



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER (MEN'S HOCKEY, WOMEN'S BASKETBALL) ROSALIE EID PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER (MEN'S BASKETBALL) DEREK DRUMMOND MCGILL ATHLETICS (WOMEN'S HOCKEY)

Hawks open 2012 in style

KEVIN CAMPBELL
SPORTS EDITOR

Maybe all they needed was a little "R and R."

Wilfrid Laurier University's varsity men's and women's hockey and basketball teams have been on fire this past weekend, with the most

surprising upset coming in the way of a 77-69 women's hoops victory over Canada's No. 6-ranked Brock Badgers this past Saturday.

The team rolled over the Waterloo Warriors last Wednesday, 71-55, and the two wins places them in third in the Ontario University Athletics' (OUA) West division at 7-3.

Their male counterparts have been virtually unstoppable with the men's basketball squad's only loss coming to the nation's top team, Carleton, on Dec. 3. The boys' 9-1 record has them ranked eighth in Canada. After an off-season full of hype and expectation, the court stars haven't disappointed.

Matt Buckley, Kale Harrison, Maxwell Allin, Patrick Donnelly and Kyle Enright have led an explosive offence, leading the OUA with an incredible 95.33 points per game, but the team won't be patting themselves on the back too much.

The 9-1 Lakehead Thunderwolves roll into town this weekend, and

first place in the West will be up for grabs.

But the men on the court haven't bowed under pressure; something that will only get harder to do as the season progresses and the play-offs get closer. But so far, full marks

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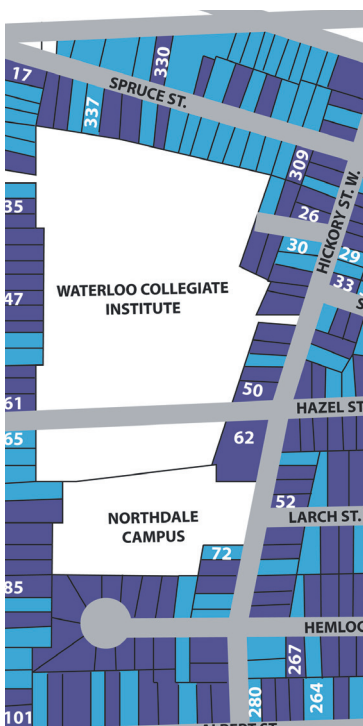
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The Republican Family

Hayden Starczala compares the Republican candidates to a weird, eccentric family

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Is your house illegal?

A look at which houses in the Northdale neighbourhood are properly licensed for renting

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Armed robberies hit student neighbourhood

Victims stripped of valuables at gunpoint

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
NEWS DIRECTOR

Last week saw three reported cases of a robbery involving a handgun in one of the most heavily student-populated areas of Waterloo. Two of the robberies happened to the same victim.

Kevin, a 22-year-old former Wilfrid Laurier University student, who asked The Cord to withhold his last name, was at the corner of Hickory and Albert Streets around 1:45 last Thursday morning when a man got out of a silver car and began walking behind him.

"He got my attention, he said 'hey you,' and as soon as I turn around I've got a pistol pointed at me," said Kevin. "It was pretty surreal, I've never really heard of anything like that happening. He got my wallet and my cell phone but I really didn't have anything else too valuable."

Kevin reported the incident to police shortly thereafter. However, two days later he found himself in a painfully similar situation.

Early Saturday morning Kevin was once again walking west on

Hickory Street when a small, silver "older-looking" SUV dropped three men off in front of Laurier's Northdale Campus building on Hickory, near Larch Street. The three men were walking slowly in front of Kevin and when he went to pass them near Albert Street, for the second time in three days he was being robbed at gunpoint.

"It didn't feel real at first. He caught my attention and I turned around and he's pointing a gun at me and I had to kind of chuckle," said Kevin. "Mostly out of shock, because it's just so ridiculous that that could happen twice in such a short amount of time."

Still without a wallet and cell phone from the first time he was robbed, Kevin was only able to hand the men the roughly \$30 cash he had on him. The car that dropped the group off then picked them up on Albert and drove off.

A fourth-year Laurier student who asked to remain anonymous has a strikingly similar story. Early Thursday morning, he was walking

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Culture in 2012

Arts editor Liz Smith takes a look at the upcoming year in music and film

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THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

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Colophon

The Cord is the official student newspaper of the Wilfrid Laurier University community. Started in 1926 as the College Cord, The Cord is an editorially independent newspaper published by Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications, Waterloo, a corporation without share capital. WLUSP is governed by its board of directors.



Opinions expressed within The Cord are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board. The Cord, WLUSP, WLU or CanWeb Printing Inc. All content appearing in The Cord bears the copyright expressly of their creator(s) and may not be used without written consent.

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Preamble to The Cord constitution

The Cord will keep faith with its readers by presenting news and expressions of opinions comprehensively, accurately and fairly. The Cord believes in a balanced and impartial presentation of all relevant facts in a news report, and of all substantial opinions in a matter of controversy.

The staff of The Cord shall uphold all commonly held ethical conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or commission has occurred, that error shall be acknowledged promptly. When statements are made that are critical of an individual, or an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity to reply 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:
"Discovering my penis changed my life."
-Nick Lachance, photography manager, about becoming a trouble maker.

This Week in quotes

"Boys, I might need to make an amendment here."
-Jon Pryce upon moving the board table while trying to plug in his laptop at the WLUSU board meeting

"The financial press says one thing, but developers are coming out in larger and larger numbers to all of our events. There's a disconnect somewhere there."
-RIM VP of developer relations and ecosystem development Alec Saunders on the portrayal of RIM in the media and the reality of the company's finances



"No, I'm not a hundred years old."

-Waterloo city councillor Mark Whaley introducing himself at the city council meeting at Laurier Monday night

Photo of the week



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
The Hawk teases Brock's women's basketball team at Saturday's game.

CORRECTION

In the Jan. 5, 2012 article "Killabits shut down Titanium," it stated that the Killabits show was shut down early due to the venue being over capacity. It has been clarified that the Waterloo Regional Police Service received a noise complaint regarding the event and forwarded the issue to Waterloo Bylaw Enforcement. Bylaw officers subsequently stopped the show during the last set. The Cord apologizes for the error.

In the Jan. 5, 2012 article "Tuition grant within reach," Eric Davis was stated to be the Liberal MP of Kitchener-Waterloo when in fact he was the Liberal MPP candidate in the 2011 federal election.

The article also referred to Dalton McGuinty running in the provincial election as an MPP when it should have made clear that he was running as the incumbent premier. The Cord apologizes for these errors and any upset they may have caused.

From the archives

5 years

The new face of WLU

As most students trudged home for the holidays and a stoic few finished their last exams, the Laurier community unveiled its future leader. At an intimate press conference in Alumni Hall on Tuesday, Dec. 19, Max Blouw, vice president of research at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) in Prince George, was announced as Bob Rosehart's successor as WLU's president and vice-chancellor.

Blouw will take the reins as Laurier's figurehead on Sept. 1, ending a decade of unprecedented growth under Rosehart and everyone involved in the search is convinced he's the perfect man for the job.

"We were looking for someone who was going to be able to build on the foundation that Dr. Rosehart has so ably built," explained Beverly Harris, chair of the Laurier Board of Governors, who also chaired the search committee.

"Somebody who was going to help the university and had a crisp view of what we want to be in the future and work with Laurier to discover that and then to advocate for us - and we think we found that in Dr. Blouw."

He taught at St. Francis Xavier in Antigonish, Nova Scotia before crossing the country to make a home in BC.

After two years of teaching biology at UNBC, he switched into an administrative role and has been largely credited with the growth of UNBC's research budget from \$3 million to \$18 million in his time there.

Printed Jan. 10, 2007

Vocal Cord

Would you buy a BlackBerry?



"I already own a BlackBerry but I wouldn't get another one again ... I want to support the iPhone, I just find the technology's better."
-Stephen Maclean
Second-year communications



"No because I already have an iPhone and I love it."
-Mackenzie Warner
Third-year communications



"I have a BlackBerry and I would buy one again and I love it; it works really well."
-Nicole Boncheff
Second-year psychology



"I'd say no because I'm using an Android for now and it's better. Having a BlackBerry wouldn't be wise."
-Justin Kim
Second-year economics



"I already own one. It's just convenient to use and I believe that BBM is more international so I have family that's international and it's easy to communicate with them."
-Danielle Wong
Second-year BBA

WEEKLY SPECIALS

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Compiled by Francesca Handy
Photos by Kate Turner

NEWS

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Inside

Campus 4
Local 7
National 10



KATE TURNER LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

Students, faculty and local residents alike gathered in Laurier's Senate and Board Chamber for Monday's city council meeting.

City politics come to campus

Laurier hosts first Waterloo city council meeting outside council chambers

JUSTIN SMIRLIES
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

In an attempt to engage more of the university community with the city of Waterloo, the Waterloo City Council came out of their comfort zone Monday evening to give Wilfrid Laurier University students and faculty a small taste of municipal politics.

The Waterloo City Council conducted a meeting just like if they were at city hall, except for the fact a large presence of students, faculty and community members were there to experience the process. This was a first for the council.

"I shot off an e-mail to Mayor Halloran and she was really receptive," explained Erin Epp, a fifth-year student at WLU and president of Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications, who set up the meeting.

"I think that reflects really positively on the city of Waterloo and the council that they are willing to connect with the university."

"We're very pleased, it's unusual of any council to be invited outside of city hall to hold a meeting this

is for us something that we really like to do," Waterloo mayor Brenda Halloran told *The Cord* after the meeting.

While the meeting was treated like a regular council meeting, Halloran took time to carefully explain some of the procedures. After a lengthy introduction, the meeting then proceeded into community presentations, which included one by Laurier president Max Blouw.

"This partnership between the city and university has been very positive for a long period of time," Blouw later told *The Cord*. "I hope we can really strive for an exciting vision of a new relationship between a growing university and a growing community."

Blouw's presentation hinted at the future goals of the institution and how it can create a vibrant community with Waterloo. Other presentations included a recap of the centennial campaign by Mary D'Alton, chair of the centennial steering committee, and a presentation by ACCESSU's Jon Pryce.

Once the presentations were finished, the council then went onto to discussing agenda materials, one of

which was regarding slight tweaks to the bylaw enforcement division. The reshuffling of staff and creating a more effective way to outreach to the community were some of those changes.

That, along with the financial plan for the city's water distribution system, was approved unanimously by the councillors.

"With the bylaw report that came out tonight, we have been doing a lot of work around bylaws to make sure we're protecting student citizens from difficult situations as well as working with the police so that your safety is the utmost importance," said Halloran.

Local politics haven't always been a huge interest among many university students, especially considering many of them will only live in the Waterloo community for four years. But Halloran, as well as many of the councillors, felt that students should be actively engaged in Waterloo.

"No matter where you live you should get engaged in that committee because it has a direct impact on you," Halloran continued. "And you have a direct impact on the community."

Jeff Henry, councillor for ward six, which is home to a large portion of the student population and who is directly involved in the re-visioning of the Northdale neighbourhood, felt similarly to the mayor.

"We've also got that broader opportunity for people to weigh in and it's important that people come out, whether they're students or not. And we see a lot more that are not." Henry said of the ongoing issues in Northdale, which is bordered by King Street, Columbia Street, Phillip Street and University Avenue.

To Epp and Halloran, the turnout for the campus event, which saw few empty seats in the Senate and Board Chamber was overwhelming. "I thought it was a great turnout. I know a few professors told their classes to come. It was a really good diversity of faculty, staff and students, there wasn't just one group," Epp said.

Though there's always room for more engagement, Halloran was fairly optimistic about the student involvement. "I'm finding that the longer I've been mayor, the more engaged the students are getting in the city," she concluded.

More News: inside

Research funding pulled

Province cuts \$42 million in university research grants

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Welcome back Wilf's

Campus bar set to re-open after October's flood

Campus, page 4

New Year's with mayor



City councillors, staff join public to ring in 2012

Local, page 7

WLUSU to dissolve Brantford Campus Council

BCC eliminated, referendum could result in campus-specific positions being added to board of directors

"The board doesn't really know what [the BCC's] mandate is, so it's kind of problematic."

—Chris Walker, chair of the WLUSU board of directors

JUSTIN SMIRLIES
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

In a review of their multi-campus governance policy, the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) board of directors made a strategic decision on Friday to dissolve the Brantford Campus Council (BCC).

The council, which mainly served an internal operations function, will cease to exist on May 1.

According to the chair of the WLUSU board of directors and chief governance officer Chris Walker, the council offered advocacy to the Brantford campus but didn't necessarily fit from a governance standpoint.

"Governance is focusing on strategic visioning and monitoring the president and that kind of

stuff and the BCC hasn't really done that in the past," explained Walker. "The governance of the organization needs to be over-arching and needs to be one body. By kind of delegating things to another campus-specific body, then it's not really equitable."

"Their [the BCC's] authorities and mandate is really unclear. And the board doesn't really know what their mandate and authority is, so it's kind of problematic," he added.

As a result of this constitutional amendment, WLUSU also decided that two spots on the board of directors will be reserved for each campus, including the potential Milton campus.

Since this is a constitutional amendment, a referendum question will be asked to the student public come election time.

While Walker and many other directors were pleased with the outcome, the existing BCC did have some concerns.

"The BCC has always been that connection between Brantford and the board. I just want to see a plan by board to see how they are shifting towards establishing that plan," said Trevor Faessler, chair of the BCC and former WLUSU director. "[To] continuing and developing that link [between the campuses] even more once removing the BCC."

"[Brantford students] largely look at board as a 'Waterloo' board which is not the case," said Walker, noting that the BCC was primarily worried about the transition.

Another point of concern for the BCC, as well as a few directors, was what WLUSU would do in the event no candidates from Brantford ran in

an election.

In that case, WLUSU would host a general meeting on Brantford to hire or appoint another BCC, essentially to bring it back into existence.

"It's completely up to our discretion at this point," said Walker.

Though both campuses are relatively pleased with the outcome, both do agree that more could be done on the Brantford campus expose more WLUSU policy and functions.

"It's just sort of an awkward stage right now, because they don't have the same marketing capacity on that campus at their direct disposal," said Walker. "The problem is that not being in close proximity to them, it's a little harder on the working relationship. It's the difference between face-to-face and phone calls all the time, right?"

CAMPUS

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NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO

Wilf's shortly after suffering substantial water damage. The campus bar will re-open in two weeks.

Wilf's to re-open Jan. 24

SPENCER DUNN
STAFF WRITER

For almost four months, Wilfrid Laurier University students have been anxiously anticipating some of Wilf's infamous spinach dip. And on Jan. 24 they can finally get what they've been waiting for.

Wilf's closed last semester due to flooding and the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union has been working to ensure that students have a place on campus to eat and drink this semester.

The plastic sheet on the doorway to the beloved restaurant has created an air of mystery around the re-opening and what changes people will see. Patrick McMahon, the manager of Wilf's said, "In terms of the 'feeling' of Wilf's, we hope it comes back to the same."

A few minor changes have been made to the layout of the restaurant. The back platform, for example, is now a separate room, similar to 'The Den' area which currently exists.

Along with renovations, Wilf's has also taken initiatives to improve its bar service.

"We've been working on, since the summer time, in steps in service," said McMahon, "We plan on training and implementing that." This will go towards the efficiency of the employees of Wilf's.

In terms of cost, Wilf's managerial staff was told to keep all renovations and fixtures under insurance money.

"We've been told it's got to be insurance, not the student union. The current management has been pretty clear that this is an insurance job, not a student union job," stated McMahon. "Because we're dealing with an insurance budget, this isn't just a free pass to do whatever we want."

The insurance also covered compensating the employees of Wilf's. Bekah Grant, a first-year front-of-house employee at Wilf's stated that, "I'm getting paid about 100 bucks a week." McMahon expanded by saying, "What ever you made on

your last pay check, is what the insurance company paid."

"It is my only source of income," said Grant. This was a concern for many employees. However, the staff members were given ample opportunity to also work at the Turret. "It's the same staff that works at the Turret and at Wilf's," stated Grant.

Both Grant and McMahon have been anxiously waiting for the re-opening, and they hope that students are feeling the same. "I miss my Wilf's family," said Grant.

In light of the re-opening, Wilf's will be having two weeks of specials to draw people back in. There will be live bands, a new laminated menu and tons of events to bring customers back. "We want to really blow the top off this place, to show appreciation back to the customers," said McMahon excitedly.

McMahon is quite excited about the new image and make of Wilf's and is thoroughly looking forward to its revival.

"We've missed you," he said.

WLU back to the bargaining tables

Pension plan, post-retirement benefits points of concern for staff and faculty

JUSTIN SMIRLIES
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

It appears that Wilfrid Laurier University will have their hands full with two separate sets of collective bargaining for the next couple of months.

After WLU and the university's Contract Academic Staff (CAS) ratified their agreement in Sept., the university will now have to continue bargaining with their support staff as well as the full-time faculty, who are represented by the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA).

"The process has been a lot slower than we would've liked. I think that's one of the major problems we've experienced," said Judy Bates, president of WLUFA and a geography professor at WLU. "We had really hoped that we would have a settlement some time ago."

Since mid-2011, WLUFA and the university have met 19 times, and will continue to meet until an agreement is reached. WLUFA applied for conciliation in November but the support staff has yet to take that initiative.

"The university is trying to persuade us that there's a major financial crisis and WLUFA is arguing against that. We feel that the university is exaggerating the problems that they're experiencing," explained Bates.

"The context in which we're negotiating is different for both sides."

Both the support staff and the full-time faculty have highlighted similar concerns, primarily the ailing pension plan and post-retirement benefits.

"They've managed to reach agreements at other Ontario universities, Guelph, Queen's, for example, are most recent ones around that, and we're trying to do the same," said Jim Butler, VP: finance at WLU.

To expand on why the pension plan is a point of contention, Butler explained that the university is trying to find a sustainable and affordable way to pay former faculty pension.

"Just to put it into perspective, historically for every dollar in tuition we get, we maybe spend seven-tenths, now it's up around 16 cents a dollar and next year it's scheduled to go to 23 cents then 25 cents the year after," he continued. Butler labeled these points of concern as "funding issues."

Bates, however, doesn't quite feel the same.

"The process has been slower than we would've liked."

—Judy Bates, president of WLUFA

"Our compensation ranks 14th out of 16 in the Ontario university system and our average salary is almost \$10,000 lower than the average faculty salary of the Ontario university system and that's adjusted for age and rank," she noted, asserting that WLUFA believes that the university is attempting to reduce their pension.

Laurier has also taken steps to introduce a new teaching stream that is primarily focused on teaching, rather than extensive research and community service.

According to Bates, this will curtail the research abilities for many faculty members and may cause larger workloads for those doing existing research.

"Some professors would prefer to teach as opposed to doing research," Butler added. "Right now everybody expected to do research, teaching and community service and it's just a matter of where you put your emphasis."

On the night of Jan. 10, WLUFA held a "strike-enabling vote", which will give them the ability to vote on a strike.

However, at this point in negotiations, both parties want to avoid such an event from occurring.

"We need to get some kind of sense of how faculty members feel. It's not a strike vote per se," said Bates.

"I hope very much that there will not be a strike and I'm quite convinced that every faculty member feels the same. The administration as well, I'm sure their goal is not a strike."

Butler felt similar. "You always hope for the best that you don't have a strike. I'm hopeful we'll get an agreement through the conciliation process," he concluded.

"We need the dialogue, that's the key."

Keeping you in the know and on the GO

More GO Bus service and some changes starting December 31, 2011

We're increasing GO Bus service to the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University and making a few changes.

On our **25 – Waterloo GO Bus** route, there will be more trips on weekdays and Saturdays, more trips to Laurier and some Friday-only trips will depart Laurier 10-minutes earlier. The eastbound Saturday 8:50 p.m. trip from University of Waterloo to Square One will now depart at 7:45 and the westbound Saturday 11:10 p.m. trip from Square One to the University of Waterloo will now depart at 10:10

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WLU in brief

Languages prof takes on new position

Last week, Mercedes Rowinsky-Geurts was named the new associate dean of students: student affairs and special projects at the faculty of arts.

In this new role, Rowinsky-Geurts will, among other things, be a mentor to students on both an academic and personal level, while dealing with issues surrounding academic misconduct.

In her 18 years at Laurier, Rowinsky-Geurts has held many positions at the university. She began her time at WLU in 1994 as an associate professor and since then has also been the chair and undergraduate

advisor in the the department of languages and literatures, as well as the department's senate representative.

Rowinsky-Geurts has also won multiple awards for teaching over the course of her career, such as the the Wilfrid Laurier University Outstanding Teacher Award and the Laurier Alumni Faculty Mentoring Award in recognition of her outstanding mentorship and support to undergraduate students while the are completing independent research as part of their degree requirement.

In 2008, she received the 3M National Teaching Fellowship.
—Compiled by Justin Fauteux



KATE TURNER LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

Foot Patrol's new space is located on the first floor of the FNCC, directly accross from the Terrace.

Patrolling from new digs

After months of delays, Foot Patrol finally gets their space

MARCIE FOSTER
LEAD REPORTER

Monday evening was Foot Patrol's first official night of service in their new office, located on the right side of the first floor in the Fred Nichols Campus Centre (FNCC).

Their first actual night in the offices required volunteers to work double-duty with the dispatcher operating upstairs at the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union reception desk, as new phone lines for the service could not be set up on the weekend.

Foot Patrol coordinator Chandler Joliffe was relieved that the story had finally come to a close. It has

been five months of working with WLUSU and the contractors in order to ensure that the new location fit both the needs of the service and fire code regulations, in which the original designs for the office didn't pass.

"In terms of operations, our dispatcher will be able to work more effectively in the new space," Joliffe added.

"It's also easier for our team because they don't have to jump up flights and flights of stairs."

The new offices have more storage space, and a walk-up window accessible to students entering and exiting the FNCC.

"We just ordered all the bulletin boards and whiteboards and we'll

start putting that up, along with the old memorabilia and the blue and old gold stuff," Joliffe added.

Foot Patrol expects an increase in walk-up numbers with the new location, mostly due to its visibility.

"For people to find us up there, it's out of the way because you don't go to the 2-4 Lounge unless it's for a specific reason. Here, over 10,000 people every day walk through the FNCC. Hopefully with that it will bring up our numbers since we're not only more visible we are more accessible to students," he continued.

Even though the office is finally open, subsequent fire safety checks will be conducted on Jan. 11.

Laurier ranks high in survey

NSSE measures student engagement

JACQUELINE SALOME
STAFF WRITER

Wilfrid Laurier University has once again achieved positive results in the 2011 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) conducted by the University of Indiana.

The NSSE is a benchmarking survey completed by students at each of the 761 participating institutions across North America, 20 of which lie within Ontario.

The survey allows universities to internally judge and reflect on student engagement at the undergraduate level, both inside and outside of the classroom.

It is predominantly focused on the responses of first and fourth year students.

"It is suggested that the NSSE is, at the moment, probably one of the best indicators there is about quality of teaching and education at universities," said Orna Duggan, director of institutional research and planning at WLU.

Laurier ranked above the Ontario average across the five main categories in which the NSSE provides a measure.

These categories are based on level of academic challenge, student-faculty interaction, extra-curricular learning, active and collaborative learning and the supportiveness of the campus environment, including residences and counseling services.

Results show that 70 per cent of senior WLU students participate in community service or volunteer work, while the provincial average shows that only 54 per cent of students do the same.

In concordance, 79 per cent of first-year students and 68 per cent

of senior students responded that WLU provides substantial support for academic success. These scores rank eight and ten per cent higher than the provincial average respectively.

In terms of co-curricular participation, 28 per cent of first-year students and 34 per cent of senior level students reported participation of five hours or more, against provincial averages of 19 per cent and 23 per cent respectively.

Since 2006, WLU has boasted similar results to that of the 2011 NSSE survey, which is administered every three years for participating universities.

According to Duggan, WLU's results suggest that the university is succeeding in adhering to its integrated and engaged learning approach, which supports a comprehensive student experience in the academic and co-curricular realms.

"WLU is known for being a university that invests in its students and in providing high quality education for all of its students, and that has reflected very well in NSSE scores," she said.

Duggan noted that WLU's exceptional survey scores contribute to a positive reputation for the university, and is something that the school should advertise to prospective students.

"Students are asked very simple questions and if they experienced something very well, not so well, or somewhere in the middle. It is the most direct measure on how students experience university education and for that reason it is a very important thing to communicate to incoming high school students," she said.

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WLU deals with grade inflation

MARCIE FOSTER
LEAD REPORTER

"We do not let students in without a 70 per cent. No faculty or program will admit a student below the cutoff," said Amanda Gulka, national recruitment coordinator at Wilfrid Laurier University, clarifying the issue of Laurier's cutoff policy. "While there are always exceptions, in this case it would have to be exceptionally unique in order for an out-of-province to miss the cutoff."

Last month, recruitment officers from Laurier and other Canadian universities met in Calgary to discuss the issue of adjusting grades to account for the tougher standards faced by Alberta students.

A study published by the University of Saskatchewan showed that while other provinces were inflating grades of high school students, Alberta students showed lower averages due to provincial standardized diploma examinations.

Gulka added that out-of-province students, namely those from Alberta and British Columbia, tend to have higher in-class grades than those from Ontario, largely due to a more rigorous curriculum and provincial examinations, which are taken into account throughout the admissions process.

Conditional offers are extended to in-class marks as well.

This meeting fuelled the debate about adding three per cent to Alberta students' grades, but Gulka insisted that policies have not changed. She explained that students from other provinces face a similar policy to students from Ontario when it comes to conditional acceptance.

"Instead of having the Applicant Background Summary (ABS) form which is for Ontario students, we

let them submit a resume or a letter, whichever is more suited to the situation," she continued.

Gulka added that these situations are exceptionally rare, and that Laurier has not experienced a problem with out-of-province students missing the cutoff.

Gulka explained that almost every out-of-province application she has received so far this year has had grades in the 80 per cent range, but attributes most of that to a statistic.

The admissions process for out-of-province students is different than for students from Ontario, and since high school curriculum differs greatly from coast to coast and province to province, Gulka is required to look at each individual application. With proper documentation, as in Ontario, students are allowed a three per cent dip in their conditional acceptance.

Laurier has been trying to attract more out-of-province and international students, noted Gulka, which is what created her position and several other positions in the admissions office. "We're trying to represent the country in which we live, and as part of a larger global community."

With 21 universities in Ontario, Gulka explained that it can be a very competitive numbers-based process to be admitted to Laurier.

"With out-of-province students, it's a little more in depth about the application and their grades, with some students you are communicating one-on-one via phone or e-mail."

"Many of the guidance counselors I've talked to, the students are coming to smaller schools like us for the size of the university and the class sizes offered. It's something that sets us apart," she said.

REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

STUDENT AWARDS

PARKING (CERTAIN FUNCTIONS)

BUSINESS OFFICE

SERVICE LAURIER

TAYLOR GAYOWSKY GRAPHICS EDITOR

Aiming to end student 'burden'

JUSTIN SMIRLIES
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

With the hopes of drastically improving their customer service to students, Wilfrid Laurier University, at the beginning of the winter semester, fully launched Service Laurier, a department devoted to one-stop enrolment service for registration, student awards, the business office and other on-campus functions.

Spearheaded by Scott Harris, manager of Service Laurier and Tom Buckley, VP: academic services, Service Laurier – located at 202 Regina – will be the initial point of contact for students who are looking to deal with various departments such as the Registrar's office, especially when Ontario Students Assistance Program (OSAP) payouts need to be picked up.

"Hopefully it will reduce the administrative burden on students and help speed up the process as well," explained Harris, noting that technology was one of the main focuses of the new project.

While the new department doesn't replace other departments, it just allows students to get their questions answered in one point of

contact in a quick and timely fashion, rather than jumping from one department to another.

"So the way it works now, when we have a student come to us for instance, we hope to solve 95 per cent of the inquiries we get, but there will be that five per cent that will be beyond our scope that we don't have the answers for," continued Harris.

"So our role is to connect with those subject matter experts in the other areas so they can help solve the student's problem as well."

Since the project is new, much of the technological changes have not yet been implemented, but, according to Harris, changes will occur that will make the experience more efficient and less frustrating. A self-service desk and an electronic queue system will hopefully get rid of excessive lines, and students can wait in chairs rather than stand.

As well, Harris hopes to implement a webcam streaming service that will allow students view how long the line in 202 Regina is from home.

"There's nothing worse than when you show up somewhere and there's a million people waiting," added Harris, noting that these advancements in technology will help

the office collect data on how they can make the process quicker and more efficient.

Though a new initiative to Laurier, most of the ideas were taken from other universities from North America.

"The one-stop enrolment model is recognized as best in class. It's more efficient for the operation and more importantly, it's more efficient for the students," explained Buckley.

Harris echoed Buckley's sentiment, "We're really focused on best practices, we don't feel like we have to re-invent the wheel."

The mandate of the new department was to create a more efficient environment, but as Buckley points out, Laurier didn't consider doing this to save money. "It will save time, but what is primarily driving this is convenience for students and overall process improvement, it's not being done on a price point."

Along with electronically supplying transcripts as well as PIN resets via Loris, Harris hopes to expand Service Laurier to variety different departments on campus – so that students have one place to go for assistance.

"It's up to us to go out and collaborate," he said.



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7:30pm AGM begins

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LOCAL

Local Editor
Amanda Steiner
asteiner@thecord.ca

Northdale sees three incidents

—cover

through Veteran's Green toward Hazel street when a man got out of a vehicle, which the student described as similar to a Jeep and demanded his possessions, brandishing a handgun.

The gunman took the victim's wallet and iPhone and fled the area.

"Clearly there seems to be a number of strong similarities amongst the three incidents that we're looking at right now," said Olaf Heinzl, public affairs co-ordinator for the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS). However, Heinzl went on to say that despite the striking similarities, police are not assuming the incidents on Thursday and Saturday are connected.

And Kevin can back that theory up.

"They were different people [on each night] for sure," he said, describing the suspects. "Different cars, different people, but it was an identical time of night, same intersection ... You can't immediately draw the conclusion that it's the same people involved, but the situations are so similar."

The other victim from Thursday's incidents described the suspect as a black male wearing baggy clothing.

Kevin described the gunman from Saturday as a black male, however he was unable to get a good look at the two men accompanying the suspect.

Now over the initial shock of being robbed, Kevin is simply surprised that incidents like these could even happen in the neighbourhood

he's lived in for nearly five years.

"I've never heard of anyone even getting mugged around here, let alone getting held up with a gun," he said. "It really just seems surreal. You never hear of that stuff happening and then in one week you have it happen three times right here."

According to Heinzl, police have been getting reports of similar incidents happening throughout the region.

"This type of incident has probably been going on across the region in some form since last summer, but in different areas," he said.

"We made a huge number of arrests this fall relating to these kinds of incidents and unfortunately it's started happening again."

Heinzl could not confirm that there would be a heightened police presence in the area and stressed that the public should take personal safety precautions such as walking in groups, sticking to well-lit, well-travelled areas and concealing personal electronics.

"The incidents reported to us at this point would indicate that the suspect or suspects are after property," said Heinzl.

"They're not interested in harming anyone, they're just interested in obtaining a person's property and then after that seem to flee But if you find yourself in that situation, remember your personal safety."

The WRPS is currently working with both victims to try and pinpoint the suspects.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Waterloo Regional Police at 519-650-8500, ext. 3399 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

City officials ring in New Year

LINDSAY PURCHASE
LEAD REPORTER

"The best part of today is welcoming all of you and saying Happy New Year," exclaimed Waterloo Mayor Brenda Halloran to the large crowd of community members and representatives who had assembled to celebrate the annual New Year's Levee.

The widely-attended event took place Sunday afternoon at RIM Park. Participants enjoyed free refreshments, complimentary skating and face painting. There was a variety of musical acts, including Traces Steel Band, a cello quartet and a female acapella group, among others, as well as a performance by the K-W Skating Club.

For Joy Gould, the Levee was a

chance to show her kids the best of Waterloo. "We are proud supporters of Waterloo," she said. "I feel it has a really strong sense of family and community." Like many others, Gould said they planned to take in the skating, but were also enjoying connecting with familiar faces from around the city. "I like the fact that there's a lot of community spirit," said Louise Lanteigne, who was attending the event for the fourth time with her family. "It's a fun place for people to meet and greet, and if people aren't familiar with the city, it's a great way to get to know our officials and get involved."

Bruno Vogel, a Waterloo resident of fifty years, but first-time attendee of the Levee, used the event as an opportunity to familiarize himself with Mayor Halloran. He explained,

"We always saw the mayor from a distance, but never face-to-face, and this was a good opportunity to shake her hand ... and we had a little discussion about things."

"To me it's about the mayor and councillors being just out talking to the citizens, shaking hands, you know, looking at what the people are doing, hearing from them," Halloran agreed. "I just like being a part of where everyone is."

MP Peter Braid was also present along with the mayor and the city council to mingle with community members. The highly successful event appears to be growing in popularity, with a new addition this year of shuttle buses bringing people from Conestoga Mall, ensuring accessibility for all who desired to attend.

K-W in brief

16-year-old pleads guilty to second-degree murder

A teenager is expected to plead guilty to second-degree murder in connection with a stabbing death at a Kitchener apartment almost two years ago. Larry McDonald, 49, was knifed 19 times after he intervened in an argument in his apartment at 85 Green Valley Drive in March 2010. The 16-year-old teen was charged the next day with first-degree murder but according to the *Record*, will only plead guilty to second degree charges which involves the admittance to murder but no intention to kill.

Winter on its way soon

Suddenly feeling like you could actually use some snow? This is Canada after all. Why is the ground green this January as opposed to covered in a blanket of white? All that is about to change.

According to *The Waterloo Region Record*, after this Thursday, temperatures are set to plunge below the freezing mark. And that's where they're expected to stay for the foreseeable future.

—Compiled by Amanda Steiner

NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE AND DESIGN WORKSHOP

The City of Waterloo has initiated the Northdale Land Use and Community Improvement Plan Study and has retained a consulting team comprised of MMM Group Limited in association with RCI Consulting Inc. and Sweeney Sterling Finlayson & Co. Architects Inc., to complete this study.

The purpose of this open house and design workshop is to present and seek public input on the Draft Discussion Paper which outlines alternative land use options and potential urban design, landscape, sustainability and community improvement strategies which may be considered in identifying the preferred land use plan for Northdale. On November 28, 2011, Council endorsed the Northdale Vision and Principles Report to guide future growth and development in Northdale.

This event represents the second public consultation exercise for this study.

Open House and Design Workshop Details:

Thursday, January 26, 2012, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Location:

Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex,
Hauser Haus 101 Father David Bauer Drive

Registration:

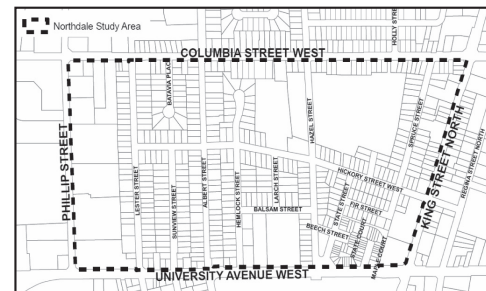
Participants are required to R.S.V.P. to Anne-Marie Phelan at anne-marie.phelan@waterloo.ca or phone 519-747-8752.

Agenda and Draft Discussion Paper:

Available for viewing at www.waterloo.ca/northdale

We encourage the public to provide input into this important study. If you are unable to attend the public open house and design workshop, a survey soliciting input will be made available the day of the event (linked from www.waterloo.ca/northdale). Members of the public not able to attend this event also have the option of submitting written/electronic comments. The public is informed and notified that names, addresses and comments may be made public.

For further information regarding this event, please contact Tanja Curic, City of Waterloo Policy Planner, at 519-747-8745 or Tanja.Curic@waterloo.ca.



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www.waterloo.ca/northdale

Clothing from the past

HIRRA GILANI
STAFF WRITER

Meow Vintage, a one-of-a-kind store much like its commodities, recently opened up in Uptown Waterloo on Dec. 3. Kara Munn, the owner of Meow, spent three months with the help of her husband renovating the 1890 historic home into the boutique it is today.

For Munn, starting up was initially a part-time job that became bigger over time, while also studying the tricks of the trade for the vintage business and selling clothes online as well as the Toronto area.

The store is focused on women of all age groups and when asked what makes Meow different from other vintage stores Munn stated that, "I try to be as affordable as possible. And I try to keep my things under

\$50 unlike other vintage stores."

Munn's vintage clothing consists of collections from the 1940s to the 1980s.

In regards to how the store got its name, Munn felt that it reflected her own personality. "I collect vintage items. I also collect vintage cats. I've always had a lot of animals but particularly cats, right from when I was a kid I had a collection of vintage cat figurines," said Munn.

She also thought, "the name 'Meow' was short, memorable, and also fun. I think that the word 'meow' sounds very vintage because in the 1950s girls were often referred to as kittens, and guys would often say 'meow' when they saw a hot or good looking girl. It wasn't in a derogatory way though."

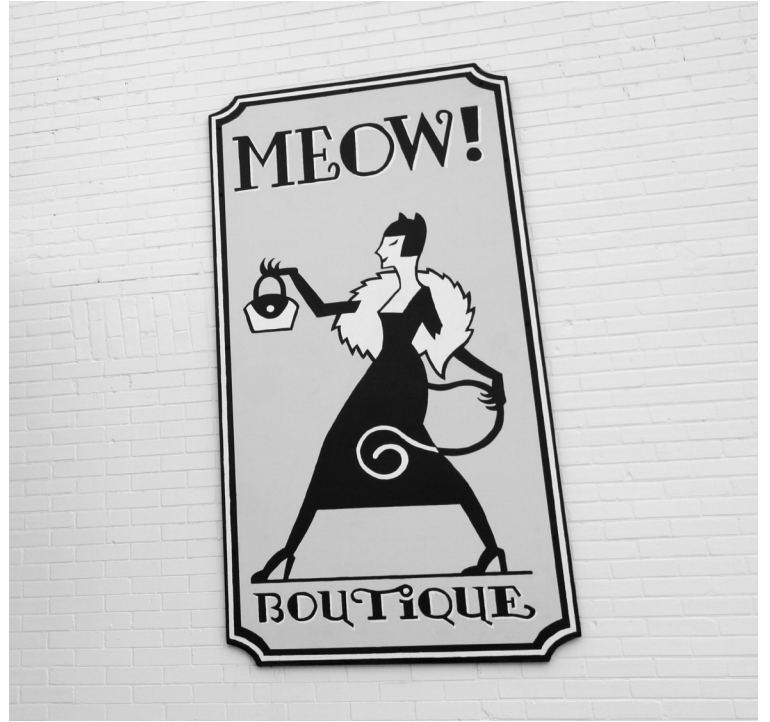
Another great thing about vintage for Munn is the fact that it's

currently coming back in popularity and is a great way to recycle.

Munn commented on her price ranges saying that in her mind, "If it's trends, then I wouldn't spend a lot [of money], but if it's a classical piece or something then I would spend more."

Munn however continues to have faith in vintage style. "People are more creative than ever," she said. "They're putting together different outfits and different styles from different periods of times and mixing things more. They might wear a 70s jacket with a 50s dress."

Meow Vintage is a store driven by passion and interest and Munn herself stated that she was genuinely surprised vintage clothing ended up being her career. "It did take a while [though]," she said, "It didn't happen overnight."



KATE TURNER LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Uptown bar grabs niche market

MIKE RADIVOI
STAFF WRITER

Those with a penchant for espresso, local cuisine and whiskey should be aware of the opening of Death Valley's Little Brother (DVLB) in the heart of Uptown Waterloo on Dec. 8. Owned and operated by Joel and Katherine Gingrich, Joel claims that DVLB was inspired by a motorcycle trip through Death Valley in California, which resulted in a personal career change.

Boasting a menu offering regional coffee and cuisine — including scones, muffins, lemon tarts and crème brûlée — DVLB attempts to offer patrons a homegrown feel set apart from its corporate

counterparts. This image is embodied by the shop's mascot, the mythical jackalope.

"The only way to catch a jackalope," said Joel, "is to put out a flask of whiskey at night. It ties into the idea that we're independent and we're trying to do things a little differently than other cafés in the area."

Despite the jackalope being notoriously vicious, Joel assures the local community that there is nothing to worry about. Also included in the café's purview is a focus on whiskey; in particular, single-malt and bourbon. For ease of selection, DVLB offers a "wall of whiskey," as well as a flow chart, which displays various whiskeys ranging from delicate to smoky, light to rich. "The reason we

tied in the whiskey is because I believe the experience of whiskey is similar to the experience of coffee. You're meant to sit and enjoy it with people, with good company and with a good environment. Very relaxed, low key," said Joel.

For the past three Friday nights, DVLB has offered live music; over the next few weeks, the café is working towards exhibiting art to add to what Joel calls the café's 'indie' feel.

"We want to get people excited about art again. I think a lot of people can be intimidated by art, to go to an actual art gallery is intimidating, so this is more accessible."

DVLB can be found across from Failte Irish Pub and the Fox and the Fiddle.

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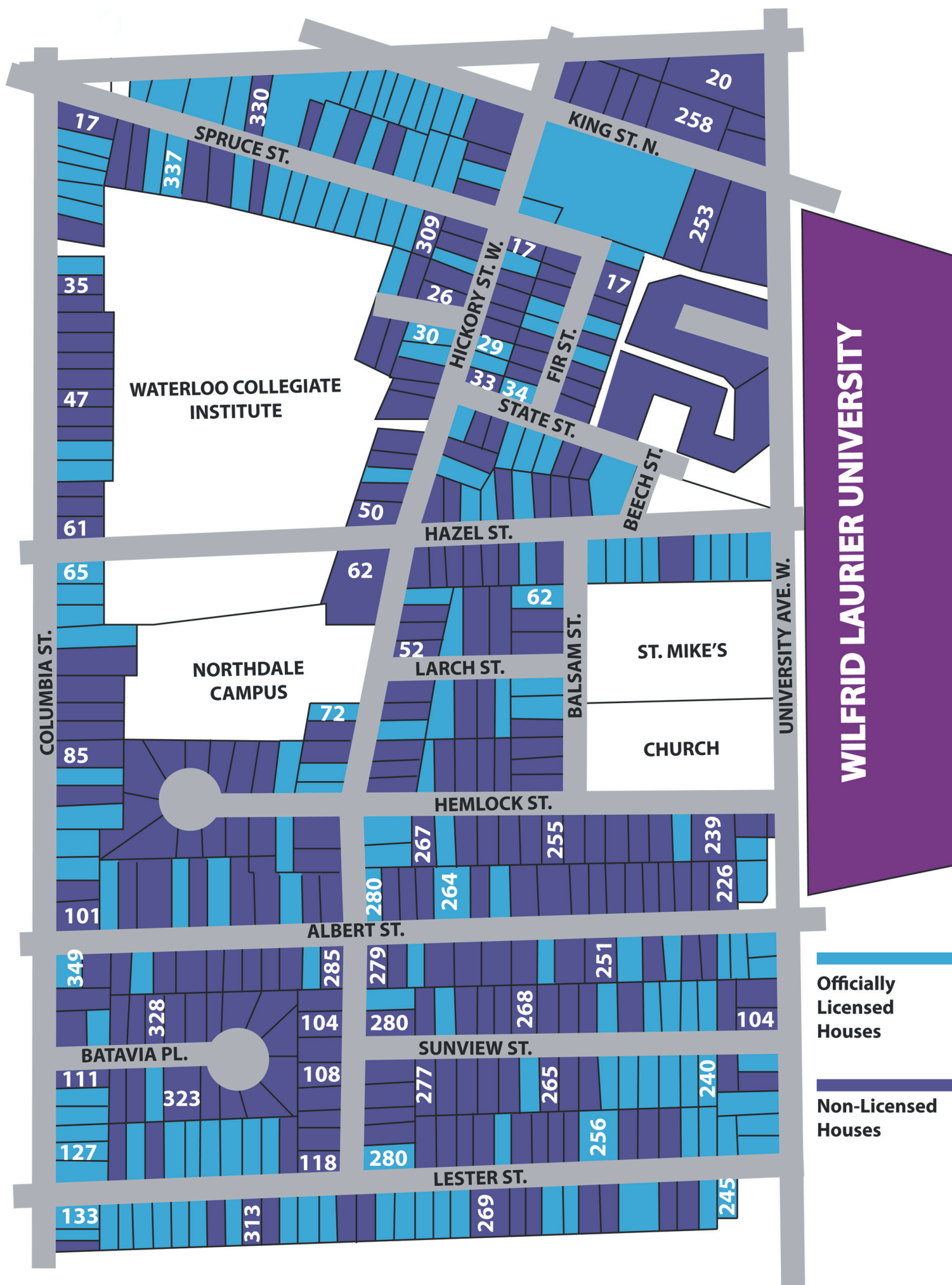
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yourstudentsunion.ca

Are you living illegally in Waterloo?

The map below shows which houses are currently licensed lodging houses in Northdale by the city of Waterloo, specifically covering Spruce Street to Lester Street and University Avenue to Columbia Street



Regulations

It is the responsibility of the resident to make sure their house is licensed. Residents can still be evicted if the landlord is renting illegally, while also incurring \$350 - \$25,000 in fines. Rental housing requirements and restrictions vary. They are classified by "A", "B", "C", "D", and "E" licences. A properly licensed house must have the following:

- A complete application form accepted by the director of bylaw enforcement
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- Buildings must submit to the Region of Waterloo's property standards including the Building Code Act, the Fire Protection and Prevention Act must be approved by the medical officer of health
- No more than four bedrooms (unless an apartment building)
- Each bedroom should be a minimum of seven square metres per occupant
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NATIONAL

National Editor
Amanda Steiner
asteiner@thecord.ca

\$42 million in funding cuts

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
NEWS DIRECTOR

Late last week undergraduate students across Ontario found out they will be getting 30 per cent of their tuition refunded. However, the week didn't bring good news for everyone in the university community.

As the provincial government proudly unveiled their tuition rebate program which will grant undergraduates \$1,600 per year, reports surfaced that the Ontario Liberals had cut \$42 million in university research funding.

However, the timing is merely a coincidence. The \$42 million in research funding will be diverted into economic development projects in eastern and southern Ontario, not put towards subsidizing the \$423-million tuition rebate.

"It actually comes from a separate ministry," explained Sean Madden, president of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance. "It may have just been some poor timing, or maybe the Liberals didn't handle the PR strategy effectively."

No matter where the funds are being diverted, the cuts will take certainly take a toll on the research community, said George Dixon, vice president of research at the University of Waterloo and chair of the Ontario Council of University Research.

"There will be an impact on research pretty much across the board," said Dixon. "There's going to be reduced opportunity for research funding by university by faculty put forward for grants."

You have to remember, a lot of that money goes to support graduate students and their initiatives for their graduate degrees."

According to Dixon, Ontario universities were made aware of these cuts in early December.

The \$42 million is being taken out of a program that awarded grants to university research projects on an annual basis.

That program started five years ago and was supposed to continue for another two.

Dixon added that losing the provincial money will certainly be a blow to research projects as, previously, the private sector and the universities would match the contribution from the Ontario government.

According to Dixon, this news is especially disappointing because research funding from the federal government has "been increasing pretty steadily over the past three or four years."

"With the federal government increasing their research funding and the provincial government decreasing their research funding, there's a very mixed message there about the relative importance of research within the university community," he said.

However, despite these cuts, which will be felt in areas from natural science to engineering to arts and social sciences, Dixon says there's no need for panic.

"Don't get the impression that this is the end of all research at Ontario universities," he said.

"This is one pot of money that we draw on."



ALI UROSEVIC GRAPHICS ARTIST

Job prospects looking slim for graduates

RAVI BALAKRISHNAN
CORD NEWS

According to the 2011 Campus Recruitment and Benchmark survey completed by The Canadian Association of Career Educators and Employers, students will have an increasingly difficult time securing employment post graduation in 2012. The survey does not project an increase in pay, but rather a decline in terms of job availability.

These predictions are consistent with federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's growth forecast reduction from 2.9 per cent to 2.2 per cent in late October, as quoted in the survey.

In light of the economic instability south of the border and the financial crises in Europe, the job market appears to be heading towards tougher times, especially if these economic predictions prove to be true.

While there are jobs out there for recent graduates, the competition appears to be stiff. "We have some entry-level positions, where we would hire someone that's pretty fresh out of school, someone that's been out of school for a year, or at most two," said Emily Candy, a human resources advisor for Rogers

Publishing, a division of Rogers Media Inc.

"We do have a lot of internship programs, though they're often unpaid," continued Candy, explaining that these programs are a great way for students to get experience.

"We have a lot of relationships with post secondary institutions. Experience continues to be a vital underlying factor in the competitive job market."

Mike Pearce, an environment and business student at the University of Waterloo, chose to be enrolled in the school's extensive co-op program for that very reason.

"The federal government even helps out small businesses by subsidizing our wages, so a co-op placement is definitely mutually beneficial for businesses and for us, since we also get paid experience," he said.

Co-op programs exist in post secondary institutions throughout the country and can prove to be valuable when it comes time to finding a career just on the basis of experience being a definite asset.

Jan Basso, the director for Co-operative Education and Career Development Centre at Wilfrid Laurier University, explained in an interview that they have been experiencing

tougher times helping students find employment in recent years.

"The absolute best year we ever had was 2008, historically, and then it definitely dipped in 2009, but in 2010 and in 2011 it came back up."


While the employment climate does appear bleak, Basso explained that there are optimistic numbers coming out of the WLU Career Development Centre. "The job postings that we're processing now represent increases over last years, so we're not seeing a decline at all."

"Try and come up with some career decisions that are going to match your needs as a person, and then look at the career resources that are available," Basso offered as further advice.

"Then from there, you can look at how you can prepare yourself for the job search, so resumé writing, interview skills, how you network, doing informational interviews with organizations — and all of those relate to programs that we offer."


While there may be tough times ahead, Basso pointed at the plenty of programs that are in place to help students try and weather the storm.

"The job fair we held in the fall, we had 250 companies, so there's still a lot of recruitment activity out there."



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Half of students to receive grant

Ontario Liberals announces the 30 per cent tuition grant for dependant post secondary students

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
NEWS DIRECTOR

Premier Dalton McGuinty hailed his \$423-million investment in post secondary education as the smartest move for the Ontario government in the current economic climate as he officially unveiled a new tuition grant program at Wilfrid Laurier University last Thursday morning.

The grant, a campaign promise the Liberals made during October's election, will refund eligible college and university students 30 per cent of their tuition. This adds up to \$800 per semester for university students and \$365 for students in college.

"The foundation of our strength here in Ontario remains the skills and education level of our people," McGuinty told reporters on Thursday. "The message that we're sending to young people is that we want to do more to help you go to college and university. Not only is it in [students'] interest but it's in our interest as we develop a stronger and more competitive economy."

The implementation of the program has been met with criticism, however, as the Ontario government currently faces a sizeable deficit.

"I don't think we can afford this tuition cut," said Rob Leone, Progressive Conservative MPP for Kitchener and the PC critic on Training, Colleges and Universities.

"At this point in time, we have a \$16-billion deficit, we need to fix that problem before we start creating these new ideas about where we're going to spend money."

The announcement also came in the wake of reports that the Liberals will soon be faced with substantial cuts to all ministries. The government hired former TD Bank executive Don Drummond to produce

a report on how the province can reduce spending his recommendations will reportedly see cuts that will draw public ire.

Drummond's report is set to be made public at the end of the month.

"These are serious times, and it's something that we anticipated, which is why we commissioned Mr. Drummond," said McGuinty.

"Our platform was a reflection of the serious times. It was one-third the cost of the other platform ... Mr. Drummond will provide us with several hundred recommendations and we look forward to receiving

those. Of course, his responsibility is to advise, ours is to decide."

The PCs have also criticized the government for spending money on this tuition rebate program - the most Liberals' most expensive commitment — instead of investing in programs more focused on job creation.

"We need to make sure that [students] are finding jobs when they're done school," said Leone. "We don't see a proper jobs plan ... These students, once they're done [school] are going to have a whole lifetime of paying for the excesses of this government."

However, among students, the grant has been generally well received.

"It's one of the largest investments ever made in post secondary education," said Sean Madden, president of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA). "I am a little disappointed to see some programming cuts [in existing grant and scholarship programs] go towards subsidizing the grants, but it remains a real positive for students ... We usually don't see anything so broad. A program that gets [money] to about half the students is good statistic."

According to Madden, about 52 per cent of students currently enrolled in college or university will qualify for the grant.

The rebate was restricted to full-time undergraduate or college students who are less than four years out of high school and whose parents combined incomes is less than \$160,000.

This excludes part-time, graduate and mature students.

Madden went on to say that there are existing "boutique-style" grant programs that can help students that don't qualify for the newly unveiled rebate.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Premier Dalton McGuinty arrived at Wilfrid Laurier this past Thursday to officially announce the tuition grant for dependent students.

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After a difficult year and much criticism, the question remains w

MIKE LAKUSIAK
IN DEPTH EDITOR

2011 was not the best year Research in Motion has had.

The hometown success story that was only two years ago named the fastest growing company in the world and had quadrupled its workforce in the four years prior, faced a variety of challenges, foremost to many the emergence of tremendous competition from Apple's iPhone and Google's Android operating system.

In the U.S. market, the BlackBerry, the device that effectively began the smartphone industry, slipped to 16.6 per cent market share by year's end — dwarfed by Android and Apple's 46.9 and 28.7 per cent.

Any technology analyst or blogger can offer a dozen reasons why this happened and how RIM is either damned to fall to the wayside or recover to preeminence in years to come.

A new favourite target of ridicule and speculation, RIM garnered outrageous amounts of media coverage last year as its market share shrunk, a major service outage dogged it in October and investors and observers wondered where the dysfunction lay and whether the company may be taken over.

“They’ve had the shake-up that comes with any company in RIM’s position at RIM’s stage of life.”

—Sofy Carayannopoulos, Laurier business professor

“RIM, because it's been a very strong company and a very interesting company in good ways in the past, when they fail, when someone really good fails or faces challenges it's a good media story,” said Sofy Carayannopoulos, a professor of business policy at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Carayannopoulos has been watching RIM, as many at the twin universities that channel graduates to the firm's doors have, for much of its history.

“That's perhaps why they've been

getting so much coverage,” she continued, “Not that they don't deserve it, mistakes are mistakes.”

“When Apple missteps would they get the same kind of coverage?”

For the most part, RIM has clammed up and soldiered on it seems, with most coverage of late consisting of hearsay and assorted technology and investment analysts.

“Some people are trying to keep their head up through everything but some days it's really hard because we're not really told anything,” said a RIM employee that spoke on the condition of anonymity. “A lot of the time it's just management buzzwords we get and not really giving us information about whether we'll have a job in a few months.” Employed for the last several years at one of RIM's Waterloo facilities, he experienced firsthand the rounds of layoffs that saw the firm let go up to 2,000 people beginning last summer.

Carayannopoulos explained that RIM's explosive growth may just be playing itself out. “What we have to acknowledge is that RIM is to a certain degree suffering from what every company that grows quickly suffers from,” she said.

“They were small and then grew really, really fast. Honestly, I think they were hiring faster than they knew who they were hiring.”

The RIM employee explained some of the internal issues he has been privy to as RIM has been scrambling recently.

He noted communication has not necessarily been the best internally. “There's a big lack of communication constantly, things will go days without being touched because people either forgot about them or it's in the back of their mind — ‘it's not as important as this new one is’.”

He also mentioned part shortages as resources are being devoted to handsets already in large-scale production elsewhere rather than new products being assembled in smaller numbers ahead of launch.

“From my area it would take a lot of changes for them to turn things around, and they are trying

to implement them,” he continued. “The pace that they are doing these things, I don't necessarily think it's fast enough.”

Regarding the layoffs and other difficulties, Carayannopoulos explained that effectively, it's just a pattern of business.

“This happens to every company, you grow fast, stuff sort of falls apart and you have to recognize that you went too far and regroup,” she continued. “They've had the shake-up that comes with any company in RIM's position at RIM's stage of life.”

Asked to prognosticate about the firm's future as observers and perhaps everyone in Waterloo in particular have done since the first signs of trouble emerged, Carayannopoulos replied, “If anything challenges them aside from getting their act together marketing-wise [...] for me the big question is whether they can take on Apple. Not even take on Apple, but can they respond to Apple? That's what is challenging them more than any mistakes that they're making, they're now David facing Goliath — do they have the resources to survive that?”

Moving beyond the embarrassing service outage incident is important, Carayannopoulos said, though frustrating as that was, she said that the high standard of reliability RIM had built for a decade and retained to that point should be considered.

“Customers need to know when a product fails on us, we know nothing is infallible, and while we might be angry about it, we don't expect 100 per cent performance, nothing is 100 per cent reliable. If you acknowledge it, you apologize, we'll get over it.”

Perception is everything and if the company's products or service loses the crucial reputation of reliability, the battle back to being a contender in the market may be more uphill.

As with the exceptional growth catching up to them, she explained that it was only a matter of time before some other firm, in this case Apple, wanted in on the action and to build off of what RIM began.

“IBM did the same thing to Apple,” she said, recalling the platform war among personal computers in that segment's early years. “Apple came in with the first PC and then IBM kind of went ‘oh, okay.’”



Is the damage done?

Whether RIM can recover its former share of the market it created

Though there have been setbacks, the tide may be turning. A lot of RIM's future is being staked on the its acquisition of the QNX operating system from the firm Harman International in 2010 and the future implementation of BlackBerry 10, now slated to be launched on the company's smartphones in the second half of 2012.

The hope is that if the applications available for this platform draw users based on what they're able to do with their phone or tablet, RIM may recover some of that lost market share.

"It's no secret that the market has shifted fairly significantly in the last five years and applications are now the thing that is pulling the sale of handsets through the channel, through carriers and everywhere else," said RIM VP of developer relations and ecosystem development Alec Saunders.

Saunders was in Las Vegas this week, where he was attending the Consumer Electronics Show along with more than 140,000 other attendees from hundreds of firms and a media circus of its own. He has been tasked with drawing application developers to RIM platforms, with the emphasis being placed on the QNX/BlackBerry 10 platform which was launched with the initially slow-selling PlayBook tablet in April.

The second iteration of the PlayBook's operating system was introduced at the show Jan. 9.

"It was something that was logically going to happen, if you look at any other software platform business, the PC business or anything else, there's a tipping point where the number of applications available on a platform are the thing that is going to start to drive success of that platform."

Saunders spent much of the 1990s working at Microsoft throughout its launch of successive Windows operating systems and credits RIM's potential to draw a broad base of applications and application developers for wanting to work at the firm.

With tens of millions of BlackBerries in the hands of consumers and the fact that it initiated the smartphone sector, he feels that although eclipsed by Apple and Android in terms of market share and available applications at the moment, RIM holds potential.

While the last year has not been kind, Saunders noted that the perceptions about the firm's actual position and potential may be off base.

"They've been beating the tar out of the company," he said, "In the marketplace, in the world of analysts, the things they're saying are kind of crazy. RIM is a company that is profitable every quarter, has no debt, a huge group of customers, 75 million subscribers use these devices every day, it has relationships with 600-odd carriers around the world. Something is wrong."

"In the marketplace, in the world of analysts, the things they're saying are kind of crazy."

—Alec Saunders, RIM VP of developer relations

One widely held perception is that app developers will not devote resources to creating tools for RIM platforms when they could just as easily spend time making apps for Apple and Android.

"I think it's a big perception problem, the story isn't well known enough yet for developers about the opportunity that's here," Saunders said.

"What does a developer care about? They care about making money at the end of the day. Even the people that are building applications that are free are trying to find ways to monetize that through advertising."

He cited recent studies that applications for RIM products on average net more paid downloads and more money for those that create them. Applications in BlackBerry's App World catalogue are second among the three major players in profitability, ahead of Android offerings.

"A lot of noise gets made about Android but at the end of the day, the people that target BlackBerry are making money."

He said that the developer conventions RIM hosts have seen surges in attendance and despite a last minute change in location due to flooding in Thailand recently, the DevCon Asia event in Singapore had more than double the attendees of the year prior.

"The financial press says one thing, but developers are coming

out in larger and larger numbers to all of our events. There's a disconnect somewhere there."

"The kinds of things we hear from developers are they come to us and say that they need a modern operating system, one that can do slick multitasking because they want to be able to build games for the platform, [they] want to be able to run media really well on the platform and that's what QNX does for them," he continued.

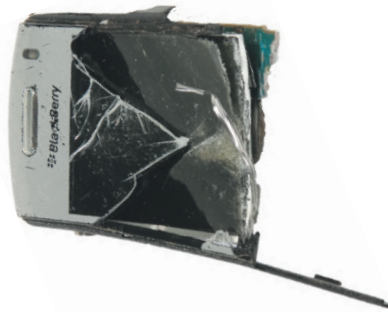
Saunders said that in recent months many more apps have been released for the PlayBook in particular as developers have devoted resources to working on QNX.

The consensus from everyone observing RIM in past months seems to be that whatever happens, the company cannot falter if it wants to regain its position in the segment it created.

Public perception being as important as it is, RIM also needs to bolster its image through appropriate marketing, though Carayanopoulos said that in this case the cult of Apple is stacked against it.

"They have what it takes in terms of product," she said. "Unfortunately, when it comes to success in a market, particularly with technology, it's not necessarily the best product that wins, it's the best marketing machine that wins. I guess that's the question: does RIM have the resources to market the product the way it should be?"

"It's not just what RIM does, it's what Apple does as well that affects RIM's future."



EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor
Joseph McNinch-Pazzano
jmcninchpazzano@thecord.ca

Tuition grant is a step in the right direction for Liberals

In The Cord's Sept. 28 endorsement of Premier Dalton McGuinty and local Liberal candidate Eric Davis in the October provincial election, the 30 per cent tuition grant was hailed as "welcome assistance to the province's students as they seek to finance their education in increasingly difficult economic times."

This is still the position of this newspaper and the editorial board commends the announcement at Wilfrid Laurier University last week that the grant is on the way; the tuition proposal is a promise kept by the Ontario Liberal government.

Ontario undergraduate students currently spend just over \$6,300 on tuition each year on average. In the last 15 years, the average debt of an Ontario undergraduate student has risen 175 per cent from \$8,000 to \$22,000, according to the Canadian Federation of Students.

While the 30 per cent tuition grant will not completely alleviate these financial pains, it is a step in the right direction in easing the burden on Ontario students seeking to get a leg up in an increasingly global economy.

With that said, one must also consider the potential downfall and limitations of this proposal. The tuition grant is a costly program, one the premier has admitted is not fully costed through the next few years. This inevitably means that other public policy areas are impacted.

One such area was the elimination of \$42 million worth of research grants just days before the tuition grant was implemented. This money was responsible for \$1.1 billion worth of matched contributions by institutions and private sector businesses in its first five rounds. To say that this will have a possibly detrimental impact on Ontario research and innovation is not an understatement.

Furthermore, the fight to make education more accessible is far from over. Firstly, for students whose parents do make more than \$160,000 combined, they are not eligible for the grant. These students are not necessarily more well off since they won't be receiving as much in OSAP assistance in the first place.

Secondly, for students who have been out of high school for more than four years, the grant is out of reach for them. While it is understandable that constraints must be placed on a program like this, this restriction places a value judgment on those students who took a break after high school.

These students have not necessarily spent more time in university but instead spent time working and gaining professional experience before pursuing post secondary education. If the government believes that students who take longer than four years to complete university should not receive the same tuition grant, that's understandable, but this should not preclude students who did not immediately enter university.

The tuition grant is a welcome addition to the Liberal government's set of post secondary policies. While it does have limitations, it is refreshing to see a government to follow through on its election vision.

—The Cord Editorial Board

Unlicensed rental properties a concern for students

As students begin looking for housing for next year, they should be reminded of the importance of seeking licensed rental properties. In May 2011, the Waterloo city council enacted a new bylaw regarding housing licenses. If someone fails to secure a license (including a rental corporation), they face a minimum fine of \$350 with potential penalties ranging up to \$25,000. However, it is the responsibility of the tenant to ensure that their house is licensed, since city inspectors could evict any occupants of the house if it is found to be unlicensed.

This bylaw is meant to protect the safety of students and The Cord commended this decision when it was enacted in May. It is worth bearing in mind, however, as students begin their housing search again, that they must realize the potential dangers of living in an unlicensed house and the importance of asking questions of potential landlords.

—The Cord Editorial Board

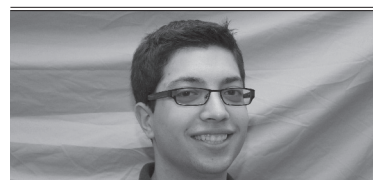
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STEPHANIE TRUONG GRAPHICS ARTIST

Are Republicans seriously contesting the 2012 election?



JOSEPH MCNINCH-PAZZANO
OPINION EDITOR

The stage is set for the Republican party to shake the ghost of George W. Bush and reassume the presidency in 2012. With the right candidate and an unforgiving economic message, they could mount a serious campaign against President Barack Obama and end his hopes for a second term.

The problem is someone forgot to tell the Republicans this is a winnable election for them. Every viable Republican should have been storming this race, ready to face Obama in a much more vulnerable state than Senator John McCain found him in four years ago.

Instead, the darlings of conservative America sat this one out. Rising stars Marco Rubio and Chris Christie would have had a formidable presence in the primaries and the general election, but both decided against it. Tried and trusted Republicans with proven executive track records, Mitch Daniels and Haley Barbour, flirted with a run and then faltered. John Thune, a respected Senator hailed as "the one candidate I fear the most" by an Obama campaign aide, squandered his best chance for the presidency. Mike Huckabee, arguably the heir apparent to the Republican throne, passed on an inevitable ascendancy to the head of the pack. And who could forget Sarah Palin? She could have captivated the Tea Party fragment of the Republican race a hundred times better than any Republican currently in the race.

Instead, we're left with a cast of characters that would have comprised the fringe of any other Republican race. When Ron Paul, the Texas congressman

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To date, the 2012 election has been a bit of a sleeper. If Romney crosses the Republican finish line, he'll be doing so with tepid and forced applause from the conservative class.

whose foreign policy views make him look like a leftist Democrat amongst a field of military-hawk Republicans, takes almost the same chunk of the vote as the presumptive nominee Mitt Romney, you realize this race is as much about the Republican party figuring out where its soul is as it is about finding an opponent for Obama.

If the first nominating contest in Iowa taught us anything, it's that Republicans are not swallowing a Romney candidacy easily. The 122,000 Republicans who turned out in Iowa on Jan. 3 barely topped the 2008 turnout and Romney received only 66 more votes than he did the last time around when he came in second. 75 per cent of the Republican electorate essentially wants someone else but they just wish they didn't have to vote for George Bush part two (Rick Perry) or Sarah Palin-lite (Michele Bachmann). Right after Iowa, conservative activists were gathering in Texas to try to decide on a consensus candidate to act as the anti-Romney.

All of this has me asking: are

Republicans actually taking this seriously? If they want to send Obama shopping for book deals and speaking gigs, every word that comes out of their mouths should be about the economy. They can win this thing on the economy alone. Instead, they're at each other's throats trying to disavow Paul as the long-lost cousin of the Republican party and prove to the evangelicals that they are the most pro-life and anti-gay candidate in the race.

It's not just left-wing political onlookers like myself who are asking this. Erick Erickson, founder of right-wing blog RedState.com, commented on CNN that some Republicans have essentially written 2012 off and are looking instead to 2016.

And maybe they're at least somewhat validated in doing so. With Obama's approval rating on the rise and the American economy experiencing modest growth, the President's re-election chances look much stronger than they did six months ago. Against Romney, Obama faces a formidable challenge but I think it's a likely bet that it's a less of a challenge than he would have faced from a more polished, prominent and serious conservative.

To date, the 2012 election has been a bit of a sleeper. If Romney crosses the Republican finish line, he'll be doing so with tepid and forced applause from the conservative class and a bunch of sidelined Republicans (aka Tim Pawlenty) wondering why they didn't take him down when they had the chance.

If Obama gets re-elected this year, 2016 is going to be an election that puts the paltry 2012 affair to shame. Then, the Republicans that should have run this time around will come out of the woodwork and the Democrats will field a range of candidates keen on building on Obama's legacy.

And, who knows? 2016 could be Hillary Clinton's year and then the Republicans will really be wishing they hadn't squandered their 2012 chances.



STEPHANIE TRUONG GRAPHICS ARTIST

Truth about North Korea doesn't rest with the west

ALEX REINHART
OPINION COLUMNIST

When news of Kim Jong-il's death was made public, there was a cheer around the world. Finally, the world had been rid of another tyrant, another evil dictator who was hated by many global citizens. However, I am not sure that this is the logical conclusion. Our lack of understanding about virtually every aspect of life in North Korea leads me to suggest that we have no place to criticize the country.

At this point, I am sure many people have already written this off as a sympathy bid for a communist country. Let me assure you, it is not.

Since 1953, there have been fewer than 2,500 Americans who have visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Despite this, America, as well as virtually all western nations, holds the belief that they understand North Korea in its entirety.

While it is true that it was very difficult at one point to enter North Korea, these restrictions have been removed for years. Despite this, western media chooses to remain ignorant of the country's situation, drastically oversimplifying the circumstances, akin to that of Cold War propaganda.

Watching the news, some suggest that the footage of weeping citizens is fake or at least manipulated. These sources suggest that the North Korean population actually despise their leader and their country and that the mourning is simply a result of coercion.

This, however, is an oversimplification. It is entirely possible and even likely, that a percentage of North Korean citizens loathe the political structure. It is impossible to say that all citizens feel this way, despite the fact that the media portrays it as a fundamentally repressed group of people who could not possibly like anything about their leader.

While this may seem as though I am not faulting North Korea, I do not deny that there are numerous problems. The adoption of the Songun policy, a military-first policy, has had a negative effect on some of the population. Unfortunately, this extreme policy has become a necessity, particularly due to the growth of hostility of both South Korea and the United States.

Here we also see the inherent bias in western media. We consistently view reports on North Korea as being an aggressor, however this is not the case. In the past decade, the DPRK has made several concessions regarding nuclear weapons. Additionally, less than a year ago North Korea attempted to resume talks with the South. Despite this, the media has already established North Korea as the antagonist, and subsequently portray them as such.

The prime example of this is the shelling of Yeongpyong Island. While North Korea was guilty of this act, few sources mention the fact that South Korea typically bombs the shores very close to North Korea. While this event is portrayed as an attack, it would be more appropriate to frame it as a defensive measure. Again, this highlights the enormous bias in western representation of the nation.

Head of the Center for Research on Globalization, Michel Chossudovsky, suggests that North Korea is more a victim than a threat. He goes on to argue that North Korea has been portrayed as a country which is threatening to global security, but that there is no actual evidence to support this fact. He also points to the fact that North Korea has been a victim of the United States in the physical sense, as the Korean War resulted in the deaths of nearly a quarter of the North Korean population.

Similar to Lenin and Stalin in the Soviet Union, Kim Jong-il could be the victim of western media portrayal. Likewise, he was regarded as a god amongst men, a genuine "Dear Leader."

All of these leaders have been portrayed as maniacs that are willing to end the world at any second. Additionally, the media portrays the citizens as a group that was united in their hatred of their leader. In the same manner as we found that there was a genuine love of Lenin and Stalin, we will likely learn the same of North Korea.

So what can one conclude from this? Firstly, the fact that we know so little about North Korea makes it virtually impossible to have a complete understanding of the country, politically, economically and socially.

Secondly, as a result of this lack of understanding, the west has been allowed to draw unsubstantiated conclusions and as a result, villainized a relatively innocent nation simply because they live in a communist nation. North Korea hasn't been the victim of communism; they have been the victim of America's hatred of communism.

Lack of financial incentive prevents further progress for cancer treatment

SHAUN FITL
OPINION COLUMNIST

In the 1930s, scientists discovered the link between mitochondria and cancer. The Warburg effect describes how cancer cells suffer hypoxia because of surrounding tumors and malfunctioning mitochondria. In 2007 the UoA conducted studies with tissue cultures from human cancer and rats and showed that the DCA treatment restores the self-destructive process of apoptosis, which malfunctions when the cell switches from normal cell respiration to glycolysis to metabolize enough oxygen. As a result the cancer cells are selectively destroyed with no toxicity if dosage is properly controlled. In 2010 these results were progressed into the first clinical trials with humans in which four of the five patients had their lives extended upwards of 18 months also with no nerve toxicity as a result of the treatment.

The potential treatment received inadequate media attention with the initial release of the data and is still not effectively reported to the public even though research has progressed positively.

Just in May of 2011 the University of Genoa in Italy published a study that claimed DCA inhibits the growth of tumors from neuroblastoma, which is the most common cancer for infants. In the fall of 2011 reports about DCA began to pop up again on the Internet for the first time since the original flurry after the 2007 and 2010 research. Mainstream news organizations Fox and MSNBC hosted a blog post from *Life's Little Mysteries* staff writer Natalie Wolchover with titles like "Is Big Pharma Ignoring a Potential Cancer Cure?" from Fox and "Blog

post stokes fresh interest in potential cancer treatment: three-year-old discovery shows that common chemical seems to inhibit tumor growth" from MSNBC.

I think there is an issue with the reporting on DCA because it does not focus enough of its attention on the barriers to its development. Take the ABC news article in 2007 for example. The title "DCA: Cancer Breakthrough or Urban Legend?" essentially polarizes the DCA debate into the compound being either a miraculous gift from science or an overblown conspiracy. Not only do most major news organizations fail to adequately educate the public on issues such as cancer research, but also the coverage that they do provide tends to be mediocre and biased or misleading whether intentional or not.

Fox's use of the blog post for their DCA article is controversial because of the title that they selected for it. The original author from *Life's Little Mysteries* had updated their post to "remove any impression that Big Pharma is to blame for the lack of research into DCA" and insisted that the real barrier to progress was a lack of financial incentive. However, because Fox News chose the title "Is Big Pharma Ignoring a Potential Cancer Cure?" the story is immediately interpreted as suspecting conspiracy and, so is ignored by more conservative readers. Likewise when MSNBC describes the treatment as a "three-year-old" discovery being refreshed by a blog post it gives the impression that DCA is not legitimate enough to be properly considered.

The main problem is not about the frequency of DCA reporting but is about the quality of that reporting. When the public receives information from mainstream organizations they assume that it will be the most moderate view available. An issue arises when these organizations fail to provide enough coverage of issues that would be agreed upon as being important. The public suffers because they do not get

a chance to properly respond to new information and is also more vulnerable to misinformation or misinterpretation.

DCA treatment and its research could be misinterpreted very easily based upon its coverage in media outlets.

Because DCA cannot be held under strict intellectual property protection the treatment is very inexpensive to administer but still needs funding for more clinical trials. Even with all of the research into DCA the compound still needs to be studied further for doctors to be justified in safely prescribing it to patients. The UoA was able to gather \$800,000 for its 2007 study with online solicitation in just six months. If proper media attention was given to DCA as a potential cancer treatment this would balance out for the inadequate funding received by financial institutions and increase interest in the further development and research into the compound. Until then, patients will continue to self-treat with privately acquired DCA and publish their stories online and if the status quo remains, the mainstream media won't give DCA the coverage it deserves.

What is DCA?

Diachloroacetic acid (DCA) is an analogue of acetic acid (aka vinegar) and has been established as a potential treatment for various types of lung, breast and brain cancer according to 2007 and 2010 research publications from the University of Alberta. Although the compound's chemical structure is similar to vinegar, this does not necessarily mean that it will be functionally analogous and therefore clinical trials are needed to determine the unique properties and effects of DCA.



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Republicans contesting the New Hampshire primary on Jan. 10, 2011 include (from left) Ron Paul, Jon Huntsman, Rick Perry, Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum.

Republican race is a family affair



HAYDEN STARCZALA
OPINION COLUMNIST

Those who have been following the race for the Republican presidential nomination have probably been very entertained thus far in the long process. There have been colourful personalities involved, past histories examined and intense feuding among many of the candidates. I cannot help but think of the different Republicans involved with the race like different members of a family with their own quirks that need to learn to get along.

I don't say this to mock the Republican Party — in fact I would like to see a Republican defeat President Barack Obama in the election this November. Rather, I want to examine how the role each candidate plays and point out their need to work together.

Newt Gingrich is like an experienced and intelligent older brother. Gingrich likes to reference historical precedents and other facts when discussing what he would do as president.

Gingrich also has the maturity of an older brother, avoiding getting involved in petty squabbles with other Republicans and even complimenting them when he agrees with their positions. This seemed to work

for a while, propelling Gingrich into the lead in national polls, but it did not last, primarily because his opponents launched a massive attack ad campaign against older brother Newt.

For those who remember when Rick Perry was doing well in the polls, it is hard to forget how he argued with Mitt Romney in debates, especially when Romney reached over and put his hand on Perry's shoulder. In this way, they are like two brothers who just do not get along well and are in constant need of parental supervision (or at least supervision by a cable news moderator).

Romney is smooth and preferred by people outside of the GOP (Grand Old Family) by trying to avoid saying things that will anger people. When Perry speaks, though, a sympathetic listener has great difficulty not cringing and moderates are appalled.

As for Michele Bachmann and Rick Santorum, they are like little kids trying to play with the big kids. Though both are accomplished, they all entered the race without the prestige or mainstream appeal of Romney and Perry.

After Bachmann fell in the polls a few months ago, she had to grab for attention, as a young child might when being ignored. This became evident in one debate on CNN when, desperately wanting the attention of moderator Anderson Cooper so she could deliver her famous "one-term president" line, she screeched in her Fargo-sound-alike voice, "Anderson!

“
For a family to function well, there needs to be co-operation. With the general election a mere ten months away, Republicans need to take seriously the need to co-operate to defeat Obama in the general election.

Anderson!”

Santorum, on the other hand, only reached prominence more recently after a determined amount of work that came across as being stubborn and fruitless when compared to the successes of his fellow Republicans. After winning the Iowa caucus, Santorum has arrived in the big boys' club — surpassing his younger Republican sister.

Other candidates are more like extended relatives than immediate ones. In particular, Ron Paul, whose positions are so at odds with the rest of the Republican field as evidenced by his apparent lack of concern with the possibility of anti-Zionist Iran developing nuclear weapons. In that sense, he's sort of like an eccentric

cousin, or that in-law you *really* do not want to spend time with.

The Republican field of candidates, which is now slightly smaller with Bachmann gone, is like a large family. They have their differences when it comes to particular policies, but are united philosophically against the types of policies that have been introduced under Obama — Obamacare being a prime example.

For a family to function well, there needs to be co-operation. With the general election a mere ten months away, Republicans need to take seriously the need to co-operate to defeat Obama in the general election.

Attack advertisements seem to be more common at this point in the campaign than earlier on, which threatens to leave the eventual nominee publicly obliterated before he has to run against the incumbent president.

Many of the candidates are like siblings fighting with one another, something most people with siblings know about.

Attacking other members of the family weakens the family as a whole, which is why they should follow the old commandment from the 1980s: "Thou shalt not attack a fellow Republican."

To produce a candidate to beat Obama, the candidates must not tear each other apart, but must work together as a unit, just as good families do. Of course, that will require putting aside personal ambitions for the greater good of the group. I hope that they succeed in doing so.

Iowa Results

Every four years, Democrats and Republicans in the state of Iowa have their say in choosing the parties' respective nominees before any other state. This year, the race on Jan. 3, 2011 was the closest Republican caucus in Iowa's history. Unofficial results from the Iowa State Republican Party below:

25%
30,015 votes
Mitt Romney

25%
30,007 votes
Rick Santorum

21%
26,219 votes
Ron Paul

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LIFE

Life Managing Editor
Katie Flood
kflood@thecord.ca

Trouble with using tablets as textbooks

Despite increasing popularity, many students have yet to realize that eTextbooks do not save as much as expected

KATIE FLOOD
LIFE MANAGING EDITOR

"I'm really just looking at it to read books and share pictures I guess and maybe textbooks, hopefully textbooks," said second-year business student Klara Raic about her motivation to buy an expensive, but increasingly popular piece of technology: the tablet.

Raic bought the Lenovo a1 tablet during boxing week sales for \$200. While she hopes to use her new tablet for storing photographs and portable internet access, like many other students who have purchased tablets and eReaders, Raic was motivated by hopes of saving money on textbooks.

"This semester I don't have any more textbooks that I can buy online ... but in the future I would definitely continue using it and putting my books on here," explained Raic.

While tablets and eReaders undoubtedly offer an advantage for avoiding the lines on campus to buy new and second-hand books — typically ranging from \$200-\$500 — are they worth the investment?

Raic thinks so. "I'm thinking of just getting the online code and using this as my textbook and not spending the extra \$120 dollars on the textbook itself ... which is half of the price of this [tablet]." The second year explained her theory that

after buying one or two eTextbooks online instead of in print, the cost of the tablet is made up in money saved.

While eTextbooks save money in the short term, Laurier's Bookstore manager of academic material Mika Zybala pointed out that eTextbooks are usually a rental service, through which students miss out on resale value of the book.

"We're seeing that bit of divide because general book reading is definitely moving in the ebook direction, where the traditional textbook is more in that access code, so it's a short term access ... you do not own that ebook," Zybala explained that students do not save as much money with eTextbooks as they would expect.

Coursesmart.com offers first year AN101 Cultural Anthropology for \$44.98 compared to the Bookstore's price of \$108.75, but the eTextbook can only be rented for 180 days.

"You're not able to sell that material back to the store at the end of the semester so that's really where the biggest difference is," he said.

When asked which she would buy from if books from SIFE's second-hand book fair and an eTextbook resource were priced the same, second-year student Vanessa Frey agreed that there is an advantage to buying print books. "SIFE, resale value, you can still sell it back for thirty bucks."

But with the iPad 3 rumoured to be released in upcoming months, tablet popularity is increasing despite the fact that eTextbooks do not save as much money as students expect.

"We've definitely seen some strong sales through the tablet ... there's definitely a lot more interest in a tablet than the traditional desktop," Zybala told The Cord about the success of the Bookstore's tablets.

"On a personal level, yeah I wouldn't mind a tablet for convenience of everything, for Internet access, for being able to access email ... I think they're becoming a bit more of a useful tool that can be used in multiple aspects," said Zybala, who bought the Kobo eReader last year.

Despite the trouble with tablets saving students money on textbooks, Zybala predicts that like Raic, students will continue to use the multipurpose eTextbooks because of convenience and the Bookstore will need to adapt in order to survive.

"It will definitely have an impact on our business," Zybala said about how the Bookstore is preparing to make changes.

"So the portability of it that [tablet] is the convenience, I think it has its place and I still think that the printed book will have its place as well, I think in general it's all about choice."

Increasing popularity of eBooks and tablets

- May 19, 2011, Amazon was officially selling more Kindle books than print books

- June 2011, Pope Benedict XVI sent his first tweet from an iPad

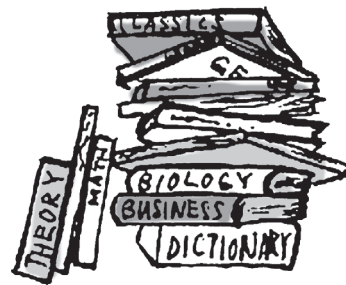
- Aug. 17, 2011, Pearson publishing develops an eText app for iPads

- Jan. 9, 2012, Toshiba reveals world's thinnest tablet at 0.3 inch thick, 1.2 lb, 10 inch Android

- The iPad 3 is rumoured to be released in Feb. or March 2012



MAYA UEMURA GRAPHICS ARTIST



AARON LUN GRAPHICS ARTIST

Unnecessary pressure to sign

ALANNA FAIREY
STAFF WRITER

As if there was not enough stress on first-year Wilfrid Laurier University students as they adjust to living away from home, come winter semester, there is the added pressure to determine a new living situation and sign a lease for the next school year.

Daniel Gibel, a first-year philosophy major, began his search for apartments between the end of September and beginning of October. He had reviewed the prices of various residences before committing to an apartment, which he will share with five other roommates. Gibel recalled the feelings he felt when he had finally signed the lease, which he described as "a relief."

"A lot of people were telling me that I should be getting the lease out of the way rather quickly," Gibel shared. "I was kind of 'whatever' about it at first. Eventually, I thought that this was something that I should get done before the Christmas break."

Gibel revealed that the initial pressure to sign a lease came mostly from his parents and his future housemates. Although he had been handling the pressure fairly well, Gibel can understand why first-year students have been getting stressed about signing a lease.

"It's sort of a pressurized system where people think that if you don't find a place right away, then somehow all of the apartments and houses are going to disappear and you need to have a place to live essentially," Gibel remarked.

The demands of signing a lease for a house or apartment are not limited to just first-year students. Crystal McDonald, a fourth-year kinesiology and physical education major, has reflected on the pressures of signing a lease not only during her first year, but also in her second year.

After spending her second year in an apartment with roommates, McDonald went on to become a don. Although she had the support from her roommates and family, McDonald recalls her former landlord pressuring her to sign a lease before her don application was due.

"I had to let my landlord know in December that I was not coming back for the following year, and he kept telling me that I should sign a lease in case I didn't get it," McDonald said. "But I didn't really want to let the landlord control what I was doing so I wanted to be responsible for what I was doing, so I didn't sign a lease."

Dale Langford, a fourth-year archaeology major, believes that he benefitted from choosing to sign a lease much later on in the school

year. Langford made this decision as he felt that most houses do not go up on the market right away and first-year students are not always aware of that fact.

"A lot of first years are pressured into signing early because they get the notion that all of the good houses will be gone as soon as they are up on the market," Langford reasoned. "A lot of places don't end up going up until later because people just don't decide."

Langford recalled signing a lease later than his first-year peers and found a larger, inexpensive apartment that unfortunately was further away from Laurier than the immediate surrounding houses.

Repeating this method, Langford signed a lease in March last year, benefitting from signing late with an eight month lease on Weber St. (ten minutes from campus) costing him \$450 a month including utilities.

There are several resources available on and off campus. These resources include consulting legal aide and residential services, which strives to help any student in search of a house. Having a conversation with a don is also helpful, as most have lived off campus.

"Ask questions, be your own person and don't let a landlord push you around, you're an adult and always stand firm," McDonald advised first years who are still searching.

Street style at Laurier



BRIEANNE BERRY
FASHION COLUMNIST

Even with the surprisingly mild weather we seem to be having, it's unfortunately still winter outside and that means everyone has to stay bundled up.

Thankfully, it appears that once the coats and scarves come off, we've still got some great looking students walking around. I don't know if it was just the people I saw today or this is an early week trend, but I noticed that most outfits on students were less about drawing attention with the use of accessories and more about how certain outfits worked together.

Name: Lina Lie
Major: Second-year English
Style Inspiration: "I like fashion so I read a lot of Chinese magazines."

Where she shops: "I shop in different places: sometimes China or Asia [her boots are from China]. I like to shop in Toronto at the Eaton Centre."

Other than the fact that I'm jealous Lina bought her boots from China, what I really liked about her outfit was the amount of layers she had on. Since I was mostly obsessing about her beige cape and boots, I liked that all her clothes underneath were black. Although beige is usually a neutral colour, it definitely added a subtle pop to what she was wearing.



Name: Gabe Surian
Major: Third-year economics
Style inspiration: "Sometimes I just throw on anything, but usually I like to think about what I'm wearing. I don't think I have an inspiration — I don't dress the same way all the time. Sometimes I wear fitted [hats], or baggy jeans, raw denim? It depends; I wear anything really."
Where he shops: "The shirt and the shoes are from Loop [in Uptown Waterloo] and I can't remember where the jeans are from."

I have to give a hand to any guy who doesn't roll out of bed and wear sweatpants to class. His outfit was super casual, but it was the little details — such as the oversized fit of his shirt and the unexpected hood, that made it interesting. In short, it was an extremely relaxed, basic "jeans and a shirt" look but it was definitely still

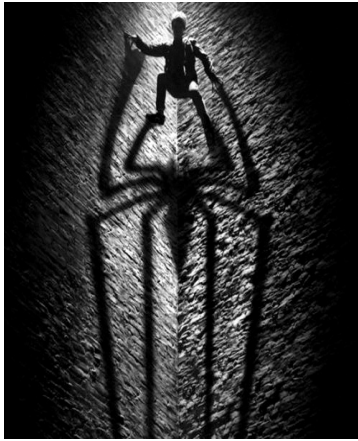


eye-catching. Make sure to keep on the look-out for more Laurier street style by checking out thecord.ca's Life section or follow @cordarts and fashion columnist @msbrieb on Twitter. Stay classy (and warm) Laurier!

KATE TURNER LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

ARTS

Arts Editor
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2012 Culture preview: what's ahead in music and film

Arts Editor **Liz Smith** takes a look at the highlights of the coming year in pop culture

Music

Though seemingly improbable, 2011 marked a revenue increase in the music industry. The overwhelming success of young artists such as Adele, The Black Keys, Drake, Lady Gaga and Nicki Minaj breathed new life into a struggling market. Will 2012 continue to see record sales increase? It remains to be seen. In the meantime, here are some of the most anticipated albums of 2012.

Lana Del Rey, *Born to Die* (Jan. 27)
Despite the negative press Del Rey has caught in the past year in light of her shifting and ambiguous public persona, her unique brand of soul has captured the ears of many fans and her second studio album *Born to Die* could be the turning point in the public's opinion of the young seductress.

Kid Cudi and Dot Da Genius, *WZRD* (Jan. 30)
The punk-rock influenced sound of *WZRD* shows that Kid Cudi continues to make his own lane in hip-hop. This album is likely to see Cudi experimenting with the sounds of the electric guitar, which he began to infuse into his music about a year ago.

Leonard Cohen, *Old Ideas* (Jan. 31)
Cohen, now 77 years old, is set to release his first album since 2004. "It's arguably the most spiritual of the revered artist's records," Columbia Records recently said in a release about the upcoming album. The artwork for the album was created by Cohen himself and incorporates several of his drawings.

Paul McCartney, *Kisses on the Bottom* (Feb. 7)

Kisses on the Bottom is a long anticipated McCartney project, almost 20 years in the making. Although the album consists of mainly covers, it includes two original songs ("My Valentine" and "Only Our Hearts") and collaborations with both Stevie Wonder and Eric Clapton. According to McCartney's personal website, the album title was inspired by the opening lines of the song "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down And Write Myself A Letter" made famous by Fats Waller in 1935. A consequent tour could be in the works for the 69-year-old ex-Beatle.

Madonna (March)

Madge is set to perform at the Superbowl half time show in Indianapolis on Feb. 5 and in March she will release her unnamed 12th studio album on Interscope Records. Look for big name female stars Nicki Minaj and M.I.A. to make appearances on the album. This is the first album in a three-album deal Madonna has signed for Interscope, earning her a reported US\$40 million.

Kanye West, *G.O.O.D. Music Compilation Album* (spring)

In 2011, Jay-Z hinted to MTV that in addition to a new Watch the Throne project to follow up the immense success of 2011's "The Throne" debut, both he and Kanye West would be releasing solo projects in 2012. The *G.O.O.D. Music Compilation* appears to be the most imminent of these projects, as on Oct. 19 West took to his Twitter page to tweet "GOOD-MUSIC.THE.ALBUM.SPRING2012." Appearances by Pusha T, Big Sean,

John Legend and Kid Cudi are likely, as the two appear on many *G.O.O.D. MUSIC* tracks. Judging by the success of the last few Kanye projects and the names associated with the buzz around the compilation, this is an album that will make serious waves in the hip-hop community and hints at a new trend in hip hop of collaborative albums.

Bruce Springsteen (winter)

Writing on his personal website in November, Springsteen declared he was almost finished mixing a new album. The Boss has since announced his European tour dates — North American dates will follow — and he is set to give a keynote address at 2012's *South by Southwest* music festival in Austin, TX. This will be the 18th studio album from Bruce Springsteen.

Film

In regards to film, 2012 is set to be the year where everything old is new again. Rereleases of blockbusters such as *Beauty and the Beast*, *Titanic* and *Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace* in 3D are among the most anticipated films of the coming year.

***The Amazing Spiderman* (July 3)**

Absent for the first time from the *Spiderman* franchise is the 36-year-old Tobey Maguire, replaced by the 28-year-old Andrew Garfield (*The Social Network*) for a new onscreen love-affair with real life girlfriend Emma Stone (*The Help*). Led by the direction of Marc Webb (*500 Days of Summer*), the chemistry between the two leads as well as the solid acting chops on Garfield's part make this a highly anticipated summer Blockbuster.

***The Dark Knight Rises* (July 20)**

Christopher Nolan once again directs Christian Bale as Batman, who presented a brilliant portrayal in the 2008 hit *The Dark Knight*. Missing from the project will be the late Heath Ledger, whose Joker was arguably the best villain in Batman history. In the sequel, Anne Hathaway and Tom Hardy are the villains, with Hathaway as Catwoman and Hardy as Bane.

***The Bourne Legacy* (Aug. 3)**

Jeremy Renner (*The Town*) takes over the franchise for Matt Damon, who chose not to return to the project without director Paul Greengrass. The film is based on a novel by Eric Van Lustbader with direction from Tony Gilroy. Edward Norton and Rachel Weisz round off an already stellar cast.

***Gangster Squad* (Oct. 19)**

In the 1940's period piece, Sean Penn plays Mickey Cohen, a crime boss in L.A. at the time. The movie focuses on the criminal action of gamblers, prostitutes and cops, with a league of straight cops played by Josh Brolin and Ryan Gosling aim to straighten out the town. Emma Watson plays Gostling's love interest and that pairing alone makes *Gangster Squad* a must-see for 2012.

***Skyfall* (Nov. 9)**

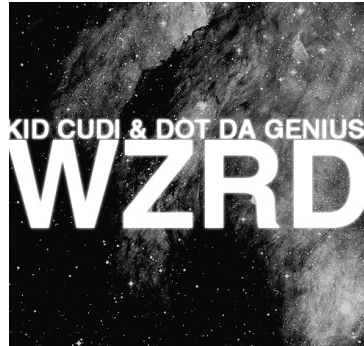
Daniel Craig returns as James Bond and Javier Bardem (*No Country for Old Men*) has signed on to play the villain in this instalment. *Bond* films long ago solidified their reputation as solid action entertainment.


***The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* (Dec. 14)**

Peter Jackson directs *Lord of the Rings* fan favourites such as Elijah Wood as Frodo, Ian McKellen as Gandalf, Hugo Weaving as Elrond, Orlando Bloom as Legolas and Andy Serkis as Gollum. Perhaps the most highly anticipated film of the year, fans have been waiting for the release of *The Hobbit* for the better part of a decade and this will be the perfect release to wrap up the year in film.

***The Great Gatsby* (Dec. 25)**

Based on the legendary American novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* stars Leonardo DiCaprio (*Inception*), Carey Mulligan (*Drive*) and Tobey McGuire (*Spiderman*). Baz Luhrmann directs and his directorial resume (*William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet*, *Moulin Rouge!*) instills hope in the heart of the film enthusiast for a great picture about America's golden age.





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Arts bites

The latest news in entertainment

You're my girl Blue

The world's most famous baby was born this week, as Beyoncé Knowles and Jay-Z revealed daughter Blue Ivy Carter to the adoring public. The music royalty offspring is said to have been delivered over New Year's weekend. No word on whether or not she looks like mom or dad, but the world has its fingers crossed that it's mom. Jay-Z's mug on a girl? Yeesh.

Saying "Bye, Bye, Bye" to the bachelor life

Justin Timberlake and girlfriend, *INow Pronounce You Chuck and Larry* star, Jessica Biel are getting married. The pop superstar apparently popped the question while the couple were vacationing in Montana this month. This brings to light the very evident question: who the hell vacations in Montana?

Nemesis found for *Trek* sequel

War Horse actor, and relatively new famous face Benedict Cumberbatch has reportedly been cast as the main villain in J.J. Abrams' *Star Trek* sequel, to be released in 2013. The filmmakers were rumoured to have sought Oscar winner Benicio Del Toro for the part, but the very British actor ultimately won the rights. Apparently the only qualification you needed to have for the role was that your first name begin with "B-e-n."

No more "Winning"

While talking with a reporter at a Television Critics Association party, Charlie Sheen admitted, "I'm not crazy anymore." It was then revealed that the interview was from a party in 1986.

—Compiled by Wade Thompson



WADE THOMPSON VISUAL DIRECTOR

Audiences prefer blondes

LIZ SMITH
ARTS EDITOR

In the summer of 1956, Colin Clark (Eddie Redmayne), a 23-year-old Oxford graduate determined to make a name for himself in the film business, earned work as a “third” (third assistant to the director) on the picture *The Prince and the Showgirl*.

The film famously united British and American acting royalty with the on-screen pairing of Sir Laurence Olivier (Kenneth Branagh) and Marilyn Monroe (Michelle Williams). It would later become infamous for the lack of chemistry between the leading stars who were by all accounts severely incompatible.

Directed by Simon Curtis and written by Adrian Hodges, *My Week With Marilyn* is the true story of the fleeting relationship between Clark and Monroe during the filming of the movie.

Monroe, newly married to playwright Arthur Miller, takes a liking to the young Clark as he is there for her during some of her vulnerable low points, which play in the film as episodes of depression.

In 1995, Colin Clark published his diaries from his time working on the

film and in 2002 published a further memoir — on which this film is based — depicting his week with Marilyn when her husband Arthur Miller was away.

The standout scenes of the film are the intermittent clips from *The Prince and The Showgirl*, in which Branagh and Williams star as Oliver and Monroe.

Each is enchanting in their portrayals and these scenes are a joy to watch. Branagh revives the essence of Sir Laurence Olivier perhaps most clearly when he is fuming over Monroe’s lateness, or discrediting her method acting indulgences, showing the wide divide between the ideologies of British and American theatre.

If art mirrors life it is certainly true in this film; Michelle Williams provides a captivating performance as Monroe and stole the show from her talented co-stars. She was childlike in her vulnerability but also very aware of the power derived from her sex-symbol status.

“Should I be her?” Williams asks Clark at one point in the film, in a moment transforming into the celebrity for a group of photographers. The film succeeded in communicating the complexity of her celebrity,

as well as her struggles with insecurity and dedication to “method” acting. Williams truly transformed into the bombshell star; the movie saw most male characters falling head over heels for Monroe, and it was no stretch of the imagination to believe Williams would have the same effect.

Yet despite a seasoned cast of A-List actors including Judi Dench, Dominic Cooper, Emma Watson and Dougray Scott, *My Week With Marilyn* failed to provide the level of entertainment one would expect from a film about such an epic and exciting life.

Especially considering the film is the first of its kind. My only qualm with the picture is that the viewer comes away with nothing. Monroe as a star remains an utter mystery about whom essentially nothing is revealed. The film perpetuates the iconic vision of the star; hand over her mouth, skirt blowing in the wind.

She is portrayed as she is remembered, as a one-dimensional symbol of beauty.

Only when we see Monroe in her bed, dazed from drug use, confused and sad, are we given intimations of the end that would come.

Noteworthy reads at the WLU bookstore

An insider’s tips on the hottest books

DENOJA KANKESAN
CORD ARTS

Hedy’s Folly by Richard Rhodes (In Stock)

Richard Rhodes’ new book, *Hedy’s Folly: The Life and Breakthrough Inventions of Hedy Lamarr, the Most Beautiful Woman in the World* is the first book-length attempt to tell the fascinating story of a Hollywood beauty-turned-inventor whose radio system for remote-controlling torpedoes is essential to modern day technologies like Wi-Fi and bluetooth. In this short and charming book, Rhodes, a former Pulitzer Prize winning author, has encouraged Lamarr to be judged as something more than just a pretty face.

Would it kill you to stop doing that: A modern guide to manners by Henry Alford (January)

In this hilarious and non-judgmental book, humourist and journalist Henry Alford decides to examine manners — his own and others. While this book won’t tell you whether it’s okay to cross your right ankle over your left it does provide answers to questions like, why shouldn’t you ask a cab driver where he’s from? And why, “People pay you to do that?” is not the question to ask anyone who’s just told you his profession.

While Rhodes does not attempt to create a system of rules to follow, he does try to understand and establish a universal code of manners for all of us to live by.

The Fault in our Stars by John Green (January)

Award-winning novelist John Green’s latest book, *The Fault in our*

Stars tells the story of 17-year-old cancer survivor holding onto a thin life line until she meets Augustus Waters — a match made at cancer kid support group. Meeting Augustus pushes Hazel to re-examine her sickness, life, death and the legacy that everyone leaves behind. Green is the popular author of *Looking for Alaska* and *Paper Towns*.

Liberation Square: Inside the Egyptian Revolution and the Rebirth of a Nation by Ashraf Khalil (January)

Liberation Square is a well-written and thrilling account of the overthrow of Hosni Mubarak’s regime in Egypt last year. Khalil, a Cairo-based journalist, is able to provide cultural insights in his commentary of the past and current reality of Egypt and its people.

He describes a few cultural and political milestones that exemplify the growing desperation with Mubarak’s regime before the uprising. The last half of *Liberation Square* is a day-to-day narrative of the weeks between the first protest on Jan. 25 and Mubarak’s resignation on Feb. 11.

He describes how demonstrators tried to take bridges and public spaces and figured out how to communicate without the Internet and cell phones. He talks about important Internet figures including Khaled Saieed and Asmaa Mahfouz, who he confirms were pivotal to galvanizing the nation.

For special orders on fiction/non-fiction, please contact: Denoja Kankesan, general books/faculty relations coordinator



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Announcement

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Copies of The Cord
Your favourite campus community newspaper is being given away for free this week. Find your copy on stands at Wilfrid Laurier University and around Waterloo. Or if you're lazy, visit thecord.ca.

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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 dearlif@thecord.ca no later than Monday at noon each week.

Dear Life,
Reading that posting about Christmas presents in Africa being a bad idea because "Muslims don't celebrate Christmas" upset me. In addition to Christianity and Islam, there are also a variety of traditional African religions across the continent. Being against Christmas presents in Africa because "Muslims don't celebrate Christmas" ignores practitioners of traditional African religions completely. Why is avoiding offending Muslims so much more important than avoiding offending them?

Regardless, I think it's a ridiculous thing to complain about, and I'm sure the people who receive these presents are grateful, whatever religion they are.
Sincerely,
Africa has many religions

Dear Life,
Thanks to Ginger and a Business Kid for the kind words of thanks. Respectful students and staff like yourselves make our job much more satisfying!
Sincerely,
Your friendly neighborhood custodial staff

Dear Life,
Life is beautiful.
Be an Optimist Prime, not a negatron.
Sincerely,
:)

Dear Life,
I've developed a Love-Hate relationship with Laurier's small community. I love seeing familiar faces everywhere I go, but I've learned firsthand

the destructive powers of rumors and gossip. I laughed at the people who would talk about me behind my back until a friend who knew me best asked me about my sexual preference because they heard false rumors. This showed me that even the people closest to me could listen to and believe the gossip. If your life is so boring that you need to invent lies about others, I really pity you.
Grow up.
Sincerely,
Disappointed student

Dear Life,
This past weekend my roommate and I hiked a MOUNTAIN, crossed a RICKETY OLD BRIDGE, and went on a WILD SAFARI. Okay, maybe it wasn't so much a mountain as it was a large hill or a rickety old bridge as it was a well constructed bridge that could bear a load of 5000 lbs., or a wild safari as it was Waterloo Park. O well, it was fun and that donkey was totally bad ass!
Sincerely,
How cool would it be if my life were an Indiana Jones movie?

Cordoscopes

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
Although the weather is cold, the love of your friends and family will keep you warm this winter. Oh, and your Canada Goose jacket (don't pretend like you don't own one).

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You're still drunk from New Year's aren't you? You need time to recover from your weak week. Try taking it easy for a while, champ.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)
Stop letting the small details in life affect you. You are a confident and powerful human being, therefore you should NOT be crying over the divorce of Katy Perry and Russell Brand. It's tragic, I'll admit, but not cry-worthy.

Aries (March 21 - Apr. 19)
The kindness within you is strong and nothing makes you feel better than making others happy. You will share anything to see a smile on someone else's face, except Chicken McNuggets. NEVER the Chicken McNuggets.

Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 20)
I know life seems a little boring recently, but don't blame the stars — this is all your fault. You chose to watch the entire box set of "Big Bang Theory" and that's a week you will never get back.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
It's time you start appreciating the magic that surrounds you. Look around, there is a world full of nature and beauty. When you're done texting, check it out.

Cancer (June 21 - Jul. 22)
School and work can often be frustrating and most of the time stressful. Just keep in mind that there are ways to bring the fun back into your life. Join a sport, read an exciting book, try heroin — anything really.

Leo (Jul. 23 - Aug. 22)
You are known to be stubborn; however, this month you will conform. For example, we know you don't like Nicki Minaj, none of us do. But clearly she is not going away, so perhaps try to embrace her and her booty.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Go do something new. You have been stuck in the same boring routine for a while now. Try pottery lessons; I haven't heard interesting things, but you won't really like change anyways.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)
It is time you start to go with the flow. Everything can't always be according to plan. Loosen up. Undo a couple buttons on that shirt ... or someone else's shirt.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
You will meet someone special in the near future. But his/her interest in you depends on whether or not you stop wearing that jean jacket. Come on, it's January — give it up.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
You are going to find love in a hopeless place. Sorry, I'm listening to Rihanna right now and I've run out of ideas.

Michael Porfirio over dosed on cough syrup and can now predict the future.

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SPORTS

Sports Editor
Kevin Campbell
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Mascioli makes immediate impact

Former Kitchener Rangers tough guy Mike Mascioli scores a goal against top-ranked Western in his first game as a Golden Hawk. The team then beat Brock 6-1 to halt their five-game losing skid

SHELBY BLACKLEY
STAFF WRITER

It was as if a whole new team stepped onto the ice.

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks men's hockey team battled the visiting Brock Badgers Saturday night, capturing a 6-1 win and snapping their five-game losing skid.

The Hawks seemed like a new team as they bounced back from a tough 7-4 loss against the Western Mustangs the previous night.

Their added flare created strong charisma, and the team mended their flaws from the match before. It helps to have Mike Mascioli.

Mascioli, the former Kitchener Rangers' instigator, made his home debut with the Golden Hawks and was a strong presence on the ice.

"I've been brought into the system well," Mascioli reflected on his transition. "I like what coach Puhalski's done, so it's been an easy adjustment."

The adjustment was evident early as the Hawks (5-12-1) and Badgers (8-9-1) exchanged strong offensive chances in the first period.

With less than thirty seconds left, Joseph Vanni would tip a point shot from captain Kyle Van De Bospoort to take the lead.

Mascioli's style of play was visible from the puck drop. The five-foot-ten right-winger threw heavy hits to spark his team, adding an extra personality on the ice.

"I bring the same type of play [to the Golden Hawks]," Mascioli

expressed. "If I'm known for a style of play, I think that I'm just going to bring the same reputation over and try to continue what I've done so far in my hockey career."

Laurier continued a strong offence early in the second when Mitchell Good beat Brock goaltender Kurt Jory, five-hole to go ahead 2-0.

Minutes later, Badgers defender Jake LaPlante would turn over the puck to Hawks forward, Zack Shepley, who made no mistake and extended the lead to three.

Brock's offence did not go unnoticed as Derek Brochu would go five-hole on Hawks goalie Ryan Daniels to come within two.

But that would be all that passed Daniels. With less than five minutes left in the game, Tyler Stothers buried a beautiful pass by Vanni, stretching the gap back to three.

In a final attempt, Brock pulled Jory to add an extra skater, but the added offence of Laurier was too much, and they would add two empty netters before the final buzzer.

"We battled, and we knew we had it in us," Vanni commented. "It was a great team effort tonight and that's why we got the two points."

Vanni recorded one goal and three assists, while Mitchell Good tallied a goal and two helpers and Shepley, Van De Bospoort and Thomas Mid-dup all added two points each. Trevor Atkinson also had an assist.

Laurier's Daniels stopped 31 of 32 shots to record the win.

"[Daniels] brings his best effort,

and we know he's going to be solid as a rock back there," Vanni said.

"He's our MVP so far this year and he continues to do the job."

Although he was held off the score sheet, Mascioli's home debut did not go without comment.

"It's really nice to be back. That was a big part of me coming here, being familiar with the city. It was an easy decision."

Mascioli finished his OHL career with the Belleville Bulls before heading to Trenton, New Jersey to play professionally.

He played a few games out east before heading back to Ontario.

"I had some aspirations to try out pro and see what that was like so I went over to the east coast. I realized that it wasn't for me and I needed my education more, and decided to make the move and come back."

The Golden Hawks now sit at eighth in the standings. The team ended the season with a surprising second-place West division finish with Daniels leading the way as team MVP.

They'll head on a three-game road trip, looking for their first win away from the Waterloo Recreational Complex as they battle the York Lions and Waterloo Warriors this weekend.

The Hawks defeated the Warriors 4-2 earlier in the year.

They'll meet Guelph at the Gryphon Centre on the 20th before heading home on Jan. 21st to face the Windsor Lancers, a team they fell to 4-2 in October.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Mike Mascioli comes to Laurier after a stint in the ECHL.

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Badgers toppled by surging Golden Hawks

Undefeated, sixth-ranked Brock lose their first of the season

SHAYNE MCKAY
STAFF WRITER

Coming off a big win earlier in the week to start the New Year, the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks (7-3) were looking to continue their streak by overcoming the undefeated Brock Badgers (9-1) at the Athletic Complex on Jan. 7.

Despite a back and forth start to the second half to keep the game close, the Lady Hawks managed to string together a heart-pumping final quarter to pull away with a 77-69 win and handing Brock its first loss of the season.

Laurier had an impressive start to the game, establishing a comfortable lead early while ending the first quarter, up 20-13 on the Badgers.

Defence was a major factor in keeping Brock at bay.

The second-quarter saw Brock make a comeback despite Laurier picking off many important rebounds and brought the game within three points at 31-28.

The third-quarter saw an intense

“We want to be playing our best basketball come February.”

— Paul Falco, head coach of the women's basketball team

game of cat and mouse take place where both teams shared control of the lead until Laurier managed to barely push ahead going into the final quarter at 49-48.

Fourth-quarter action allowed Laurier to shine, where they capitalized on their free-throws and continued a strong defence to come away with the 77-69 win.

Christa Mancino and Felicia Mazerolle were key players in the final quarter, amassing 15 and 12 points respectively to end the game.

Shelby Kurt also ended the night with an exceptional 19 points to lead the team in scoring. Brock's Andrea Polischuk led the game overall with

a total of 22 points.

“Felicia and Shelby specifically were spark plugs for us,” said head coach Paul Falco.

Falco also added that “the girls did a good job of handling the full-court pressure Brock put on us and a good job of contesting those shots they put on us. That was important to our victory.”

The team will try to continue their strong defensive rotation for their game against Lakehead on Jan. 13.

“If we keep getting better month after month here then we want to be playing our best basketball come February,” said Falco. Tip-off is set for 6 p.m. at the Athletic Complex.



ROSALIE EID PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Fourth-year Amber Hillis guards the ball against a Brock player during Saturday's win.

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Rainsberry enjoying career year

—cover

should be given for the best season Laurier's hoops boys have enjoyed in their history, and the squad will soon eclipse their 13-win season of a year ago.

The team defeated the Warriors and Badgers this past week.

On the ice, the women's hockey Hawks (ranked second in Canada) have kept up their machine-like pace, and find themselves at the top of the OUA's heap with a 15-0-1 start.

This is nothing new for a team that has only lost eight times in 124 regular season games since the 2007-08 season, with three of those coming in overtime.

And they've been getting the job done by committee. No Hawk resides in the OUA's top ten in scoring and captain Abby Rainsberry is closest to the leaderboard, filling slot 12. Rainsberry is having her most productive offensive campaign of her four years in a purple and gold uniform, notching seven goals and nine assists in just 16 games, to go with her intangible leadership qualities that have her regarded so highly by her teammates.

Sophomore sensation Laura Brooker is also looking to improve upon a rookie year for the ages, one in which she scored 19 goals. She's

got 11 already, with 11 games to go.

Erika Thunder is the league's top netminder with a 1.58 GAA and a .912 SV%. Thunder has handled her starting duties tremendously well, filling in for a graduated Laurier icon, Liz Knox.

The squad beat the University of Windsor and the University of Western Ontario by a combined score of 9-6 this week.

The men's hockey team, however, has been the team in most disarray to finish 2011. Head coach Greg Puhalski has had to deal with three players who chose to leave the team in October due to philosophical differences in left-winger Kain Allcock, and defencemen Phil Magistrate and Garrett Sinfield.

A depleted lineup struggled through the fall semester, but a win against the OUA's top team, Western earlier in the year, and a 6-1 thrashing of Brock on Saturday are positive signs the team can take with them in the New Year. A 7-4 loss to the Mustangs in London was the only defeat Laurier recorded on the week.

The team stars a collection of ten rookies out of 20 roster spots, including recently-joined former Kitchener Ranger, Mike Mascioli.

The team's 5-12-1 record has them in the eighth and final playoff spot.

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Coulthard emerges in victory

CHRIS MANDER
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks men's hoops squad did not start off shooting the ball well against the Brock Badgers on Saturday afternoon before one of the largest crowds of the season.

At the end of the first quarter, Laurier had struggled to find any solid momentum and despite leading, had not totally discouraged their opponent like they have been known to do throughout what is shaping up to be a memorable season.

Despite their poor shooting performance early on, the Hawks were able to take a lead and maintain it by limiting their turnovers, and rebounding well against a good Badgers team (7-3).

Two of the biggest contributors throughout the afternoon were fifth-year veteran Matthew Buckley and first-year point guard Will Coulthard.

Buckley contributed through hard work and physical play in the paint, pulling down 10 rebounds, highlighted by 6 offensive boards in what ended up to be a 93-70 victory for the home side.

Coulthard, the freshman point guard, displayed his newly discovered confidence on the court by contributing 11 points, 3 assists, and most importantly, limiting his turnovers.

"I think he got his confidence on Wednesday night and that really helped him," said head coach Peter Campbell.

"Will's confidence is good when he shoots well early, and he limits his turnovers," continued the pleased head coach, who is leading his team to tops of the Ontario University Athletics' (OUA) West division with a crucial back-to-back against Lakehead next weekend.

On Wednesday against the Waterloo Warriors, Coulthard finished the game with 16 points, a career high for the young Oakville native.

The guard has seen his playing time increase with each boost of confidence and playing time that

Campbell and the coaches have given him.

The tough physical play by the Golden Hawks (9-1) started right away, as they established a dominant presence in the paint, highlighted by Buckley pulling down two offensive boards on the Hawks first two possessions, something that did not go unnoticed with Campbell.

"Buck was the key to the game. We didn't shoot well to start and he was the key to the game, controlling their big guys and scoring like he can; he made great moves inside," raved the coach.

While the Hawks struggled to score early, they were still able to muster up over 90 points, living up to their reputation of being one of the most dangerous offensive teams in the OUA.

However it's not the abilities of the team's offence and their talent to score at will, which excites Campbell, but rather their willingness and aptitude to play physical and tough, highlighted by their defensive play.

"[During] most of the game we did a great job, and our big guys boxed out well and Brock is more athletic than us and longer than us, but I thought our big guys did a great job of competing with them," said Campbell.

The Hawks stingy defence and offensive production produced the victory, but more importantly, put the team on top of the West division with a 9-1 record, tied with Lakehead.

The Hawks will have to play physical next weekend against the Thunderwolves, as first place in the West is on the line.

The Thunderwolves boast fourth-year, six-foot-seven post, Brendan King. King has the second-best field-goal percentage in the OUA, with a 61 percent shooting accuracy.

The team is second in team scoring behind Laurier with 89.3 points per game.

The doubleheader will be pivotal for the Hawks' playoff positioning in a season full of high hopes and promise.



ROSALIE EID PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Will Coulthard scored a career-high 16 points against Waterloo.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
Jan 9 - 15, 2012

RECENT SCORES

1.4.12

W Basketball 71 - Waterloo 55
M Basketball 110 - Waterloo 60

1.6.12

W Hockey 4 - Windsor 2
M Hockey 4 - Western 7

1.7.12

W Basketball 77 - Brock 69
M Basketball 93 - Brock 70
W Hockey 5 - Western 4
M Hockey 6 - Brock 1

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

1.13.12

W Basketball vs Lakehead
Athletic Complex, 6:00pm
M Basketball vs Lakehead
Athletic Complex, 8:00pm

1.14.12

W Basketball vs Lakehead
Athletic Complex, 6:00pm
M Basketball vs Lakehead
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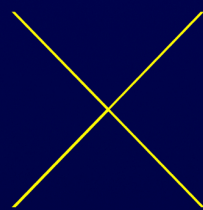
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