



SQUARING OFF

Presidential one-on-ones

In Depth editor Mike Lakusiak sits down with the potential presidents for a question and answer session

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Candidate platforms

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What we think

The Cord chooses the candidates that we see fit to serve the students

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WADE THOMPSON VISUAL DIRECTOR

Faculty unhappy

Union weighs in on labour dispute

MARISA EVANS
STAFF WRITER

Negotiations between Wilfrid Laurier University and the WLU Faculty Association (WLUFAs) have reached a climax. After conciliation on Jan. 24 and 26, both parties decided to forego the scheduled negotiations that were to take place on Jan. 27. As negotiations have progressed to more complex issues such as the pension plan and ties between teaching and research, both felt it necessary to gather more information before proceeding.

"We've been really serious since day one on getting a deal that's fair and responsible for the institution as a whole," explained director of communication and public affairs, Kevin Crowley.

Judy Bates, WLUFAs president, expressed the same optimism, "Hopefully with the assistance of the labour board appointed conciliator we'll be able to move towards a settlement that is reasonable for both sides," she said.

Crowley says working with a conciliator is a typical part of the process.

With the incitement of conciliation, WLUFAs published an online newsletter providing an update of the negotiations. This prompted a response from the university who, Crowley said, felt it was being mischaracterised.

"What WLUFAs is saying in the

"We've been really serious since day one on getting a deal that's fair and responsible for the institution as a whole."

—Kevin Crowley, Director of communication and public affairs

newsletter is not what we're saying at the bargaining table. Those aren't our proposals," Crowley stated. "We really wanted to correct the record and hold WLUFAs accountable for what it was saying."

A letter was subsequently sent from the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) to WLUFAs and the university. In the letter, WLUSU president Nick Gibson, deems a work stoppage of any length "unacceptable" and urges the university and the faculty association to reach common ground for the sake of the students.

"It's [WLUSU's] belief that the recently disclosed status of labour negotiations between WLU and WLUFAs challenges the strong reputation

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And then there were three: Sultani bows out

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
NEWS DIRECTOR

LINDA GIVETASH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For a brief moment, Zahra Sultani left the Concourse speechless.

Rather than providing an opening statement at the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union open forum on Tuesday afternoon,

Sultani, one of the four presidential candidates, announced her resignation from the race. Sultani then proceeded to throw her support behind former opponent Michael Onabolu, before being cut off by forum moderator Kory Preston.

"I'm rather sold on a candidate who has greater experience than I," Sultani told the crowded upper Concourse. "I'm sold on Mike Onabolu."

During her speech, Sultani noted

that there were difficulties in her campaign, telling the audience that "besides the challenges of putting a campaign together I had to face the challenges of people attacking my character."

According to Sultani, nearing the end of last week, accusations were made against her. When asked to clarify this in an interview following her announcement, Sultani said that she was unable to provide details

about the matter as of yet because the matter is still under investigation. "I will let you know as soon as I get more details because it is something I would like people to know about," she said.

Sultani added that though she hadn't considered stepping down until the events that transpired late last week, she had admired and respected Onabolu from early in the campaign.

"When I first met Mike at the beginning of campaigning, I said to myself 'if I wasn't running for this position, I would be in this guy's campaign,'" she told The Cord. "So after facing a lot of challenges, I decided to step down as a candidate just to endorse Mike because I don't want this election to become a popularity contest. I want people to

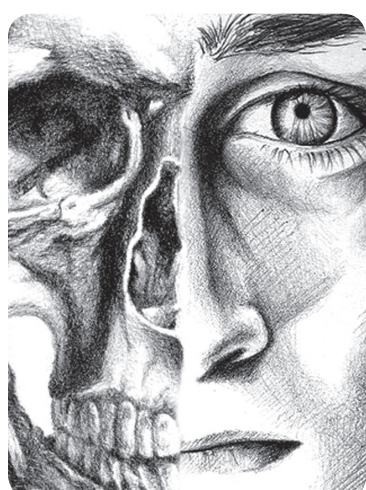
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Radcliffe after Hogwarts

Arts contributor Ashley Newton attends an advanced screening of the Harry Potter actor's new film

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LENA YANG GRAPHICS ARTIST

Aboriginal act an obstacle

Amelia Calbry-Muzyka discusses how the Conservatives have abandoned Canada's Indian act

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Poutinerie arriving soon

Famous eatery Smokes Poutinerie aims to finally appear in Waterloo by the end of the year

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NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

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Editor's choice

*What would you do as WLUSU president?
Life, only at thecord.ca*

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This Week in quotes



"I decided to step down as a candidate just to endorse Mike [Onabolu] because I don't want this election to become a popularity contest. I want people to make an informed decision."

—Zahra Sultani, former WLUSU presidential candidate

"Next year we may be a little more choosy." — *Swimming coach Russ Franklin on his plans of having cuts to the team for the first time under his direction*

"You could vote naked from your home if you wanted to. That was a big thing last year." — *Board of directors chair Chris Walker on Click Your Vote*

"Maybe I made it sexy." — *WLUSP executive director Bryn Ossington regarding why people want to run for positions at Student Publications*

"I wish I wrote a song." — *WLUSU presidential candidate Nolan Kreis after hearing opponent Michael Onabolu's closing statement at Tuesday's open forum*

"After that it's global domination." — *Smoke's Poutinerie owner Ryan Smolkin on the success of his company*

"I always tell people I want to stay at Laurier for the rest of my life, I love this school more than anyone could ever know." — *WLUSU presidential candidate Jenny Solda*

"Whether I win or lose I will go away stronger for this." — *WLUSU presidential candidate Michael Onabolu regarding his campaign*

Vocal Cord

Did you miss Wilf's while it was closed?



"I missed it – not all the time, but like, if you wanted to go have a milkshake with friends."

—Jennifer Refalo
First-year BBA



"Yes. I did."
—Hayley Robinson
Fourth-year English



"Not really, it's an occasional place for floor dinners but I didn't go that often."
—Olivia Skrastins
First-year kinesiology



"I missed it because of floor dinners and exec meetings."
—Brad Deck
First-year BBA



"Yeah I did. I miss being able to go when I feel like – just because it's right there."
—Laiya Carayannopoulos
First-year BBA

Compiled by Liz Smith
Photos by Kate Turner

Interviews with the presidential candidates have been posted to **thecord.ca**



On election night, visit **thecord.ca** as the results roll in

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The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

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FEBRUARY 1, 2012
Volume 52, Issue 22
Next issue: February 8, 2012

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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

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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, Waterloo, a corporation without share capital. WLUSP is governed by its board of directors.

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:
"I shit myself every Saturday from then on."
—Photography Manager Nick Lachance on working at Radio Shack

NEWS

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Inside

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Candidates fight for student vote

Potential presidents face off

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
NEWS DIRECTOR

One candidate had withdrawn, but for the other three, it was game on.

After the shock of candidate Zahra Sultani's last minute resignation wore off, the remaining three candidates in Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union presidential election had to get back to the initial reason they gathered in the Concourse Tuesday afternoon. For Nolan Kreis, Michael Onabolu and Jenny Solda, it was time to make their last impression on the voters before they hit the polls.

The presidential candidates took questions from current and former WLUSU execs and directors and the general student population as the largest crowd of the day gathered for the final event of the WLUSU open forum.

After opening statements, current WLUSU president and CEO Nick Gibson went to the mic with a specific question for each presidential hopeful. Kreis, Onabolu and Solda went on to address the often-contentious issue of communication with union members outside the so-called 'WLUSU clique.'

"Obviously we do have that issue, it's been outlined in the majority of our platforms if not all," said Kreis. "Working with the marketing department we have here at Laurier and in the Students' Union would be a great asset."

Solda and Onabolu expressed similar sentiments, with Solda focusing on potential partnerships



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

The three remaining WLUSU presidential candidates await questions after Zahra Sultani's resignation.

with WLUSU's marketing department, as well as various areas around the university. Onabolu discussed the possibilities of getting students informed about WLUSU before they even arrive at Laurier.

Later the candidates were confronted with the issue of mental health at WLU, something that has been a topic of debate since a proposal to add school days to orientation week in favour of instituting a fall reading break didn't make it to a vote at the Laurier Senate. All the candidates acknowledged that the two were separate issues.

"They're two different things," said Onabolu. "There's a lot more issues that surround a fall reading break other than just how it affects orientation week."

"I am the biggest lover of orientation week, but as much as I love

it, there are some serious changes that need to happen with it," added Solda.

A student then raised the issue of study space on campus, which each candidate discussed in their platforms.

"It's a pressing issue," said Solda, who the question was specifically aimed at. "I chose to [propose using the Turret] because we have direct control over that space. I wanted to take advantage of the space we have."

Onabolu, meanwhile, focused on making existing study space such as the library and the Science Building Atrium more efficient by adding lighting and extending hours.

"No matter what we do, there's not going to be enough study space for everyone on campus, it's just a size issue," he said.

"But what we can do is improve the study space that we already have."

Kreis discussed the study space issues facing Laurier Brantford, explaining how the campus shares a library with the city and only has a few designated quiet areas for studying.

Towards the end of the forum, Ted Brown, who currently sits on the university's board of governors, asked them to identify their standing representative on the board and outline how they intended on working with that person.

Onabolu was the first to point out that Brown was the standing rep and outlined how the two had already met to discuss how they would work together. Kreis then acknowledged that Brown was the board rep, however the two had not yet spoken.

Sultani out, backs Onabolu

— cover

make an informed decision."

While Sultani's resignation shocked most of the crowd, Onabolu had a bit of warning.

"I did get a chance to talk to [Sultani] before hand and she did let me know that she was potentially thinking about endorsing me," he said.

"But I didn't know she was actually going to drop out of the race. I was really shocked at her resignation, but going forward I think she was very humble in saying she feels like she has the capacity to keep running and the capabilities to run."

WLUSU's chief returning officer Jesse Finn also had some indication that Sultani's announcement was coming.

"Yesterday [Monday] we spoke to Zahra, she was expressing some interest in ending her candidacy and we simply filled her in on the process to do so," he said.

For the other two presidential candidates, Nolan Kreis and Jenny Solda, Sultani's resignation was a complete blindside. Particularly for Solda, whose opening statement followed Sultani's announcement.

"It was pretty shocking, that's never really happened before, but she made her choice and I respect her for it," said Solda. "I'll admit, it was a little hard to follow, but I tried my best."

Kreis, meanwhile, expressed similar sentiments.

"To actually come out and resign at an open forum, that takes a lot of courage. I can respect that," he said. "Obviously, she put a lot of thought into it."

As far as the issues that came about late last week that drove Sultani's resignation, the other candidates all said they didn't have any knowledge on the matter, while Finn stated he could not comment on it.

Down a candidate, the election will continue as planned. According to Finn, WLUSU has already begun the process of altering the ballots to remove Sultani's name.

Sultani thanked her campaign team and all those that supported her and told The Cord that this resignation does not mean she's finished with WLUSU, expressing potential interest in a position at WLUSU or elsewhere at the university.

"Even if I was thinking of taking a break from the WLUSU body, I think I would there are other things I can do in Laurier," she said.

—With files from Mike Lakusiak and Justin Smirlies



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Board hopefuls represent diverse spectrum

JUSTIN SMIRLIES
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

The candidates for Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union board of directors were in the hot seat on Tuesday afternoon.

On the day before polls officially opened, the 21 director hopefuls answered questions in the Concourse at the Waterloo open forum about their experience, promises and aspirations if they were to be elected.

Students filtered their way through the Concourse on their way to and from class catching glimpses of potential directors answering questions, but a small base of students, including many of the candidates' campaign members, were consistent throughout.

Kory Preston, an ex-presidential candidate for the 2010-11 year, moderated the open forum, allowing the candidates to answer pre-submitted questions as well as some from the floor.

"Be mindful of each other and

respectful of one another, and have a clean, dirty open forum," said Preston just before the candidates gave their opening statements.

Among the popular topics of discussion of the directors were communication, transparency, mental health and Brantford – especially since three of the candidates were from the Brantford campus.

"One of the main concerns I had was interaction with students, especially with Brantford," said Danel Cartwright-Jordan at the forum. "Most of my time talking to students, they had no idea what the board was."

Besides Scott Fleming, Jon Pryce and Seth Warren, the majority of candidates have never sat on the board before. However, Jon Collaton, a current director on the board, asked each director to stand up if they have been to more than two board meetings.

Though most had been to at least one – except for Hannah Lee, Jennifer Taborowski, Frank Cirinna,

Marek Choven, Kate Stevenson, Dejan Eskic – only a handful have been to multiple meetings.

"Even though I'm young and relatively inexperienced, I'm looking to bring a lot of passion and charisma to the board," said Eskic, a first-year student. The main theme, however, that was expressed by each director was communication and transparency. "I want to raise awareness and communication between students with the board. A Twitter account isn't necessarily going to do that. I think we're going to need have people out there, on all campuses and in all the faculties and meeting students face-to-face," said candidate Ryan Neufeld.

A student asked the candidates specifically about their plans in terms of communication with the student body, ensuring that WLU-SU's plans and actions are clearly conveyed.

Alex Balint stated that the board should be doing meetings at the Brantford campus which, as he said,

would include buses from Brantford to Waterloo.

Sunny Chan, a current director and a long-time member of WLUSU, asked which directors were planning on running for chair and vice-chair of the board. Pryce, a two-time director, is planning on running for chair and chief governance officer.

"I have a lot of stuff planned for that already," said Pryce, particularly addressing training for the elected directors. "I think that the chair needs to provide a well-rounded organization for the directors so they feel confident."

Out of the 21 candidates, only 15 will be chosen to be on the board, which could see a stronger presence of Brantford and female members. Three candidates came forward from the Laurier Brantford campus, compared to none last year.

Meanwhile seven females are up for the BOD, compared to only one a year ago. Results will be announced on Thursday along with the presidential results.

More forum coverage online

Three up for BoG

Scott Fleming, Michael Gagliano and Seth Warren square off for the lone spot on board of governors

—By Linda Givetash

thecord.ca

What they're promising

The candidates for president, board of directors, and board of governors outline what they hope to accomplish if elected

Presidential platforms



Nolan Kreis

I will be upholding the virtues to which WLUSU stands for. By meeting the 4 ends, by supporting the committees, clubs and groups that make up our students union, by placing the values and needs of students above all else, and by continuing my dedication to campus safety and working with the University and Student Affairs to enhance and improve on student wants and needs, will make me a strong candidate for President of WLUSU.

I will be supporting the needs of Waterloo and Brantford, both on a multi-campus level, and on an individual level. Both campus's needs are equally important to WLUSU, and will be represented equally by myself if elected.

Decisions regarding both campus's will be made by those affected, not just a select few. With the new structure being introduced I know this may seem difficult, but with concerns that deal with Brantford specific I will be working with the Campus Experience Vice President (Brantford) and those directly affected by decisions that would be made in an open discussion available for all to attend.

The same would go for the Campus Experience Vice President (Waterloo) and those directly affected. Campus safety has always been a major concern and while I have been working consistently to make sure campus safety is always up to par from being a Don for two years and being on Foot Patrol for a year, I will continue to strive for safety excellence with the position of President.



Michael Onabolu

My name is Michael Onabolu. I'm a 4th year BBA Co-op major, Political Science minor.

I want to orient students on how to effectively use the Emergency Poles on campus and provide social opportunities that allow for students to express themselves in an inclusive environment.

I want to advocate that University Administration hold our available study space to a quality standard. Having more plugs in the science atrium, and improving the quality of the chairs and table in the DAWB study rooms, are ways I plan to help students more effectively utilize the study space on campus.

I want to work towards eradicating the stigmas surrounding mental illness, and educate students on ways they can take care of their own mental health. I also want to advocate that the University make mental wellbeing a priority and a consideration in academic planning (i.e. academic calendar, budget planning, etc).

I want to have a Financial Advisor for students to provide financial literature on how to budget and plan for the future. I want to ensure reimbursement for campus clubs remains a 4 day turnaround in actuality.

I want to hold Town Halls for representatives from the different University student services offices (ex. Counseling Services, Athletics, etc.) can come to discuss the current state of affairs, and students can ask questions and learn more about these services.

All of these wants, I want for the future students of the Laurier. If you want this as well, then please... Help Me, Help You.



Jenny Solda

My vision is to make the Students' Union valuable for every student by focusing on communication, approachability, and transparency.

Advocating for and representing students...

Food Services: Improve overall quality, diverse options, and experience for students.

Class Sizes: Ensure the student to professor ratio is maintained.

Representation: Emphasize continuous outreach of student opinion to ensure the student voice is accurately represented.

Creating a safe and empowering environment...

Mental Health: Incorporate various initiatives that will address current student needs, promote mental wellness and awareness, along with creating permanent infrastructure to support the increasing demand.

Focus on leadership development: Focus on developing student leaders through training and transparency in volunteer positions.

Create a sustainable WLUSU: Work with EcoHawks to establish operational policies focused around making WLUSU more sustainable.

Hiring Process Re-evaluation: Re-evaluate and improve the hiring process of STARR ensuring a fair and equitable process.

Increase of Temporary Study Space: Turn the Turret and Hawk's Nest into temporary study space during the day.

Increasing opportunities for diverse social interaction...

Diverse Programming: Create cross campus events and better utilize WLUSU spaces including Wilf's and the Turret in order to provide students with a wider array of programming options.

Orientation Week: Re-evaluate and improve aspects of Orientation Week in order to provide the best experience for first year students.

Improving transparency and communication with the student body...

Transparency: Provide students with continuous updates about WLUSU's activities with monthly publications and clearer communication patterns.

Candidate platforms are printed as submitted with no edits made for spelling, grammar or structure.

Photos by Rosalie Eid, Nick Lachance and Kate Turner

Visit thecord.ca on Thursday for coverage of election results

Referendum questions announced at open forum

MARCIE FOSTER
LEAD REPORTER

At Tuesday's open forum, five referendum questions to be voted on were presented by the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union board of directors chair and chief governance officer Chris Walker.

"I think I'm boring myself just reading this," claimed Walker as he read aloud the three constitutional amendments.

The first referendum question pertains to the sustainability of the WLUSU health and dental plan, Walker explained. "As it currently exists due to increased costs and

usage of the plan, it will not be able to be sustainable but in fact will start to draw money away from us as an organization."

"Due to increased use and costs associated with that, we won't be able to sustain that for much longer so by tying it to inflation that would make the fee in accordance with the consumer price index, [around two to three per cent per annum]," he continued.

The three constitutional amendments concern the elimination of proxy voting, the changing of language in some policy to reflect the multi-campus governance visioning, as well as a change to board of

directors structure which would require two seats per campus.

Walker feels this would better represent the students of Brantford while including the possibility of a Milton campus.

"We asked ourselves when we eliminated the Brantford Campus Council, 'How do we bring in Brantford's perspective or representation on things, but give it more of a governance focus as opposed to an operational focus?'" he said. "The way we can do that is to have directors on the board whom we can hold accountable, by the same standards that we hold all directors to."

In the event only two students

from Brantford run for board of directors, they will be acclaimed.

The fifth referendum question is specific to science students, which calls for an increase of the faculty based fee.

"The referendum was called for by the Faculty of Science Students Association (FOSSA), they want to increase their fee much in the same way that business did last year, to increase their capacity to provide for clubs and cover administration costs."

Students will have the opportunity to vote on these questions when they cast their ballots online for the WLUSU election.

Questions condensed

- ~2-3 per cent increase to Health and Dental plan per year, any more will be subject to another referendum
- Elect a minimum of two board of directors representatives per campus.
- Faculty of Science - faculty based fee - maximum of 15 dollars raised to maximum of 21.50.
- elimination of proxy voting to reflect new electronic voting and Not-for-profit Corporations Act

Board of Directors platforms



Alicia Appleby

As a candidate for Board of Directors I feel that I have many creative and innovative contributions to offer. My main goal is to create a more collaborative multi campus university, working off each other's strengths.

Laurier campuses have much to offer their students and I have learned that there is no singular approach to how we provide student services. I believe I will be able to bring fresh ideas and a unique perspective to ensure that everyone feels included. I will bring my transferrable skills from my previous positions within WLUSU and student affairs. I hope to offer open communication between our campuses and bring my skills to Board of Directors to help ensure our student's voices are heard.



Alex Balint

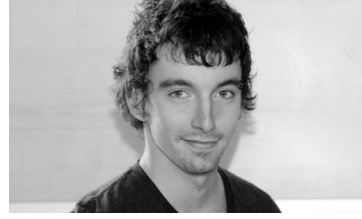
I am a big advocate for Ownership Linkage at Laurier, maintaining a strong connection between students and WLUSU. Staying directly in touch with students every day is important to ensure WLUSU is always meeting the expectations and demands of the students. Providing a safe and empowering environment is essential through the various services our school has to offer. To build on these I will promote increased attention to the awareness and support of mental health for students. I will make certain that our school's resources are sufficiently and suitably being applied to the four ends to keep life at Laurier everything a student wants it to be, and always moving forward.



Matt Casselman

I am a BBA student who is involved on campus as a member of various clubs including the Debate Society, Farmers Market, and Best Buddies. As a Director on the Board, I will focus on four themes of increasing student voice, improving campus experience, increasing fiscal responsibility, and improving information distribution. Please allow me to defend the interests of a community I care so much about.

*If elected I will work to address each point in my full platform and champion student interests as a strong advocate in and out of the board room. Your concerns about frivolous spending, accountability, campus clubs, service and facility hours, and more, will have a stronger voice than ever before. For more information please visit www.facebook.com/CasselmannForWLUSU or email cass9720@mylaurier.ca



Marek Chovin

Greetings fellow students here at Laurier, my name is Marek Chovanec, but most know me as Drigg. I am a third year Honours Psychology: Research Specialist Student and this is my first time running for the WLUSU Board of Directors position. I believe in justice, learning, responsibility and improvement. If I get the honour of being elected, I want to enforce the above at Laurier through acting as a liaison between the WLUSU and the Faculty of Science as well as ALL of the faculties by committing myself to addressing the issues that students may have: accessible study space, reliable internet all over, 24 hour accessibility and more. Making student life a positive experience towards a better future is my goal; the future is friendly.



Jazz Clement

Passionate about making a difference here at Laurier, and being involved within the community, I see the changes that need to be addressed. If elected as board of director, I will ensure that I understand and am knowledgeable about important elements of WLUSU such as, the ends policy, executive limitations, committee work, and holding the president accountable.

Furthermore, I believe in communication, connection, and change. Through communication, I want to tie the missing link between the students and the union. Through connection, I want to ensure that all students are connected and feel part of the union.

Most importantly I want change, a change in us... a change in our student union and change in how you view yourselves as the student union.



Frank Cirinna

As a first year student, the most common thing I see and hear about WLUSU is complaints. Whether its food, programming, or something completely different altogether, the student population has concerns, but most don't know how to go about having these concerns voiced. What is your Laurier Story? My story has led me to become a much stronger and better person, and I have had opportunities and experiences that would not have been possible anywhere else. During O-Week we were told that we get out what we put in.

It goes beyond that. At Wilfrid Laurier, we get back 10 times what we put in, so I find that it's time for me to start giving back to all of you. What's your story?



Sebastian Dudek

Falling GPA's, growing class sizes, lack of study space ... what do these issues all have in common? They all affect the students at Laurier. My name is Sebastian Dudek and if elected for the Board of Directors I pledge to advocate for the issues that affect every student who attends Laurier As the owners and shareholders of WLUSU, it is up to us to set our expectations for the union and up to the board to ensure they are met. If elected I will actively work with management to ensure that every goal we set is met and exceeded. So on February 1st vote for Sebastian Dudek, on February 1st vote for accountability.



Jordan Epstein

My name is Jordan Epstein and I'm a third year Kinesiology student. I have been involved in the Students' Union in the Campus Clubs, Programming, and Services departments. I will use the experiences gained through the diversity of my activities within WLUSU to better represent students in the boardroom.

My main goal as a potential director is to increase accessibility, communication, and transparency of what occurs in the boardroom. I feel I have already started working towards this goal by live-tweeting about what happens during meetings as a guest.

Having missed only one Board of Directors meeting since I started attending them in September, students on both campuses can count on me to consistently represent them and ensure that their voices are heard.



Dejan Eskic

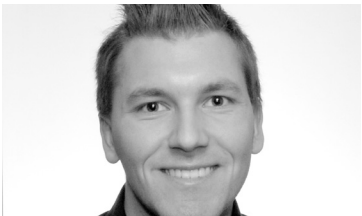
If elected to the board, I wish to take on the role of a trustee for the benefit of the student body. WLUSU exists to benefit students and as a director I will vote on issues and contribute to discussions that affect everyone's experience at Laurier. I will cooperate with the board in coming up with a strategic direction; giving the president the goals we want him to accomplish and allowing him to determine how.

The main goal I have for WLUSU and of course the president and board is: **To provide a safe and empowering environment** – I wish to provide a liaison between organizations like Bacchus and Foot Patrol to produce a more efficient student safety initiative. I want students to feel at home because, frankly, it is for most of the year. Communication between students and governance is key in finding issues and establishing ways of fixing them.



Scott Fleming

I believe student government needs to be accountable and transparent; particularly when dealing with political and financial issues. I also believe that the status quo should be questioned when necessary. With the dissolution of the BCC I plan on focusing on Board outreach to the Brantford campus. Every Student is an owner of WLUSU and I intend in promoting that knowledge.



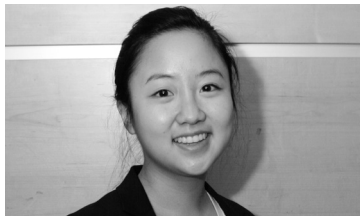
Stephen Franchetto

My platform is based on accessibility, advocacy, accountability, and fiscal responsibility. The following is what each means to me: Accessibility means being available through mediums that enable prompt responses to your concerns or feedback and through ownership linkage events. Advocacy means working on behalf of students to continuously improve the student experience at Laurier, being knowledgeable of the issues students face, and accounting for all students (not just a select group) when making decisions. Accountability, I will be results oriented, and work with the Board and Management Group to ensure we follow through on campaign promises. Fiscal Responsibility, I will ensure that every dollar of your money is spent purposefully and responsibly. It's your WLUSU, on February 1st, it's your choice. Vote Franchetto.



Dannel Cartwright-Jordan

I am Dannel Cartwright Jordan, a Laurier Brantford student running for the board. With the recent eradication of the Brantford Campus Council and the possibility of structure changes it has become more important than ever that Brantford has a voice in the Board of Directors. I will represent the needs of the students as a member of the board with particular attention to quiet study space and safety, but intend to remain open to all students from both campuses for input. My goal is to bridge the gap between the two campuses. The Brantford students are a small but mighty group; we offer students a friendly and fun environment made possible because of the students union. This election, don't let Brantford lose its voice.



Hannah Lee

My goal is to focus on Communication and Accessibility (of information) to enhance WLU experience.

Management: Provide further tools for training and development at the management level in WLUSU establishments to improve the level of efficiency for both customer and employee satisfaction. Health Services/Counseling Services Encourage students (particularly in first year) to seek out help and advice from these institutions that are so readily available to us.

Engage Student Population in Extra Curricular Activities: Create a complete online calendar with events submitted from every WLU-SU club. Thus allowing for currently idle students to access the information required in hopes to avoid potential time-conflicts between classes and events.

Green Initiatives: Build upon BYOB (Bring Your Own Bottle) to further Laurier's Green Initiative



Ryan Neufeld

As a third year psychology student I have volunteered as an icebreaker, Laurier International ambassador and active member of campus clubs. As a dedicated member of the faculty of science, I believe Laurier's diversity should be represented on the BOD. I will bring a triple AAA focus to the board by enhancing ADVOCACY, APPROACHABILITY and ACCOUNTABILITY. I will encourage advocacy surrounding limiting class sizes, technology infrastructure and study space for student success. While WLUSU provides many services, an enhancement of approachability would increase awareness for students. Board members need to take ownership of communicating with students and create conversations through on campus engagement and social media. Through accountability I will ensure that students receive full value for their financial and volunteer commitments to the union.



Caleb Okwubo

One of the core principles of a democratic society is that governing bodies are accountable to the people. If elected, I will do my best to ensure that any income spent must be accounted for by WLUSU and that it reflects the needs and wants of everyone at Laurier. Especially strengthening the communication channels between the students and the Union is paramount to realizing these goals.

Acknowledgement of the diversity represented at Laurier, I feel is not adequately reflected in the Student Union decisions. It is important that every member of the Laurier Student Body, of every culture, should feel comfortable voicing their opinions and be confident that they are heard. **Accountability. Communication. Diversity**

Your voice is important. Come out and vote Caleb Okwubido.



Jon Pryce

As a returning Director, I will use my experience and acquired skills to provide the incoming Directors with guidance and advice. Through intensive training and goal prioritization, the Board of Directors will exhibit the highest quality of professionalism and shrewdness; I aim to lead this initiative. I will highlight and coordinate the strengths of each incoming Director to ensure that Students' Union values and Ends are properly advocated and communicated to all students. I will also guarantee that each campus is historically represented and fairly governed at all times. And finally, I will emphasize the need for the Board of Directors to exercise its high-level, strategic planning capacity to safeguard the integrity of the Students Union.

–Disclaimer: Jon Pryce is on the board of directors for Wilfrid Laurier Student Publications



Deanna Sim

My name is Deanna Sim. Being first and foremost a student, I will represent the needs and desires of students through a student-minded approach to topics such as spending. If elected, I will work towards a more convenient campus including advocating for improved food services during exam time and considering the needs of students who commute. I will also work to strengthen the unique communities clubs provide. Through my involvements as a LOCUS Off-Campus Advisor and executive, Food Bank executive, House Council VP, Model UN delegate, and the founder and President of the Agents of Awesome club, I have gained a broad perspective and many experiences which will greatly benefit the Board of Directors and the student community as a whole.



Kate Stevenson

I am a BBA student who is involved on campus as a member of various clubs including the Debate Society, Farmers Market, and Best Buddies. As a Director on the Board, I will focus on four themes of increasing student voice, improving campus experience, increasing fiscal responsibility, and improving information distribution. Please allow me to defend the interests of a community I care so much about.

*If elected I will work to address each point in my full platform and champion student interests as a strong advocate in and out of the board room. Your concerns about frivolous spending, accountability, campus clubs, service and facility hours, and more, will have a stronger voice than ever before. For more information please visit www.facebook.com/CasselmanForWLUSU or email cass9720@mylaurier.ca

Board of Governors platforms



Scott Fleming

I believe student government needs to be accountable and transparent; particularly when dealing with political and financial issues. I also believe that the status quo should be questioned when necessary. With the dissolution of the BCC I plan on focusing on Board outreach to the Brantford campus. Every Student is an owner of WLUSU and I intend in promoting that knowledge.

–Scott Fleming asked to use the same platform for Board of Directors and Board of Governors.



Michael Gagliano

I am a third year Honours Business co-op student and I believe Laurier can become Canada's most forward-thinking university. I am confident that I am the right person to represent students on the Board of Governors to help achieve this goal. Elect me to ensure the voices of students are represented by a strong, accessible leader with a passion for innovation and proven success.

In 2011 I co-founded the Laurier Innovation and Technology Club, which has already helped transition WLU into a more entrepreneurial university. I have also been heavily involved within WLUSU as Public Affairs Co-ordinator, as well as a volunteer with WLUSP.

I believe in our future as a top-tier university and I'm asking you to believe in me as your Student Governor. www.michaelgagliano.ca



Jennifer Taborowski

My goal as candidate for the Board of Directors is to bring my passion for involvement, leadership, and the greater Laurier community, to the Board. During my position I would represent the Laurier Brantford Campus while bringing a new fresh perspective to the Waterloo Campus. As a student who has been involved within Residence, WLUSU, and Student Affairs, I know how important student services and leadership opportunities as an essential part of the university experience. Long-term planning and goals lead to successful and meaningful years for current and future students. A Board of Directors with representatives from both campuses will strengthen multi-campus governance where both campuses are included and working together to build a stronger, and more diverse representation of two beautifully unique campuses.



Jeff Vincent

As a new director of the board, I will evaluate the Ends policies of the Students' Union and use my new perspective in the boardroom to ensure the stakeholders of the Students' Union (the students) can have a positive academic experience. I will engage students and make sure that their feedback is understood and taken into consideration. I will use my organizational and leadership skills to represent all members of the Students' Union. Also, it is important that students at both the Waterloo and Brantford campuses and across all faculties, from business to science, have their voices heard. It is important to have a safe and empowering academic environment that fits the needs of all students.



Seth Warren

During my last election, I campaigned on accessibility, action, and accountability - principles that I maintain. Accessibility to me, prompt Action on Issues, and Accountability to Students.

Now, as a returning WLUSU Director and candidate for WLU Board of Governors and Academic Senate, I offer an informed, experienced and unified approach.

By sitting on BOD, BOG and Senate, I will provide one voice - comprehensive representation and thorough understanding. I will act as a bridge between these bodies, fostering communication, and furthering their effectiveness.

My Focus - Cutting Campus Congestion:

Waterloo campus is busting at the seams and Brantford isn't much better. We lack study space and access to faculty. See my full platform online for a Comprehensive Action Plan!



Seth Warren

As a candidate for WLU Board of Governors and Academic Senate and a returning WLUSU Director, I offer an informed, experienced and unified approach.

Informed: Through involvement in WLUSU, Campus Clubs, Laurier Athletics, the Co-op program, Greek

and Residence Life, I have a broad base in campus-wide issues.

Experienced: By knowing the system, I can get your issue resolved.

Unified: By sitting on BOD, BOG and Senate, I will provide one voice - comprehensive representation and thorough understanding. I will bridge these bodies, fostering communication, and furthering their effectiveness.

My Focus - Cutting Campus Congestion: Waterloo campus is busting at the seams and Brantford isn't much better. We lack study space and access to faculty. See my full platform online for a Comprehensive Action Plan!

Senate Candidates were all acclaimed:

Joseph McNinch-Pazzano, Alex Reinhart, Nick Gibson, Chris Walker, Seth Warren, Ashley Dansberger and Frank Cirinna.

For more election coverage, visit thecord.ca

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4. CAREERS IN SOCIAL CHANGE: MARCH 13



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

From (L) to (R): Jon Pryce, Kayla Darrach, Emily Frost, Tom Paddock and Joseph McNinch-Pazzano.

WLUSP elects student reps

COLLEEN CONNOLLY
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday night, students supporting Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications (WLUSP) were brought together at the organization's annual general meeting (AGM) to vote in a new president and four board members for the upcoming year, with 87 registered members in attendance along with 112 proxy votes.

This was the second largest turnout since its separation from Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union seven years ago.

"The atmosphere was great," said Bryn Ossington, executive director of WLUSP. "It was really nice to have a very cordial race, a good number of candidates, a race for both president and board that had no controversy and had qualified candidates."

This year's WLUSP AGM also featured more drama than years past as last year all positions were acclaimed and the year before that Ossington was acclaimed as president.

"I think that's a big reason why for the first time in a few years we haven't had to be pulling in votes at the last minute," said Ossington. "It's great to see that people have a vested interest in WLUSP."

The evening supplied drinks and appetizers along with a keynote from 570 News radio personality, Gary Doyle. Doyle's entertaining and informative share of stories and journalistic wisdom served as an intermission between voting and the declaration of results to bring the meeting to its close.

Running for president were Mike Lakusiak and Emily Frost. Lakusiak, who is currently the In Depth Editor of The Cord, started with WLUSP three years ago and has maintained a consistent dedication to the paper in particular. Frost, as well, began her involvement with WLUSP three years prior, working predominantly with Radio Laurier as host of the A and E show, events manager and serving on the executive committee.

The four positions available for WLUSP's board were treasurer, vice chair and two directors. Running for election, students Justin Smirlies, Kayla Darrach, Joseph McNinch-Pazzano, Tom Paddock and Jon Pryce delivered their speeches following those of the running presidents.

Each candidate was then subject to questions from the crowd and asked to present a closing statement.

In conclusion, the four students who will be taking their place on

"It's great to see that people have a vested interest in WLUSP."

—Bryn Ossington, executive director at WLUSP

WLUSP's board next year will be Darrach, McNinch-Pazzano, Paddock and Pryce. Frost was voted in to be the future president of the organization.

"My main goals are to keep doing what we're doing and continue producing amazing publications and to really bring this organization together," Frost told The Cord.

"I'm extremely volunteer oriented, my whole basis has been about volunteer experience and making things better so that volunteers come out of this getting what they wanted ... volunteers are the reason that we're here."

OneCard blip

International News no longer takes flex

MARCIE FOSTER
LEAD REPORTER

Wilfrid Laurier University students in residence under the mandatory meal plan will no longer have the luxury of using flex food dollars at the International News store on campus.

According to Dan Dawson, director of student services at WLU, due to an unacknowledged error in the system students could use flex food dollars at International News since it gained OneCard service in Oct. 2011.

"Inadvertently, at the International News location both the flex food and the convenience dollars [accounts] were checked off or activated when they came on live in October."

Dawson clarified that the original operating agreements between the university and International News only allowed students to use their convenience dollars.

"We didn't realize until the end of the fall semester when we were running a summary of programs that students had been actually able to

use some of their flex food dollars in that location."

At this point it is unclear how much revenue was produced exclusively from the flex food accounts. "The flex food account is a part of the mandatory meal plans. International News is not considered a food location therefore they should not have access to the flex food account," Dawson said.

International News is the new on-campus convenience store franchise that replaced the Centre Spot last fall.

Despite the changes, International News remains busy with a steady flow of students.

The manager and owners of the franchise have been notified of the issue and the correction has taken immediate effect.

"It's unfortunate that students had that opportunity to do something and now that has to be corrected, I guess in hindsight they had an extra benefit for a few months above and beyond what they should have had," said Dawson.

An interview request sent to the OneCard office was declined.



SAMANTHA KELLERMAN FILE PHOTO

International News now only takes convenience dollars.

WLUSU president sends letter to parties involved

—cover

of our institution," Gibson wrote in the letter. "We must remind all parties that the University is an institution that serves, and ultimately must provide for the needs of the students."

Gibson addressed the letter to both Bates and WLU president and vice chancellor Max Blouw.

"As soon as we saw the back and forth going between the two we felt

it was appropriate for us to assert the student voice to make sure the parties are not losing sight of what their ultimate objective is—which is to serve students on both sides," Gibson told The Cord, explaining that he wanted to keep them focused.

"It's not just them two in a room," he continued. "We're watching what's going on very intently."

Bates responded to the letter, reaffirming that WLUFA retains its

"[commitment]... to a negotiated settlement in this current round of bargaining."

"We're always encouraged when the student body is taking an active concern in these kinds of affairs," said Crowley. "But the real work is getting done at the bargaining table."

Though both parties are optimistic that an agreement can be made, under the Ontario Labour Relations Act, WLUFA reserves the right to

take strike action.

Bates reflected, "It's not a happy state of affairs... for anybody. That's not our goal."

Gibson responds to this possibility: "Ultimately we just don't want a labour disruption and we want the deal to be in the best interest of students, which is a deal that is mutually beneficial for both parties."

WLUFA and the university will convene again Feb. 1 to exchange information before proceeding with

conciliation next week.

"Just stay tuned," Gibson advised. "The Students' Union is very much on top of this."

To see Gibson's full letter, please visit www.wlusu.com

WLUSP is Hiring
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For more information about applying visit www.wlusp.com Applications are due by noon on February 9th, 2012.

LOCAL

Local Editor
Amanda Steiner
asteiner@thecord.ca

Waterloo residents take the plunge

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
NEWS DIRECTOR

Minus-four and snowing; not exactly ideal conditions for a swim.

But on Saturday morning, about 20 participants braved the cold and hopped into a pool at the Waterloo Public Square as part of the first K-W Polar Plunge.

The event raised approximately \$1,000 for Waterloo's Kidsability Centre for Child Development.

Saturday's Polar Plunge was organized by Greg Lehman, a local employee of mobile marketing company Spike Mobiles and Ashley Csanady, a reporter at the *Waterloo Region Record*, and was conceived, of all places, on Twitter.

After seeing Csanady speak at a social media breakfast event, Lehman found her on Twitter and the two got in a race to 500 followers.

The Plunge was initially meant to be a punishment for the loser of the race, but when both reached 500 followers in the same week, both Lehman and Csanady were ready to jump in the frigid water.

"We looked around for an event locally and didn't really see anything, so we said, 'let's make our own,'" said Lehman, who hopes the Polar Plunge will become an annual event.

"We're just hoping to raise some money for Kidsability and we're



Four Laurier students jump in and dunk for charity at the first annual Uptown Waterloo Polar Plunge.

NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

just doing our best to raise some awareness about them and the great things that they do."

For Lehman, the temperature of the water in the inflatable pool, supplied by Waterloo Fire Rescue, set up for the plunge wasn't the biggest concern.

"We learned today that

firefighters don't use clean water to put fires out. Which makes sense. But yeah, the water's thick as mud," he said.

But the participants braved the cold, murky water, with some, such as John Casciato who jumped in the water in a pirate costume, taking the opportunity to get theatrical.

"What's better than jumping into some cold water in the middle of winter, dressed as a pirate?" said Casciato. "It's a great event, lots of fun and a great opportunity to support a great cause."

And while all the participants were shivering after their plunge, none had any regrets.

"Ice cold. Just ice, ice cold," said Sarina Bruni a third-year Wilfrid Laurier University, who hopped in the pool with a group of her co-workers. "But I would do it again in a heartbeat. For a good cause like this, any day."

While the atmosphere of the day was light-hearted, for Kidsability, which provides services to children with developmental disabilities, the money raised is crucial.

"Kidsability is funded 90 per cent through the government, but the other 10 per cent is raised here locally and that's well over a million dollars that we need to raise in order to provide services," said Dayna Giorigio, donor relations and communications officer for Kidsability.

"Without donations like this, more children would be waiting for services."

Those donations go to help children like Graydon Large, ten, who was on hand Saturday as a Kidsability ambassador. Graydon has been going to Kidsability since he was 18 months old.

"Graydon's almost 11 now and when he started out, he wasn't able to walk and he's been in a wheelchair, a walker and now he's walking a lot on his own," said Graydon's mother Deirdre. "[Kidsability] has really helped us out."

Donations are still being accepted at kwpolar.com/donate.

Plugging into the future

AMANDA STEINER
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

Blackberries, MyLearningSpace and OpenText are not the only technological advances to be seen improving Waterloo. Visitors and residents of the area may have noticed charging stations for electric vehicles at either Conestoga Mall or at Schlueter Chevrolet on Weber Street.

In a rapidly developing technological community such as this, these charging stations seem like a natural next step for the community. However, though there are stations, there has yet to be an electric car.

"I think Waterloo is underserved in that we're a technology hub," said Terry Knarr, a representative of Schlueter Chevrolet parts department. "We've gone from making car parts and sausages to RIM, and OpenText — high tech companies. [The electric car] would be perfect up here."

The Chevrolet Volt is the world's first electric vehicle with extended range, meaning it can drive between 40 and 80 kilometres on electric power alone — and then keep going, thanks to the 1.4 L gasoline-powered generator.

To car aficionados these facts may sound fantastic, but for the everyday person who just wants to spend less money on gas and help the environment, the Volt could be the answer to their problems. "I'm not necessarily getting onto it because of the environment per se," said Knarr. "But I look at it and I say, ok I'm not going to be spending x number of dollars on gas. And the money I'm not spending on gas can be allocated toward ... paying for the car," he laughed.

"And then after that, it's all gravy right?" he continued. "You're not paying for fuel. Now there is a gas tank on board so if you want to put gas in it [okay] but it depends on how you drive."

But with only two known charging stations in the Waterloo area, the concern arises that there aren't enough places to re-boost an electric car.

"People's biggest concern about electric cars is range anxiety," Knarr explained. "What's going to happen with the battery dies? With the Volt you can go up to 80 km on pure electric under ideal circumstances and at that point, the range extender kicks in and you can go another 350 km on gas assist."

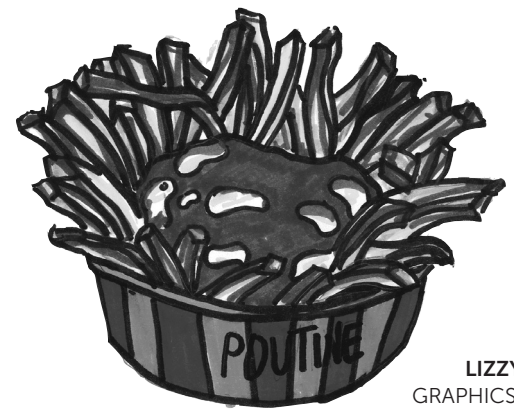
General Motors recently completed a study to see how far U.S. citizens typically take their cars on an average day. For the standard person, their cars are used to travel under 80 km a week. Therefore, in essence, a person could drive an entire week to work and back without using gas. If they choose to charge their car at night (since the car can be plugged into a 110 charge cord that can plug into a house), they might never have to use gas again if they keep their trips to under 80 km.

"Once we get the product out there, it's really going to sell, I think," said Knarr. "Just to get a scope of what the car does; the software developers wrote over ten million lines of computer code for that car. That's more than a jet fighter."

One of the downsides of this environmentally-friendly vehicle is the fact that it's strictly a four-seater car. As well, due to the high cost of these new vehicles (approximately \$41,545) they are more suited to a specific niche market. explicitly people who are better off financially.

"A lot of people from any of the new technology companies in town, I think this'll be right up their alley," Knarr said. "It's strictly for someone whose in that business; it fits right in with them. For the average person, I don't think so."

Rick Rezeplinski, sales manager at Schlueter Chevrolet did however mention that there is an \$823 rebate given by the government if someone purchases a Volt, which is set to enter Canada June or July 2012.



LIZZY COOK
GRAPHICS ARTIST

Poutine enterprise

AMANDA STEINER
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

Ryan Smolkin was meant to be in business the minute he graduated Wilfrid Laurier University. Although his first step into the business world was as a landlord, his true calling lay in a profession with a much richer flavour. His creation of Smoke's Pouterie, an 80s style Canadiana fast food chain has spread like wildfire throughout the country.

"We're up to 23 locations in the past two years; it's been an explosion," said Smolkin. "We created pouterie. We're the founders of pouterie. It didn't exist before. Now, we've got some knockoffs happening — we've got some copy cats but it's a nice compliment."

The first Smoke's was opened in November 2008 and the second opened in Dundas in October 2009. "In my initial business plan, I was thinking 'oh this could work, if I can get 20 across the country I'll be happy.' But now we're going to have 20 in the GTA alone and now my goal is 100 across the country."

And Smoke's service isn't just limited to walk in or take out. They also offer a catering option for weddings, business events or other occasions.

"In Toronto, we were doing about 12 events a week, about five or six events in one weekend. Huge, huge numbers," said Smolkin. "We'll do corporate events, lunches, golf tournaments, every single festival you

could think of; Beerfest, ribfest Oktoberfest, whatever it is."

One of their most profitable events however, is the annual Freedom Festival marijuana march. "[That] is a fun one," laughed Smolkin. "We've done it in the past few years. We'd say [it's] about 20,000 of our direct target with the munchies. We set up between noon and 7 p.m. in Queen's Park and serve over 1,000 poutines."

Smoke's Pouterie also hosts a world poutine eating championship which started two summers ago.

During this event, professional eaters come from all around the world to eat the most poutine they possibly can. Last year it was hosted at the Rogers Centre and there was an undercard event for amateurs, as well as the professional contest.

A variety of cities such as London, Kingston and Hamilton participated to represent their city. "We'll do that for sure in Waterloo as well," said Smolkin. "We'll have the undercard amateur [event], there's prizes and cash prizes, a trophy, the whole bit."

This original poutine-eating experience still does not have a specific open date for the Waterloo Region but Smolkin hopes it to be in the near future.

"It all depends on the space," he said. "I've honestly been looking there for two years. Not a lot of vacancies. I'm really specific, and really strategic." The goal is to open somewhere in or near the university core.

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'Getting Grounded'

Starlight hosts charitable event in support of mental health

MIKE RADIVOI
STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday night, Starlight Lounge in Uptown Waterloo hosted 'Get Grounded', a charitable musical event featuring performances by Amanda Kaye, Rob Szabo, Lyndon John X and Jason Moir. All proceeds went towards the Grand River branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Get Grounded saw its inception a couple years ago and was inspired by the tragic loss of Amanda Kaye's brother Dan, who took his own life. In a podcast for the event, Kaye highlighted this motivation:

"Get Grounded was born out of a desire to celebrate Dan's life, and to celebrate my family," said Kaye. "A mutual love for music is what inspired the content for this event. Dan was a brilliant musician."

Starlight's usual dance floor was filled with tables and seating for the event, allowing attendees the opportunity to enjoy the night's

performances in a more relaxed, intimate fashion.

Away from the stage, a bulletin board was signed with words of encouragement for those affected by suicide all gravitating around the message "Help Prevent Suicide in the Waterloo Region."

Also in attendance was Kitchener-Conestoga MP Harold Albrecht. In 2009, Albrecht championed Bill M-388, which was designed to clarify the criminal code to bring it up to date with modern social technologies — especially concerning suicide. Continuing this effort, Albrecht now seeks to pass Bill C-300.

"The primary objectives are to provide up to date statistics collating the best practices of various jurisdictions, and to provide those resources in a central location," explained Albrecht, "I think it's a no-brainer and there's a good level of support across the various arms of government, so I'm pretty optimistic."

Allan Strong — team lead for

Skills For Safer Living (SFSL) — was also present. SFSL is a support group designed to assist those experiencing recurring suicide attempts. SFSL has support groups scheduled for Kitchener, Guelph, and Cambridge in the coming year.

When asked if suicide is stigmatized in the community, Kaye agreed. But she believes that this only makes it more important to discuss the issue.

"The big thing is: let's keep the conversation going. Let's not be shy of it, even if it's a bit uncomfortable at first," said Kaye. "As with anything in life the more you try something the easier it becomes. Let's talk; let's discuss; let's give people the help they deserve."

There is a multitude of resources available to anyone needing to talk about depression and suicide in the Waterloo Region.

Anyone experiencing depression or entertaining thoughts of suicide is encouraged to use them.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Volunteers such as Lyndon Johnx (above) gave their time last Thursday to help raise awareness about mental health

Fresh start



AMANDA STEINER
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

Students and residents who frequent the corner of King Street and University Avenue, will be pleased to hear that in the first half of 2012, that hole beside Starbucks will finally be filled and in its place a new commercial building will be erected.

Election and Park Real Estate Capital Inc Property and Management Services purchased the space in September 2010 and are currently the acting agents for the property. "So we've really owned it for a year and a bit," said George Georgiatis, principle with Election and Park Real Estate Capital Inc. "And in that time we've just been doing our own diligence to determine what we'd erect on that site. We've decided to move forward with a commercial building."

The new space will be expected to host a variety of proposed stores, restaurants and other commercial businesses. "We're trying to make the corner or king a University a destination place for dining and other student services," Georgiatis said. "We wanted to ensure that we were offering a building that would cater to a student community, and to the city at large. [We] thought providing a building for commercial [use] — largely restaurants and some other ancillaries, would be the most ideal thing for that area."

The lot space on King Street has been empty for about two to three years, becoming nothing but a large swimming pool for ducks and geese during most of that time. Before the hole became a common aspect of everyday life on King Street, there was a building in its place, which was eventually demolished by Tandem Development.

"Really [the building] was taken down because there was a proposed

development that was going to go up there," explained Mike Weber, vice president of Tandem Development.

"Basically, working through the whole process we had decided against proceeding with [our own] development." Tandem Development had planned to create a 25-story mixed use commercial, retail and residential building.

The decision to abstain from going forward, according to Weber, was due to a number of reasons, including cost, time and unsuitable economy.

The rumour that no developer could proceed with construction due to the fact that the Starbucks on King and University refused to relocate during reconstruction, was found to be false.

Mike Weber explained, "When we bought the plaza, we bought the plaza where Starbucks is as well. The day we bought it, we assured the existing tenancies there that we weren't demolishing anything, that we're keeping everything there and that we'll be reinvesting in the area and the building."

"I've kind of heard the same thing you've heard," added John Zurbrigg manager of Starbucks on University Ave.

"I don't know if it has anything to do with what's beside us rather than the plaza development.

"It's nothing that I could really speak of specifically. But I think the whole thing was up in arms because they didn't necessarily have buyers for this plaza originally. I feel like everything was kind of up in the air but obviously this plaza's all revamped now and they've found owners for it everything's good to go and now that's why it's released."

Construction on the 10-12 thousand square foot lot is estimated to begin during the first half of 2012.

The new learning curve in business

LINDSAY PURCHASE
LEAD REPORTER

Most students in second year have enough to keep themselves occupied with simply trying to maintain a reasonable GPA, while others engage themselves with minor extracurriculars in order to fill the time.

Jesse Fragale, in the midst of balancing academics, playing on the school football team and part-time employment, decided to start a company.

"I think it was just before my twentieth birthday ... I contacted a local real estate agent and then we started looking for housing," Fragale recalled. Fragale closed the deal on the purchase of his first home in February 2009. Genesis

Management Corp., of which he is the owner, has since expanded to control four properties.

Fragale attributes some of his success to timing. "I'm lucky that I started after the '08 recession, so home prices were at a pretty good bargain," he explained. In combination with the Region's expansion and need for student housing, this created favourable conditions.

However, by the time three school years had passed, and Fragale had acquired a third business, his combination of commitments had become overwhelming. "It just wasn't manageable to do part-time work, football, school and run this company," he reflected.

Despite experiencing great success with his properties, even

gaining national attention through two articles in Canadian Real Estate Magazine, Fragale did encounter many challenges entering the business world as a student.

In spite of being enrolled in business courses at Laurier as an honours philosophy and business administration student, Fragale found "there wasn't really a large amount of information you could get from the school."

"It would have been great if you had those type of courses at the undergraduate level," he acknowledged.

"You prepare your best, but it's not until you have twenty some odd tenants that you really start learning, because you're dealing with everything as it happens."

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Happy Valentine's Day Night

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NATIONAL

National Editor
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asteiner@thecord.ca

THE OTESHA PROJECT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Otesha Project

AMANDA STEINER
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

Though the sentiment that 'the world is full of amazing opportunities if only you're willing to grab them' is cliché, it is also very true. The Otesha project, created by Jocelyn Land-Murphy and Jessica Lax is one of those very opportunities.

That is, if you like cycling around 1,000 km over Canada.

The Otesha Project started ten years ago on Feb. 16. The two founders were in Kenya, on a field learning course abroad and noticed some of the stark differences of the lifestyles of the people of the community they were visiting.

The two founders Land-Murphy and Lax noticed that the way that people live in Canada, as well as other privileged countries, has an impact on the way people live in other areas of the world. "They came back to Canada with that message," said Kira Burger, outreach and communications co-ordinator for the Otesha Project.

"Then they thought, what would be the best way to spread this message of what we've learned," she continued. "And they [thought] why don't we organize a cross country bicycle trip, and we'll do theatre presentations to engage Canadians on

this issue of how every choice that we make in our daily life has an impact. And how can we be conscientious about the impact that it has."

At each designated stop along the trip, the volunteers of the Otesha Project perform an interactive 45-minute play at schools or community centres to help engage people of all ages on pressing global issues.

"Although I'd hope my 1,000 km journey inspired and made people aware of the issue," said Lyndia Stacey, fourth-year engineering student at the University of Guelph, "It's up to every individual to bring about global change."

A lot of cycling participants in the project are university or college students on their summer breaks, though the ages do range from the cut off points of age 18 to 30 — though the 30 mark is flexible. "On the tour that I just did," Burger said, "the the youngest participant actually graduated high school early in order to come on the trip with us. Our oldest participant was 28, I think, so it does span everywhere in between."

The trips for the cyclists range every year from being in Ontario to the east and west coast and on similar but not identical routes.

"On a trip there's about 16

people," Burger explained. "[And] the way that it works is there's a fundraising contribution for participating on the tours and that fundraising contribution covers the cost of food and accommodations and costs incurred while on tour."

However, tour members are responsible for ensuring they have their own gear such as bike bags and other cycling products.

The Otesha Project also allows a wide variety of biking abilities.

"In fact," Burger said, "On the last tour I did, we had someone who hadn't ridden their bicycle since they were in elementary school to someone who had done multiple bike trips internationally. Our tours are designed in such a way that it starts off at a slower pace and moderate distances and builds up to the longer days."

"I think it's a really cool idea," said Blake Jones, a fifth-year student at Huron Heights secondary school in Kitchener.

"I would want to be in a group of people that all do it together, but yeah that sounds sick."

Applications to join The Otesha Project are found online at www.otesha.ca and the cut-off time for applicants is March 1. The ride will take place from May 1 to June 21.

The NDP race is on

Last Sunday, candidates for the New Democratic Party gathered for the second official debate of 2012

RAVI BALAKRISHNAN
CORD NEWS

Sunday afternoon candidates for the NDP leadership race gathered in Halifax, N.S. for their second official debate of the year.

This all-candidate debate was an opportunity for NDP leadership hopefuls to separate themselves from the pack by outlining where they stand on relevant Canadian issues.

One of the many themes of the debate was the almost unanimous anti-Stephen Harper attacks that most of the candidates missed no opportunity to voice throughout the webcast.

"Stephen Harper's vision of families is more like the sitcom 'Leave it to Beaver.' Do you ever think about that?" said Peggy Nash, one of the candidates.

NDP candidates also sought to capitalize on the recent controversy regarding Stephen Harper's proposed changes to the Canadian pension system.

"On Friday, Stephen Harper launched an attack on one of the great Canadian institutions, our pension system," Thomas Mulcair said in his opening statements.

"The prime minister's office leaked plans to cut old age security by raising the retirement age to 67."

On top of the Canadian pension, a national childcare plan, taxation on high-income earners, affordable housing, reducing tuition fees and a national pharmacare program were all important issues of the debate.

Tensions rose as Mulcair, who is considered to be a frontrunner in the race, was subject to a fair share of scrutiny during the portion of the debate when candidates had the opportunity to question one another.

Paul Dewar, another popular candidate, continued to press Mulcair on the issue of Canada's abundant fresh water resources, "We actually passed a resolution this past spring in Vancouver that would ban the export of bulk water."

"So it is a very simple question, are you in favour of that position, yes or no?" asked Dewar.

"Paul, I answered that question," replied Mulcair. "I told you I am in favour of protecting our water resources and I'm opposed to bulk water exports."

"That is the party's position, but you know that it is my position. This is an attack that was used against me in 2008 by the Liberals, and it failed. You know why it failed? Because it wasn't true."

Dewar also came under some

"Stephen Harper's version of families is more like the sitcom 'Leave it to Beaver.' Do you ever think about that?"

— Peggy Nash, one of the NDP candidates

scrutiny as he faced personal attacks of his own, though Nathan Cullen's attack appeared to hold very little weight or rational relevance.

"You announced a proposal to bring more women into politics. You immediately followed that up by named your deputy leader as another man," began Cullen. "Is it not a bit contradictory to say on the one hand this is important, but then on the other hand not to act upon it?"

"There's no one better than Charlie Angus to go out and do grass-root politics."

"I should note that my mother, who is a strong feminist, told me about how to share power. That's, for me, what it is all about, sharing power. It is not about one person controlling power."

Some of the less publicized candidates include Martin Singh, a Nova Scotian pharmacist and businessman, who had various goals including a national pharmacare program that could potentially save up to 5.4 million dollars.

He argued that the savings would be a result of improving coverage that Canadians have and, "Reinvesting that money into other aspects of the healthcare system."

There were certainly a lot of Quebec-friendly sentiments voiced Sunday afternoon as the NDP leadership hopefuls are looking to capitalize on their recent gains in the province.

"It has worked because Quebec made families a priority. Quebec spends \$10 billion a year making life easier for families. That costs a lot," said Mulcair.

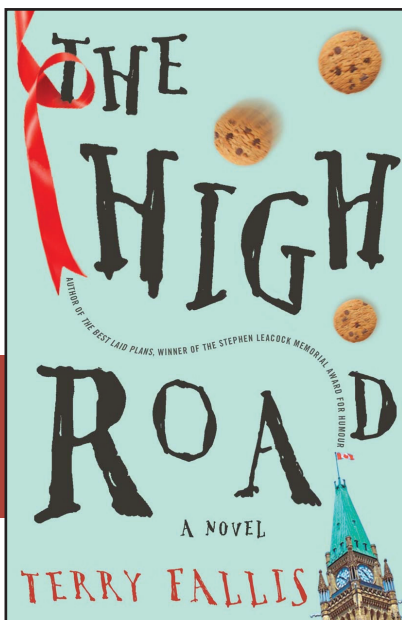
His comments were shortly followed up by Niki Ashton, who added, "Let's make sure we have a federal government, an NDP government, that works in respect of the provinces and understands Quebec's place as well."

ONLINE BOOK SIGNING

with Terry Fallis

Author of *Best Laid Plans* & *The High Road*

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DearLIFE

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

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

Dear Life,
Please inform my two roommates that when they kiss, we can hear them. Anywhere in the house. They kiss excessively loud. Let them know that when we cough awkwardly, it's because we can hear them and it's making us uncomfortable. Like, hearing your parents have sex UNCOMFORTABLE. These incessant slurping noises disturb us, and haunt the halls of this majestic home. I'm afraid of the 2nd floor of my house, for fear of hearing them. Sincerely,
We Can Hear The Sexual Sounds of Your Bodies — And It Has Destroyed Our Innocence!

Dear Life,
It's called an interactive slogan. Sincerely,
A fourth-year student

Dear Life,
Once a year, The Cord destroys my degree. Sincerely,
Apparently I'm not a performer

Dear Life,
I use to know how to walk through automatic doors And then I came to Laurier. Sincerely,
Tired of feeling shoved as I walk into the Terrace

Dear Life,
I worry about some people's kids. Do they honestly believe I'll vote for them because they're singing in the Terrace?
Give me a little more respect, I'm not so easily swayed. And furthermore, give yourself a little more self respect; show some confidence that your platform doesn't need high school styled advertising. Sincerely,
Trying to study and/or socialize, and can't

Dear Life,
The faculty of music at Wilfrid Laurier University would like to argue that Laurier Musical Theatre is not "the last frontier for musical performance at Laurier."
Signed,
Hello, we exist

Dear Life,
Those girls in that computer lab are RACIST. And they accuse the rest of the world of discrimination? Look in the mirror. If you WANT to be exclusive, then don't expect to be included. Last year, I heard a girl talk about how 'western women are pieces of meat', and 'have no respect'. I listened to her nationalist rant for over an hour in complete silence. Not at any point did I tear apart her values on what it means to be a modern woman in the western world.

This is CANADA. So if you don't like our values of equality, feminism and the society that holds in high regard the goals of eliminating racism and gender inequality... you should go back to that home country that I hear you talk about so often. Sincerely,
I'm Glad I'm Not The Only Person Offended By This

Dear Life,
Well, specifically the fantastic proctor who was in room 1C18 on Friday proctoring the EC 260 midterm. Literally as you said "you may begin" I realized that in my rush to get to the exam early I had forgotten my calculator at home! Thankfully you had a calculator with you that you let me use. I would have been screwed without it. I honestly cannot thank you enough! Sincerely,
Never leaving home without a calculator again

Dear Life,
Go register at Loveatschool.com! It's a site created by two students from Laurier and UofT, it's free, and easy to use too! It's really unique because it's focused on Canadian university students, most of the members being from Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier! Sincerely,
Valentine's Day is coming up, and I'm single, get @ me

Dear Life
Shouting "FLASH MOB" before performing a flash mob isn't an effective marketing technique, especially when you use music none of us have ever heard before. Sincerely, someone who was disturbed during dinner

Dear Life,
If you looked at her website or checked her out on youtube, you'd understand her platform. I want someone in office who understands what the students want, and is prepared to act on their behalf. She is. You're obviously spending far too much time being critical of others, knowing that you will never get anywhere yourself. Sincerely,
Opt out of WLUSU and head back to kindergarten



Someone is excited for the latest issue of The Cord

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At least meet the

With the 2012-13 Wilfrid Laurier University Student Body President
Mike Lakusiak met with the presidential candidates



Nolan Kreis (BRAC West, Brantford)

1 To be completely honest, this is what I'd say is my 'home riding.' I'm from the Brantford campus and I don't think the Brantford campus gets a whole lot of exposure. Obviously the majority of the student population is in Waterloo and that's completely understandable that a lot of events and stuff happen there, but it's always nice to be in your home setting.

2 I came in here in my first year right from O-Week, I saw how WLUSU was and really wanted to be a part of it and the whole experience for me has been phenomenal. In my second year I became an icebreaker and learned more about what WLUSU was like. In my third and fourth I became a general volunteer and was on different committees and this past year I was a coordinator for promotions. I kept taking the next step and the next step and then I thought to myself that there's never been a Brantford president before, so I thought to myself kind of half-heartedly that I'd run for president. After I'd put that thought in my head I kind of ran with it and did a lot of the research into it and what the position entailed. Starting right from September, I put in a lot of research, talked to a lot of people from both campuses. The more I found out about the position, the more I found out about the electoral process, the more I wanted to get involved and I'm really glad I took that next step.

3 I definitely think what separates me is that I just have more knowledge on one campus over the other and the same thing goes for them too. Obviously they might know a little bit more about Waterloo than I do, but I definitely know more about Brantford than they do. That's not taking a stab at them, that's simply stating that I've spent my entire five years on the Laurier Brantford campus, I know the ins and outs of it. Obviously I try to understand Waterloo by meeting with all the people down there I possibly can but my points for Brantford are very sound.

4 Something voters might not know about me is – I know I don't look it – but I'm extremely involved in sports, I played fastball all throughout when I was younger. I've been going to provincial tournaments since I was 14 and to two national championships. I played rep hockey for a while. I'm the extramural captain for our dodgeball team here in Brantford.

5 **How would you bring Brantford more into the fold if elected?**
 Especially with the new structure that they have in place here, it's a multi-campus governance structure so the idea is to equally represent both campuses. What I'd like to do personally would be to be down in Brantford a lot more.

I'd definitely want to get a lot of the VPs down here too, a lot of the VPs will be hired out of Waterloo, I understand that, but I'd really like to see them come down here a little bit more and see what this whole campus is about. If you asked the average student from Waterloo, 'What do you know about Brantford?' They might go, 'There's a Brantford campus?' I've gotten that response before.

Are you concerned that being the 'Brantford candidate' will eclipse other things you have to say to voters?

I'm definitely fighting an uphill battle I think because people automatically see that you're from Brantford, 'why should we vote for you when we have three candidates from Waterloo?' I'm trying to get my voice out there as much as possible.

I try to keep in regular contact with some people in Waterloo, so I'm definitely trying to make sure the fact that I'm from Brantford doesn't eclipse what I'm trying to do. Obviously it would be cool to be the first president from Brantford but that's not the only reason I'm running. There are things I bring to the table that I think I could do the best job possible and if I didn't feel that then there's no reason to be running for president. I really do hope people look at my platform, people can see what I'm trying to do and all in all if they think my platform is the one that they agree with most, I hope that they vote for me.

Michael Onabolu (Schlegel)

1 I love being on campus because you get to see what's happening but I find it difficult at times to be involved in it or wherever, but this spot is perfect because of the ability to be able to see out and see everything on campus, I still felt engaged in the Laurier community of my own business.

2 My first day at Laurier, I remember going in and the energy was going crazy and the energy in the room. I remember thinking, 'This guy is the president, who's he?' and he just seemed so far off but was always somewhat approachable. In my first year I was set to be a don which I thought was exciting but because of all the things I'd committed to and some people were so much for me and I ended up taking a term off, I had to take a break. That was a really difficult time for me but people still reached out to me and see if I was okay and just cared, it was nice to reach out to me and see if I was okay and just cared, it was nice to dig deep to find my own care for myself.

Thinking about all my experiences and the growth I've had, I think students got that opportunity to excel academically and intellectually on campus.

3 This is that role I can actually do something that's outside my own limits and see if I'm able to do this. It's a challenge that allows me to grow more.

Some things that are unique to me are the things I've learned from a very young age. I've always been working hard and having that innovative mindset as well as that mindset of being on behalf of people who aren't really having a voice, I've had those experiences really complement the role I'd be stepping into.

I love telling my own story and hearing everybody else's story or make a lot of time to talk to someone because it's just an opportunity for me to just live that. I feel like this role is an opportunity for me to just live that. I feel like this role is an opportunity for me to just live that. I feel like this role is an opportunity for me to just live that.

4 I really like science fiction, I like comic books, I like world affairs so my perspective on a lot of things in the world are kind of formulated by what I take in from those things. I always see a message in anything that I read, I have a dreamer kind of mindset.

5 **What do you think you bring to the table to other candidates and students?**

I think mental health and awareness and support. All the candidates realize that this is a big issue and I'm sure everyone has dealt with some kind of mental health issue but I guess for me uniquely I really battled with it, it was a real struggle. Secondly campus safety [...] I know how important it is to have a safe campus or attacked or many worse things and I hate that I couldn't do anything about them. This is my opportunity to establish something that would be the benefit of students. Those two things are big and near a top priority on my platform aren't as important [...] but in terms of how much I want to really push for.

Questions:

1 Why did you want to meet here of all places?

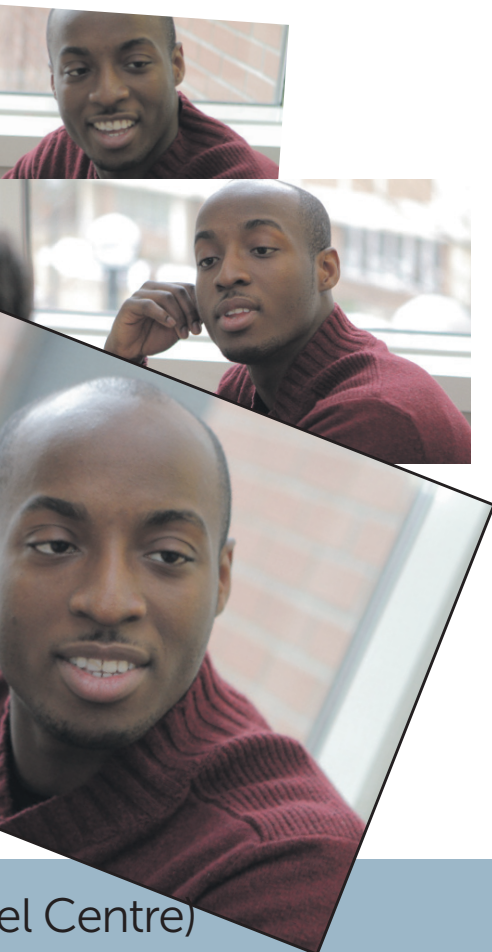
2 Aside from wanting to represent students, why are you running for this position?

3 What sets you apart from other candidates?

4 What is something you really care about and want to push for?

Time before you vote

Students' Union election this week, In Depth Editor interviews candidates to try and scratch the surface



(Athletic Centre)

...see your friends and people around and what's...
...be able to work in the Concourse or in the atrium...
...it has everything you need, it's functional and...
...everyone on campus – I still felt connected to cam-
...community but I was doing my own thing, taking care

...into the Athletic Complex, seeing 2,000 students...
...Lin Lefevre came up to the podium and I remem-
...that is the road to become something like that?' It...
...thing that was in the back of my mind. [In] third...
...because I've done all these different areas and...
...cool to be president. Donning happened and...
...personal things that came up it proved to be too...
...drop out of donning and drop out of my courses...
...kept reaching out to me to ask how I was doing...
...ession and the fact that people were still trying to...
...made me really examine my own life and I had

...I've had at Laurier, I wanted to ensure other stu-
...n social interaction opportunities that we have

...g powerful with. I wanted to try that, to test my...
...s a challenge for me, which I like because it al-
...e are that I've been involved in this kind of a role...
...working with different groups like school boards...
...et of 'how can I advocate on behalf of students or...
...ve always kind of been in that role. A lot of my...
...g into...
...else's stories. I make a lot of time for my friends...
...ast the best part of life for me, interaction. This is...
...ole is just something I live in my day-to-day life...
...Why wouldn't I want to do that?

...ks and anime and things like that. I really like...
...world issues and my perspective on life in gen-
...n from the media and also what I see in literature...
...ad, so even in science fiction I have that whole

What can have the most tangible outcome for

...support, tangibly speaking I can do a lot with that...
...ssue and something we should work towards fix-
...mental health issue in some form or some way...
...as something very real and very scary...
...t that is. I've had friends that have been jumped...
...ldn't do something there then to be there for...
...where structurally we are working for the better-
...nd dear to my heart, not that other things on my...
...those issues have touched me, it's something I



Jenny Solda (Dining Hall)

1 There are a couple of reasons, my platform is about communication and I have found especially through campaigning that the dining hall is the easiest place to openly have a conversation with students because most aren't studying, they're eating so they're willing to have a conversation and you're not disrupting peoples' studies. Another reason is part of my platform is outreach to first-year students and given my experience with orientation week, I'm very passionate about the first-year experience. I wanted to come somewhere where – this is where first years spend most of their time – and bring a focus on first-year students and the importance of mental health and different programming opportunities available for first-year students.

2 The reason I decided to run for president was over the past four years I've been involved in a lot of different capacities whether directly within WLUSU or through campus clubs and after all those experiences – especially through board – it gave me an insight into what the president does and how the WLUSU offices operate. I really wanted to take the work I've done and translate it into this position. I started to think about leaving after four years and I just realized I wasn't done yet, I wanted to give Laurier back so much of what it's given to me. It's enabled me to develop into a strong student leader and also given me the best student experience I could ever ask for.

3 I think what I bring a little bit different is first my experience, I have been involved in a lot of different capacities across the university for the past four years.
I just have a fairly heavy experience in different areas within the school so I have a very good understanding of what the students' union is because I've been part of most of it, which is a little bit different than most of the candidates. Candidates don't have so much experience across the table – it's usually concentrated. I think my other thing is my passion and drive for student experience and student leadership opportunities. I always tell people that I want to stay at Laurier for the rest of my life, I love this school more than anyone could ever know, I am so passionate about it and I just want to take that passion and put it into the position.

4 I'm fairly well known because I've been a head ice and if you know me or have seen me around, students know that I'm very high-energy, I love cheering, I love being wild and fun and a very high energy student, but something students may not know is that I am a business student, I have worked in that atmosphere a fair amount so I can be professional when need be. That's something a lot of students don't know about me, yes I'm a lot of fun and can be the fun, relatable student, but at the same time because of my experience through different work opportunities and my actual schooling, I can be extremely professional and have serious conversations and ask those hard questions and hold the university accountable but also work with our own vice-presidents and employees to make sure I'm accountable to the role. I will be a professional manager to them. A lot of students view me as this fun, go-lucky person but actually have a dual personality in that sense.

5 **How would you respond to criticism that some of the platform contents of this year's candidates may not be attainable within the role of WLUSU president?**
The thing I was very careful about in my platform was that I wanted to make sure everything I put in my platform was attainable. Anything I don't have direct control of is in the advocacy and representation section. I was very, very clear to identify that I am advocating on behalf of students for these things that may not be attainable – for example food services, increasing study space, Internet, everything of that sort.
It might not happen in a year, as we see with the Internet, each year it slowly improves but I will work towards that. Everything else in my platform that isn't under the advocacy section is 100 per cent achievable. I wouldn't be able to get up in front of students and promise them something I can't give them.

from the other candidates?

5 Candidate-specific questions

students might not know about you?

EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor
Shaun Fitt
sfitt@thecord.ca



THE CORD ENDORSEMENTS

MIKE
KE
FOR WLUSU PRESIDENT



Presidential endorsement: Michael Onabolu

With strong research, a feasible platform and an approachable demeanor, Michael Onabolu has emerged the most suitable choice for next year's Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union president and CEO.

Onabolu has tangible targets in his platform and doesn't over emphasize his experience with WLUSU and other campus activities – acting rather humble and authentic instead.

While not explicit about it, with Onabolu's one-year term on the board, his experience as a breaker as well as being a founding member of the ACCESS charity, Onabolu certainly has the necessary credentials for the position.

The pillars of his platform were focused and he rarely responded

vaguely when confronted about an issue. In particular, Onabolu's emphasis on student mental health demonstrates his ability to bring uncomfortable issues to light and find innovative ways to tackle them.

Furthermore, his thorough knowledge about WLUSU's ends and operations demonstrate that he is extremely qualified for the job.

From the beginning of the election, two presidential candidates seemed to divide the students at WLU: Onabolu and Solda.

Though Solda has put forth a strong campaign and has a noticeable presence on campus, she falls short in terms of her platform. By being a two-time director and headice breaker, Solda is no stranger to WLUSU; but her platform lacks the ideas to ensure concrete change is

attainable over the course of a one-year position. In debates and discussion, she tackled difficult topics affecting students such as the potential of altering orientation week to accommodate a fall reading break.

However, Solda failed to take a strong stance on the issue, which may have risked her popularity, but overall would have exhibited the strength to make an informed decision as a leader.

Nolan Kreis deserves credit just for the fact he decided to run for president as a Brantford student. While he wasn't excessively pushy about WLUSU's representation in Brantford, he did bring light to an ongoing and contentious topic. Kreis also made an attempt, by attending numerous WLUSU board meetings,

to understand the operations at the Waterloo campus.

However, as even he acknowledged, the fact that Kreis is from the Brantford campus did hurt him on Waterloo-based issues, for example, lack of study space.

As a student from Brantford, Kreis was only able to give the perspective of that campus, losing the connection with the Waterloo voters which make up the vast majority of the electorate.

In running for president, Kreis may help bring an end to a sense of divide between the two campuses and has opened up the potential for future Brantford candidates and elected representatives.

Onabolu, with his "Help Me Help You" campaign, wasn't excessive in its gimmicks or presence on campus

– inviting students to get involved rather than pushing promises into their faces.

At the Waterloo open forum, Onabolu – ending off with an incredibly catchy and rhyming closing statement – performed exceptionally. Though he had many sentimental statements, Onabolu never came off as artificial.

Confident, hopeful and optimistic, Onabolu, in both his platform and his public appearances, is the strongest candidate for WLUSU president.

The job, contrary to popular belief, isn't the most glamorous and can be unpredictable.

But, from what he has exhibited throughout his campaign, Onabolu, if he is to be elected, should have a successful 2012-13 year.

WLUSU board of directors candidates

Unlike last year, the turnover over for the WLUSU board of directors will be substantial even if the returning directors are elected. While many candidates are enthusiastic and ambitious for the position, a lot of them lack a valid understanding of board, procedure and what the role actually entails.

It's fairly easy for candidates to say inspiring things about Laurier, but being critical and professional is what a director should be. Also, conducting sufficient research, as well as attending more than one board meeting is a necessity. WLU-SU's job is far more policy oriented, with financial statements and monitoring reports taking most of board discussion.

Advocacy is an essential aspect, but without demonstrating a thorough understanding of the role, WLUSU and even the university's policies, then it will be difficult to be an effective director.

Chair: Jon Pryce

Despite being the only candidate to declare interest in the position as of now, Pryce would be an adequate choice for chair and chief governance officer of WLUSU. With two years of board experience under his belt and being actively involved in numerous committees – most notably the ownership lineage committee – Pryce has demonstrated the necessary skills for the position.

As mentioned throughout the open forum, Pryce has been preparing and has achieved an unmistakable understanding of the role through his policy and advocacy background. As the chair of the board, training new directors would be one of the main jobs and with his clearly outlined platform, Pryce will have no issue making elected directors feel comfortable.

-Disclaimer: Jon Pryce is a director on the WLUSP board

New director: Deanna Sim

By attending multiple meetings and having an extensive background in various campus activities, Sim has potential to be an effective and engaged director. She'll obviously need training, but with her background in house council and LOCUS, she shouldn't have too much difficulty transitioning into the role.

At the Waterloo open forum, Sim gave reasonable answers to many of the questions and exhibited understanding of how WLUSU works. She should be elected because she has a good sense of the position, has relevant experience and seems intent on learning more about the board of directors.

Director and Student Governor: Seth Warren

Even though he wasn't on the board last year Warren, with his thorough knowledge of WLUSU and university procedure, should have no problem doing an adequate job in both roles.

Having gained board knowledge and experience in his 2010-11 term, Warren understands the pressing issues that are currently affecting the university and the union. He's level-headed and professional, which is something the next year's board of directors and governors would benefit from.

Vice-Chair: Stephen Franchetto

Franchetto should be elected as vice-chair of the board because of his strong financial background, commitments to the internal affairs committee and Fix My Laurier as well as his thorough understanding of advocacy and representawtion.

At the open forum Franchetto was one of the most impressive candidates and with some training, plus a bit more exposure to board conduct, he should have no problem being vice-chair of the board. His ability to understand financial statements and procedure will be a strong asset to the board.

The unsigned endorsements are based on a discussion following the WLUSU election campaign. It was agreed upon by the majority (13 in favour, one abstention) of The Cord's editorial board. 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.
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Canada's outdated Indian Act is a 'painful obstacle' to co-operation with First Nations



AMELIA CALBRY-MUZYKA
OPINION COLUMNIST

This past week, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, cabinet ministers, bureaucrats and over 400 aboriginal chiefs met in Ottawa at the Crown-First Nations Gathering.

Since the general public was made aware of living conditions in Attawapiskat nearly two months ago, the Canadians watched eagerly as the summit unfolded.

By the end of the day, an agreement on a five-point plan had been reached. This plan includes five "pledges" ranging from education reform to steps to encourage improved governance, accountability and financial self-sufficiency.

While the summit and the

five-point plan presented an important symbolic gesture between the two sides, I am hesitant to believe that this summit will bring about any tangible changes in the relationship between aboriginal people and the Canadian government.

This skepticism was echoed by a number of chiefs, including Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Stan Beardy, who was quoted by Postmedia News stating, "A lot of beautiful words were spoken, but in terms of addressing the immediate needs of my people, there was nothing."

The most significant proposal for addressing issues of substance on native lands was the Kelowna Accord — an agreement negotiated in 2005 between the Paul Martin's Liberal government and indigenous leaders that would have allotted \$5.1 billion to improve the living conditions on reserves over the span of ten years.

Yet as Paul Martin was replaced by Stephen Harper in 2006, the

Kelowna Accord as unilaterally cancelled with no explanation or apology.

Since the Gathering, Harper has stated that his government's approach will be to "replace elements of the Indian Act with more modern legislation and procedures, in partnership with the provinces and the First Nations."

However, Harper also noted that his government has no plans to repeal or re-write the Act, leaving many questions as to exactly how his government intends to re-vamp the Act. A point that was raised by Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, was that the Act is a "painful obstacle to re-establishing any form of meaningful relationship."

The Indian Act, first passed in all of its discriminatory glory in 1876, is a fossil of a document that prevents legitimate reconciliation between the Canadian government and the First Nations.

The fact that a discussion on the

significant reform and/or gradual elimination of the Indian Act remained off the agenda yet again speaks to a lack of legitimate interest in recognizing the culture, history and diverse needs of each nation.

Through this omission, Harper missed a valuable opportunity to speak to chiefs themselves and simply ask them about their needs and their perspectives in relation to the Indian Act.

While I applaud the fact that the five-point plan was developed as a result of collaboration between the two sides, without concrete strategies and solutions, it is nothing more than a platitude.

To say that the relationship between the Canadian government and the First Nations has been riddled with problems is, without a doubt, an understatement.

Last week's Gathering was called "an important first step" in renewing the relationship between the First Nations and their leaders with the Canadian government.

This is despite the fact that the Indian Act was implemented over a hundred years ago — seemingly plenty of time for the Canadian government to take these first steps.

According to Statistics Canada, aboriginal adults accounted for 22 per cent of the prison population in 2006 while only representing three per cent of the total Canadian population.

The high rates of domestic violence, and sometimes abhorrent living conditions should serve as enough of an indication that action is necessary, rather than vague rhetoric.

Speaking as a non-aboriginal, I cannot pretend to know what the needs of First Nations people are. But surely it is time to engage in a real dialogue and listen to the voices of aboriginal people in order to cultivate a relationship of respect and trust on both sides.

Thank you to Melissa Ireland at the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives for her feedback and kind advice on this piece.

Letters to the Editor

Soviet Union Responsible for its Own Bad Legacy

Re: Legacy of media distorting Soviet Union January 25

It is true that Russophobia is a legitimate problem, judging by the abhorrent depiction of Russians as callous villains in western media (the Modern Warfare games being the worst offenders by far). It is also true that the United States did many bad things during the Cold War (McCarthyist witch hunts, Vietnam).

America also deserves flak for abandoning Russia when the Soviet Union collapsed, allowing Russia to become overtaken by corruption and lawlessness, and denying them the financial aid and restructuring that America gave to Germany and Japan post-WW2.

What is not true however is that the Soviet Union's crimes against humanity are in any way exaggerated or embellished by western media.

Around 20 million people were killed in the genocides committed under Stalin.

Even at the highest estimates of 2.5 million civilians being killed in

Vietnam, including those not directly killed by America, that is still a small fraction of those murdered under Soviet rule. Thus, calling America and the Soviet Union equivalent, or claiming the Soviet Union is falsely demonised, are distorted assertions.

The Soviet Union, if anything, gets off easy, when considering how much more the name "Hitler" is invoked, whenever people make a comparison to label someone as synonymous with pure evil, as opposed to the far less invoked name of "Stalin."

— James Popkie

LMT review inaccuracy insults hundreds involved

Re: LMT impresses with theatrical talents

Last year the The Cord reviewed the annual Laurier Musical Theatre production and made the absurd observation that "LMT is the last frontier for musical performers at Laurier."

A music student leader wrote to The Cord, pointed out the inaccuracy, a retraction of sorts was printed, and life goes on.

This year The Cord again reviewed the LMT production and repeated the same absurdity as last year. Do you simply cut and paste from one year to the next? Do you quote press releases verbatim? Doesn't factual accuracy matter?

The faculty of music welcomes students from across campus to audition for its ensembles and music students perform regularly on campus.

There are more than 350 music students who have been slapped in the face two years in a row by having their accomplishments negated by the Cord's inaccurate nonsense.

There were 80+ student performances sponsored by the faculty of music last year. You must have your own reasons for not representing music students' interests in your paper.

It's a student paper and it's up to you what you print. But I can't let a dumb observation about the lack of musical outlets on campus go unchallenged.

When you review the LMT production next year, please leave out the glib tag line about LMT being

"the last frontier." It's offensive to a significant portion of the student body and causes casual readers like me to doubt the veracity of everything else you print.

— Glen Carruthers,
Dean, Faculty of Music

It's just theatre, man.

Re: LMT impresses with theatrical talents
Can Laurier music students get off their high horses for a moment? Before you all get your panties rolled up in a tizzy, did you stop to think that this might be referring to strictly musical theatre?

Yes, we all know you put on tons of performances and concerts in the music faculty but aside from operas, I don't see you putting on musical theatre.

Because, why might that be? Oh, right, because the musical theatre program got canned!

I think the main point here is that — and I would hope music students would agree — musical theatre is important, and it's a shame this university can't see that and recognize its validity as a program.

Listen, why must the music faculty be so sensitive about this stuff?

If you want the greater Laurier community to interact with you, come out from your practice rooms and your self-designated place in the dining hall, and promote yourselves.

If people don't know the concerts you're putting on, that's not students' issue — it's yours! Market yourselves.

It's like RIM blaming the consumers for not buying their phones on the sole basis of "C'mon guys, we made these things, why aren't you buying them?"

This was a little bit of an over-reaction on the parts of music students, no?

— Laurier_guy

Letter policy

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

YOU ARE INVITED!

ON-CAMPUS SUMMER & PART-TIME
Employment & Volunteer Fair

DROP BY TO LEARN ABOUT ON-CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE THIS SUMMER & FALL

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2011
CONCOURSE 10AM-2PM

LAURIER
Career Development Centre



LAURIER
Human Resources

OPINION

Opinion Editor
Shaun Fitt
sfitt@thecord.ca

Voter turnout is an individual choice



IAN MERKLEY
OPINION COLUMNIST

Voter turnout always seems to be an issue during elections.

Bureaucrats running the election always seem to be concerned with a declining voter turnout and are always trying to make voting more accessible. These people are very altruistic indeed but I really think sometimes they make a big issue out of such a minor thing.

This is not only true of the elections here at Wilfrid Laurier University but also at a municipal, provincial and federal level. On occasion this concern even leads to a number of ridiculous suggestions.

One method to increase voter turnout is to make it mandatory. In other words, if you do not vote you will be punished by the government. It could be a fine, imprisonment or some other random punishment.

In Australia, those who do not vote get fined by the government and if the person refuses, they are tossed in jail.

The Bolivian government got creative with their punishment. If a person cannot prove that they voted during the three months after the election, they cannot withdraw their

salary from their bank.

Either vote or do not eat. This punishment reminds me of Sean Combs' "Vote or Die" campaign to encourage youth turnout in America.

The real problem with this type of plan is that it is incompatible with freedom. It makes us wonder whether being in a democratic community actually means that you are free. Democracy may be necessary but not sufficient to be free.

It is someone's choice whether to vote or not. Government should not use intimidation to get people to vote. Some make the conscious decision to not vote because it's rational. Some chose not to vote because they do not see anyone standing for what they believe in and therefore they abstain.

Should these people be fined, imprisoned or have their own money cut off from them by the government? The ease of voting is also another argument to consider.

Canadians have three methods of voting — through a special ballot they can mail in, going to advanced polls and voting on Election Day. The ease of voting argument is an excuse especially for university students at Laurier who are more than capable of using one of these options.

Nevertheless, it has been used to justify a need for online voting. Yet online voting, though very convenient, has two drawbacks: lack of privacy and lack of security or

“
Someone who feels confident and strong enough to get themselves to a ballot box or mail in a vote is someone we want voting.

certainty.

In our form of democracy we cast our ballot in secrecy, preventing voter intimidation. A vote is an individual choice and it only belongs to that individual. If we vote online through our own laptops people can easily see who you are voting for just like I can easily see a person playing online chess in a lecture hall.

At Laurier last year I saw someone hand over his laptop to another person so that that person could vote a second time. If someone is going to abstain then they should abstain; they do not get a proxy in our system. With online voting there is no way to prevent this.

Another problem that a lack of privacy raises in a municipal, provincial or federal election is that people in families may not agree politically.

Husbands and wives, and parents

and children may not agree politically and that produces tension within the household. This is a non-issue if privacy is protected like it is under the current system.

The other issue is a lack of security or certainty. Not to sound like a Luddite, but if something should happen to the online system where it crashes we may not be certain as to who won the election. Another possible scenario is hacking. Obviously there are problems if it happens and no one knows about it but there would also be a problem if an organization claimed they hacked the system.

In Canada's current system we can count the ballots they are there written in on paper.

This provides certainty that the vote was legitimate. There really is no easy way to increase voter turnout. The real question I find is whether we should work to increase voter turnout at all.

Do we want all votes at any cost? Are the drawbacks worth the benefits of having a few more ballots?

Perhaps the best thing to do is not push people into voting, especially if they do not feel comfortable making the decision, and that is best left up to their discrepancy.

Someone who feels confident and strong enough to get themselves to a ballot box or mail in a vote is someone we want voting. They tend to be more informed and passionate about the issues.



You Know
What Yanks
My Cord ...

... the promotion of pseudoscience and anti-professionalism in mainstream media. A significant part of the population looks to news channels and popular television as their main source of information regarding science and medicine.

At best, these sources can be misleading with their treatment of issues such as climate change or vaccinations; at worst they can be downright harmful for any viewers that might take them seriously. Even by framing certain issues as a debate, news channels like FOX are presenting a distorted picture of reality.

The most common transgression in this regard involves the airing of so-called "debates" between legitimate scientific authorities and unaccredited promoters of pseudoscience with clearly corporatist agendas.

Where empirical studies like science and medicine are concerned, not all opinions are created equal; pitching real scientists against uneducated corporate shells unjustly supports the idea that their views are somehow equally valid. They are not.

It is bad enough to have unaccredited talking heads misleading the public; a more grave problem arises when those who actually do have proper training abuse their power to influence public opinion.

If someone has, for example, legitimate medical credentials and a history of academic success, then their support of pseudoscience in a public forum must be deemed an even greater violation of our trust.

This unfortunate phenomenon can be seen within many shows spawned from Oprah Winfrey.

Today I particularly want to take Dr. Oz to task. Dr. Mehmet Oz is a cardiovascular surgeon with degrees from Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania — you might be familiar with his self-titled television programme.

I mention his credentials because they can be seen as proof that Dr. Oz has demonstrated his medical competency; yet these professional achievements make his actions all the more ignoble.

In the course his show, Dr. Oz has supported faith-healing, psychic mediums and cold-readers (like John Edward of "Crossing Over"), as well as "alternative medicine" such as homeopathy.

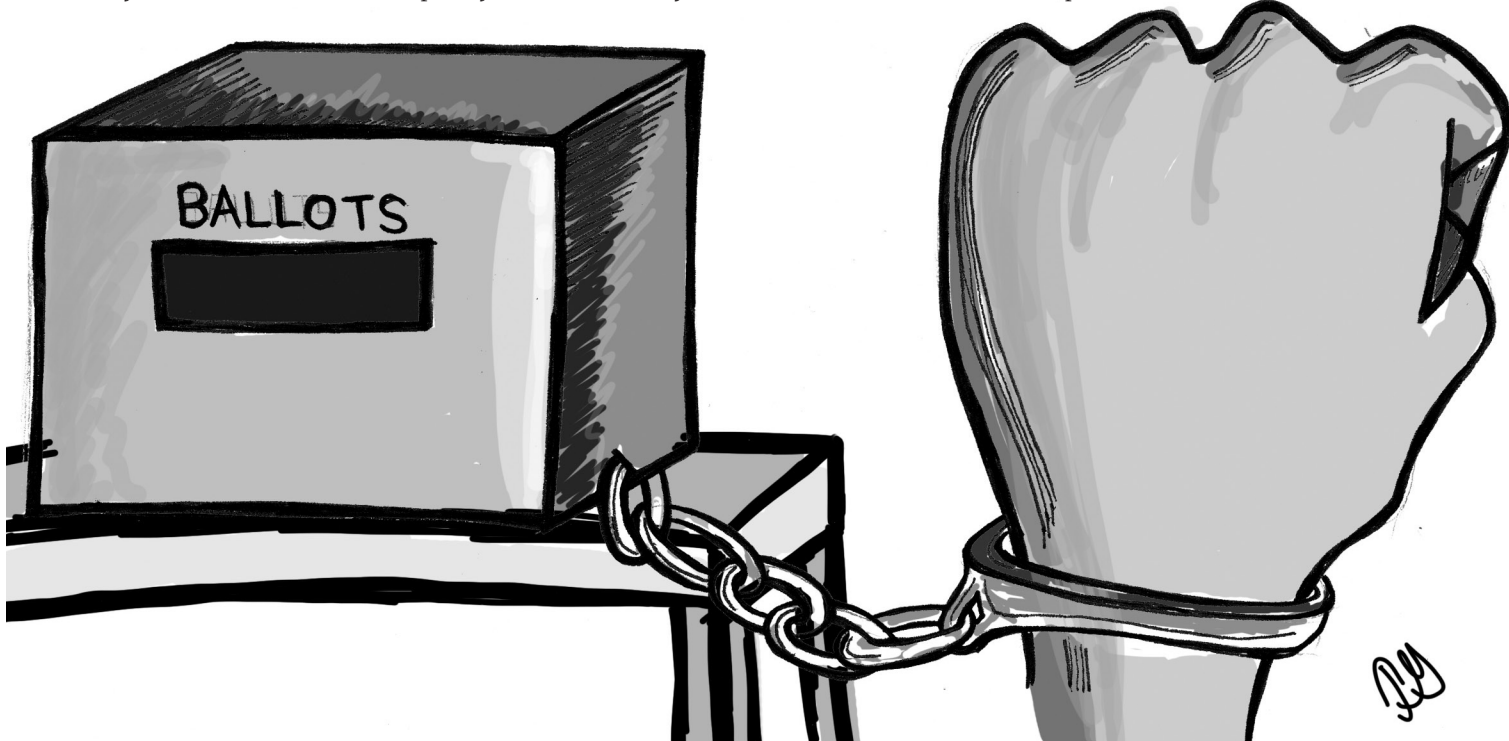
This sprinkling of nonsense in the midst of legitimate medical advice allows for it to be disguised and given an air of undeserved legitimacy.

All of the good being done by Oz and others like him is mitigated by these actions, which can harm a credulous audience.

These "real" professionals need to be held accountable for spreading dangerous misinformation to the public. Placebos and wishful thinking is no match for the effectiveness of proven medical science.

Even calling the aforementioned quackery an "alternative" medicine is a misnomer. Alternative medicine consists of those pseudoscientific hypotheses that have not been proven to work.

Do you know what we call those hypothetical treatments that have been proven to work? MEDICINE!
— James Formosa



High hopes for the return of Wilf's to Laurier



KEITHANA SENTHILNATHAN
OPINION COLUMNIST

January has always been my favourite month in terms of entertainment and social atmosphere. With minimal assignments, extra time to attend fun events and taking advantage of social opportunities you may have missed in September, the end of this month is always unwelcomed.

However, this January has not been the same as others, as Laurier's beloved Wilf's has not been open since the beginning of November. But with the grand reopening, I can say with absolute certainty that Wilf's is the greatest thing to happen to Wilfrid Laurier University.

It is true that Wilf's does have

its problems. On busy nights many Wilf's-goers must wait quite a while not only to get their orders, but also a table. With these long wait times it is easy to become frustrated, especially when the Terrace is just stairs away.

As well, like any other restaurant, there is always the risk of receiving an incorrect order. On busy bar nights, it can get very crowded and harder to socialize with friends amid the collective chatter.

But as an integral part of the Laurier community, we need to be tolerant of inefficiencies and embrace what Wilf's has to offer.

One of the best things about Wilf's is that, no matter if you are with friends, an acquaintance, on a date or with your family, it provides the best casual restaurant setting in Waterloo.

It is easy to forget that Wilf's is student-run and a huge part of our campus identity. With amazing staff that are not afraid to engage you in conversation, it is always the first

place that pops into my head when I want a good time.

Wilf's also provides Laurier students with a classic bar feeling with numerous entertaining events and the added security of being around your peers. Open mic nights on Mondays are a great way to experience different forms of music while also supporting emerging Laurier talent.

Lest we forget Wilf's Tuesday, where you are guaranteed to have a fun time. No matter if you are underage or choose not to drink, Wilf's Tuesdays are the perfect nights to see classmates and friends or meet other students involved with the Students' Union, publications, athletics or clubs. Unlike other bars, I feel comfortable walking up to someone who I may have never met and introducing myself in a dynamic social setting.

In the end, going to Wilf's is a great way to meet people outside of your program and expanding your social sphere of influence, all within

a safe setting.

Lastly but most importantly, if I have missed anything about Wilf's, it is the food. Prepare your mind and body for the greatest present Wilf's has to offer: spinach dip.

With what I swear is a gift from the gods, during the first week of its reopening anyone who orders a spinach dip can eat it until their stomachs explode. To this day, I have never eaten better spinach dip in any other venue. My mouth is watering just thinking about it.

To put it simply, love it or hate it (honestly, who would hate Wilf's, it's amazing) it is a great place to sit and eat good food. Whether you are having a meeting or hanging out with friends, Wilf's conforms to meet your needs, in addition to showing visitors the best restaurant experience Laurier has to offer.

Although I hate clichés, absence makes the heart grow fonder and it took Wilf's closing for Laurier students to realize its true value. I'll see you at the next Wilf's Tuesday.

Laurier Student Poll
Abbreviated Survey Findings: WLUSU Election 2012
Campaign Period Poll (January 23 to 27)

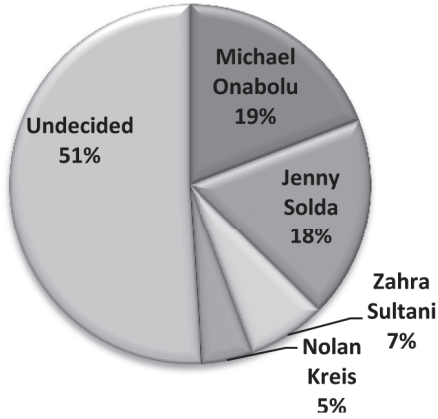


See more at www.laurierstudentpoll.com or on Twitter @LaurierPollster

About Laurier Student Poll

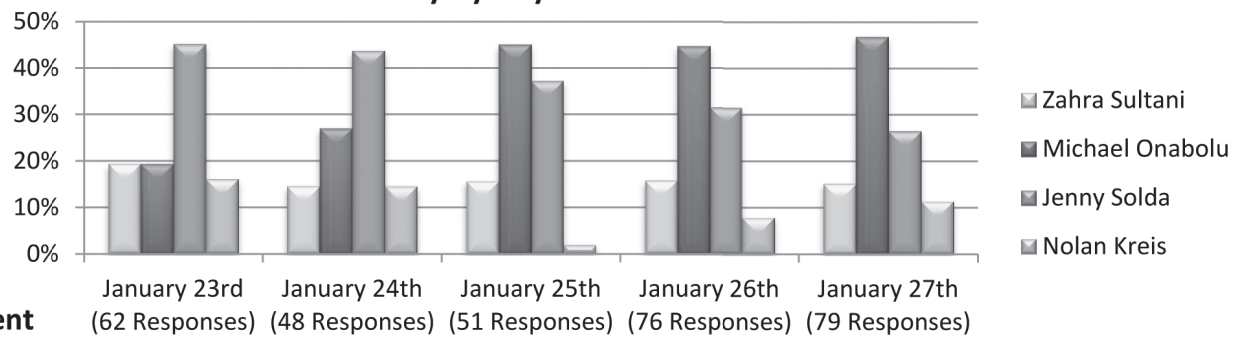
Laurier Student Poll, a subsidiary of Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications (WLUSP), is a market research group focusing on student public opinion and consumer behaviour at Laurier. Founded in late 2011, the study of the presidential election is our first ever. We survey students using in-person interviews with questions customized to client needs. Using studies of approximately 400 to 800 respondents, we publish official findings reports for stakeholders and release additional analyses online.

Vote Intention

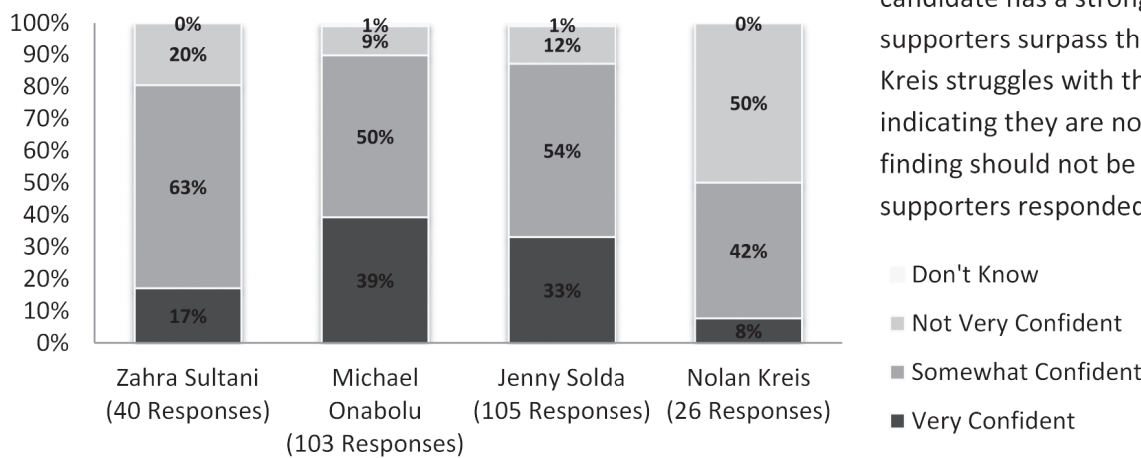


In our second poll for the WLUSU campaign, conducted between January 23 and 27, the presidential race has tightened. The first poll was conducted between January 19 and 20. In particular, Michael Onobolu has picked up ground, rising 11% to 19%, as has Jenny Solda, from 15% to 18%. This puts the two candidates in an exceptionally close race. After another week of campaigns, fewer students who stated that they may vote are undecided, with only 51%, compared to 64% in the Early Bird Poll. Zahra Sultani and Nolan Kreis both trail, with less than 10% of popular support. Over the five day period, Solda is trending downward in popular support and Onobolu upward, with Kreis and Sultani remaining relatively stable.

Day-by-Day Vote Intention

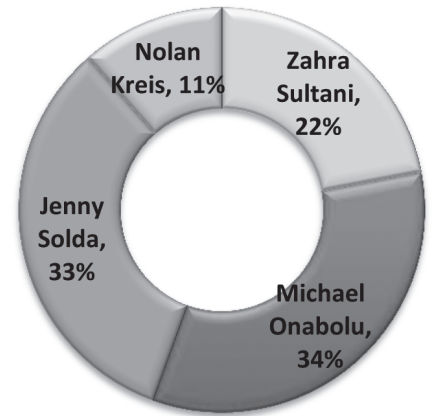


Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident, or not very confident that [candidate voting for] will win the election?

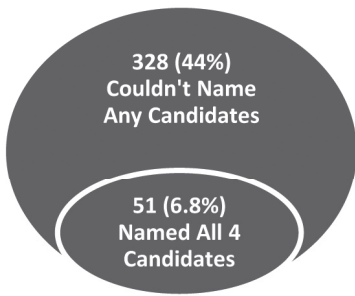


In general, both Onobolu and Solda's voters believe that their candidate has a strong chance of winning. Both candidates' "very confident" supporters surpass those stating "not very confident" and "don't know." Kreis struggles with the lowest confidence, with 50% of his supporters indicating they are not very confident he will win. At the same time, this finding should not be overemphasized, given that only 26 of Kreis' supporters responded to this question.

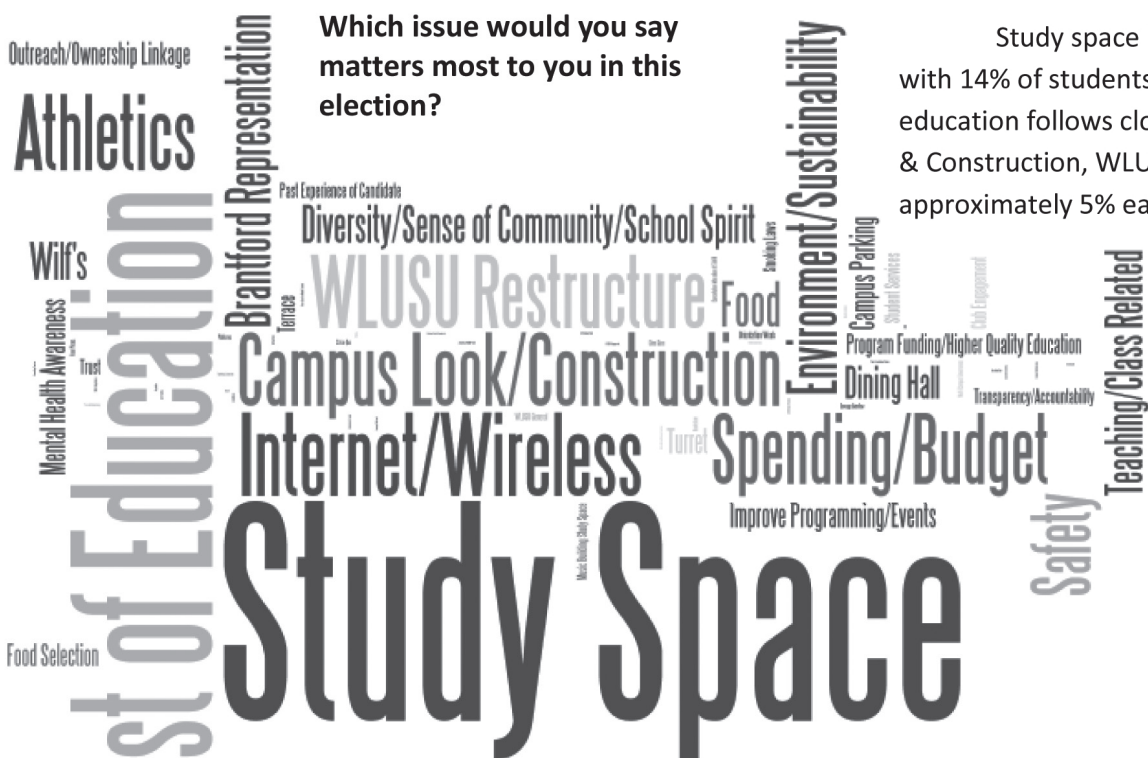
Do you happen to know the names of any candidates running for president?



Voter awareness reinforces the closeness of this race. Each respondent was asked if they knew the names of any candidates running for president. Our measure sums up the total mentions of any candidate (in other words, the same respondent could be measured up to four times). Again, Onobolu and Solda lead the race, with 34% and 33% respectively. 51 (6.8%) respondents named all 4 candidates and 328 (44%) could not name any.



Study space has emerged as the most important issue to students, with 14% of students stating it as the issue that matters most. The cost of education follows closely at 9%. Internet/Wireless, Athletics, Campus Look & Construction, WLUSU Restructure and Spending/Budget follow at approximately 5% each.



Methodology
 This survey was conducted from January 23 to 27, 2012. 745 respondents were interviewed in-person at sixteen locations across Laurier Waterloo and Laurier Brantford. Respondents were selected at random by interviewers. The margin of error is +/- 3.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. As this sample is broken up, this margin of error increases. Statistics presented have been lightly weighted by gender and faculty to ensure that the sample resembles the population, according to school enrolment data (70% value) and voter data from last year's election (30% value).

Any questions or comments can be directed to:
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ARTS

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Fr!nge: 'The outskirts of the mainstream'



LIZ SMITH
ARTS EDITOR

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
NEWS DIRECTOR

"This is Fr!nge night," announced Luke Dotto to a crowd of students in Maureen Forester Recital Hall on Saturday night. Fr!nge Festival is an annual event which aims to expose local talents which "may be on the outskirts

of the mainstream," according to Dotto.

Fr!nge Festival is an annual celebration of theatre and film. 2012's performance featured eight student-written and directed one-act plays and films.

Festival performances: In review

Property Stars Canada Written & Directed by: Keegan Chambers

Written and directed by Keegan Chambers, *Property Stars Canada* was a look at a day in the life of a door-to-door salesman pedalling driveway repairs. Chambers, who also starred in the play, delivered a solid performance while directing quips at the invisible John, her trainee for the day.

In the evening's opening act, Chamber's delivers a sales pitch to several hillbillies, a mime, a shirtless teenager left with free reign of the house for the weekend and a group of burglars — to name a few. While delivering some laughs,

Ultimately, Chambers was unable to carry the play. The revolving door of characters who answered the door provided a mixed reaction, with some garnering a strong audience response and others falling flat.

Acid Love Story Written & Directed by: Ron Butler

Acid Love Story — a film which followed three friends as they tripped on acid, had moments of humour derived from the stoned-antics of actors Kevin Hatch, Reid Cowper and Shawn Trask.

However, the effectiveness of the film was hindered by the final moments, in which Hatch's character has an epiphany about human nature and the disconnectedness of individuals.

Given the content of the previous ten minutes, this sentiment was unexpected and ineffective in its delivery. The film was solid, but lacked a final punch.

The Holiday Season Written by: Taryn Parrish Directed by: Luke Dotto

Among the strongest efforts of the evening, Dotto's *The Holiday Season* employed sordid humour to parody the premise of political correctness in the workplace.

The Holiday Season saw two shopping mall officials and their plans for revamping internal structure to rid it of Christmas, Chanukah and the like.

The pairing of Kevin Hatch and Luke Dotto hit the mark comedically. With the aid of Lauren Vastano-Beltrano, the short play garnered numerous laughs. A Michael J. Fox joke may have struck some audience members as being in bad taste but otherwise the writing of *The Holiday Season* was right on point.

Abjection Written & Directed by: Dave Rodgers

The strongest film of the festival, *Abjection* had artistic merit while managing to avoid pretentiousness.

Although the dialogue was at times confusingly out of context, the film was well executed and the actors were ultimately convincing. The opening scenes provided stylish intrigue as they introduced the character played by Sarah Hall, who delivered a subtle yet skilled performance in the film.

Purgatory Quirks Written & Directed by: Kevin Hatch

Purgatory Quirks, written and directed by Kevin Hatch, saw several quirky characters as they navigated purgatory; masquerading as a bar. Paula Schneider was especially hilarious in her portrayal of "Connery" — a delusional woman whose script consisted entirely of Sean Connery lines and movie references.

Wade Thompson provided a "straightman" to the rest of the cast that added to the humour of the play, while Travis Herron was hilarious in his portrayal of the "sticky" Raymond.

Demon Bitch Written, Directed & edited by: Mike McMurren

Demon Bitch offered up lighthearted humour in its portrayal of girlfriend-turned-zombie-killer Molly

(Keegan Chambers) and her boyfriend (Geoff Almond)'s consequent reaction.

Refreshingly, the film didn't attempt to achieve more than the easy humour it inspired, and was ultimately pleasurable to watch.

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner Written & Directed by: Ted Steiner

The mood of the show took a decided turn with *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, which was an effort lost on audiences. The film, which was a jarring departure from the other efforts presented in the festival, seemed aimless.

Although it lasted for only fifteen minutes, the film seemed to drag on, while images of watercolour paintings were splashed across the screen for seven "acts," with only a soundtrack as stimuli.

The sound editing itself was strong and complimented the images on screen — unfortunately, it was difficult to not immediately lose interest in the "plot" (for those who were able to follow to begin with). The film was based on the artwork of Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

The Second Draft Written & Directed by: Wade Thompson

A hilariously written and seamlessly executed play written and directed by Wade Thompson, *The Second Draft* most clearly exemplified the talents of the Fr!nge performers.

The play, which follows the plight of Frank (Kevin Hatch) as he attempts to overcome a case of writer's block. In a hilarious twist, Frank's narrator (Christina Ciuciu-ra) inverts the roles of the relationship and begins to narrate the events of Kevin's life.

Wrought with unexpected turns and cleverly written side-line characters, *The Second Draft* undoubtedly garnered the most laughs of the night and was hilarious from start to finish.



ROSALIE EID & NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGERS

From top: Property Stars, The Holiday Season & Purgatory Quirks.

With both fear and intrepid enthusiasm

Sculptor Ann Roberts showcases her abstract pieces at Waterloo's Clay and Glass Museum this month

GAYLE RYAN
WEB EDITOR

Ann Roberts, a slight, tentative woman, addressed numerous fans at the Knox Presbyterian Church on Sunday afternoon, to launch the show *Ann Roberts... With both fear and intrepid enthusiasm* at the Waterloo Clay and Glass gallery.

Roberts is an accomplished ceramics artist, who has twice been nominated for the Governor General's award.

Robert's work has been featured in numerous books and journal articles and in over 150 exhibitions.

The *Ann Roberts... With both fear and*

intrepid enthusiasm exhibit features pieces spanning Roberts' entire 50-year career, and shows how her work has progressed from the functional pieces typical of the 1960s, into the theoretically and artistically complex sculptures that she produces today.

Roberts told the crowd on Sunday that while she began her career by throwing forms on a wheel and creating teapots and other functional objects that were typical of ceramics at the time, she soon discovered that she preferred "one of a kind items."

It was after this point that Roberts began to experiment with various forms, glazes and myths in her

work.

Roberts discussed one piece, in particular, that was considered "not saleable" at the time she created it. The tall, mug-like figure had uneven, textured glaze with chips in the bottom.

There are also small holes near the top, where Roberts poked her fingers through the clay.

This piece showcases Roberts' transition into the less functional, less polished pieces for which she eventually became known.

The piece represents to Roberts how ceramic art has progressed, what was once considered "unsaleable" is now considered interesting.

Roberts' later work includes various themes; however much of her work focuses around the female form, fish and dogs. She plays with classical myths in her work, reforming them into narratives that challenge the original themes and caricatures.

She has also visited China many times, and some of her pieces both evoke and defy traditional Chinese sculpture. One Roberts' later pieces is a thoughtful and humorous appropriation of Manet's Olympia.

Roberts formed the female figure lying on the bed into a dog, however, the dog is staring the viewer straight in the eye which, as Roberts explained, is impolite in dog language.

This piece exemplifies how Roberts' style evolved from traditional to confrontational.

The works in the exhibit showcase the stages in Roberts' career; how her interests varied over the years, but also the way in which her work was continuous and steady.

Roberts was born in South Africa, and moved to Canada in 1960. She began working at the University of Waterloo in 1977 and has been an active member of the Waterloo Region art scene ever since.

Ann Roberts... With both fear and intrepid enthusiasm runs until Apr. 8, 2012.

Young Empires to release debut

Toronto based three-piece band gaining recognition for genre-defying sound

LIZ SMITH
ARTS EDITOR

"We had enough songs to make a full length record, but we wanted to release an EP first, to introduce the band," explained Jake Palahnuk. Palahnuk, Toronto based musician and one third of indie-up-and-comers Young Empires, caught up with The Cord prior to the band's Jan. 25 show at Starlight Lounge, to talk about the upcoming release of the band's inaugural EP.

Young Empires is a three-piece band based out of Toronto who have been enjoying a steady increase of commercial and critical acclaim in recent months, following their inception in Oct. 2009.

"We started as a band just over two years ago," said Palahnuk of band mates Matthew Vlahovich and Robert Aaron Ellingson. "We came off the backs of other bands and projects we were working on, so we got off to a quick start — we had a show three weeks after we formed, which we weren't really ready for."

The band has since revealed their penchant for defying typical genre boundaries. Vocally, Young Empires recall the styles of other Canadian

indie's such as Arcade Fire. However, the combination of punk, dance and synth styles in the band's repertoire allows them to continually evade genre classification.

"Any time you start a band you have a lot to learn about each other; your personalities and character. I'm really happy with what we've done together," expressed Palahnuk.

The upcoming EP, *Wake All My Youth*, boasts seven tracks, including the band's first single "Enter Through The Sun." *Wake All My Youth* is scheduled for a Jan. 31 release. One of the EP's tracks, "Against the Wall," was recently featured on a viral fashion video for Nylon TV.

In anticipation of their upcoming releases, the band has spent the past years touring and growing a fan base on either side of the Atlantic.

"We've been to Europe three times, the U.S. a few, South America," said Palahnuk of the exciting schedule. "We've never actually been on a Canadian tour so this will be our first time playing outside Toronto or Montreal."

In 2010, the band had the opportunity to play Nem-Cotacoa, a multi-stage fall music festival in



YOUNG EMPIRES CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

Botaga, Colombia, alongside Green Day, Jamiroquai and Cobra Starship.

"It was insane," said Palahnuk of the festival. "There were 15,000 people through the gates there — we'd definitely never experienced anything like that."

"We love to travel, that's the best part about being in a band."

Young Empires have also spent time honing their lesser known

talents — such as a collaboration with Toronto based Handsome Clothing on their merchandise apparel. "We wanted to partner with a local fashion designer because it's nice to work with friends. We've built a little community here in Toronto." The collaboration produced several t-shirts and a hoodie, featuring the band's logo and other images.

Further, the trio have been recognized for their production skills and been commissioned to remix major label singles for both Geffen and Kitsune Records.

"The future's always hard to predict," but, according to Palahnuk, fans of the band can expect the release of their full length album "no later than summer of 2013."

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LAURIER Spring/Summer

Life after Harry Potter

ASHLEY NEWTON
CORD ARTS

On Thursday, Jan. 19, an email was sent out to the English and film students at Laurier, announcing a competition to be held by Alliance Films — the winner of which would be given the chance to interview Daniel Radcliffe at the Toronto premiere of his first post-Potter film,

The Woman in Black. Being one of the competitions three finalists, I was able to attend the Jan. 26 premiere at the Scotiabank Theatre in downtown Toronto of a film that won't hit theatres for another week.

Prior to the screening, film critic Richard Crouse introduced Radcliffe to the audience, who welcomed him with applause. Radcliffe thanked the audience for attending and the film immediately began to roll as the actor sat down to enjoy some popcorn of his own.

In a question and answer period following the screening Radcliffe discussed topics such as his Saturday Night Live hosting appearance earlier this month and the importance of moving on from *Harry Potter*.

Based on Susan Hill's 1983

novel of the same name, *The Woman in Black* follows Arthur Kipps (Radcliffe), a young widower father and lawyer who is sent to Eel Marsh House in a secluded village in England to organize the legal papers of a recently deceased woman.

As he goes through the seemingly boring task, he soon realizes that the ghost of an angry and ruthless woman — the woman in black — has been terrorizing the town. It is said among the townsfolk that whenever the woman in black is seen, a child dies.

After several encounters, Arthur quickly realizes that he must put the woman in black to rest with the hope that the town will salvage their children (and their sanity) and does so with the help of a man named Mr. Daily (Ciaran Hinds) who plays a much larger role in the film than in the novel.

Hinds delivers a surprisingly strong performance as the one man who manages to stretch the limits of the town's anger in order to assist Arthur in settling the matters of the woman in black.

His character's willingness to let go of the past serves as a powerful

commentary on the importance of doing the right thing regardless of what others think.

Despite its relation to the 1983 novel and other stage and film adaptations, this film might take some audiences by surprise. In the original novel,

Arthur reflects as an old man on his past experience with the woman in black. Similarly to the novel, the audience chronologically follows Arthur's journey to Eel Marsh House and witnesses the events with him, but the ending was significantly different from the novel and slightly disappointing. However, the film did offer a powerful conclusion to the emotionally draining film.

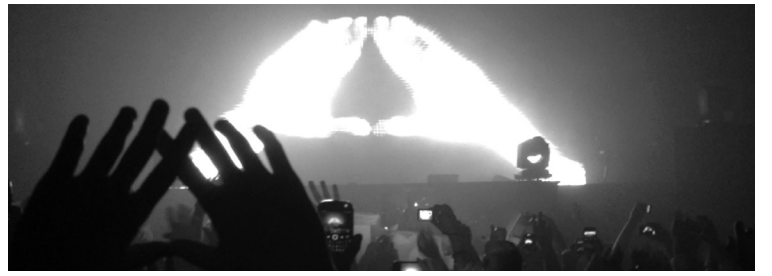
With *The Woman in Black*, director James Watkins delivers a terrifying film about the shadows that invade our lives and forces his audience to feel just as suffocated and haunted as Arthur.

Watkins does not fail to reveal to his audience what hides behind locked doors and the power behind Arthur's own curiosity convinces the audience that they should feel curious, too.

With a powerful performance from Radcliffe, it is clear the actor intends to break away from the Potter persona he has been associated with for the last ten years. His portrayal of Arthur Kipps marks the first step in forging his way as a versatile actor.

The film offers little dialogue for its viewers to follow and the silence itself is enough to drive you mad with fear. The musical score acts as its own character since it provides each scene with a feeling of apprehension, mystery and tension.

Carefully paced, *The Woman in Black* offers a horrifying depiction of the strength beneath revenge, equally matching its horror with Radcliffe's emotional disconnect from the surrounding world. *The Woman in Black* opens in theatres on Feb. 3.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Group therapy

NICK LACHANCE
PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Tony McGuinness and Jono Grant of the superstar DJ group Above & Beyond spun a powerful and engaging set to a sold out crowd at Beta Nightclub on Sunday, Jan. 29.

The UK-based duo are the founders of the Anjunabeats music label and the creative minds behind Above & Beyond, alongside the Finnish-born Paavo Siljamäki, who was notably absent on Sunday. One of A&B's greatest additions to the world of electronic music has been through their projects with other prominent DJs. Sunday's set was part of Above & Beyond's *Group Therapy* tour, which shares the name of their most recent album. The show featured songs by Mat Zo, Richard Bedford and Above & Beyond themselves. The set received strong responses from the crowd.

A high point of the night was the venue wide sing-along to Above & Beyond's hit track, "Sun & Moon," featuring Richard Bedford. Beta has undergone several changes in recent weeks, which have functioned to improve the club's overall operation and atmosphere. By removing several pedestal platforms, Beta's dance floor has become more open.

The coat check system also received an upgrade and is now more efficient and capable of housing a larger number of garments. However, the most impressive improvement by far is to the sound system. Several speakers have been added to

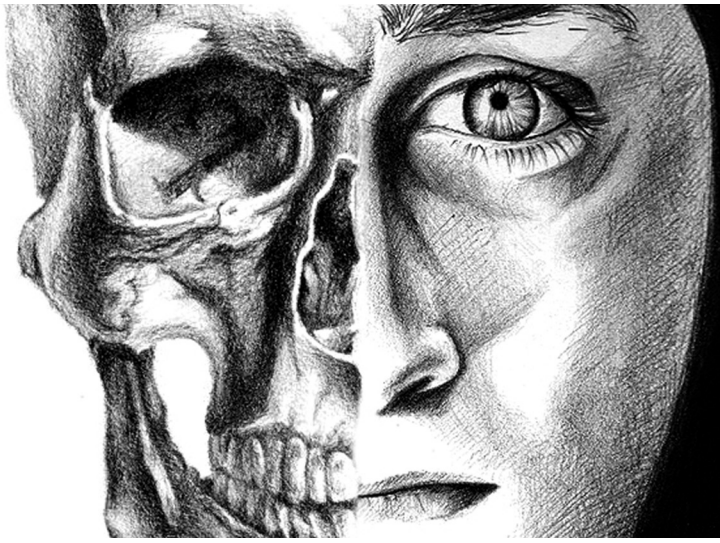
the club's rear area, which simultaneously improves the venue's sound quality and contributes to an immersive experience on the dance floor.

The single high quality screen brought by Above & Beyond as part of their *Group Therapy* tour allowed the artists to showcase strong visuals linked to their set instead of relying on Beta's dazzling array of lights. The most effective use of the screen was through the groups communication with the crowd. Typing messages throughout the show, the group kept fans up to date with artists on deck, while also sending personal messages to the crowd.

Surprisingly the crowd did not respond as enthusiastically as expected, milling about in a generally lacklustre manner. Though there was a strong storm of dancing happening in the immediate front of the venue, the middle of the crowd and further back seemed content to bob to the music, packing together, making it difficult for those who wanted to move.

Above & Beyond ranks among one of the top acts to visit Beta since its recent opening and played one of the most impressive sets to date.

Providing over two and a half hours of quality hard pumping trance, it's no small wonder the trio are currently ranked number five on DJ Magazine's top 100 list, squeezing between Canadian sensation Deadmau5 and Swedish house heavyweight Avicii.



LENA YANG GRAPHICS ARTIST

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Arts bites

Obama bumps up Al
After singing a few bars of the song "Let's Stay Together" at the Apollo Theatre last month, President Obama sparked a sales surge for the song's original singer, soul legend Al Green. Apparently Green's record sales have gone up 500 per cent since the president belted it out. Since then, fellow 70s soul fixtures such as Earth, Wind and Fire and The Commodores have been pestering the White House for them to be next on Obama's karaoke list.

Sand-y Land (Ha!)
Happy Madison Productions and Columbia Pictures have apparently picked up the option to the once-dead version of *Candyland*. In picking up the presumed-canned movie, the studio has also attached former funny man Adam Sandler to star in the film. As bad as this sounds, we can at least take comfort in knowing that Rob Schneider will probably show up at some point in the film as well.

I forget how that's a good thing.

Being Charlie Kaufman
For his sophomore film, writer/director/crazy-talented person Charlie Kaufman landed quite the cast. It was already announced that Steve Carell and Jack Black would play the title characters in the film, *Frank or Francis*, with Nicolas Cage and Kevin Kline providing support. Recently, it was announced that Kate Winslet and Catherine Keener would add another of the filmmaker's scripts to their resumés, and Paul Reubens and Elizabeth Banks will break their Kaufman cherries. Long story short, we're going to get to see a movie with a lot of famous people that will take days for us to understand.

SPORTS

Sports Editor
Kevin Campbell
kcampbell@thecord.ca

Basketball Hawks stumble but defeat Mustangs

CHRIS MANDER
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday afternoon at the Wilfrid Laurier Athletic Complex, the men's basketball Golden Hawks took on the scrappy Western Mustangs in what should have been another routine win for the first-place Hawks.

But once the game began, it was clear the Mustangs were a proud unit and were not going to just let the Hawks dominate them as once expected.

Laurier's starting five were able to contribute offensively in a big way, with every starter finishing in double digits highlighted by Max Allin's team-high 23 points.

Will Coulthard put up 14 points and Kale Harrison notched 13 points while Matt Buckley had ten and Kyle Enright had an uncharacteristic night where his shots weren't dropping.

However, it was the toughness and early contributions of second-year starter Pat Donnelly that propelled the Hawks to victory.

Donnelly finished the game with 21 points, but his 14 in the first quarter gave the Hawks an early lead that they would never surrender, despite a valiant effort by Western.

The game was highlighted by its roughness and physical nature, with three Hawks fouling out.

Most noticeably team all-star Harrison fouled out with five minutes remaining and was quickly followed by fellow fifth-year Matt Buckley who was forced to join him on the bench.

As head coach Peter Campbell sees it, the relentless effort of the Mustangs contributed to the Hawks foul trouble.

"Western kept playing and

coming after us and we tightened up a little bit," said Campbell. "Things weren't going our way and we got caught up in that, and stopped playing our game."

Factoring into keeping the game close, Ryan Barbeau scored a game-high 28 for the Western Mustangs, contributing to the Mustangs outscoring the Hawks 27-18 in the fourth quarter, but still falling short by a score of 89-73.

The Laurier bench had difficulties contributing all afternoon, which not only allowed the Mustangs to claw back but also forces the Golden Hawk starters to play more than planned, especially considering the big game coming up Wednesday against the Windsor Lancers. The Lancers sit with a record of 11-5.

"The success we have had all year is because we have guys coming off the bench and doing good things, and you don't typically see this unit struggle," said Campbell.

"Hopefully come Wednesday in Windsor the bench is firing because we are going to need everyone."

The story of the game was that the Hawks won in an adverse situation, despite how unattractive the victory may have been.

It was one of the few instances in this fantastic season where the Hawks truly had to face adversity, and they handled the situation well.

"Bottom line is when it was on the line, we pulled it out. We didn't fold, which is big," said Campbell.

The Hawks are now 14-2 and are tied with the Lakehead Thunderwolves for first in the West division.

The Hawks face the Windsor Lancers Wednesday night in Windsor, followed by a home game against McMaster Saturday afternoon at 3 p.m. at the Athletic Complex.



ROSALIE EID PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Patrick Donnelly attempts a dunk against Western on Saturday.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
Jan 30 - Feb 5, 2012

RECENT SCORES

1.25.12

W Basketball 69 - Brock 68
M Basketball - Brock 55
W Curling 4 - Switzerland 5
W Curling 6 - Korea 5
W Curling 8 - Japan 6

1.26.12

W Curling 7 - Nagano Sel. 4
W Curling 2 - Japan Sel. 3

1.27.12

W Curling 6 - China 2
W Hockey 6 - Waterloo 0
M Hockey 2 - UOIT 4

1.28.12

W Basketball 68 - Western 59
M Basketball 89 - Western 73
W Curling 6 - Denmark 1
W Curling 10 - China 8 (SF)
W Curling 9 - Switzerland 8 (Gold)
W Hockey 5 - York 3
M Hockey 1 - Windsor 3

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

2.2.12

M Hockey vs York
Waterloo Rec Complex, 7:30pm

2.4.12

W Basketball vs McMaster
Waterloo Athletic Complex, 1:00pm

M Basketball vs McMaster
Waterloo Athletic Complex, 3:00pm

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Maxwell Allin
Men's Basketball

Laura Crocker
Women's Curling

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Sports in brief

Women's curling win gold in Japan

In their recent trip to Japan the Laurier women's curling team struck gold as skip Laura Crocker, vice Sarah Wilkes, second Jenny Gates and lead Pamela Feldkamp defeated Team Switzerland 9-8 in the 11th end after forcing the game into extra ends. The squad went 6-2 in the round robin and beat China 10-8 in the semifinals.

Women's basketball beat Western at home

Amber Hills and Doreen Bonsu led the way for the women's basketball Hawks with 11 points each as Laurier defeated the Western Mustangs 68-59. Christa Mancino added ten points in the victory. The Hawks are now 11-5 while the Mustangs fall to 7-9.

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Go to thecord.ca and read Staff Writer **Shelby Blackley's** report on the men's 3-1 loss versus Windsor. The men currently sit in the eighth and final playoff spot in the West.



Superbowl XLVI Preview

Staff Writers Eric Thompson and Cassandra Brush debate the winners of the 2012 Super Bowl between Eli Manning's New York Giants and Tom Brady's New England Patriots, both playing in a rematch of 2008

ERIC THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

For the New England Patriots, revenge is a dish best served four years later.

After seeing their dreams of a perfect season crash and burn at the uncoordinated hands of a young Eli Manning, the Patriots are ready to get revenge for what transpired in Super Bowl 42.

Only eight players remain from the 18-1 nightmare that was the 2007 team. But if you don't think that the wounds are still fresh, listen to ex-Patriots' Jarvis Green's claim that Super Bowl 42 still gives him nightmares.

The players taking the field won't just be playing for themselves; they will be playing to redeem the members of the 2007 team. The Patriots will be all-in for this game.

When analyzing this year's squad, we start at the pivotal point behind centre where the Patriots have arguably the best quarterback of our generation.

Tom Brady had another incredible season even by his standards. Brady threw for 5,235 yards, good enough for second all-time in a single season.

He commanded an offence that finished second in yards-per-game and third in points-per-game. With Brady at the helm, the Patriots can and will score on anyone. Numbers aside though, the real reason to buy into the Patriots this year is how much Brady wants to win this game.

He already has three rings, but the future Hall-of-Famer still has something left to prove, and on Feb. 5, he is going to do just that.

Brady alone cannot be credited for the Patriots' offensive greatness. His receivers must also be praised.

Wes Welker had another Pro-Bowl season leading the league in receptions, Deion Branch chipped in with a solid 700-yard campaign and Chad Ochocinco had some funny tweets.

The dominant story of this offence however, was the play of the tight ends Rob Gronkowski and Aaron Hernandez. "Gronk" set a record for yards by a tight end in a season and the duo combined for 24 touchdowns.

The combination of the two creates easily exploitable mismatches. They can't be covered by linebackers because of their athleticism and they can't be covered by safeties because of their size. The Giants really can "only hope to contain them" as too much focus on Gronkowski and Hernandez will allow the Patriots' receivers and running backs to easily beat them.

The Pats have not been without their faults, though, as this season defensively, they finished near last in almost every category. However, the unit we have seen throughout the playoffs has been much improved.

Led by hefty nose tackle Vince Wilfork, the Patriots are getting pressure, forcing mistakes and not allowing touchdowns in the red zone. This secondary will have their hands full with the Giants receivers, but don't be shocked if they get a few interceptions against Eli.

The Patriots have been to five of the last 11 Super Bowls and the reason for that wears a cut-off-sleeved hoodie.

Bill Belichick is simply the best coach of our generation. The seemingly emotionless mastermind once again has his team poised for greatness. Belichick is a student of the game and knows how to guide his

team to victory. He can make the key adjustments and will find a way to keep this fierce New York pass rush off-balance.

Belichick rarely loses to the same team twice, so even though the Giants won the last two meetings, I find it awfully hard to see them winning three in a row.

Neither team has ever won at Lucas Oil Stadium, so the site doesn't really play in anyone's favour. But with this game being played indoors, it is primed to turn into a shootout. And the Patriots wouldn't want it any other way.

There's a lot of ways you can bet on the Patriots in this game but at the end of the day you really only need to mention Brady and Belichick.

Yes, Eli may be "Elite", but Brady and Belichick are legendary. And after they capture their fourth Super Bowl win, many people (myself included) will be ready to call them the greatest coach and greatest quarterback of all time.

Staff Picks:

Ashley Denuzzo:
31-28 Giants

Chris Mander:
27-21 Patriots

Shelby Blackley:
31-27 Patriots

Kevin Campbell:
35-24 Giants

Shayne McKay:
24-20 Patriots

Justin Fauteux:
28-20 Giants



KEITH ALLISON CONTRIBUTED

Tom Brady is looking for redemption against the Giants.

CASSANDRA BRUSH
STAFF WRITER

In one of the most anticipated sports games in North America, on Sunday Feb. 5, the New York Giants will face off against the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLVI.

This will be a déjà vu of the 2007 Super Bowl where the Giants and Patriots faced off with the Giants prevailing against Tom Brady's Patriots. What will this Super Bowl's outcome be? The same as last time.

Not only did the Giants beat out the New England Patriots in 2007, but they did so with Eli Manning in his Super Bowl debut against Tom Brady, a veteran of the game at the peak of his career.

Four years ago, the Patriots had a regular season record of 16-0. However this year, that perfect record took a small blow and is now 13-3.

The Patriots also had an undefeated season and were on their way to having the perfect season until a now more mature Manning and his

Giants upset that dream.

Now that Manning has a few more years of experience under his belt, he has proven himself to be an elite player who is quick in the pocket and smart under pressure. If he could beat Brady four years ago, he can surely do it again on Sunday.

It is common knowledge that the Giants made it through to the playoffs because they were just barely selected as the wild card team.

Capitalizing on this second chance, the Giants have fought their way to this final by beating out the defending Super Bowl champions Green Bay Packers, who had a 16-1 record in the regular season, and the San Francisco 49ers, who were a force to be reckoned with, due to their top-notch defensive line.

The percentage of an NFL team making it to the Super Bowl final game based on a wild card entry is definitely not a large one.

But compared to the Patriots, the Giants have one of the most dynamic defensive lines in the league.

Realistically speaking, the Giants' linebackers Jason Tuck and Jason Pierre-Paul provide powerful protection that are no match for any offender.

On the flip side, their offence includes running backs such as Ahmad Bradshaw and Brandon Jacobs, who are at the top of their game and are among some of the best in the NFL.

Receivers like Victor Cruz and Hakeem Nicks use their explosive capabilities and have big play capacity. With a lineup like this, it will take more than just a few good players to compete with them.

It will be a good match-up on Sunday, but the key will be putting pressure on the plateauing Tom Brady, using the Giants' dynamic defensive lineups, explosive offence and Eli Manning's new experience and maturity.

If that happens, the Giants will be just as hard a team to steal the Super Bowl from than they were four years ago.

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KAHNEGIRL 183 CONTRIBUTED

Eli Manning tries to repeat his 2008 championship with another one versus the very same Patriots.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

OUA swimmers dive into the pool as the timekeeper starts his watch during Sunday's meet.

Swimmers prepare for OUAs

KEVIN CAMPBELL
SPORTS EDITOR

Laurier swimming coach Russ Franklin is about to see just how much his team's year of hard work has gotten them.

From Feb. 9-11, Franklin and his aquatic squad will head to Laurentian University in Sudbury and face some of Ontario's toughest competition in the Ontario University Athletics' (OUA) championships.

They got a glimpse of it on Sunday when Laurier hosted their invitational at the Athletic Complex, but Franklin knows it's but a taste of what's to come.

"When you go to a meet like this, you don't know if the other team is tired from training, you don't know if they have all their guns, but when you go to OUAs, that's it," said the coach. "You're there and you're going to see where you stack up, so I'm going to get a pretty good indication of where the team is after the February meet."

On Sunday, the swimmers welcomed the University of Guelph, McMaster University and York University to their open invitational and the squad swam away with a good

showing, including three gold medal finishes.

Renee Dijk finished in top spot in the Female Open 200 Backstroke Short Course Finals, as well as the 100 Backstroke and Veronica Davis-Freeman placed first in the Female Open 100 Breaststroke Short Course Finals.

Other top competitors included Kassandra Dizon with two fifth-place finishes, Davis-Freeman had another silver medal and a fourth-place finish. First-year Luke Summerhayes completed two fourth-place finishes and Andrew Warr had a silver and a bronze to cap his impressive rookie season.

Franklin is hoping to vault his top competitors into the national championships with the February meet.

"We have a couple of kids on the cusp of qualifying for nationals, so that's a priority ... Competing, scoring and seeing where we rank is really important but there are the individual swimmers who have bigger and better things to come so we're hoping they'll be successful."

Those swimmers include Davis-Freeman, Carlos Riobo and Luke Summerhayes. Dijk has

already qualified.

The training period for the athletes is year-round, often with a grueling training schedule. "Here at Laurier, we have a minimum of five workouts we attend," said Franklin, who also coaches the Region of Waterloo swim team (ROW).

"Some of them are coming seven or eight times, and that includes the dry-land and weight training ... When it comes to OUAs, we taper down and reduce the number of practices we have," said the 35-year coaching veteran.

Being in his first year coaching at the school, and only moving to the Waterloo Region after living in Québec, Franklin wanted to start the program off on the right foot under his direction.

"No expectations at the start," he said. "It was more coming in and seeing what the program had and ... I'm happy with how it's gone but there will be a few changes next year."

"We have a 34-member team. We elected not to cut anybody this year because we were looking to build that spirit ... Next year we may be a little more choosy."

Defence joins the rush in women's hockey victory

SHELBY BLACKLEY
STAFF WRITER

Anyone can say that the Wilfrid Laurier University women's hockey team has no trouble scoring goals. They could even say that when they were declared the top team in the country, it came as no surprise.

But despite their ongoing success, and an impressive 21-0-1 record, head coach Rick Osborne still looks to improve every aspect of this dominant team.

"We have been looking at [having a] fourth person join the rush," he said. "We started midway through last season with that type of philosophy on our offensive and it's carrying on. We do a lot of drills at practice that encourage the secondary wave of the attack."

So when the cross-town rivals Waterloo Warriors visited the Golden Hawks Friday night, Osborne found exactly what he was looking for in this style of play.

Defender Maureen Mommersteeg scored a goal while point-men Alicia Martin and Fiona Lester added helpers in the 6-0 win in the battle of Waterloo.

"[Haley] Baxter is getting good at [being the fourth man]," Osborne said. "[Martin] has always been good at it. Lester played a few shifts at centre tonight as well as defence and she's really strong. She's smart and she finds the holes and makes really good decisions with the puck."

Laurier's defence helps add depth to an already diverse team, where nightly there are more than half of the players on the score sheet.

In their win against Waterloo, the Hawks had ten players record a point or more.

The following night, when

Laurier defeated the York Lions 5-3, 11 players were on the score sheet.

Among those players is Laura Brooker, who is tied for third in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) for most goals with 17.

Coming off a slow start to the year, Brooker has picked up the pace and has been unstoppable in the second half of the season, recording 26 points in 22 games.

"I think in the first half of the season she was, after the year she came off of last year, maybe putting too much pressure on herself," Osborne said of the sharp forward. "She is just really starting to hit her stride right now and I think that's really good news for us."

"I wanted to do better than last year," Brooker reflected. "You always want to improve on the year before, so I wanted to keep maintaining the goals and just keep playing it and be a great team player and keep improving as the year goes."

With only four games left in the regular season, the Hawks now look toward maintaining their offense while preserving their strong defence.

With the added help of rookie goaltender Erika Thunder, the team has let in only 36 goals against, which places them fourth in all of Canada.

Their wins over the weekend against Waterloo and the York Lions solidify their place at first overall in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) standings.

Laurier will hit the road to face the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) on Thursday night and then travel to Kingston to face Queen's University on Friday, with both start times at 7:30 p.m.

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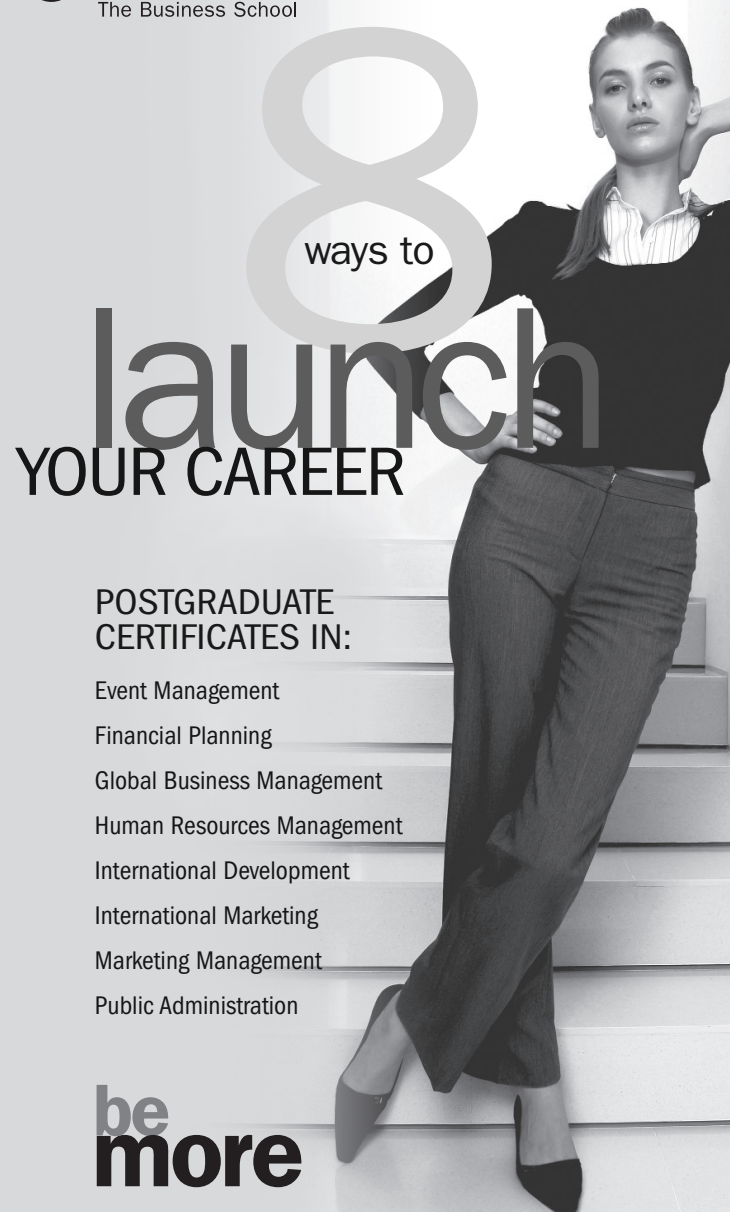
Co-op Seminar Room CC201
(2nd floor of the CO-OP & CAREER CENTRE)

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