

# THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

Volume 52, Issue 20

Thursday, January 19, 2012

thecord.ca



## Candidates revealed

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News, page 3

## Brood plays K-W despite blackout

After close call, band plays Starlight gig

DANIELLE DMYTRASZKO  
CORD ARTS

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Despite a power outage that affected the majority of the Uptown area and threatened the show's possibility, fans anxiously awaited confirmation that the show would ensue.

Ten minutes before the show was to be cancelled, the band took to their Twitter and shared the desired news: "Looks like the show is back on. Nice work Waterloo Hydro!!!"

The band's lyrically narrative songs, combined with rich gritty melodies, lean towards the genre of

rock and roll revival — with an undeniably boot stomping rhythm.

Elliott Brood is notably influenced by military history, having been raised on stories of WWI. Prior to performing the ballad "If I Get Old," vocalist and guitarist Mark Sasso dedicated the song to "soldiers who did not come back."

Further hinting at their military inspiration, Elliott Brood's members donned dapper outfits for the performance — engendering an early 1900s style — complete with suspenders, vests and fedoras. Playing under white patio lights and a backdrop of barren trees, it felt as if the band was playing a secluded show and we were the fortuitous audience.

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## Hawks split heavyweight bout

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ROSALIE EID FILE PHOTO

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A local director is set to film a feature-length movie based on the traditions of frosh week parties

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### Sustainability at Laurier

WLU sees early success in new initiative to track energy consumption across campus

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Editor-in-Chief  
Linda Givetash  
lgivetash@thecord.ca

**Editor's choice**  
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## From the archives

**5 years**  
**Ice, ice Laurier: First snow day**  
Things in Waterloo Region were at a standstill on Monday as freezing rain blanketed the city. Environment Canada had issued a warning of freezing rain for southern Ontario the night before and had predicted five to ten centimetres of snow. His warning was in effect by 6 a.m. Monday morning.

With many of the roads too treacherous to handle, Laurier and the University of Waterloo shut down activities for the day. But even with two major universities and all public schools in the area closed, Conestoga College left their doors open.

Not all university students were

saddened by the cancellation of classes though. "I was more concerned about the fact that my ice and ball hockey games were cancelled," said Nathan McBride, a fourth-year environmental studies student at UW.

Effects of the snow day carried on to Tuesday when Laurier student Trish Jasiewicz, who stayed in on Monday because of the weather, had to spend half an hour chipping ice off of her car, making her miss a class.

On the snow day, the Waterloo Regional Police had reported to CKCO News that there had been over 20 car accidents by the noon hour due to poor driving conditions.

*Printed Jan. 17, 2007*

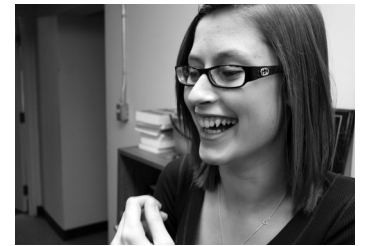
## Photo of the week



**KATE TURNER** LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER  
A view of Victoria's harbour last week at the Canadian University Press national conference.

## Vocal Cord

What was it like having norovirus?



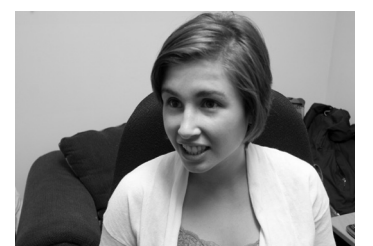
**"It was like an exorcism."**  
–Taylor Gayowsky  
Graphics Editor



**"All I could think of was the lyrics to 'My Jeans.'"**  
–Justin Fauteux  
News Director



**"I would prefer 100 hangovers over that."**  
–Shelby Blackley  
Staff Writer



**"It was like a living nightmare — like being in a slasher film."**  
–Linda Givetash  
Editor-in-Chief



**WLUSP 2012**  
**Annual General Meeting**

**Jan 26, 2012**  
**Location: The Hawk's Nest**  
**6:30pm Social**  
**7:00pm Mix & Mingle**  
**7:30pm AGM begins**

**Vote in 4 Board Directors & 1 President/Publisher**

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### CORRECTION

In the Jan. 11 story, "Are you living illegally in Waterloo?" the article failed to clarify the map represented lodging houses and not other forms for rental housing.

The sidebar accompanying the map lists the upcoming changes to rental housing licenses as previously reported on. The Cord intends to reprint a licensing map once the changes come into effect. Fines listed in the sidebar may have been misread to be enforced on the tenants of a rental facility, when in fact they would be enforced on the landlords.

For information regarding the upcoming changes to take effect as of April 2012, visit the city of Waterloo's website. The Cord apologizes for any confusion in the article.

In the Jan. 11 article "Half of students to receive grant", Rob Leone was cited to be the MPP for Kitchener, when in fact he is the MPP for Cambridge. The Cord apologizes for the error.

### REMINDER

The Cord is independent from both the university and students' union, allowing our coverage to be critical and raise awareness about issues that would otherwise not be publicized.

thecord.ca

Compiled by Liz Smith  
Photos by Kate Turner

## THE CORD

*The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926*

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Waterloo, ON N2L 3C5  
519-884-0710 x3564

JANUARY 19, 2012  
Volume 52, Issue 20  
Next issue: January 25, 2012

Advertising  
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In 2011 the Canadian Community Newspaper Association awarded The Cord second place in the campus community newspaper category.



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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.

The Cord is created using Macintosh computers running Mac OS X 10.5 using Adobe Creative Suite 4. Canon cameras are used for principal photography.

The Cord has been a proud member of the Ontario Press Council since 2006. Any unsatisfied complaints can be sent to the council at info@ontpress.com.

The Cord's circulation for a normal Wednesday issue is 8,000 copies and enjoys a readership of over 10,000. Cord subscription rates are \$20.00 per term for addresses within Canada.

The Cord has been a proud member of the Canadian University Press (CUP) since 2004.

Campus Plus is The Cord's national advertising agency.

### Preamble to The Cord constitution

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

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

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

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

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

**Quote of the week:**  
"Man, they really ripped off English."  
–Kate Turner, Lead Photographer, regarding Spanish.



# NEWS

News Director  
Justin Fauteux  
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## Inside

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# WLUSU election officially underway

Candidates for president, BOD, BOG and senate come forward for students' union campaign



LEFT AND CENTRE: KATE TURNER LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER, RIGHT: ROSALIE EID PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Candidates for the 2012 WLUSU election met Wednesday night in Bricker Academic 201, which also served as the official kick off to their campaigns.

**JUSTIN SMIRLIES**  
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

The gloves are off.

Presidential, director, senator and governor candidates, along with their numerous supporters, gathered enthusiastically Wednesday night to officially kick off the annual Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union election at the all-candidates meeting. Laurier students, starting Thursday, will be welcomed with campaign posters and materials.

Among the four presidential candidates competing this year are Jenny Solda, Michael Onabolu, Zahra Sultani and the only Brantford candidate, Nolan Kreis.

21 candidates are running for the board of directors, with three of those being from the Brantford campus. Jon Pryce and Scott Fleming are the only ones seeking re-election from the existing board.

Jesse Finn, the chief returning officer (CRO) and overseer of the election, carefully explained to the candidates the policies and rules of the election, primarily focusing on the ethics of campaigning.

"We want a clean fair fight," explained Finn, using a boxing analogy. "No one likes to watch a boxing match where the ref is stepping in every two seconds to break it up. We want our candidates to understand the policies and we want them to

stick to it."

"If you're running a clean campaign, it means you're going to be able to access the students a lot better," he continued, adding that being libelous towards another candidate will just bring negative attention.

Last year there were a total of 18 directors running for board, and none were from the Brantford campus. As well, it was evident that more female students were running for the board as opposed to last year, where there was only one female director.

"We'll see what happens in terms of representation this year," continued Finn. "Three Brantford candidates [are running], which we were happy about."

Onabolu, a fourth-year business and political science student, is anxious to start his campaign. "So generally I want to help students the way I was helped by this campus and the way I was helped by the students here at Laurier. I want to be that person for future students," he said.

Solda felt similar. "I want to bring the focus of the student union back to the student and that can be done through communication, transparency and constantly reaching out to students."

In a rare occasion, a second-year political science and philosophy student, Sultani, is also running

in the election. "I saw many issues with WLUSU's structure and I saw many student concerns that were not being addressed for the past two years I've been at this university," she said, explaining why she decided to run.

Michael Gagliano, Seth Warren and Scott Fleming are running for board of governors. The senator candidates, who were all acclaimed, were Joseph McNinch-Pazzano, Alex Reinhart, current WLUSU president Nick Gibson, current CGO Chris Walker, Seth Warren, Ashley Dansberger and Frank Cirinna.

"I think Laurier is facing a lot of challenges in the coming years and I think the senate has a big role to play in that," said McNinch-Pazzano,

noting that mental awareness is one of his main concerns.

"I'm a big supporter of a fall reading week and I want to open up that debate next year."

Dejan Eskic, a first-year political science student, hopes to expose different issues, in particular those concerning residence life to the board, if elected.

"I feel like I'm very connected to a lot of people on residence and I know a lot of the issues that are bugging us," said Eskic. "I would like to keep president in check too."

For Finn, his goal is to make this election have the highest turnout ever, by having student participation reach 40 per cent. One of the main concerns, since technology has

become such vital aspect of campaigning, is the use of social media.

"The big thing we're trying to promote is that you shouldn't be running in this election to find loopholes in our policy," said Finn. "We're going to be checking out the candidate's social media sites. But to me, if candidates are going to be calling each name, that's going to be an issue. I don't think we need to be all caught up in all sorts of craziness and all sorts of nitpicking."

"They need to know the policy and they need to contact us if they can't interpret it on their own," asserted Finn. The election campaigns will continue until the first election date on Feb. 1. Students will be able to vote the following day as well.

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Bus leaves Aird Underpass at 9:40am.  
All welcome. 11am-4pm in RCW

**Jan 30 | Waterloo Open Forum**  
11am-4pm in the Concourse

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# CAMPUS

Campus News Editor  
Justin Smirlies  
jsmirlies@thecord.ca



KATE TURNER LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

## Prof thrilled with teaching honour

LIZ SMITH  
ARTS EDITOR

Wilfrid Laurier University professor John Schwieter was surprised and overwhelmed by the news that he had been named the 2012 Faculty of Arts Teaching Scholar. "I was shocked, I didn't think I would even have a chance," said Schwieter. "Being only in my fifth year [at Laurier] I didn't think I had enough experience or time here to receive the highest award at the faculty of arts level."

This annual award honours a full-time faculty member who aptly and creatively integrates each of the profession's functions; scholarly research and teaching.

The award intends to honour those professors who have made successful efforts to develop means by which integration can be seamlessly achieved.

Each year, the recipient of the Arts Teaching Scholar Award is decided by a committee of faculty members, headed by the dean of arts, Michael Carroll.

Schwieter, an associate professor of Spanish and linguistics and undergraduate officer for Spanish in the department of languages and literatures, was selected from a total of six nominees. He told The Cord of the process, "From what I've heard, it was a very difficult deliberation and choice to come to."

Schwieter currently teaches a number of courses at Laurier in both Spanish and linguistics. "Five of the courses I teach I've created since I've been here at Laurier," said the professor. "Linguistics wasn't really here before I came."

"This year alone I wrote eight recommendations for graduate school for linguistics, so it's clear the interest is there," Schwieter continued.

In addition to his contributions to the Spanish and linguistic programs at Laurier, Schwieter teaches "Study Abroad" (SP200), an annual spring course which provides students with an "all-inclusive, international immersion experience" in a Spanish speaking country. "I've studied abroad for four different semesters," said Schwieter. "This May we're going to Costa Rica and Panama, last year we went to Spain."

It was his first trip abroad during his undergrad that prompted Schwieter to switch from a degree in Business to Spanish after discovering his

passion for the language.

He went on to earn his masters' at the Western Illinois University, later attending Florida State University to earn a PhD in Spanish language and linguistics. Marking a return to his original field of study, he is also a full-time MBA candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

"I didn't take a break from full-time school for eleven years, summers included," said Schwieter. When asked which qualities are especially pertinent in the profession, Schwieter answered, "I think students need to know that you care. If they have a question and you don't have time to answer it, that's the biggest burst of their bubble beer. You have to make the time."

A solid source of advice — considering the professor consistently receives excellent teaching evaluations himself, averaging 6.6 on the university's 7.0-point scale

Recipients of the award in recent years include Lynne Shakinovsky (English & film studies), Karljurgan Feuerherm (archaeology & classical studies) and Paul Tiessen (English & film studies). A \$1,000 donation in Schwieter's name will be made to the university or faculty prize, award or fund of his choice.

## Tracking Laurier's 'green' progress

New program from WLU gets recognized across province

JUSTIN SMIRLIES  
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Over the past year, Wilfrid Laurier University, in particular the sustainability office, has been implementing a variety of initiatives to ensure the campus is more 'green'. Just recently, the sustainability office released their annual report highlighting the accomplishments of 2011 as well as their goals for the coming year.

Claire Bennett, the sustainability office coordinator at WLU, is confident that 2011 was a productive year in regards to 'green' living. "I really couldn't have expected much better to be honest, we got so many projects implemented," said Bennett, adding that students and faculty were large contributors to that success.

"It was definitely a partnership, and if you don't have the support of people, it's hard to get projects done, right?" she added.

The report emphasized various categories including energy and waste management, water control and community outreach, all of which Bennett believes have been a success. This, however, doesn't mean that Bennett doesn't want to improve in specific areas.

"I would like to see more stuff with alternative transportation," she continued. "This is just where we want to see ourselves grow."

She noted that energy and waste management were the most improved, adding that Laurier achieved the minimum provincial requirement of 60 per cent for waste diversion.

"It's pretty awesome for Laurier because we actually achieved it and I can comfortably say that most universities have not achieved that," explained Bennett. "I met with my counterparts a few months ago and they were nowhere near the 60 per cent mark."

Along with the report released by WLU, the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) also released a report highlighting the "green" initiatives made by numerous universities from the province.

"Laurier was cited often [in the report] for being particularly innovative and showing some leadership in that way," said Mike Morrice, executive director of local environmental group Sustainable Waterloo.

**305.1 kw**

Used in Science Building

**175.7 kw**

Used in King Street Residence

**344.8 kw**

Used in Dr. Alvin Woods Building

**293.0 kw**

Used in Bricker Residence

\*Amounts taken on Jan. 17 at 12 p.m.

\*Amounts taken on Jan. 17 at 10 p.m.

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"One of the best examples is the sub-meter and the dashboard for real-time awareness for energy consumption."

Launched recently, the building dashboard real-time energy-metering program developed by LUCID design allows anyone to view energy consumption of a particular building. WLU is the second university to implement such a program. It also received a \$150,000 grant from the President's Innovation Seed Fund (PISF).

Bennett was also active in setting up a sustainability representative residence program where one student from each residence promotes sustainable living.

Shelby Blackley, a first-year English student and the sustainable rep for Willison Hall, explained the program has been going smoothly so far.

"Since Laurier's already so big on

trying to be 'green,' we're really trying to promote it in the residences as well," she said. "To show people that we're not just another council that's like, 'Yeah, we're not really doing anything.'"

Just like Bennett mentioned, Blackley feels improvements could always be made. "Every residence you go into, they are either not separating their garbage from the recycling or the garbage is so full that when it comes time for collection, it's already too much," she added.

Bennett, as the office begins to work on projects for 2012, is certain that the goals outlined in the sustainability report will be met, though some slight funding concerns may remain.

"These goals I have for next year, I'm kind of an ambitious person so I'm more of like, 'how are we going to get this done?' not 'are we?'"

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# Candidates prepare for WLUSP election

WLUSP, the organization which houses The Cord, Radio Laurier, Blueprint, Keystone, The Sputnik and The Carnegie will be electing its president and board of directors at its annual general meeting Thurs. Jan. 26

## Presidential candidates



**Emily Frost**

Over the last three years, I have been involved with WLUSP as a DJ, Manager and Executive at Radio Laurier, and a contributor to The Cord. Additionally, I have been active in policy writing and strategic planning and as a member of the re-branding committee. Consequently, I have gained a strong understanding of the organization's history and have been equipped with the knowledge, ideals and values to lead it into the future.

My experience as a volunteer in these

facets of WLUSP is vital to the support that I will be able to provide volunteers as President. It is my belief that volunteers should have a strong understanding of the inner workings of WLUSP and the opportunity to provide support to our Board of Directors. I will ensure accessibility of myself and information to volunteers so their goals remain at the core of WLUSP.

WLUSP President must ensure that volunteers are given the best experience possible. I will seek out new opportunities for training to help them further their knowledge and skills. Implementing these ideals while showing volunteer appreciation will result in the continued success of our publications.

It is essential that WLUSP continues to aggressively fundraise to increase our resources. My experience spearheading such events as WLUSP's Hawktoberfest as Events Manager exemplifies my commitment to increasing revenue for WLUSP and to growing within the Waterloo community.

As President of WLUSP you can be assured that I will bring my enthusiasm, experience and leadership skills to make 2012/2013 a success!



**Mike Lakusiak**

In my three years at WLUSP, I've been lucky enough to be involved with something I genuinely care about. It has allowed me to supplement the vague credential provided by my degree with some real experience. I've been able to build contacts and skills in a field I intend to pursue as a career and share an office with some of the most impassioned, tireless individuals I have ever encountered. I want to expand on the role I took on last year as a director on the WLUSP

board and run for the position of president, chair of the board and publisher.

WLUSP has potential to be the foremost student media organization in the country (if not the world), and if we can continue to provide an environment for students to develop and hone skills that lead them into publishing, broadcasting and other media, there's no reason why we won't continue to be recognized as such.

As a volunteer and editor at The Cord, I've had opportunities I would never have had otherwise, and if elected president I intend to work to keep that the case for incoming volunteers in any WLUSP department.

We offer the best and most valuable experience of any activity students can engage in on Laurier's campuses.

We allow students to create something tangible beyond their regular curriculum. I've spent the last three years experiencing this, now I want to make sure a foundation is in place for others.

*-Disclaimer: Mike Lakusiak is the In Depth Editor for The Cord*

## Board of Directors candidates



**Kayla Darrach**

Over the last two years I have had the pleasure of being a part of this wonderful organisation. After a year with Radio Laurier I became Street Team coordinator, a position that has allowed me to see the many facets of this organisation and interact with a great number of its members. Through this experience I have gained an appreciation for every department and a want for a more shared experience. As part of the WLUSP board of directors I will encourage volunteers and departments to work together and play off of each other's strengths, to maintain and increase collaboration, visibility in the community and a better understanding for one another. I will encourage open communication between departments, volunteers and the board to allow for joint projects and teams. Through this kind of work I feel we can gain an even greater volunteer experience and realize the potential of WLUSP.



**Joseph McNinch-Pazzano**

Having had experience with The Cord as both a volunteer and as part of the editorial board, I recognize the fundamental importance of an independent and viable student media. As part of the WLUSP Board of Directors, my primary goal will be securing the role of student media for many years to come. This means advocating strong financial viability, an energized and growing volunteer base, a more integral role in the broader Waterloo region and delivering compelling and relevant media products for all students. In a constantly changing media environment, WLUSP must also harness the opportunity of social and web media in a variety of different capacities to ensure that all WLUSP departments are competitive and relevant. The importance of media in a university setting cannot be overstated and I look forward to the opportunity to represent Laurier's students on the WLUSP Board of Directors.



**Tom Paddock**

As a Director for WLUSP, I will work along side the Board, volunteers and staff of WLUSP to ensure that the organization continues producing the highest quality of publication, while providing students in the Laurier community with meaningful experiences. If re-elected, I will apply my previous knowledge obtained through serving as a director and treasurer of WLUSP. I will ensure that the organization continues to keep both the Laurier student body and Waterloo Region informed through quality publications. The volunteers and staff are the driving forces behind WLUSP and I will make certain that the opportunities for continuous learning and growth remains. What is so unique about this organization is that students are able to develop skills that are not necessarily taught in the classroom, but will be utilized in the real world. My trustworthiness, honesty and dedication will serve as imperative characteristics of a director.



**Jon Pryce**

As a returning Director of the Board, I will use my experience to provide sound guidance and strategic direction for WLUSP. I will ensure that all finances are properly calculated and evaluated, that policies are up-to-date and improved, and that the strategic plan is thoroughly re-examined -- but not radically changed -- by the incoming Board. Further, I will ensure that each member of the organization is well informed, engaged and represented in the governance process. I was involved in the recalibration of the Risk Management policy for the organization, and I will continue to be proactive and provide assistance with any new policy initiatives. It is important that Directors attend a reasonable number of events that the organization holds in order to seek input and provide feedback; I will work towards being present at more of these initiatives.



**Justin Smirlies**

Student media has a vital role in the WLU community because it offers students, faculty and local citizens valuable insight when it comes to providing news and entertainment.

As a devoted contributor and editor to The Cord for the past year, I further realized how necessary our student media is and why it should continue to exist, especially considering that WLU offers very little hands-on experience in the fields of journalism, radio production and publishing.

If elected as a director, I will work with the board, executive director and president to ensure that WLUSP continues to run effectively and efficiently on campus and that a separate, but equally important, voice is heard. Though many will disagree with that particular "voice", it's still crucial that these publications continue to work together with each other and the Laurier community.

*-Disclaimer: Justin Smirlies is the Campus News Editor for The Cord*

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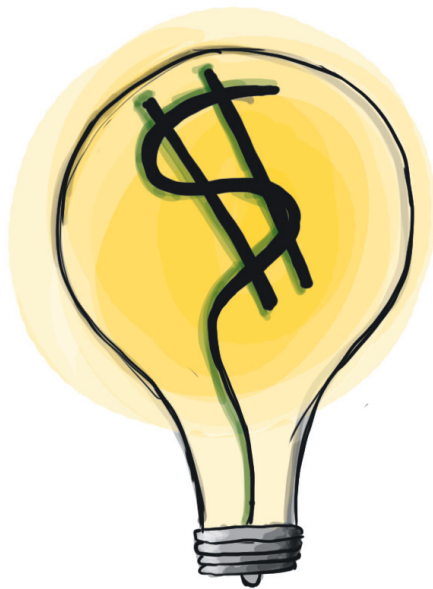
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# LOCAL

Local Editor  
Amanda Steiner  
asteiner@thecord.ca



## Local students head to business competition

LINDSAY PURCHASE  
LEAD REPORTER

Young entrepreneurs from local business Waterloo Banking Project have qualified in the central region for the Enterprize Canada business plan competition, allowing them the opportunity to move on to finals in Vancouver next month.

The team of three, comprised of University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier students, placed second out of seven teams in the regional competition. Participants were judged based on their submission of a business plan and a short presentation, after which they took questions and received feedback.

Central regional director Yosra Mohamed, who is also a third-year student at the University of Guelph, said "it was a pleasure" to partake in the organization of the competition, whose primary goal was to "attract young entrepreneurs to submit business plans that could be viable."

Mohamed felt that both funding and networking prospects would allow students to "bring their plans to life through the mentorship and guidance of practicing entrepreneurs."

Although there are monetary prizes for finalists, Waterloo Banking Project leader and University of Waterloo student Ryan Chen-Wing was more focused on the valuable feedback provided by judges and the potential to make connections.

"I'm not sure what the prize money is, but aside from the funding that we might be able to get from any kind of performance in the competition, we also get feedback from judges and that's good too," said Chen-Wing. Making connections is an important part of establishing a new business, and the Enterprize conference provides young entrepreneurs with a unique opportunity

to do so.

Chen-Wing added, "That helps us just in terms of communication of our ideas."

The conference was established in 2001, and expanded within a few years to include the competition portion. It was launched in Vancouver, but now draws upon regional pools from Mount Allison University, the University of Guelph and Concordia University.

This year's Enterprize president, Jesse Xin, a fourth-year University of British Columbia business student, explained, "It was kind of there to fill a gap that we really noticed was missing in our education, and that was the element of business that was actually concerned with creating something."

Lasting from Feb. 10-12, the conference will provide competitors with the opportunity to partake in seven minute appointments with experts in the field, explore various workshops, and take in the knowledge of keynote speakers such as Lane Merrifield.

One of Xin's main ambitions for the 2012 Enterprize conference was to encourage young entrepreneurs to take risks toward following their own personal goals, something which can only be done successfully when it is supported by pure motivations. "Don't go into something because they're driven by a fear of failure," he encouraged. "Go into something because you're genuinely passionate about it."

Passion has undoubtedly been a motivating factor behind the success of Waterloo Banking Project.

Unlike some other competitors, this idea began developing without the competition in mind. Chen-Wing commented, "The one thing that helped us be more successful was that we're actually doing it."

## Let them drink beer

The Shops in Uptown will soon host a pub-style public house

LINDSAY PURCHASE  
LEAD REPORTER

Joining the Charcoal Group and King Street's ever-expanding restaurant collection in summer 2012 is Beertown Public House, which will be located in Waterloo Town Square. Another location is also being opened this spring in Cambridge off of Hespeler Road.

Concept Manager Dan Maltar described the Uptown location as "amazing." "All the restaurants are mostly on King St., and we love that about it," he acknowledged.

"We think it fits in with everything."

Although it will primarily serve as a restaurant, Beertown, described by Maltar as "a fusion of a pub-style public house and a New York ... beer hall," will also feature a wide

beverage selection. However, similar to Martini's, the name does not encompass the variety of the menu. He clarified, "There's a beer base in it, that doesn't mean it's only about beer."

Meal prices, though not fixed as of yet, will likely range from \$15 to \$25, which may include appetizers such as gourmet poutine and bread, or seafood entrées provided by a "chef-driven kitchen."

The restaurant will be open for both lunch and dinner.

Beertown's décor also promises to be unique.

A 90s retro feel contrasted with modern elements aims at "just having a fun place overall." This atmosphere will be supported by the integration of TVs and a high-quality sound system.

What will remain consistent is

the high standard maintained by Charcoal Group restaurants, an assembly which includes The Charcoal Steak House, Martini's, del Dente, Wildcraft and The Bauer Kitchen. Maltar explained, "Just like the Charcoal Group does offer great service, a great dining experience and great cuisine, we're going to continue that."

While the name may suggest that the restaurant would only be appropriate for a drinking crowd, he assured, "We have something to offer for everyone."

Families, students and professionals alike should be able to enjoy the Beertown experience.

Maltar concluded, "We are going to have exceptional hospitality, we're going to have world class cuisine, and it is going to be the place to be."

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## NATIONAL

National Editor  
Amanda Steiner  
asteiner@thecord.ca

## Student journalists struck by infection

**CUPnash**

And with our final keynote completed, we shall now party. Have a fun, safe night everyone. #nash74

**smagee29**

Dear stomach: can I at least hold down water? Dehydrated and starving right now. #nash74 Also, hotel staff going around halls wearing masks.

**jasonscreurs**

#Nash74 whoever is knocking at my door, my bathroom has been compromised and I cannot come out of my bedroom. #thewalkingdead

**andyveilleux**

26 papers accounted for, 38 sick. #nash74 still waiting for many papers, including some big ones. Cord hit hardest at 10 sick, 15 healthy

**godmere**

UPDATE: #NASH74 staff have talked to paramedics who are encouraging everyone to please still stay in their rooms. Please RT.

MIKE LAKUSIAK IN DEPTH EDITOR

A sudden outbreak of norovirus hit approximately 75 delegates at NASH conference in British Columbia

AMANDA STEINER  
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

Over 75 student journalists, hosts and speakers from across Canada fell seriously ill this past weekend from a sudden outbreak of norovirus, formerly known as Norwalk, during the Canadian University Press (CUP) national journalism conference held in Victoria, BC at the Harbour Hotel.

On the final night of the conference, more and more delegates began to feel sick.

"I've had [norovirus] before," said Adam Kovac, current affairs editor of the Concordia University student newspaper, the *Link*. "I'm just living a charmed life. [Anyway] we boarded the busses before we got to the event and we kept hearing that people were getting sick, but we didn't really take it seriously. It was just about the time we got to the gala my stomach started feeling iffy but I just chalked it up to being tired and a lack of sleep and I also had a small cold.

"But it was once we got on the bus going back," he continued, "That I started feeling worse and worse and so did one other person from our paper. As soon as the bus pulled into the hotel I took off running, got to my room, locked the bathroom door and just started puking."

Theories and temporary explanations of how the virus began went from delayed or extended hangovers, to food poisoning to an airborne virus or a sudden passing of the flu.

"Even as we were getting the reports of people getting sick on the busses, we were trying to figure it out ourselves," said Emma Godmere, CUP's national bureau chief. "Could this be a food thing? [But] we were getting reports of people sick from all different rooms on all different floors from all different papers; people who had not eaten that day, people who were vegetarian, people who had eaten all sorts of things so there didn't seem to be any sorts of patterns emerging."

However, once the numbers of people falling ill started increasing quickly and considerably, organizers and hotel staff became extremely concerned.

"The hotel administration and staff contacted BC ambulance service and our medical health advisor was contacted at about midnight," explained Shannon Marshall, media liaison for Vancouver Island Public Health "She provided consult and advice to the BC paramedics on site to help treat the students with the recommendation that because they are young healthy adults, they would be best confined to their rooms so they could mitigate the spread of the illness to anybody else."

According to Marshall, this outbreak has not specifically been confirmed as norovirus but she agrees that it is 'noro-like.' "Norovirus is a fairly common gastro-intestinal illness and while this hasn't been confirmed as norovirus it is a noro-like illness so it was a gastro intestinal illness that spread very quickly," she said.

As delegates continued to fall ill, Godmere and other CUP staff were running about the hotel, checking up those already sick and offering whatever advice they could.

"I was being told doctor's orders through the hotel staff," Godmere said.

"I think they were also legitimately concerned about the potential spread, so they encouraged us to stay in our rooms, get out of the

lobby and then start letting people know via Twitter to get back into their rooms. We just had to assume that so many people had been exposed by that point."

Several students were sent to the Royal Jubilee hospital where many were waiting for attention. Some lay on the floors unable to move, others were slumped in chairs unresponsive, unable to speak. Hospital staff did supply those in need with water and some form of an injection of Gravol, but no one was admitted past the waiting room or seen specifically by a doctor.

Within a day or two of being exposed to norovirus, a person may have an upset stomach and start vomiting which is often followed by cramping, chills, fever and diarrhea. The illness usually begins suddenly and lasts only one to three days. However, the spread of the virus was difficult to contain since conference attendees had been with each other for four days straight and also sharing rooms containing between three to six people.

"We did have a buffet dinner, so everyone was passing around serving spoons and all that so it was very easy to pass along," Godmere said. "Once we had people getting sick on the buses and a lot of people contained on these buses with no airflow — that's where a lot of it spread as well."

Once news of the virus got out however, safe rooms were created and delegates were told to remain in their rooms until further notice within Harbour Hotel. The sick were confined to their respective rooms while the healthy stayed either in rooms of their own, or in groups.

"There were two reasons that things were handled quite quickly," said Ian Jones, manager of Harbour Towers Hotel. "One, was as a company we have quite detailed procedures to deal with any type of emergency," he explained.

"The other aspect is the relationship we have with the Vancouver Island Health Association. We wanted to get them involved as soon as possible and they got over to the hotel, and together we came up with an action plan to combat what was happening, and to limit its exposure and put an end to it as fast as possible."

However, Godmere wanted to make one thing clear. "One thing that I want to clarify," she explained, "Was that the word quarantine was never used by health authorities that we talked to, nor was it ever used by us in our official tweets."

"We were given a directive by BC health and the doctors who were talking to around midnight Saturday night and they just said, 'it looks like norovirus, we want everyone to come back to the hotel and stay in their rooms, doctor's orders.' Doctor's orders is very different than, 'we have a quarantine situation on our hands.'"

The outbreak that began Saturday night finally began to wane around Monday, but some people were still falling ill late Sunday.

Though rebooking flights home caused complications and frustration, the healthy were sent back early Monday morning while the sick remained until late Tuesday evening.

"In otherwise healthy adults, it doesn't have any serious consequences," said Marshall. "The most serious it would be is dehydration so it's really important people drink adequate amounts of fluid then keep a benign diet until your body is able to handle richer foods."

## Canada in brief

## Keystone on hold

The State Department announced Wednesday that the U.S. government has denied an application by TransCanada to build the Keystone XL pipeline.

According to CBC news, Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver said the government hopes a new TransCanada application will be approved but that Canada is going to look to other markets to sell its oil. "It is clear that the process is not yet over," Oliver said to CBC. Our focus is, as you know, on diversifying our markets. We currently have one customer for our energy exports. That customer has said that it doesn't want to expand at the moment. So it certainly intensifies the broad strategic objective of the government to diversify to Asia."

## Russell Williams issues for defence

The estranged wife of convicted murderer Russell Williams has issued a statement of defence in a civil suit brought against her by one of her husband's victims.

The lawyer for Mary Elizabeth Harriman told CBC News she will vigorously defend her client against allegations that she colluded with her husband to transfer property to her name.

Williams — a disgraced former colonel and one-time base commander of Canadian Forces Base Trenton in eastern Ontario — pleaded guilty to 88 charges and was sentenced in October 2010 to two terms of life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years.

-Compiled by Amanda Steiner

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# UBC prof launches free online university

RJ REID  
THE UBYSSEY

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Money could be becoming less of a factor in getting a university-level education.

Next Generation University (NextGenU) has opened its virtual doors to become one of the first services in Canada to offer university-level education for free. Erica Frank, founder and executive director of NextGenU and a professor at UBC's School of Population and Public Health, began working on NextGenU a decade ago.

"For most people in the world, secondary, much less post secondary, training is a dream," said Frank, adding that this lack of education has created a world "grievously under-supplied with healthcare professionals."

She has made training people for the health sector a priority for the program, which began offering courses this December in the health sciences field. It is free of cost, barriers and advertisements.

Though primarily directed towards people in developing countries, NextGenU.org's courses can be taken by anyone for either credit at an accredited institution or solely for continued education and training.

A partnership with the new College of Health Sciences at the Presbyterian University of East Africa, located in Kenya, is largely geared towards that goal.

"What they will do locally is that they will provide the hospitals where trainees will practice and have labs under local supervision

and then we'll provide the computer-based didactics and the overall direction," said Frank.

Content for the courses comes free of charge from professors and institutions from all over the world, and evaluation is done through peer and mentor assessment in addition to quizzes and final exams coordinated by NextGenU.

David Anderson, head of the department of education studies at UBC, sees advantages to free education and the recent open access trend. "This is an example of a modern version of extending education to the wider population, and then of course its aims are enormously high," said Anderson.

Stanford University is another institution taking the initiative to improve access to education through the Internet. In September 2011, the university began offering three computer science classes for free online via video-clip lectures.

Anderson retains some doubt over the use of the term "university" with NextGenU site. He points out that historically, universities have been chartered and "approved by the state in some way or other to guarantee quality."

But Frank defended the quality of NextGenU, saying state-approved institutions have contributed greatly. "All of these materials only exist because professors at other universities posted them online, and said, 'Please repurpose them and use them freely.'"

"Universities are critical as research enterprises, as teaching enterprises. I am very grateful to live in a country where we can have an

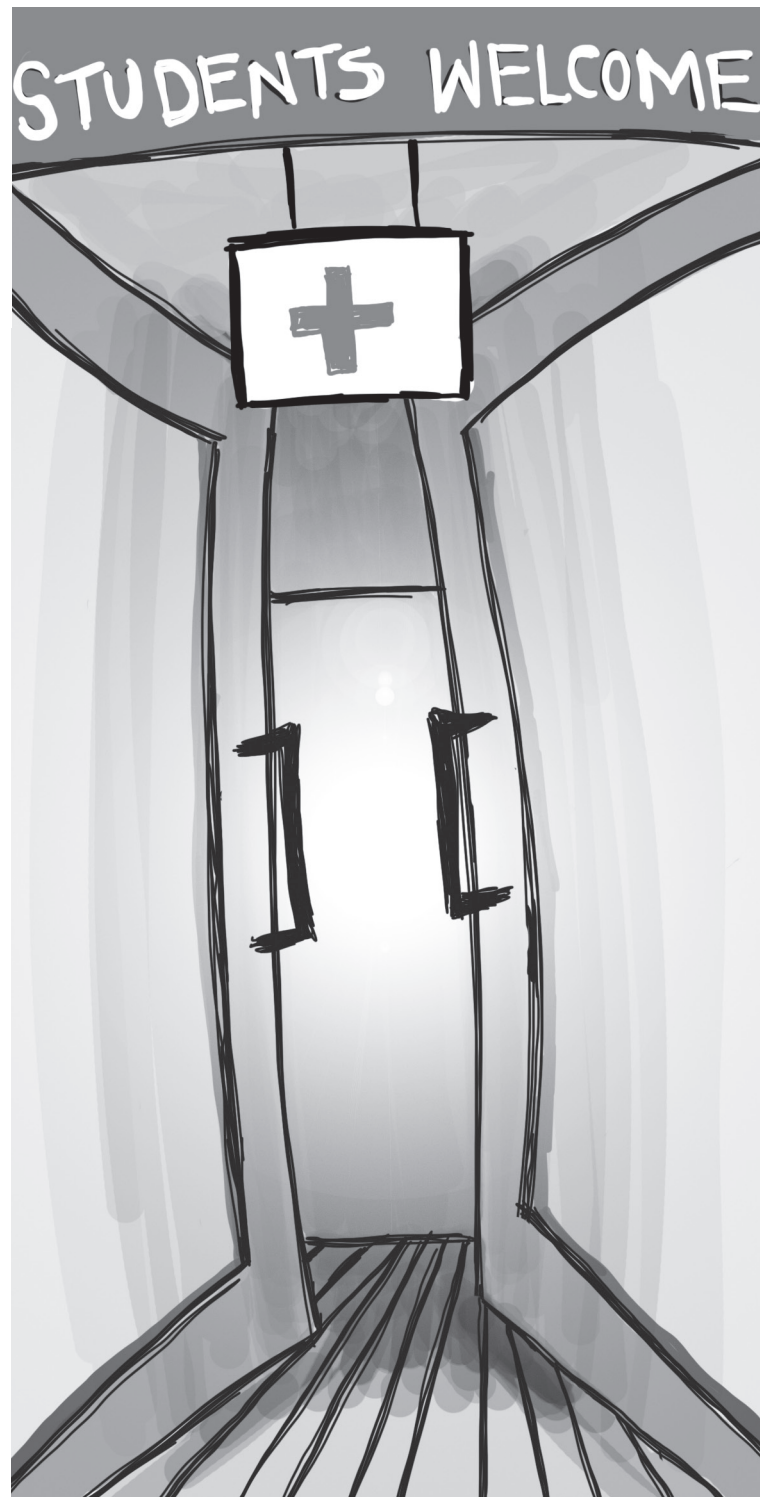
"For most people in the world, secondary, much less post secondary training, is a dream."

—Erica Frank, founder and executive director of NextGenU

outstanding institution like UBC that lots of people can afford to go to. But that luxury doesn't exist every place," Frank added.

Ash Milton, a first-year UBC student, believes NextGenU will have a positive impact on the world and would consider taking courses from a free university. "There's more of a stigma attached to doing a degree online," said Milton, "But I think that will go away as time goes on and more people use online degrees."

Frank is planning for NextGenU.org to be giving out completely free degrees in the future. Institutional recognition aside, however, "There's just all kind of good things that happen when more people get more educated," she said. "We've been using University 1.0 for a couple of millennia and I think we're ready for the next generation of university."



TAYLOR GAYOWSKY GRAPHICS EDITOR



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# FEATURES

Features Editor  
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# 'Hail to the chief'



Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) elections are approaching quickly. In light of the election, Features Editor **Bree Rody-Mantha** talks with three past presidents about their struggles and reflections on the role of WLUSU president

**L**ike many student leaders, Colin Le Fevre, Nick Gibson and Kyle Walker were all compelled to run largely due to change that they wanted to see within the union and believed they were qualified to make those changes.

2008-09 president Le Fevre, who had sat on the WLUSU board of directors in previous years, had a vision of a more united Laurier student body. "There was a lot of potential being missed," he told The Cord. "The biggest thing was more of an outreach outside of the typical 'union people' — more interest in the people who weren't exactly typical volunteers. Outreach to ResLife and WLUSP. There were just a lot of bridges that needed to be built between different organizations that hadn't been built at that point in time."

For Le Fevre, confidence in his past WLUSU experience reinforced his decision to run.

But for 2010-11 president Kyle Walker, he relied more on instincts. "There's no particular academic background you need for this sort of thing," he said. "I mean, I have a BA in geography."

Having little experience in the union and focusing more of his energy into donning for Residence Life, Walker knew that it was his personal qualities that would give him an edge. "Someone once told me that I don't talk to people or students, I talk with people and students," Walker recalled from his donning days. "That helped me last year to build a lot of relationships on campus."

He had also become involved in the planning of the school's proposed Milton campus. "I'm from Milton, so it means a lot to me," he told The Cord.

"As soon as I heard about it I approached Max [Blouw, president of WLU] and I said, 'I'd like to be involved in this in any way I can.'"

Self-proclaimed "policy nerd" Nick Gibson totes a strong history of student involvement, but felt that his drive was what pushed him to victory in 2011.

"I'd had a lot of different experiences, but

ultimately it was this instinct in me saying, 'I can do this, this is something I have to do' that pushed me to run."

"You really have to be a visionary," he continued, advising those in the running. "But you also have to have a concept of not just policy but higher concepts and contexts for policy."

"When you have someone that you're clashing with every day, it really keeps you on your toes."

—Colin Le Fevre, former WLUSU president

### Facing the challenges

For all presidents, the challenges begun as early as the week of campaigning. "I was literally sick that week," said Walker. "With a lack of sleep and being so exhausted, by the time I won I was just like, 'oh my God, all I want is to go to sleep.'"

Le Fevre's journey was complicated, to say the least. "In the end there were only two of us running," said Le Fevre, referring to controversies which led to two of his opponents getting disqualified.

Le Fevre felt like his broad, more inclusive platform gave him the edge over fellow candidate Ross Fraser.

Despite his platform to involve a larger variety of students and keep them more informed, Le Fevre admits he strayed from that promise when he found himself having to find a new home for Radio Laurier.

"I learned that people really don't like not being consulted or not being a part of a transition of moving things from one place to another," Le Fevre reflected.

The transition referred to was the decision made in the spring of 2009 to move the operations of the radio station from WLUSU to WLU Student Publications (WLUSP).

"[WLUSP] was the right place to move it at the time because it was a publication and a news source and less of a student activity," Le Fevre rationalized. "But the idea of me and Greg [Sacks, former WLUSP president] just deciding, 'Yeah, this was a good place to move it, let's switch it!' without public consultation was probably a bad idea."

Le Fevre had to deal with backlash and criticism from students on several levels. "We had petitions, we had a sit-in at one point. Even though it was in our minds the right thing to do there's something to be said about consultation and bringing more people into that kind of process."

He also had a difficult time when it came to butting heads with the board. "The chair and I — we were actually friends and still are friends — but we were always split on things. When you have someone that you're clashing with every day, it really keeps you on your toes."

Even the best presidents haven't been immune to criticism, including Nick Gibson. "There's been some criticism about the campus centre construction which was stressful," he said. "But you definitely need some way to pull yourself away from that role. For me it's the frat [Sigma Chi]. Having them there is huge to me, and even though they'll joke like, 'hail to the chief' when I walk in the room

sometimes, it's nice to be in a place where I'm not president Nick Gibson, I'm just Nick."

### Reflecting and moving on

"There's a lot of trouble with having a one-year term," Le Fevre said. "If you spend half your time just getting used to everything, you're not going to succeed."



With all the chaos of the short term, all three men have admitted to growing as people throughout the process.

"You learn so much about time management," said Walker. "I can't say that enough. Managing your stress and your emotions will help you get through those seemingly impossible situations."

Gibson has learned plenty about his management style. "Everyone has certain strengths and weaknesses that they have to acknowledge. I can sometimes get frustrated because I think everyone knows the same things that I do, or has the same amount of knowledge that I do."

With his term coming to a close in a few months, Gibson has marvelled at how the role has opened his mind.

"From a day-to-day standpoint, I don't know if it's changed how I act around people, but I've gained such a larger perspective. Even my political views have adjusted a little bit just by having this role."

Despite any struggles he faced, Walker enjoyed the role so much he has transitioned into a different role within WLUSU as the member services manager.

"The one thing I miss so much was honestly how much fun it was," he said. "It's such a positive atmosphere, so many great people. I really got along with the [vice presidents] and met some amazing people. Like, it's hard work, but it'll be worth it."

Brian F... removed from race



Radio... by WLUSU



Indebte... issue

ction disas... "It feels... fraud?"

Election fails candidates



ongoing... ion

Did WLUSU get the best de

ents? k-up

Board bails out business



Charity batt... incomplete



Radio Laurier set

space





# Getting to zero

*December marked thirty years since the first case of HIV/AIDS was discovered. Tens of millions from all over the world have since been affected by the virus, leading to the United Nation's vision for zero AIDS-related deaths and zero new infections. To get behind the numbers, stigmas and progress in research, The Cord spoke to three local individuals living with HIV/AIDS*

**LINDA GIVETASH**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"In my elementary school years, there was sex education but we basically talked about – the primary thing we talked about – was what a woman could do to avoid getting pregnant," recalled John Davie, a Kitchener resident.

Davie, who was diagnosed with HIV in 1993, and knowing very little about the virus at the time, believes that education plays a major role in preventing new infections. He is one of several individuals that, after seeking support with the AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area (ACCKWA), began volunteering to speak publicly about living with HIV and AIDS.

"If you have a better understanding of the stuff from the word 'go', I just think people will make wiser decisions for themselves," he said.

### The unexpected

From the age of ten, Davie trained as a dancer eventually reaching a career in professional ballet. After seven years of working for four companies, performing in cities across Canada, he decided to retire finding himself burnt out.

"That was probably one of the results that I chose to retire because not realizing the underlying problem was that ... my body was starting to get tired from the virus," he said.

Davie's partner was away, driving in the U.S. at the time the doctor called, making the situation even more difficult to take in. "It was very awkward. You felt alone, frightened because it was something that was spoken about and the only thing you knew about it, it was a plague," he said.

Even when the diagnosis is not as unexpected, the emotional impact remains.

Guy Cluney, now nearly 60, struggled with drugs and the law in his youth and found himself in prison before the age of 18.

"When I came back home, I had straightened out," Cluney explained. But after an economic bust in Calgary, Cluney found himself spiraling into a dangerous lifestyle.

"I went through another period of hanging out with prostitutes and stuff like that at which point I started living with one and we fell in love and we caught AIDS together, or she passed AIDS to me or something. It's hard to say," he said, acknowledging that the uncertainty of when he contracted the virus was also due to the fact he was not diagnosed until much later while in jail again in

the late 1980s.

"I knew about [AIDS] and I knew I shouldn't be doing what I was doing ... but the perception of this was a gay disease," said Cluney, reflecting the negative effects of the stigmas surrounding HIV/AIDS and the attitude of 'this couldn't happen to me.'

The combination of knowing little about the disease and not realizing the potential of contracting it can prove to be a severe health risk.

"I was in quarantine for about two weeks because I got really sick and I didn't know why," explained Mary, who chose not to disclose her last name. She went on to recall that the doctor told her one evening in April 1996 that, based on her tests, she either had cancer or HIV. "I'm looking at myself and think well jeez, it can't be HIV, I'm a married woman."

"All night long I prayed for cancer and the next morning my doctor came in and my family doctor and another doctor and a psychologist basically broke the news that I had full-blown AIDS," she said of discovering she contracted the virus from her now ex-husband. Her health on the line, Mary noted that had it not been for this bout of pneumonia that put her in the hospital, she would not have discovered she had AIDS until a later illness struck.

### Surviving

"Once you were diagnosed, you were diagnosed with a death sentence," said Davie about discovering he was HIV-positive in 1993. Nearly 20 years later, he along with countless other know this is no longer the case.

The life expectancy of someone diagnosed with HIV/AIDS can be ten years less than the average person or as drastic as cutting their life expectancy in half depending largely on access to medication, according to Dana Christiaen, the women's community development coordinator for the AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area (ACCKWA).

"In most cases people are on a combination of antiretroviral drugs [...] You really have to work out with your doctor what they call 'the cocktail' that works best for you," explained Christiaen. Although these drugs are costly, adding up to on average \$1,400 per month, they are covered by government health insurance across Canada.

While the drugs are effective, they have long-term consequences.

"I've got nausea, diarrhea, vertigo every day when I get up; I'm wasting

a bunch," said Cluney, from being on medication for 20 years. Yet even with these struggles, he considers himself blessed.

"Men who are on treatment for years, they've mutated to super-viruses and they have no drugs for them," he explained.

Similarly, Mary struggled to find drugs that work and is currently on experimental treatment because the virus was so advanced when it was discovered. "They can't tell me what the side-effects are; I'm the one that tells them what the side-effects are," she said. "I had to sign my life away 16 years ago just to take these trials and stay alive."

### Overcoming stigma

Maintaining a good quality of life after diagnosis requires not only maintaining good health but also overcoming the negative perception surrounding HIV/AIDS.

"I think the biggest problem is that HIV has fallen back from public view," said Mary who admitted to being naïve about the disease when she was first diagnosed. "It's not just prostitutes and drug dealers who get HIV and AIDS. Married people get it too, children get it."

"A lot of people, especially parents, think it's not happening here, so why push the sex talk, why push condoms? But what they don't realize is that it is happening here," she continued, explaining why she got involved with ACCKWA to promote broader education. Although publicly speaking about the disease has hurt about half of her friendships, she finds the work worthwhile.

All too familiar with stigma, Davie was bullied in his youth for being a dancer. Now with HIV, he sees the same unjustified discrimination again. "Some of the staff in the hospitals were not good, and you run into that all the time too," he said regarding negative attitudes he's felt due to his sexual orientation.

"I wouldn't say 'why me' because we're all susceptible to anything in life. Obviously I could have made better choices. In the early years I had unprotected sex but then again, that's just from a lack of education."

Having recently presented his story to a group of 400 teens at a Kitchener high school, Davie was reminded of the importance of education.

"I was astounded by how ... knowledgeable [the students] were, to what they got out of hearing me speak about [HIV] as opposed to only hearing about it through papers," he said. "It's definitely not talked about enough."

**33.3 Million**

People estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS globally

1997 was the peak year in global infections with ...

**3.2 Million**

**2.6 Million**

People became newly infected with HIV in 2009

AIDS related deaths have decreased from an estimated

**2.1 Million**

in 2004 down to

**1.8 Million**

in 2009

**65,000**

Were living with HIV infection (including AIDS)

**16,900**  
Were unaware of their HIV infection

**13,458**

Canadians died of AIDS between 1980 and 2008

**31%**

Of people living with HIV were infected by heterosexual sex

**2,300 to 4,300**

New infections were estimated to have occurred in 2008



## ARTS

Arts Editor  
Liz Smith  
lsmith@thecord.ca



ELI GARLIN FILE PHOTO

## K-W native directs Frosh week film

LIZ SMITH  
ARTS EDITOR

Wild partying and school rivalries characterize the university careers of many students. Now, the experience is being brought to the big screen, with *FOMO*, or "Fear of Missing Out," a feature film directed by Kitchener-Waterloo native Jared Pelletier.

In an interview with *The Cord*, the director explained the premise of the upcoming film, saying "it's about five hometown friends who go to their respective schools at the end of the summer to begin second year and essentially compete to see who can throw the biggest Frosh party. Ultimately, it ends up being about who gets in the most trouble. The events are definitely worth the *FOMO* title."

Pelletier has enjoyed great success in his recent projects, including a short-listed nomination at Cannes Film Festival when he was only eighteen years old. Now, the twenty-one-year-old director has embarked on a new project, which involves the student bodies at each Laurier, UofT, York, Western and Queen's.

"After a couple of shorts [films] went viral, we were approached by Paramount to start developing a feature with a limited theatrical

release," Pelletier told *The Cord*. "We were looking at a number of original ideas while looking for a market we could capitalize on," he continued. "We decided to make a movie about universities because word of mouth can travel over a campus so quickly... essentially it was like, okay, let's make a big party movie ... Pretty much we looked at the biggest party schools, obviously Laurier and Western come to mind right off the top, then we branched out and gauged the kind of interest we could generate."

"It's really hard to fill theatre with independent Canadian projects, but there is clearly a market here and we have no doubt we can fill a theatre with an audience in these university towns. I think it's really interesting for students to see their university play out on screen," said Pelletier.

The film, which will shoot from Oct. – June of this year, will screen in each of the university towns upon its completion. According to the director, ten to fifteen minutes of footage will be shot at Laurier's campus, including scenes at both Uptown's the Fox and the Fiddle and Phil's Grandson's.

*FOMO*, scheduled for a 2013 release, is still casting and encourages interested parties to get in touch regarding acting, extra and production roles.

## Starlight concert goes on

—cover

The proudly Canadian band showed their patriotism by playing the song "Hold You." The track,

which was featured as Starbucks free download of the week, was cause for parody amongst the band, as vocalist and guitarist Casey Laforet

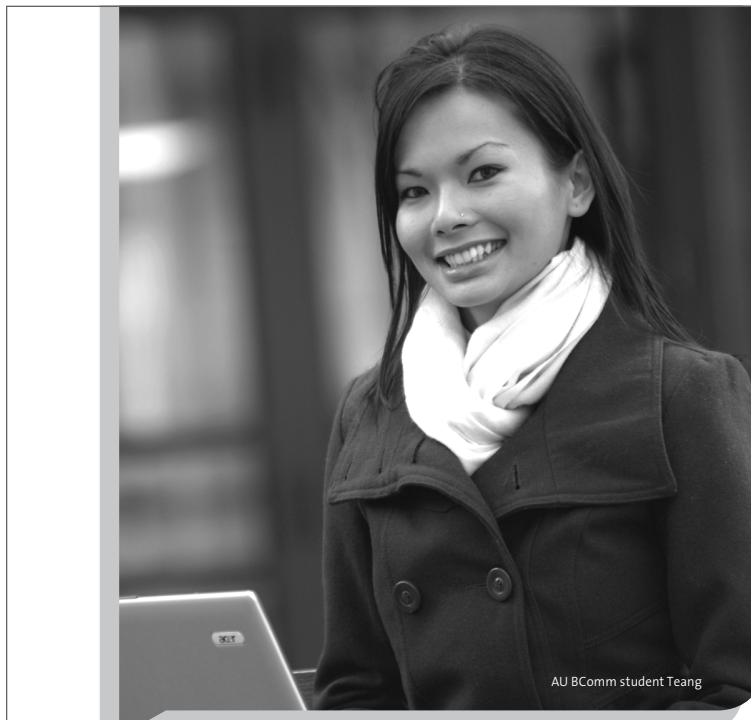
proclaimed, "This one's for Timmies."

He proceeded to list his favourite order at the fast food chain [Tim Hortons], the undeniable sesame seed bagel with herb and garlic cream cheese.

The crowd erupted in cheers when the band played the opening chords of "Oh, Alberta," from their 2004 EP *Tin Type*. The floor shook as the audience stomped their feet to the rhythm, grooving along to Sasso's intricate banjo riffs.

Signed to Paper Bag Records, Elliott Brood is in the company of such bands as Broken Social Scene, Stars and Tokyo Police Club. The band's newest album *Days Into Years* has been making waves since its release on Sept. 27.

After spending eight successive weeks in the top ten on the National Campus and Community Radio Association charts, Elliott Brood have secured themselves as rising stars in the rock and roll revival community.



AU BComm student Teang

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## LMT presents

SPENCER DUNN  
STAFF WRITER

For almost a year, Laurier Musical Theatre (LMT) has been ramping up for a show that promises to make Julian, Ricky and even Bubbles jealous. After months of preparation, the week has come for LMT to perform *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*.

The play is set in Armadillo Acres, a trailer park in North Florida. It

revolves around Jeannie — an agoraphobic, her husband Norbert, a stripper named Pippi and a plethora of other delightfully trashy characters. The musical, written by Betsy Kelso was originally created for seven people.

"That was one of our biggest challenges," said Victoria Gushue, director of the show to *The Cord*. "We took a show that was originally for seven people, and we have a cast of over fifteen now."

The cast has worked tirelessly since auditions in September to put on the show. "LMT was very present at the Get Involved Fair," said Jessa Fitzpatrick, producer of the show, "We started auditions the second week of classes, but the process began in February when LMT held a general meeting and elected executives."

Mackenzie Warner, a third-year student who plays Jeannie in the musical and is also the marketing director, has had some difficulty juggling it all.

"I'm an academic person, so I was a little hesitant with the extra time," stated Warner, "In January, I've put in five hours a day with acting and about four or five hours with marketing."

Cast members Fitzpatrick, Gushue and Warner agreed that it "was a little overwhelming at times," but as Gushue stated, "Everyone's put their heart into it and everyone should come see it."

Shows will play on Jan. 18-19 at 8 p.m. and Jan. 21 at 2 p.m. Tickets are ten dollars for students and 15 for general admission.





# Fincher likened to directing legends

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo star praises director

ANDREW SAVORY  
STAFF WRITER

Critics question why it was redone so soon, fans question why it was redone at all and others question the movie's ability to serve as a medium of pleasurable entertainment. These claims aside, David Fincher's recent adaptation of Stieg Larsson's world-wide best-selling novel *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* demonstrates the kind of directorial skill that has renowned actor and Bond heartthrob Daniel Craig comparing it to the style of Alfred Hitchcock, known in the film industry as "The Master of Suspense."

In a recent interview with CTV News, Craig, who plays journalist turned investigator Mikael Blomkvist in the film, said of director David Fincher, "I genuinely feel like he's the closest thing we have to Hitchcock."

"People kind of compare him to Kubrick, but there's something else about him — something that he does with visuals and he does with actors. People kind of give career-defining performances in his movies."

Let's pause for a moment; did one of the industry's most prominent actors truly draw comparison between David Fincher and arguably

two of the greatest directors in history? Yes, and surprisingly, I agree. Not only are each of these director's similar with the themes and style of their films, but their films are also held in high esteem with fans. Some of Kubrick's most memorable works include *The Shining* and *Full Metal Jacket*, while Hitchcock's resume boasts cult classics *Rear Window* and *Vertigo*. Belonging to a new generation of Hollywood directors, David Fincher has delivered pictures such as *Seven*, *Fight Club*, *The Social Network* and now *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*.

Clearly, Craig's enthusiastic endorsement and praise for the director isn't the only thing that gives the film the virtue of being viewed as better than its 2009 Swedish counterpart. What fans should consider is that the American version of the film is more refined than its predecessor and more enhanced, in that it does not shy away from accurately depicting the displays of brutality described in the novel.

Backlash from fans of the Swedish franchise include the criticism that the American film is overdone stylistically, but Fincher's knack for stylistic brilliance is what enables this remake to garner positive reception from fans of the book rather than Swedish film fans alone. The

American adaptation essentially ventures further into the chilling territory of sadistic and carnal activity that Stieg Larsson so viscerally conjured.

Lisbeth Salander, the novel's bold heroine who refuses to be victimized despite horrific events in her past, is played in the film by Hollywood up-and-comer Rooney Mara, who first appeared in the 2010 adaptation of *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. Mara then played a small but important role in *The Social Network*, where she first worked with director David Fincher. Assumedly, Mara greatly impressed the director, as after many months of screen tests, the actress earned the coveted role of Salander in the highly anticipated adaptation of *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*. To transform into her onscreen counterpart, Mara received numerous piercings, including multiple ear, eyebrow and nipple piercings, which she has since confirmed are real and plans to keep.

Craig and Mara star in the film alongside Christopher Plummer (*The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*), Stellan Skarsgård (*Thor*) and Robin Wright (*Moneyball*). The soundtrack is created by Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross, who also collaborated with Fincher to create the iconic score of *The Social Network*.



MITCHELL CHEESEMAN GRAPHICS ARTIST

# Winter Film Series

CARLY BASCH  
STAFF WRITER

The Laurier Free Film Series has made its return for the winter season. Each Thursday night throughout the semester, the series will screen one film, with an array of films that should get any Laurier cinephile excited.

Last semester's selections raised questions and awareness through the series' theme *Cinema with a Social Conscience* and brought in notable films such as *All the President's Men*. The theme of the winter series, *Through the Looking Glass*, centres on the principle of self-reflexivity.

Catching up with The Cord, co-curator Patrick Faubert, who has run the film series for approximately four years, discussed the movement and growth of the series.

Although the selection of films is crucial to making the series a success, the biggest challenge comes from the overall attendance of Laurier undergrads. "We had our peak audience last winter 2011, and that was 45 people in some screenings, but it was all community members.

That's great, but it would be cool if we could get 30 undergrads," said Faubert.

It is no surprise that Laurier's student body enjoys seeing films — making the film series the perfect opportunity for expanding cinematic horizons, as the series completely public event that is free of charge.

With this week's screening of Vincent Minnelli's *The Bad and the Beautiful* (1952), the winter film selection should definitely spark up some interest.

David Lynch, The Coen Brothers and Quentin Tarantino are among the many notable directors that will have their films screened during the series and these names alone are enough to send any film junkie into a frenzy.

When asked which film he is particularly excited for, Faubert replied, "I have to say *Barton Fink* by the Coen Brothers. If you haven't seen (Fredrick Fellini's) *8 1/2*, that's scandalous."

Trying my best to shield my embarrassment for having not seeing the film, I already know what I will be doing Feb. 9 at 7 p.m.

## Dates of screenings

January 12 - *Day for Night* (Francois Truffaut, 1973)

February 16 - *Barton Fink* (Joel & Ethan Coen, 1991)

January 19 - *The Bad and the Beautiful* (Vincente Minnelli, 1952)

March 1 - *Broken Embraces* (Pedro Almodovar, 2009)

January 26 - *Mulholland Drive* (David Lynch, 2001)

March 8 - *Inglourious Basterds* (Quentin Tarantino, 2009)

February 2 - *Living in Oblivion* (Tom DiCillo, 1995)

March 15 - *Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story* (Michael Winterbottom, 2005)

February 9 - *8 1/2* (Federico Fellini, 1963)

March 22 - *Sunset Boulevard* (Billy Wilder, 1950)



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**We survived to print another week**

## DearLIFE

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

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

**Dear Life,**  
Please let the a\$\$hoLe beside me in the comp lab know that you Skype call from your home. And when you pump up for your obnoxious phone call (at home), don't listen to obnoxious mariachi band music. I am giving you these evil glares for a reason, and hope you take the hint and gtfo of my quiet space. To make matters worse, your headphones are broken, and I can hear from your laptop speakers your entire conversation from a couple seats over. Screw you, I'm actually trying to stay on top of my readings. Go home, buy new headphones, turn down volume, stop being a weirdo.  
Sincerely,  
A Student with World Etiquette

**Dear Life,**  
It's not my fault that while I was trying to escape a bad relationship by moving to a new place that your man fell in love with me. Maybe leave your house and do something about it if you have a problem. The buck stops here, bitch.  
Sincerely,  
He's Mine

**Dear Life,**  
"It doesn't matter how many people say it cannot be done or how many people have tried it before; it's important to realize that whatever

you're doing, it's your first attempt at it." – Wally Amos.  
Sincerely,  
:)

**Dear Life,**  
What the hell is up with the lack of locks on the stall doors in the ladies' washroom on the main floor of the DAWB?  
Sincerely,  
It's an emerg and they're ALL full...

**Dear Life,**  
I just found out that my sumbitch man is cheating on me with some slutty girl he just met. I know I got

my issues: fears about going out, panic attacks, and emotional breakdowns. But that does not give him any right to stick it in some skank. I'm too scared to move on, but maybe I have to. Somebody stop this panic!  
Devastatingly,  
Heartbroken

**Dear Life,**  
Laurier Athletics' Complex sucks. Not only is the weight room crappy and overcrowded, the 'perception' of open gym is hilarious. Booking two hours a day from only Mon. to Thurs. really focuses on the general

population of students with classes ... yeah right. Not only are my classes covering those open gym times, I find clear, empty gyms with no explanation why it's closed, except for nonexistent maintenance. Maintenance every day? Good joke.  
Sincerely,  
Students pay you thousands of dollars, and you make us pay too for bball games? Would rather watch paint dry out of spite, or womens volleyball...oops.

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# EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor  
Joseph McNinch-Pazzano  
jmcninchpazzano@thecord.ca

## Tech protest against SOPA legislation is admirable

Tech giants are not giving into the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) that is currently making its way through the United States House of Representatives or the corresponding Protect IP Act (PIPA) Senate bill that is scheduled to be voted on sometime next week. Google is highlighting its opposition to the bills on its homepage and Wikipedia shut down its English operations for the day, along with sites like TwitPic and Wordpress.

The collective effort against SOPA/PIPA speaks to the gravity of the repercussions that these companies believe will ensue if these bills pass, mainly harms to innovation and freedom of expression. Content that could be at risk include live streaming of protests on private property, YouTube covers of pop songs and Reddit links to intellectual property. In essence, SOPA/PIPA further empower the owners of intellectual property, namely the entertainment industry, to shut down sites with court orders and lawsuits for mere "allegations" of copyright infringement, which can result in the removal of thousands of pages of information.

Critics argue that provisions within these bills could have widespread ramifications that harm the freedom with which the Internet is used.

Even with some provisions removed from PIPA last week, with SOPA soon to follow, the bills still represent a new level of government control over our information. Entertainment industry leaders like CBS, Viacom and Disney have already begun profiting from the remaining provisions on lawsuits with sites such as Scour.net for distributing Napster software and allegedly facilitating copyright infringement despite the fact that these firms were themselves on the frontlines of distributing Napster and other file-sharing software for almost five years.

The Internet is one of the most powerful tools that modern society has to increase communication and information flow between different classes of people – to bridge the "digital divide" in an unprecedented way. Piracy is a consequence of this but it is not so serious that laws like SOPA/PIPA are enacted. It seems clear that this is more an attempt by the Republican Congress to protect the privilege of wealthy copyright producers.

Our lives are increasingly led on the Internet and our photos and videos are often stored on the web. If SOPA/PIPA becomes law, it has the potential to shut down the sites which we (especially students) have come to frequent even because of just one alleged copyright infringement.

It is refreshing to see tech leaders like Google stand up against this law. It goes against the grain of a modern age where information is shared more openly and freely; where the Internet is at least one place where we aren't inhibited by excessive regulation that favours the few at the expense of the many.

–The Cord Editorial Board

## WLUSU elections an important part of student life

In the last Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) election, 35 per cent of the university's students cast their votes online, surpassing the turnout levels of previous years by a considerable margin. As the WLUSU election campaign gets underway this week, it's important to pay attention to the issues being discussed.

If the old adage is true that "all politics is local," there is theoretically no more important election than the one taking place right now in our university. While it is often disappointing to follow a campaign where so many of the candidates for WLUSU President and Board of Directors make promises that they realistically cannot keep, it further underscores the importance of critically analyzing what each candidate has to offer.

WLUSU is in charge of a massive budget of nearly \$1 million and it's up to you to decide who you want in charge of these funds. It is an incredible responsibility to be part of these financial decisions. So, while it will be annoying and exhausting at times, keep an eye out for the candidates in the WLUSU elections. There are important decisions at stake and it's up to you to decide who you want as your student representatives.

–The Cord Editorial Board

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

The Cord is published by  
Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications.  
Contact Erin Epp, WLUSP President and Publisher  
75 University Ave.W, Waterloo ON N2L 3C5

This editorial cartoon has been censored in correspondence with the strike against the SOPA bill attempting to be passed currently in US Congress...

Which is a shame, because it is hilarious.

Trust me. I'm a doctor.

# Why the same-sex divorce controversy matters



JOSEPH MCNINCH-PAZZANO  
OPINION EDITOR

Last week, all within the span of 24 hours amongst a sea of hasty news stories and a roller coaster of emotions, 5,000 same-sex couples went from being married to unmarried to married again.

At issue was a federal court case in which a lesbian couple married in Toronto in 2005 was seeking a divorce. To their surprise, the Canadian Department of Justice argued that they could not seek a divorce under Canadian law since they weren't really married. Because the women live in Florida and the United Kingdom – both jurisdictions where same-sex marriage is illegal – they could not have legally wed in their place of residence and Canada didn't recognize their marriage.

It turns out that this whole debacle can be traced to a legislative opening in the Civil Marriage Act which prohibited the recognition of non-Canadian same-sex couples who came to this country to be considered married under Canadian law.

Early on Friday morning, about 24 hours after the case went public, Justice Minister Rob Nicholson assured Canadians that the Conservative government had every intention of changing the law so that those 5,000 couples had valid marriages. This remedy is absolutely the right decision in this case and grants the Harper government some credibility on the assertion that they "don't want to reopen the marriage debate."

But, the remedy and the case itself is not the point of this column. It is the ensuing reaction that I want to focus on. Much of the criticism mounted in

the hours after the divorce debacle went public was directed at a Globe and Mail report that called the case a "reversal of policy" that "casted doubt" on the legal status of these couples' marriages.

In actuality, it was a government lawyer advocating for the existing law, not advocating for a change in the law. The reaction of the media was somewhat out of place and there were definitely holes in the reporting. But, the tone of the criticism seemed to scorn the outrage expressed by progressive activists, seemingly making much ado about nothing. One columnist called it a "phony controversy," essentially smoothing over the whole thing with a proverbial pat on the head.

In my view, there was only one thing that the media and concerned Canadians overreacted about: Harper's motives and his involvement in this case. It's clear now that this wasn't an attempt by the Prime Minister to disallow same-sex marriage. This was misstated and I was among those who misstated it.

But, for everything else that was involved in this case, the reaction was 100 per cent justified and no one should apologize for their outrage and their indignation. There exists a loophole in the Civil Marriage Act which makes same-sex marriage fundamentally different from opposite-sex marriage: foreign same-sex couples cannot have a legal marriage in this country while opposite-sex couples can.

If not for the reaction and justifiable outrage that ensued when people were made aware of this stipulation, how would the law have been changed? If the case quietly made its way through the court system, do you honestly think that the Harper government would have taken this up on its own? As a government that has openly voted against protections for gay and transgendered discrimination (and often touted those votes to the social conservative base), I'm not putting much stake in them voluntarily taking up a pro-gay agenda.

Canadians became aware of this loophole because the couple's lawyer made the media aware. And the law is now being changed because Canadians made enough of a stink about it that Harper realized he better act on it before he was crucified as the Prime Minister who brought down gay marriage.

One has to remember that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer (LGBTQ) community walks on fragile ground every single day. Just six and a half years ago, before the Civil Marriage Act was passed, two people of the same sex who wished to declare their love for each other were denied that right.

Please forgive this community for not having full faith and trust in a man who put that law on trial just five years ago, coming 52 votes short of ripping up the marriage licenses of the 12,000 same-sex couples who married in Canada before that vote. Forgive them for being just a little bit edgy when any story arises about the sanctity of their marriage vows.

The need for solid reporting and the discussion of legal principles is of fundamental importance; I don't dispute that for one second. But one also must recognize that these are peoples' lives at stake. It is heartening to know that so many Canadians – gay and straight – found this court case so disturbing. It indicates that the wounds of the gay marriage debate a few years ago are still sore and stingy.

The divorce case is important. It's not a contrived controversy or a useless overreaction. It's further proof that while same-sex marriage exists in Canada, the road to full and entrenched equality is littered with hurdles and remnants of an archaic and discriminatory law. No one should be shunned for fighting against those obstacles. In fact, they are the heroes of this debate – the ones who fight with every fiber of their being to ensure a basic level of human dignity in this country.



# Behaviour of undercover police raises question of informed consent



AMELIA CALBRY-MUZYKA  
OPINION COLUMNIST

In Jan. 2011, the *Guardian* published an article which dealt with the issue of undercover police officers forming sexual relationships with activists as a tactic to maintain their cover. This issue was uncovered once an activist group based in the United Kingdom discovered that one of their members, known as Mark Stone, was actually Mark Kennedy — a police spy who had been sent to infiltrate their group seven years prior.

Since then, several other cases have been uncovered, with police officers living undercover for years, developing long-term relationships with the individuals they were investigating.

As of Dec. 2011, eight women have started taking legal action against the metropolitan police chiefs for assault, deceit, negligence and misfeasance in public office. These eight women, who have requested to keep their names out of the media, were all involved in a long-term, romantic relationships with undercover policemen, with some relationships lasting up to nine years.

In the legal papers, the women point to five men in situations originating as early as 1987 until 2010, some of whom were married under their real identities.

Since Mark Kennedy's initial uncloaking to the media in early 2011, the police chiefs have denied that

“  
This case speaks to the blatant disrespect the police force can have for individuals in activist groups.

sex between undercover officers and activists was officially sanctioned and have stated that such behaviour is “never acceptable” and was “grossly unprofessional.” However, given the mounting evidence, including statements from Kennedy saying it was necessary for him to have sex in order to maintain his cover, it is difficult to believe that the police chiefs would have been unaware of these relationships.

As the case unfolds, many arguments have been brought forward both in support and in protest of the women's situation. In a BBC interview with Harriet Wistrich, the lawyer representing the eight women, her interviewer essentially dismissed the women's claims by saying:

“But don't women go into ... any relationship with a man in the same way? You always have at the back of your mind whether that man is telling the truth. I reckon you speak to any woman who is listening to this show now, they'll all have dated some man who was a bit of liar. And nobody sues them, do they?” Wistrich quite rightly notes that this is more than just a case stemming

from hurt feelings.

The unknown factors that come with the average new relationship are vastly different from unknowingly starting a relationship with an individual who is funded by the state to investigate you. In this case, the fact that the officers presented themselves under false identities makes it impossible for the women to give informed consent, which justifies the women's claim for assault. Kennedy's argument that it was necessary for him and others like him, to have sex with the women in the activist group in order to both maintain his cover and obtain information is irrelevant and is merely a botched attempt at justifying an abuse of power and public office.

As well, it speaks to the blatant disrespect the police force can have for the emotional and physical lives of individuals in activist groups.

With the scenes from the G20 protests forever locked in our memories, it is clear that police power and authority is something that must be continuously questioned and examined. Regardless of whether or not the undercover officers' actions were officially sanctioned, it is clear that an investigation into the procedure of undercover police work is in order.

While there is speculation that the police chiefs will try to settle outside of court in order to avoid having to reveal the inner workings of undercover police work to the judiciary, I can only hope that this situation will lead the police force, both in the UK and right here in Canada, to re-examine their approach to their investigative work, acknowledging that sex between an undercover officer and his/her target is never necessary and always reprehensible.

thecord.ca

## Online comments

### Media portrayal of North Korea is accurate

Re: “*Truth about North Korea doesn't rest with the West.*” Jan. 5

I don't understand what you're trying to say. It's not just the Americans. Even the Chinese don't like North Korea. Beijing described NK's nuclear tests as “an immature child wanting the attention of Washington” in a leaked diplomatic cable. On the day Kim Jong-il died, Weibo (Chinese Twitter) exploded with anti-North Korean sentiments, such as memes of Kim Jong-il with the caption “Stay Hungry, Stay Foolish.” These are people who basically have unrestricted access into North Korea, where you literally just go to a train station in Beijing and hop on the 8:00 to Pyongyang.

On the surface, the Chinese government has to appear to be supporting the regime because of the friendship and cooperation treaty and they do a good job with that since the Chinese government has complete control over the XinHua News Agency. But underneath, Beijing is beyond pissed off at what is basically China's half-brother who can't feed himself and likes to run around with sharp knives. Every-time North Korea plays with nuclear weapons, China has to pull out all the stops to shield them from UN sanctions while quietly slipping notes under the Americans doorstep, telling them “look, we're not happy about this shit either, but the way you're handling it is going to drive Kim Jong-il mad and that

spells certain doom for the rest of the world.”

No, there is nothing inaccurate about how the west portrays North Korea. The country was ran by a power-hungry sociopath and even China is at the end of its tolerance tether

—Kevin Zhang

### We know enough about North Korea to call it evil

Re: “*Truth about North Korea doesn't rest with the West.*” Jan. 5

While the tears of some of those weeping in Pyongyang may have been genuine, what about the mourners in the rest of the country? How come we never get to see footage of them?

Furthermore, the famine in the 1990s and the food shortages which continue today are not unsubstantiated conclusions. They are known to be very real and I fail to see how a military-first policy could ever be a justification for the starvation of a country's civilian population. If a country can't feed its own people, it should at least have the decency to let them leave.

It's definitely true that there is a lot we don't know about North Korea, and I hope someday that changes. But judging from the horror stories of those who have lived there and defected, I personally have no doubt that its leadership is evil.  
—Clover827



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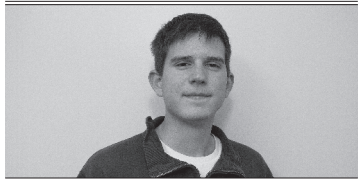
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# Liberal strategy rooted in irrelevancy

In the aftermath of the biennial Liberal convention, Opinion Columnist **Ian Merkley** thinks Liberals are on the wrong track ideologically and will be offering a redundant message if the NDP shifts to the centre



**IAN MERKLEY**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

Bob Rae, interim leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, has not fully ruled out running for the permanent leadership. If he should run and win the Liberal leadership, the Liberal party runs the risk of becoming irrelevant. I feel this way simply because there would be little difference between the Liberals and New Democratic Party (NDP). Both would be left-wing parties and in order for the Liberals to be relevant in today's politics, they need to throw out any old conceptions of the dated and oversimplified political spectrum.

If more than one party occupies the left-wing spot, they become redundant. The Liberals can continue to fight the NDP to represent similar ideas or they can move elsewhere. On the other hand, the NDP may wither away and maybe everyone is making too big a fuss about the Liberal party performance. The problem with the NDP is that Jack Layton had a cult of personality. The NDP was centred on one person and with a new leader their support may move elsewhere. However, if we assume the NDP support continues and does not move, then the Liberals need to adapt to survive.

In the past, the Liberal party has chosen to take the middle ground on issues. That's a fine position to take. However, if a party is to do this they become weakened as their base has no coherent political ideology to be grounded in. This is bad for any grassroots organization. By claiming the middle ground, they do not have any opinions of their own and they tend to flip flop on multiple issues for political expediency. For example, take corporate taxes. They



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO RADEY BARRACK

Officials gather on stage ahead of former leader Michael Ignatieff's speech at the biennial Liberal convention held last week in Ottawa.

were for cutting them under Paul Martin and Stephen Dion but Michael Ignatieff wanted to raise them. Here's another example: compare and contrast Ignatieff to McGuinty, one wanted to raise corporate taxes, the other wanted to lower them (and the same people campaigned for them). True they could argue that they adjusted due to the conditions of the country but in reality it does depend upon their leader's beliefs and whatever he or she feels. This is because the Liberals have left wing and right wing groups within them.

The problem with having the centre-right and centre-left in one party is the left- and right-wing parties will move to the centre and take those votes from that voting bloc. Being moderate on every issue may not be the answer. The Liberals need to rethink the political spectrum since the mushy political middle is quickly bleeding to parties to their

left and right.

Before we find the Liberals' appropriate place in politics, let's think about what left and right mean in simple terms. The right (Conservative Party) is broken into social and fiscal conservatives while the left (NDP) is just social liberals and fiscal reform liberals (as opposed to classical liberals). The Liberals can snap this political spectrum by taking firm positions on both the right side and the left side. This leaves becoming social conservative and fiscally reform liberal or becoming fiscally conservative and socially liberal. Since totalitarianism is not very popular in Canada, it would be best to go for the latter. This could be impossible simply because there is no logical connection between social conservatism and economic conservatism. The former expands government; the latter lessens it. The same can be said for social

liberalism and fiscal reform liberalism. The two are contradictory: one expands government power over people's lives, the other retracts it. Focusing on reducing the government in both spheres is the way forward not mimicking what is already being done by a party.

This means that the Liberal party would support the free market. They would want the government out of the economy. They would propose reducing spending and regulations and lowering taxes and trade barriers. Being socially Liberal they would oppose legislation curtailing civil liberties such as the Anti-Terrorism Act. This reform would make them relevant and unique. It would be returning the word 'liberal' back to what it actually means and not a word for social democrat egalitarian. The Liberals would once again be the party of Wilfrid Laurier.

Of course there are difficulties in

doing this. The Liberals do have a large number of supporters who are simply New Democrats in all but brand. Several of their MPs are like this too, such as their current leader, Bob Rae.

In order to pass this reform the Liberal party needs members like former members of parliament Keith Martin and Martha Hall Findlay. They would have to restructure their base. The Liberals would maintain some of their previous supporters, the social liberals, and would have to take the fiscal conservatives out of the conservative base.

If the NDP are able to maintain support then the Liberals need a plan to adjust. They need to have something to stand for other than the middle ground. They can stand for reducing the government and enhancing liberty and this will get those votes and bring a unique voice to the podium in the debates.

# Pedestrian safety remains a concern



**EMMA VAN WEERDEN**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

It happened so quickly that I almost missed it. I was standing just outside the Aird underpass, waiting in the cold drizzle for my ride to come.

Traffic coming in and out of the university was quite heavy, as it typically is at quarter after six. As the headlights of an incoming vehicle swept across the slick pavement and onto the sidewalk, they momentarily silhouetted the figure of a jogger. The driver slammed on the brakes and the jogger leapt out of the way, mere inches away from becoming another victim in the decades-old battle between man and machine.

Pedestrian accidents seem to be quite the hot topic in recent news and my curiosity was piqued. Simply typing "Total Pedestrian Accidents in Canada" into Google produced a plethora of stories and

statistics. Different sources from across Canada give varying numbers for fatalities, but even the most conservative sources place the death toll at well over 2,200 a year. Only a small minority of all car/pedestrian accidents are fatal, so it was hardly surprising that there was no total accident figure yearly for across Canada.

However, the City of Toronto's claim to one reported pedestrian accident per six hours clues us into the severity of this situation.

All too often, such an accident is followed by rigorous rounds of finger pointing. The pedestrians blame high speeds and inattentive drivers, while the drivers point to dark clothing and failure to yield. Even though justice for wrongdoings is crucial, launching into the blame game is not particularly helpful. Right or wrong, the pedestrian is always at the losing end of the scale. Bumpers, windshields, pavement and other objects make the situation look pretty bleak. What does this mean for a pedestrian?

Even though we cannot excuse the actions of irresponsible drivers, we must be the ones to take responsibility for our own safety.

“  
Pedestrians blame high speeds and inattentive drivers, while the drivers point to dark clothing and failure to yield. Even though justice for wrongdoings is crucial, launching into the blame game is not particularly helpful.

Police and other safety officials constantly reiterate that drivers must be alert and attentive at all times and the same is true for pedestrians. There are so many things that can distract us from the fact that we are walking in front of a hurtling 4,000 pound mass of steel and

plastic.

There are cell phones, the worries of the day or the quintessential distraction: music-blasting headphones. In fact, the use of headphones is increasingly mentioned as a situational factor in pedestrian accidents. A few years ago, there was a news story about a young man killed by a falling helicopter and never even heard the warning shouts of fellow pedestrians over the noise of his music.

Even though this example is an extreme one, it most certainly drives home a point. Don't get me wrong, I love my headphones as much as the next person, but in a potentially dangerous situation, the ability to hear is absolutely crucial.

For those of you who enjoy a night out, I found this surprising number from Statistics Canada about accidents. It concluded that after a year of examining coroners' reports, 40.5 per cent of fatally hit pedestrians had been drinking, with most of them being over the legal alcohol limit.

In addition to never drinking and driving, you may also want to think twice about drinking and walking. The side effects of alcohol, often

reducing perception and unsteadiness on one's feet, make such late-night trips incredibly dangerous. Even if you have not been drinking, it is worth being extra cautious when walking on the weekend. Similar research from a New York firm shows that over half of pedestrian-related accidents happen on the weekend, when both pedestrians and drivers are more likely to have been drinking.

To conclude, let's head back to where this story started. This unknown jogger may have escaped harm's reach, but for thousands of others across Canada this is not the case.

Let's not have a repeat of last year, where Wilfrid Laurier University became a hotbed of pedestrian-related accidents.

As drivers, let's slow down and be aware and as pedestrians, let's lift our eyes from our cell phones, pull our headphones out of our ears and think twice about trying to beat that flashing hand.

The past ten years have seen a gradual decrease in the number of pedestrian-related accidents and let's do what we can to make sure Laurier is a part of that trend.



# SPORTS

Sports Editor  
Kevin Campbell  
kcampbell@thecord.ca

## Basketball titans clash at WLU

**CHRIS MANDER**  
STAFF WRITER

In a battle of the powerhouses, the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks men's basketball team faced the Lakehead Thunderwolves this past weekend. Both teams had identical 9-1 records entering the weekend series and sit atop the Ontario University Athletics' (OUA) West division.

The first game was Friday evening and the Hawks come out flat — showing signs of nerves in front of a large crowd at the Athletic Complex.

The Hawks fell down 10-0 in the first two minutes, but were able to battle back and take a 21-19 lead

into the second quarter, highlighted by a last-second three-pointer by Kyle Enright.

The Hawks were able to preserve their lead into the second half, but unfortunately fell behind and were never able to recover, losing by a score of 88-83.

Coach Peter Campbell's thoughts after the game were more encouraging than expected, as he pointed to his team's ability to rebound.

However Campbell was disappointed with the team's inability to get off to a fast start.

"Nerves were a big factor. Perhaps we started the game concerned we might lose, and we needed to establish to ourselves we are as good as

Lakehead (10-2) and I think we are," said Campbell.

The Hawks proved their coach right on Saturday evening, coming out with much more confidence from tip-off.

The two teams started completely different than the night before, as Kale Harrison started off hot. He led the Hawks to a fast 10-3 start.

One difference maker for the Hawks included getting previously-injured second-year Jamar Forde back, whose athleticism proved to be valuable.

"Having Jamar back today helped us psychologically," said Campbell.

Along with Forde, Connor Meschino's performance was key as

he contributed 16 points and was a stellar defensive presence all game.

"I thought he played great," raved Campbell. "He played well defensively, got some matchups he took advantage of and I was really pleased with the confidence he showed."

Along with Meschino, Kale Harrison contributed 19 points along with Matt Buckley's 14, all leading to a 92-89 victory for the Hawks (11-2).

Harrison now stands fourth all-time in OUA scoring, 138 points short of third place on the list.

"We've talked about where we are going," said Campbell after Saturday's victory. "They should be pretty focused."

## GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of  
Jan 16 - 22, 2012

### RECENT SCORES

1.12.12

M Hockey 0 - York 1

1.13.12

M Basketball 83 - Lakehead 88

W Basketball 66 - Lakehead 51

1.14.12

W Basketball 61 - Lakehead 65

M Basketball 92 - Lakehead 89

W Hockey 7 - Ryerson 2

M Hockey 2 - Waterloo 1

1.15.12

W Hockey 6 - Toronto 0

### UPCOMING HOME GAMES

1.20.12

W Hockey vs Windsor  
Waterloo Rec Complex, 7:30pm

1.21.12

M Hockey vs Windsor  
Waterloo Rec Complex, 3:00pm  
W Hockey vs Western  
Waterloo Rec Complex, 7:30pm

### LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Kale Harrison  
Men's Basketball

Felicia Mazerolle  
Women's Basketball

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## The new face of Canadian tennis

**LUKE DOTTO**  
STAFF WRITER

I never had the privilege of watching Wayne Gretzky play live.

I've seen Pavel Bure play live; my father used to work for the Vancouver Canucks, operating the scoreboard at the Pacific Coliseum during the early 1990s. I would sit on the first step of the box that he worked in and watch those great Canucks teams fly around the ice in their far-from-great jerseys.

No Canuck flew around the ice like Bure. He was a marvel unlike anything the NHL had ever seen or is likely to ever see.

It was can't-miss sports when Bure played, the closest thing, my dad says, to watching Gretzky play.

Gretzky of course does not need much more written on him than already has been.

Much has been written about "The Trade," which saw the most richly-talented player in the NHL traded to the most barren of hockey markets; Los Angeles.

He cried. Oilers fans cried. Canadians cried. Californians shrugged.

How a national treasure could be traded to a place where Bay-watch and high-waisted bikinis were national treasures was beyond

comprehension for most.

And yet, looking back on Gretzky's move to California, it is not difficult to comprehend that the move has been fantastic for the NHL.

The Kings never won a Stanley Cup but the benefits of Gretzky's trade have been far more wide-ranging than winning a trophy could hope to accomplish.

Toronto sports writer Damien Cox coined this benefit as the "Gretzky Effect" wherein participation in hockey in California saw a meteoric rise in the years following the trade. Simply put, when a star breaks onto the scene of a sport not appreciated, in a place not appreciated; that sport takes off at the grassroots level and beyond.

Gretzky in the Southern US, Pele in Brazil, and now, perhaps, Raonic in Canada.

Don't be surprised if tennis, yes, THAT sport, sees a rapid climb to the top of the running order of most sports highlights shows when Milos Raonic is playing.

Raonic, a 21-year-old from Thornhill, Ontario is already the most successful single's player in Canadian history.

Raonic has made it to the third round at the Australian Open this week, the Grand Slam in which he

got through four rounds last year as a rookie and the first qualifier to do so in 12 years.

He's got the skill (already ranked number 25 in the world), he's got the tools (one of the fastest and most accurate serves on the tour), he's got the looks (the guy's 6'5" and looks like the kid you used to babysit) and the personality of a star (check out his interviews on YouTube).

He has everything you would want as an athlete and celebrity. He's imposing on the court and charming off of it; a combination Canadians buy into.

Moreover, that's a combination that makes a historically undervalued sport in Canada more attractive to youth.

They'll continue to play baseball and road hockey, but tennis will appeal to enough and that early exposure to the game is all that's needed to start and maintain a solid base of platers and fans to the singles sport.



CHRIS JOHNSON CONTRIBUTED

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ADAM GAGNON LAURIER ATHLETICS

Shelby Kurt has been a solid offensive presence for the Hawks.

## Rookie reaches new heights

ELIZABETH BATE  
STAFF WRITER

Shelby Kurt lives for basketball.

The Golden Hawks' outstanding rookie forward was named the Ontario University Athletics' (OUA) female athlete of the week on Jan. 9, having scored 19 points and four rebounds in a game against Brock on Jan. 7. Kurt helped lead the team to a 77-69 victory, their second of the week.

"My team works really hard," said Kurt, who maintains she can't take the credit for the team's wins. "I probably wouldn't be named [OUA female athlete of the week] if I didn't have my teammates."

Most recently, Kurt threw eight points up on the board in a 75-69 road victory against the University of Guelph on Wednesday night. She also tied for the team lead in rebounds with seven.

Scoring an average of 11.7 points per game and sitting second in team scoring with 148 points in 13 games, just 12 points behind leader Felicia Mazerolle, the first-year psychology major loves the sport she plays.

"I've played basketball my whole life pretty much. Basketball is a huge

thing in my family," she said.

Growing up in Waterloo, one of the joys of playing basketball at Laurier for the six-foot-one forward is having her parents and sister come out and watch the games.

Coming off a recent four-game winning streak, the Laurier women lost to Lakehead on Jan. 14.

That doesn't deter Kurt, who hopes to see her team, who sit third in the west, reach the playoffs this season.

"If we really play hard then we can go forward this season and hopefully make it to regionals and hopefully make it to nationals," she said.

Kurt, who hopes to continue playing basketball for her four years at Laurier, thinks basketball is a great form of exercise.

"It keeps me healthy. You meet a lot of great people when you're on a team and it's fun for me," she said.

Not entirely sure what her plans for the future might involve, Kurt hopes to get into something in the medical field when she is finished with school.

For now, she is just enjoying her OUA success.

"It's definitely a huge accomplishment for me. It made me happy."

## Visentin finds redemption in a nation's struggle



TIEJIA MACLAUGHLIN  
STAFF WRITER

It may not exactly have been the revenge Mark Visentin was hoping for, but Team Canada's veteran net-minder held his head high as he collected his World Junior Championship (WJC) Under-20 bronze medal.

And rightfully so. The Phoenix Coyotes first-round draft pick stood tall between the pipes for a Canadian squad with the weight of a nation on its shoulders.

Back-to-back silver medals in 2010 and 2011 — losses at the hands of the Americans and Russians — left a bitter taste in the mouth of a country that views anything less than hockey gold as failure.

It was Visentin who back-stopped Team Canada in the gold medal game last year in Buffalo when the Russians executed arguably one of the greatest comebacks in WJC history, scoring five times in the third frame to roar back to a 5-3 victory — and you can imagine the stinging sound of the goal horn rang long after that loss for him.

After going undefeated in the preliminary round at this year's tournament, Canada looked poised heading into their semifinal against Russia — the defending champions.

Led by projected first-overall 2012 NHL draftee Nail Yakupov, and fueled by the loss of their teammates in the Lokomotiv tragedy earlier in the season, the Russians came out on the winning end of a thrilling 6-5 match. Visentin stopped eight of ten shots in relief of starting goaltender Scott Wedgewood. The loss meant Team Canada would go on to face Finland for third place, while Russia squared off against Sweden for top spot.

The bronze medal match was a special one for Visentin, who started his final game of his WJC career.

Although he may not have had his sweetest victory, he finished his two-year Under-20 campaign with a picture perfect shutout.

What was even greater for the Niagara Ice Dogs' stop-guard was that he had the chance to do so on an international stage, in front of the tournament's largest attendance to date.

Between the Saddledome in Calgary and Rexall Place in Edmonton, the IIHF set a new attendance record, attracting 571,539 fans. The 11-day tournament averaged 18,437 fans per game — nearly 4,000 more than the previous WJC record, which was also set in a Canadian city (the 2009 tournament in Ottawa).

In addition to Visentin's not-quite-perfect sweet revenge and the record attendance, the storylines for Team Canada seemed endless.

Kitchener's own Tanner Pearson — once a stick boy for the local Kitchener Rangers — caught fire this

year in the Ontario Hockey League (OHL), and as the league's leading scoring, earned himself a spot as Canada's 13th forward.

Brothers Dougie and Freddie Hamilton of the Niagara Ice Dogs had the rare chance to represent their country together, following in the steps of both their mother and father who were Olympic athletes.

But perhaps one of the most prominent successes for the red and white was the production of their top line — Mark Stone, Jonathan Huberdeau and Ryan Strome, who combined for 28 points.

For the Swedes who defeated Russia to capture the gold, it had been a long time coming. Thirty-one years to be exact.

In fact, head coach Roger Rönnberg was only 10 years old the last time he witnessed his country win a gold medal at the Under-20's.

The Tre Kronor (three crowns) battled through three overtime determinants en route to gold and in that final game, it was Ottawa Senators' prospect Mika Zibanejad who potted the overtime winner in a 1-0 thriller to become his country's hero.

The scene across the pond in Stockholm was one of pride and exuberance for a country that had waited so patiently for its turn in the international hockey spotlight.

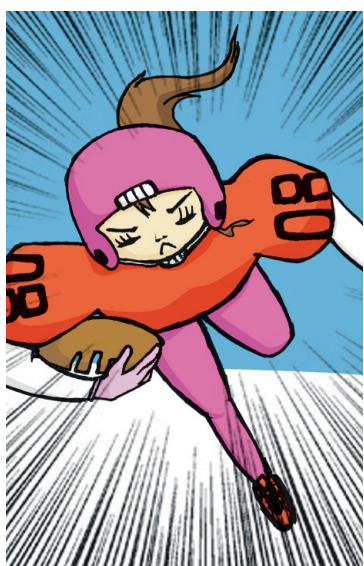
For Canada, the bronze marked its 15th consecutive medal at the WJC. For Russia, their second consecutive.



TIEJIA MACLAUGHLIN STAFF WRITER

Team Canada line up after their 4-0 bronze-medal win over Finland in Calgary. Visentin had 27 saves.

## Powder puff: A sport with serious bite



MAYA UEMURA GRAPHICS ARTIST

ASHLEY DENUZZO  
STAFF WRITER

Don't be fooled by the delicate name; participants will vouch that this sport brings serious competition and more than a few bruises.

Those who play know exactly what I'm talking about, and those who don't are about to become educated on one of Laurier's most anticipated non-varsity winter sports.

I'm talking, of course, about the annual Laurier Letterman Powder Puff tournament.

For readers who consider themselves comedians and have just made an unoriginal joke to their buddy sitting next to them, I'm going to warn you that this sport is not something taken lightly at Laurier. Imagine some of your most

athletic female friends, classmates and teammates.

Now, I want you to imagine them playing a twelve-on-twelve football game against other equally intense athletes. Add a full offensive and defensive line, open hand blocking and girls who have some aggression to let loose, and you have yourself a highly competitive and entertaining game.

All while playing in the snow. Each year, Laurier sees about ten registered teams consisting of about 20 to 30 players. Many of Laurier's women's varsity teams also migrate to powder puff on their off-season as players from the university's women's rugby, soccer and lacrosse teams have been found on powder puff rosters.

Additionally, Laurier plays host

to two powder puff tournaments every year: the first is a Laurier-only tournament, while the second is for all of Ontario University Athletics (OUA) teams.

This means that powder puff teams from all over the province (McMaster, Queen's, Western, Waterloo, York and Toronto, just to name a few) come to play on our turf for a shot at becoming the next OUA powder puff champions. Last year's defending champions hailed from Queen's, defeating a team from the University of Waterloo, 24-3 to clinch the title.

Starting to sound a little more serious?

Not only are they braving the frosty weather, powder puff players are also coached and cultivated by some of both Laurier's and the

OUA's most talented varsity men's football players.

These girls are learning the very same plays, skills, tactics and moves that you are used to seeing and drunkenly cheering for in the stands at homecoming.

Moreover, the tournament also gives back to the community. The 2008 tournament confirmed having raised approximately \$7,150 for the Breast Cancer Society of Canada.

Powder puff introduces a unique twist to the world of athletics, and has been widely regarded by participants as one of the best weekends during a person's university experience.

This year's powder puff Laurier-only tournament will be held on Jan. 27th and 28th. The OUA tournament will be on Feb. 10th and 11th.