth, while his teammate, Denny Morrison, expected to challenge for gold, placed 13th in the event.

Alpine skier Emily Brydon, a B.C. native, came into the games expected to win gold in her home province, and ended up with her best result

being an 11th place finish.

The list goes on.

Numerous reasons have been given as to why these big fish have seemed to flounder so far; the pressure of winning at home and the distracting, rambunctious crowds are frequent responses, as is just a simple "I don't know what went wrong."

But it wasn't supposed to go like this. Canada's Own the Podium program was designed to fund athletes so these things wouldn't happen.

Finishing first in the medal count now seems like wishful thinking with the United States running away with the competition at well over 20 medals.

But all is not lost, as there may be a hint of a silver lining for Canadians at these games.

Many lower-profile athletes have taken the reins for a nation hungry for glory.

Alexandre Bilodeau headlines a contingent of unexpected successes and surprise heavy-hitters, upsetting mystery-man and media-avoiding Canadian-turned-Australian Dale Begg-Smith in the men's moguls.

Maelle Ricker succeeded where her teammate Maltais failed, taking home Canada's first women's gold medal on home soil with her spectacular performance in the snowboard cross.

Marianne St-Gelais, Charles Hamelin's sweetheart, picked up the slack for her boyfriend, winning the silver in ladies' speed skating at the tender age of 20.

Canada's medal count may not be as high as some had predicted, but it's very respectable thanks to the "secondary scorers".

I think it's time the faltering faces of Canada owed the new faces some drinks.

Becky Kellar Women's hockey



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kellar came to Laurier to work on her masters degree shortly after playing for Canada at the Nagano Olympics in 1998. Going to school part-time while playing for the Toronto Aeros, as well as Team Canada once again in 2002, she graduated with a masters of business administration in 2004.

Kellar and her teammates will go for their third straight gold medal tomorrow night versus the U.S.

—Compiled by Justin Fauteux