



# 'It's good to be back'

Sports, page 20

NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

# THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

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## Inside



### Comic opera

Laurier students perform double-bill of opera, joined by WLU president Max Blouw

Arts, page 13



### The men from Mars

Arts Editor Liz Smith speaks with *John Carter* director Andrew Stanton and star Taylor Kitsch

Arts, page 12

### Student Life Levy

New projects around the university draw from \$650,000-fund

News, page 3

### No strike at WLU

The university and its full-time faculty avoided a work stoppage with a last-minute agreement

Campus, page 5

## Forwell's bids farewell

KATELYN CULLUM  
STAFF WRITER

After 52 years of service, Forwell Super Variety is closing its doors on March 31.

Joe Forwell opened the store in 1960, a period where convenience stores were virtually unheard of. His main intention was generously servicing the student population of Waterloo and to do so his plan was to have the help of the most beautiful storefront girls.

"He wanted to have the best-looking girls in town in here, and

he did," said Bonnie Forwell, Joe's daughter and current owner of the store.

"He never, ever wanted to see anybody go hungry," said Bonnie, explaining that a free loaf of bread would go to anyone who needed food.

Throughout the years, Forwell has continued to uphold its reputation as the go-to place for everything from last minute ping-pong balls to homecoming face paint.

"Like I said, there was no such thing as a convenience store [when Forwell's opened]," Bonnie said,

as she explained her father's initial idea behind the opening of the store. "Grocery stores were closed nights and weekends, and so were banks." Joe not only instituted the idea of late night convenience, but also provided a cheque-cashing service, where students could cash their cheques without having to visit a bank.

"If you wanted to go out on a weekend and you [had] no money, you went to Forwell's and you cashed your cheque," Bonnie

News, page 3

## Our reel future

What science-fiction films has NASA deemed most representative of our future?

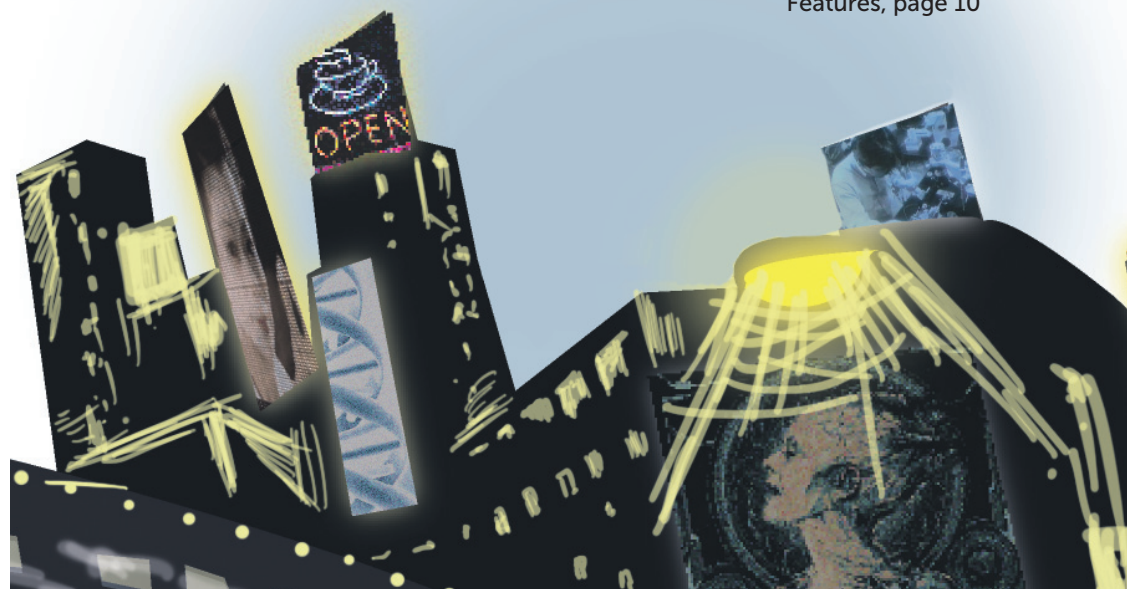
Features, page 10



### Charity burgers

Local restaurants take part in best burger competition to raise funds and awareness for Habitat for Humanity

Local, page 8



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**Editor's choice**  
*Student depression*  
Life, only at thecord.ca

News .....	3	Arts .....	12
Campus .....	4	Editorial .....	14
Local .....	7	Opinion .....	16
National .....	9	Classifieds .....	17
Features .....	10	Sports .....	18

## This Week in quotes

“Having a brain behind the looks is extremely important.”

—Women's soccer forward Krista Cellucci on the feminine landscape of sports broadcasting



“It never gets old.” — Abby Rainsberry, captain of the WLU women's hockey team on winning her third OUA championship in four years

## Bag o' Crime

### Intoxicated Person

Location: Residence  
Reported: Feb. 27 at 2:28 a.m.  
SCS officers attended to a student residence in response to a complaint of an intoxicated male. The male had gained access to the building and was trying the doors on various apartment units. He had been in the common area of one unit trying several doors. Entry was not gained. He was located by SCS officers in the building and identified as a 22-year-old student from the University of Waterloo. He was intoxicated and arrested pursuant to the Trespass to Property Act. He was issued a written Trespass Notice and also Provincial Offences Notices for Public Intoxication and for being in contravention of the Trespass to Property Act. He was taken to his residence by SCS and left in the care of a sober roommate.

### Drugs

Location: 232 King St. N.  
Reported: Feb. 27 at 11:10 p.m.  
Special Constables approached a group of people who were observed on CCTV huddled together smoking something on the driveway on the north side of 232 King St. N. (offices of the SCS). A marijuana joint was seized. One of the individuals was identified as a 20-year-old male WLU student who will be dealt with by the Judicial Affairs Council. The other three were identified as non-students, all of them Kitchener residents who were issued written Trespass Notices and sent on their way.

### Unwanted Contact

Location: Via BlackBerry  
Reported: Feb. 28 at 10:23 a.m.  
SCS is investigating a complaint lodged by a female student who has been receiving numerous unwanted text messages from an unknown male party during the past several weeks on Facebook.

### Intoxicated Person

Location: FNCC  
Reported: Mar. 1 at 2:49 a.m.  
SCS Officers attended to Wilf's Pub for an intoxicated male who had passed out in the stall of the men's bathroom. The male was identified as a 20-year-old WLU student. EMS was dispatched as the male was going in and out of consciousness. EMS transported the male to St. Mary's Hospital for assessment and treatment.

### Unwanted Contact

Location: Seminary  
Reported: Mar. 1 at 9:16 a.m.  
SCS officers spoke to administrative members at the facility regarding a 55-year-old former male student. The complaint was regarding constant unwanted contact over a period of time by the male towards various administrative members. A registered letter has been sent out banning the male from all WLU controlled properties.

### Assistance Call from Public

Location: Residence  
Reported: Mar. 2 at 7:19 p.m.  
A concerned duty don called SCS about the well being of a female student who had contacted him about being in some kind of trouble. She was identified as an 18-year-old WLU student and it was determined that she had called from Guelph. She had been arrested for public intoxication on the University of Guelph campus and was being investigated on another criminal matter by the Guelph Police Service. No further involvement required by SCS.

### Bylaw Complaint

Location: Athletic Complex  
Reported: Mar. 3 at 2:34 a.m.  
SCS officers issued a Provincial Offence Notice pursuant to a local bylaw to a 20-year-old male WLU resident. He had been observed urinating on WLU property near the Athletic complex.

### Fraud

Location: Campus Pizza  
Reported: Mar. 3 at 9:00 a.m.  
A WLU student reported that someone had used his OneCard to make unauthorized purchases at Campus Pizza totalling nine dollars. The student had lost his card the night before. There are no suspects and there were no video surveillance cameras.

### Injured/Sick Person

Location: Athletic Complex  
Reported: Mar. 3 at 8:15 p.m.  
Special Constables attended at the Athletic Complex in response to a report of a female student who was feeling dizzy and faint. The student advised that she has had a headache all day and that she has had about four head injuries/concussions in the past, most recently in October 2011. EMS was called and the student was transported to hospital for assessment.

### Assault

Location: Turret  
Reported: Mar. 3 at 11:16 p.m.  
SCS investigated an assault which took place at the Turret nightclub. A student punched a staff member in the face. The student was arrested, charged with assault and released on conditions.

### Injured/Sick Person

Location: Residence  
Reported: Mar. 4 at 2:26 a.m.  
Special Constables attended at a residence in response to a report of a male student experiencing shortness of breath and hyperventilating. The student reported that he had carried an intoxicated female student back to residence from Regina St. On arrival the student began experiencing chest pains, shortness of breath and weakness. SCS attended to the student who was progressively feeling better. He claims to have experienced similar symptoms in the past after physical exertion.

## Vocal Cord

Do you use the WLUSU social network?



“I have no idea what that is.”  
—Jessica Armstrong  
First-year health sciences



“I did because I was an O-week volunteer.”  
—Jayme O'Donnell  
Second-year biology



“I don't even know what it is.”  
—Mark Stotesbury  
Second-year kinesiology



“What is that?”  
—Ross Murray  
Third-year psychology



“No, I didn't even know that there was a WLUSU social network.”  
—George Hall  
Third-year kinesiology

Compiled by Katie Flood  
Photos by Kate Turner



# "Old Hollywood" Arts Formal

March 15th, 2012 in the Turret  
Doors open at 6:00PM & dinner is at 6:30PM.  
Your ticket includes a three-course dinner and entertainment featuring DJ Dijon!  
Tickets are \$5.00 and are available at the U-Desk.

## THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

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### Colophon

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

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



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

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### Preamble to The Cord constitution

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

The staff of The Cord shall uphold all commonly held ethical conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or 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:  
“You're looking perky today.”  
—Graphics Editor Taylor Gayowsky to Photography Manager Rosalie Eid about her boobs.

# NEWS

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Inside	
Campus	4
Local	7
National	9



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

After 52 years of service across the street from Laurier, Forwell Super Variety will be closing at the end of the month.

## AC, study space get a boost

Student Life Levy projects approved

JUSTIN SMIRLIES  
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Students at Wilfrid Laurier University may be greeted with some improvements on campus next year, thanks to the Student Life Levy (SLL) fund.

Among some of the projects that were approved Tuesday morning by the SLL committee were renovations to the Athletic Complex's change rooms, the Solarium study space and many more.

"We had several products come to the committee [Tuesday] morning, and this particular committee that we have is mostly students and some university administration," said Nick Gibson, the president and CEO of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union and a member of the committee.

"SLL is not meant to be a fund that you take from multiple times, it's meant to be something that enhances student life and it's going to be there continually," he added.

With a pool of approximately \$650,000, the SLL committee heard from various groups and people on campus about their proposals. Each student, if they take four or five courses a semester typically pay around \$25 towards the SLL.

According to Gibson, the AC will get a dramatic facelift in terms of new lockers and other various renovations, all of which were not included in the original renovation plan for the AC.

As a result of contributing to this renovation, the SLL committee urged the university to contribute to new fitness equipment. However, these funds will not come from the SLL.

As for the Solarium study space, Gibson said the SLL will contribute to the renovation to create a more comfortable and quiet study space.

"Study space has been somewhat of an issue on this campus, but quiet study space is more of an issue, so I think that will be a real positive project for next year," he said, noting that the deferred maintenance costs will be covered by the university.

Some other projects included a video conferencing system that will be able to be used by the students' union, campus clubs and any other group on campus.

"Using technology to communicate will allow us to be a lot more efficient with our operations without having to travel," he continued.

Radio Laurier also received funding from the SLL for more digital remote equipment to more effectively broadcast sporting events and report from different areas on campus.

All the money, however, was not spent and Gibson noted that many projects at the presentations Tuesday morning had to be denied because they didn't have tangible plans once the SLL funding runs out.

At this point, most of the projects, in principle, are approved by the committee and will be implemented at some point next year.

"Most are approved in principle at this point, but there were some conditions placed on some of them that we need more information," he said. "[But] I'm pretty excited for all of them."

Other members of the committee include WLUSU board member Luke Dotto, chair of the WLUSU board Chris Walker, Laurier president Max Blouw and other members of the university administration.

# University not private buyer

—cover

explained. "You had to be on file, you know, and he did that and it was a really good service."

Joe's primary focus was to the students of Waterloo, and he catered to them in every way possible. From daily needs to holiday attire, Forwell's was, and will be until the end of the month, the place to go when you need a bag of milk or a St. Patrick's day headpiece.

"I think people just like it because it was around for so long," said Becky Macdonald, a third-year student at Wilfrid Laurier University.

"It was good for holidays and special events for the school, like homecoming," added Alana Clancy, also a third-year student at Laurier.

Numerous students have expressed their concern to Bonnie over the closing of Forwell's, praising the store for its convenience.

After Joe died in 2006, Bonnie took over the business and has worked to preserve her father's goal with the store.

"We just care, and we try to keep

"It's just time for this beautiful store to retire."

—Bonnie Forwell, owner, Forwell Super Variety

our prices very reasonable ... and a good selection of everything," she said. "As you can see, all the stuff that we have is for the students."

Bonnie was the first employee at Forwell's, starting work with her father when she was a little girl. She has managed Forwell's for the past six years.

"Absolutely the best thing about this store is the staff and the customers and what makes it so different and so unique is it's so personalized," she said.

But why is it time for the 52-year-old successful store to close?

"It's just time for this beautiful

store to retire," a tearful Bonnie said, as she re-counted the many memories shared there.

Although Bonnie expressed her sadness over the end of this chapter in her family's life, she said, "It's so hard to let this place go but if we can't have it, I'm glad that it's them that are taking it."

When asked who the property was sold too, Bonnie responded kindly, "It was a private sale to someone local, who cares about the area and the history, so I feel good about this."

When asked specifically about who the buyer was, Bonnie simply

stated that she "really rather not [say]. That's up to them to ... When they are ready, they will let everybody know."

Madeline Salerno, another student at Laurier, expressed her opinion on the potential buyer. "I wouldn't be surprised if Laurier bought it," she said.

Salerno wasn't alone in the suspicion that WLU may have been the private buyer to purchase Forwell's. Almost immediately after the sale of the iconic variety store was announced, rumours began to circulate that the university had purchased the property.

However, according to Laurier's vice president of finance Jim Butler, this is not the case. Butler asserted that WLU was not the private buyer. When asked about the matter by The Cord, Butler was unaware Forwell's had even been sold.

For now however, Forwell's remains open until the end of the month and will be having a party to celebrate the store's departure on March 31. All clients are welcome.

—With files from Justin Smirlies

### More News: inside

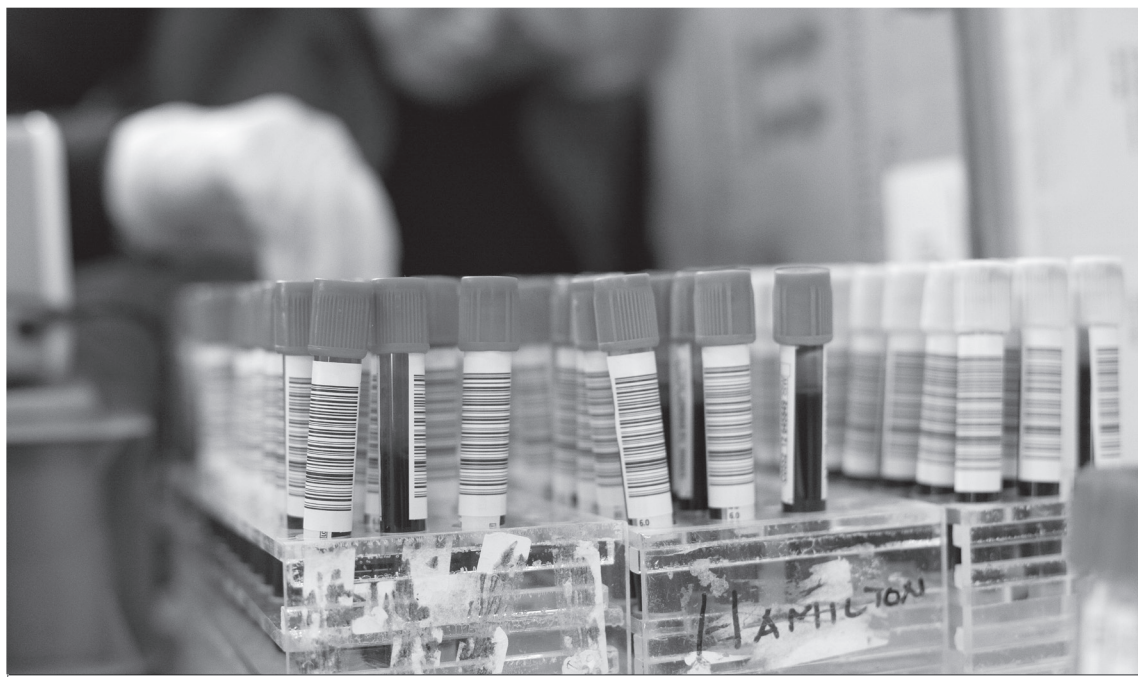


ROSALIE EID PHOTO MANAGER

American ambassador speaks at CIGI

National, page 9

## Laurier students donate blood

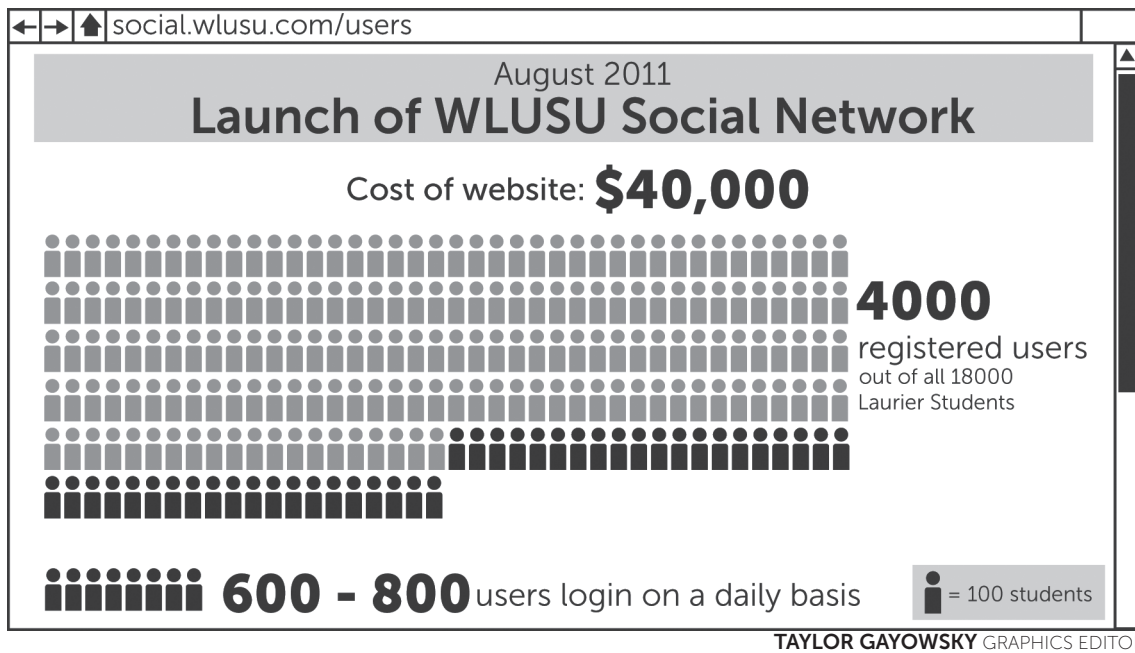


NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Canadian Blood Services collected 76 units of blood from donors on campus Tuesday, surpassing the quota of 70. Canadian Blood Services will be holding another donor clinic at Wilfrid Laurier University Oct. 11, 2012

# CAMPUS

Campus News Editor  
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## WLUSU social network aims to increase student traffic

ELIZABETH DICESARE  
STAFF WRITER

In August of 2011, the Wilfrid Laurier Students' Union (WLUSU) launched its new website, which included a new social network exclusively for students at Wilfrid Laurier University.

WLUSU was able to create the new social network because it came in a package with the new website they purchased.

Kat Lourenco, marketing communications manager at WLUSU, explained they were planning on launching a social network, so this package, "was just a bonus."

The entire website package cost WLUSU \$40,000. This cost, according to Nick Gibson, president and CEO of WLUSU, was less than half of what the former user charged and includes full use of the website, operating costs and the ability to add or remove functions on the website.

So far the website has served as a platform for WLUSU to advertise events and contests, as well as a network for students to engage in information and with each other.

"It's been really good to kind of have a platform where [WLUSU] can pull all of [its] content into one place," said Ryan Sweeney, WLUSU's

digital context coordinator. "It's one central hub where students can go and get all our information at once."

Many aspects of the site are similar to that of other social networks, such as Facebook. Students can create a profile, upload photos, join groups and discussions.

The main difference between the site and other social networks is that it is exclusively for WLU students.

"It's a private student network. To be able to gain access to it you need your student e-mail, which kind of gives Laurier students this exclusive hub to exactly what is going on across campus, and it's a little more legitimate since it's actually coming from [WLUSU], where in terms of Facebook it can be anyone posting anything," explained Sweeney.

There are also certain features, such as the Marketplace, that allow students to advertise rooms for rent and sell used textbooks.

However, only 4,000 WLU students are actual members of the site.

According to Sweeney, an average of approximately 600 to 800 users log in online per day, with the majority of these users being first year students.

Lourenco, Sweeney and Gibson all agreed that making the site

public has been one of the biggest challenges.

By launching it right before orientation week, many first years became involved, but getting senior students to interact with the site has been challenging.

Gibson also explained that the logistics of the site were challenging during the early stages of its production.

"How you structure [information] on one site can be totally different on another website," added Gibson. "And I think there are still adjustments to be made."

Despite these challenges, the site has been more successful than what was anticipated. Lourenco admitted that WLUSU was fully prepared for the site to fail.

"We are pleasantly surprised that ... people are using it," Lourenco said. "We've seen far more attention to content that students have uploaded than content that [WLUSU] uploads, so we try to stay away from stuff we're doing and encourage people to upload their own [content]."

As a result, WLUSU plans on keeping the site in the future, with the hopes that more students will find the site useful.

## Young entrepreneurs face off at Laurier

LiTC and SIFE host second annual competition last Friday

KATELYN CULLUM  
STAFF WRITER

On Friday evening, the Laurier Innovation and Technology Club (LiTC), and SIFE Laurier teamed up with the Schlegel Centre of Entrepreneurship to host the fifth annual Laurier Entrepreneurship Competition.

With over 20 applications to select from, a group of internal judges from WLU narrowed down the competition to five finalists in February. Those five contestants presented their ideas on March 2 to a panel of successful entrepreneurs, including Jeremy O'Kafka, Marc de Grave, Ted Hastings and Colleen Moorehead.

Moorehead was the featured keynote speaker prior to the presentations and when asked why she decided to be involved in this competition, she simply said, "I want to see Wilfrid Laurier excel in entrepreneurship and in business afterwards, I want to create more successful entrepreneurs coming out of Wilfrid Laurier."

Moorehead is a Laurier alumna and has over 26 years of experience in corporate management and the investment industry. She had some advice for any budding entrepreneurs hoping to get started in the business.

"Stay true to your goal and don't give up and be absolutely tenacious," said Moorehead.

And that is exactly what Jordan Hyde, the leader and innovator of Paydaytoday.com, did.

Hyde won first place in the competition on Friday, along with \$10,000 to help fund his company.

He was visibly ecstatic that his hard work, determination and dedication had paid off.

"It feels unbelievable," Hyde said. "I'm so happy and I really hope I can represent Laurier well in the Nicol competition in Ottawa. I've been working for a year on this, just so many hours and so much market research and I'm really, really happy that I got to share it with people who are other enthusiastic entrepreneurs

"Stay true to your goal and don't give up and be absolutely tenacious."

—Colleen Moorehead, keynote and Laurier alumna

and judges."

Hyde's business is essentially a payday loan company that operates online, giving customers, who find themselves in need of money before their payday or other source of income has arrived, the ability to apply for a payday loan and -- if their application is successful -- then the funds are directly deposited into their bank account.

As soon as their next payday comes, the money is immediately debited from their account and returned to the company.

Michael Gagliano, co-president and co-founder of LiTC, hoped that the event would help encourage young entrepreneurs in all programs at Laurier to present their ideas and kick start their business.

"This event, which is put on by a big group of volunteers, is really to give those student entrepreneurs a chance to showcase their ventures to the university, to the community, to the country and really help get them some funding to get things going," explained Gagliano.

The event was sponsored by numerous groups, with \$18,000 awarded in prizes overall for the top three competitors.

Hyde will go on to represent Laurier in the Nicol Competition in Ottawa in late March.

Concussion Toolbox was awarded second place and Waterloo Banking Project took third.

## Turning into 'media zombies'

JUSTIN FAUTEUX  
NEWS DIRECTOR

Our almost-constant use of media is turning us into zombies. But that's not necessarily a bad thing -- at least in Mark Deuze's eyes.

Deuze, a media researcher from Indiana University, was at Wilfrid Laurier University Monday afternoon giving a lecture entitled, 'Living in Media = Creating Art with Life' as part of the communications studies department's Media (t)ions speaker series, to celebrate the department's ten-year anniversary.

"Every study of media use concludes that we're doing more of it," said Deuze. "Using media has turned us into zombies and the reference here is usually that if we use media too much, our brain dies and we become a hoard of unruly people."

Deuze drew comparisons between the media culture of today and the zombies popularized by horror films by introducing the notion of being "together, alone."

"In every movie where we see zombies, they're never alone," he said. "They're not individuals, but

they're not a collective either."

Deuze went on to liken a hoard of zombies to a mass group of people in situations like the uprisings of the Arab Spring or the Occupy movement through an idea he called "impersonal sociality." He argued that in these mass movements, people cease to be individuals and become like a pack of zombies looking for brains to eat, a single mass working towards a goal.

"When someone was part of the Arab Spring, they ceased to be a man or a woman," continued Deuze.

It is in this blurring of categories that Deuze said his comparison between the people of today's media culture and zombies becomes favourable.

"There is something really powerful and good about being a zombie," he said. "By being a zombie, we can move past what is holding us back."

Deuze illustrated this point by referencing the recent reports of women's rights protesters being assaulted in Egypt.

During the uprising, he said, it didn't matter whether the protesters were men or women, they were

all part of the singular group of zombies.

Deuze also presented aspects of his recent "Media Life Project," in which he attempts to answer the question, "How can we live a good and beautiful life in media?"

"Switching [media] off is just an illusion," he said. "We live in media, not just with it."

Media, Deuze explained, has become "organic ... [and] almost impossible to detect." Which has led to the public using media up to three times more often than the even realize.

"I saw a survey that said 68 per cent of teens tweet right after having sex," said Deuze. "So even in the most intimate moments, we are not disconnected."

While acknowledging the problems with the hyper-use of media in contemporary culture, Deuze concluded that there are positives that come along with such a media-heavy society.

"The media of today, while having all kinds of flaws, do empower us," he said, referring to the ability people now have to control their own reality.



KATE TURNER LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER  
Mark Deuze, a prof at Indiana University, spoke at WLU on Monday.

# Tentative deal prevents potential work stoppage

Laurier administration, faculty association reach last-minute collective agreement; await ratification

**JUSTIN SMIRLIES**  
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

In the early hours of March 2, many students, faculty members and administration at Wilfrid Laurier University could finally stop holding their breath.

After months of collective bargaining and the increasing possibility of a faculty strike or lockout, the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA) and the university administration settled on a tentative deal around three o'clock Friday morning.

"I would say that both sides worked very hard to reach a deal that is good for everyone and I'm delighted that the effort and the good spirit prevailed," said Max Blouw, the president of WLU.

"It was that unfortunate that we came so close to a labour stoppage but that is the nature of negotiations and I'm very pleased with the outcome."

This tentative agreement, however, does not mean the process is complete. It'll have to be ratified by both the WLUFA and the university's board of governors, which, according to Judy Bates, the president

"It's not over until it's over, and the two key pieces now are that the union membership has to ratify it and the board of governors have to ratify it."

—*Deb MacLatchy, VP: academic at WLU*

of WLUFA, could occur next week.

Though ratification is still pending, the chances of a strike or lockout at this point are minimal.

"It's not over until it's over, and the two key pieces now are that the union membership has to ratify it and the board of governors have to ratify it," explained Deb MacLatchy, the vice president of academic and provost at Laurier.

"So I think we're in a very much position than we were last week, we still need those two bodies to also agree that it's a good deal."

MacLatchy added, "I'm 99 per cent sure that we will be able to continue on and not have job action, but there's always the chance that either side determines there remains issues and they don't want to ratify it."

On Feb. 10, 91 per cent of WLUFA voted in favour of a strike. Since negotiations were spiralling between the two parties, mediation was set for Feb. 29 and March 1.

"I think it's a fair deal for the university as well as a fair deal for faculty, and I'll be really happy when it gets ratified and then we'll get to move on to focusing on the work of the university, rather than negotiating on an agreement," continued MacLatchy.

While it may appear that the situation is at complete ease, many of the issues that the faculty were addressing, such as compensation, pension plans and alternative teaching streams, won't necessarily disappear.

"Probably most faculty

associations are engaged in discussions about pensions, because of the problems of the stock exchange and the problems on the low returns on pensions," explained Bates.

"Not everyone but some have been able to manage their affairs better than others, compensation is always an issue wherever faculty associations are in negotiations."

She added that professional teaching positions that are focused on teaching rather than research was something that Laurier in particular was trying to push, but with increasing dialogue on post secondary education currently occurring in Ontario, some other universities might be facing similar opposition.

Social media, specifically Twitter, played an important role in engaging the community and students in the process.

Although both the university and WLUFA were tweeting updates, WLUFA seemed to be more consistent at it — even right up to the point a collective agreement was announced.

Communication coming from both sides may have had an impression on students.

"I wouldn't know if it had any

impact particularly on the students, I think it was trying to keep them informed," continued Bates.

"The student body has no impact on whether or not we reach an agreement, clearly we are concerned about our students and I don't think for us to go on strike or there to be a lockout."

MacLatchy felt that the use of social media was particularly positive and it may have a larger role to play in future negotiations.

"I think that there's no doubt social media has changed the way universities and constituents, unions and associations will be bargaining in the future just because students live on social media and it's the way that both sides have to access that large body of stakeholders," she said.

As the ratification process begins, most of the faculty and administration can finally take a bit of break and focus back on the students.

"I'm just really, really happy that we have a tentative agreement and I look forward for it being finalized and ratified and focusing on the real work of the university and that's teaching and research," concluded MacLatchy.



**NICK LACHANCE** PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER  
A student visits an Islamic Culture booth in the Concourse for IAW.

## Promoting Islam and diversity on campus

**MARCIE FOSTER**  
LEAD REPORTER

Colourful fabrics, rich flavours, breathtaking artwork and henna. This week the Concourse at Wilfrid Laurier University is a cultural experience of the world of Islam. Sports, culture, arts and most importantly awareness are promoted this week by the WLU Muslim Students Association (MSA).

"We're here to celebrate the accomplishments of past and present Muslims, we have culture, arts and sports, and we talk a lot about women and their contributions in the past," said Semra Shaji, director for Islam Awareness Week.

As the first annual event and collaboration with the University of Waterloo, four lectures placing Islam in context of 21st century questions, including one on Sharia law, are being offered as part of the programming.

Snacks and fair trade goods from Ten Thousand Villages in Uptown

Waterloo are being offered to promote local businesses and free trade. A seating area with traditional rugs and decorations offered students a taste of both beauty and luxury, as well as an opportunity to play games.

Furthermore, there's table selling affordable and unique pieces of art from the Muslim community.

One of the most important facets of Islam Awareness Week is that it is not simply about the food or the country someone is from. "There are more Chinese Muslims [in the world] than there are Arab [Muslims]," Shaji explained.

Islam Awareness Week has a wide variety of literature available for anyone interested know more about anything Islam. Books written by converted Muslims, as well as small booklets with more information on the Qur'an are available.

Justine Kraemer, a second-year Biology student, was getting henna done at the booth. "I've never had it done before. It feels really cool. I

"We want to promote diversity, conversation, acceptance and build friendships."

—*Semra Shaji, director for Islam Awareness Week*

think Laurier really emphasizes tolerance and inclusivity and this is a part of that," she said.

"Who doesn't like free food? And really, to get a taste of a different culture's experiences," Shaji added.

"We want to promote diversity, conversation, acceptance and build friendships."

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# A call for 'No More Blood'

National tour takes a stop at Laurier

**MARISSA EVANS**  
STAFF WRITER

**MARCIE FOSTER**  
LEAD REPORTER

On Tuesday March 6, four speakers from Mexico related their stories regarding a topic many Canadians are unfamiliar with. Two presentations, entitled "No More Blood: Struggles for Peace and Human Rights in Mexico," were held in a Wilfrid Laurier University lecture hall and the Turret in the presence of both faculty and students.

The presentations were part of a Canadian tour that tells of the realities of what is currently happening in Mexico, and of the people lost.

Their focus was bringing awareness to the issue of human rights violation, economic inequality, and drug-related violence that is currently ravaging Mexico.

The first speaker, Dolores Gonzalez Saravia, a member of the Centre for Peace in Mexico City, addressed increasing violence and organized crime her country. Resultantly, is the displacement, injuring, disappearance, kidnapping and unjust imprisonment of people.

"The state of our democracy is very weak," explained Saravia. "We don't have true democracy."

Society is speaking out against the violence, however, demanding that the government provide more opportunities for youth and attack corruption.

Speaking on the topic of the indigenous population in Mexico was Vidulfo Rosales Sierra, a lawyer for the Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre in Tlapa de Comonfort, Guerrero. Rosales spoke of the destruction of the indigenous peoples' territory as a result of open mining.

"The territory is the basis of culture, for the construction of social relations for indigenous people," Sierra said. "If it is destroyed, the indigenous lives and way of living is destroyed."

Sierra explained how land is being open-mined and destroyed in the process.

Resources like lumber, water and minerals are being extracted from indigenous lands. He also touched on the persecution of defenders of human rights, who are unable to do their work and are unjustly imprisoned.

Yolanda Moran Isais is from the



ERIN SCHUT STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Speakers from the "No More Blood: Struggles for Peace and Human Rights in Mexico" tour.

United Forces for our Disappeared in Mexico in Saltillo, Coahuila. Her own son was abducted from her by the military three years ago. 18,000 others have disappeared in the country.

The wake of abductions and kidnappings spans Mexico's coasts. Isais explained that mostly young, strong people aged 18-32 are being kidnapped and forced into lives of organized crime. Often they are tourists.

Isais added that, "The government used the military to attack organized crime. However, the military has also violated lots of human rights."

Isais and other families are starting to search for their relatives themselves, as the authorities remain inactive. "Fear paralyzes," she digressed. "But you cannot do

anything with fear, especially as a relative of the disappeared."

Isais then asked for the support of Canadians; to raise awareness to stop the war and support human rights in Mexico.

Alberto Xicotencatl Carrasco, the director of the Migrants' Shelter at the Human Rights Centre of the Dioceses of Saltillo in Saltillo, Coahuila, spoke of the problems facing Central American migrants in Mexico. 300,000 Central Americans are illegally crossing Mexico, attempting to reach the United States.

In Mexico, they are victims of organized crime, frequently being kidnapped for ransom, used for sexual exploitation, and put to work.

"Public authorities often work with organized crime," Carrasco explained. He also noted that authorities are ignorant of this violence,

denying the kidnapping and murder of Central Americans within Mexico.

He also added that the act of kidnapping quickly became big business for organized crime. "When the War on Drugs started they charged you \$300 for your freedom, and now they charge \$3,000 to \$5,000."

Over 200 students attended the second lecture of the day, including 50 grade 12 students from a local high school. The lecture was followed with an opportunity to engage with the speakers through question and answer.

"This, in a democratic context, should not be happening," said Sierra. "Two student protesters, gone. Two environmental activists, disappeared."

"We need to raise awareness of what is going on."

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## Advocating for migrant workers

Two professors start interest group

**JACQUELINE SALOME**  
STAFF WRITER

As a result of the initiative taken by two Wilfrid Laurier University faculty members, the plights of migrant workers in Waterloo Region will be addressed.

Over the past month, Jenna Henneby and Janet McLaughlin, both assistant professors at WLU and affiliates of the university's International Migration Research Centre (IMRC), have founded the unprecedented Waterloo Region Migrant Workers Interest Group (WRM-WIG). Essentially, the group will form a loose network of individuals who are interested in supporting migrant workers in the region.

According to McLaughlin, the inspiration behind the creation of the group lied within the reality that such an assembly had not existed in the Region, despite other localities such as the Niagara Region taking steps towards forming similar groups.

After learning of the recent deaths of migrant workers in Waterloo region, such as the ten migrant workers in Perth County who died in a car accident in early February, both Henneby and McLaughlin realized that they could not wait any longer to provide support to migrant workers in the region.

"We're hoping that we have people who are interested in providing help to migrant workers like community health services, legal services and social support services who will come [to the meeting] and together we can find a way to make services more accessible to migrant workers," said McLaughlin.

She also emphasized that students or other interested community members are welcome to join the group as well.

WRMWIG will model itself around the Niagara Region migrant workers group that McLaughlin co-founded. Ideally it will provide social, medical, legal and education

support services depending on the support and help that the group can muster within the region at its inaugural meeting on the evening of March 6 in Kitchener.

The group will address the main concerns of Canadian migrant workers, including the worry of maintaining employment to subsequently maintain a residence, health and safety concerns, rights violations and the feelings of homesickness that stem from long absences from their families. It will also create a forum to inform workers of their rights and ensure their access to them.

There will be certain issues addressed by WRMWIG that are specific to migrant workers in Waterloo region as well, many of whom are originally from Latin America or the Caribbean and the Philippines and are working in agriculture or as live-in caregivers.

"Because Waterloo Region isn't a major centre of migrant worker employment and because it's such a diverse area, we find that the workers who live here are disconnected from each other and from the community," McLaughlin commented.

Thus one of the major challenges faced by WRMWIG in its initial stages will be to identify and locate the migrant workers in the region. McLaughlin noted that WRMWIG must also secure funding through fundraisers and other measures to ensure the sustainability of the group to ensure its success, as it has no funding as of yet. In addition, the group must attract a network of people who will carry the group forward in a committed way.

While there are national networks with similar causes, McLaughlin hopes that the creation of a group devoted to migrant workers in Waterloo Region will attract more regions to follow suit, creating a local network of support.

Students who may be interested can connect to WRMWIG via e-mail or Facebook.

## LOCAL

Local Editor  
Amanda Steiner  
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NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO

## Development halts in student neighbourhood

Northdale development on hold until completion of study

**JUSTIN SMIRLIES**  
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

For the time being, it looks like no new residential construction will be happening in the Northdale neighbourhood, despite the fact that phase three of the Northdale Land Use and Community Improvement Land study was endorsed by the Waterloo City Council Monday evening.

With pressure from the Northdale Special Project Committee (NSPC) and the two universities surrounding the neighbourhood, the council decided to enact an immediate pause of construction of up to one year for any new developments in that area that have yet to receive a building permit.

"We were concerned with the trajectory of how the neighbourhood seems to be on. I spoke to my counterpart at the University of Waterloo and he shares my concerns so the two of us went and spoke," president of Wilfrid Laurier University Max Blouw told The Cord in regard to discussions with Feridun Hamdullahpur, president of the University of Waterloo.

He added that the committee didn't feel the existing construction was matching up with the vision of the study.

The interim control by law will exempt and not halt any developments on properties that have already acquired a building permit in Northdale, the portion of land that is surrounded by King Street, Phillip Street, Columbia Street and University Avenue.

The exemptions include approximately 13 properties. "I understand inherently that it could be a year but a best case scenario we could be out of this in four months, if this is a direction we go I would like some stronger wording here [in the by-law]," said Scott Witmer, councillor for Waterloo Ward One.

Since the study is expected to be

"We can learn from their mistakes [...] and we will have that opportunity if we pause this."

—Feridun Hamdullahpur, president of the University of Waterloo

completed by June, the council can appeal the interim by-law by then.

The land use study is still on-going, and Blouw and Hamdullahpur believe that the pause in any new construction will ensure that the vision for Northdale remains on track. Presented to council last November, the land use study envisions a neighbourhood of medium-high density mix use buildings, open green space and a "vibrant" community by 2029.

Chris Tyrell, the consultant team project manager for the study from MMM consulting group, presented phase three of the study to the council. "The study takes an integrated approach to land use, urban design and in the community improvement planning in that it provides both, say your 'sticks and carrots,'" said Tyrell.

Tyrell added that many members of the community, at the last public open house, have requested that Veterans' Green, the small part at the intersection of Hazel Street and University Avenue, remain untouched. They also insisted on more open green space, parks and courtyards.

The study also mentioned that 11,500 to about 15,900 new bedrooms can be constructed in the neighbourhood by 2029.

Though they approve of the vision

of the study, Blouw and Hamdullahpur at the meeting argued that the current construction wasn't in the best interests of students.

"We see buildings where students are packed in with no regard for features that support student mental and physical health," Blouw explained at the meeting. "We believe the result over time will be a student ghetto."

Hamdullahpur echoed Blouw's sentiments, "We can learn from their mistakes [of other student ghettos at other universities], and we will have that opportunity if we pause this."

These notions and the proposed pause didn't go without its opponents, many of whom were lawyers representing large residential development firms.

"I know currently, if we are truly thinking about the students, about their livelihood, their mental health, their physical health. Most landlords are not allowed to legally place more than one student in a bedroom, unlike the universities who are able to put two or three people in a room," argued Dave Novis, a delegation speaking against the proposed pause.

Others argued that it was way too late to impose a pause on construction and it should have been done well before the land use study was implemented. This immediate pause, according to Jeff Henry, the councillor for Ward Six, which embodies Northdale, was necessary.

"It's important to see all issues together, I think this gives the study the necessary footing to be as successful as possible while being fair and reasonable to everybody to has played by the rules and answered the city's call for more building intensification," he told The Cord, following the meeting.

"But we're now not going just for intensification, but for re-urbanization. A better Northdale and a better community for everybody," he said.

## Kitchener Aud set to expand in 2013

**AMANDA STEINER**  
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

Kitchener city councillors are set to borrow approximately \$9.6 million so the Kitchener Rangers Hockey Club can add 1,000 new seats to the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium. The debate and analysis of the expansion project has been going on for three years and it set to begin in January.

Since the 2000-01 season, the Rangers have averaged approximately 5,843 fans per game, which when compared to the total fixed-seating capacity of the Aud, would represent near or full capacity.

"An extensive parking study was done by a consultant in advance of the approval of the expansion," said Ken Carmichael, supervisor of traffic and parking for the city of Kitchener. "And what it indicated was that 2.3 persons per vehicle on average are what show up to the Rangers games. So, based on that 1,000 seat expansion, we're expecting about 385 additional parking spaces that will be needed."

From an entertainment event perspective, the Kitchener market is often seen as a relatively robust industry. However, according to the City of Kitchener Memorial Complex Goals and Needs Feasibility Review, the Aud is located in the middle of a highly competitive market between London, Hamilton and Toronto. Therefore, the extension of the Aud is expected to increase the revenue profits overall.

However, a main concern for the people of Kitchener is the amount

of disruption this expansion would cause in the surrounding area.

"There's a number of measures being put in place to reduce the parking demand," Carmichael said. "An expansion in the [existing] parking lot somewhere in the area 50 spaces [will be] added. At the same time we are also looking to implement shuttle locations around K-W. Tentatively, we have eight locations established."

Other ways the city plans to reduce parking or traffic congestion is to change one of the main lots with access off Ottawa street to a carpool lot that will only allow people to have a minimum of three people per car or more to use that lot.

Another proposal being considered is to implement a VIP parking lot, in an even a better location than the carpool lot, on a smaller scale right by the Rangers' offices. "There's a number of people that would be prepared to pay a certain amount to use that exclusive lot," Carmichael explained. "What the benefit there is, is it will generate extra money to the Rangers to hopefully develop additional parking on site down the road."

"Through those measures, we're confident that the overall parking demands for the Aud is not going to increase based on what it is today," Carmichael said. "There will be more seats, but at the end of the day hopefully we're looking at the same, or similar number of vehicles coming out of the site — maybe less down the road if we continue to work on these transportation demand management practises."

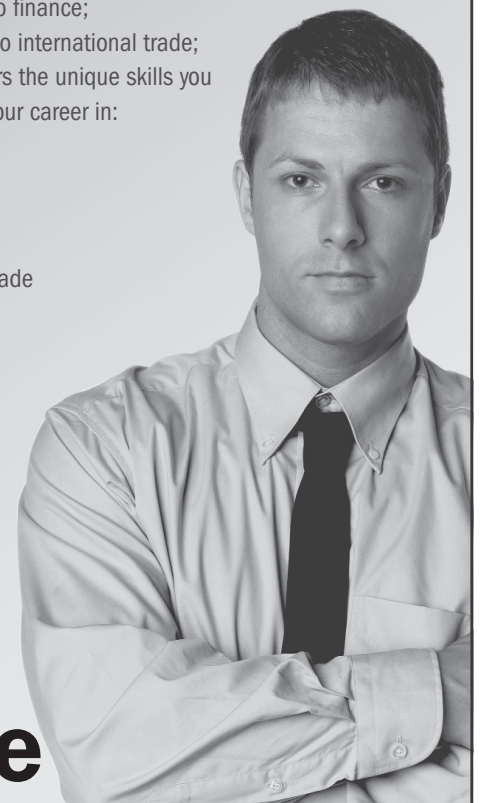
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# Local burger joints square off for charity

Bauer Kitchen and Chainsaw host first annual Burger Badanga

ALANNA FAIREY  
STAFF WRITER

Despite a blackout plaguing most of the Waterloo Region, Uptown Waterloo bar Chainsaw Saloon and the Bauer Kitchen were still able to successfully run the first annual Burger Badanga which raised money for Habitat for Humanity.

On Feb. 29 local eateries, Frat Burger, The Bauer Kitchen, Uptown 21 and Hogtails met at Chainsaw to take part in a friendly burger competition.

The participants and representatives for Habitat for Humanity who bought tickets to the event, sampled burgers from each enterprise and then voted on which burger they thought was the best.

Little Mushroom Catering supplied hors d'oeuvres, while The Flying Monkey provided the alcohol. Drew Leith and The Foundation acted as entertainment for the evening, alternating between performing songs and emceeing.

Ryan Good, owner of Chainsaw, began organizing the event with Matt Kendrick, the head butcher at Bauer Kitchen, in October. They then got in contact with other burger enterprises that they both were friends with and were also passionate about the community. After much discussion, Good and Kendrick settled upon Habitat for Humanity as their charity, as they

“During these economic times, housing is essential and it’s only going to get worse.”

—Ryan Good, owner of Chainsaw

represent togetherness and continued goodness.

“It’s a local charity and they do great things for the community,” Good explained. “During these economic times, housing is essential and its only going to get worse.”

“This time of year, especially in the winter time, Habitat for the community has been getting people in housing and whatnot and that is the perfect thing right now. We wanted to make tonight a fun night and donate all the proceeds to the charity,” Kendrick added.

The event took place on the Leap Day. Both Good and Kendrick claim that the decision to have the charity event on the Leap Day was not arbitrary, as it emphasizes not only a unique change in the month, but

also a change for one to make in regards to charity involvement.

One patron, Susan Prange, won her ticket to the Burger Badanga through a contest on Facebook and she happily attended the event to support Habitat for Humanity. For Prange, the charity and the event itself demonstrate the first step of changing the world on a smaller scale.

“If you don’t have locals donating and doing things for the local community, then the community can’t help the broader community of the world. You have to start at home first,” Prange reasoned.

On a much lighter topic, Prange began to put in her predictions about who would win the burger competition that evening.

Although she is a big fan of the food that is served at Bauer Kitchen, Prange noted that the burgers from Hogtails are just as appetizing.

After four rounds of eating the different burgers, the night ended with Hogtails winning the competition based on the judges’ choice, while Uptown 21 won based on the participants’ choice. However, Good claims that there will be a second annual Burger Badanga for new winners in 2013.

“We’re going to do another Burger Badanga next year. It might not always be the same businesses, but we’re always going to be doing this,” Good concluded.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Janine Hodder enjoys a burger from Nick and Nat’s at last Wednesday’s Burger Badanga at the Chainsaw Saloon.

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## K-W in brief

### New transit director needed

Waterloo Region must now search for a new director for its rail transit project as current director Nancy Button will be leaving for a consulting job in Toronto. Construction is aimed to begin in 2014, with operations beginning in 2017. Anticipated project costs are \$818 million, with \$565 of the funding being provided by the federal government.

Boathouse patio to the water front during festivals and at night. While Doyle is concerned about how this plan will impact both customers and servers, most councillors viewed the plan as a mutually beneficial agreement.

### Pathway and patio proposed for the Boathouse

Negotiations on the proposal to build a pathway and patio at the Boathouse in Victoria Park have come to a close, with a compromise being reached between operator Kevin Doyle and Kitchener city councillors. Voting was seven for and three against for a plan which will see a gated lake-side pathway which will be closed to extend the

### Man pleads guilty to robberies

Matthew Butcher, a 29-year-old Kitchener man, pleaded guilty in a Kitchener court on Mar. 6 to committing two robberies using a fake handgun. Butcher told the Court how on Jan. 17 he robbed a man in a parking garage on York St. in Kitchener after securing him to a chair with a metal cable. He later entered a pharmacy on Park St. where he received OxyContin and Percocet from the pharmacist, whom he had threatened with the imitation gun.

—All compiled by Lindsay Purchase

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## NATIONAL

National Editor  
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## Fostering a culture for innovation



United States ambassador David Jacobson presented a Canada, United States innovation partnership lecture at CIGI Wednesday Feb. 29

RAVI BALAKRISHNAN  
STAFF WRITER

"Each of our countries has a long history of resilience, the world has not done well betting against our people," began United States ambassador to Canada David Jacobson Feb. 29 at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) in Waterloo.

People from across Waterloo, including notables such as former co-CEO of Research in Motion Jim Balsillie, gathered at CIGI to discuss the Canada-U.S. innovation partnership.

"Innovation has been the engine of economic growth for millennia, entire civilizations have been built on innovative ideas," said Jacobson as he made reference to a *New York Times* article by Jon Gertner, which he discussed throughout the evening.

The *New York Times* article, titled "True Innovation," discussed the tremendous innovation that the Bell Labs experienced from the 1920s-1980s, when they were one of the

most productive research labs in the world. Their impressive, lengthy list of inventions included the solar cell, the laser and very importantly the transistor. The transistor is a fundamental constituent of all modern digital devices.

Jacobson discussed what the three keys to success at Bell Labs were, and how they revolutionized technology.

"Physical proximity to everything, thinkers and doers under one roof, physicists, metallurgists and engineers having lunch together," he started off, expanding on the importance of communicating ideas among professions and even across disciplines. This is a practice that is becoming increasingly uncommon in today's communications-focused society, "If you don't take the time to do that, all of our innovation suffers," said Jacobson.

"One other unfortunate consequence of our move from manufacturing toward a service economy, is this cross-fertilization between research and application is just more difficult when the manufacturing

takes place 10,000 miles away," explained Jacobson, citing another advantage that the Bell Labs had as they redefined communications technology in the 20th century.

"The third key to success in Bell Labs was the time frame that they operated in, but simply people were given the time to work through the discovery process. It took years to invent the transistor and during that time the researchers were given free hand. The market place was not demanding that lasers be invented by the third quarter of the year or else the analysts would downgrade your stock," joked Jacobson, about the nature of today's highly competitive economic environment that is driven by results on a quarterly basis.

According to Jacobson, the stringent timelines in today's technology industry are arguably hindering the potential for innovative breakthrough and, "Somehow, we have to allow at least parts of our great companies in North America to get out of this tyranny of quarterly sales and profits, in order for them to innovate."

ROSALIE EID PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

## Canada in brief

## Harper proposes new budget

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's cash-strapped government is attempting to balance its books on the back of the provinces. The premiers of Ontario and Quebec according to CBC News say they fear more responsibilities will be downloaded to the provinces in the federal budget later this month. Harper Conservatives are supposedly headed in that direction by passing on the costs of health care and their crime bill to the provinces. Ottawa used to provide half the funding for health care, but it has steadily declined to 20 per cent, according to the article.

## Tory MP apologises

According to CBC News Canada, a Conservative MP who called two veterans' advocates "NDP hacks" and "Putin supporters" after they criticized him for falling asleep during a veterans affairs committee meeting in Halifax has formally apologized in the House of Commons for his comments. He was quoted by CBC saying that he wished "to express my sincere apology for my comments with respect to Mr. [Jim] Lowther and Mr. David MacLeod. Further, I want to apologize for any offence my comments may have caused veterans or anyone else."

## Threats to Toews

It was decided by the Speaker of the House of Commons Andrew Scheer that the videos posted online by the group Anonymous about Public Safety Minister Vic Toews constitute a direct threat to him and all MPs. According to CBC News, Scheer said he carefully reviewed the Anonymous videos, and said "the language used does indeed constitute a direct threat to the minister in particular, as well as all other members."

-Compiled by Amanda Steiner

## Research breakthrough at University of Alberta

ANDREW JEFFREY  
THE GATEWAY

EDMONTON (CUP) — A University of Alberta team has made a breakthrough in hepatitis C research, creating a vaccine that could potentially combat all forms of the liver-destroying virus.

The vaccine was developed by Michael Houghton, a U of A researcher who first discovered the hepatitis C virus (HCV) in 1989. The vaccine exposes the human body to a non-infectious sub-unit of the HCV so that it can begin developing antibodies to protect against the virus. These antibodies are able to cross-neutralize against the seven genotypes of the virus.

"Previously, many people believed that the virus was impossible to neutralize with just one type of vaccine because there are so many different genotypes," explained John Law, a member of the U of A research team. "This is a proof of principle finding — showing that we can make a vaccine that can allow cross-protections of many different varieties of the hepatitis C virus."

Houghton began developing a vaccine more than a decade ago, and was recruited by the U of A's Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology three years ago to continue his research. Law attributes much of the success of their team to Houghton's dedication.

"We didn't really make anything special. Mostly it's been the efforts of Dr. Houghton. We've persisted

and been able to go through the hurdles of finally getting the samples, getting the trial, and eventually testing the results and being able to find out the answer," Law said.

"He stayed with his idea and eventually carried it out to a point where now we can see there is a very good potential for things that are going to happen."

Law said an obstacle in creating the vaccine is the HCV's ability to mutate quickly and exists in a variety of genotypes, similar to AIDS.

Law predicts that it will still take another five to seven years before the vaccine is ready to be released. The research has only completed the first of three phases needed for the FDA to approve the vaccine. Although its safety has already been tested, the vaccine will require further testing in a clinical setting.

The vaccine has already been presented by the research team to various other members of the virology community.

Last weekend, the team travelled to Montreal to present their findings at a Canadian symposium for hepatitis C. Law is hopeful that the team can improve upon their vaccine further before releasing it to the public.

"We're basically trying to understand those antibody responses, and trying to find out which part of the sub-unit the antibody recognizes. There might be some common area between the genotypes that the antibody can see that is therefore blocking infections of HCV," Law explained.

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# The future freed

Staff Writer **Colleen Connolly** consults the experts on three science fiction films whose de

## NASA's seven most plausible science fiction films

1. *Gattaca* (1997)
2. *Contact* (1997)
3. *Metropolis* (1927)
4. *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (1951)
5. *Woman in the Moon* (1929)
6. *The Thing from Another World* (1951)
7. *Jurrasic Park* (1993)

## NASA's seven least plausible science fiction films

1. *2012* (2009)
2. *The Core* (2003)
3. *Armageddon* (1998)
4. *Volcano* (1997)
5. *Chain Reaction* (1996)
6. *The Sixth Day* (2000)
7. *What the #\$!@? Do We Know?* (2004)

"All good science fiction has a basis in something that is plausible," stated professor Tristan Long of Wilfrid Laurier University's science faculty. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) couldn't agree more. With a particular emphasis on what constitutes the "good", NASA scientists compiled a list last year of the most plausible science fiction movies to ever hit the silver screen. Lead by *Gattaca*, *Contact* and *Metropolis*, the list included films which showcased the predicted potential of new and advancing technologies. But what made these three place first?

### *Gattaca*

*Gattaca*, a film released in 1997, depicts a dystopian world in which a person's social status is determined by their genetics due to the process of embryo screening and sequencing. Embryo screening requires in-vitro fertilization, which allows an egg to be fertilized outside of the body so that the zygote may be screened for genetic disorders before implantation. The result is that parents can have a better idea and even a say in their child's level of health.

"In the movie what they do is at birth they do a genetic sequence of the entire genome of a baby," explained Long. "They'll run it through a computer and that computer says this individual is of high genetic quality or of possible inferior genetic quality."

In *Gattaca*, every individual's genetics are revealed and judged at birth, placing them into societal categories. These technologies not only exist in modern science but are still evolving and developing.

"In the 90s, we got to our first sequencing of a human genome," said Long. "The cost has gone down, the speed has gone up, and it's now possible to sequence in greater detail, much faster and much cheaper."

Problematically, *Gattaca's* characters use their technology in an unjust manner. They assume a person's destiny can be determined explicitly by their genetics when in fact, there are various factors which play into how a life unfolds.

"We're not at a point where we can predict a person's life based on their genes," remarked Long, though he stated that humans have potential to go down that road. "We could get to this dystopia in *Gattaca* where people [are] no longer judging people based on their own performances but based on their DNA sequences."

### *Contact*

Like *Gattaca*, *Contact* was first released in 1997. Unlike typical space-based science-fiction films of the time, which were known to feature men in platinum suits battling elaborate alien species, *Contact* is built around solid physics.

"The thing that is different about *Contact* is that it was written by a physi-

cist, Carl Sagan," said Laurier

of course a lot of good science

In the film, a scientist rece

a machine which will enable

"A wormhole is, in principl

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Like many other "space m

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—Tristan Long, biology profes

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the universe as a whole has a

What keeps us from know

nearest stars we found that s

there, are at least a hundred y

Ghose. "So two hundred year

"There are significant barr

tween civilizations. We'd hav

both ends."

**Metropolis**

*Metropolis*, a silent film from

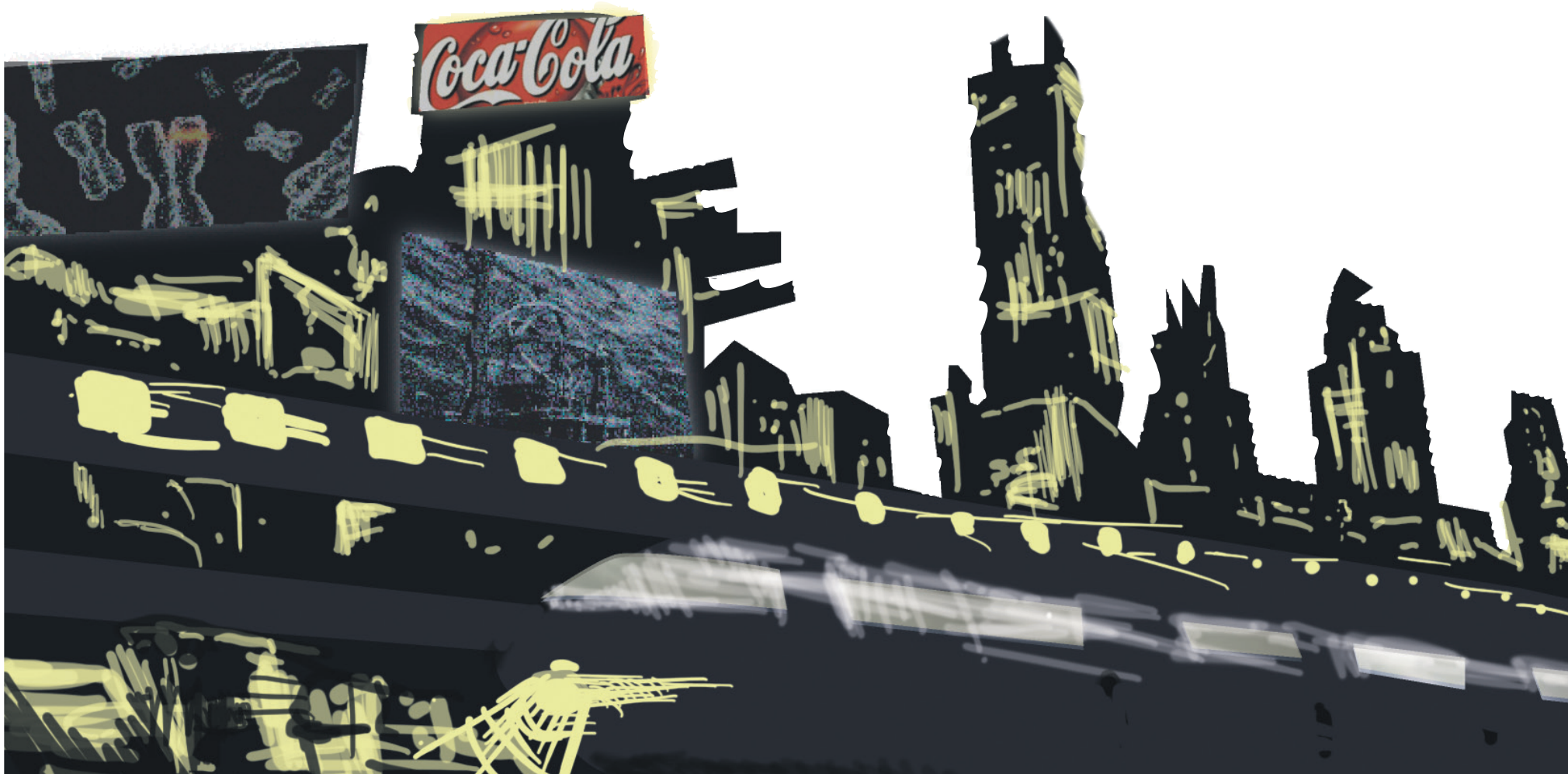
list.

It distinguishes itself due to

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Laurier economics profess



# anks me out

epictions of a fantastical future have come to life before our eyes

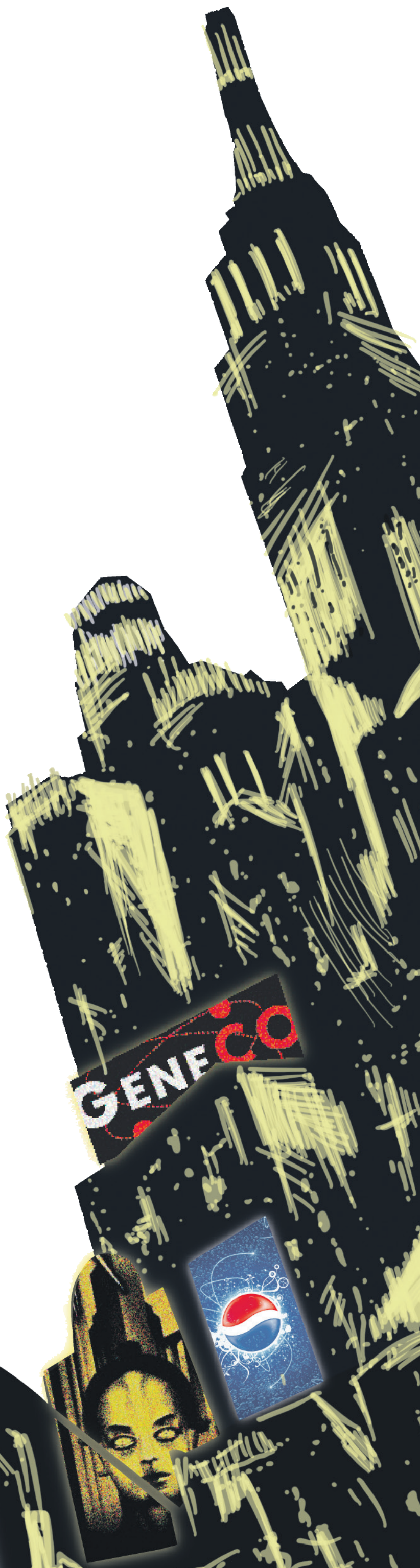
astronomy professor Shohini Ghose. "There's the background there."  
ives signals from aliens baring instructions for her to travel through space by wormhole.  
e, really possible in the sense that it is predict- of physics," explained Ghose.  
heory of General Relativity... when you have t stars and so on, they actually can affect, liter- ime around them," Ghose elaborated. "So they f you fold it enough, you can get these interest- nnel through space time and that's what we  
movies," *Contact* operates on the premise that niverse.  
bility that there is alien life out there?" Ghose

is dystopia... where people  
ging people based on their  
but based on their DNA."

galaxy alone has a hundred billion stars and hundred billion galaxies. That's a huge place." ving for sure is the matter of time. "Even the seem vaguely possible that there might be life ears in terms of one way communication," said s later, we would get a signal back - maybe." iers to being actually able to communicate be- ve to get to a certain level of advancement on

1927, completes the top three films of NASA's  
o its lack of an entirely scientific premise, com- omy in the setting of a dystopian society where ildings over the poor working beneath them.  
sor Tammy Schirle explained that at the time

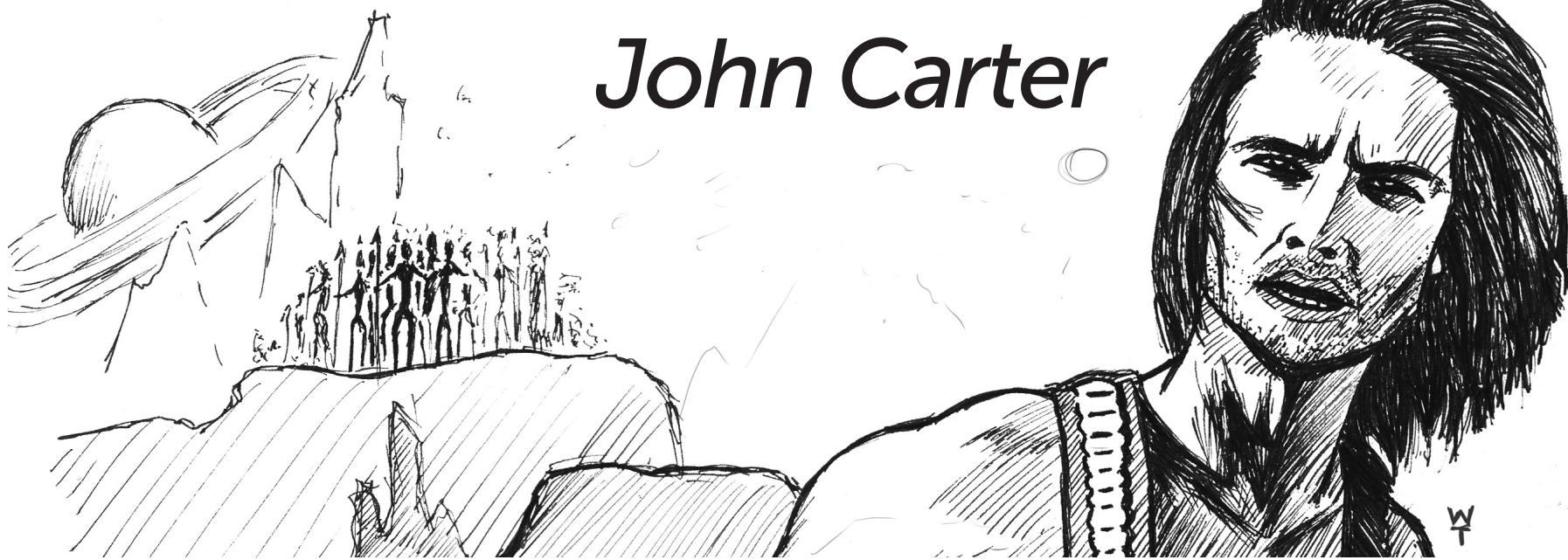
that the film was released, this was a genuine fear.  
"There was no social safety net in the 1920s," Schirle told *The Cord*. "If you're laid off you get nothing. That's the reality of the 1920s."  
This made the threat of such a division between the upper and lower class of society feasible and the fear has returned to an extent in modern times following the recession.  
"There is a growing separation between the very rich and the middle class," admitted Schirle, "And there's a smaller gap between the middle class and [the] very poor."  
However, Schirle stated that social programs will prevent the rich from ever truly overpowering the poor. "We've put mechanisms in place to make sure that never happens," she concluded.  
Perhaps the reason NASA chose this particular film was its portrayal of the first humanoid robot to be seen on the silver screen.  
Robotics is a recognized field and the idea of humanoid robots have nearly been made into a reality due to advancements made through ideas such as artificial intelligence.  
"Robotics has a lot to do with artificial intelligence," said Laurier professor of computer science Ilias Kotsireas. "A lot of the algorithms developed in artificial intelligence are also used in robotics."  
"The idea of artificial intelligence was, in the beginning, that we were going to teach the computer how to think and then the computer would be able to think by itself," he continued.  
"This aim proved to be too ambitious so it hasn't happened yet. However, the algorithms and the techniques that were developed in the realm of artificial intelligence proved to be very important in a whole array of disciplines and one of them was robotics."  
Science fiction is the elaboration of ideas, as is all fiction. But every great achievement starts with an idea, and those featured here are approaching actuality.  
"We are between science fiction and reality," stated Kotsireas. Recalling the innovative author who pioneered the genre, Jules Vern, Kotsireas added, "Back when there were no airplanes, he was writing about machines that could fly. He was a visionary, and there are visionaries today."



## ARTS

Arts Editor  
Liz Smith  
lsmith@thecord.ca

# Kitsch and Stanton discuss *John Carter*



LIZ SMITH  
ARTS EDITOR

Taylor Kitsch has worked with some of Hollywood's greatest actors — from Kyle Chandler and Liam Neeson to John Travolta, Oliver Stone and Selma Hyeck.

"I had to put them all on my back, all of them," the actor joked in a conversation with *The Cord* from his home in Austin, Texas.

Kitsch's acting career was jump-started by his portrayal of Tim Riggins on the NBC series, *Friday Night Lights*. The show, adored by fans and critics alike, developed a cult following, with Riggins as one of the series most revered characters. The 30-year-old British Columbia native used notoriety earned portraying Riggins to earn roles in *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* and *The Bang Bang Club*.

Kitsch's most recent project, *John Carter*, saw the actor paired with

Andrew Stanton, two-time Oscar winner and the creative director behind *Wall-E* and the *Toy Story* trilogy.

Of Stanton, Kitsch delivered candid praise, "For what he's achieved, you're dealing with a guy who has zero ego. I think that's why this movie is what it is. I would go to war with this guy, you know. I would do whatever it took to do justice with him."

*John Carter*, based on the sci-fi stories of Edgar Rice Burroughs, is the story of a Civil War veteran transported to Mars. There, he discovers a lush planet inhabited by 12-foot tall barbarians. Stanton employed the same technology utilized in James Cameron's *Avatar* to shoot and record actors playing these barbarians, called Tharks.

To *The Cord*, director Andrew Stanton explained the journey of *John Carter* — from Burroughs' classic stories to the big screen. "The harsh truth of it is, not many

people know about it. It's not like *Harry Potter* or *Tolkien*. There wasn't this massive social pressure about how it was executed."

"I'm a huge fan," continued Stanton, "I've read the books my whole life — I'm probably one of the more rabid fans. I didn't want it screwed up. That's how I got pregnant with this idea."

"I was telling Disney, when the property suddenly went back to the estate in 2006, I told them you've got to make this. I want to see this on screen. I've been waiting 35 years. Suddenly, they said yes and gave it to me."

"To breathe life into Stanton's childhood dream, I think that's a pretty amazing thing to do and be a part of," said Kitsch.

After Disney agreed to make the film with Stanton attached, the challenge lay in how best to approach the making of the film. "My interest was, what's the timeless

human aspect about the characters. That will always speak to me, no matter what's going on in the world," said Kitsch.

"Having a person that discovers that they think they're purpose is life is over and was misguided to begin with, suddenly find they really do fit in, I think that's what all of us are searching to do."

"That's why you're all in college, right, you're all trying to figure out 'where do I fit' and 'what's my true calling?'"

A ten minute preview of the film released Sunday by Disney in anticipation of its Friday release suggests that *John Carter* will contain more grit and substance than media campaigns have led the public to believe. Fans of *Breaking Bad* will be pleased to see Brian Cranston in the role of a U.S. cavalryman.

Both Stanton and Kitsch reflected on the intense physical challenges the film presented. Stanton, whose

resume consists primarily of animated films, explained the unique filming situation, joking, "Animators don't stand up. They sit all the time. And you're doing it under a very tight schedule, whereas you have sort of banker's hours when you're doing animation. The big difference is physical stamina. I know that's not sexy, but it's the truth of it."

"You're on bended knees at times, not even able to walk to set you're so exhausted. It was a test of how many days you question the love of your work because you just want to sleep another eight hours," agreed Kitsch.

The finished product, according to the director, is well worth the physical hardships the cast had to overcome.

"It's all in the journey of wanting a sort of one-of-a-kind adventure."

## Slam poet for women's rights

DANIELLE DMYTRASZKO  
ARTS WRITER

On Tuesday night, Brooklyn based slam poet Carlos Andrés Gómez performed to a large crowd at the Turret nightclub. In partnership with K-W Poetry Slam and the White Ribbon Campaign, the largest effort in the world of men working to end violence against women, Gómez discussed his desire to use his voice to help end instances of violence. Since its inception in 1991, the White Ribbon Campaign has expanded its reach to over 55 countries worldwide. Notably, Tuesday's performance fell on March 8, International Women's Day.

In an intimate workshop earlier the same day, students had the pleasure of caucusing and sharing viewpoints with Gómez on masculinity, misogyny and racism.

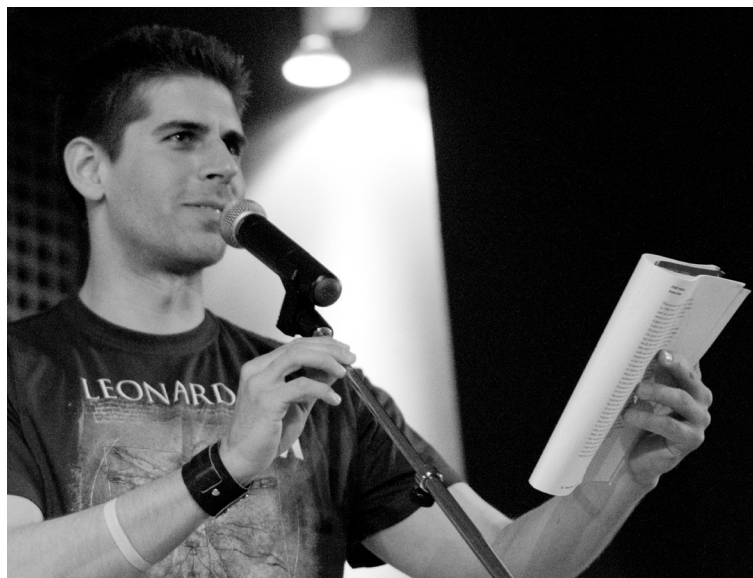
During the workshop, Gómez quoted famed author Noam Chomsky, saying, "The educated elite can be the most powerful demographic in the world."

During the Turret performance, the audience congregated together to engage in a discourse on the problem of violence. Taking the stage, Gómez effectively communicated his passionate belief in the importance of men joining the movement.

Gómez's prolific career is constantly expanding and the poet is currently enjoying the success of starring in HBO's *Def Poetry*.

In an interview with *The Cord*, Gómez shared wisdom gained on his journey to success, saying, "It's a hustle to be anything. Whatever you love to do and whatever you are passionate about, do that."

"More and more of my work is



ROSALIE EID PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Poet performs at event sponsored by LSSA, LSPIRG and CICIDA.

deeply personal, about my life and my own experiences. I think when you share stories about your life that are really personal, they inherently resonate, regardless of how complicated and loaded their feelings may be," said Gómez to *The Cord*.

A part of his *Behind the Masc* Tour, each poem performed on Tuesday night encompassed passion, generated incredibly thought provoking verses and recounted his personal experiences.

Gómez began his performance by urging the audience to take an introspective look at the emotion of love. Asking for a show of applause from those who were, or had previously been in love, Gómez proceeded to recite, "Everything," a poem that accounted various euphoric experiences in an attempt to explain the beautiful feeling of love.

Telling the audience, "The curse

of art is you have to write the whole thing." Gómez recited the poem "Distinctly Beautiful," a tragic retelling of his teenaged female students who had constantly been victimized and oppressed by society.

"Me sharing my vulnerable and scary fragmented stories have been a way for me to connect with people," explained the poet.

Gómez's upcoming memoir "Man Up," due this fall, attempts to deconstruct the archetypal portrayal of man through personal experience.

Gómez ended his powerful performance with the impactful poem "What is Genocide," admittedly the most literal poem he has written. There was no lack of emotion as Gómez walked off the stage on the brink of tears.

"There is infinite power in following your path of passion, purpose and charisma."

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# Double-bill of comic operas

Laurier president and vice-chair Max Blouw appeared in singing and acting cameo during weekend's performances

**MACKENZIE KING**  
ARTS WRITER

The faculty of music brought music fans a "delightful double-bill" of Canadian comic operas this past weekend. Audiences were treated to three showings on Friday and Saturday evenings with a Sunday matinee.

The double-bill was a meticulously polished performance that highlighted the talent of students involved. Leslie De'Ath, musical director for the performances, touched upon the preparation and final product of the shows, saying, "They had enough rehearsal time because they were shorter shows, it was only an hour and a quarter long. The kids knew it really well, it held together very nicely."

The first performance, *Gisela in her Bathtub*, was a short opera about a young lady reading a ninth century Viking novel. Most of the comedy surfaced from the clever interactions between modern-day *Gisela* and the Vikings, who acted out and sung what she was reading.

This performance was simple in plot and setting, but difficult in vocals. The female lead *Helga*, played by Karina Bay for the Sunday show, was challenged with a tough vocal score but delivered a flawless performance. Giancarlo Lisi, playing *Olaf* as the male lead, was overshadowed vocally by Bay, but compensated with excellent acting and expression.

*Gisela in her Bathtub* proved to be a simple but clever performance that balanced out its stale background plot by effectively using contemporary comedy and a dynamic musical

score.

The second show, *City Workers in Love*, stole the double-bill and emerged as a multi-leveled story with well-written humour and a complex musical score. What started as a seemingly foolish tale of incompetent workers eventually turned into a comedic love story punctuated brilliantly by its colourful cast.

De'Ath spoke about how complex a performance *City Workers in Love* turned out to be, saying, "[*City Workers in Love*] was longer, but it was also much more difficult musically with a lot of ensemble singing, which takes much longer to rehearse." The cast came together very well to create this complex piece that typically had 10-15 people on the stage at a time.

*Romeo*, played by Adam Dyjach, excelled at both singing and acting and made for a strong lead character.

Dyjach managed to encapsulate the tale of the underdog love story meanwhile mastering comedic timing and consistently hitting difficult notes. Such notes, explained De'Ath, "Compare with demands of traditional opera."

Dyjach, surrounded by an animated ensemble cast perfectly capable of hitting each note, finally showcased the performance they had spent so much time perfecting. "Basically the whole winter term we spend rehearsing and blocking," Dyjach explained. "Reading week we spend here – we don't go home for holidays."

Max Blouw, president and vice-chancellor of WLU appeared for a



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Laurier students entertain audiences during comedic operas this weekend at Maureen Forrester Hall.

well-executed singing and acting cameo in *City Workers in Love*'s Sunday showing, displaying his lesser-known talents.

When asked about his singing Blouw responded bashfully, "I enjoy singing in the bathtub." The music faculty must know something the majority of students do not, as it was their doing that had him take part. "I was invited to participate and I said sure," said Laurier's president.

Previous shows during the weekend featured cameos by Waterloo mayor Brenda Halloran and Kitchener mayor Carl Zehr.

In sum, the faculty of music put on a performance worthy of a much greater charge than the free entrance for WLU students.

The double-bill showcased the talent and hard-work of many students and professors in the faculty. Cleverly written, brilliantly sung, filled with elements of traditional comedy and opera topped off with a local twist, the performance put on by WLU's vocal students was extremely impressive.



# Improv entertainment

**COLLEEN CONNOLLY**  
STAFF WRITER

The Upright Citizens Brigade, an improvisational and sketch comedy group from New York City, performed at the Turret on Friday evening under the sponsorship of WLUSU's student event's funding.

The show was hosted by Laurier Musical Theatre and showcased the hilarious talents of actors Dru Johnston, John Frusciante, Molly Lloyd and John Murray on their first tour of Canada.

"They do a lot of college tours in the States and I think they wanted to come and break into the college scene up here," LMT president Liz McNeil told *The Cord*.

McNeil was contacted by The Upright Citizens Brigade this past summer and seized the opportunity with LMT's own developing improv team in the forefront of her mind.

"[Although small in numbers], improv people want to start their own club and maybe be a sister club to Laurier Musical Theatre because we're the ones who started them off," commented McNeil.

LMT members were given a brief workshop with The Upright Citizens Brigade prior to their performance, demonstrating the improv techniques that they would put into

action later that evening.

The performance consisted of an interview between the group and a random audience member who answered questions later transformed into comedy sketches.

Watching them, it was easy to forget that the show was completely unscripted.

"It's like being on a baseball team," said Frusciante, "You can practice baseball, but you never know what's going to happen when the game starts. But if a ground ball gets hit to you, you know how to field it and throw it to first base. There are similar kinds of things with improv. It's a lot about agreement and saying yes."

Improv is very much a team sport; you have to have faith in the people you work with. "We'll be able to figure it out," Lloyd said, "If I can't these guys will. It's such a team mentality."

This lack of preparation and abundance of trust may seem intimidating, but Johnston offered a different perspective.

"I never really get nervous for improv anymore, but doing improv has made me more nervous for scripted work. Because you know you can just change it if it's not going well."

Any form of acting can be hard work. And it's a tough industry to

"Just make stuff. Make comedy. If you want to be a comic or an artist or anything, make it."

—John Frusciante, Upright Citizens Brigade

get into, but The Upright Citizens Brigade had a few words of advice for those struggling with the competitive arts.

"Find like-minded people and just do it," advised Murray.

"Just make stuff. Make comedy. If you want to be a comic or an artist or anything, make it," Frusciante added.

"One of the great things about living in these times is you have open access to the Internet, you can put anything that you want up at any point. So just start making, you have to make a bunch of shit before you get to the good stuff."

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# EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor  
Shaun Fitt  
sfitl@thecord.ca

## WLUSU web site and social network hype-reliant?

With a \$40,000 price tag, the WLUSU web site and social network, purchased in August 2011, should be expected to noticeably benefit campus life.

Because it is a private network, students use their Laurier e-mails to connect and this is supposed to facilitate campus updates. While many students have yet to sign up, the network has been popular among first years that were able to hear it promoted during orientation week this year.

Although it is good that WLUSU is trying to be more creative with its innovations, there is already too much networking capability out there. The market for Internet networking is largely dominated by firms like Google, Facebook and Twitter.

It is nearly impossible to compete with these networks because they are just so large. Most "viral" information that passes through the Internet on any given day is filtered through these sites.

For this reason it seems unlikely that the WLUSU website and social network's popularity will last passed the first year for many of these students. Everyone is excited to get involved in "exclusive" campus society in their first year and WLUSU reaps huge benefits from the hype it generates during orientation week. However, this exclusivity will no longer be appealing as time goes on.

In essence, exclusivity is not a characteristic that one would expect from a "good" network. A good network bridges the gap, so to speak, between disconnected information streams and is in the business of contributing to a greater overall connectivity in the long-term. If a web site is marketing itself as a social network, yet bases its selling point on exclusivity, then its ultimate effect would be to decrease communication rather than increase it.

The final result is that the WLUSU website encourages the development of internet cliques rather than internet communities. The success of websites like Facebook and Twitter has not been from exclusivity, but from universality.

If WLUSU wants to move up in the Internet world it must recognize the networks that already exist and flow with them rather than try to change the direction altogether.

— The Cord Editorial Board

## Anti-climactic strike scare may have buried important issues

Following news on March 2 that WLUFU would not be going on strike and that the university would not lock them out, many people were shocked considering the outrage that the faculty displayed and communicated during the weeks leading up to the agreement.

The administration was careful to distinguish that the "no board" report on March 3 would not guarantee a strike, students were communicated a different sentiment from the most vocal of faculty.

This could just be a case of the more vocal participants having a tendency to "jump the gun" on negotiations, but this does not explain what seemed like a concerted effort from WLUFU to inform the students of the negative consequences of the administration's uncompromised demands.

WLUFU placed advertisements in *The Cord* and wrote letters to demonstrate their counter-demands. Students who felt that they had a stake in the dispute sympathized with the faculty and understood why a strike would occur.

Issues brought up about overexpansion, rising tuition fees and an emphasis on teaching over research are now bound to be swept off the table as a settlement has already been reached with the faculty. But, don't these issues still present a real debate that the administration has not adequately engaged the students in? Also, with the faculty's settlement shouldn't students feel like they have been used as political tools?

Our experience with the potential WLUFU strike has been anti-climactic. We were drawn to the cause because of real issues but since the contingent demands of WLUFU have been met, many of these issues are now being forgotten.

The impression that this gives off to the students is that the strike was just an empty threat – a buzzword – used to get our attention. The students now understand the issues that eventually broke negotiations down and WLUFU's hasty, unexpected settlement seems out of place.

— The Cord Editorial Board

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

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## Online identities oversimplify living

What are the effects of 'choosing' and 'marketing' who you are



LIZ SMITH  
ARTS EDITOR

Society's fascination with social media is at an all-time high. Having become the be-all and end-all for determining social standing, social media continues to contribute to the fragmentation of the personalities of highly "e-vested" individuals.

The avenue of Twitter, especially, affords individuals the opportunity to create an "avatar"; a heavily edited, assumedly idealized version of themselves. The extensive practice of social media has essentially allowed for the creation of an alternate reality.

The phenomenon is this: real and virtual lives have little in common. A virtual friendship in no way concedes a real-life friendship. Extensive communication and rapport through Facebook and Twitter may translate in only a nod, or a brisk hello when encountering one another in the real world.

In fact, it is not unusual for one to be privy to as many intimate details of the lives of a Twitter following or Facebook friend as you could learn in face-to-face conversations — even if the friendship spanned for several years. This is because, from the safety of our bedrooms, inhibitions are considerably lessened.

Further, if you can be clever, witty and likeable online, it's no longer a necessity to have the social finesse to present yourself this way in person. E-charm is enough and, in a noticeable cultural shift, many have decided to use social media as their primary means of socializing.

We extensively document daily

“  
We heavily edit photos, carefully select information to project to the world: spend countless hours strategically selecting comments, likes, RTs and posts in order to project a carefully constructed virtual image to the Twitter-verse and Facebook world.

activities, ask others to share their own and attempt to engage in meaningful and lengthy conversations — all in 140 characters or less.

Suddenly, the socially awkward have become socially active; successfully fooling peers into perceiving them differently. Online, there is the potential to become braver, bolder, more clever and attractive.

What does this say about the relationships we form? How much do we really know about one another in the digital age? How close can we truly be? Wrought is my life with instances in which I first encounter an individual whose digital personality I am familiar with — only to be astounded by the

glaring inconsistencies.

Your close-lipped smile is a result of braces? That flawless skin is really the product of Photoshop proficiency? I feel sudden pity for online daters.

We heavily edit photos, carefully select information to project to the world: spend countless hours strategically selecting comments, likes, RTs and posts in order to project a carefully constructed virtual image to the Twitter-verse and Facebook world.

This virtual image may have little to do with who we really are, because we get to choose it. Making "friends" is now as simple as a click of a mouse — which promises to accelerate this frightening phenomenon.

The more interesting thing is, these social media avatars we have created for ourselves seem to carry almost as much weight in determining our social standing as our real-life selves. Popularity on the Internet truly translates into real-life popularity. Raising the question: which is more real and, ultimately, important?

We use Twitter to market ourselves; get jobs, promote our personal work and more. It is an avenue with which we can accomplish what physical and time related constraints may otherwise have prevented. We can connect with friends and relatives scattered across the far reaches of the globe.

Undoubtedly, mediums like Twitter are useful, for both socializing and professional networking. The growing problem is that mediums such as Facebook and Twitter are replacing real social interactions; creating a generation of individuals who interact from behind computer screens and undermine the value of human interaction.

My proposed solution? Utilize social media in the way it was intended, rather than replacing real relationships with cyber ones. Take the time to connect, face-to-face, before we all forget how.

# Diplomacy with Iran necessary for de-escalation



SHAUN FITL  
OPINION EDITOR

As of yesterday, six world powers have accepted to restart diplomatic talks with Iran about its nuclear program. Also, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will be allowed to inspect the Parchin military facility where IAEA chief Yukiya Amano is concerned high explosives testing has been undergone.

These developments, however, have been overshadowed by Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu's recent visits to Canada and the United States, during which both Harper

and Obama reaffirmed support for Israel's right to self-defense and their shared intolerance of nuclear weapon proliferation in the Middle East.

The issue is escalation. The Iranian nuclear program has been in development for decades and actually saw substantial US support during its initial stages in the 60s and 70s. Iran signed and ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1968 and had plans for nuclear power stations to be built across the country for peaceful use.

During the time this took place U.S. influence in Iran was at its peak. The democratically-elected, nationalist Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh, in a coup that was orchestrated by UK and U.S. intelligence agencies, was overthrown and replaced with an authoritarian, pro-Western regime.

The new Shah Mohammad Reza saw Iranian oil production and exports rise to its highest point simultaneously as tensions within the state began to build. Not even the CIA-trained secret police SAVAK could suppress the opposition and since the Iranian revolution in 1979 the nation has devolved into an oppressive theocracy.

It is very important, however, to take note that Iranian society has not lost its interest in democracy. The stereotype of Iran being driven by a deeply religious, irrational society has been the resonant political message beneath the recent intensification of Western efforts to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran.

If Iran was to join countries like France, Pakistan, North Korea and Russia in having nuclear weapons we are told that it would be exceptionally problematic because they would actually use them, or at least that is the assumption.

It is not evidently clear that a country would be more likely to use nuclear weapons just because of the state of its economy, or foreign relations, or the amount of terrorist activity, etc. Since the Cold War, North Korea has had tension with South Korea, Pakistan has been destabilized by intrastate terrorism and Russia (like many other arms-producing countries, e.g. U.S.) has indirectly sold weapons to regimes in proxy wars all across the planet.

The point is that instability is everywhere and cannot be used as a reason in and of itself to stir

“  
The stereotype of Iran being driven by a deeply religious, irrational society has been the resonant political message beneath the recent intensification of Western efforts to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran.

up fear over impending nuclear catastrophe.

Regardless, I do not disagree that a nuclear-armed Iran would have a negative effect on international security. I only dispute the underlying presumption that Iran should be singled-out as an exceptional “danger-zone” and instill such harsh reactionary policy proposals from the West.

The fact of the matter is that aggressiveness and escalation of tensions will only increase the support for nuclear armament in Iran and perpetuate the belief that Iranian society is being deliberately targeted by the U.S.

In a conference after his meeting with Netanyahu yesterday Obama explained how Iranians have

been feeling the pressure from recent economic sanctions from the West. Although Netanyahu wants Obama's explicit backing for an attack on Iran the U.S. has declared it will try to take advantage of a window of opportunity for peaceful negotiation and that aggressive war is the last resort (albeit, it is not off the table by any means).

The fact of the matter is that national security experts are certain an attack of Iran would snowball into a greater conflict. If Netanyahu decides to act unilaterally against Iran, as he has publicly announced Israel is now prepared to do, the bombing of nuclear sites would not even guarantee the complete prevention of eventual armament. The Iranian nuclear program would most likely recover from the damage in one or two years and the Iranian people would have all doubt removed from their mind that a nuclear weapon is in their interest.

We must remember that Iran still insists its nuclear program is peaceful and the IAEA has yet to report otherwise. The sanctions that have been imposed so far have driven the country to begin trading oil and gold directly to China and India for food, out of fear that U.S. dollar pressure will soon contribute to a shortage for its population of 77 million. Tensions like this will never disappear until the international community finally uproots this tendency to overcompensate for regional instability and learns that nobody likes war, not even Iran.



CREATIVE COMMONS

## Break time's over



CARLY BASCH  
OPINION COLUMNIST

There is a mentality that we academics can sometimes still be regarded as if we are in elementary school. That's not to be put in negative terms – it clearly shows that we are still “young at heart” – yet, this can be applied in numerous ways. Whether it's still not knowing how to do your laundry and waiting 'til you go home to do it (I'm sure that makes your parents super happy), belting out the words to songs created by the Disney crew (hey, it's cool to share the same music taste of an eight year old) or having that extra day off like we did during those infamous snow days.

Unfortunately for those hoping to get an extra week off, the university will not be going on strike. This means that the semester is going the way it is suppose to be. Although I personally am relieved with not having my schedule tampered with, others seemed to be extremely disappointed for not having an extra week off. We recently just got back from our reading week – I guess we need another vacation to recover from our previous vacation? Apparently so.

This urge and desire for any opportunity to have a break is quite normal, yet hilarious at the same time. We all were in the same predicament last week when the blackout occurred. Immediately turning on my iPhone my roommates and I waited in anticipation: is class going to be cancelled?

Sure enough it was, and soon afterwards my Twitter feed exploded with students expressing their glee and surprisingly fast change of activities that include being intoxicated. Because one would immediately think that drinking during a blackout would be the most reasonable thing to do right? It does seem more fun than what I did (which

was allocating enough blankets and candles to ensure that we would all be safe and comfortable during the evening). The same mentality goes when we wake up and see snow falling. Is it going to be a snow day? Will we get a break off?

What I mean to stress here is this: our minds immediately go back to when we were little, and when recess was the favourite part of our day. Although I like to think that we are all motivated academics striving for the best in ourselves to do well, anything that hints towards getting a ‘break’ immediately sends us into the mentality of dropping everything and taking advantage of that time off.

To some, it means having more time to finish that last minute assignment, or giving you an excuse to join your friends at Phil's on a weeknight. Social media says it all: when the opportunity arises for students to get that extra few hours to do anything but schoolwork, the free speech of Twitter updates and statuses immediately fill up; showcasing our desires to go buck wild and escape academics and pursue freedom until it is time to crack back to the books.

However despite many people's disappointments for not being able to have that extra week off and instead are lamenting over still being in ‘reading week mode,’ we really have nothing to complain about. Isn't there only three more weeks left of school? Are we really that unable to stand three more weeks until freedom and need the blackouts, potential strikes or freak snow falls to give us that little escape and joy? Or am I just misreading everyone's uber-exaggerated Facebook statuses?

Don't worry my peers, we are almost there. And once you put down your pencil after writing that final exam you can start your four months of “recess time.” If that is too far away to think of, then think of this: Saint Paddy's Day is next week and the people living on Ezra can't wait for you to join them in trashing the streets and having that little ‘break’ to go buck wild.



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# OPINION

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Shaun Fitl  
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## Point • Counter-point

Cord columnists debate the utility of the Senate of Canada in its present form; abolish or reform?



**IAN MERKLEY**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

The Senate has come to be seen as dated by many Canadians. Currently, senators are appointed by the Prime Ministers (past or present), which makes them seem like an appointed nuisance with which the democratically-elected House of Commons has to deal with. Due to the frustration with the Senate,

many Canadians support either reforming it or abolishing it. It is in my opinion that the Senate should not be abolished, but instead reformed so it can make important contributions to Canadian democracy by keeping the executive in check and representing Canada's provinces.

Many Canadians are hesitant to reform the Senate because it might create gridlock between the two houses like in the United States. I would like to point out that all bicameral systems are not the same because they rely upon different rules governing them. In the United States, one fundamental problem is the abuse of the filibuster in their

Senate. Any member of Congress can speak for as long as they want and pass it off to fellow party members. Canada can avoid this problem by not having this rule.

The reason why we need the Senate is so it can keep the executive branch in line. The House of Commons clearly fails at this because of extreme party discipline. As the Gomery Commission in 2006 points out, the "concentration of power in the PMO [Prime Minister's Office] makes it progressively more difficult for counter-balancing forces in Cabinet, in the public service, and in Parliament to modify or to oppose measures advocated by the Prime Minister."

The Prime Minister can threaten his own Members of Parliament with kicking them out of the party. Independents rarely get elected. The Prime Minister can also reward MPs for their loyalty by giving them cabinet appointments.

The Senate is not a confidence chamber and by making it an elected one it can better challenge legislation from the executive if need be. However, to do this they cannot have loyalties to the Prime Minister for appointing them to the chamber. They also need to have a much stronger mandate. To accomplish both, they need to be elected and the provinces need to set election dates as the senators' mandates end.

Staggered elections will help break party loyalty and will make the senator less loyal to the Prime Minister.

Reforming the Senate will better our democracy. The executive power will be held more accountable with an elected Senate. The rebalancing of our democracy will give smaller provinces a voice in the Senate while maintaining representation by population in our House of Commons. By abolishing the Senate, the PMO will have more power over Canada than ever before and smaller provinces will continue to feel like they have no voice in governance. The rebalancing of our bicameral democracy is needed in Canada, even though it is unlikely to happen.



**KEITH MARSHALL**  
CORD OPINION

For 145 years Canada has had a bicameral legislature, made up of both an elected House of Commons and a largely unelected Senate. With this in mind, there has been a push by the Conservative Party of Canada to see our Senate reformed into an elected body. This is a mistake. A better solution, one that has been

brought up by the New Democratic Party, is to constitutionally abolish the Senate.

For the sake of simplicity I'm going to put aside any discussion on the constitutional difficulties involved in abolishing the Senate.

Like the British House of Lords, Canada's Senate has become a haven for patronage under the presumed guise of "sober second thought." However, without tying a rope around my neck, I'd like to carefully point out how irrelevant thought in the Senate has become — especially in the last ten years.

The Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001, which passed through both chambers and received royal assent in just over two months, was probably the

first instance in my living memory in which the ability of the Senate to be a relevant tool for second thought could be questioned.

Anne McClellan, the Justice Minister at the time, was forced to bring additional changes to the bill because of public pressure. This included changes to the definition of terrorism and an additional sunset clause on some of its more controversial measures dealing with police detention and secret trials.

The point, however, is that the Senate really didn't need to be involved in any amendments to the bill; the court of public opinion and media criticism did all of the work for it. Similarly, we recently saw a child pornography bill proposed

by Justice Minister Vic Toews that was widely ridiculed. So far, the response from the Conservatives has been to amend it.


While of course, relying on public ridicule of poorly thought up bills isn't always the most effective way to encourage amendments. When compared to the Senate more often than not, I would argue it is at least equally effective.

Simply put, there are just some cases where providing a second thought on proposed legislation doesn't work. The Conservative's omnibus crime bill is an example of this. Not even the Senate, with its 150-page summary of the bill, has proven to be effective in providing amendments to this substantially

poorly thought out legislation.

Besides the difficulties that would be involved in reforming the Senate, namely what status the Senate would now have within the legislative process in Canada, there really isn't a need for a body of parliament that is elected only every eight years to look over proposed legislation.

In the age of the Internet, which has included controversial developments like Anonymous and Wikileaks, the value in having additional bodies outside of House of Commons committees for analysing proposed legislation has diminished substantially. As a country we are better off abolishing the Senate.




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## Peer pressure can silence or empower society



**DON MORGENSON**  
COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR

It was some years ago, teaching a class at Wilfrid Laurier University, when I asked students to tell me anonymously, their deepest values. Then I asked them to write down the values of university culture and wider Canadian society. It turned out that their deepest values differed greatly from what they had identified as the values of their culture. In discussion, the students argued that we live in a culture, the values of which may be hostile to our deepest values. And most difficult of all is that we think that is commonplace.

I asked my students: who among their families and friends knew their deepest values? For most of them, the number of people who knew their deepest values was very small — Mom, most often, maybe Dad and perhaps one or two of their closest friends.

Knowing that our world will not get any better without a lively discussion of the goodness of life, a vital discussion of values, I asked them why so few people knew of their values: their answers were instructive: "We don't share our values because we are afraid that others will laugh at us," or, "they will think we're weird."

This was a new and dismaying dimension to peer pressure, and peer pressure at its most powerful: the pressure to keep us silent about

what we really care about. The result is an impoverished dialogue of virtue and a mind set that keeps us from acting out our best intentions.

When we keep our deepest values private they have no public consequence. If we don't speak about our values, then our culture conforms to somebody else's values or like those people who value money more than morals, goods more than goodness, sex more than affection, fun more than fulfillment and environmental degradation more than sustainability. Politically, we are silenced by people with bull horns on either side of the argument while we sit silently in the middle of such vibrant discussions.

And the surprising thing about my questions: the lists of those deeply held values were very similar. The fact is that our age mates will not think we're weird. We are not constrained by the real "others" so much as we are constrained by those imaginary "others" in our heads.

This situation is not confined to my university students. In the study "Yearning for Balance" (The Harvard Group), researchers found that most Canadians espouse values of personal responsibility, family life and friendship. But they do not think most other Canadians do. Most Canadians cite religious faith and generosity as guiding values in their lives but only a few think that most Canadians share these values. We seem to have a broad consensus regarding our core values but we don't realize such a truth because no one is willing to talk about them.

The same seems true of our values concerning consumption and the environment. 82 per cent of Canadians believe that most of us are

wasteful, buying much more than we will ever need. 86 per cent of us profess deep concern for the environment and 51 per cent believe that their consumption has a negative effect on the environment.

The survey also shows that 88 per cent of us believe that "protecting the environment requires us to make major changes in the way we live," but we don't think that others feel this way. If only we discussed our deepest values, we might learn that almost all of us espouse values that could lead to an ecological revolution.

Of course there will be people who will mock us for our conviction and sometimes our age-mates will put pressure on us to act against our deepest values. But the bright side to this darkness is that we get to pick our peers, our age cohorts and our friends. If we hang with people who only think about getting ahead and acquiring stuff we will begin to accept that behavior as quite normal, even desirable.

We don't, however, have to hang with cynics. We can find friends who share our values and who can help us practice what we preach and of course, preach that which we practice.

We can, if we choose, use such pressures to fuel the necessary ecological revolution of our 21st century. In his book, "Biologic", David Wann suggests that once we get the design right "our society can be powered by peer pressure alone."

So, now is the time to silence our silences and speak up for the values that we really do believe in — spiritual, social, environmental.



# CLASSIFIEDS

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## DearLIFE

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Sincerely,  
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**Dear Life,**  
Why does Laurier think sliding doors are necessary and that I'm too lazy to open doors?  
Sincerely,  
ijustwantmycouchesback

**Dear Life,**  
Power outage, classes cancelled, baked goods on sale for one dollar at dining hall, best day ever!!  
Sincerely,  
Fridge filled with over priced cakes from William's X\_X

**Dear life,**  
My roommate came into my room and saw a box of condoms on the dresser. She counted the condoms and discovered one was missing. She later asked where it had gone. I answered I had bought the wrong size and I wanted to see if it fit anyway.  
Sincerely,

It was too big

**Dear Life,**  
I don't know if I'm happy or sad that Laurier memes ran out of ideas.  
Sincerely,  
moretimeforhomework


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## Cordoscopes

**Pisces** (Feb. 19 - March 20)  
 This month you will realize that Menchie's isn't as healthy as you think. Those jeans are starting to look a little tight.


**Aries** (March 21 - Apr. 19)  
 Around the 12th you will begin to realize that your desire to save the planet is not as strong as your desire to win a car happy roll-up-the-rim season.


**Taurus** (Apr. 20 - May 20)  
 Just because you normally sit at one particular desk in the library does not mean that you have a right to it. Take it easy with the death stares.


**Gemini** (May 21 - June 20)  
 Your instinct to find love in places where people are inebriated will pay off this month. Pervert.


**Cancer** (June 21 - Jul. 22)  
 You can pick your friends, you can pick your nose, but you can't pick your


friend's nose. So don't try it.

**Leo** (Jul. 23 - Aug. 22)  
 You will party with the best of them this month, but be aware that your face's shade of green will not be from face paint this St Patrick's Day.


**Virgo** (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)  
 Be brave this month; mix yourself up a pool of good old-fashioned Jell-O wrestling fun. If you attract more than flies, you will forever be remembered as a hero.

**Libra** (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)  
 On the 17th, you will finally have the courage to push aside your reservations and buy a guinea pig. On the 18th, you will immediately regret your decision.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)  
 Your luck is changing. Take that as you will. Or don't, see if I care.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)  
 Later in the month you will convince yourself that you actually miss the F n' M dancers in the Concourse on Sundays until next year.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)  
 Listen carefully to the lyrics of the first song you hear today; follow these instructions verbatim. Here's to hoping it's the thong song.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)  
 Playing Twister will be ideal later this week, as long as you don't get really drunk and touch each other.

*After being trapped in a Greyhound bus washroom with eight other people (including Wade Thompson, Katie Flood, Kate Turner and Linda Givetash), Taylor Gayowksy can now see the future.*



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## SPORTS

Sports Editor  
Kevin Campbell  
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## Montréal welcomes swimmers

KEVIN CAMPBELL  
SPORTS EDITOR

Year one of the Franklin regime can be safely deemed a success.

Wilfrid Laurier University swimming head coach Russ Franklin who took his position, along with the Region of Waterloo (ROW) head coaching job this year after moving from Québec, accompanied three of his finest water sprites to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) national championships in late February, and they showed well.

Third-year, Stratford native Renee Dijk placed the highest, finishing 18th in the 100m backstroke, just two places shy of missing the finals, but knows it's valuable experience for Franklin's and her own future tenure at the school.

"It's been amazing," said Dijk of Franklin's reign as the aquatic coach. "It's such a different atmosphere on the team [compared to last year], especially between the coach and each individual swimmer."

The Montréal meet was Dijk's third during her time at Laurier, the kinesiology major had been to Toronto and Calgary in her previous years.

This time though, she had to guide two newcomers to the CIS scene; Veronica Davis-Freeman and Luke Summerhayes, two more of Laurier's top competitors who made it to the show.

"I didn't have to say much," explained Dijk. "They've experienced big meets before on their home



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER  
WLU's Luke Summerhayes, Veronica Davis-Freeman and Renee Dijk

clubs and things like that, so I was just really happy that I had teammates along with me."

Davis-Freeman, the second-year Oakville native placed in top 30 in both the 200m Breaststroke and the 400m Individual Medley.

"It was great," said Davis-Freeman of Montréal's meet. "I swam faster than I have in a long time, since Grade 11."

And Davis-Freeman was aptly prepared, thanks to her squad.

"I heard a lot of stories from the girls who went last year," said Davis-Freeman.

Along with sampling the shopping and eating districts during their extended stay, the pool was unlike anything Davis-Freeman had swum in before.

"It was really different; you had to go up 75 stairs to get to the pool," she explained. "Most pools are either on the ground level or downstairs so it was cool. The building was built into the mountain in Montréal."

And along with her teammate Dijk, Davis-Freeman has noticed a change in culture around the pool this year as well.

## An uneven support base for women's sport

Staff writer Shelby Blackley questions why teams like men's basketball consistently draw more fans than their female counterparts



SHELBY BLACKLEY  
STAFF WRITER

It may not be a very dominant problem, but it certainly is consistent.

With the national championships for both the Wilfrid Laurier women's curling and women's hockey teams within the next two weeks, it has come to my attention multiple times that there is a lack of credit given to these successful groups.

The Cord has been very thorough covering all teams and credit has been given where necessary. However, with the recent, but not surprising conclusion of the men's hockey team's season and the shocking ending to the men's basketball team's year, it almost seems as if the atmosphere around Laurier does not encourage the same support to the women's teams.

When watching the women's hockey team, it's no question that their charisma, talent, dedication and style can mesmerize you for a

whole sixty minutes. With only one loss in regulation during the regular season, they became the heavy favourites within the Ontario University Athletics' (OUA) league, as well as having been ranked No.1 nationally in late January.

But despite this glory bestowed upon them by the league, the Laurier community still fails to recognize their excellence.

The men's hockey team barely made the playoffs with a 9-17-2 record, and was ousted in the first round by the first-place Western Mustangs.

Their season turned into a flop, but their support continued throughout the season into their final games.

The same could be said about the men's basketball teams, who would consistently play after the women's team. Their fan support was nearly twice the size of the women's, which would play right before the men took the court.

When their season came to an abrupt end, the school fell quiet, believing that their hopes of a championship year — already winded by the flop of the women's soccer team and men's football team — were impossible and inexistent.

But you can't forget the women.

Consistently for the past few years, the women's curling team have been an unstoppable force, producing an OUA championship title, a Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championship title, and recently in January, an International Curling Championship in Kariuzawa, Japan.

In a thrilling victory over the team from Switzerland in extra ends, the women became victorious with a 9-8 win.

With the dawn of the 2012 CIS championship just a week away, the women's curlers will try to defend their title from last year. But not many people have any idea when, where, or what will take place.

It's hard to claim that curling has ever had a large fan base to begin with. It's a very complex sport and to watch an entire game, your mind must be trained to understand the rules.

But there is still little support given to the team, especially when they produce multiple championship titles.

So as the two women's teams head off to their national championships, it'll be interesting to see whether or not much support is given from the general population of Laurier.

Laurier Athletics will give coverage on the tournaments, but unlike the men's teams, there will be little hype around campus if anything is produced.

For now, it's just a simple problem with no solution.

"There's a huge difference in the team's attitude this year," she said. "With Russ coming in, compared to last year, everyone took it more seriously, everyone enjoyed it a lot more and it paid off in our swimming. Everyone swam amazingly at the end of the year."

Summerhayes had two top-25 finishes.

Franklin is expected to introduce cuts next year as he used this year as a stepping stone to formulate a competitive team under his watch.

"There's a huge difference in the team's attitude this year."

—Veronica Davis-Freeman, Laurier swimmer and CIS participant

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# Chambers, Bosch shine at CFL camp

**CHRIS MANDER**  
STAFF WRITER

This past weekend, two of the best players from this generation of Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks' football took part in the Canadian Football League's (CFL) E-Camp, held in Toronto in front of scouts and coaching staffs from every CFL franchise.

The two Laurier alumni participating were linebacker Mitchell Bosch and wide receiver Shamawd Chambers.

Each player came into the E-Camp and draft with a very different situation.

Chambers is one of the most sought-after athletes in this year's crop, posting impressive numbers throughout his career as a Golden Hawk, including career highs in yards and touchdowns this past season.

Bosch came to Laurier from the other end of Canada, a Langley B.C. native. The linebacker has additional value in the eyes of the CFL scouts, as he is also a special team factor, possessing an ability to long snap.

In terms of performance this past weekend, both players certainly achieved their goals and were able to maintain their draft stock, if not improve it.

"You can always feel like you can do better, but I was happy with my numbers," said Bosch, who also did show some frustration over his 40-yard dash time of 4.88 seconds.

"The toughest part was my 40 time," said Bosch. "The mental stress that you put on yourself is a challenge."

Aside from his 40 time, Bosch also put up impressive numbers in the bench press with 15 reps and the broad jump, recording a distance of 9'05.5".

Chambers performed as expected

of a potential top-five pick, posting solid if not freakish numbers in almost every drill.

However, the four-year stud of the Golden Hawks doesn't think his strong showing elevated him up the draft board at all for potential suitors.

"I don't think there is much more that I could have done to raise my stock, as it is really the game tape that tells the story," said Chambers.

Chambers' 40-yard dash time of 4.42 seconds was by far the fastest of the combine, the fourth-best all time at the event, and is faster than many NFL all-stars' times, such as Arian Foster (4.69), Reggie Wayne (4.45), and Larry Fitzgerald (4.63).

While the track speed of a 40-yard dash is impressive and enticing to scouts, both Chambers and Bosch know that it's their ability to transition to the pro game that will ultimately determine their value as a draft choice.

"The toughest adjustment will be learning that it is a job," said Chambers, showing the same vulnerability that many new university grads feel.

"The coaches are there to help you with the game itself," continued Chambers. "But it will be tough not to be 'the' guy for a little bit," alluding to his role in Laurier's offense the past four seasons.

While he undoubtedly shares similar concerns, Bosch expressed a different challenge for his young professional career.

"The speed of the game will increase and the size of the players will too," said Bosch, "I am excited to learn new schemes and raise my level of competition."

While both players are set to leave Laurier and take the next step in their football careers, they are not quick to forget their past and acknowledge the program that helped



NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO

Shamawd Chambers recorded the fourth-fastest time ever during the 40-yard dash

them improve as players.

"By giving me the opportunity to play and learn new things, I've had great coaches and they have helped me in becoming a linebacker and a snapper for special teams," said Bosch.

"The most important thing you want to get out of the program is helping you become a man and more than just a football player," said Chambers.

"The coaching staff helped me become a man."

Both players expect to hear their name called by CFL teams on May 3, the date of the annual CFL Draft.

Visit [thecord.ca](http://thecord.ca) for Shelby Blackley and Eric Thompson's views of the Maple Leafs' latest free-fall and if this newest coaching change will be able to salvage the year.

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# Redemption on ice

**KEVIN CAMPBELL**  
SPORTS EDITOR

LONDON, Ont. – With yesteryear’s wringing of hands a thing of the past and after the rare taste of failure had washed out of their mouths, this had to feel good.

Perched back atop the throne they’ve so mightily kept warm for the past nine years before they were thrown off by the Queen’s Gaels in 2011, the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women’s hockey powerhouse once again rule the roost.

With a resounding, convincing and resolutely dominating 5-1 victory over the Western Mustangs in game two of the Ontario University Athletics’ (OUA) best-of-three finals, the Hawks soared to their eighth title in nine years.

“It never gets old,” said fourth-year and graduating captain Abby Rainsberry while the golden piece dangled from her neck.

“But it’s a different feel this year... It’s been awhile.”

That it has. Laurier’s stacked squad, again led by Rainsberry and goaltending superstar Liz Knox, fizzled in the post-season last year; something that the current calendar’s edition of the Hawks never came close to doing.

“I was so proud of our whole team,” said head coach Rick Osborne. “Particularly our leaders

in Rainsberry, and [Fiona] Lester and [Alicia] Martin and [Katherine] Shirriff. They were all here last year and were [part of] our pillars of strength.”

The Mustangs didn’t have a prayer.

From the opening faceoff, this was a team possessed. Laurier’s relentless forecheck, perfect defensive play, and mistake-free penalty kill were just some of the successes they enjoyed at Western’s Thompson Arena on a cold Saturday night in London.

With two goals separated by 19 seconds, not even five minutes into the contest, the Hawks had the game wrapped up before the sixth-ranked Mustangs could even mount a proper offensive.

And like it’s been done so many times in the past, this was a collaborated effort.

Eleven different Hawks found the score-sheet, with the oft-inglorious fourth line taking centre stage in this one.

Jessie Hurrell notched a goal and an assist while spotting power-play duty and could have had a second tally if it weren’t for a phantom goaltender interference call on the Hawks’ Tammy Feiburger.

Hurrell’s linemate and fellow fourth-liner Danelle Im scored her first of the playoffs to conclude the first period. That made the score

3-0 and that deflated the team from London.

The usual suspects Laura Brooker and Freiburger got the Hawks’ first two markers and Paula Lagamba rounded out the scoring on Laurier’s end.

Western rookie phenom Stacey Scott had Western’s only reply as she slipped a puck by WLU backup goaltender Rachel Hamilton. Hamilton stopped 21 of 22 shots thrown her way. Western’s Olivia Ross handled 44 of 49.

Starting tender Erika Thunder, who was forced out of game one of the finals with a sprained knee after making a save, didn’t dress for the London affair. But she could have.

“[The sprain] has responded really well to treatment and had this been a deciding game, I think [athletic therapist] Jamie Carlson and the training staff would have been ready but we have the luxury of having enough depth at that position to be able to get a win [without her],” said Osborne.

Thunder is expected to see game action this weekend in Edmonton when Laurier tries to win its first national title since 2005.

Until then, the job belongs to Hamilton, who looked much more comfortable between the pipes on Saturday than during game one when she was thrown into the fire. Laurier still won that one handily.



**NICK LACHANCE** PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER  
A 5-1 victory on Saturday night gave Laurier its 2012 title win.

The once-expected starter, and now third-string goalie, Kristen Kilgallen will also make the trip to Alberta.

The two biggest trials Laurier faced these playoffs were executed flawlessly. The first (Thunder’s injury) saw Hamilton shine. While she let out some suspect rebounds, the Wasaga Beach native found her game as the match wore on.

The second; a 1-0 upset loss to Windsor in round two’s game one, had the markings of last year’s semi-finals bow-out to Queen’s written all over it.

But the Hawks marched into Windsor and evened the series without a flinch.

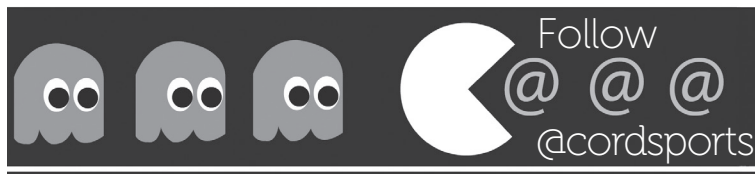
“It took some resolve on our part

[to win that series],” said the coach. “We were playing our best hockey coming out of that.”

Now, the champions will do battle in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) tournament this weekend. And with their No. 1 ranking, they’ve been pooled as heavy favourites with the (all-year-unranked) University of Prince Edward Island and the Montréal Carabins.

Should they escape their pool as expected, it’s likely the team will face the No. 2 McGill Martlets in the final; a powerful nemesis who the Hawks have tangled with before this year, ending in a 5-4 shootout loss.

“It would be ideal to meet McGill,” smiled Rainsberry. “But we’ll see what happens.”



## From one side of the mic to the other

**KEVIN CAMPBELL**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Krista Cellucci knows arts degrees can take their fair share of beatings.

“Yeah, they get attacked a lot,” said the fourth-year communications major and women’s soccer striker.

But it’s what you do with that piece of parchment that defines whether you took advantage of your four-plus years in the endless essay extravaganza or whether you were just spinning your wheels, says the Ontario University Athletics (OUA)’s second-leading scorer.

You find your passion, use your skill-set, and you combine them.

So when the forward found out about Toronto FC’s “dream job” opportunity, she knew she had something tangible and something real in her midst; a frequent insecurity not unbeknownst to arts majors.

“It’s Toronto FC looking for a representative to be the face of the franchise,” explained Cellucci while

sitting in a busy concourse last Thursday.

The job employs those savvy with sports marketing and public relations; interviewing players, packaging video clips, travelling with the team and releasing press documents; things Cellucci has always adored.

“Talking to people about sports comes naturally ... it’s not really a job to me,” said the forward. “It’s a perfect combination of my passions.”

The contest has already ended, with Cellucci unable to crack TFC’s top 15 applicants out of dozens, but for her, it’s just one opportunity out of many to come.

The star has already volunteered in a number of capacities with TFC in the summer and has even interviewed and packaged clips together for Laurier Athletics this season.

She remains on the prowl for a similar soccer-based internship with TFC or otherwise.

Teams need a proper mouthpiece,



**NICK LACHANCE** FILE PHOTO

said Cellucci.

“It’s important to communicate what players are thinking, and what’s going through their heads in games. To the fans, it’s a strong connection.”

Cellucci’s assessment rings resonant especially in a sport that some followers treat as religion.

TFC consistently sells out in a market with a high population density of immigrants from a wide selection of global markets.

Toronto’s diverse ethnic background allows TFC to thrive in a country not yet ripe with rabid soccer fans the way Europe experiences.

And for a woman, the barrier of entry to being taken seriously as a sport analyst or PR marketer is that much higher.

“I think it’s really important that women are in the sports industry. I don’t think there’s enough attention paid to women’s sports let alone on the business side,” said the Mississauga native. “Having a brain [behind the looks] is extremely important.”

Cellucci cites ESPN’s Jemele Hill, a sportscaster and analyst as a source of inspiration.

“She has an opinion and people value her opinion,” said Cellucci.

“It’s gotten better [in the past 10 years]. You look at the women’s world cup; it got so much attention this year.”

So along with kicking a mean bender, Cellucci has learned to utilize her bag of tricks.

“Being at Laurier, it’s taught me how to write; how to critique; how to argue,” said Cellucci — a toolbox not undervalued in today’s jumbled information age.



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