



Lofty goals for Northdale



TAYLOR GAYOWSKY GRAPHICS EDITOR

City completes first phase of student neighbourhood study

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
NEWS DIRECTOR

By 2029, one of the most heavily student-populated neighbourhoods in Waterloo will have quite a different look.

The Northdale area, which is bordered by King Street, University Avenue, Philip Street and Columbia Street and comprised mostly of student houses, has been the subject of an ongoing study looking for the best way to use that land in the future. And at Monday night's Waterloo city council meeting, the first phase of that study was unveiled.

And it paints quite the pretty picture.

The report was carried out by the MMM Group, a consulting firm from Mississauga, with a lot of input from local organizations such as the Northdale Special Project Committee (NSPC). On Monday night, these groups presented their vision and principles, which focus on transforming Northdale from a neighbourhood made of a small, post-war houses to a "revitalized," "reurbanized," modern community while simultaneously serving the needs of students, families and professionals.

"It's a community that's clearly in need of revitalization and in need of some change. Council has declared that the status quo is not acceptable

anymore," said Chris Tyrrell, managing partner of planning and environmental design for the MMM Group.

"The urban fabric and the built form was designed and developed in the 50s and the 60s as basically a single-family suburban neighbourhood. It was not designed to accommodate what it currently is accommodating, which is principally students."

The vision and principles were unanimously passed by council and met with great praise from city officials.

"[The MMM Group has] gotten

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Standard for beauty harmful

Local theatre screens a documentary on the impact of fashion

LIZ SMITH
ARTS EDITOR

It used to be that fashion models strived to maintain a size six or size eight frame to conform to the standards of beauty perpetuated by the media. Now, the standards have shifted, to expectations that models be a size zero, or even double zero, as ideas of beauty change. This isn't the only negative message the modelling industry is helping to spread, either.

Former Elite international fashion model Nicole Clark recalls her own experience as a model in an interview with *The Cord*. "Elite, my agent in Miami, sat me down one day and said, 'Nicole, don't talk on

jobs. You're too intelligent, it intimidates the clients.'"

For Clark, this conversation was a red flag, which caused her to realize the true nature of the effect the industry could have on the self-esteem of women and girls.

"I pieced together that there was an underlying message that was being sent. In addition to don't talk or be intelligent, it was don't talk — just be pretty and let the clients think that you're simple and an easy target," said Clark.

"I thought, 'Why would I want to be in an industry that devalues who I am?' It's supposed to be an industry that values what you look like, but now they're actually trying to change who I am," Clark continued.

"I saw the whirlwind of self-esteem destruction that happened in the wake of the fashion industry."

Because of her own firsthand experience with the darker sides of the modelling industry, Clark embarked on the project of directing *Cover Girl Culture*, a full length documentary film which discusses body image, celebrity culture and the sexualization of girls in the media. The reality is, models aren't the only ones being affected by the standards maintained by celebrity culture and the modelling industry. The film was screened at Uptown Waterloo's Princess Twin Cinema on Nov. 23.

A pinnacle problem addressed

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Punishment without a crime?

GAYLE RYAN
STAFF WRITER

Underage drinking in residence comes as a surprise to no one despite the fact that most students are aware that drinking alcohol is prohibited for students under the legal age in residence. The policies and penalties are supposed to be explained to students; however, there is still confusion around what the true penalties are when students are given alcohol violations. One first-year student at Wilfrid Laurier University, Chad, was given two alcohol violations despite the fact that he doesn't drink and claims he was also told that he would need to attend an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting if he received a third.

Chad, who asked that *The Cord* not publish his last name, was in a residence room with other people that were playing drinking games, and was consequently given an alcohol violation. He was not drinking alcohol, he was not holding alcohol, he was not participating in the game and he informed the don of all this. Chad reported to *The Cord* that the don said, "I was still in the room while the game was being played and there was nothing they [the don] could do about it."

When asked if students are given the same penalties no matter their level of involvement with the infraction, Chris Dodd, the residence director, explained, "There is extenuating circumstances in every case,

"They call it that, but that's more of a joke than anything, it has nothing to do with Alcoholics Anonymous."

—Chris Dodd, residence life director

so each and every case is handled on its own merits and has nothing to do with the one previous or the one coming up."

The Residence Handbook, which outlines all of the rules around living in residence, outlines the rules around drinking alcohol in residence in section 3.3, "Prohibited Practices with Alcohol." The handbook states that, "Drinking games, including floor crawls, century clubs, beer pong, flip cup and the possession of paraphernalia used in unsafe drinking practices, i.e. 'funnels' are prohibited in residence. The handbook does not outline whether only students participating in the games will be given

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Terrace closed again



After mould was discovered in the food court, the campus eatery will be closed until Friday

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Smartphone security



Opinion writer Emma Van Weerden questions who has access to our mobile devices

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Art of the guest star



Visual director Wade Thompson commends *Community* for its use of casting guest roles

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Hawks 1-1 over weekend



Women's basketball team downs Laurentian on Friday, but suffers last second loss to York Saturday

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Where is RIM heading?

A special report on the region's largest tech firm

January in print and online



This Week in quotes

- "I filled a baby bottle with the blood and sprayed it on the new court house symbolically."
- Joshua Day, part of Poverty Makes Us Sick, on his statement towards damage done by the justice system
- "Alcohol helps the feet."
- Victoria Parks during intermission after her performance at the Drag Domination show
- "We were called Angels Catching Bullets, I even got a tattoo. An Angels Catching Bullets tattoo."
- Christian Srigley of Adventure Club's first band
- "Elite, my agent in Miami, sat me down one day and said, 'Nicole, don't talk on jobs. You're too intelligent, it intimidates the clients.'
- Former model and director of Cover Girl Culture Nicole Clark on why she left the modelling industry
- "I was playing soccer ... and I got kicked in the leg. I didn't play for the rest of the game but I decided in my greatest wisdom to play hockey that night, and I went to the hospital after because I was in so much pain."
- Nick Gibson, WLUSU president, on why treating mental illness is important

Vocal Cord

How do you deal with stress from exams?



"I don't really get stressed during exams."
- Keegan McGillivray
Fifth-year history



"I like to take a little time off every once in a while and just relax, clear my head."
- Fraser McQuat
Fourth-year English



"I am crazy when it comes to exams. Lots of snacks and no sleep - that's it."
- Minh Nguyen
Third-year business



"I listen to music."
- Hannah Stuvina
First-year business

Compiled by Francesca Handy
Photos by Kate Turner

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Photo of the week



HEATHER DAVISON CORD PHOTOGRAPHY
Student entrepreneur Bisma Bhatti talks about her cupcake business.

The Sweet Life

Read the story online, in the Life section at thecord.ca

THE CORD

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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: "Moshabab"
- Nick Lachance, Photography Manager



NEWS

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NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO

Demonstrators and police in a standoff during June 2010's G20 protests in Toronto. Many of those arrested that weekend are still dealing with legal troubles today.

Issues raised by G20 remain heated

LINDSAY PURCHASE
LEAD REPORTER

A plea bargain negotiated last week may represent the beginning of the end of ongoing legal struggles regarding charges against protesters as a result of their actions during the G20 summit of June 2010. Charges were dropped against 11 people, while six decided to plead guilty to lesser charges. On Nov. 28, G20 protesters Adam Lewis, Eric Lankin and Peter Hopperton were all sentenced to serve time in prison.

Among the three who await sentencing is Alex Hundert, a Wilfrid Laurier University graduate who is facing charges of counselling mischief and counselling to obstruct police. He described the charges as "vague and wide-ranging."

Hundert was initially charged with six counts of counsel and four counts of conspiracy, among others.

On the actions that led to his arrest, Hundert commented, "I accept

that they are technically criminal. I do not accept that the legal code determines what is morally right and wrong." One of his offences was creating a list of potential sites of protest where people could organize during the G20.

Hundert added, "Most of what we do is quite, quite tame. But because we have been very public in that advocacy we became, and myself particularly, became very obvious, easy targets for the state."

He claimed that while a re-evaluation of "particular modes of organizing" may be required, he has not been discouraged from protesting overall.

Stringent bail conditions and the nature of the initial charges have raised questions for some Canadians about the fairness of the legal system. "As sad as that is, the way we were treated by the system is not as exceptional as people want to believe it was," Hundert explained. "It's a really corrupt and dirty,

broken system, I think."

Peter Eglin, a professor of sociology at Laurier, was in agreement with many of the objections raised by G20 protesters, but felt that the means to achieve their desired aims were ineffective.

"Violent methods are doomed to fail simply because, apart from moral considerations ... all the means of violence rests with the state," said Eglin.

"Non-violence is far more effective."

The G20 protests in his view are only one example of people renouncing inequality worldwide, who are acting "against the power that's held and exercised by a tiny minority of people in the world," Eglin continued, "I think of them [the G20 protesters] as kind of the front lines of the resistance against the global class war."

Eglin also took issue with the consequences imposed by the legal system, beyond the immediate

charges. In addition to the complete demobilization of protesters, costs were high, "not only in terms of hiring the lawyers that you need, but in terms of the interruption of your life that is brought about by the kind of bail conditions that are imposed."

Sterling Stutz, a protester whose charges were withdrawn as part of the plea bargain, was forced to drop out of school due to her bail conditions, which confined her to her parents' home in Toronto. At the time of her arrest, Stutz was in her second year at Laurier.

Stutz was a member of former Laurier-based activist group Anti-War at Laurier (AW@L), which was infiltrated by an undercover Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer prior to the G20 events in 2010.

"It's [the infiltration is] again, another tool to create fear amongst those who try to organize in their communities," Stutz explained.

"Knowing that those are tools of the state ... is useful, but that it's not

going to stop us from organizing, it's not going to stop us from working together."

Hundert acknowledged, "Part of the reason why I agreed to go to jail to get 11 other people off, is because I know, and I have faith, that those people are going to go right back into the type of community organizing that we do that I think is really important."

Thus far, the 11 protesters whose charges were dropped show no signs of abandoning their ideals. Immediately following the conclusion of the plea bargain, they boarded a bus and joined protesters in a march in Toronto in support of the Occupy movement.

"The important thing about this is that we've gone through this process together, as a group of us, and we've come out stronger from it," Stutz concluded.

"We were fighting in the courts, and now we're going back to the streets."

Water damage closes Terrace

Mould discovered in campus food court

JUSTIN SMIRLIES
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Some food operations on the Wilfrid Laurier University campus haven't been receiving much luck lately.

Along with Wilf's being closed for the remainder of the semester due to flooding in late October, the Terrace food court on the lower level of the Fred Nichols Campus Centre (FNCC) was closed Tuesday afternoon and will remain that way until Friday because of the extensive amounts of mould found above the Union Market, as well as on upper level of the food court.

According to Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) general manager Union Market will remain closed when the rest of the Terrace reopens Friday.

"For us to clean the upper area, that would expose the whole food court, the spores could spread to the whole food court," explained Nick Gibson, president and CEO of WLUSU. "Before we start [cleaning] that, we had to close the whole thing."

On Nov. 25, mould was found on

the upper level of the Terrace, but the food court, instead of closing as a whole, just blocked off of the infected areas. On Tuesday morning, however, as more ceiling was exposed, larger amounts of mould were found that resulted in the immediate closure of the food court operations.

According to the report given to WLUSU, the sewage and water from the Wilf's flood in late October — which sunk into the lower level and also temporarily closed the Terrace — was the primary reason to why mould developed in those areas. However, Gibson believes this isn't the only factor.

"That's what we're thinking right now, I'm personally not convinced of that, because it is quite extensive and there's no way in my mind that it would grow that quickly," added Gibson. "With that said, it could have been prime conditions for it and it could have grown that quickly."

As for the cost of the damages, Gibson hopes that insurance will cover it, but he isn't entirely sure as of yet. "That hasn't been confirmed



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Union Market appears to be most affected by the mould, it will remain closed through Friday.

right now but we're confident that will be avenue we could pursue," he said.

Even though the Wilf's flood may have been the potential primary cause of the mould, Gibson asserted that Wilf's remains in good shape and is still expected to reopen for the winter term. As for Aramark, the company that took control of Terrace operations in September, they

are expected to work with WLUSU and the construction companies to ensure the environment is safe. But with it being closed for two full days, it is expected to lose some profit.

"There's a loss of business there for sure, but given that it's only a couple of days it will be relatively insignificant," continued Gibson.

While it is frustrating for Gibson that this had to happen, particularly

for first years who have limited options of where to eat on campus now, he said it was necessary to keep students safe.

"From my standpoint, I'm not that concerned about that as students have drastically less food options to eat on campus. That's a frustration," he concluded. "I don't want any student getting sick so that's the call we have to make."

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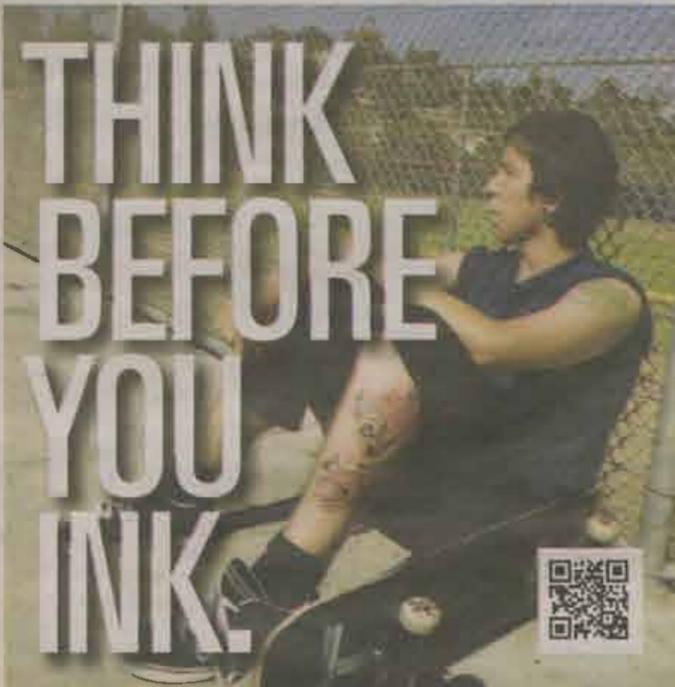
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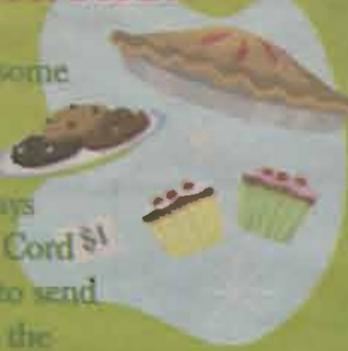
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KATE TURNER LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

As exam season approaches, many students begin to feel overwhelmed with stress and anxiety. However, help and assistance is available.

Dealing with stress at Laurier

MARCIE FOSTER
LEAD REPORTER

With statistics of student unemployment at an all time high, divorce rates of parents at 43 per cent and well over half of students taking out loans to finance their education, stress on students is nothing new. Along with the usual essays, papers and assignments, students have a wide variety of issues to deal with this time of year.

Mental health and wellness is becoming a central issue at Wilfrid Laurier University, with senate decisions and new initiatives being introduced by the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) in order to provide students with better resources and to reduce stigma.

One in four students are suffering from some form of mental health issue, and more are seeking help. But are they?

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) reports that almost one half (49 per cent) of those who feel they have suffered from depression or anxiety have never gone to see a doctor about it. Counselling services on campus reported approximately 3,402 attended appointments in 2011 and that number has been steadily rising since 2002.

In order to decrease the stigma towards mental illness and seeking

help, WLUSU is working through the means of a mental health strategic committee to provide students with the right resources and a safe space. The new initiative, titled "Student Connect," hopes to provide students with a safe space where they can unwind, distress and connect to campus resources. Board games and other fun activities will be available to students in the Two-Four Lounge, where they can also sign up to have a student volunteer accompany them to get help or to campus events.

"It offers them a chance to break away from constantly studying," said Miranda Priestman, WLUSU vice president of student services.

Nick Gibson, president and CEO of WLUSU, emphasized the importance of prevention and of mental wellness.

"The biggest thing too is that we're trying to empower students to go [get help]; we need to get to the students before they're at the point where they have to go there. We need to try to get to the students and support them before they have to go there."

There has been also an increase in student appeals for accommodations due to mental health issues, but Deborah MacLatchy, vice president of academic and provost, was concerned as most of these appeals

are retroactive.

"They may have been having mental health issues, but it doesn't necessarily mean they went to a doctor or a counsellor for something like that," she explained. "That then causes a challenge with us having to sort of understand the level of the difficulty that the student was going through when we don't have any sort of substantiation like we would had the student had, you know, the flu or some other physical ailment to which they had gone to seek professional help from a health practitioner."

Gibson agreed that physical wellness tends to get the limelight because it is so apparent. "I was playing soccer ... and I got kicked in the leg. I didn't play for the rest of the game but I decided in my greatest wisdom to play hockey that night, and I went to the hospital after because I was in so much pain."

He added, "With that you can keep on letting it go forward, but with mental health and wellness, it's as if 'Oh, I went through that, tough it out.' It's almost like hazing in a way."

MacLatchy agreed that mental health has become an issue on campus. "I think a lot of times students are suffering on their own without getting the help that they need. That's a real challenge and

part of it is that we don't really recognize mental health issues when they arise, and there's still stigma in some cultures to ask around."

"There is a specific kind of culture behind mental illness at university. Stress tends to be considered a 'fact of life' or something that comes with attending post-secondary education. Rather than treating our triggers and our stress as important signals of mental distress and taking time to reflect and be self aware isn't something everyone does, and it's something everyone needs to do," said Jon Pryce, ACCESS U president and WLUSU director.

Gibson wanted students to be aware of the options available to them. "My biggest thing is for people to treat mental wellness just like physical wellness, as the same thing. They're much intertwined; we need to start using the same language. We need to mentally refuel; we need to take breaks, to challenge ourselves, to intellectually challenge yourselves. That's what university is about."

Students are encouraged to stay healthy mentally and physically and use campus resources such as Peer Help Line and counselling services, which will be included in course information next semester as a result of a unanimous vote at the November 28 senate meeting.

Prof to climb mountain

Caragata to tackle Kilimanjaro

CAITLIN MACNAB
STAFF WRITER

Rising to 5,895 meters above sea level, climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania is an accomplishment in itself. One Wilfrid Laurier University professor, however, has found a way to make it an even more meaningful experience.

After completing recent research on lone mothers, Lea Caragata, a professor from the faculty of social work, was inspired to give back. "I was stunned to find that almost 70 per cent of the women that we were interviewing had experienced either childhood sexual abuse or domestic partner assault," said Caragata.

Caragata is embarking on a 12-day expedition in January, climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro to raise funds for the national Outward Bound's Women of Courage program.

"The Women of Courage Program is an eight-day wilderness expedition with other women who have been abused, and it's truly transformative. Women develop a sense of self confidence and personal competence that comes from being able to cope in the wilderness," Caragata continued. "And to do that jointly in a collaborative way with other women, it's quite transformative."

Caragata aims to raise between five and ten thousand dollars, which will, "Go directly to subsidize women who participate in the Women of Courage Program."

Caragata's research consisted of a national study of about 150 women, interviewing them every 8-12 months over the course of five years.

"And for many of the women who we were interviewing, the abuse, even if it had been many years prior, continues to shape their lives in a very significant way," Caragata explained. "And they tend to be people that don't have access to therapists etc. because those things usually aren't free."

"So I was inspired to kind of give back. You know my academic career has benefited from women being willing to tell me their stories, and this just seems like a terrific way to say 'I'm going to give back to those same women who have given so much to me, through my research, and climb Kilimanjaro,'" she said.

Caragata found the empowering nature of the Women of Courage Program a great response to the lack of public policy addressing the issue of abused women.

In response to the physical demands of the expedition, Caragata said, "I'm in good shape, I don't know if I was in quite that good a shape before, but I am now, and I just thought that would be a cool thing to do to give back. It's the first time I've done anything this big [for charity]."

Caragata and a team of 13 other fundraisers will depart for the climb on January 8th.

"... I just thought that would be a cool thing to do to give back."

—Lea Caragata, professor of social work at WLU

Campus clubs spread awareness about AIDS

AMY GRIEF
STAFF WRITER

This week marks the second annual HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign on campus. Spearheaded by BACCHUS, the campaign was a joint venture between Future of Africa, Association of Black Students, the Social Justice Council, The Rainbow Centre and The AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo Area (ACCKWA).

For three days, from November 28-30, these organizations banded together to spread awareness and a general message of hope, while simultaneously educating the Laurier community about the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

"All the groups are coming together to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS ... an epidemic that's all over the world ... Just because people live in Kitchener-Waterloo you shouldn't turn a blind eye to it ... It's something that happens everywhere and people have to realize that," said Janelle Emanuel, BACCHUS co-ordinator.

Beginning with an "HIV 101" workshop on Nov. 28th, Jody Benninger, community education co-ordinator for ACCKWA, taught students about the basic facts surrounding the transmission of HIV/

AIDS as well as providing an in-depth overview of various preventative tactics. Maintaining an open discussion throughout the presentation, Benninger encouraged students to speak about the stigma surrounding the disease in order to dispel any common myths or misconceptions.

"Our bigger goal is to prevent new HIV infections while developing a compassion for those that are already infected," said Benninger.

Continuing on Nov. 29th, two speakers from ACCKWA returned to campus after sharing their stories for an inspired audience during last year's campaign.

"They're a [married] couple that's living with HIV/AIDS," said Emanuel. "The woman, I think her [ex] husband gave her AIDS. He had been cheating on her and came out of the closet one day, and was like this who I am, this is what I have and now you have to deal with it."

However, despite the incurable nature of the disease, their message was one of hope and compassion. "It's a real love story and testament to the resilience a lot of our clients face," added Benninger.

To reach an even broader audience, the campaign culminates with all of the participating groups setting up informational booths in the

Concourse on Nov. 30th. With the intention of instigating conversation surrounding this often-marginalized topic, Emanuel hopes to, "Let people kind of open up out of their Laurier bubble. You only think that things impact you that are on campus, but there are so many things that are outside, in the outside world that can have an impact on you as well."

While maintaining a global perspective about the epidemic, Future of Africa encouraged students to think both globally and locally by enacting their own mini-campaign to fundraise for The Stephen Lewis Foundation's initiative to combat sexual violence and HIV/AIDS in Africa.

To commemorate World AIDS Day on December 1st, Sandra Ata, co-president of Future of Africa Laurier, ultimately hopes that the campaign has helped Laurier students to, "Notice that it's [HIV/AIDS] not just happening in Africa, it's also happening in North



MITCHELL CHEESEMAN GRAPHICS ARTIST

America."

"Our goal really is to raise awareness and to have people a little bit more educated about the cause and to make them want to do something about it," she concluded.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Acclaimed journalist and national CTV news anchor, Lisa LaFlamme, spoke at WLU on Friday.

LaFlamme shares experiences

LINDA GIVETASH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"Sleep is something you'll get when you're dead," said CTV National News chief anchor Lisa LaFlamme, speaking on the lifestyle of a journalist.

Discussing the challenges of her career and the memorable stories she has covered, LaFlamme shared with an audience of Wilfrid Laurier University alumni, faculty and students her path from being a Kitchener-Waterloo-based reporter to a national news anchor.

The Nov. 25 event, 'A Conversation with Lisa LaFlamme: The Year in Headlines,' was hosted by Laurier Alumni and the political science department. Patricia Goff, associate professor of political science at Laurier, took the stage with LaFlamme asking her questions about the latest events she has reported on, including the Arab Spring and royal wedding.

Recounting her experience of reporting from Afghanistan, LaFlamme said, "I was literally living like a soldier."

Stationed with a group of Canadian troops, LaFlamme reported in the war-torn country in the late 2000s.

"I'm not in shape at all," she admitted, continuing, "But man when

you're climbing a mountain, you want to collapse."

Speaking about the difficulty of carrying equipment in sweltering conditions, and sharing an anecdote of having to give up on wearing a helmet for a more comfortable but attention-grabbing blue bandana, LaFlamme said of the soldiers she accompanied, "They've certainly saved my life many times."

With the added issue of survival, reporting in such conditions was challenging. "I knew nine guys that were killed," LaFlamme said.

On covering the more recent Arab Spring, LaFlamme noted that technology and social media had a roll in "getting a revolutionary movement off the ground." She said that this has also helped get access to footage in countries such as Syria, which journalists have struggled to get into, however the validity of such footage presents new challenges.

The effects of technology on reporting are obvious in the pressure of having a 24-hour news cycle. "I think the biggest difference is the immediacy, and you're always connected," said LaFlamme. "When I started as a reporter in this city, there was no cell phone, there was no e-mail."

LaFlamme did admit that having a BlackBerry and being constantly connected has made her life better.

"I cannot stand not knowing what's happening ... I'm way more relaxed when I know what's going on in the world," she said, admitting that was the case even while on vacation.

Looking towards the future of the media industry, LaFlamme acknowledged the decline being faced by news organizations. "Our ratings are strong, people are still looking at conventional media," she said, adding, "Where do we fit into the online news?"

"We have to figure out how to get 20-somethings reading papers, watching television," she explained of the issue, acknowledging that youth turn to the web before other forms of media.

However, with the overwhelming amount of information available online, LaFlamme remained optimistic that the public would continue to turn to conventional media for the accuracy it provides.

"If we're coming into your homes, I don't want to be imposing. I want [the news] to be digestible and informative."

When asked what she would like to be known as in her new role as chief anchor, following her predecessor, Canada's "most trusted anchor," Lloyd Robinson, she said, "I think any journalist wants that credibility or that trust."

"I like to think I'm trusted."

Sustainability fee not charged at Brantford

2009 referendum result not fully applied

JUSTIN SMIRLIES
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Unlike their Waterloo counterparts, students at the Wilfrid Laurier University Brantford campus, since 2009, inadvertently did not have to pay an annual five-dollar sustainability fee that was agreed upon by both campuses through referendum.

Considered to be a communication error between the two campuses and the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU), Brantford students were essentially receiving equitable treatment in terms of sustainable initiatives, but didn't have to contribute to its funding.

The fees, however, will be applied in the 2012-13 academic year, paying the same rate that Waterloo students will pay.

"The sustainability fee was originally designed to replace the green fee and the green fee was only applied in Waterloo, up until that point [2009]," explained Chris Walker, the chair of the board at WLUSU, adding the fees from student would fund the Sustainability office.

"It was asked on both campuses [through referendum] and it was subsequently passed on both campuses, so it should be applied to both campuses and we're just trying to fix that error right now," Walker added.

The error was brought to the attention of the board from Reuben DeBoer, the associate vice president: services at the Brantford campus WLUSU.

While he stated in an e-mail that he is glad this error was being corrected, he declined to make a comment.

"He just shot me an e-mail, he was kind of curious to why it wasn't being applied in Brantford, and I wasn't aware of this before," continued Walker. "Upon researching into it we kind of found it was an error

and there isn't really any reason why it shouldn't be applied."

With these funds — which have only been paid by Waterloo students since 2009 — the Sustainability office at WLU can create initiatives to promote environmental awareness at both campuses. To ensure another error such as this hasn't happened before, Walker was tasked by the board to look back at all the referendum questions of the last six years to confirm that they have been correctly applied.

According to Walker, issues such as this haven't occurred in the past, but he cites the growing Brantford campus and larger multi-campus governance as reasons for why a fee could go under the radar.

"That's the case where we're trying to make all our operations, all our referendum questions, our constitution and our policies and everything, more multi-campus, as opposed to Brantford or Waterloo," said Walker.

He also stated that the multi-campus governance will go under review in the next couple of board meetings.

Since the Sustainability office runs on a zero-based budget, no money was lost because of this confusion. However, in terms of compensation for Waterloo students who have been paying more, Walker stated the Brantford students won't pay more than the Waterloo students once the fee gets introduced on that campus.

"We don't feel that's really appropriate to retroactively charge Brantford students especially considering if it was an error on our part," concluded Walker.

"And it's not a really a significant amount of money anyway that we're really missing out on in Brantford, but as Brantford continues to grow funding will become more valuable to the Sustainability office."

WLU in brief

Stairs near FNCC under construction

Over the weekend work began to replace the outdoor staircase beside the Fred Nichols Campus Centre.

"[The stairs] were in very bad shape, it was getting to be a tripping hazard, and it would've been particularly dangerous in the winter months," said Mark Dettweiler, director of planning, design and

construction at WLU.

"It got to the point where we'd either have to close them off for the winter or repair them, and we chose to repair them."

According to Dettweiler, the university is hopeful the project will be finished within a month. However he also mentioned that weather at this time of year could cause delays.

—Compiled by Justin Fauteux

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LOCAL

Local Editor
Amanda Steiner
asteiner@thecord.ca

NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTOS

Students, who make up the majority of Northdale's population, mostly live in post-WWII houses.

Northdale re-imagined

—cover

up to speed incredibly quickly," said Waterloo councillor Jeff Henry, who's Ward 6 encompasses Northdale. "They are very responsive and thoughtful in hearing the needs of the community."

"This is a great beginning," added Waterloo mayor Brenda Halloran.

However, not everyone in the council chamber was so quick to heap praise on what appears to be happening in Northdale. Paul Ellingham, a landlord and former resident in Northdale questioned council on the timing of the study and its vision that involves the far-off 2029.

"When I moved [here] about a dozen years ago, all people were talking about was all of the issues that were in Northdale," said Ellingham after the council meeting. "At that point, at least there was an escape route for the seniors who had built those houses."

Ellingham also expressed concerns over what could happen to the affordability of homes in Northdale, should the kind of development outlined in the vision—which leans towards, new mixed use buildings—go forth.

"I don't have to be a construction engineer or a high financier to tell you that new construction is expensive," he said. "New construction is very expensive and if you're going to have the best new construction someone's going to pay the price

and if [the housing] is directed at students, it's only going to be the most affluent students who can be in it."

Ellingham expressed particular concern for the many students that live in the area, feeling that because of how quickly they come and go they may not understand the issues at play.

"The students need somebody who can say 'here's the lay of the land now, you go run with it because this is working against you,'" he said. "Students need to know about this and for the welfare of students in the future... We need choices for students, because many of them won't be able to become educated at the University of Waterloo or Wilfrid Laurier University because there isn't affordable housing available for them."

In the summer, Ellingham attempted to organize a mass sale of 39 Northdale homes as two blocks, however could not get interest from developers when the city denied the groups request to have the area re-zoned to allow for mixed use buildings.

The main catalyst for that sale was a new housing bylaw, approved last year that will, among other things, limit the number of renters in most rental homes to three, when it comes into effect in April 2012. "We could have a pretty significant crisis for affordable housing in Waterloo," said Ellingham, who

believes the bylaw is unfair to both students and landlords.

Throughout the attempted sale in the summer, the city remained committed to the ongoing study, and in response to the criticism around the timing of the project and the 2029 timeline, Henry said a lot of the complaints are based on a misunderstanding.

"There's a misconception, when we say 2029, some people think that means that nobody will do anything for 20 years, when it's quite the opposite," he said. "What's most important to remember is that the day after council approves, should it approve what comes forward from the consulting team, people are free to start acting, to start helping us bring the vision into reality."

Both Henry and Tyrrell added that with this first phase of the Northdale Land Use study complete, things only get tougher from here.

"Relatively speaking, this is the easy part," said Henry. "The next step is where things will start to get interesting. It's where we'll really have to roll up our sleeves and start discussing about what the vision and principles mean. It will certainly be a more challenging process."

That next step, which involves discussion on how to implement aspects of the proposed vision is expected to be presented to council this winter, with the final report being brought forth in June.

For the full report, visit thecord.ca.

Local group protests Bill C-10

Poverty Makes Us Sick disputes Bill C-10 in memory of the late Ashley Smith

AMANDA STEINER
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

This past Saturday, local organization Poverty Makes Us Sick (PMUS) organized a rally and march rejecting Bill C-10 which is titled the Safe Streets and Communities Act. This bill introduces mandatory minimum sentences for minor offences. According to PMUS, Bill C-10 continues to develop on the racist and sexist policies of the "nation state Canada."

"[PMUS] likes to partner with other [poverty] related issues," said Joshua Day, point person for PMUS for the Remembering Ashley Smith campaign. "So this past rally, the related issue was Bill C-10 the omnibus crime bill. We see this kind of work as a way of working within communities and using it as a platform to raise issues."

Day continued to say that PMUS had concerns with Bill C-10 specifically because of the large amount of people diagnosed with mental illnesses, or who have mental health struggles that are in the federal system.

"We're looking through the lens of marginalized people," Day said. "Aboriginal people — often times people who have a mental health struggle and are marginalized as such live in poverty because of low rates and social isolation. Often times, people who are criminalized for being indigenous end up in poverty because of that cultural genocide and barrier to upward mobility. So the event was kind of talking about Bill C-10 through a poverty lens."

The campaign held was in memory of Ashley Smith, a 19-year-old girl who, on October 19 2007, was watched by prison guards as she hung herself. Smith was struggling with mental illness.

"Basically," Day said, "through the community building exercise of the PMUS event, remembering Ashley Smith, we're kind of reflecting on the language of Bill C-10 and kind of challenging the notion of prison — the philosophy of prison as we know it today in Canada."

Day went on to describe in more detail the situation surrounding Smith. According to Day, Smith's mental health struggles were significant, and she had been placed in isolation for 23 hours a day. She went into the provincial justice

"I filled a baby bottle with the blood and sprayed it on the new court house [on Weber street]."

—Joshua Day, point person for PMUS

system when she was only 13 years old and was written up by prison guards on numerous occasions due to poor behaviour. In the Canadian justice system, the more written reports you have on your record the longer your sentence can become, no matter what the crime. The numerous write-ups on Smith had her placed from the provincial level to the federal prison level.

"Ashley was from New Brunswick," Day stated. "So all her psychiatric, family and community supports were there. When she came here, she ... didn't have regular access to anybody — including her psychiatrist. Eventually her behaviour was causing the guards to write up a lot of reports, and to punish her different ways and this was taking time and money so an arbitrary and illegal order was given not to enter her cell until she stopped breathing ... They literally waited until that moment then rushed in and she was dead."

Present at the rally on Saturday were about 50 people and Day said, "The march did swell. We were able to take a lane of the road and have a pretty strong presence on the street." Marchers took a letter to the police station in Waterloo which discussed the poverty and crime and about taking about the cuts from the Ontario government to social services.

"Also," Day added, "a really exciting thing I'd like to share is that... I work with people with mental health struggles, I worked with marginalized people ... Because of my own personal experiences of how much damage is done by the court, I filled a baby bottle with the blood and sprayed it on the new court house [on Weber street]." Day explained that this act, along with a statement read immediately after, was done symbolically and to evoke emotion.

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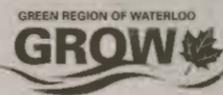
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State of emergency for Attawapiskat tribe

LINDSAY PURCHASE
LEAD REPORTER

Four weeks after a state of emergency was declared by Attawapiskat First Nation in Northern Ontario, government officials are beginning to take notice and aid workers from the Red Cross have been sent in to provide disaster relief.

A housing crisis has left many people homeless, without access to proper sanitation facilities, heating and running water, and in increasing danger due to steadily declining temperatures. An initial \$500,000 was pledged by the government to assist with the renovation of five vacant units.

Timmins-James Bay NDP MP Charlie Angus, who has been very vocal in an attempt to gain recognition of the crisis, believes the lack of support demonstrated thus far "is a black mark on Canada." With evident frustration, he questioned, "How is it that a community that has done everything right, has tried so hard just to stay afloat, and yet, it's reached a breaking point like this?"

The state of emergency was originally applied to three communities, but the focus was moved to Attawapiskat to the particularly appalling conditions faced by its residents.

The delay in the response, according to Aboriginal Affairs and

Northern Development Canada spokesperson Geneviève Guibert, has to do with the process which must be undergone before a state of emergency is officially declared.

"It's one thing to say that there is a state of emergency, and it's another thing to file it and make it official so that people can act on it," Guibert clarified. "It's unfortunate, but there's a whole process that people have to go through, not just Attawapiskat."

The official notice from Emergency Management Ontario was provided to the department on November 24.

When asked why conditions were allowed to deteriorate to the extent of crisis proportions, Guibert responded, "It's unfortunately a question for the First Nations."

She continued, "We're working with them, because obviously it's a really bad situation, but like any other First Nation, they're responsible for using the federal funds [given annually] to what they believe is the most urgent need."

Guibert noted that a multitude of factors, including governance, geographical location and debt struggles may all have contributed to creating the current situation.

However, according to Angus, this debt was actually caused by the federal government due to their neglect to respond to a sewage crisis which occurred in 2009,

subsequently forcing people from their homes.

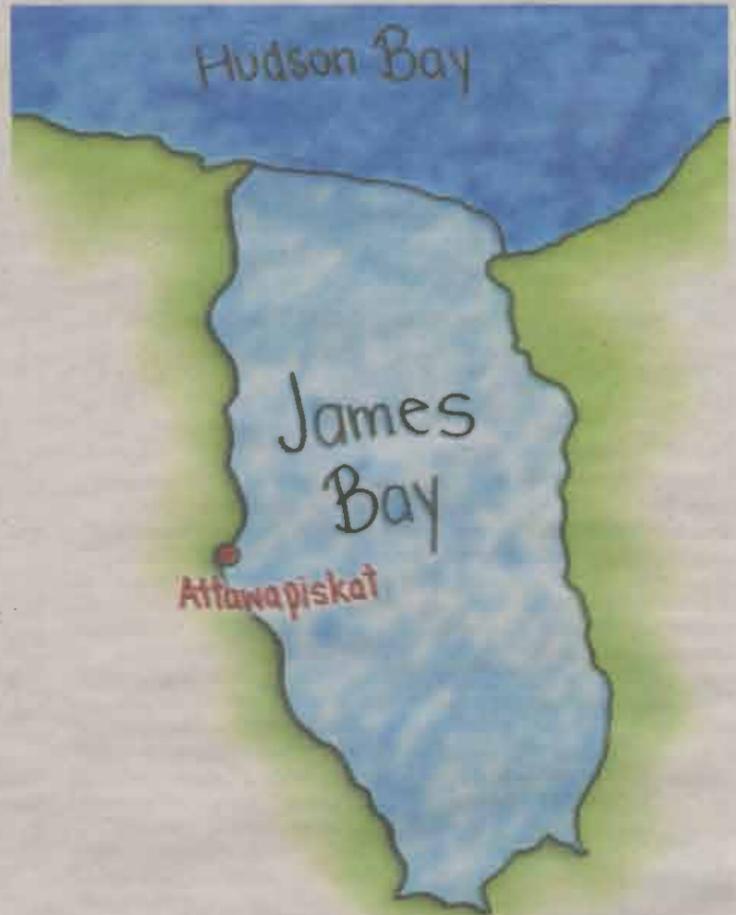
"The federal government refused to recognize that it was a state of emergency, Emergency Measures walked away, and that left the community to deal with 100 people who were in sewage-infested homes getting sick," Angus explained.

"And that's caused the community a great deal of financial harm and stress."

However, while the government response been minimal, Angus believes the issue has captured the attention of Canadians. "I think average Canadians have already been way ahead of government," he said. "Canadians have been outraged when they found out that this was happening."

A major reassessment of relations must occur to create a long-term solution, according to Angus. He commented, "We need to rethink our relationship with our First Nations communities, and we need the federal government and the province to start getting serious about ensuring that basic services [and] the ability of people to live in basic levels of dignity and security are maintained in communities in our own country."

Donations are being accepted by the Red Cross to assist in their efforts of providing emergency supplies.



First semester proves to be too stressful

Stats Canada finds that many students drop out of university after their very first semester work-load

RAVI BALAKRISHNAN
CORD NEWS

With mid-terms out of the way and final exams looming, a major percentage of first-year students across Canada will find themselves evaluating their immediate academic plans. Some of these students will drop out by winter break along with thousands of students across the country that will have experienced the so-called Christmas graduation.

According to Stats Canada, retention rates of students after first year typically vary from 80-90 per cent depending on the institution. The good news is that the numbers are on the rise.

Students often struggle due to the change of pace from a high school environment and dealing with a

university course load can seem overwhelming at the beginning. Sarah March, a third-year student at the University of Western Ontario said, "I made it through alright, but it did seem really overwhelming for the first — and even second semester."

Universities have identified this trend as an immediate concern, and have been working to actively reduce dropout rates.

"There are those students who simply have trouble in particular courses, when they lack background knowledge," said Maureen Coulter, the academic advisor in the dean of science office at Wilfrid Laurier University.

"In looking at the different courses, if we find that it's a single course, we have a discussion[...], and

whether or not they're accessing the supports available to them."

There are programs available for course-specific assistance at universities across Canada.

"We have the mathematics assistance centre specifically for the math based courses and we generally encourage students in first year, taking calculus, which is quite common to our bachelor of science students, to access the mathematics assistance centre," said Coulter.

"They offer workshops, mock exams and mock midterms. They also have peer homework sessions, and drop-in tutor sessions."

The University of Waterloo has its own director of learning services position, which, according to their website, "Is accountable to the director, student success for

institution-wide leadership and management of services that support the learning needs and aspirations for our graduate and undergraduate students."

The University of Guelph also promotes their learning services available at their school providing assistance and support to students at all levels who want to enhance their skills and performance and achieve their intellectual potential.

They also attempt to provide assistance with a variety of issues and topics.

Schools can also feature the Academic Partnership Program for first-year science students, where students get paired up with a senior student to whom they can direct program specific questions. For students that are having second

thoughts about a university education Coulter stresses, "We strongly recommend students to see an academic advisor, to help make that decision, talk through that decision, and see what alternatives are available."

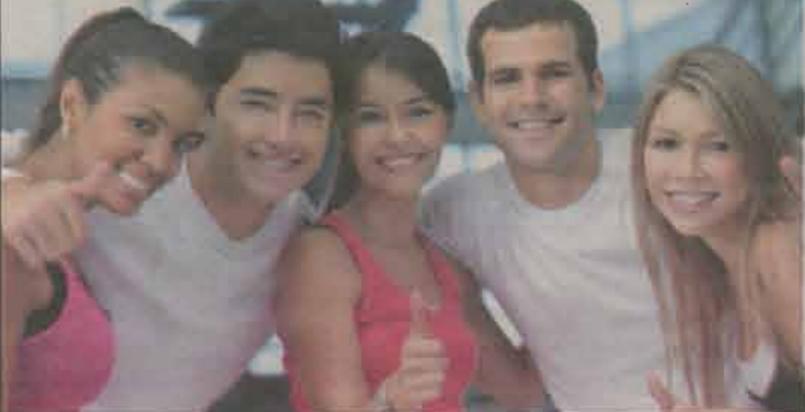
"If a student is struggling in one or more courses, it may be that they are feeling overwhelmed with the faster pace of our 12 week semester."

Linda Bouchard a fourth-year at the University of Guelph said, "I was kind of nervous about going to see someone though, that's why I didn't go. It probably would have helped."

Coulter went on to explain that a possible solution could be reducing the number of courses a student is taking, "[It could] allow them to focus on fewer courses while taking advantage of learning services."

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LIFE

Life Managing Editor
Katie Flood
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Laurier's worst Christmas gifts

MATTHEW GRANT
CORD LIFE

It's almost here. We've been dreading its return, hoping that maybe, just maybe it wouldn't happen this year. Maybe our stockings would stay un-stocked; maybe the Grinch would take the presents right out from under our trees; maybe we'd even get the wonderful, practical gift of coal. Yes, Christmas is almost here, and with it, awkward Christmas gifts.

Right now, your favourite aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins are all thinking furiously about that special gift that keeps on giving, the one that will make you say, "Oh! Thanks Aunt Ruby, I really like it ..." while you desperately try to keep a smile on your face and that dead look out of your eyes. How could they be such a terrible judge of character? Why didn't you remember to tell them exactly what you wanted this year? And now what are you going to do with a complete encyclopedia set on Russian flora and fauna? It can be hard to assign blame in these situations, and sometimes it's best to just forgive and forget.



TAYLOR GAYOWSKY GRAPHICS EDITOR

Reporter Alex Hanson and I asked you what some of your worst Christmas gifts were, Laurier, and you didn't hold back. Everything from *Twilight*, to shoes, tools and the classic superhero apparel ten years too late, students expounded fondly, bewilderedly and even bitterly on some of their least favourite Christmas memories.

Alexa Major, fourth-year biology: "My worst Christmas gift was the *Twilight: New Moon* soundtrack."

Anna Southall, third year English and psychology: "My worst Christmas gift was a wooden Christmas tree you can paint."

Taylor Lanoue, third-year kinesiology: "My worst Christmas gift? Tools, hammers, screwdrivers."

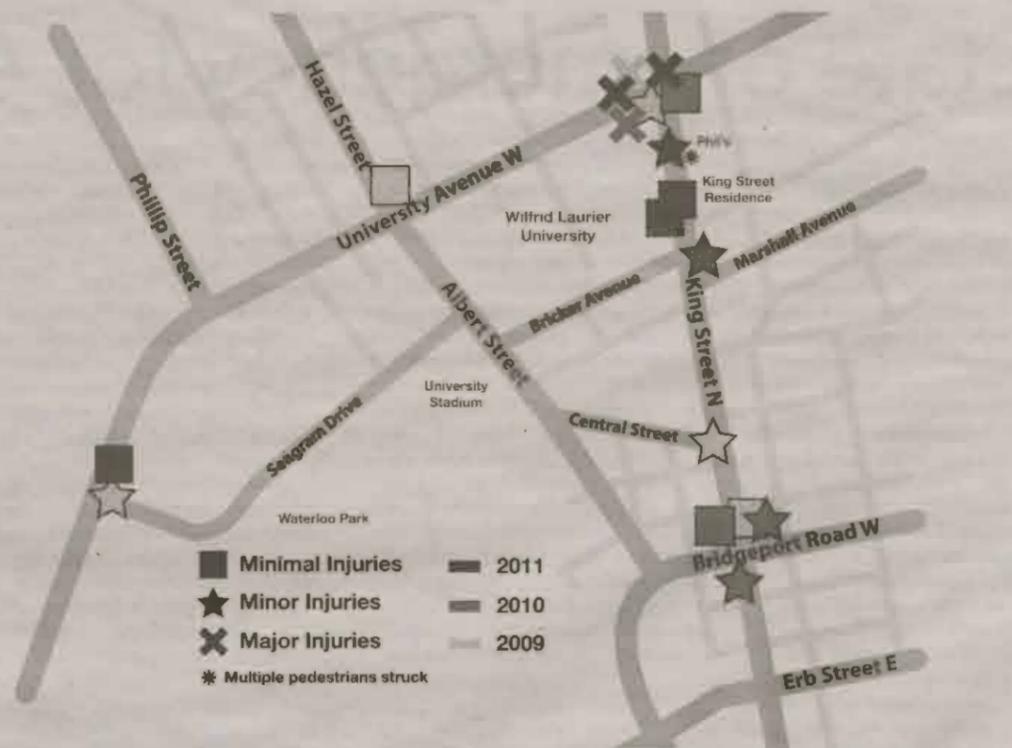
Steve Bagin, first-year political science: "My worst Christmas gift was a spiderman t-shirt when I was sixteen years old."

Jordyn Bell, prospective arts: "My worst Christmas gift was a few years ago, my aunt gave me the pocket guide to weather."

Jonathan Dilello, third-year English and history: "The worst Christmas gift I ever got was a coin set from 1991 that my uncle gave me. It was rusted. It wasn't even new."

Paul Osateuk, education student: "The worst Christmas gift I ever got was in grade one. I was recently diagnosed with dyslexia and my aunt had purchased me a complete set of children's books that I could not read or understand at all. And that really made me embarrassed and stupid."

To see more of Laurier's worst Christmas gifts check out thecord.ca



TAYLOR GAYOWSKY GRAPHICS EDITOR

A map of the intersections surrounding campus, illustrating pedestrian collisions from 2009 to 2011.

More pedestrians struck in 2011

KATIE FLOOD
LIFE MANAGING EDITOR

Waterloo region's annual collision report indicates an increase in the number of pedestrians involved in collisions at intersections surrounding Wilfrid Laurier University since 2009.

Although the region of Waterloo's 2011 data only provides information about two recorded collisions (Jan. 10 involving six pedestrians and March 23 involving one pedestrian), reports from *The Cord* bring the total collisions this year to six.

Other pedestrian collisions

include a collision with a truck and student rollerblading at King and University on Sept. 14, a taxi clipping a female pedestrian on Oct. 25, a car swerving into the Monday night lineup at Phil's Grandson's Place on Oct. 31 sending two students to hospital, hitting an estimated ten to 15 people in total and a Mercedes clipping a pedestrian crossing King Street across from the Career Centre making the total number of pedestrians struck around the university to approximately 20 to 25 people.

Although there were also six recorded collisions in both 2009 and

2010, each collision only involved one pedestrian bringing the combined total from 2009 and 2010 to 12, least than half the number of 2011's pedestrian strikings.

The report looks at eleven signalized locations around campus situated on King Street, University Avenue and Albert Street.

Although this does not include collisions outside of intersections on these streets, manager of transportation engineering Bob Henderson asserts that these intersections are where the pedestrian collisions occur.

Required AA meeting is just a rumour

—cover

violations, or whether all students in the vicinity will be given violations.

Chad was aware that he would be given a violation if caught in the same room as people playing drinking games, however. The don on his floor explained all of the policies, including those around alcohol, to Chad and the rest of his floor.

"The first day we got [into] res our whole floor had a meeting where our don went through the rules of everything, he told us what to expect, what happens, and all of that. So he introduced that to us," Chad said, also adding that the policies were clear to him at that time.

He decided to go to these parties despite the potential consequences, saying, "I wanted to experience first year the most I can, and I'm not going to stay home and read while my friends are out having fun, so I just wanted to be part of it all."

Based on what his don told him, Chad understood that after three alcohol infractions he would need to attend an Alcoholics Anonymous session. Chad recalled, "He said that after three [violations] we would have to go to an AA meeting."

However, students are not actually required to go to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting if they have received three alcohol violations in residence. They are required to attend an alcohol awareness program run by Marilyn Nieboer, Laurier's educational nurse.

Explaining what the program provides, Nieboer said, "We go through the biology of alcohol ... how does alcohol affect our bodies?"

"We go into responsible drinking, how to drink slowly, and how food can slow the absorption of alcohol, knowing the signs of alcohol poisoning."

Nieboer said the goal of the program is education.

Students like Chad, who do not drink, could still have to attend these sessions, but Nieboer said she believes, "Students who do not drink alcohol can still benefit from education ... they might be the first person to be taking care of their friend who is intoxicated."

When asked if students are required to attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, Nieboer said, "I think for the most part they are quite aware that they are attending an education session."

Dodd also explained, "They call it that, but that's more of a joke than anything, it has nothing to do with Alcoholics Anonymous."

Being told by his don that he would need to attend an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting if he received three alcohol violations is not a joke to Chad however, who, like many other students, believed that he would actually need to attend an AA meeting. Chad told *The Cord*, "I haven't gone to any [parties] since I got my second one ... because I have to go to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting if I get another one."

As a result of the violations he received, Chad's social life has suffered. He has chosen not to participate in many of the social activities in which his friends participate, despite the fact that he doesn't drink.

Chad said, "I choose not to go to many on res parties anymore ... I'm limited in what I can do right now."



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

How to become famous



MICHAEL PORFIRIO
HUMOUR COLUMNIST

Now is the time where children everywhere scramble through websites and toy shops, compiling a long list of what they want to see under the Christmas tree on Dec. 25. The latest Barbie doll or action figure is sure to put a smile on the face of any toddler with a short attention span, but college kids are another story.

Just consider how picky you are. No, video games will not work because there is nothing the guys in your life want to play that they don't already have. Oh, and don't you dare try giving her another book because her closet is currently full of the novels her parents bought her from the past ten years.

We are approaching the year 2012, and right now there is only one thing young people need — to be famous.

I'll admit, fame is a difficult present to throw in a box and tie a bow around; however, we now live in a time where it is easier than ever to become famous.

A good place to start is a little website known as YouTube. In 2008, Justin Bieber uploaded a few videos to YouTube of him singing, showcasing his talent to the entire world. All Justin Bieber wanted for Christmas that year was his two front teeth, but instead he received millions of dollars and Selena Gomez — well done Santa.

The benefit of uploading a video to the Internet is the possibility of it going viral. Within minutes, a video can be sent across the globe

to a mass number of people. The best part is it doesn't even have to be good — just ask Rebecca Black. So pull out the camera and start singing, or dancing, or juggling. To be honest, you can probably get away with simply filming your baby cousin laughing.

Sometimes it is best to take the easy and undeserved route to fame: reality television. Reality TV exists whether you like it or not. And since you can't stop it, you might as well join it. There is a reality show for

everything. Hunting snakes, building houses, hoarding objects, shining shoes — you name it, television has it. In fact, one in every six people you see has their own reality TV show (according to AReallyReliableSource.com). Getting your very own reality show is easy because you literally do not need any talent.

Take the popular show *Jersey Shore* for example. They are a group of friends who party, tan, party, do laundry, party, workout, invent new words and even party occasionally.

The worst part of watching an episode of *Jersey Shore* is having to wipe the blood off your ears and eyes afterwards.

Nevertheless, they are famous. Famous and rich. Famous and rich and orange. The cast is a walking example of how little effort you need to become a star.

I hope you are all taking notes on this. Obviously you can't buy fame for your friends, roommate or significant other, but you can steer them in the right direction.

Instead of writing in a diary, encourage them to create a video blog. If they are singing in the shower, film it without their permission and put it on YouTube. Maybe even get ahead of the game and start replacing their moisturizer with tanning cream. These are the little steps that will bring your friends closer to fame (and maybe even earn yourself some spotlight while you're at it). Finally, if none of these strategies work, make a sex tape.



FRASER JAMES GRAPHICS ARTIST

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An American Italian Eatery
University Avenue



Campus Court fire ruled arson

In the aftermath of the April 2010 fire that destroyed several businesses in the Campus Court plaza, the \$3 million blaze was ruled arson in January and suspects were arrested in April and June. The true story only emerged during court in November, when it was revealed that a bouncer at the Vault (now Titanium) in Uptown Waterloo had run up a significant drug debt of \$19,000 worth of cocaine to the owner of that bar, Brent Campbell. To pay off the debt, Campbell suggested he burn down rival business Tabu nightclub in the Campus Court Plaza, which led to the bouncer and an accomplice throwing Molotov cocktails through the windows at Tabu early one morning last April and starting the massive fire. The bouncer and accomplice received sentences of seven and eight years in prison respectively while the owner of the Vault/Titanium still faces charges.

Reported Jan. 12, April 28, Nov. 16



Dybenko changes positions, leaves

In January Ginny Dybenko, the dean of the School of Business and Economics (SBE) left that position, which she had held since 2006 to become the university's first ever executive: strategic initiatives. The role involved advocacy work and fundraising initiatives connected to university development and projects like the Global Innovation Exchange building. Effective Oct. 1, Dybenko left Laurier to become the executive director of the Stratford campus of the University of Waterloo. The position of dean of SBE at Laurier has not been rehired on a permanent basis though hiring is projected to be finalized by January.

Reported Jan. 19, Sept. 14

Arts undergoes

The faculty of arts began 2011 with year students had a GPA of 2.5 for progression in an honor average for arts in the 2010 high school. To encourage: recently-appointed dean o ed the entrance average for cent in October, though co upon the number of studer Even with a 72 minimum in arts enrolment in Sept. guages continue to be cut,

Reported Feb. 9, Oct. 5, Nov. 16

Not

After more law in in Apr the No of Lau ghetto for sal homes sale in railed

Reported

The year in head

In Depth Editor Mike Lakusiak recaps the year in ca

JANUARY



Wilf's has an eventful year

Over a weekend in early January, the wooden sign from outside of Wilf's in the Fred Nichols Campus Centre was stolen by a group of three individuals who also urinated on the hawk in the floor of the Hall of Fame. A reward was posted for the return of the sign, which had been valued at up to \$5,000. Wednesday of the following week, the three were seen carrying the sign down University Ave. and confronted by a Cord photography manager at which point they posed with the sign, said they were "on a deadline" and proceeded to return the sign. The identities of the individuals, who had visible University of Waterloo lanyards in photos, were never determined.

On Nov. 29, the drainage and sewage systems in the washrooms and kitchen of the restaurant failed, causing sewage and black water to flood up through the drains, causing extensive damage and closing Wilf's indefinitely. The renovation to the establishment continues as of the end of the semester and no definitive date for reopening has been set while events have been moved to the Turret for the time being.

Reported Jan. 19, Nov. 16.

Fall reading week quashed

The issue of fall reading weeks being instituted at Canadian universities has become a common theme in the past year, with Laurier examining the possibility of creating a break, with the issue coming up before a senate meeting in mid-October. The creating of a break in the Fall semester would have changed scheduling so that classes were run during the final two days of the traditional orientation week.

Outcry emerged from this proposal and debate began whether the merits of having a break for the sake of students' mental health outweighed the desire to leave O-Week programming as it has been, without classes. Ultimately, the motion died on the table at the meeting and the 2012 O-Week will remain untouched.

Reported Jan. 26, Oct. 19, Oct. 26

JUNE



The year of elections

Throughout the year 2011, Waterloo Region experienced both federal and provincial elections and the results for the most part held the status quo. On the May 2 federal election, all four regional ridings were won by Progressive Conservative party incumbents and Kitchener-Waterloo reelected Elizabeth Witmer, who had held the position of MP in the area since 1990. The federal Conservatives under Stephen Harper won their first majority after two successive minority governments. Jack Layton's New Democrats became the official opposition after the federal Liberals lost a significant number of seats. Layton succumbed to cancer less than four months after the election and the party has been led by interim leader Nycole Turmel since late July.

The provincial elections held Oct. 6 saw the incumbents all win with the exception of Cambridge, where first time candidate Rob Leone held the seat for the Ontario PCs. Liberal incumbent and minister of training, colleges and universities John Milloy won by a margin of 323 votes over former CTV weatherman Dave McDonald. Perhaps more than any other single issue, post-secondary education was prominent during the campaign, with the Liberals promising a 30-per cent tuition reduction grant to eligible students. Eventually the McGuinty Liberals won a minority government, the third term for the Liberals.

Reported May 3, Oct. 13

Arts undergoes changes, challenges

The faculty of arts began 2011 with news that nearly half of first year students had a GPA of lower than 5.0 — the necessary grade for progression in an honours program. The minimum entrance average for arts in the 2010-11 year had been 72 per cent out of high school. To encourage improvement, the faculty of arts under recently-appointed dean of arts Michael Carroll eventually boosted the entrance average for the 2012-13 incoming class to 74 per cent in October, though concerns remain that funding contingent upon the number of students enrolling in arts could be affected. Even with a 72 minimum entrance average, there was a slight drop in arts enrolment in Sept. 2011 and specialized programs like languages continue to be cut, The Cord reported in the fall.

Reported Feb. 9, Oct. 5, Nov. 16

Terrace troubles

The Terrace Food Court changed hands in June, with Aramark, the company responsible for the operations of the Dining Hall, taking on the day-to-day operations of Terrace businesses with Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union acting in a sense as the landlord — though retaining some say in decision making during the ten-year contract. Initially it was announced that a Subway franchise would replace the Mr. Sub, but that plan fell through. In October, The Cord printed accounts of student employees struggling with the transition to Aramark and concerns over the number of non-student employees in place. WLUSU has been discussing concerns over the course of the semester as they have arisen.

Reported June 29, Sept. 4, Oct. 13



Northdale

After the city of Waterloo passed a more restrictive rental housing by-law in May that will come into place in April 2012, many homeowners in the Northdale area immediately north of Laurier, often dubbed the 'student ghetto,' tried to put their homes up for sale as a group. Two full blocks of homes, 39 in total, were offered for sale in June before zoning barriers derailed the sale to a developer.

Reported May 10, June 29, Sept. 4, Sept. 21

Occupy movement

For much of the fall, the movement that began with Occupy Wall Street in mid-September and moved across the U.S. and Canada as well as to more than 80 nations across the world. The protests gathered a great deal of support along with their share of criticism through October and November, with many encampments at parks and other public spaces in many cities gradually broken up or forcibly evicted by authorities, initially in London, Ontario, followed by New York, Oakland and Toronto. There are suggestions that the movement will continue to try and bring the concerns of participants to public consciousness in the months to come, even with many of the encampments facing winter weather or eviction.

Reported Oct. 19, Nov. 23

headlines: 2011

os the year in campus, local, national and world news

JUNE



Centennial celebrations continue

The actual 100th anniversary of the opening of the Lutheran seminary on the current site of WLU took place on Oct. 30, and the statue of Sir Wilfrid Laurier — which reportedly cost approximately \$100,000 — was unveiled in the quad earlier in the month. The Cord determined in November that the advertising initiatives undertaken to promote the university during the centennial totaled nearly \$830,000 over the span of the campaign — including national advertising, signage on buses and web ads. A centennial scholarship gave 100 incoming students \$1,000 this fall as well and various events were held throughout the year.

Reported Oct. 19, Nov. 16

DECEMBER



Arab Spring

The Arab world experienced unprecedented change in 2011 as the so-called 'Arab Spring' and its aftermath was manifested in demonstrations and government shakeups in several nations, notably Egypt and Libya. Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak was ousted in February and in Libya rebel forces aided by a United Nations-mandated NATO coalition deposed Moammar Gadhafi more recently. There are ongoing protests in Bahrain and Syria, where bloodshed is increasingly routine and Egypt is experiencing renewed concerns as the military-led transitional government has been called into question and elections have done little to quell outcry from Egyptian citizens.

Reported March 23

Osama bin Laden and U.S. Pakistan relations

On May 2, Osama bin Laden, the world's most-wanted man, was shot and killed in a compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan by a team of United States Navy SEALs without the prior notification of the Pakistani government. Tensions had been high between the U.S. and Pakistan for months when, on Nov. 26, a NATO air strike killed 24 Pakistani troops within Pakistan's borders. Pakistan promptly closed its border with Afghanistan, preventing shipments to NATO operations in that nation from getting through and questions were raised once again about the state of U.S.-Pakistan relations moving forward.

PHOTOS BY NICK LACHANCE, PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER EXCEPT BOTTOM LEFT BY ELLI GARLIN AND BOTTOM RIGHT CONTRIBUTED IMAGE BY AL JAZEERA VIA CREATIVE COMMONS

ARTS

Arts Editor
Liz Smith
lsmith@thecord.ca

Adventure Club makes it to Turret

LIZ SMITH
ARTS EDITOR

After exploding onto the dubstep scene in recent months, with tracks "Crave You" and "We Don't Eat" generating hundreds of thousands of YouTube and Hype Machine views, Montreal natives Leighton James and Christian Srigley are taking full advantage of their new found star status.

Last Saturday night, the charismatic duo played to a packed crowd at the Turret, in an event organized by Laurier's Late Night Society. The originally scheduled show, set for the previous Thursday, was cancelled due to traffic issues.

It is undeniable that the two parts of Adventure Club play very different roles in the group dynamic. James, though relatively reserved off-stage, was the life of the party, pouring shots from bottles into the mouths of fans dancing front row and maintaining the high energy level Adventure Clubs' shows are becoming known for.

Srigley spent more time behind the scenes, delivering the sound that

has made Adventure Club a household name so quickly.

In an interview with *The Cord* prior to the Turret show, Adventure Club explained how they started making music together — when screaming fans and busy tour-schedules were still a pipe dream.

"We were in high school and a friend of a friend hooked us up to be in a band together," said James. "We started a hardcore pop-punk band. It was like Marianas Trench meets Simple Plan, with a lot of Fall Out Boy. It was the cheesiest shit ever."

With some trepidation, the two revealed the name of this early band. "We don't want people going and looking it up! You can find that shit on Myspace. We were called Angels Catching Bullets, I even got a tattoo. An Angels Catching Bullets tattoo," said Srigley, revealing a tattoo of the letters "ACB" scrawled on his lower torso. "If I take out the 'b,' it can be an Adventure Club tattoo."

Adventure Club was officially formed in December 2010, with the group posting their first track to music sharing site Sound Cloud in January 2011.

As for the name Adventure Club, Leighton explained, "To be honest, I said Adventure Club as a joke and Christian was like 'Yeah! That's fucking sick!' It's cool because most dub artists' names are derivative of the griminess of dubstep, so we thought we'd make it super playful."

Adventure Club has since made a name for themselves on the scene, with their ambient hooks and carefully selected samples featuring moody and euphoric female vocals, such as an unreleased re-work of Metric's "Collect Call" played Saturday night.

"We still dick around at home and play *Call of Duty*," said James. "We get together to write and end up watching movies, or like eight consecutive episodes of *Suits*. The first thing we're going to do with the first big payout we get is buy some ridiculously nice suits."

When they do get down to business, Adventure Club has their process down to a science. "We definitely focus on powerful female vocals. You don't need too much of a hook when it comes to dubstep because you move your vocals a lot

so you don't need a whole verse. If we hear a powerful female vocal hook in a completely different setting and we can imagine it in dustup or electronic, we work from there," explained Srigley, continuing, "We usually hit a big wall when we try to get a drop done. We love our intros, so we work on them and when it comes time to drop it, we just get really pissed. That's when *Suits* comes on."

Since the birth of Adventure Club, the duo has been travelling Canada, playing shows and securing a fan following.

Of these early shows, James explained, "Sometimes we'll just get a bunch of teeny bopper girls, or super sweaty 'J-Shore' guys fist pumping. We've played shows promoters have booked us where the average age is thirty and no one's really getting it."

"Our biggest following is in the States right now," James explained, "but we can't get there because of our visa situations."

Dubstep, a relatively new genre by musical standards, is one that has yet to become over-saturated, allowing a window of opportunity

for groups with promise to break into the dubstep elite, which Srigley believes to include Flux Pavilion, Skrillex, Dillon Francis, Nero and Knife Party.

"They're big for a reason," Srigley said. "In dubstep there are like five big guys and then a pool of everyone else. We're just trying to break into that."

"We definitely focus on powerful female vocals. You don't need too much of a hook when it comes to dubstep."

—Christian Srigley, Adventure Club

J. Edgar's sexuality contended by FBI

ANDREW SAVORY
STAFF WRITER

When releasing a film about a memorable political figure like John Edgar Hoover, you can expect that you're going to generate some scrutiny from those who aren't pleased with the film's depiction of such a figure.

What one doesn't expect, especially in this day and age, is protest and disdain shown towards the movie for its reflection of J. Edgar Hoover's homosexual relationships.

This attitude was most unexpected from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), of which Hoover was an integral component from 1935, and acting director of the FBI until his passing in 1972 at the age of 77.

Current assistant FBI director Mike Kortan exemplified the scrutiny in telling *USA Today* that Hoover's undeniable relationship with associate FBI director Clyde Tolson was based off of "vague rumors and fabrications [that] have cropped up from time to time, but there is no evidence in the historical record on this issue."

Don't take sides just yet; unfortunately, there's more. William Branon, acting chairman of the J. Edgar Hoover Foundation, went so far as to write a personal letter to Clint Eastwood, director of *J. Edgar*, in an effort to sway him from portraying Hoover as being involved in a homosexual relationship.

Eastwood, meanwhile, has secured a name for himself as a director who prides himself in accurately depicting the true nature of characters; an intention he ultimately maintained with *J. Edgar*.

One scene in particular that garnered much attention from those

who are opposed to Hoover's alleged homosexuality shows Edgar, played by Leonardo DiCaprio and Clayton, his alleged lover, played by Josh Hamilton, riding in a limo together.

Edgar is stricken with fear over those who are losing faith in his ability to monitor the country appropriately. Instead of seeking the comfort of his mother or a woman later on in the night, Edgar clenches Clayton's hand for reassurance, and in the process symbolizes his affection for his right hand man.

The so-called opposition may assess this scene as an inaccuracy or one where Edgar acted upon impulse, but the reality is that if J. Edgar Hoover was gay, so what?

My question is, in today's day and age, why aren't we fully accepting of all individuals' sexual orientation, particularly among public figures? And, what exactly is it that prevents us from viewing each other as equals, regardless of how we present ourselves or act on a daily basis?

Furthermore, shouldn't those positioned in the direct view of the public eye, like Kortan and Branon, be particularly concerned about the things they say? Shouldn't figures of power such as these two be our models of good and tolerant behaviour?

Rather, we see them attempt to enforce censorship of the truth like chairman William Branon so blatantly did on an issue that's wrongfully contentious. Public figures such as Branon and Kortan should be open to embrace sexuality, not reprimand it from the public, in order to ensure a society that is tolerant and accepting of all sexualities and walks of life.



IAN SPENCE LEAD VIDEOGRAPHER

An enthusiastic performer struts his stuff on stage during the second annual drag show at the Turret.

Drag dominates at WLU

MARCIE FOSTER
LEAD REPORTER

Glitter, pink cocktails and gender-bending performances filled the Turret last Saturday night along with the large, enthusiastic crowd who came out to support Drag Domination, a second annual event organized by the Rainbow Centre.

The all-ages event is one of the largest drag events the tri-city area has to offer. The returning Miss Drew and many other talented local performers including Mr. and Mrs. Tri-Pride, Parker South and Jasmine Flowers, entertained the audience with performances well into the night.

The event was held for the first time as a fundraiser for Tri-Pride, the LGBTQ festival for Kitchener-Waterloo and Cambridge. Gen Ellis, also known as Parker South and Mr. Tri-Pride as well as the main organizer of the event, reported that the event raised approximately \$500 through both a raffle and 50/50 draw. Raffle prizes included gift certificates for a tattoo and food prizes.

The booming evening broke the Tri-Pride fundraising record, and Ellis could not be more proud. "We really want to thank everyone for coming out and supporting Tri-Pride, and especially Miss Drew who donated her time and talent to the show," said Ellis, who is also the Imperial Prince Royal of the 17th reign of the Imperial Court of Hamilton-Wentworth, a chapter of the International Court System that supports GLBT communities.

When asked about what she does to transform from Gen Ellis into Parker South, Ellis replied, "It's really a mental thing; you have to psych yourself out to get up there." Drag is a performative method used to "bend" gender stereotypes in a manner that is creative and positive and the show was certainly a perfect representation of that.

This year the show was quite well represented by both drag kings as well as drag queens, performing crowd favourites by artists such as N*SYC and Bon Jovi. Miss Drew opened with a fierce performance of Jennifer Holliday's "A Woman's Got the Power" and finished her set

with an emotional rendition of "Endangered Species" and "Proud and Beautiful" done back-to-back that set the crowd head-over-heels.

The bar sold a signature cocktail for the evening, the pink dominatrix, which was a combination of fruit juices, raspberry and apple vodkas presented in chic martini glasses.

Christina Borys, lead organizer of the event and literary and resource co-ordinator for the Rainbow Centre, was ecstatic about the results of the fundraiser and the support shown by the Laurier community.

Performers Victoria Parks and Jasmine Flowers commented on the impressive spirit shown by Laurier students at the event. "Laurier is definitely more accepting than [the University of Waterloo]," Parks commented.

While UW has a drag show, the turnout was much larger at Laurier and there were more performances in comparison to the hour-long show put on by UW.

The show will be running again next year as requested by Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union and popular demand.



ALI UROSEVIC GRAPHICS ARTIST AND TAYLOR GAYOWSKY GRAPHICS EDITOR

In review: *The Muppets*

WADE THOMPSON
VISUAL DIRECTOR

From the moment the reel started rolling, there was a smile plastered on my face. It didn't leave until the lights came up. *The Muppets* are back.

Starring in their first movie since 1999, the rag tag team of felt stars return in arguably their best, most endearing effort on the silver screen to date. From the mind of writer/star Jason Segel, the film provides a loving take on friendship and what it means to find where you fit in. And while that all sounds like the stuff of kid films, the factor of nostalgia and the pressures of fame play a huge role in establishing *The Muppets* as entertaining for anyone who grew up with them.

The film concerns Gary (Segel) and his girlfriend Mary (Amy Adams) travelling to Los Angeles. Accompanied by Walter, Gary's "muppet-like" brother, they accidentally unveil a plot formulated by oil tycoon Tex Richman to tear down the former Muppet Studios. The three then take it upon themselves to reunite the long broken up Muppet gang in order to stop the plot and save entertainment landmark from being overhauled.

Musical supervisor Bret McKenzie (of *Flight of the Conchords* fame) intersperses newly classic songs

with perfectly chosen pop music, as well as a few tunes familiar to any Muppet fan. The soundtrack is right in step with any recent Disney animated release, the studio responsible for the comeback.

Keeping with all previous films, *The Muppets* includes an array of hilarious cameos by A-Listers. There are plenty, but they're better if seen first hand.

Prior to the film's release, a number of former original Muppeteers spoke out against the movie's script stating that they were unhappy with the way certain Muppets were being handled in this new version, including Kermit. And while he may be noticeably different in this incarnation than in previous, it works when taking into consideration the plot that Segel and co-writer Nicholas Stoller have mapped out. In fact, it works wonderfully.

Throw in the always-lovable Amy Adams and Segel as well as a particularly fantastic comedic turn by Chris Cooper as villain Tex Richman (he raps...seriously), *The Muppets* is one of, if not the, most enjoyable film of the year. There are admittedly a few moments that don't necessarily translate the sketch-comedy style of the Muppets on to the screen, but it will definitely warm your heart nonetheless (even if you weren't a fan of the original series or films.)

Arts bites

The latest news in entertainment

Bachmann offended by Roots, Fallon, NBC

After her appearance on *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon* was introduced with the *Roots* playing the track "Lyn' Ass Bitch" as she walked on-stage, Minnesota congresswoman and nominal GOP presidential candidate Michelle Bachmann complained that the use of the song was sexist and "clearly a form of bias on the part of the Hollywood entertainment elite." Somewhere, 'uest-love remains confident that nothing inappropriate happened.

Soulja Boy to release fourth album in 2012

"It's going to be dope," said the marginally famous rapper, who had apparently cranked out three albums since that song that all the douche bags in your high school learned the dance to. Millions of people, if not billions, anxiously await its release.

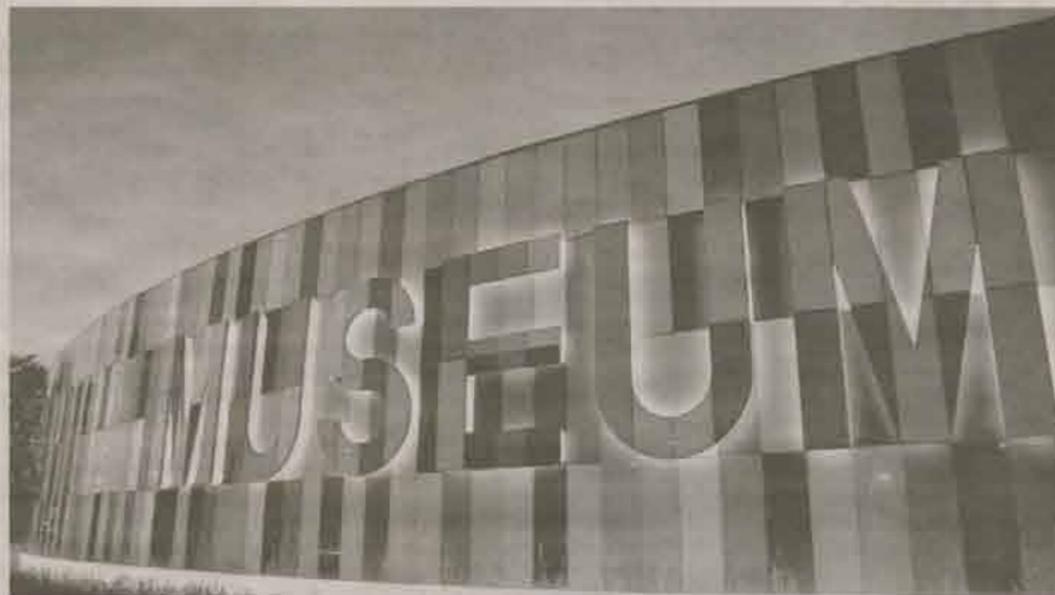
Wu-Tanger hits the Ivy League

GZA will be giving a guest lecture at Harvard, as well as possibly MIT, next month on his method of writing lyrics. Mandatory attendance is encouraged for all the aimless graduates of these schools who feel that they may need to examine a career in the rap game given the utter worthlessness of their degrees.

Wyclef Jean's charity still corrupt as shit

Former Fugee Wyclef Jean is running a charity that would support Haiti and the numerous crises affecting that nation, if it wasn't so corrupt. This is not the first time allegations of ill deeds at his organization have surfaced after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. As expected, the news continues to kill softly Jean's public image.

—Compiled by Mike Lakuskiak



Waterloo Region Museum open

New exhibit provides information about the regions rich heritage

MACKENZIE KING
STAFF WRITER

For many Wilfrid Laurier University students, a trip to the Waterloo Region Museum might not be forefront in their minds when planning their weekend. However, the museum recently unveiled their newest exhibit — "*What Makes Us Who We Are?*" — and it is definitely worth checking out.

"*What Makes Us Who We Are?*" traces the human history of Waterloo Region from approximately 12,000 years ago, from European settlement at the start of the 1800s, to the manufacturing heydays of the 1900s, and the high tech sector boom of recent years.

Bear in mind this museum, and therefore exhibit, has a distinct focus on the Waterloo region. Wilfrid Laurier University obviously has a plethora of students from all over Canada, not just the Waterloo Region — so does this mean we should be less inclined to visit? Absolutely not.

"*What Makes Us Who We Are?*" gives perspective on the city that Wilfrid

Laurier students are quick to embrace during the time we spend here while in school — and quite commonly some time here after that.

Tom Reitz, Waterloo Region Museum curator, touched upon this while explaining the feeling one can achieve from a visit. "Whether you've lived here for ten generations or if you've just moved here, [*What Makes Us Who We Are?*]" makes you proud as to why you call this place home," said Reitz in an interview with *The Cord*.

A good deal of interesting information is presented in this exhibit, including an extensive look at the immigration and settlement of the Waterloo Region, and information regarding the origins behind the name Conestoga. It is interesting how this exhibit is telling a story, from all angles, of how contemporary life came to be in the Waterloo Region.

In the immigration section of the exhibit, a story was outlined about a young man named Jagdat Vincent Toolsie of Guyana. Vincent Toolsie arrived in Canada in 1954 to attend university at Waterloo College (later to be Wilfrid Laurier University),

majoring in English Literature. Pictures showed Vincent Toolsie to be the only non-white student at the school, which is astounding, considering this was only 57 years ago.

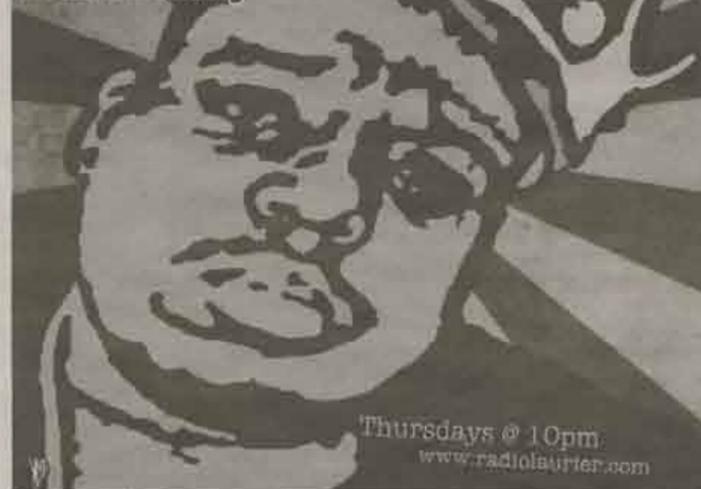
Reitz explained that as something he termed "an ah-ha moment." "It's when people can say 'I didn't know that. I had no idea that existed here or started here!' That's an ah-ha moment." Reitz ensured there would be multiple ah-ha moments for those viewing the exhibit during the three years he took to compile it.

While this exhibit did provide lots of interesting history and information about the Waterloo Region, it was lacking in its interactivity. There was not much that offered museum-goer participation and it sometimes reminded me of the kind of museum I had dreaded to step foot in while in middle school.

That aside, if you live in the Waterloo Region — whether it is permanently or temporary — this exhibit is definitely worth checking out. Ah-ha moments await you (did you know that First Nations have been in Waterloo for over 500 generations?) — and there's your first.

Visit thecord.ca for arts editor Liz Smith's coverage of *Watch the Throne* at Toronto's Air Canada Centre

this is
HIPHOP
with MacKing

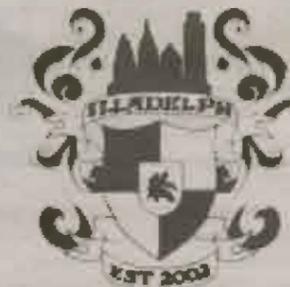


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Community and the art of the sitcom guest star



WADE THOMPSON
VISUAL DIRECTOR

The television world would be lost without *Community*. The antics of the Greendale study group has kept the hearts of millions of loyal viewers warmed and ablaze with weird comedy peppered with genuine pop culture fanaticism.

It's a show that heeds no bounds as far as style and content go and is without question the most original program currently airing on network waves.

But the world does not need another plea to the heads of NBC for saving the show. With recent accolades such as winning *TV Guide's*

annual "Fan Favourite" poll and the outpouring of prominent critics' speaking out against the shelving of the show, the voice of the people is loud and clear for the suits at the peacock to hear.

No, I'd rather not dwell on what we all already know. Instead, I would like to voice some appreciation for one of the show's greatest strengths so far in the series. This is the brilliant use of the sitcom guest star.

Although many casual TV watchers may have never given this a second thought, casting guest stars in situational comedies is a fine art. Often times, it works as planned, and the actor's portrayal of the character is funny and convincing. Every once in a while, a show executes it so perfectly that the actual presence of the actor cast makes the character's entire existence funny without having to say or do anything.

There are typically three different approaches to casting the perfect

guest star. The first is casting a veteran television or character actor who has proven themselves on the small screen but has never managed to transfer that stardom into film success.

Classic examples of this scenario are Magnum himself, Tom Selleck, on *Friends*, *Night Court's* Harry Anderson conning the *Cheers* gang or John Cleese going up against John Lithgow for Jane Curtin's affections on *3rd Rock From The Sun*.

The best use of the "TV vet" approach is seen in shows that attempt to cast the perfect parents for their main characters. Alan Alda playing Alec Baldwin's dad on *30 Rock*, Markie Post and John Ritter as Eliot's mom and JD's dad on *Scrubs*, or Marion Ross playing the Foreman grandmother on *That 70's Show*. You know casting has gone right when TV royalty can be persuaded to guest star as Mom or Dad.

The second approach taken to ensure the perfect cast is when an

obscure, or once famous personality, stars as themselves. No show did this better than *Seinfeld* did.

Think back to the appearances by famed New York Met Keith Hernandez or Academy Award winners Marisa Tomei and Jon Voight. *Arrested Development* should also be praised though for their employment of Carl Weathers, Andy Richter and John Larroquette (to name a few) playing fictional versions of themselves.

Finally, the third way to ensure a successful guest-starring role is enlisting an A-lister and putting them in a role atypical of their norm. Brad Pitt on *Friends* was probably the best example of this, playing a formerly fat friend to Ross and hating on Rachel (played by his then wife, Jennifer Aniston.) Other examples would include Jon Hamm on *30 Rock* and pretty much any celebrity guest on *Extras*.

To come full circle, *Community* has done an absolutely stellar job at

developing their guest stars. So far in the series, they have featured TV vet John Goodman as the Associate Dean, plucked Michael K. Williams from *Boardwalk Empire* and *The Wire*, got Jack Black and Owen Wilson for an episode and most recently gave famous "that guy" Luis Guzman a starring role as himself, the school's most famous graduate.

Each of these instances has demonstrated the show's eclectic style of humour, extracting comedy from different yet equally hilarious places.

In an era of TV when a show can either flourish as an unofficial history of television (see *Scrubs*, Seasons 1-3 of *30 Rock*) or falter under the constraints of using guest stars for the sake of using them (see *Will and Grace*, Seasons 4-5 of *30 Rock*), *Community* is definitely using its unending potential as a forefront for TV history.

So please. Don't cancel it.



WADE THOMPSON VISUAL DIRECTOR

Ex-model directs scathing documentary

Nicole Clark's *Cover Girl Culture* provides firsthand insight into the darker side of the modelling industry



STEPHANIE TRUONG GRAPHICS ARTIST

—cover

in the documentary is the sexualization of girls in the media.

"This sexualization adds another dangerous dimension for girls, because they see pictures of sexy young celebrities that are also teenagers, or in their twenties, and in addition to being pretty and beautiful and thin, they're also sexy and they're sex objects for girls," explained Clark.

"If girls don't have high self-esteem or good parenting, they start to believe that being sexy is the most important thing they can offer. A girl will no longer focus on developing her character, her own intellect or sense of humour and being valued for those things," the former model

continued.

"I'd see girls comparing themselves to models and letting their happiness be determined by whether or not the number on the scale said what it should say, according to these people in the fashion industry, who I came to learn didn't know much about health," said the director.

Clark, who studied health and nutrition at the University of Guelph, claimed she then realized she had been helping to perpetuate misconceptions about what was healthy.

No longer wanting to be a part of the problem, Clark removed herself from the modelling industry. Later, she began work on *Cover Girl Culture*, in hopes of remedying the growing issues caused by the media's

portrayal of women and girls.

Cover Girl Culture includes footage and interviews of some of the fashion industries most forefront individuals, including Anne Slowey, fashion news director at *Elle* magazine, Pat McDonagh, a co-founder of the Fashion Design Council of Canada, and several editors from *Teen Vogue* magazine.

Of the early stages of the film, Clark explained, "As soon as I said I was going to make the documentary, it was like the universe opened all these doors. There were interviews people were telling me I'd never get, then next thing I knew I was in New York interviewing at *Teen Vogue* and *Elle* magazine."

"It's a film that I truly believe has a life of its own, and a will of its own."

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Announcement

The Cord is wishing Angela Foster, former ad manager and publications' mom, and Keith, the "odd job man", a very merry Christmas.

Employment

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DearLIFE

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 @thegayhunter,

It was over 140 characters because it wasn't a tweet, it was a Dear Life. There's a difference between the real world, and your fantasy Twitter land. It's sad you had to use Dear Life to promote your twitter account (@thegayhunter is real for anyone who cares).
Sincerely,
#getoveryourselfandyourshamelesspromotions

Dear Life,

That awkward moment when you happen to realize you are listening to a bunch of fanatics in the dining hall having Bible circle prayer time (or w/e) whilst you try to do homework. I swear she was swaying as she prayed. Keep it down over there! I'm having a hard time studying satanism over here.
Sincerely,
There's a time and place for that sort of thing and its not in the cafeteria

Dear Life,

Why is it that people with large blocky plugs on their power cords feel they have to block off the only other open socket in the entire room?
Sincerely,
Either just plug it in the other fucking slot so it doesn't block everything, or don't think you're allowed to get pissed when I ask you to move it

Dear Life,

My boyfriend texts: "anything which makes you happy is my duty cause no matter what I LOVE you... and I will always do my best to make sure ur happy"
How can one think about studing after a text msg like that <3
Love you for the rest of my life !!!

Dear Life,

Thank you for all the warm weather, but I'm worried about whether or not Canada will have snow for Christmas ...
Warmest Autumn since 1971? I think so!!
Sincerely,
Had to break out my spring jacket today!

Dear @thegayhunter,

I'm not sure if you just didn't get the memo or you chose to ignore it, but Dear Life is funny because it's anonymous. Everyone at this school is sick of you bullying and belittling others. We get that you're trying to be funny by saying offensive things, but the truth is you're not clever. Please grow up and get over yourself.
Sincerely,
Everyone at this school; anonymous for a reason

Dear Life,

Why is it when I am trying to get two papers done for this week you continually throw crap in my way. I mean I can deal with the assignments, but the potential that the water that is coursing through my apartment at the moment is sewage water is a little much. Whatever happened to the days when my biggest problem was convincing myself to finish assignments well before the due date?
Sincerely,
I'd like my carpet to smell like it did when I moved in

See the rest at thecord.ca

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EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor
Joseph McNinch-Pazzano
jmcninchpazzano@thecord.ca

Student input needed in Northdale debate

Many students at both Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo may not know it, but they live in one of the most important neighbourhoods in the city.

The area known as Northdale — a neighbourhood that is bordered by King Street, Columbia Street, Philip Street and University Avenue — is perfectly situated for students. It's less than a ten-minute walk away from both Laurier and UW and as such, the area is largely populated by students. Northdale has been a subject of lengthy discussion for the better part of a decade.

In recent years, problems between students and permanent residents, decaying property values and a need for housing intensification has led to a large amount of city council's attention being directed at Northdale. The Northdale Special Project Committee (NSPC), made of a number of different stakeholders in the community was formed in 2010 to advise council.

While both Laurier and UW have representation on NSPC, more students need to get informed and maybe even get involved because while there are still a few permanent residents left in Northdale, it is a student-dominated neighbourhood and these decisions being made now about its future affect students more than anyone.

At Monday night's Waterloo city council meeting, the vision phase of the Northdale Land Use and Community Improvement Plan Study was unveiled. It paints a rosy picture of Northdale's future as a vibrant, modern community with new, mixed-use buildings and bountiful green space.

While this sounds great as a vision, it does raise some potential concerns for students. First and foremost, what will happen to rent prices in the area if all this development occurs?

For a good indication, one need only look up King Street to the newly opened LUXE apartment buildings. Monthly rent in a five-person apartment works out to around \$700 per person. Yet a five person house in Northdale generally costs each tenant around \$400 per month. How will students be able to continue living in the neighbourhood if the existing houses are replaced by similar apartment buildings?

Students should not allow decisions on these issues to be made for them or future students. They must question, discuss, debate; something university is supposed to be all about.

—The Cord Editorial Board

Attawapiskat situation is an embarrassment to Canada

The conditions that exist in Attawapiskat, the First Nations community in James Bay, should not exist as a way of life for anyone living in this country. Without running water or a working heating or sewage system, many residents living in Attawapiskat are suffering and the government is doing little to address the systemic issues.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Jim Duncan claimed that the community is partly to blame for its misfortune; that it has not been able to handle its finances appropriately. What Duncan fails to illustrate is that the Attawapiskat community is in debt because of a sewage back-up a few years ago that left hundreds homeless, a situation which the federal government failed to adequately assist in rectifying.

To put this on the backs of the Aboriginals and their apparent lack of "financial management" disregards decades worth of First Nations policy that have put this community in the state it is today. A failure of the Aboriginal Affairs department to appropriately monitor the state of this community and offer substantial monetary assistance is the primary reason why so many are living in tents without proper sanitary conditions.

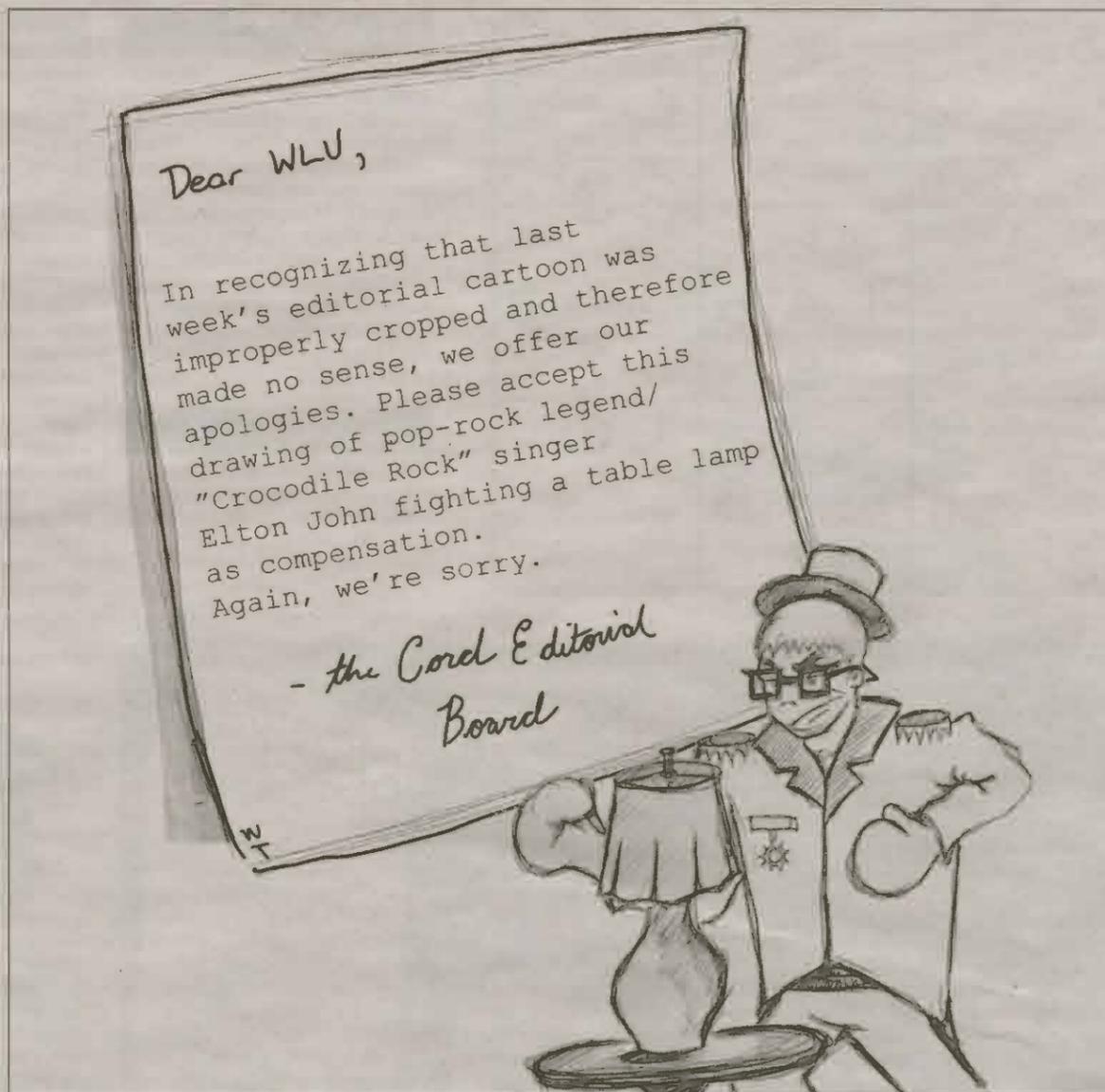
Sending ministry officials to the community or throwing more money at the situation without adequately addressing the underlying issues will not make the Attawapiskat community better.

With an electorate that is seemingly more open to exploring these issues of inequality, especially given the recent Occupy protests, it seems that there is perhaps no greater issue today which requires our immediate attention than the plight of these First Nations peoples living in such a dire state of poverty.

—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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Reforms signal Liberal party ready for comeback



JOSEPH MCNINCH-PAZZANO
OPINION EDITOR

Over the last few months, some of the best YouTube moments have come from the cast of characters that are contesting the 2012 Republican presidential nomination. From washed-up former congressmen and senators to ambitious governors, their sometimes cringe-worthy and sometimes praise-worthy performances have shifted Americans' attention away from the typical array of mindless reality shows and other pointless babble.

It is this type of theatrical political production that Canada's interim Liberal leader is proposing the party implement for its upcoming leadership contest: a grassroots approach to electing the next leader using a regional primary approach where Canadians would have a direct say in selecting their preferred candidate. I don't think there is any greater strategy to secure a transformational comeback for the Liberals.

The crushing Liberal defeat last May was due in no small part to the perception that the party was commanded by a set of arrogant operatives who believed that Canadians would naturally find their way back to the "big red tent" in the political middle.

But, how mistaken they were. The Liberal party now stands on the precipice of death, or at least that's what political author Peter C. Newman claims in his new book *When the Gods Changed: The Death of Liberal Canada*. While Newman is likely writing a premature obituary for a party committed on capturing the hearts and minds of Canadians once again, the point is well-taken that the party needs to do something game-changing if it

“
Worrying that you're going to make a spectacle of yourself when you're sitting in the last row of the bleachers is somewhat irrelevant. Liberals need to make some noise.”

hopes to be a credible alternative to the New Democrats and Conservatives in 2015.

A primary-style system will reinvigorate the tired party membership. No longer will the leader be selected by a bunch of diehard party members who were willing to shelve out the hefty delegate fee to buy their place among the lucky few convention delegates, as was the case in 2006. Anyone willing to pledge support for the Liberal party will be able to cast a vote for leader in a series of regional primary elections held over the course of several months.

Instead of letting the opposition define the leader before they even hit primetime during the general election, the Liberal party will be parading their potential prime ministers for voters to see firsthand. If the party does it correctly, the leader will be defined and well-known to Canadians before the other parties have had their chance to disparage his or her image.

According to Newman, Liberals have only been able to muster a measly 15,000 memberships since the election. No party can have a serious chance of attaining power when so few are

truly committed to the cause. In a regional primary system, voters will have a chance to play a role in the leadership process, feel greater affinity for their leader and attach greater legitimacy to a democratically selected candidate.

Perhaps most importantly, the Liberals need something to define their existence. In a political environment where the left and right hold power, the Liberals need something more than a claim to the "mushy centre" to keep them in contention. A populist approach to selecting a leader can serve as a starting point for rebuilding. With a commitment to grassroots democracy, the party can use the Canadian people to figure out where it wants to go instead of making policy decisions at party headquarters with endless political calculation. Instead, the Liberals can inspire young people to take part in the process from the beginning; to build the Liberal party they want to see, starting with the person at the helm.

Critics claim that the process will be open to manipulation; that other parties will try to infiltrate the primaries and skew the vote. While there are definitely institutional ways to get around this, I think critics are too scared of the attention that will be paid to the process. Attention is good, especially for a party wallowing in third place. Worrying that you're going to make a spectacle of yourself when you're sitting in the last row of the bleachers is somewhat irrelevant. Liberals need to make some noise.

A primary process where potential leadership candidates make their case to different parts of the country will bring the kind of attention this party needs. A grassroots discussion of ideas, complete with debates and town-halls, is exactly the thing Liberals need to regain their momentum.

Rae has a winning plan in this primary system. He shouldn't let it go for fear of backlash from party elders. They're not the party anymore. They're the old party and it's time for some new blood.

Participating in Occupy movement was a privilege



OSCAR COLE-ARNAL
COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR

Troubled deeply by the raging inequality in our society and the hold of our nation's super-rich on the democratic process, my friends and I seek ways to fight back for and with those cast into poverty and vulnerability. At times the struggle seemed overwhelming, that is until Occupy Wall Street built its alternative community in the shadow of Manhattan's financial district. Soon this Occupy movement inspired a harvest of grassroots protest that spread like wildfire beyond Wall Street itself into the heart of our own cities, especially Toronto's Bay Street.

I felt compelled to support the Occupy Toronto more directly. So, after a brief visit at the site in St. James Park (partly owned by the city and partly owned by St. James Anglican Cathedral Church) on Sunday Oct. 30, my anti-poverty friends supported my return to Occupy Toronto specifically to carry a petition to the dean of the cathedral asking him to invoke the ancient Biblical law of sanctuary to the encampment if the police tried to evict. In addition I decided to support the protest directly.

With petition in hand I left for Toronto on Friday, Nov. 18 in case Judge David Brown made a decision to evict that very day. Upon arrival I learned that his decision would be announced at 9 a.m. the following Monday. Nonetheless, I stayed overnight, and the next day marched with Occupiers, trade unionists and

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The Occupy movement inspired a harvest of grassroots protests that spread like wildfire beyond Wall Street itself into the heart of our own cities.

a friend and former student pastor Peter Lisinski to Toronto City Hall in support of the Occupiers. At that point Peter, his wife Rosarie and I agreed to gather at St. James Park to support the residents should Judge Brown decide to pronounce eviction.

Sure enough, that's exactly what happened, so on Monday I was back with Pete and Rosarie armed with the petition and our commitment to support this "squatting" justice community. With our roughly sixty signatures we button-holed an unwilling dean with this document for sanctuary and gave it to him. We told him that we felt that the church's initial support had now fallen into the realm of capitulation to the establishment over Biblical justice. After that brief encounter, we met other Toronto clergy at the park with whom we linked. Soon we reached a consensus that at 11 p.m. we would hold a religious service in support of these bold Occupiers.

In the interim we drifted here and there, spending time at the First Nations sacred fire and attending a general assembly, experiencing a deeply moving and inspiring form of direct democracy and grassroots parliament. In preparation

for possible arrest, a United Church pastor named Kathleen and I took on-the-spot non-violent training by three excellent Greenpeace activists. Afterward we gathered for the broadly inclusive religious service. We encouraged the roughly sixty people present in a wide circle to bear witness as any felt inspired and roughly half did just that. The latter part of the service involved breaking of bread and sharing of juice and we concluded with a blessing. The police did not come that night and I was able thankfully to crash at Pete and Rosarie's place.

As an activist since the death of Dr. Martin Luther King transformed my life while I served my first parish, I applaud Occupy Toronto and all grassroots communities out to transform this tired and unjust world. Given the honour of speaking at the "human mic" in St. James Park I told the crowd that, in spite of many failings, "I try to follow that kick-ass carpenter of Nazareth who pulled an 'Occupy the Temple' in first century Jerusalem." In the very first year of my activism I remember the Poor People's Campaign in Washington, D.C. shortly after Dr. King's death.

They called their tent encampment "Resurrection City." Yes, it was destroyed, and yes, the more long-lived Occupy cities are being systematically closed down by the forces of legal immorality and disorder.

Yet my friends and I do not lose heart. It was a great privilege to walk in and support another Resurrection City and to taste, as the "Wobblies" cried out, "a new society in the shell of the old!"

Oscar (Oz) Cole-Arnal is professor emeritus at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and has taught Christianity for over 31 years.

Have something to say? Send us your letters at letters@thecord.ca. Limit your letters to 250 words.

Letters to the Editor

Growth continues in languages and literatures

Re: "Cuts continue in languages department" Nov. 16

An article appeared in a recent issue of The Cord ("Cuts continue in Languages department") that raises important issues about recent developments in the department of languages and Literatures. However, it does not present the complete picture of what has been happening in the department.

Languages and Literatures has seen enormous growth over the past few years. Student enrolments have more than doubled since 2005. The vibrant Laurier French Club now has more than 200 members. We will be opening a residential learning community next year, which will enable students to combine their social and academic lives in a meaningful way. The list goes on.

In order to keep pace with growth, the department has been authorized to hire three tenure-track positions in French in addition to a two-year limited appointment in Spanish.

With the authorization to make these hires came a suggestion that the department look closely at certain courses to determine whether they could be either cycled or deleted. The suggestion was also made that the department think about the future of the Mediterranean studies program. After careful consideration, the department decided to discontinue Mediterranean studies and to build more flexibility into the curriculum.

In sum, the department has made some sacrifices. However, in the context of the larger picture, these sacrifices pale next to the enormous strides the Department has made.

— Milo Sweedler
Chair, Languages and Literatures

Quit harping on Paterno

Re: "Idolization of Paterno does not excuse his alleged behaviour" Nov. 23

Comment posted: Nov. 23

I'm sick of writers feeding the public's need to assign blame and to focus on Paterno only. How do you know he didn't feel outrage or disgust or whatever when he heard about the incident? And do we know exactly what he was told? Do we know exactly what action he took or did not?

Unless we know what actually transpired from the moment Paterno was informed, all we have is hearsay. But let's face it, journalists know what sells papers and that's bringing down someone who is a hero in the public's eye. You're all doing a great job of that by encouraging a lynch mob and witch hunt mentality.

— Lorjoni

Letters Policy

Letters must not exceed 250 words. Include your full name and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00pm 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.

Super PAC to the rescue?



SHAUN FITL
OPINION COLUMNIST

Political action committees (PACs) and so-called super PACs spent more than \$60 million on advertisement for America's 2012 presidential candidates last year, using what Stephen Colbert calls the "megaphone of cash."

This was made possible by the Supreme Court's ruling on Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission earlier that year, which states that the first amendment prohibited the federal government from censoring corporate or union-funded free speech. Colbert, playing his character as what he calls a

“
Money does not equal free speech and private groups should not be able to discretely fund their own interests to such an extreme that their voice drowns out everybody else's.

“well-intentioned, poorly informed, high-status idiot,” commented that he agrees “there should be unlimited corporate money and I want some of it ... I don't want to be the one chump who doesn't have any.”

The issue with the ruling on Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission is that it essentially equates free speech with money. PACs are private groups that try to advance issues or legislation and are thereby given the freedom to generate funding for their goals with minimal regulation.

These organizations exempt themselves from taxes by labeling themselves 501(c) organizations and are able to do so as long as the stated purpose of the organization is not campaigning.

In June 2011, the Federal Election Commission voted 5-1 in favour of giving Colbert a super PAC media exemption for funding. By the end of the summer his PAC, Americans for a Better Tomorrow, Tomorrow, had 165,000 members. The Colbert super PAC, SHH Institute, a 501(c) organization, was created on Sept. 29 with the stated purpose of educating the public.

There was no issue with the fact that Stephen Colbert was the president, secretary and treasurer of both organizations or that he could use his resources from his television show to anonymously fund his own interests.

Colbert calls this his “campaign finance glory hole” because “you stick your money in the hole, the other person accepts your donations and because it's happening anonymously, no one feels dirty.” Recently,

the government had tried to make corporate funding of political issues and legislation more transparent with the DISCLOSE act.

The bill failed to pass in the Senate and, thus, funding for much of the political broadcast remains unknown.

The use of funding generated by Americans for a Better Tomorrow, Tomorrow, has been seen in Iowa during the Aug. 2011 Ames Straw Poll when Colbert organized for two endorsement ads to be run on two of the three local news networks. The ads, titled “Episode IV: A New Hope” and “Behind the Green Corn,” asked residents to vote for “Rick Parry with an ‘a’ instead of Republican candidate Rick Perry. Months later Colbert released “Foul Balls” and “Ball Gags” parodying the 2011 NBA lockout.

Although superficially it may seem that Colbert's use of the political process for comedy is informal and irrelevant, it attempts to expose a more profound injustice rooted within the American electoral system. The message is clear in “Episode IV: A New Hope” when Ames residents hear that “a storm is gathering over Iowa, a money storm [...] out-of-state groups like Grow PAC and Jobs for Iowa PAC are flooding the Iowa airwaves [...] telling you to vote Rick Perry at the Ames Straw Poll [...] they think they can buy your vote with their unlimited super Pac money.”

Money does not equal free speech and private groups should not be able to discretely fund their own interests to such an extreme that their voice drowns out everybody else's.

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OPINION

Opinion Editor
Joseph McNinch-Pazzano
jmcninchpazzanol@thecord.ca

Wishing for a few more Silent Nights

Carly Basch offers you tips on how to maintain your sanity amongst all the Christmas tunes this season



CARLY BASCH
OPINION COLUMNIST

Holiday cheer has spread everywhere and there is no doubt that we are already starting to get a bit irritated with some of the Christmas music that has been playing. Those brave and admirable peers who must work part-time jobs can probably recite the store's Christmas playlist front to back on the fifth day. The songs gets stuck in your head

and either you are annoyed from constantly stopping yourself from belting out tunes, or your roommates have suddenly invested in earplugs. Despite this irritation that is bound to come up, let's not get worked up yet. We still have exams and another month to get through before being able to fully indulge in the holiday chaos and there are ways to avoid getting tired of Christmas music at such an early stage.

The easiest and most avoidable solution is this: stop going to the mall. I don't know about you guys, but I have not had more than three hours of sleep each night due to school stress. The big, bad slump of November has reached a climax as we have found that all of our essays are due simultaneously. How does anyone have time to go to the mall with this much pressure? Retail therapy is one of my favourite things to distract myself from stress, but if you have that 12-page essay hanging in the back of your head and "The Little Drummer Boy" pops on at H&M, how are you going to handle your sanity? The jingle and festive chimes of the uber-energetic vocals of the tune are just enough to make you run out of the store. Not only have you wasted time not finishing that tedious essay but you're stuck with a song on repeat in your head and wondering what the heck your gift to your mom will be.

Although malls are the biggest target for this kind of problem, I know that unless you stay in your cave of dirty clothes and dishes, you will run into Christmas music at some point. This is where it is time to bring up Plan B: acknowledge it by listening to it to by your favourite artists.

I know that once I step foot into my house, all I will be hearing is Il Divo and Chaka Khan's renditions of "Silent Night" until New Year's Eve. I don't know about you but it is the really "traditional" songs that ring in my head and get on my nerves.

I hope to come up with my own playlist to finally overthrow Chaka Khan's scat singing with modern tunes. "Baby It's Cold Outside" by She & Him, "Christmas Lights" by Coldplay, "Jingle Bell Rock" by Arcade Fire and "Santa Bring My Baby Back To Me" by Belle and Sebastian will be amongst the few that I hope to include. If I am lucky, maybe I can add in some humour songs such as "Dick in a Box" by the Lonley Island and "Happy Holidays You Bastard" by Blink-182 in the mix just to give it a little twist.

For those who do not celebrate Christmas and have to deal with the irritation of repetitive music, trust me, you are not alone. This year will be my ninth Christmas but it took a long time to grow out of my cynical

ALI UROSEVIC GRAPHICS ARTIST

I'm-the-only-Jewish-kid-in-my-class-and-I-have-to-sing-these-stupid-songs phase, but even then when I had to join in, I still found them to be very pretty.

So I know it has started early and you can deal with the irritation numerous ways.

Whether it is avoiding stores as much as you can (hey, you will save a ton of money), substituting lyrics

with crude potty humour or letting the vocals of your favourite artist do their own rendition, don't get too upset.

If anything, it's a reminder that soon enough we will be free from exam stress and can actually have time to get frustrated over the songs and not have to worry about filling out another scantron. Until next semester

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Are faith and reason incompatible?

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JAMES FORMOSA
OPINION COLUMNIST

In the past few months, I have noticed a regular circulation of Mormon missionaries throughout the student residences surrounding our campus. Often split into pairs, they will approach larger groups of students with the desire of sharing the message of the Latter-day Saints. As a former evangelist myself, I was intrigued to learn more about their beliefs. Most importantly, I wanted to discover the reasons why they held the claims of their theology to be true. With this goal in mind, it soon became apparent that the rhetoric they employed could never convince a reasonable person.

But what does it mean to be reasonable? Quite simply, it means to value reasoned argumentation, applied to demonstrable evidence in support of claims about the nature of reality. Preserving the integrity of an open and honest discussion of ideas requires that this criterion be established and maintained. With that in mind, taking a look at the three most common "arguments" I have heard provided by missionaries will explain why their tactics have been largely unsuccessful on campus.

First, in the way of evidence, the missionaries I have spoken with provide examples of personal revelations from God. Besides arguments from personal revelation, demonstrable evidence is never provided; only assertions are made about the truth of their message. Powerful as revelation may be for the person who experiences it, it cannot be counted as evidence for others since there is no way for us

to independently access the subjective experiences of individuals. This is a weak foundation for us to build our discourse upon and it only gets worse from here.

Second, in the way of fallacy, I have yet to converse with a missionary who has not interjected all of their "reasons" for believing with the presupposition that God exists and the Book of Mormon is his word. Outsiders, new to the faith, are asked to discover these same revelations by praying to God, with an open heart and a desire to know the truths of their holy text. In essence, this amounts to a pernicious kind of circular reasoning: in order to know that God is real and we know his word, you must first accept out of hand that God is real and this is his holy book.

Third, in the way of goals, as much as I've tried to reach common ground with several missionaries, there is a fundamental difference in what we are trying to achieve from our discussions. Initially, we always agree to desire the same thing: the truth, whether it be comforting or not. Very soon thereafter, appeals to faith are made and this completely negates any serious discourse about the truth. The faith they appeal to is synonymous with a rejection to being reasonable. Faith is not a reason to believe something is true since having faith can only change my question from "why do you believe?" to "why do you have faith?" The only difference here is that "evidence" has been removed from the list of possible answers. This appeal to faith in our discussions has meant simply to believe that something is true because they want it to be true. That is neither intellectually honest nor is it a good basis for making real world decisions.

These three common themes in my talks with Mormon missionaries have invariably led to a couple responses that should be addressed. Immediately, I am reminded that

they know the Book of Mormon is true. In that case it's similar to faith — they equate a strong "feeling" about something with knowledge. When I raise concerns with historical inaccuracies or even seemingly racist passages in the Book of Mormon, I am reminded that they do not have all the answers.

By far the most frustrating non-answer I have been given: that they are not trying to convince me of anything. At first I was left speechless by the absurdity of it: they are meant to spend at least two years of their lives spreading the message of their Church and even give out free literature to nonbelievers and we are supposed to believe this is being done for some other purpose than to convince us that their beliefs are true?

So where does this stalemate, this difference of beliefs and values leave us? I can't help but feel frustration in what I see as wasted years on the part of these youths, but I place the fault on a virulent belief system that was imposed upon them from childhood, not the missionaries themselves. My own background as a former evangelical and "winner of lost souls" and subsequent rejection of religion is a story for another day, but it adds a personally tragic dimension to my view of this situation.

I am an atheist, not because I hate God or want to sin, but because my desire to be a better missionary led me to similar challenges of my faith. That faith was replaced with doubt and that's the only reasonable position I can take, if I want to remain intellectually honest.

My atheism is nothing more than the noises I make as a reasonable person in the presence of unjustified religious beliefs. Unless the Mormons change their strategy to address these serious concerns I have raised, they will consistently fail to convince reasonable people of their claims.

How secure is your smartphone?

In the digital age when so many live their lives on their mobile devices, Opinion Columnist **Emma Van Weerden** asks whether we know who has access to our information and how secure our phones are



EMMA VAN WEERDEN
OPINION COLUMNIST

There is a court case currently proceeding in the United States which has academics and civil rights activists all over the world buzzing with activity. This Supreme Court case pits the American government against Antonie Jones, an alleged drug dealer. Jones's legal team argues that the events preceding his arrest back in 2008 were in direct opposition to his fourth amendment rights against unreasonable search and the inferred right to privacy. For 28 days, local police officers used data sent from GPS tracking devices attached to his car to monitor his every move, gathering evidence with which to convict him.

What is it about this court case that has so many international scholars and activists worked up? Is it really a topic that we, as students at Wilfrid Laurier University, should even bother being informed on? If the United States government wins their case, the Supreme Court will have ruled out the necessity of a warrant before tracking suspects using GPS technology. The implications of this are huge, especially when so many of us carry these GPS tracking devices right in our pockets, in the form of cell phones. Legal experts predict that this will "open the floodgates" to whole new waves of electronic

tracking, globally altering governments' perceptions of what constitutes as personal privacy.

The word "privacy" has become the catchphrase of the entire case. While Jones is arguing violation of privacy, the government has an interesting rebuttal. They question his claim to violation and insist that Jones has set "unrealistic expectations of privacy." It is this specific question of privacy which has led to considerable debate in the world of academia. Many scholars are beginning to ask if privacy even exists anymore. Suppose we take the dictionary definition of privacy as "being free of intrusion of disturbance into one's private life or affairs." Can we still find practical applications of that in our daily lives? Or, must we concede to agree like so many scholars have, that privacy is outdated and passé?

This question takes on particular relevance in a generation so heavily saturated with cell phones. These technologies are opening up new avenues for rapid information exchange. Even though the ultimate levels of information sharing occur between users of smartphones, even those choosing to remain with a more traditional cell phone are not without surveillance. All of these phones rely on radio waves to remain in service.

To date, these waves have been used predominantly by phone companies, but many other groups are quickly finding innovative uses for them. In a very recent example, officials in several major shopping malls used cell phone signals to carry out crowd control in the Black Friday madness. Even though they

“
We shouldn't have to live our lives under the constant pressure of knowing we could be being watched.

could not gain access to personal information surrounding the waves, they used the waves not only to target key areas of congestion, but also to monitor for potential shoplifters. If a signal was shown to be coming from a particular location for prolonged lengths of time, further investigative methods were carried out.

Looking at examples like these opens our eyes to the possibilities of GPS technology. Not only does the ability to monitor every movement of a person's life reveal incredible amounts of information, being able to access all their texts, posts and pictures very quickly fills in any gaps.

Since we know that our cell phone is in constant communication with the phone company, the realization of just how little privacy we actually have is quite astonishing.

Does the realization of this fact bother you? Personally, it makes me feel a bit uncomfortable but if you said no, you are by no means alone.



TAYLOR GAYOWSKY GRAPHICS EDITOR

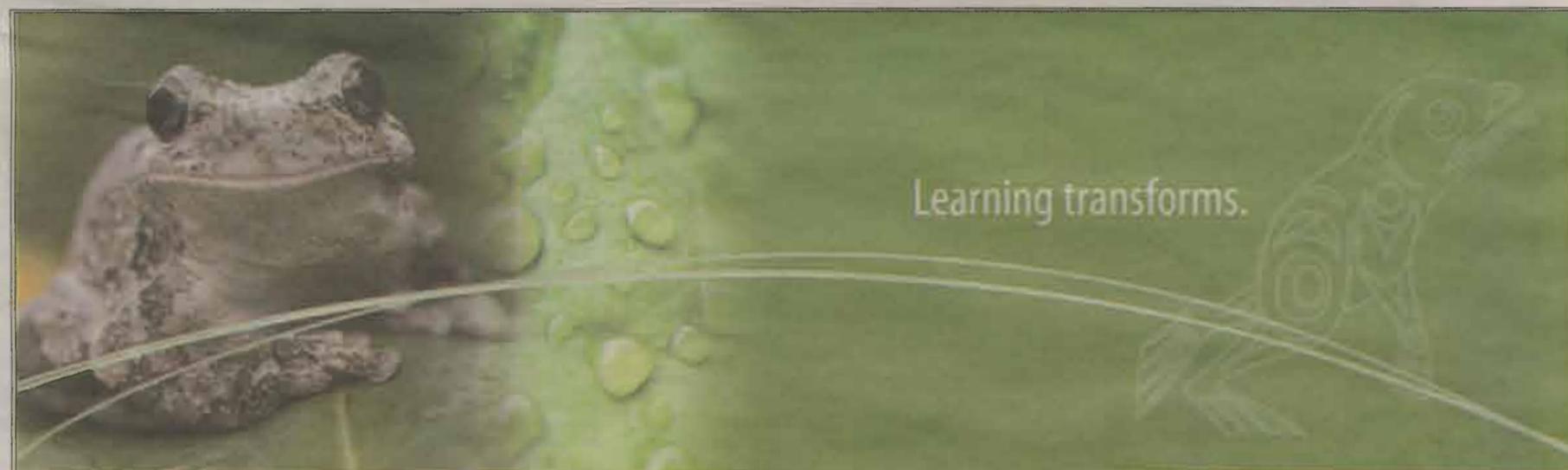
tonished scholars is the relative ease with which our generation is willing to toss all vestiges of our privacy to the wind. They call us "the Facebook generation" and point to the excitement and pleasure we get out of sharing all the gory details of our lives with the world.

Yet, perhaps a more pertinent question is: should it bother us? I would argue that yes, it should. Aside from the obvious argument that this information could fall into the wrong hands, I feel that there is a deeper psychological argument. Study after study has shown that there are negative implications

good "public face." We shouldn't have to live our lives under the constant pressure of knowing that we could be being watched and our activities misconstrued, be it by our friends, family members or the civil authorities.

In conclusion, let's not be "dumb" with our "smart" phones.

The incredible ease of sharing personal information via smartphones should never blind us to the fact that we are sending this information into a world of cyberspace where anyone can see the info, providing they have sufficient power or money.



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SPORTS

Sports Editor
Kevin Campbell
kcampbell@thecord.ca

Pro sports teams and the death of design

After a number of franchises revealed new looks for their teams recently, Visual Director Wade Thompson questions the presence of originality and competence of jersey and logo design in sports today



WADE THOMPSON
VISUAL DIRECTOR

Last Friday, the Toronto Blue Jays unveiled their new look to the world, a look that many fans were already familiar with. They have decided to put the "blue" back into the organization.

And while the general reaction to the announcement seems to be a positive one, the new old-look Jays seem to be a rarity when it comes to good sports design nowadays.

Trying to start anew with a name change and a brand new look, the MLB's Miami (formerly Florida) Marlins have, in my mind, redefined what it means to have a terrible look.

With their use of pastel blue, yellow and orange in their logo, as well as the modernized fish attached to the beginning of "Miami," their new appearance seems more like that of an 80s night club logo than that of a feared baseball team.

Now, of course, with the simplified, classic looks of teams like the Yankees and the Red Sox, I'm well aware that it is not common-place for baseball teams to try and evoke fear in their rivals through their jerseys.

However, when your logo reminds me more of retirees sipping mei-teis than it does a threatening baseball team on a diamond, I think your plan has gone awry.

It's somewhat hard to slight baseball teams for their unoriginal designs though when the majority of their existence dates back over a century. They revert to "classic"

looks above all else. And while I may not be the most well-rounded baseball fanatic, you can be damn sure that my hockey and design background make me qualified to comment on NHL teams, which have no such excuse.

Franchises have consistently altered and improved their look every few years since the NHL started at the turn of the 1900's.

In my mind it is fair to call the league the predominant leader in team style.

Well, it would have been fair until 2007, when Reebok took over the uniform design for the organization and all hell broke loose.

Taking a page from the NBA assumingly, more teams have been foregoing putting their actual logos on the fronts of their jerseys and have instead replaced them with simple text and a number.

Look no further than the latest offender (and inspiration for this article), the New York Islanders' third jerseys.

Rather than come up with some unique alternate logo, or playing around with their current one by changing up the colours, the team has decided to go minimalistic with a navy blue base and "Islanders" plastered on the front above the number of the player wearing it.

Why? No, I mean really, why? Are players on the rival teams complaining about not being able to identify who they are currently up against?

Are they sitting on the bench saying "Thank God that these guys have their numbers on the front AND back of the jersey. When they just had the logo, I was almost always confused."

Come on people. A hockey jersey is a canvas for open creativity.

As one of the few advocates of the mid-90s "Fisherman" logo, the

“
Come on people. A hockey jersey is a canvas for open creativity.”

Islanders would be better off going back to that than reverting to text. At least the "Fisherman" was something.

Alas, the Islanders aren't the only offenders.

The Colorado Avalanche, Dallas Stars and Vancouver Canucks are keeping the "trend" alive.

Evidently, someone thinks that fans would rather have words representing their team than a badass, crisply designed logo.

I think what it comes down to is that in professional sports, original design seems to be dying.

The NFL has always been very minimalistic in its jersey conception but helmet design is miles behind that of the college leagues.

Even in baseball, the Jays have reverted to a familiar look as opposed to trying to come up with something new to define them as a team.

That's why it pains me when I see NHL teams giving in to this idea. The league needs to realize that they have the ability to create something of value with their look, and should stop going the lazy route in order to just get the name across.

We need more mustard yellow Nashville Predators jerseys in the world and less of this basketball-esque font bullshit.



WADE THOMPSON VISUAL DIRECTOR



Check out thecord.ca for Chris Mander's coverage of men's basketball improving to 6-0, and earning eighth-place in the latest CIS rankings

ROSALIE EID (PHOTOGRAPHY) MANAGER

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Lady Hawks split weekend

SHELBY BLACKLEY
STAFF WRITER

Defence was a valuable asset on Friday night.

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks (4-2) women's basketball team overcame a slow start to defeat the visiting Laurentian Voyageurs (2-4) by a score of 57-33 on Friday night.

Laurier's defence allowed the second-lowest recorded points scored by an opponent in team history. The record was established last year when the Golden Hawks held the Waterloo Warriors to just 19 points.

"I thought we had a pretty good game, and [we were] pretty solid defensively," said Paul Falco, head coach of the Golden Hawks. "I thought we were a little slow out of the gate."

From the opening tip-off, the game was slow-paced, with a mere 19 points combined scored in the first quarter. Leading 11-8 going into the second, the Hawks re-established their composure, and held the Lady Vees to only six points, taking a 25-14 advantage going into the third.

In the second half, the contest was back and forth, staging good ball control by both teams. Laurier would lead by as much as 25 points in the third quarter, until the Voyageurs found an extra push and closed the gap to 12.

However, the lady Hawks found their fire as they finished the contest strong and sealed their third-straight win.

"We didn't move the ball as well as we had practiced all week, but eventually we got some offensive boards by Kim [Yeldon] and Doreen [Bonsu] and that got us started and then we seemed to relax a little bit and play a little better offensively."

Bonsu, Felicia Mazerolle and Christa Mancino all ended the

contest with eleven points each, a team high for the night.

Yeldon also found the spotlight, scoring eight points and gaining 11 rebounds. Mazerolle pulled six assists and four rebounds in the match.

"Felicia [Mazerolle] creates a lot of havoc and gives some of the opposing point guards trouble with the ball and then she's a key to our transition game," reflected Falco.

"She head-mans the ball and she's knocking down some shots now which makes her tough to stop."

Laurentian's top scorer was forward Mary Scott with nine points.

Aside from the strong effort of the veterans, the rookies also had a chance to showcase their talent.

Shelby Kurt, Samantha Jacobs, Courtney Bruce and Natasha Valconi all saw playing time in the duration of the game.

Kurt and Jacobs also recorded five and two points respectively.

"I think Shelby [Kurt] had a good second half, and Sam Jacobs gave us a good couple shifts," Falco said. "Her defence was solid and she got some offensive blasts for us."

"The rest of the girls got some minutes, which is important in their growth. They've been working hard at practice and we try to get them in when we can."

The following night, Laurier couldn't find their offence and fell in a close match to the York Lions, 52-51.

"York [was] going to be a tough game," Falco commented.

"They've got a bunch of really good three-point shooters and some really good rookies that are three-point shooters."

Laurier travels to Ottawa this weekend hoping to improve their record as they challenge the Ottawa Gee-Gees and the Carleton Ravens on the road.



RYAN HUGH/CORD PHOTOGRAPHY

Kimberley Yeldon attempts a jump-shot on the weekend.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
Nov. 28 - Dec. 4, 2011
REGULAR SCORES

11/24/11
W Hockey 2 - Rochester 7

11/25/11
M Hockey 0 - Lakehead 6
W Basketball 57 - Laurentian 33
M Basketball 98 - Laurentian 7

11/26/11
M Hockey 3 - Lakehead 4
W Basketball 51 - York 52
M Basketball 102 - York 62

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

12/1/11
M Hockey vs Guelph
Waterloo Rec Complex, 7:30pm

12/2/11
W Hockey vs Ryerson
Waterloo Rec Complex, 7:30pm

12/3/11
M Hockey vs York
Waterloo Rec Complex, 7:30pm

12/4/11
W Hockey vs Toronto
Waterloo Rec Complex, 7:30pm

LAURIER BOOKSTORE MEMBERS OF THE WEEK

Kate Larrison
Men's Basketball

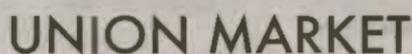
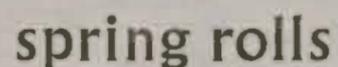
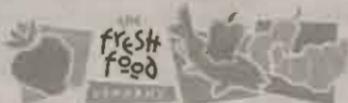
Kimberley Yeldon
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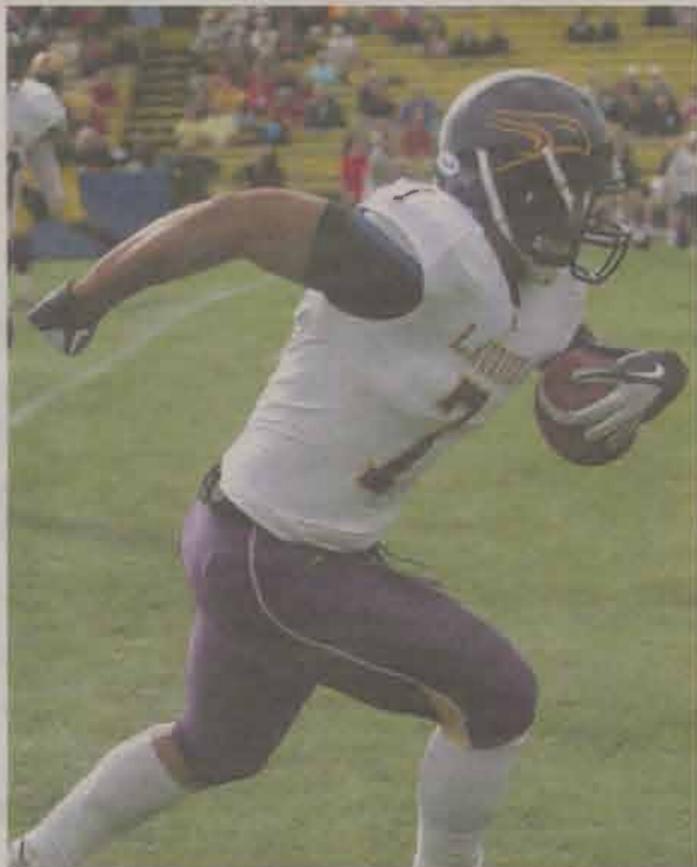
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Making the grade: An evaluation of Laurier's fall 2011 varsity teams

Sports Editor **Kevin Campbell** assigns each fall varsity squad a final grade, taking into account team expectations, regular season records, individual performances and playoff realities.



ROSALE EID PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Mark Surya is one Golden Hawk who had an excellent 2011 season.

Men's Football

Strongly recognized as a top-tier team at the outset of the 2011 season, the Wilfrid Laurier men's football team looked like they would finally vault themselves into the Ontario University Athletics' (OUA) finals for the first time since 2006, with only the University of Western Ontario (UWO) and McMaster University considered strong competition for the Yates Cup.

But a combination of a surprisingly competitive and parity-filled league, some key defensive issues at the beginning of the year, and some offensive mistakes made near the conclusion, the mixture created the perfect storm for the Golden Hawks.

Boasting one of the strongest offensive tandems in school history, with the likes of fifth-year Dillon Heap leading the special teams, with Felix Odum at his side, and receivers like nationally second-ranked CFL prospect Shamawd Chambers, veteran Mark Surya, third-year Russ Jirgens, fullback Isaac Dell, runningback Anton Bennett, and a mid-season return of Alex Anthony, the school looked poised to score points, and score a lot of them.

Even kicker Ronnie Pfeffer found

his groove midway through the year, taking over for an injured Nathan Hawkes.

Quarterback Shane Kelly had one year of the Canadian game under the American's belt and was expected to make noise.

And while he did rack up the most touchdowns in the Canadian Inter-university Sport (CIS) 2011 season (with 20) and the most yards gained in the OUA with 2,236, Kelly frequently threw into interceptions at critical points late in the game.

Despite the starting QB not being a scrambler, Kelly was hesitant to run with the ball all year, which led to more suffocating coverage on his receivers.

The defence was led by fourth-years Mitchell Bosch and Dan Bishop with Scott McCahill and Chris Ackie manning the lines, and Sam Aird having his greatest season, with 44 tackles and 2.5 sacks. The defence started out struggling, giving up 133 points within a string of three games against Windsor, Queen's and UWO. Those three losses put the Hawks in a 1-3 hole, which they were able to climb out of to finish the year 4-4.

But in the post-season, the purple and gold were unable to capitalize on a Queen's team without their starting quarterback, and while they did stop the nation's leading runningback Ryan Granberg on multiple occasions in the quarterfinals, the Gaels squeaked out a 14-10 defensive showdown win.

Whether it was the massive expectations on the team, or the fact that neither the offence nor defence seemed completely comfortable with themselves for extended periods of time, the Hawks missed their year to make noise. They'll look to rebuild next season with multiple graduates moving on.

Top Rookie: REC Kelvin Muamba

Most Underrated: REC Mark Surya

Most-Improved: LB Sam Aird

Team MVP: REC Dillon Heap (also the winner of the CIS Russ Jackson Award for excellence in football, academics and citizenship)

Team Grade: C+

Men's Soccer

Head coach Mario Halapir knew this year might be a tough one, but he didn't expect this.

The men's soccer squad was devastated by graduation this year, with past stars like Alex Doma, Ben Clifford, Zach Faubert-Tetrault, Eamonn Hardy, Josh Moore and Matt Smith departing, the team needed to lean on forward Spencer Cawker, midfielder Hugo Hernandez and defenceman Chris Walker to get them through a year which saw the team collect 14 first-years on its roster.

Halapir frequently tried to get more out of his veterans, but often to no avail. With such a young team, the squad finished with a 4-8-4 record and a seventh-place finish in the OUA West; not good enough to make the post-season.

Though they did have flashes of decent play, like their 1-1 draw against York, which was York's first and only time without a loss until

they tied their eighth game, the youngsters just couldn't keep up with a competitive OUA.

Robert Kardaras had a pleasant season, scoring three goals, and rookies Edis Sokmez, Giorgio Delgado and Justin Manning all scored once in the year.

But mostly the team's returning players regressed in terms of goals scored. The team struggled to put the ball in the cage as Sandro Stojakovic and Hernandez couldn't find the net at all this year after scoring multiple times in 2010. Donald Chmura led this year's team with five goals.

Top Rookie: F Robert Kardaras

Most Underrated: G Martyn Hooker

Team MVP: D Trevor Schein

Team Grade: C-



KATE TURNER LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER
The men's soccer team won four out of 16 games this season. They missed the post-season.



ROSALE EID PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Emily Brown was one of the team's top players in her rookie year.

Women's Soccer

Probably the most highly-regarded to even step foot on Laurier's Alumni Field was the 2011 edition of the Wilfrid Laurier University women's soccer team.

With offensive weapons like Team Canada rookie Alyssa Lagonia, Heather Malizia, Emily Brown and newly-acquired Krista Cellucci, the team had no problem scoring goals, clearly evident by the team-record 36 they snuck by opposing goalies. Cellucci led the way with 10, the rookie Brown had nine and Lagonia finished the regular season with five.

The midfield boasted one of the country's top players in Tania Pedron, who controlled the game from

her place in the midsection of the turf all year.

The defence was led by Sadie Anderson, Jess Carter and Kelsey Tikka, and the team had a number of players who led a supporting cast that could probably be most other team's starting lineups in Nicole Currie, Emilie Corso, Jacqueline Lence, Becca Isaacs, Julia Marchese, Kelsey Abbott and Julie Maheu.

The team obliterated their competition during the season, owning a 12-2 record but fell in the OUA's gold-medal match, 1-0 in penalty kicks to Queen's.

In the CIS finals, the Hawks mustered a complete effort against both the Montreal Carabins and

the Trinity Western Spartans, but couldn't score more than once in those two games, and fell to seventh-place in the tournament — a finish no one had in the cards for one of the best teams ever assembled at Laurier in recent history.

Top Rookie: F Emily Brown

Most Underrated: D Jess Carter

Team MVP: MF Alyssa Lagonia

Team Grade: A-