

Helping or hurting?

While voluntourism may have its benefits, a negative experience can possibly be harmful to both the volunteer and those in need

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THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

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NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Fund looks to prevent violence

LINDSAY PURCHASE
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

A new governmental funding initiative aims to benefit women on university and college campuses across Canada by supporting local organizations that address sexual violence. Nearly \$4 million is being distributed to 21 organizations that will work in partnership with various post-secondary institutions to deal with issues of violence against women on campus.

One organization that was included is the Sexual Support Centre of Waterloo Region, which is receiving \$191,030 and will be working in partnership with the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University administration and student groups over the next couple of years.

Sara Casselman, the public relations and operations manager for the Sexual Support Centre, said that research will be conducted to "prevent future violence and if it does happen, how we can respond appropriately to that violence."

When asked why it was beneficial for organizations to receive the funding, rather than having it given directly to universities and colleges, Casselman responded by saying, "Assault centres are experts in the area of sexual violence. We have the ability to kind of step back and use our expertise in partnership with

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Growing hip hop at Laurier

WLU's ALIAS takes third at the Ontario Universities Competition for hip hop

"Laurier, in comparison to all the universities out there, in terms of hip hop, is under the radar."

—Kang Tran, member of Laurier hip hop crew ALIAS

AMY GRIEF
ARTS EDITOR

"I want it to be one unified community. I want it to be a unity, you know," said forward-thinking first-year business student Kang Tran. While hip hop and Laurier are not often thought of in tandem, Tran is dead-set on changing up the dance scene on campus.

Though only in his first year, Tran is already spearheading ALIAS, Laurier's first ever hip hop "crew" to compete in OUCH, the Ontario Universities Competition for hip hop. "Laurier in comparison to all the

universities out there, in terms of hip hop is under the radar," he said. "I really want to stick it out there and be like 'hey Western, hey York, hey Queens, Carleton,' whatever; all the universities out there, Laurier is here to fight, you know what I mean?"

After leading ALIAS to a third place finish at OUCH, held last Saturday night at the John Basset Theatre in Toronto, it looks like his vision is coming into fruition.

First held ten years ago at the University of Waterloo, OUCH brings together hip hop crews from across the province who pop, lock

and drop-it for the chance to win the top prize of hosting next year's competition.

Durham College swept the competition for the third time in a row, however, Laurier delivered one of the most passionate performances of the night, eliciting raucous cheers and a standing ovation from much of the audience.

Unlike many of the other competitors at OUCH, Tran incorporated a variety of styles in his choreography, bring many of his dancers out

Inside

Dealing with depression

TSN's Michael Landsberg stops by WLU to discuss his 15-year struggle with mental illness

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Losing value

Cord Columnist Leah DeJong laments the bachelor's degree's status as necessary for most jobs

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Hawks keep rolling

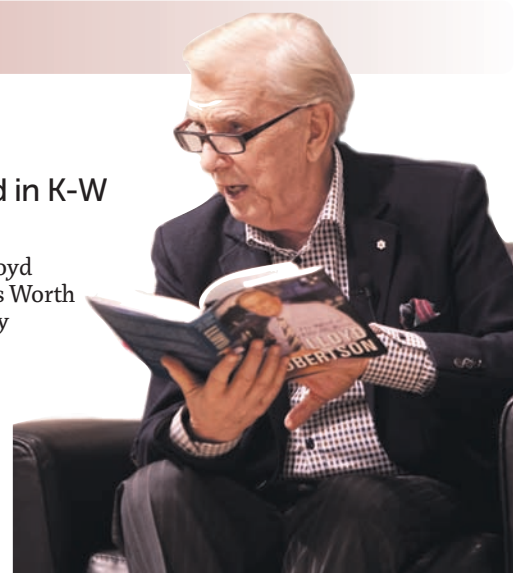
5-0 win over Waterloo improves women's hockey team's record to 11-1-1 on the season

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Broadcast legend in K-W

Retired CTV anchor Lloyd Robertson visits Words Worth Books to share his story

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'College crack' more harmful than helpful
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Editor's choice online
This Week Around Laurier
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This Week in quotes



"They may keep you awake longer but no scientific evidence suggests that they help normal healthy young people to become smarter."

—Laurier prof Bruce McKay on students using Adderall to study

"There's a lot of people that don't like me from TV. But what they don't like is me... [while depressed] I couldn't be me."

—Michael Landsberg, host of TSN's *Off the Record* on struggling with depression

"Please don't make me look bad in the minutes."

—WLUSU director Scott Fleming after making an explanation at Friday's board of directors' meeting

"The company they go with wants to make money by having them there but it doesn't necessarily have a job for them. Those are not helpful exchanges. Those are not beneficial to the student or the community."

—Laurier prof Joanne Benham Rennick on how some voluntourism organizations operate

"He's winning us games. We can't win games without him. He's probably one of the best and I love it."

—Men's hockey player Ryan Lopes on goalie Ryan Daniels

"I spend money."

—WLU assistant VP: physical resources when asked about funding for the Global Innovation Exchange building

"You've got to give it up to Toronto. They played an amazing game. They hustled, they worked and we've got little things to work on that we can do in practice but we played hard and did all we could. We felt like together, we played really strong."

—Women's basketball player Kaitlyn Schenck following a tight loss to the University of Toronto.

Vocal Cord

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www.radio.laurier.com

Do you think your degree will lead to a job?



"Yes."
—Rebecca Maxwell second-year, communication studies



"A degree is one aspect, but it's so much more than that which leads to a job."
—Aykhan Ravjiani third-year, business



"I'd like to think so."
—Kaleigh Donnelly second-year, global studies



"I hope so, we're spending a lot of money on it. But yeah, I think it will, I'm in business and I think the business program here is a respected degree."
—Adam Sigouin first-year, business



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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:
"Well I hate it, because I hate everything"
—Campus News Editor Liza DiCesare re: Disney World

NEWS

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NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Protestors at Waterloo Public Square address supporters about the concerns with the changes to the Line 9 pipeline in Ontario that passes directly under Waterloo Region.

Locals oppose changes to pipeline

LINDSAY PURCHASE
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

While most are aware of the controversy surrounding the Keystone XL Pipeline project, only recently has similar attention been raised locally about Waterloo Region's own pipeline, Line 9.

A small group of protestors gathered in Uptown Waterloo last Monday night to raise awareness about the issue.

It's just kind of this pipeline that's sneaking past people," said Paisley Cozzarin, a third-year student at the University of Waterloo and founder of Stop the Tar Sands K-W who also spoke at the event.

The problem isn't the creation of a new pipeline — Line 9 has been running south of Cambridge and under the Grand River since 1976. What has changed is that Enbridge Pipelines has decided to reverse the direction of flow in the pipeline to

have oil be pumped eastward from Alberta.

The first phase of the reversal has already been approved by the National Energy Board.

For Cozzarin and several environmental groups, the concern is that Enbridge will be using the pipeline to transport oil from the tar sands — rather than the light crude oil it has in the past — which, according to them, existing infrastructure may not be able to accommodate.

"This project doesn't make sense unless they're shipping tar sands crude oil through it," she said. While Enbridge has not stated that the pipeline will be used for this, according to Cozzarin, "they've applied to put heavy crude through it and they're not denying that it could be used for diluted bitumen."

Bitumen would allegedly be more difficult to clean up in the event of a leak in the pipeline because it sinks. Additional concerns are being

raised by protestors about how this might impact groundwater, potentially poisoning local wells should an incident occur.

Protest organizer Louise Lanteigne said that although she became involved in the issue as a means of gaining more knowledge, "when I learned more, I saw the alarming risks."

Lanteigne was at the first hearing, which allowed citizens to ask Enbridge questions. She believes that awareness is growing.

"From the time I was involved with phase one, I was the only citizen participant. I think the next hearing we're going to see a lot more people," she said.

The goal of protestors is not necessarily to eliminate the pipeline, but to have an environmental review done by the province before the second phase is approved.

"Because Harper cut back so much on the review process at the

federal level, I'm trying to get the provincial government to pick up that slack," Lanteigne explained.

Sarah Morgan, a master's candidate at Wilfrid Laurier University who attended the protest, said that she had been surprised to hear about the pipeline and wasn't aware that one existed in Waterloo Region.

"It's always been an issue that's always out west, it's never actually here, at least with respect to oil," she said.

Morgan acknowledged that getting the government to take action on such issues can be challenging. "Transparency and accountability are key," she noted.

Petitions which were passed around at the protest will continue to circulate over the next couple of months, which will then be given to Kitchener-Waterloo MPP Catherine Fife to bring to the attention of provincial parliament.

"It's always been an issue that's always out west, it's never actually here, at least with respect to oil."

—Sarah Morgan, a graduate student at Wilfrid Laurier University who was present the protest

Going 'on' the record

TSN personality speaks to students about mental health

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Michael Landsberg still remembers the moment when he was, as he calls it, "on the edge of the mountain." It was Grey Cup week 2008, and Landsberg, the host of TSN's *Off The Record*, hit a low point in his 15-year struggle with depression.

"It was 3 a.m. on the Tuesday night and I remember thinking 'if I didn't know there was help, I would've perhaps ended my life,'" said Landsberg Friday morning in Wilfrid Laurier University's Senate and Board Chamber. "I understood why people end their lives."

To most, Landsberg is simply a charismatic broadcaster and one of the longest-serving of Canada's sports media, having worked for TSN since the birth of the network in 1984. However, for the past 15 years, Landsberg has been struggling with chronic depression, a struggle he shared at WLU on Friday.

Landsberg was brought to Laurier through a joint effort between the WLU Grad Students' Association and the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union.

"He's very comfortable talking about [mental health] and we hope that makes other people feel comfortable talking about it too," said Kyle Walker, director of member

services for WLUSU.

"I don't think we could've picked anyone better for what we were trying to get out of it."

Though most of Landsberg's 15-year struggle with depression remained private, earlier this year he produced a documentary called *Darkness and Hope: Depression, Sports and Me* which shed light on the topic. The documentary brought together former Olympian Clara Hughes, former major league baseball player Darryl Strawberry and former NHL player Stephane Richer to discuss their struggles with mental illness.

It was three years ago with Richer as a guest on his show, that Landsberg first talked publicly about his depression.

"I did it, not to do something great for humanity, I did it just because I thought it would make for good television, but after that my e-mail inbox exploded," said Landsberg, describing numerous e-mails from people who were going through similar mental struggles.

While Landsberg's profession has given him an outlet to bring mental health into the public eye, it can also be a struggle.

"When you work in television, you don't project bad feelings. I am a professional deceiver," he said. "For three months, everyday, I deceived people."

Landsberg admitted that even

now he has good and bad days, revealing that even as recently as when he was covering the London Olympics this past summer, there were instances when he "didn't want to be there."

"I've done more or as much TV as anyone in Canada, yet I can still have a bad day and think 'I can't do this,'" he added.

According to Landsberg one of the most difficult aspects of living with depression or being close to someone with a mental illness is detecting it.

"Those of us that suffer can put on a mask," he said. "We ... get pretty good at pretending."

One of the most tragic cases of someone with a mental illness "wearing a mask" is that of Wade Belak, an NHL player who for years privately struggled with depression before committing suicide last year.

"Two weeks before [Belak's death], he was at my house eating pancakes," said Landsberg who was close friends with Belak. "He was a guy who had the mask on, he was the life of the party, everyone loved him."

Before leaving to a standing ovation, Landsberg left the audience with a simple message he hopes will break the stigma that surrounds mental illness: "You have the power to reach out. The power to be an ear."



SAMANTHA KELLERMAN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michael Landsberg took a seat with Laurier students on Friday.

CAMPUS

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COURTESY OF PINO ESPOSITO

Elementary school students were brought to WLU in order to be exposed to the world of university.

Exploring future options

MARISSA EVANS
LEAD REPORTER

Last Thursday, 120 elementary school students filled the Turret for a day of interactive learning that allowed them to get acquainted with Wilfrid Laurier University.

Four classes of students in grades five and six were invited for The Community Outreach Event with Wilson Avenue Public School, which was organized by the Laurier Sociology Student Association (LSSA).

Inspiration for the event sprouted from a comment made by the former president of the University of Waterloo, and current Governor General, David Johnston. During his presidency, Johnston noted that the two universities in Waterloo didn't do well in attracting local youth to their institutions.

Lucy Luccisano, a sociology professor at WLU, was discussing this with some students and subsequently decided to plan an outreach event for elementary school students in Kitchener-Waterloo.

"Probably the majority of our students are born outside of Canada,"

explained Kris McGee, a teacher at Wilson Avenue Public School.

"They might not realize that university or college is even an option for them, so this is just the first door for them to see what it could be like and what they can strive to attain in the future."

Beyond introducing the students to a university environment, McGee said the aim was also to help teach life skills through the activities which they participated in.

"There's some direct connection to our curriculum which justifies and ensures that our students are receiving some quality programming," she said.

Fourth year honours sociology students, Chelsea Paul and Donya Mosleh, coordinated the event.

Paul emphasized that the event was meant "to get [students] thinking critically about school and their education." However, she also touched on the practical element that it provided for the volunteers.

"I think it was just great to be able to see such a diverse group of students," she said. "To take the things that we've learned about in the

classroom and see it in reality."

The 15 to 20 volunteers who helped out at the event were not just from the sociology department. Presentations were also given by music students, as well as student athletes about their experiences at Laurier.

Paul explained that a mini JUMP lecture was given, followed by interactive activities which allowed students to apply the knowledge they gained.

Students were then given a tour of the campus by Laurier Student Ambassadors.

When asked if she would bring students back if another outreach event was held in the future, McGee responded, "Absolutely. We were just talking about that as teachers, and we would even bring the same students and expose them a second time to it."

McGee went on to express her impression of the day.

"The Laurier students . . . are absolutely dedicated," she said. "They have professional outlooks on everything that they're doing. The whole day's been great."

Laurier pushes slogan of 'best business school'

MARISSA EVANS
LEAD REPORTER

In anticipation for the construction slated to begin on the new Global Innovation Exchange (GIE) building, numerous signs are plastered around the perimeter that say "Building Canada's Best Business School." This is the slogan for the building, which will house Wilfrid Laurier University's school of business and economics (SBE).

But labelling SBE as "Canada's best business school" is quite an aspiration, one that the faculty hopes to achieve.

Micheal Kelly, dean of the school of business and economics at Laurier, explained that the new building is merely a component of making Laurier's business school the best in Canada.

According to Kelly, visibility is a key aspect.

"It's a great business school. I think we have the best undergraduate business program in the country," he said. "A lot of what we have to do is build a reputation around the quality that we already have."

Peter Ansley, the chair of the campaign cabinet which is comprised of university affiliates whose

job it is to raise funds for the project, agreed with Kelly's assessment of the business program.

"I think that first of all the school itself already has an outstanding reputation. One of the things we haven't done is communicate that properly to the public," he said.

Ansley continued, expressing how impressed he was by the effort and time Kelly and Max Blouw, president of WLU, have put into the campaign. He believes that Kelly will be able to expand on the quality that the school already has.

"I think Laurier has really developed a unique style over the last several years," he said. "I think it will continue to evolve and expand to become a number of other things, one being more global than it has been."

Kelly also attested to this need.

"A big challenge that we've got is just becoming known outside of the southern Ontario region," he explained.

"A best business school needs to be able to attract students nationally and internationally."

Nila Rosborough, a second-year BBA student, agrees that Laurier needs to build its reputation on an international level.

However, she noted that there are already numerous established business schools in Canada, and that the slogan is "a big statement to live up to."

For Evan Little, a second year BBA student, what sets Laurier's business program apart from other schools is the community. His concern is that this won't be preserved with the new building.

"If SBE is able to maintain the close-knit and community feel that it has right now, it could be Canada's best business school," he said.

Little expressed his thoughts on the business program.

"The main thing for me is that it's not just about the books," he began. "It's not about what you learn in the classroom; it's about what you learn outside of it, it helps you get involved and take learning into your own hands."

In his eyes, Laurier earning the name of having Canada's best business program is a definite possibility.

"I sincerely believe that this objective that we have is more than attainable," Ansley concluded. "I think we will exceed expectations on this. And I'm looking forward very much to that."

Spring start for GIE construction

New building is slated to open in 2015

JUSTIN SMIRLIES
NEWS DIRECTOR

The school of business and economics and the department of math at Wilfrid Laurier University may finally see some progress on the Global Innovation Exchange (GIE) building this spring.

With offers for contractor bids starting in Jan. 2013, Laurier hopes to have construction begin in March once the contractor is chosen — if all goes to plan. The building, which was originally slated for a Sept. 2014 opening, is projected to open in the spring of 2015.

"We're still on track for that completion date. The thing is now, once the bids come in, we need to be on budget," explained Mark Dettweiler, director: planning, design and construction at Laurier. "If we are, things will just roll ahead. If we're not, then maybe a bit of time to sort of have to make some adjustments."

Dettweiler noted that he is confident that the school will stay on budget and the building will achieve its spring 2015 target. The university has been in discussion with various companies that are looking to take over the project in the spring.

"Certainly there's a lot of awareness out there in the industry, this is a large project," he added.

The construction costs for the GIE are \$72 million, with a project price tag around \$103 million, according to the WLU website. The Ontario provincial government agreed to a \$72.6 million investment in the GIE in June 2011. These payments will be made on a reimbursement basis.

One of the few changes to the project was the addition of a new atrium as a student hub in the building instead of an outdoor courtyard. Gary Nower, assistant vice-president: physical resources at Laurier, noted that this change was due to study space concerns.

"There was a shortage of student space [on campus]," said Nower. "[The GIE will be] a place to hang out, work together, just socialize — stuff like that. This is a great opportunity, so why not close that courtyard and make it a more usable space?"

Although a separate project, a pedestrian bridge is also to be built over University Avenue to connect the main parts of campus to the GIE. The GIE building will be built

"The thing is now, once the bids come in, we need to be on budget."

—Mark Dettweiler, director: planning, design and construction

with this taken into consideration, but there is no timeline on when that bridge will be constructed.

But Dettweiler mentioned that there are still more challenges with the GIE.

"I have a concern in regards to some groundwater issues that we may have to deal with," explained Dettweiler. "It's always a little bit challenging to know for sure what you'll be up against until you actually start digging."

As a result, these shallow groundwater concerns will have to be dealt with before construction begins in March.

"Every project is a challenge, right? There's always something that pops up that was unexpected," echoed Nower.

In terms of fundraising, Rob Donelson, vice-president: alumni relations and development, asserted that Laurier has completed 15 per cent of its \$55-million fundraising goal.

This fundraising will go to capital expenditures and programming for the SBE faculty.

"We're in the process of working with these individuals and companies, we're hoping to confirm several more gifts in the new year," he said.

While the SBE and the math department get a new home, questions have arisen to what faculty will use the space in the existing Peters Building and Schlegel Centre, with much speculation being placed on the arts faculty.

"The classrooms will remain classrooms. But we are just now starting into a process to basically plan out and allocate space in that building," said Dettweiler.

"It's still open up to discussion."



COURTESY OF PHYSICAL RESOURCES

The interior of the new GIE building will now include an atrium.

Microvolunteering takes off at WLU

Students have moved to volunteering online for non-profit organizations because of its flexibility

KATELYN CULLUM
LEAD REPORTER

Imagine being able to make a difference without moving from your seat.

Microvolunteering, an online volunteering system created by Koodo-Nation last October, allows students to do just that. While it is not a complete substitute for physical volunteering, the two volunteer concepts parallel one another since they both aim to achieve the same thing — giving back.

“The microvolunteering concept is really something that we thought was amazing because it really caters to everyone, you can do it on your own time, it is flexible and it is online,” expressed Jennifer Robertson, director of marketing communications for Koodo Mobile.

She added that Koodo’s public relations agency came to them with this concept and they have been working with microvolunteers since 2008. *Spark.com* now partners with them and helped launch the microvolunteer program in Canada.

“It’s the twenty-first century way of getting involved,” added Sean Cameron, a second year business student at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Cameron is leading a team in a competition presented by Koodo-Nation that allows students from 25 different schools to compete against one another to try and complete as many online tasks as possible for non-profit organizations.

Cameron, along with over 160 volunteers from Laurier, was consistently volunteering his time and skills online in challenges until the end of the competition, which was Nov. 18.

At press time, the results hadn’t



Students have found that volunteering online is more flexible and allows them to remain tech-savvy.

CARLEY MCGLYNN GRAPHICS ARTIST

come in, but Cameron explained that towards the end of the competition, Laurier led by 17,000 points.

“[The] challenges are really simple,” said Cameron.

He continued to explain that non-profit charities across Canada post challenges to students that will assist the charities in some way.

Some examples of online challenges include: reviewing websites, helping the charities out with their Facebook pages and creating logos.

“These [non-profit charity organizations] may not have all the

experience in social media but they know university students are good at it,” explained Cameron.

Points are awarded to volunteers for every challenge they complete which add to the overall total for the Laurier team in the competition.

If Laurier succeeds in this competition, the school will be awarded \$35,000 that can be donated to the charity of their choosing.

Cameron explained if the Laurier team wins the money will go to the Colin B. Glassco Foundation for Children; a charity in Africa that

helps with water, food, education and housing.

“Laurier is in the top [position], if they keep up the good work, I definitely think they have a chance,” Robertson said, prior to the end of the competition. “Before the competition, after the competition, our ultimate goal is that this microvolunteering community is up and going and rolls on its own.”

While this specific competition is good for both microvolunteering and Laurier, both Robertson and Cameron expressed that the overall

“It doesn’t replace traditional volunteering, for me that’s the greatest thing about it.”

—Jennifer Robertson, director of marketing communications for Koodo Mobile

goal is to continue pushing microvolunteering because it is so easy to do.

“It doesn’t replace traditional volunteering, for me that’s the greatest thing about it. Microvolunteering actually compliments traditional volunteering, it’s a new tool for the non-profits, to be able to get some help,” Robertson said.

“There is no need to travel and its really flexible to your schedule, it really caters to volunteers.”

Students can easily sign up to become a volunteer while still maintaining schoolwork and extra-curricular activities since microvolunteering doesn’t require a lot of time.

Sarah Taylor, a fourth year student at Laurier, who wasn’t part of microvolunteering, believes it is good cause.

“It’s easier and makes volunteering more convenient,” Taylor stated. “More people would be open to it.”

Regardless of the outcome, Cameron stated that he is satisfied with the hard work and dedication of the team.

“It was a great experience,” he said.

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LOCAL

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Former CTV anchor shares life stories

Lloyd Robertson shared his new book, *The Kind of Life it's Been*, with a crowd at Knox Presbyterian Church

ALLY FLACK
STAFF WRITER

On Monday night, Lloyd Robertson, Canada's longest serving news anchor, came to Waterloo to discuss his new book *The Kind of Life it's Been*. Hosted by Words Worth Books, the event took place at Knox Presbyterian Church where Robertson spoke, answered audience questions and concluded with a book signing where fans could personally speak with him.

Robertson began by discussing his upbringing in Stratford, Ontario. He described his father as a wise man who explained to him at an early age of his mother's mental illnesses.

"My childhood was spent with my mother who was what would now be called bipolar. She had Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, she was paranoid and with, I think, a touch of schizophrenia," he said.

A dreary home life was what drove him to broadcasting and television, which he described as the world of imagination.

"I knew that out there was a different world that I could inhabit, be a part of and even maybe one day play a prominent role."

While growing up Robertson

soon became aware of his iconic voice and the career path this could potentially lead to.

"When I was in high school I was told about the voice... I then began to think maybe they have something there," he said. Robertson soon took on his first broadcasting gig that consisted of reading the school announcements.

His stardom rose quickly, starting in Stratford and eventually making his way to Toronto.

However, his career began differently than a broadcasting career would today.

"In those days as a CBC announcer you did everything. You did jazz shows, you did the news, you did the sports sometimes," Robertson recalled.

He went on to describe to the audience his major broadcasting breakthrough, which came from reading the bulletin for the John F. Kennedy assassination.

"That's when the world changed. That was a real marker for the television age... suddenly we saw how effective this television instrument could be," Robertson said.

Robertson described how television became the go-to place for both tragedy and celebration, regarding how the Kennedy assassination

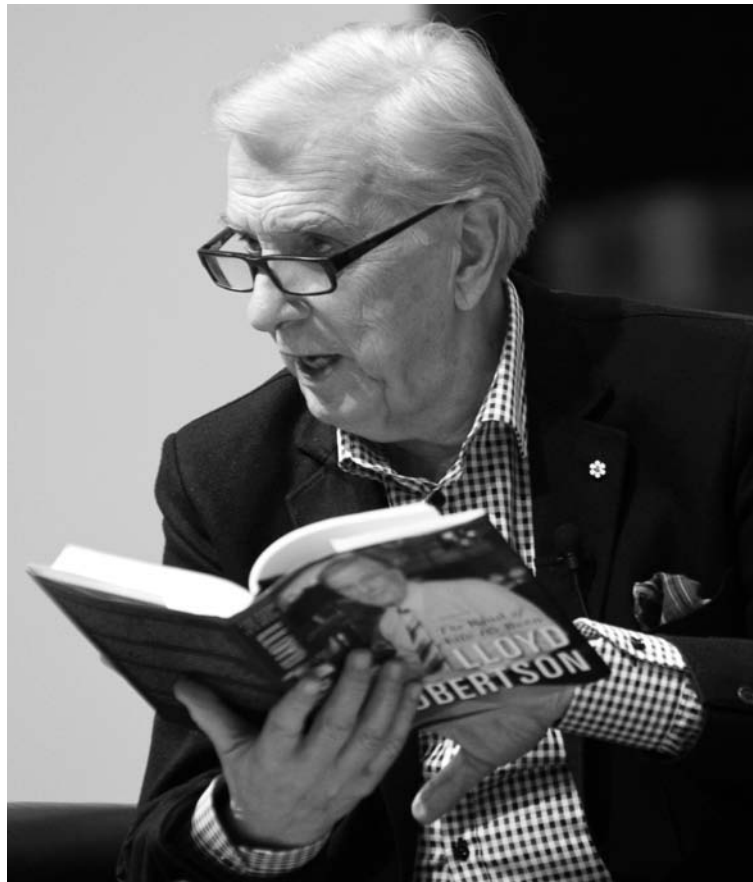
and the sheer drama and power of the images marked the beginning of what we know refer to as the television age.

From his interviews and experiences with many prominent Canadians from Lester B. Pearson to Adrienne Clarkson, Robertson had many stories to tell and kept the audience laughing throughout the presentation. Robertson joined CTV in 1976 and was promoted to the position of Chief Anchor and Senior Editor in 1983.

When asked about fellow Stratford resident and star Justin Bieber, Robertson joked, "He's even competition for a book this year!"

An interactive question and answer period followed the talk and Robertson was asked about how journalism has changed over the years with regard to the Internet. He explained how he believes people still go to their favourite newscasts, newspapers and radio stations for reliable news.

"I think people do care where they get their news and while they may want to participate with Twitter and on the Internet and watch the gossip flow... I think that when they really want to know what is going on in the world they will go to their reliable sources," he concluded.



IAN SPENCE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lloyd Robertson spoke in Waterloo this past Monday.



MIRIAM SMIT STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Among with a variety of other items, Ten Thousand Villages sells artisan jewelry from many countries.

Business with a cause

KATELYN CULLUM
LEAD REPORTER

Ten Thousand Villages, a store located in Uptown Waterloo, has proved to be successful in both providing the city with unique, handmade and environmentally sustainable products as well as supporting artisans in 29 developing countries.

"We are a non-profit organization and we have been around for 65 years," expressed Stephanie Barth, manager of the store in Waterloo. "Our goal is to create long-term trading relationships with artisan groups in developing countries."

While there are numerous locations across Canada, this store specifically thrives in Waterloo because of the local Mennonite population, according to Barth.

Barth explained that the store had originally started out in St. Jacob's, but moved to Uptown Waterloo in 1996.

Barth noted how the location in Waterloo has been particularly beneficial to the business.

"Uptown Waterloo just creates a really nice shopping area, [has a] good atmosphere [and is a] really fun environment and is supportive of free trade."

All employees at Ten Thousand Villages are volunteers, except for the manager and assistant manager. The volunteers contribute their own time to the store simply because

they are passionate about what the store represents or because they are students and need to complete specific volunteer hours.

Regardless, the majority of the staff doesn't receive compensation for the work they put into the store, but are always happy to put in their time.

"We have very dedicated volunteers," said Barth.

Barth explained the reasoning behind the volunteers.

"[Our goal] is to decrease as many costs as we can, so we can continue to invest and purchase more products [from the artisans]."

Nancy Froklage, a retired volunteer at Ten Thousand Villages Froklage explained that her reasoning for becoming a volunteer was because she carries a history with the Mennonites.

Froklage also believes that there is a "sense of self-fulfillment" that accompanies this kind of volunteering.

Elizabeth Loughheed, a masters student at the University of Waterloo, finds that this type of volunteering not only contributes to her studies, as she is in development practice, but also educates her in the specific products that the stores receives from the developing countries.

Loughheed expressed that "it's really a positive business experience because everyone who comes in is

just happy to be here."

While Ten Thousand Villages succeeds in Waterloo in part due to the consistent Mennonite population, there are, in total, 48 stores across Canada that allow foreign artisans to provide citizens with original products, such as jewelry and home decorations.

Ten Thousand Villages purchases from 29 different countries — Kenya, Libya and India are some examples.

Their artisans are "paid 100 per cent before their product even reaches the store," as Barth explained.

The overwhelming goal of this company is to ensure that long-term relationships and security are maintained for the artisan groups and that they are confident in Ten Thousand Villages' support.

None of the stores in Canada are specifically owned. Each store features a manager, assistant manager and volunteers, and the head offices are located in New Hamburg, Ontario.

Barth has been a part of Ten Thousand Villages for more than five years, starting her involvement off in New Hamburg and moving to Waterloo as manager in September.

"I love working here because it's not about giving charity to people, it's about helping them become sustainable on their own," expressed Barth.

GRT to consider public in changes

ALANNA FAIREY
LEAD REPORTER

After many requests from the residents of Waterloo, Grand River Transit (GRT) will be implementing new service changes that will take place in September 2013.

Improvements that are being introduced include a new iXpress route along Erb Street West and University Avenue. This, in turn, will lengthen the existing 201 iXpress, which runs along Fischer-Hallman Road to Conestoga Mall and the employment area at University Avenue and Northfield Drive, and moderate local routes in Waterloo and Kitchener.

Other changes to the system will also include a "University" iXpress route along Erb Street and University Avenue. As well, potential changes are expected along other bus routes, which will aim to offer more direct service and create connections to other locations within Waterloo.

"The business plan created a basic trademark and said they were going to make these particular changes to these particular bus routes and as part of that, we identified the cost for that," said Blair Allen, the supervisor transit developer for GRT.

"Our next step from that is that each year is to look at the funds and the criteria we need to improve in services and then we go and create a committee and a technical team that reviews it all."

Daniel Berger, a resident of Waterloo for twenty years, takes GRT on a daily basis and had grown unsatisfied with the transit services. Upon hearing the new improvements that will be implemented, Berger claimed that these improvements have been a long time coming.

"I think that this desire for change has been calling for a while and I think its time we answer to it. I

think that these improvements will certainly make riding the GRT better for everyone," said Berger.

The plans for these improvements have not yet been finalized, however. Allen explained that a series of public consultations still needs to take place. Allen emphasized that public input from two rounds of consultations will be considered when developing the final proposed 2013 Transit Service Improvement Plan.

"There are a series of consultations both internally and externally. Now what we're doing is we're going to the public and we're presenting a series of options that we've got," Allen said.

"In this case, we're going to get the feedback that we've been getting from the bus operators and any other comments that come in online and we'll review all those and develop from that... and come up with a final option that will meet the most needs and [provide the] best service."

In late winter of next year, these plans will be outlined to the public and arrangements to apply these changes will be pushed forward. An official report will be made to the public, the works committee and the regional council detailing these new plans.

Allen stated that once these service changes are approved by the Regional Council budget agreement, the new transit service improvement plan would be implemented by Sept. 2, 2013.



Do you feel safe living in Waterloo?

Recent crimes within the student community have some people concerned about their personal safety

KATELYN CULLUM
LEAD REPORTER

A number of recent crimes taking place in Waterloo, specifically in the student community of Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo, have raised concerns about the safety of students.

While out of town for the weekend in late September, third-year Wilfrid Laurier student Chris Allam woke up to a call from his roommates, explaining that his laptop, along with shoes, DVDs, Xbox games and other laptops from the rest of the house, had been stolen.

"I'm still slightly bitter about the situation," explained Allam. "It could have been avoided by simply remembering to lock the door, but mistakes happen."

In addition to break-ins such as this, personal theft has been another issue.

The robbery and assault on Elgin Crescent a few weeks back is one example of this, where two female students were robbed of their shopping bags and one woman sustained bruises after being punched in the face.

More recently, a man was beaten around King Street North and University Avenue early Tuesday morning because he confronted a man who stole his drink. After confronting him, he was punched in the face and then three other males joined in and pushed him to the ground, continuing the assault. According to a witness, one of the men pulled out an object that looked like a handgun, pointing it at the victim.

"Personally, I'm paranoid," said Ariel Clark, a second-year psychology student who commutes from Cambridge.

She explained that her knowledge on crime stories in Waterloo has



STEPHANIE TRUONG GRAPHICS EDITOR

increased recently and that she is concerned about her safety.

When asked about advice for students on preventive measures for thefts and robberies, Kevin Thaler, executive officer at the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS), stated, "You want to avoid being the victim. Don't travel alone, drink in moderation, travel in well lit areas and let people know where you are going."

While he believes that students are not specifically targeted in Waterloo, noting that crimes can take place anywhere with anyone, such as in malls and church parking lots, student residences are often easy for criminals because students are in a hurry to get out and typically forget to lock their door or take other precautionary measures.

"Many of our thefts are because doors were left unlocked," added Thaler.

"We now pretty much always have our door locked, even if it's the middle of the day," Allam remarked.

Chris Hancocks, operations manager for Special Constables, agreed with Thaler's statement about safety.

"Be aware of your surroundings and walk in groups. It's common knowledge," he said.

"I wouldn't say that the fault lies on the students, but you do have to be mindful of your property and your surroundings," Staff Sergeant Dale Roe from the University of Waterloo explained further.

Thaler concluded, "I don't want to put the blame on them, I'm just saying there is a way to avoid being the

victim."

Both Hancocks and Roe explained that they haven't seen a fluctuating increase in crimes, specifically because they deal with campus based incidents, but neither service has been in communication with the WRPS to take any new precautions; the same precautions are in order and serve well.

While the police haven't noticed a large spike in the crime rate in Waterloo, it goes without saying that all citizens of the city must take precautions.

Thaler stated that the regional police, along with both campus police services, take safety measures at the beginning of the school year, when new students are in the city and returning ones need a reminder.

"A reminder doesn't hurt, there

"People who are engaging in criminal activities have begun to take advantage of this naive population."

—Louie Infusino, fourth-year communications student

are things you can do to prevent being the victim," he explained.

He also explained that many people believe they are untouchable, acknowledging that "a lot of people have the attitude that it 'won't happen to me.'"

However, Thaler admitted that he himself carried that attitude until he was proved wrong. He added that other people should not feel invincible.

Louie Infusino, a fourth-year communication studies student, explained his concerns. "Students are putting themselves in a vulnerable position," he stated, in regard to unlocked doors and careless precautions.

"People who are engaging in criminal activities have begun to take advantage of this naive population."

While it is easy to argue that robbery and theft can be stopped simply by being aware of your surroundings and locking up behind you, that is not necessarily the case.

"Victims can reduce the opportunity, but they can't remove the opportunity entirely," said Thaler.

WLUSP

AGM January 31st

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- ☑ Nomination packages can be picked up from the WLUSP office.
- ☑ Nominations are now open for the President and 4 Board Directors.

NATIONAL

National Editor
Lindsay Purchase
lpurchase@thecord.ca

Binge drinking poses large risks

ALANNA FAIREY
LEAD REPORTER

A night out with friends could end up turning into a trip to the hospital or jail due to binge drinking.

2008 statistics from Stats Canada had an estimated 25.1 per cent of males and 9.6 per cent of females report heavy drinking. Comparatively, according to the 2011 Monitoring the Future Study, 36 per cent of American college students report that they had been binge drinking.

The working definition of binge drinking entails five drinks in a two-hour period for males, while females it is considered binge drinking if they have had four drinks in that same time span. Wilfrid Laurier University psychology professor Bruce McKay claims that this definition is not helpful.

"This definition does not consider factors such as an individual's body weight or emotional circumstances," McKay said.

"Such factors are not considered, and I think that these make a big difference in the definition."

McKay also shared that binge drinking is not harmless, as it carries plenty of dangers that will cause harm to the drinker and those surrounding the drinker. One of the most common examples is drink tampering, which can lead to sexual assault. In some extreme cases, death has been an outcome from binge drinking due to overdose effects, drinking and driving or careless harm reduction approaches.

"The number one way in which people die from binge drinking is when the drinker passes out and is left to sleep it off," McKay explained.

"If a person passes out during a drinking game because of the alcohol in their system, get them away from the drinking and call 911 immediately," he advised. "Until the ambulance arrives, roll the passed out drinker on their side in a drowning position so they don't choke on

"It might be funny at the time, but there is a victim attached at the other end."

—Kevin Thaler, executive officer for the Waterloo Regional Police Service

their own vomit."

Executive officer for the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) Kevin Thaler has witnessed many students endanger their lives because of the excessive consumption of alcohol. However, he has also seen alcohol inspire very belligerent behaviour from certain individuals. Actions such as vandalism and fighting leads to trouble with the law, and it comes with startling consequences.

"We'll see violent episodes from people who are not violent when they are sober who make some very bad choices and they won't have a criminal record," Thaler said.

"But they will lash out with a beer bottle and strike somebody. When you open someone up for stitches, you're looking at jail. That's whether or not you've got a criminal record."

Thaler also mentioned that once an individual is charged for a criminal offense, it remains on record for the rest of their lives. If the individual is able to avoid trouble for five years and request a pardon, the criminal record will not show. Despite this, more complications can arise.

"That affects your international travel and at the university level. We've had some cases of violence where action was taken by the



KATE TURNER PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Drinking is a common social activity for students, but problems can occur when it gets out of control.

university and students were expelled. There are a series of consequences. The universities won't tolerate bad behaviour," Thaler explained.

"It might be funny at the time, but there is a victim attached at the other end"

A former student at York University, who wishes to be unnamed, jeopardized his future career search when he got in trouble with the law. Under the influence of approximately seven beers, he got into a fight in public. Before it escalated into anything serious, the police arrived and arrested him.

"I didn't think it was a big deal at the time. I thought that this was going to be something I would look back on and laugh at how stupid I was," he said.

"But the truth is, I'm just looking back and being angry at how stupid I was. No respectable business wants to hire someone who has a blemish on their record. If I had known that all of this would have happened, I wouldn't have gone drinking that night."

He also shared that he drank often due to the stress and pressures of doing well in school, as well as coping with an unhealthy home

environment. According to McKay, this scenario is not uncommon amongst binge drinkers.

"There is this assumption that students live a pristine life and then when they come to university, that corrupts them. That is not the case," McKay shared.

Excess drinking may be a result of difficulties experienced or habits acquired before attending university.

While McKay and Thaler both agree that it is unrealistic to completely obliterate drinking from the universities, both recommended that students use their common sense and drink responsibly.

Sexual violence prevalent

—cover

both the students and the administration to effect change that would be meaningful."

"Our role is amplifying student voices," she continued.

"So as much as possible, to bring that lived experience of students out and to really look at how we can bring out our policies, our procedures, to better serve women on our campus."

Addressing sexual violence is of particular importance for younger female demographics.

According to Casselman, "female undergraduates between the ages of 16 and 24 are four times more likely to experience violence," while approximately 25 per cent of female post-secondary students have been victims of physical or sexual assault.

Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) national president Susan Murphy added that young women moving away from home for school may be especially vulnerable.

"It's an opportunity for great experiences, but also risks that may not have been apparent or may not have been there in a home community," she explained.

Murphy said that while the funding is commendable, there are still further steps to be taken.

"We would really support and have advocated for many years a national action plan for violence against women, that we need a more focused approach that incorporates the federal government and provincial government," continued Murphy.

"We think if you have a national action plan you have the opportunity to benchmark, you set goals, you collect data in a more comprehensive way and you have better evidence of what works, what doesn't work and what is actually going on."

Murphy acknowledged the difficulty in gaining complete information on sexual violence due to the fact that many incidents go unreported.

"It's very hard to know the degree to which incidents are taking place and are not being reported, the seriousness of them, and of course the traumatic impact on the individuals that have experienced this," she said.

Casselman attributed this in part to victim blaming, which she said is prevalent in our society.

"With sexual violence especially, it remains such a taboo topic," she said.

"There's a lot of secrecy and a lot of shame that goes along with it."

She continued, "I think a lot of people have some sense of it, but not quite an understanding of how common it is and how many women have had this experience."

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The age of female students that are four times more likely to experience violence

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Female post-secondary students have been a victim of sexual violence

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DearLIFE

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

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

Dear I'm a Little Bipolar About These Issues,

I'll tell you why everyone is so pissed off. Its because we're tired of WLUSU volunteers and members feeling the need to broadcast how fucking great they are. We get it. You volunteer and have made a group of friends. You get your one week to be "special" then you move the fuck on. There are so many students at this school who do other co-curricular activities (or not) that do just as much as you. They receive compliments, but guess what? It's not done through Facebook because we don't need to show the Facebook world how important we think we are. Sincerely, It's called being HUMBLE, you guys should try it sometime

Dear Life,

I'm starting to fashion an idea in my head where I would impress you with every single word I said. It would come out insightful or brave or smooth or charming, and you'd wanna call me. And I would be there every time you'd need me; I'd be

there every time ... But for now I'll look so longingly waiting ... For you to want me, for you to need me Sincerely, For you to notice me

Dear Life,

You're not going to change anyone's mind by having a weeks-long dispute in dear life, you're just going to get more people pissed at you. Sincerely, Stop beating the dead horse

Dear I'm a Bit Bipolar About These Issues,

Really? Well then how come those being complimented on the "WLU Compliment Page" are icebreakers, WLUSU exec, club coordinators, Dub-C team members, O-Week staff or just dumb-ass first years? Sincerely, Hate to burst your "bubble"

Dear Life,

Why is it that no one understands how to share a sidewalk in this city? Everyone walks in groups and no one makes room for others to walk past. Sincerely, I'd love to walk into traffic for you

Dear Life,

Sometimes I think I can do this, sometimes I think that I'm going to be kicked out of university by next year. I'm still not used to this dramatic change! What's wrong with me? :(Sincerely, Terrified first year

Dear Life,

Where is all the love in this world? After listening to Bob Marley's daughter speak, society needs to begin to just love one another as brothers and sisters. As cheesy as it may sound we are all in this crazy world together. A little love, whether its a smile, holding a door for someone or just being respectful to one another, can and will go a long way. Let's bring back the positivity and love for one another that I can see lacking in every straight-faced, headphone in-ear, single-minded student. Sincerely, Losing hope in humanity

Dear Life,

Why, why, WHY Laurier students do you insist on talking in the library? It is the only quiet study space on campus. Is it really that difficult to take your conversations outside? Really? And yes I mean you, girl in the cubicle in front of me on the sixth floor talking on the PHONE. Don't you realize it's quiet in here? If I can hear your phone conversation clearly over my headphones, that's a fucking problem. Sincerely, Please shut up, I just want to pass my last midterm

Dear A REAL Female Scientist at Laurier

I feel like you may have some misconceptions about the event that took place in the Atrium. For one we had over 130 people show up, some including staff from PI, IQC and other local/distance universities. We also had Melissa Franklin, who was the first female physics prof to get tenured at Harvard University! She truly is a female scientist. Sincerely, Women in Science Center

Dear Life,

I feel really alone. I'm sad and stressed. It's been really difficult and I wish things would get better. Sincerely, Stressed and Depressed

Dear Life,

What happened to the good ol' days when the Dear Life section was just about reading hilarious antics that

made you laugh? Like a drunken hot mess that wanders into the Pizza Pizza kitchen on university looking for the bathroom? When did it become the comment section of Rebecca Black's Friday video on YouTube where people troll with their comments. Sincerely, Drunken hot mess

Dear Life,

Mo' mo's, mo' ho's Sincerely, Free moustache rides

Dear Person Who Asked a Random Girl on the Street,

Turns out I was wrong, the saint you were looking for is St. Anthony, not St. Andrews. My bad. Sincerely, The Random Girl on the street

Dear Life,

Campus Clubs are a means of getting involved in the Laurier community. Yes, it is an opportunity to meet new people but not a means of getting laid. So please stop flirting with others during our club time and get the work done that you're supposed to. Sincerely, Keep your legs shut

Dear Laurier,

The end of the world isn't until Dec. 21 2012. So why does our campus look like a disaster? Sincerely, Stop wasting my tuition money

Dear Life,

I am so tired of hearing about how WLUSU is so cliquy. If you care about it enough to write something then get the fuck out of the hole you're living in and make some new friends. The people in WLUSU decided to get involved and you decided to come to a small school so clearly the people who see each other every day are going to become friends and do stuff. If you want friends, make them. Don't be a bitch and complain because you decided to stay home instead. Sincerely, I am not a part of WLUSU. I just like friends.

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Exploring the value

Volunteering abroad is often seen as an effective means of contributing to global development, but it can also cause harm it can create. **Local and National Editor Lindsay Purchase**

Perspectives on volunteering abroad are as diverse as the organizations that facilitate it and the countries who host it. A highly contested contribution to global development, voluntourism is an example of this type of exchange and an increasingly common way of exploring international volunteering.

The divergence between those who believe in the enormous opportunity for good and others who focus on the potential for harm has created a wide debate about the impacts of voluntourism. It has also generated a number of questions to consider for those looking into the experience to consider.

Is it more about travelling or volunteering? Are the projects done in a way that is ethical and sustainable for host communities? Who serves to benefit the most from voluntourism — organizations, volunteers or the ‘voluntoured’?

It’s a passionate and frustrating debate, but it is one which has become increasingly important as voluntourism has gained popularity.

But what exactly is “voluntourism”? And what distinguishes it from other forms of volunteering abroad?

“International development volunteering is much more focused on a specific intent, it’s much more focused on the volunteer work than having the vacation portion of it integrated,” offered Ruth MacKenzie, the president and CEO of Volunteer Canada. “They’re kind of two niches of the same thing.”

Put simply, “it’s fairly broad, just a combination of traditional tourism with volunteer work,” said Lindsay Morris, a graduate of the international development program at the University of Guelph.

Morris participated in two trips with Habitat for Humanity during her undergraduate degree, leading one, and did some independent work in Botswana as well.

For some though, the definition isn’t as clear. There is a high level of variance amongst organizations of the balance between work and touristic endeavours. This blurs the line between more idealist perspectives compared to those who view it in a more negative light.

“I feel like there’s a really large scale for voluntourism and you have some that it’s like volunteering with a little bit of tourism, and then you can definitely have the opposite,” said Preston Taylor, a fourth-year global studies student at Wilfrid Laurier University.

While Taylor spent two months volunteering with an eco-farming project in India this past summer and was aware of his organization being considered a voluntourism opportunity, the experience was intended to have a greater focus on work with travel opportunities on weekends.

Taylor acknowledged that one type of experience isn’t necessarily superior to another.

“Really it depends on what you’re trying to get out of it,” he said.

“It was less about trying to fix a problem than it was making sure people liked the trip.”

—Preston Taylor, fourth-year global studies student at WLU

Volunteers or customers?

While organizations facilitating voluntourism may have altruistic motives and positive intentions, something that may be forgotten is the fact that most are operating with some kind of business model. That model may be for the purpose of generating profit or simply allowing more volunteers to partake in the experience. This can result in experiences that direct their initiatives more toward volunteer desires than community needs, which is also a strong source of criticism against voluntourism.

“I suppose since it technically is a product that they’re purchasing, since they

often pay quite a hefty amount to participate in these projects, [voluntourists] do want to receive customer satisfaction, basically,” said Morris. “So I can see how it’s tempting and almost justifiable for the voluntourist organizations to succumb to the wants and needs of the voluntourists as a way to ensure ongoing business for themselves.”

She went on to explain how these types of trips are perceived and rewarded by Western societies and how this might impact the reasoning for engaging in an international volunteering experience. “It looks good on a resume, it looks good on a scholarship application ... because participating in this kind of trip supposedly indicates a certain level of good character, when really I think that’s quite questionable,” Morris said. “It becomes quite a feel good thing for [volunteers].”

International experiences can cost thousands of dollars, including flights, accommodations, insurance and other associated expenses. There is a lot of discrepancy on how funds are distributed in organizations, from direct financial support for communities, to staff costs and volunteer support.

Taylor, elaborating on his experience, said that there were mixed benefits to the community and the volunteers.

“It was less about trying to fix a problem than it was making sure people liked the trip. Because it’s still a business ... it stops being about what the people really need and it starts becoming about what the volunteers need, which is not the point,” he said.

As an educator trying to develop meaningful learning abroad opportunities for university students, Joanne Benham Rennick, a professor of contemporary studies at Laurier Brantford, recalled organizations who were willing to develop opportunities in accordance with what students were looking for. While flexibility may be a positive attribute, this indicated to her that there was a lack of a sustainable, grassroots initiative in place that they could contribute to.

“The company they go with wants to make money by having them there but it doesn’t necessarily have a job for them,” she said. “Those are not helpful exchanges. Those are not beneficial to the student or the community.”

Getting the full picture

Determining which organizations have models suited to your personal standards is a matter of digging beneath the polished surface of voluntourism advertisements. Beyond choosing what to do and where, there are additional moral considerations which may factor into decision-making and complicate the process. And with the plethora of options available to someone planning an excursion, evaluating different opportunities can be overwhelming.

MacKenzie emphasized the amount of research that should be done to evaluate the suitability of organizations and the need to understand in what context volunteering is being coordinated.

“You want to make sure that you’re doing things that are ethical, that the projects you’re engaging in are sustainable, that there’s value in it beyond the value of making a monetary donation,” she said. “It’s not just about finding a way for people to engage, but it needs to be making a contribution and making a difference in a real way.”

Part of this may include determining the types of power relationships that exist and whether an egalitarian arrangement is being created.

Morris believes that the power often sits disproportionately in the hands of volunteers or the organizations by choosing what gets done and on what timeline. Locals, in this context, are passive actors who don’t get to have a strong voice in



Value of voluntourism

awareness, but has come under increasing levels of criticism for the potential
examines different perspectives of this contentious debate

determining how change is created in their society.

"Really it should be decided by the local organization because they have the knowledge of what the real need is and what is realistic to accomplish in a certain time period," she asserted.

Laurier grad Alanna Wallace, who works as a project manager in South Africa with voluntourism organization African Impact, said that to her, criticism is understandable. "I've seen organizations in the communities we work in who maybe aren't culturally sensitive and aren't practicing sustainable development," she recalled.

According to Wallace, focusing on the education of the local community is one way to ensure that projects are viable.

"That's the thing about sustainable development and an organization that practices sustainable development is, hopefully, when all of our goals are accomplished, we work ourselves into being obsolete," she explained. "It's something we tell the volunteers — hopefully one day we won't be needed here anymore."

A big part of this for Me to We speaker and leadership facilitator Andrea McPhedran, is ensuring that the organization has a strong connection with locals and takes time to understand their needs. Me to We, which was co-created by Marc and Craig Kielburger, arranges volunteer trips for youth.

"A lot of the staff that we employ on the ground are actually from the country," she said. "It helps with relationship building at the beginning and then I think it helps in continuing the strong relationships."

While volunteers may come and go, some organizations do have staff that live permanently in the area and contribute consistently to projects.

Thinking critically

A defining component of many voluntourism experiences is the short-term nature of trips, which makes it easier for larger numbers of people to contribute. Whether or not a volunteer can engage with underlying issues and make a real impact during the span of a few weeks or months is an important consideration for volunteers and organizations alike.

Taylor argues that most trips aren't set up to have volunteers engage at a high level with a region's underlying problem. "It's not a space for critical thinking, it's mainly just a space for reinforcing old stereotypes. They don't want to make the volunteer feel uncomfortable by saying 'these are problems that you are causing,'" he said.

The education and discussion opportunities that take place while learning abroad or during a voluntourism experience can be highly impactful in addressing this.

At the root of whether the positives outweigh the negatives of an experience is if "students have an opportunity to be really prepared," according to Benham Rennick. She suggested that courses can be useful for those taking trips through school settings.

Benham Rennick added that experiences can be more positive "when they have a lot of opportunities to reflect on why they're going and what they're doing and when they are taught to have a sense of their own smallness in the experience ... that they're going simply to learn from other people."

McPhedran believes that volunteers can develop a deep, contextual understanding, even in the span of a few weeks, when a framework is in place for discussion and learning.

"We do a lot and we talk about it. And that's kind of the important thing, that leadership and that education piece we never let slide," she explained.

For those who advocate for travelling abroad as a way of learning about and addressing

global issues, short-term engagements may be unavoidable. With the exception of those doing gap years, most students have at maximum, a summer break that spans just a few months, to engage in these types of experiences.

"Organizations that have done a good job in adapting their volunteer programs to fit volunteers looking for those shorter term opportunities are the ones that are going to be making a difference," said MacKenzie.

"This trip isn't the end of a journey, it's really just the start. The start of becoming a global citizen ... and understanding that you have a part to play."

—Andrea McPhedran, Me to We speaker and leadership facilitator

Positivity in the face of criticism

While moral and ideological incentives have been used as a criticism of voluntourism, those are also arguments made in favour of the potential benefits of voluntourism trips. These motivations may come from a desire for cross-cultural exchange or to improve the quality of life for people facing greater hardship than those in wealthier societies, amongst other considerations.

"Having a renewed appreciation, having a better understanding of what the majority of the world endures and the incredible amount of community they have," are ways in which volunteers will benefit from these experiences, said McPhedran.

She continued, "The trip isn't the end of a journey, it's really just the start. The start of becoming a global citizen, the start of seeing that world and understanding that you have a part to play."

Opportunities for engaging with local issues and people, something that isn't coordinated by every organization, can also create relationships that may spark deeper levels of involvement.

Wallace said that "because of the contacts that I made," she felt a connection to the placement and was encouraged to return to continue addressing existing problems.

Additionally, while the impact may vary, it can also be a highly formative learning experience for volunteers. For Taylor, though he wasn't entirely satisfied with the experience, he did see some benefits to the local population and it helped him realize where his skills and interests could best be utilized.

"That experience kind of made me want to work with maybe a more local organization because working abroad is a lot more problematic than I originally thought," he said.

"I don't think we can write off voluntourism altogether," added Morris. "If going on one of these trips ... gets [volunteers] thinking and gets them onto a path of pursuing development studies or something like that, perhaps that is worth it."

An undefined experience

The ambiguity of voluntourism makes its effectiveness difficult to evaluate. For each critique or benefit raised, there is an example of an organization that doesn't match these considerations. Differing priorities of organizations complicates what may seem like a simple desire to help others.

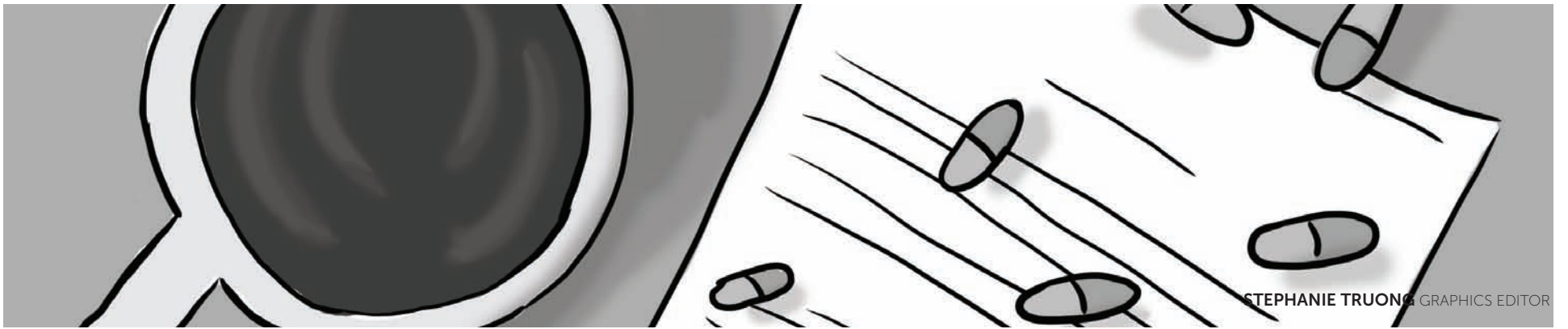
Perhaps, however, where the initiative can start is at home. At the root of the learning experience volunteers can have when travelling, according to McPhedran, is a realization that "we've got to change how we live here to better meet the abilities for everyone around the world."

Where, and in what way you decide to impact the world is limitless.

Choose wisely.

LIFE

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STEPHANIE TRUONG, GRAPHICS EDITOR

'College crack' more harmful than helpful

The stress of finals have some students turning to Adderall and Ritalin for misguided help to stay focused

VANESSA THAREN
STAFF WRITER

The pressures of university can at times seem overbearing. Within one semester, students are faced with countless assignments, mid-terms and extra-curricular activities, all while attempting to balance in a social life.

For some students, relief comes at the end of the semester when we finally have a chance to relax. But for others, the thought of taking a pill that is thought to focus their attention and inhibit study habits, is ideal.

So what is this magic pill that will solve all of our academic problems?

Often referred to as "college crack", some students use the prescription known as Adderall and Ritalin, are known to treat Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and Attention Hyperactive Deficit Disorder (ADHD) in diagnosed children and adults.

"Some of my friends have tried it and think it's a good thing if you want to study," said Nick Fattore, a third-year science student who

believes the pills work for studying.

However second-year sociology student Emily Richardson has a contradicting view. "If you don't have a prescription for it, you shouldn't be taking it. It's all in your head anyways," she said.

Richardson believes that the positive effects are a myth and have no benefits towards students who do not need to take Adderall in the first place.

There is a fine divide between students who are for and against using the drug for extra help who cannot properly explain the scientific reasons behind taking a drug in order to enhance one's performance.

Despite students' thoughts for personal use, many do not know accurate information connected to the side effects and science behind the drug. This could lead to some serious consequences if they abuse it.

Laurier professor Bruce McKay, who teaches a course on drugs and behaviour, was able to shed light on the real facts of Adderall and Ritalin.

According to McKay, the range of students that use Adderall is usually between five to 35 per cent across

North America with some data suggesting that Laurier generally falls at the lower end.

The high percentage of students across Canada looking for help in the form of a pill led to some other facts that affect those who do not suffer from ADD or ADHD.

"If you don't have undiagnosed ADHD symptoms ... these drugs won't help you," said McKay when asked to sum up the effects of the drugs and the relevance it has in students without ADD or ADHD.

"They may keep you awake longer but no scientific evidence suggests that they help normal, healthy, young people to become smarter."

Does this mean the pill works as a placebo effect, providing nothing but confidence when students are stressing over getting a good grade? Not quite.

The reason students may be so quick to use Adderall is the fact that it keeps them awake. A common characteristic of the drug is that it keeps you up for hours, which may be why students are interpreting it as a study enhancer.

Coffee and Redbull have been

helping students skip sleep for years, so what's the difference with these drugs? McKay described how students often misinterpret what sleep deprived really means.

"Staying awake is a very real outcome," he said. "These drugs have been used in work places like truck driving and military personnel for years to help them stay awake for days, but students who sleep for five to six hours a night are not really sleep deprived."

McKay added that students are better off getting a good night's sleep rather than taking a drug like Adderall or Ritalin. With the hope of staying awake all night being the only positive effect, it is possible students are ignoring what long-term effects these drugs can have on their bodies.

Students are notorious for placing health on the lower end of the priority list and according to McKay, misusing Adderall and Ritalin can lead to a cardiovascular-related problem by increasing a person's blood pressure and heart rate.

"These are not drugs to be fooled with," McKay warns.

Despite the risks, many students still swear by these drugs when it comes to studying. The answer to why some students are so adamant on its positive effects is that they may not knowingly have undiagnosed ADD or ADHD themselves.

"These ideas are so contagious because people believe this works, the only way I can explain this is that there are small effects for people with undiagnosed ADHD."

McKay explained, adding that if the drugs are legitimately aiding study it may be a signal of undiagnosed ADHD and in that case, the student should seek the help of a psychologist.

Unlike coffee, Ritalin and Adderall possess much more than a caffeine boost. But all they really produce is the ability to stay awake, with the risk of deeper health problems.

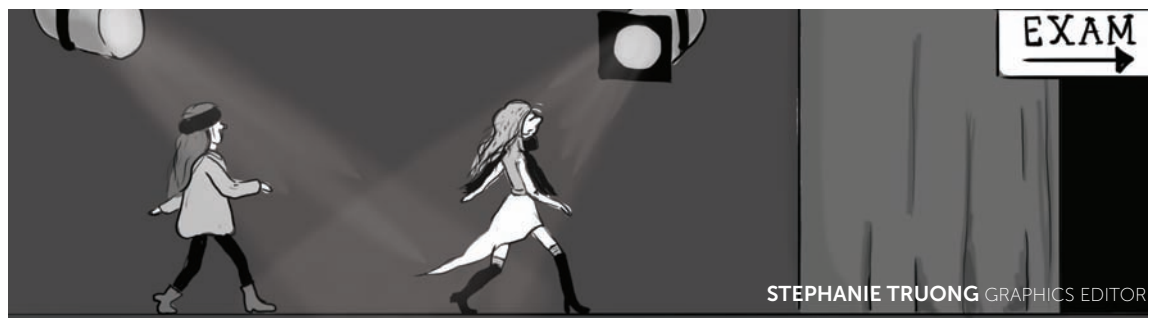
With these "study drugs" popping up all over campus it is easy to fall into the idea of an easier way to do well in school. However it is important to note that, scientifically, there is no cognitive enhancement from Ritalin and Adderall.

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STEPHANIE TRUONG, GRAPHICS EDITOR

Dress to beat exam stress

BRIEANNE BERRY
FASHION COLUMNIST

It's that time of the year again, exams. The time where sleep is for the weak and only the strongest manage to shower on a regular basis.

Between fighting for study space on campus and reserving energy, most students often opt to throw fashion out the window and go to school wearing sweats.

Here's my personal philosophy: if you dress with a purpose, you will feel motivated.

Whenever I leave my apartment in my sweatpants, the only motivation I have is to get my errands done within 30 minutes so I can return to my bed and watch something on Netflix.

The same goes for exams, I can't sit for hours on end in my sweatpants staring at my textbook without trying to figure out how I can nap and read at the same time.

So in order to keep the motivation going throughout the month of December, I've made a list of helpful hints on dressing for those long hours of studying.

Find a formula

Just like it's best to find a true study method, figuring out what you want to wear ahead of time during those days of cramming will definitely

make your life easier.

For example, during exams I live in black leggings, beanies and sweaters because I have several options to choose from in my closet. It's not the most creative look, but at least I know I have five to six items that I can continually rotate through. And I can stay focused on my studies.

Abuse your right to wear yoga pants

Not only that but embrace yoga pants. They're stretchy, comfortable and you can even sneak in a five-minute nap in them if needed. It's the easiest way to cheat getting ready without having to put in a lot of effort.

Unfortunately gentlemen, I'm still unsure what the male equivalent of leggings are (Chinos? Khakis?) so you are allowed a pass for the sweatpants and Laurier hoodie that you will most likely wear from Dec. 3 until the end of finals. But seriously, leave the jeans at home.

Invest in headwear

Beanies, berets, turbans and headbands, oh my! If you've hit the point of extreme bedhead, grab a hat and keep it moving.

Just because you've stopped caring about your hair doesn't mean you have to expose that to the rest of

the student population.

These are the rare times when it's not impolite to wear hats indoors, so take that hood off your head and embrace it. Along with scarves, this is an easy way to accessorize an outfit and look put-together even when you really just rolled out of bed five minutes ago.

Make over-sized clothing your best friend

When in doubt, wear something two to three sizes too big. My favourite cardigan to study in is from the men's section at H&M. It's warm, oversized and can be worn with anything.

Find that shirt, sweater or cardigan and run with it. No one likes to feel suffocated, especially when they've been sitting in the same spot for over six hours.

Give yourself some space to breathe and hide unwanted weight gain from all that stress eating you find yourself doing.

Be temperature-aware

The temperature around campus can range between stifling hot to freezing cold. The best solution is to layer set and then remove items as you see fit. There's nothing worse than trying to study when your body temperature is out of wack.

Good luck with studying.

Easy gift ideas

Gifts put a strain on budgeting, but Cord Life shows you how to save a few dollars

KYLIE CONNER
CORD LIFE

The holidays are coming up, which means once again, we'll need to make some expenses. This can be a difficult time for students who are on a tight budget but still need to get a little something for their family and friends. If the gift receivers have said that all they want for Christmas is 'you' then you're set.

However, life is not a Mariah Carey song. So to prevent us from singing the blues from financial woes, here are some money-saving tips in order to still spread the holiday cheer.

An easy way to save some money around the holidays is to give out homemade presents. This means it's time for you to get crafty and channel those inner creative skills that have been tucked away from having to do school work.

Homemade gifts often end up meaning more to the person you give it to because you spent the time making it just for them.

Gift idea #1: Customized hot chocolate holder

This gift was given to me last year and I loved it. All you have to do is buy some hot chocolate powder and a mason jar to hold the powder, and decorate it.

Simple things like putting a bow

or ribbons on the jar add enough festivity to make the person appreciative of the gift. It lasts you for a decent amount of time and after they're done they can rinse the mason jar and use it for something else.

Gift idea #2: Customized coffee mug

A customized coffee mug is another cute homemade gift that is extremely easy. Buy a plain white mug, get a sharpie, write or draw on whatever you want and then bake it in the oven for half an hour at 350°F so the marker won't smudge.

This gift is super inexpensive and your family or friend will have a one-of-a-kind mug made by you.

Gift idea #3: The survival kit

If arts and crafts aren't your forte, don't worry there's another option. Take a trip to the drugstore and pick up a few things that you know they'll need. Items like a razor, body wash, candy bars or magazines are appreciated since we are always in need of them.

Don't stop there, though. It's all about presentation. You can pick up a small basket or bucket and some tissue paper from the dollar store. Throw it all together and you have a survival kit that's practical and affordable. Since you put the effort in to the presentation it, won't look last minute - even if it is.



KATE TURNER PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

The Carnivore's Conundrum: Japanese Cooking



SPENCER DUNN
STAFF WRITER

Konnichiwa! This week in the Carnivore's Conundrum I tried my hand at Japanese cooking. Now, as a 6'2, white, I am not Japanese in the least, so cooking food that was not in my comfort zone was a challenge to say the least.

Japanese cooking is flavourful and for the most part, healthy. There is a great book to check out called *Japanese Women Don't Get Old or Fat* by Naomi Moriyama, which was the source I used as ideas, to cook most of my meals.

It discussed the benefits of traditional Japanese diets and how they have been bastardized by Western fast food.

Unfortunately, I cannot travel to Japan and eat accurate traditional Japanese food, but with a little

Internet searching, some teriyaki sauce and a bag of bok choy, I could get pretty close.

The first thing to discuss when looking at this diet is tea. Green tea helps with digestion and is full of anti oxidants. It tastes great without any added sugar or milk and, as it contains very little caffeine it can be consumed right before bed, but after a meal is preferable.

Stir-fry is something I made a lot of this week, and is popular in Japan. Udon noodles or rice can be used and it is a perfect opportunity to get all of your vegetable servings.

At most grocery stores they sell mixed stir-fry veggies. They come in a bag and are easy to add to any sauce in a wok or frying pan to make a delicious stir-fry.

A Japanese diet also relies heavily on seafood. Fortunately, salmon, and other fish, are very good for you. Most fish contain healthy omega-3 fatty acids.

Unfortunately, fish can be quite expensive, and hard to manage on a student budget. Shrimp is a good substitute; although it may be pricey at first, a bag of shrimp goes a long way.

Another major benefit of Japanese cooking is that, it is quite inexpensive. Noodles are cheap, and rice is even cheaper.

But, let's just pause for a second and talk about Ramen noodles. Yes, they are a staple of student life. Even I have stacks of Mr. Noodle on reserve, should my groceries not last. But Ramen noodles are incredibly bad for you. No matter how easy it is to make them, you have to avoid them.

There's a small coating of wax that goes onto the noodles. Eventually when it gets into your system, that coating of wax builds up in your arteries and veins.

Not so tempted to boil a bottle of water and eat a package Mr. Noodles now? Didn't think so.

Well, as they say, "another week another yen". Next week I'll be embodying TV's Ron Swanson and embracing my inner manly man.

Maybe it's this 'moustache' that's crawling across my face, but I'm in the mood for some red meat.

See you next time for a special viewing of 700 Pounds starring Will Smith.



CRISTINA RUCCHETTA LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

Time to celebrate 'treat yo' self'

Need a pick-me-up? Thanks to pop culture, there's a new holiday for students to enjoy



CARLY BASCH
LIFE EDITOR

There is not a student on this entire campus that can say this month of essays and exams has been a cheery one. In fact, for many it has been the most dreadful time trying to keep our sanity, energy and minds intact.

While it is something that we all suffer and endure together, it can't be ignored that the stress and state of depression caused from academic deadlines tend to become quite tiresome.

And that's just singling out academics. We forget that as humans, there are emotional things that happen outside our lectures that take a toll on us.

Friendship, relationships or family issues or just making sure you have enough clean underwear and food to get you through the week are enough to weigh down the heavy

plate you are already dealing with.

In spite of the hectic times, procrastination has proven to become a wasteful yet valuable tool in order to get me through this mini and temporary hellhole. Upon my recent viewings of *Parks and Recreation*, a very wise and comedic man (Aziz Ansari) entered the screen and announced a phrase that I would immediately put into effect. That phrase was "Treat yo' self!"

"Treat yo' self" is the day where you can do anything you want in order to make yourself happy. It's the ultimate hall-pass for students dying to add some excitement and happiness to their stressed out work schedules. This half hour of procrastination added some valuable enlightenment on what needed to be done next, and it wasn't going back to writing that essay.

Jumping out of bed, throwing on an outfit that was not an ensemble of sweat pants and a flannel shirt, I decided that it was time to put the laptop down and engage in my own version of "treat yo' self".

Before I knew it, I was waltzing around Uptown Waterloo with a hot cup of DAVIDS TEA, a bag full of delicious groceries and a box

of gourmet cupcakes. I continued my "treat yo' self" by curling up on the couch to watch old episodes of my guilty pleasure *Gossip Girl* (season one). If that wasn't enough, the grand finale consisted of buying an outfit to wear to a holiday party in December.

While it is stressed that we must be balanced in making sure we save money and stay on track to make sure we get things done on time, the most important and valuable made up holiday is "treat yo' self" day. Giving yourself that opportunity to splurge, indulge and pamper yourself is crucial. How can you continue your work if you feel like a pile of crap?

This self-proclaimed and made up special holiday has been a blessing to my mental health and staying sane during this stressful time. While we all have our own bag-

gage to carry for exam periods it is safe to acknowledge that no one should feel guilty for wanting to take time away from their textbooks to add some light and cheer to themselves.

We all deserve to be treated special once in a while despite whether or not we finished that paper or studied enough for that final exam.

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ARTS

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New hip hop music

TREVOR HERRELL
CORD ARTS

Macklemore & Ryan Lewis feat. Fences – “Otherside” (Remix)

Everyone knows about Macklemore’s “Thrift Shop” by now, and how he can get listeners and have a good time. However, he also has a serious side. This track has Macklemore talking about his own issues with drug abuse, specifically cocaine and cough syrup, and telling his listeners not to believe that the world of hip hop is as fun as rappers make it sound in their music.

G-Eazy – “Mad”

This artist began writing and producing his own material when he was a sophomore in college, and he loves combining hip hop with old school ‘Doo Wop’ style beats and background vocals. He’s pretty much the only person in hip hop with this style right now and he’s making it sound good.

Logic – “Young Sinatra III”

Logic takes a lot of classic beats, manipulates them and puts his own spin on the lyrics. Lots of his lyrics make you laugh out loud and he’s good at switching up his delivery to keep you interested through the whole song. Probably one of my favourite lyricists right now, I think it’s only a matter of time before he blows up.

Kendrick Lamar – “The Art of Peer Pressure”

Another rapper everyone seems to be talking about right now, and for good reason. Lamar’s album is put together so well and is more like an

audio book. Each song leads perfectly into the next track, connecting the album from the first song to the last. “The Art of Peer Pressure” details his past and how he would go around the city with his friends looking for trouble. However, this wasn’t really who he was but who his friends made him become.

Atmosphere – “Sunshine”

When you listen to Atmosphere, it’s more like listening to a story than a song. Atmosphere has been around since the mid 1990s and has stayed consistent on the underground scene. This is one of my favourite songs if I’m in a bad mood as it helps me think of a beautiful day.

Kids These Days

Not sure if this is technically hip hop, because there’s a lot more to their music than just rap. They are like the evolution of The Roots; a live hip-hop act who are also highly influenced by jazz and classic rock. This is definitely a band that will get your heart racing.

The King’s Dead – “No Peace in a Rebel”

Formerly known as The Dean’s List, this trio out of Boston has evolved into a band that focuses more on original music than their former frat-rap style. Their production is all done in-house and does not sample any existing songs to the best of my knowledge. These guys are definitely worth a listen.

Check out Trevor’s hip hop show, *Verses from the Abstract*, Thursday at 9P.M. on radiolaurier.com



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

ALIAS dancers practice at WLU days before the Ontario university competition for hip hop (OUCH).

ALIAS takes OUCH

—cover

of their comfort zones. The result, however, was an energetic performance that held the crowd’s attention throughout the almost three minute routine.

Comprised of nine undergrad students, including Tran, Alias was formed at the end of September and has only been rehearsing for a month and a half.

Placing at OUCH was a testament to their dedication and love of dance; qualities Tran always hopes to inspire when choreographing and leading classes.

Entering the hip hop world in 2008, Tran joined a crew in his hometown of Mississauga and was fortunate enough to represent Canada two years in a row at the World Hip Hop Championships in Las Vegas. Here he learned under the pioneers of the scene.

“I really had a great opportunity to soak in and absorb so much knowledge from these pioneers and really take in what true hip hop is.

That really inspired me to come here to Laurier and do the same thing,” he said.

A newcomer to campus, Tran was fortunate enough to meet three upper-year students who helped him bring Alias to life.

“It’s kind of a mixed feeling only because it is my first year, I have to stick my foot in the door and be like, I just gotta do it, I just need to stick my head in it, go all out,” he said.

Adriana Doncillo, Michael Tam and Tony Kartalianakis, all members of the crew, take care of Alias’ administration, sponsorship and finances enabling Tran to focus on visual direction and choreography.

With the competition done, Alias plans to focus on recouping their costs by hosting a variety of workshops on campus.

Having already led one last week, Tran was impressed by the turnout after only three days of promoting his class.

Signifying the growth potential for a dynamic hip hop community on campus, Tran hopes to move

beyond simply competing to foster a passion for the art of dance.

“It’s hurtful to see a lot of dancers go out there and do it for the wrong reason,” said Tran.

“I want to come into this community and be like, you know, hip hop, especially hip hop, or any dance, it’s not about showcasing, it’s expressing what you love to do, what you’re desiring and passions are.”

Through his crew at home, Tran has built strong connections to the thriving hip hop scene down the road at the neighbouring UW.

His goal is to bridge the gap between the two schools to create a community of mutual support free of animosity.

Only a semester into university life, Tran is well on his way to achieving his goals and is looking forward to what the next four (or five) years will bring.

“Being a first year student and doing all of this, it’s such a humbling experience. And it’s so crazy, it’s so unreal. I couldn’t feel more blessed to be able to do this,” he finished.

Tolerance in the industry

A look at the growing acceptance of homosexuality in hip-hop



LIZ SMITH
STAFF WRITER

“If I was gay, I’d think hip hop hates me,” raps Macklemore on a track from *The Heist*, his recent debut studio release. “Have you seen the YouTube comments lately?”

With lyrics that point a finger at the intolerance of a “culture founded from oppression,” the Seattle rapper is part of the growing minority of rappers and hip-hop artists with a clear sense of social responsibility and tolerance.

Frank Ocean, known for both his solo project, *Channel Orange* (2012) and work with the alternative rap collective Odd Future, took the industry by surprise in July when he posted a rambling love letter confession about his first love; another man.

“I don’t have any secrets I need kept anymore. I feel like a free man,” the crooner spilled.

A bomb had dropped on fans of

a genre that has been synonymous with intolerance and hate-speech for years.

The admission came only one short week before the release of his debut album. Tyler, the creator, shock rapper and skilled controversialist, is an integral part of the Odd Future collective.

Fans wondered how he would react to the news of Ocean’s bisexuality. In a show of solidarity, Tyler was quick to vocalize his support of Ocean. Tweeting jokingly (and affectionately) about the news and later saying in an interview that he’d known for a long time and was proud that Ocean had found the fortitude to come out publicly.

Snoop Dogg, an old-school

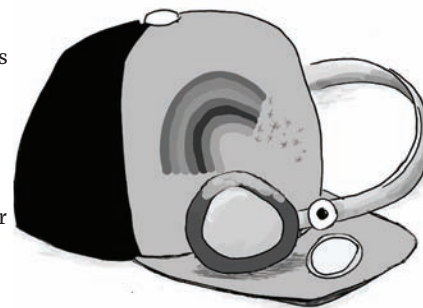
rapper who has been on many tracks where homophobic slurs were used, commented on Ocean’s confession in a recent interview.

“When I was growing up, you could never do that and announce that. No one would step up to support you,” he said, making a comment on the changing ideologies in hip-hop. Yet, Ocean’s recent news was met with overwhelming support from the public. There has been negative backlash too, but many found their hate falling on deaf ears.

Even Eminem, once widely vilified for his hateful lyrics and penchant to throw around words like “faggot” as though discussing the weather, has, in recent years, formed a rare and close public friendship with Elton John — a man who’s hardly been subtle about his sexual orientation.

It would seem that the industry is taking necessary and overdue steps to support the talented, gay members of their community and is encouraging an attitude of openness.

Hopefully, as record sales of socially conscious rappers rise, we can eradicate the false notion the industry has perpetuated; that being gay is a handicap of some kind. That’s good news for all of us.



ADELE PALMQUIST CORD INTERN

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What to do in K-W

Nov. 22
Kitchener Music Festival:
 Crystalyne
 Maxwell's Music House, \$10, 7 p.m.

QUADROPHENIA
 Princess Cinemas, \$10, 9p.m.

Nov. 23
F'n'M Presents: Shawn Byfield hip-hop workshop
 Concourse; \$5-\$8, 1p.m.

Laurier Free Film Series presents:
An Education
 BA201; FREE, 7p.m.

Nov. 24
Kitchener Music Festival; Jesse Labelle
 Chrysalids Theatre, 6:30 p.m.

Dzeko & Torres
 Beta; \$5, 10p.m.

Nov. 26
WAC Presents: On the Rocks
 Death Valley's Little Brother; FREE, 8 p.m.

Nov. 27
DVBBS and USS
 Turret Nightclub, \$15, 9 p.m.

Arts bites

The latest news in entertainment

Bye bye vampires

They have superpowers, they are immortal but most importantly — they are so good looking they glitter in the sunlight. I think it's safe to say everytime a *Twilight* movie comes out, we are reminded that vampires hit the genetic jackpot.

This past Friday, thousands of fans around Canada lined up to bid a final goodbye as they watched the last installment of the *Twilight* saga: *Breaking Dawn Part 2*. Team Edward twihards can finally rest assured that their favourite blood-sucking couple will have an eternity together.

Lohan + Franco + R.E.M. = eccentric overload

What do you get when the over-achieving "I do everything" celebrity collaborates with the poster girl for celebrity meltdowns? You get America's most politically active rock-and-roll groups hiring you for their music video.

Last week, R.E.M. released their latest video for their song "Blue" directed by James Franco starring Lindsay Lohan. Seriously. Shot exactly how you would imagine a James Franco music video. The song is accompanied by a montage of avant-garde clips of road signs, old TVs and yes, Lindsay Lohan.

Weird? Yes. Pretentious? Yes. Necessary? Not Really.

What to watch when hibernating

This week, three highly anticipated films launch off the film-packed winter season.

Silver Linings Playbook: The romantic comedy-drama stars two of Hollywood's "it" celebrities, Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence. It's received high praise holding a 90 per cent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

Life of Pi: Directed by Oscar winner Ang Lee, this film is based on Yann Martel's hit novel about the spiritual journey of a young boy stranded at sea with a Bengal tiger.

Rise of The Guardians: In spirit of the Holiday season, DreamWorks Animations transformed beloved jolly-old Saint Nick into a tough, tattooed, action hero voiced by Alec Baldwin.

—Compiled by Robin Daprato

Sharing the diversity of animation

CCE Editor HG Watson and Cord contributor Emma Baumann review the WFAC

Over three days in November, the Waterloo Festival for Animated Cinema (WFAC) will show off the whole scope of the animated film medium, playing movies from across the globe. Chosen for the fest were films that ranged from colourful anime with feel-good storylines, to somber depictions of the weakness of humanity.

In 2002 WFAC was just a few University of Waterloo students getting together to watch Japanese anime films. Ten years later, curator and founder Joseph Chen finds himself dealing with several international premieres and playing host to world-renowned animators and directors.

"It has always been to try and show the diversity of the storytelling and the diversity of the visual arts," said Chen. "[It's about the] ambition of the single animator who struck out there to do their own film, all the way to the studios who create these [films] across all the countries."

Chen is eager for audiences to appreciate the variety of films that exist in the animation community.

"It's a medium and not a genre," he pointed out, noting that anything from drama to comedy to documentary has appeared in animated form.

"In terms of media production today, 22 per cent is strictly based animation. We don't even count visual effects."

For this year's festival, Chen has gathered together an array of films that really demonstrate how diverse the animated film world is. "For us this is an opportunity to bring stuff here so audiences in the Waterloo Region can discover films for ourselves," he said. WFAC is an unusual stop on the animated film festival circuit as it allows audiences to actually enjoy screenings as opposed to smaller fests that focus more on the industry side of animation.

"It is all about the fact that a very humble group of artists out there trying to tell the story in exactly the way they want to," said Chen. "This is a beautiful form [for it]."

"It is about the fact that a very humble group of artists out there are trying to tell the story in exactly the way they want to."

—Joseph Chen, Curator and Founder, WFAC

The Tragedy of Man

The film *The Tragedy of Man*, based on the poem by Hungarian playwright Imre Madach, was nothing short of spectacular. The poem is required reading in Hungary and follows Adam and Eve as they traverse history — from Ancient Egypt and Rome to the French Revolution — in search of the meaning of life after being enticed by Lucifer.

Production started in 1988 and it took director Marcell Jankovics 25 years to raise the necessary funds and create the film. Yet this cinematic work is arguably well worth the wait.

The long and fascinating journey of Adam and Eve that eventually leads to a grim conclusion for the future of human kind, combined with the incredible visual magnum opus that is Jankovics' work is thought provoking and magnificent.

Given the magnitude of this film it is easy to see why this director is critically acclaimed worldwide.

—Emma Baumann

A Letter to Momo.

What appeared to be an innocuously charming animated Japanese film instead turned out to be about how we deal with death when it rolls, as always, unexpectedly into our lives. I wanted happy forest sprites dancing and instead I got bitch slapped by reality.

I have certain expectations when I



PHOTO COURTESY WATERLOO FESTIVAL FOR ANIMATED CINEMA
 A screenshot from Japanese anime film *A Letter to Momo*.

go see an animated film. One: that it will feature many celebrities voicing cute animals. Two: That it will be funny and full of fart jokes.

I do not expect that animated films will be reflections of grief. I don't want whimsical Japanese guardian gods teaching me profound life lessons about coping with loss. I certainly do not want to be reduced to a sobbing mess when the titular Momo rises above adversity to find reserves of strength she didn't even know she had.

Oh sure, you'll be drawn in by the rather engaging characters and an animation style that is so breathtakingly beautiful and intimate that

at some points you'll believe you're staring at a watercolour painting.

You'll think "perhaps this is simply the heir apparent to the films of Hayao Miyazaki." After all, *A Letter to Momo* shares the fantastical elements and coming of age story that defined *Spirited Away*.

Yet *A Letter to Momo*, about a young girl who is left wondering what her father wanted to write in his last letter to her, is melancholy; bittersweet in a way that is more of an adult film by its serious tone.

There is plenty for the kids to enjoy — Momo finds herself protected by a trio of silly guardians sent from Above (big 'A' intentional) — but at

the end of the day, it's her story.

It's about growing up and dealing with pain that is far too adult to grapple with. I thought animation was meant to be big colourful fun, not a heartfelt meditation. Call me when *Ice Age 5* is in theatres.

—HG Watson

Also featured at the fest

BABLEDOM

Attention urban dwellers: *Babledom* is a highly experimental film made up of composite shots of cities all over the world as a way of exploring urbanism. "It's an intellectual's look at cities and urbanization," notes Chen.

Rainbow Fireflies

Rainbow Fireflies, the uplifting story of a young boy who travels back in time after the death of his father, a Japanese import. This film displays the talent of director Uda Kounosuke who can also be credited with directing the popular *Sailor Moon* series.

Arrugas (Wrinkles)

Arrugas (Wrinkles) is a Spanish film based on the award-winning graphic novel *Paco Roca* and tells the heartwarming and humorous story of the friendship of two male roommates living in a nursing home.

Lincoln: in review

ANDREW SAVORY
 STAFF WRITER



Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, was a man defined by several monumental victories and decisions in American history. In Steven Spielberg's latest film, *Lincoln*, he paints a portrait of Lincoln in the thick of the Civil War and the actions he took to lead the country through it; in particular, the build-up and proceedings before his Emancipation Proclamation in 1863.

Based on Lincoln's 2005 biography, *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, written by Doris Kearns Goodwin, the film is mainly a character study revolving around Lincoln, played by Daniel Day-Lewis, and his cabinet including Thaddeus Stevens, William Seward and Ulysses S. Grant.

The storyline sinks its teeth into two key conflicts: the strife Lincoln faces within the Republican Party

regarding the possibility of abolishing slavery in the midst of the Civil War, and the mental strain of Lincoln's role as president creating a distance between himself and his loved ones.

As we have come to expect from a Spielberg movie, the physical scale of *Lincoln* is immense, spanning across notable years in 19th century American history.

The cinematic element that draws the most attention in the film though is the dreary lighting that Spielberg implements.

Without a doubt the purpose of this effect is to portray the bleak atmosphere of America in, arguably, her most politically and socially challenging, and bloodiest, period of time when key issues such as slavery polarized the Union and Confederates. As a whole, it is undeniable that the movie is seeking to strike gold at the Oscars.

However, even with fantastic costume design and convincing sets to transport the viewer to the 1860s, the most pleasing aspect of the film is Day-Lewis' tour de force performance as Lincoln.

Time after time again we've seen Day-Lewis leave us baffled with his ability to truly transform himself into his character roles. Pictures like *There Will Be Blood* and *Gangs of New York* are prominent examples, and he out does himself once again. Day-Lewis is certain to, at the very least, receive an Oscar nomination for best actor in 2013.



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Is your Prince Charming turning into...

Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region

EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor
Devon Butler
dbutler@thecord.ca

Mental illness stigma not eliminated yet

There has been a recent shift within popular discussion to engage with the topic of mental health and create a platform to discuss this increasingly significant issue.

Celebrities, athletes and musicians alike have come forward to publicly share their experiences with anxiety and depression in the hopes of lessening the stigma that haunts the estimated 350 million people who suffer from depression worldwide.

While increased media coverage is certainly a positive progression in the de-stigmatization and creation of awareness of mental illness in society, it certainly does not entirely eliminate the negative feelings that still cloud those living everyday with a mental illness hanging over their heads.

On Friday, Michael Landsberg, host of TSN's 'Off the Record' came to Laurier to share his very real experiences of battling depression. Being candid and comfortable talking about his mental health certainly influenced others to do the same.

This is significant at universities where stress and anxiety become synonymous with the student lifestyle and according to Student Care Networks, nearly 600,000 students across Canada are prescribed antidepressants.

Yet, despite these statistics and inspirational figures with positive messages, it is unlikely that mental illness is respected as a serious illness in the real world. If an employee called in sick due to a panic attack or bout of depression it would rarely be treated with the same understanding as the flu.

When 20 per cent of Canadians are destined to suffer from serious depression at some point in their lives, society cannot simply assume mental illnesses are accepted just because it is the latest trend in the media.

By saying there is no longer stigma against mental illness doesn't make it true. We are still living in a world that has a lot to learn about the diseases and how to accommodate people forced to live with an illness many people still refuse to recognize as legitimate.

Laurier more than just a business school

With plans to build "Canada's best business school" it's evident that Laurier's music, arts, science and graduate programs are no longer a top priority for the school.

While the university argues that the Global Innovation Exchange (GIE) building will meet the increasing enrolment in Laurier's business programs, its sole intention is to raise the profile of the business program by placing the majority of the university's funds and focus into the development of the building.

While the \$103 million dollar building will provide facilities for those outside the business program, like a café and study space, it will ultimately provide amenities solely for those in the business school.

As for the remaining, and seemingly less important programs in Laurier's eyes, they will get access to the business schools discarded buildings.

While the Schlegel and Peters buildings will provide much needed space for our overcrowded campus, it should not be used as a means to prove Laurier's fairness in selecting which programs will receive the most support.

The slogan alone of building "Canada's best business school" excludes the rest of the university. They are not concerned with building one of Canada's best schools, but rather, decided that those in business should have more opportunities.

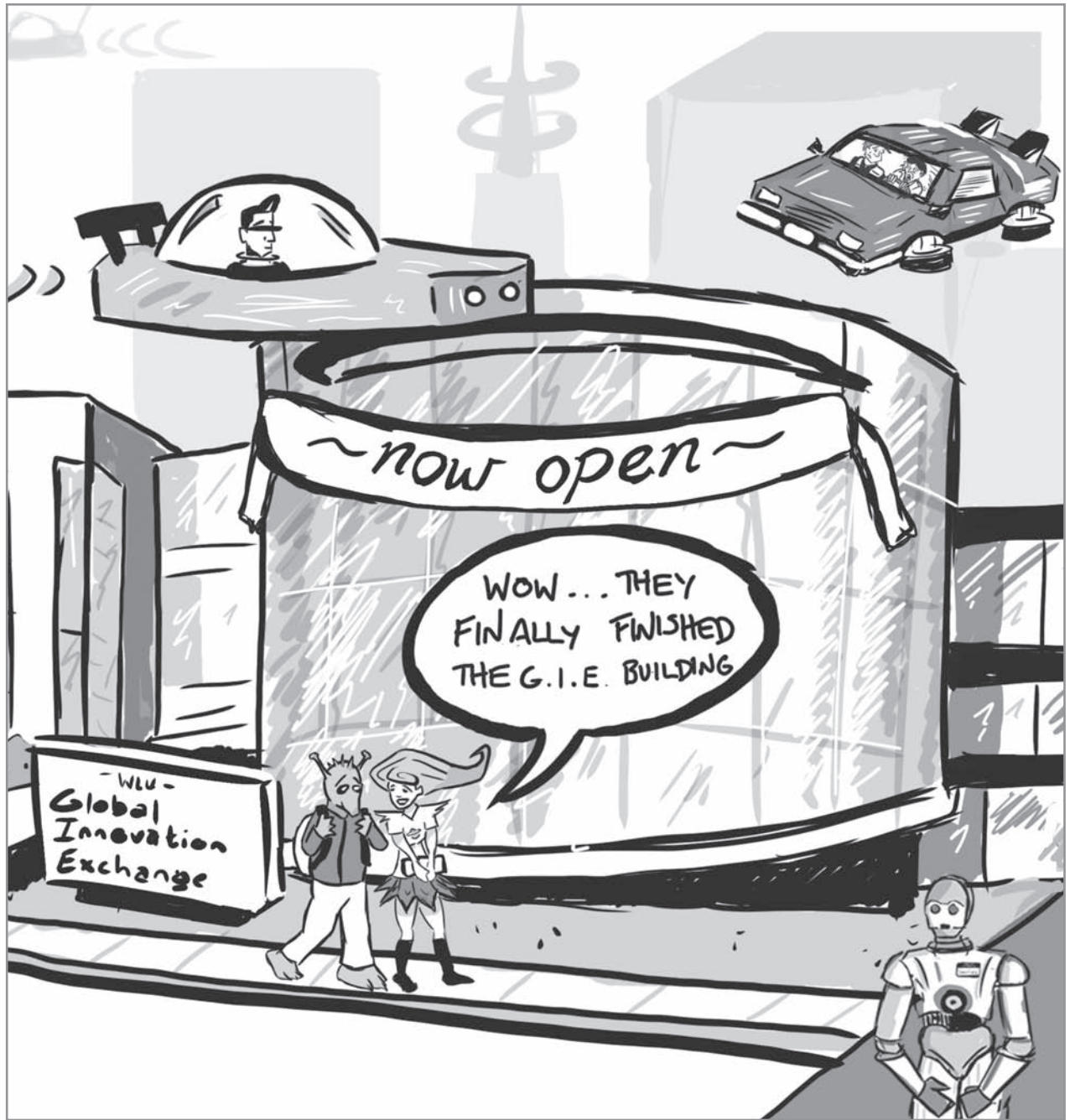
While it is always worthwhile to boost the national reputation of our school, it should not be at the cost of shifting academic balance. Post-secondary institutions should be well-rounded and offer a range of programs equally supported by the university.

We must recognize that the university is nothing more than a corporation, at some point their emphasis needs to shift from prioritizing what programs will attract the most money to what programs will ensure Laurier's reputation exceeds being known for only one thing.

-The Cord Editorial Board

These unsigned editorials are based off informal discussions and then agreed upon by the majority of The Cord's editorial board, 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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WADE THOMPSON VISUAL DIRECTOR

The war on social media

While public input on global events is valuable, it can also incite hate



AMY GRIEF
ARTS EDITOR

Like most students, I get the majority of my information about international events from the web, and more frequently social media.

By following a variety of news outlets on Twitter, I can quickly gain multiple perspectives about emerging stories. And if something piques my interest, I can click a link to get a more in-depth understanding of certain worldly goings-on.

Perhaps I've been spending too much time online in a desperate attempt to put-off my mounting piles of schoolwork, but it seems as if it's becoming more difficult to navigate between legitimate sources and errant spam.

Social media is lauded as a democratizing force on the World Wide Web. Bear with me through my communication studies jargon, but are Web 2.0 platforms like Facebook and Twitter, really enabling positive social and political discussion?

Or are these sites, in the words of one of my professors, becoming toxic wastelands, which incite hate and lead to a dizzying sense of information overload for all users.

In light of the rising tensions between Israel and Gaza, it seems as if the latter is becoming true.

My newsfeed is filled with hate-filled memes, comics and infographs from wannabe pundits on both sides of the conflict.

I understand that people want to show solidarity with the side they support, but is sharing a vaguely emotional

“
Are web 2.0 platforms like Facebook and Twitter really enabling positive social and political discussion?”

status or low-quality image (that looks like it was created on Microsoft Paint) really the best way to make a political statement?

Further, many of the images currently being shared are un-sourced, diminishing their validity and power as a political message.

When you post on Facebook or Twitter, or other social media sites, you are putting information into the public sphere. Hashtags and hyperlinks contribute to the global conversation surrounding events.

Your posts act as a lens through which your friends and followers can gain a glimpse of your perspective on the conflict because if you aren't trying to make a statement, why post something in the first place?

I'm not advocating for people to stop posting about the conflict. In fact, the very idea that all people (with access to the internet) can make a statement is rather exciting.

However, individual statements, posts and Tweets should be well

informed so they can help facilitate constructive, open dialogue rather than creating a hateful dichotomy between the two sides.

I'm hopeful that people will become as frustrated as me by the garbage dump that is their newsfeed, and will be more critical of the information that they choose to share.

Further, for the first time ever a war is being waged through social media as the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) and Palestinian militant groups tweet updates in real time.

As overseas spectators of the conflict, we become privy to carefully mediated information stemming directly from the two opposing forces.

With the conflict unraveling in real-time through Twitter, as the IDF and Palestinian militants interestingly respond to each other's tweets, the events become easier to follow as they're disseminated through a medium much more relevant to a younger demographic.

Perhaps this is why my newsfeed has become so polarized. Instead of relying on traditional news sources, young people can navigate through their social networks to gain information.

As news outlets are largely regulated, there is a sense of legitimacy behind what they release, despite any biases that may be present.

Social media is open to anyone, so the onus falls on the user to filter through the information that they receive.

The user must distinguish what's relevant, and this becomes increasingly difficult due to the seemingly infinite amount of available information.

To begin remedying this information overload, we, individual users, can become critical of what we're sharing to ensure that we're fostering constructive criticism and discussion rather than blatant hate.

letters@thecord.ca

OPINION

Opinion Editor
Devon Butler
dbutler@thecord.ca

Bachelor's degree not for everyone

Pressure to obtain a university degree from employers deters people from gaining hands-on experience



LEAH DEJONG
OPINION COLUMNIST

Everyone should have the opportunity to go to university, but not everyone should feel they have to. More often than not, a bachelor's degree is obtained merely for the fact that it's become a gate-keeper into a "real job."

Although a bachelor's degree is a requirement for most jobs, it could be argued that it's not technically necessary.

A new employee will learn more on the job than they ever learned in school. In fact, many jobs don't care what kind of degree the candidate has, as long as they have one.

If the cards are played right, a chemistry major can get a business job; which seems ridiculous that they even bothered to get the degree if the job is not in that field.

Bachelor's degrees have become gatekeepers, a litmus test to check an applicant's mettle.

The idea that the degree certifies the candidate completed a task that required some effort, can at least string a sentence together and has some sort of educated background.

It's more of a character test than a content one; a guarantee of a few basic qualities the employer is searching for.

The irony is that on average 45 per cent of students do not demonstrate significant improvement in their learning in their first two years, and 36 per cent don't show any over their entire four year university

career.

So, for a third of us, the academic part of university is nothing more than a piece of paper on graduation day.

But, the employers make us do it, so we do. Students go thousands of dollars into debt, and spend four stressful years in school so they can pass an employer's test and get a 'good' job.

It's assumed that a bachelor's degree will ensure students get better paying jobs. Statistically, a graduate's unemployment rate is lower, and they have a better chance of reaching management positions.

Between 2001 and 2006, the number of people with bachelor's degrees grew by 24 per cent and that number is continuously increasing. Already, people are saying that a bachelor's degree is the new high school diploma.

As more students graduate with degrees, they become more common, and the guarantee of a job once associated with a university education drops. After all, a degree is only as valuable as its rarity.

So now, people are starting to turn to a masters degree. Even those with no real interest in research. Once again, the motto is 'anything to stand out and prove I'm more qualified.'

Perhaps the cycle will continue; and one day we'll wake up to a world where a large chunk of society is sporting shiny PhDs in order to get hired. There's no real end to the cycle if we let it continue.

So, what if we stopped making a bachelor's degree a requirement for jobs that don't actually require them?

Although cutting off a chunk of students from the university experience seems grim, they don't need that expensive piece of paper in the

first place. They need job experience. They need internships and companies willing to hire candidates for who they are and what they can learn to do, not because they scraped by for four years.

Schools could accept fewer students and raise the requirements for those they do accept. If less bachelor's degrees are churned out of the university factory each year then more jobs open up to everyone.

Jobs that teach the skills you need, whether or not you have the degree. Jobs that don't put the nation's young adults into debt they will be paying off for a decade.

More internships could open up and the stigma behind a college degree could be removed.

A bachelor's degree can stay with those who want jobs that actually require them, and masters and PhDs can remain for those who love, research rather than the status seekers.

The crux of the matter is that learning for the sake of learning is fantastic. If that's why you're getting a degree then you're the person PhDs were made for.

But if you're the person who's at school because the end goal is a job, then what are you really getting out of this besides a piece of paper?

School can teach us science or they can let us be scientists. They can show us how to write a novel or let us be writers.

School can show us how to plan a business or they can let us be business owners.

Learn the theory, then the job or learn the theory through the job. Perhaps we should re-examine the latter before we're living in a world where a bachelor's degree is akin to elementary school and everyone has a PhD.

letters@thecord.ca



ALEX WATSON GRAPHICS ARTIST

Letters to the Editor

Centre for Women in Science deserves recognition

Dear Editor,

In the Dear Life section there was an ever-so classy comment about how Women in Science was an absolute joke and it was signed by a true woman in science. To her comment I had quite a chuckle.

As a volunteer at the event, I saw many more than ten people in

attendance.

Including the admirable Melissa Franklin, the first female physics professor at Harvard University, to speak and meet with us.

Now, I'm apparently not a real woman in science (whether that means I'm either not a real woman or I'm not in a real science I'm not entirely sure yet) but neither is she.

A true scientist is one that seeks truth and knowledge to find the answers regardless of whether or not it

is accepted by their initial beliefs, to question the world they live in.

As it is, ignorance could be considered the enemy of knowledge as those who possess it chose not to see beyond it. The tactful young writer possess enough for all the women in the science department.

So I leave you with this piece of advice; I sincerely hope you are reading this miss Real Female Scientist as that the next time you make yourself out to be an ignorant

brat, please do not call yourself a scientist, we are not appreciative of that affiliation.

-Jill Nichols

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



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Atheism is a legitimate belief system

If freedom of religion is tolerated in society than identifying yourself as an atheist should also be respected



CHADWICK WHEELER
OPINION COLUMNIST

I am an atheist. I am proud of my beliefs, but there are many people in my life who have condemned me for my choice.

As Canadian citizens, we all hold the freedom of religion, whereby we may decide which religion we follow.

However, many people forget that religious freedom also includes freedom from religion. A right I wish more people would respect.

Although I am not a religious man, I do acknowledge the importance of religion in our society. It can provide people with a sense of hope, especially in times of adversity.

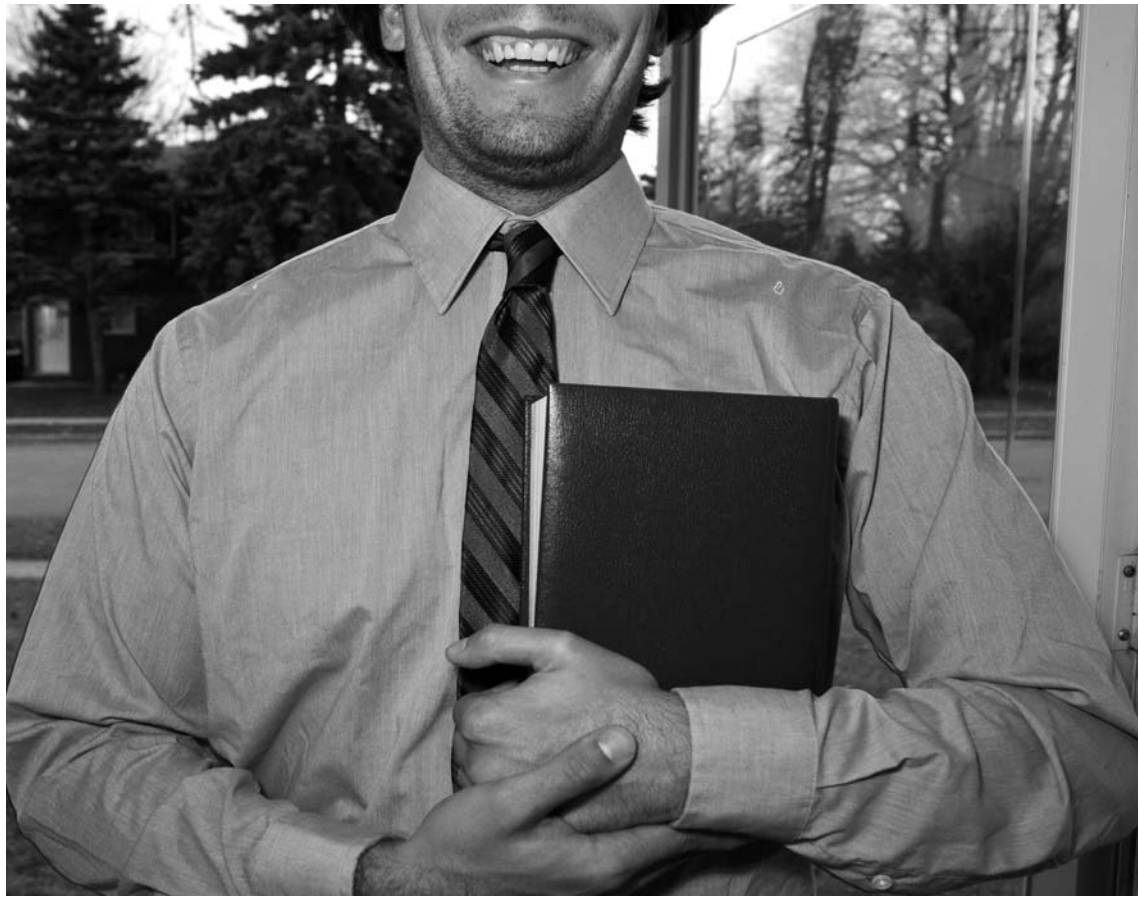
Religion allows for the building of a community and the creation of relationships. Some people require religion to explain the existence of the world and create faith in an afterlife.

Nonetheless, I find it unfair that un-religious individuals are often pressured or scrutinized for their lack of faith.

Although most of my family are devout Catholics, my mother decided not to baptise me when I was born. Instead, she concluded that she would let me choose which religion I wanted to follow.

It took me about 15 years to figure out that I did not believe in any god, but once the decision was made, I stayed firm on it.

Although my mother respects my decision, much of our extended



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

By pressuring non-religious people to join yours, you are not respecting their freedom of choice.

family gets upset when I defy Catholic traditions.

One of the most difficult times to stick to my beliefs occurred at my grandmother's funeral. During the mass I chose to not participate by kneeling or praying with the rest of my family.

Many members of my family questioned me about my actions after the funeral. I do not expect them to understand my reasoning, but they should respect my decision and

not pressure me to participate in religious ceremonies.

I would never criticise anybody for their belief in a religion, so why should people unaffiliated with religion be criticized for their choice?

In experiences with my family, I find that religious people have a hard time understanding the concept of believing in something other than a deity.

One of my aunts once asked me, "If you don't believe in a god, then

what do you believe in?" I responded, with the universe. Instead of pondering my response, it quickly got dismissed as simply not good enough.

I do not mind discussing my beliefs with people. But when questions are asked, the responses should be heard and considered.

In the case of my aunt, I would have been listened to if I had believed in any god, even if it was not Christ.

At various times in my life, I have had friends and co-workers who've held a wide range of religious beliefs.

Even though I do not believe in any particular religion, I do respect all the faiths which my colleagues may have. But, at times, I find some religious people encroaching upon my freedom from religion.

The most recent example comes from my summer employment. A discussion of my co-worker's religion came up and they inquired which religion I followed.

When I revealed that I was not religious, my co-worker became focused on recruiting me into her own faith.

Although I demonstrated that I was uninterested, this individual continued to provide me with details about religious literature and videos to watch on YouTube.

She would tell me I needed to "save my soul." The pressure continued to the point that I needed to let my manager know so they could inform her to stop.

People need to understand that when others are unaffiliated with a religion it is likely for a reason. Not having a religion does not make us free agents open to recruitment.

Many of us have considered religion, but made the decision not to include it within our lives. By pressuring us to join your faith, you intrude upon our freedom from religion.

Whether you are a religious person or not, it is important to stick to what you believe in. Do not let others make your choice but always respect the beliefs of others.

We all have the freedom of religion, but that must also include a freedom from religion.

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Conspiracy culture has dangerous implications



BRAD KLEINSTUBER
OPINION COLUMNIST

I remember sitting in the computer lab in my final year of high school, when a pair of lower-year girls entered the lab. To my horror, they were both quite ignorant. They were discussing the war in Iraq, when one proclaimed that the war was 'for profit,' and the American government had deliberately carried out 9/11 to start a war.

I take some pride, not in the fact that I used to believe this kind of nonsense, but that I rather rapidly realized how tremendously stupid most conspiracy theories are.

Conspiracies are not just misinformed, but potentially dangerous. They have a corrosive effect on discourse, act as a distraction to true debate and essentially corrupt the opinions of their proponents.

You may have seen a video released during flu vaccinations in 2009 that showed a former cheerleader who had lost the ability to walk after receiving a vaccine.

It was an example of how vaccines could harm people. Conspiracy culture stalwarts like Alex Jones brought it up as a serious example of why vaccines were dangerous. The video was proved to be totally false, of course. The cheerleader was spotted behaving normally by a

news crew later that week.

By the time the hoax was revealed, however, the hectic 'alternative media' had moved on; but the damage was done. This is just one example of how the conspiracy media has eroded debate throughout the world.

False examples, especially in the field of alternative medicine, pop up without question in the mainstream media and have led to moral panics, hasty reactions and pointless crises.

Often, conspiratorial examples have become a distraction from the real issue. Especially during the bird flu vaccine, controversy utterly baseless fears about the dangers of vaccination obfuscated relevant issues around the spread of the vaccination, how much it cost and whether it was necessary.

The problem gets worse when considered in the context of 9/11. Probably the most public conspiracy theory to date: the idea that the American and Israeli governments were directly involved in the planning and execution of the 9/11. This is false, without a doubt as the physical and logical evidence is overwhelming.

However, the theorists who obsess about holographic planes, pancake collapses and eyewitness reports are a distraction. 9/11 is something we need to discuss. How appropriate was our response? Do intelligence services need to be changed? How did imperialist foreign policy play into the attack?

If we spend our time proving that 9/11 wasn't a conspiracy rather than discussing relevant political and economic policies, we're just

wasting time. Political discourse should not be limited by the need to counter conspiratorial madness.

There's a particular image associated with conspiracy theorists; the tinfoil-hat-wearing, well-armed nut job in his parents' basement. This isn't true. Conspiracy theories are often a sub-focus of alternative and new-age news sources, and people from all groups can be caught up in the conspiracy.

Conspiracy theories don't just affect people who already buy into the culture, they affect everyone. There's no reason to suspect vaccines cause autism.

It's absolutely false. So false that the doctor who originally authored the faulty study was struck from the Medical Register and his article in the Lancet was fully retracted. And yet, the paranoia over vaccinations has led to thousands of unvaccinated children and a resurgence of previously eradicated diseases in the First World.

Yet, conspiracies about the Bilderberg Group, the Illuminati and the Trilateral Commission continue to seep into the public consciousness. Rumours of secret bases, FEMA camps and inside jobs continue to distract and degrade public debate.

Young people are particularly vulnerable to the simplistic explanations offered by conspiracy theories.

Students often feel undervalued in society, and conspiracy theories offer an easy escape, but proper research and learning will always trump the mysticism offered by these false and dangerous theories. letters@thecord.ca

SPORTS

Sports Editor
Shelby Blackley
sblackley@thecord.caGOLDEN HAWK
UPDATEWeek of
November 19 - 25 2012

RECENT SCORES

11.15.12

M Hockey 3 - Western 4

11.16.12

W Basketball 54 - Toronto 58

M Basketball 85 - Toronto 78

11.17.12

M Hockey 4 - Lakehead 2

W Basketball 69 - Ryerson 72

M Basketball 66 - Ryerson 81

11.18.12

W Hockey 5 - Waterloo 0

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

11.24.12

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

11.25.12

W Hockey vs. Western
Waterloo Rec Complex, 7:30pmLAURIER BOOKSTORE
ATHLETES OF THE WEEKMaxwell Allin
Men's BasketballFiona Lester
Women's Hockeywww.laurierathletics.com
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IAN SPENCE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Maureen Mommersteeg breaks down the ice during Sunday's game against the University of Waterloo Warriors. Laurier won 5-0.

Laurier takes battle of Waterloo

ERIC THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

It was business as usual for the Laurier women's hockey team as they made easy work of the Waterloo Warriors winning 5-0 Sunday night. The game was the team's only action of the weekend as they improved to 11-1-1 on the year.

"We had four different lines tonight," said head coach Rick Osborne. "We're still trying to find the right combination. I thought the [Brittany] Crago line really put the pressure on. This was closer to the blueprint I had in mind for the team this year."

The combination of Crago, Devon Skeats and Laura Brooker opened the scoring for Laurier in the first period, when Skeats found the back of the net for her team-leading ninth goal of the season.

Laurier applied constant pressure, but could only come away with

one goal after the first.

In the second, the Hawks began to pull away with goals from Brooker, Danelle Im and Tammy Freiburger. With the game well out of reach, captain Fiona Lester would add a goal late in the third period. Lester led the team with three points.

"The whole team aspect is building off of each other," said Brooker after the win. "Seeing what other lines are doing and seeing their intensity builds and pumps you up to go out there and do the same thing."

Waterloo had a chance to make it a closer contest early in the third when they were awarded a five-on-three power play.

But Laurier's penalty kill finished the night killing off all six penalties. Osborne attributed the success of the penalty kill to the depth of this year's squad.

"I think having people like [Emily] Kekewich and [Erika] Kiviaho; those are two new players this year,

and they really have good hockey IQ's ... we've always had good penalty killers, but they were also our top scorers and our top players," he said. "Taking too many penalties, sometimes it would tire them out and their main goal was to create offence for us. So having two or three kids that are specialists around penalty killing ... that's an element we haven't had in a couple of years."

"We don't have to burn out Brooker and we don't have to burn out Muirhead."

Goaltender Erika Thunder had a relatively quiet night, stopping all 19 shots she faced for her third shutout of the year.

Despite a five-game winning streak, Osborne was relieved that the team wasn't in another one goal game in the third period. But he still saw opportunities for the team to improve.

"I think we were trying to be too fancy and looking for the highlight

reel goals as opposed to just putting pucks to the net," he said. "We are a skilled team, but nothing beats just good old fashion traffic and crashing the net against a team that's tired."

The team is currently tied with Queen's for the top spot in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) standings and ranked No. 6 in the country. Brooker believes that Sunday showed the team is a number one contender.

"Every night we try to. I think we strive to come out and play the hardest we can and the best we can," she said. "We know what we can do and what we can be at the end of the year and as a team we're going to strive for that."

Next weekend Laurier hosts Windsor and Western Saturday and Sunday respectively. Osborne says it will be an "acid test" for his team and hopes that they can emerge from that test the undisputed number one team in the OUA.

Men's hockey
climbs to .500SHELBY BLACKLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

Despite playing the No. 8 Lakehead Thunderwolves, the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks men's hockey team seemed like an entirely new team.

After an overtime loss Thursday to the Western Mustangs, the Hawks defeated the Lakehead 4-2 Saturday to improve to .500 on the season.

"Overall, we've been playing really well," said first-year Ryan Lopes. "All lines were firing tonight and things are going good. Guys are blocking shots, guys were getting dirty tonight and it was a big win overall."

After losing six of their first seven games of the season, the Hawks have won four of their last five, obtaining a least a point in all five.

"At the start, it was fresh, new guys," Lopes said. "We weren't molding right away and I guess a couple weeks ago we all clicked and since then we've just been flying together and it's been working well. We just got to keep going."

Head coach Greg Puhalski also complimented the team's play, saying that the improvements have been a large factor to the outcomes.

"I think [Saturday], our best attribute was our intensity," he said. "We really competed hard from the first drop of the puck through to the end of the game. For us, that's just getting involved, giving a hit, taking a hit, and we did a good job of that."

Both games featured the Hawks opening the scoring with Lopes finding the back of the net. Lopes now has a goal in three consecutive games. Goaltender Ryan Daniels continued to excel for Laurier, facing a combined 86 shots in the two games and only allowing six goals.

"It's not really the amount of shots, it's kind of the chances," Daniels said. "When it comes to shots, it's like a competition. I treat it as a game. For me, it's kind of fun to frustrate the other team so if I can get them upset and chewing at one another, it gets them off their game and take away from their plan a little bit offensively."

Puhalski also gave credit to the approved penalty kill over the last few games. The goaltending by Daniels, alongside the team's ability to keep the puck has been beneficial to their success.

"It's a little bit more attention to detail," Puhalski said. "We're not turning the puck over as much. And that's just some confidence, get moving with the puck, getting a feel for where everybody is on the ice, and then you're not going to turn the puck over so we're doing a better job of that."

Laurier improves to 5-5-2, which is good enough for sixth place in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) West division. They go on a three-game road trip before returning home on Dec. 1 to face the York Lions.

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Hawks split weekend

SHAYNE MCKAY
STAFF WRITER

A dramatic overtime win on Friday and a hard-fought loss on Saturday left the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks men's basketball team with a split weekend.

Despite a nail-biting 85-78 overtime win against the University of Toronto on Friday, the Hawks just couldn't handle the Ryerson Rams on Saturday, losing 81-66.

Saturday's game got off to a low-scoring first half ending 29-28 for Ryerson with neither team letting the other get ahead by more than four points.

Things heated up after halftime, however, as both teams would net over 20 points each in the third to keep things tight, but it was all Ryerson in the fourth as they out-scored the Hawks 29-18 in the quarter, cruising away to an 81-66 win.

"We played really well against a good team until about half, then a little less in the third and not so much in the fourth," said head coach Peter Campbell on Saturday. "We knew it would be tougher than [Friday] and that one went to overtime, which was tough in its own right. We knew their athleticism would cause us problems."

Those games were also an opportunity for some new faces to make a splash at home.

"I thought we got a really good shift out of two of our freshman, Garrison Thomas and Amen Obano. I thought they both did a good job and they'll get a bigger run next weekend," said Campbell. "Matt Chesson was also steady, and Jemar Smith played well. That's four new guys who came up and helped us as a team, which is important."

In their home opener on Friday, a missed free throw by Toronto in the dying seconds of the fourth took the

game into overtime.

William Coulthard led the team to victory with a career-high 29 points and five three-pointers, while Max Allin and Patrick Donnelly had 23 and nine points respectively.

Veteran leadership became prominent to the team's success and the Golden Hawks looked to Allin for that.

"[Allin] struggled a bit with his shooting and they did a good job defending him, but he's tough," said Campbell.

"He played hurt, but he still played big minutes for us which was great. He's the best rebounder we have defensively and offensively, he makes big shots, he's a great player and great leader.

"If we get more guys following him and playing like him we'll be a much better team before the season's over."

Allin led the team with 18 points and 15 rebounds for his third straight double-double on Saturday, coming just short of a triple-double on Friday.

Although the Hawks didn't shoot the ball as well as they needed to to secure a win over Ryerson, it isn't the only thing they'll look to improve on for next weekend.

"We've got nine new players on our team, so our goal has been that each time we play to be a little bit better," stated Campbell. "We're growing, our number of players that we play is growing and our confidence is growing. There were a lot of positives to take out of it."

According to Campbell, it's still early in the season and he knows that they can only go up from here.

"The kids play hard and they're going to get better as the year goes on," Campbell said.

Laurier will look to even out their record on Nov. 23 at 8 p.m. as they face the York Lions in Toronto.



ROSALIE EID STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Max Allin drives to the basket during Friday's overtime victory over the Toronto Varsity Blues.



ROSALIE EID STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kimberley Yeldon attempts to cut to the key during Friday's game.

Basketball drops to 1-2

After losing to the Toronto Varsity Blues and Ryerson Rams, women's team drops out of the CIS national rankings

SHELBY BLACKLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

After going 6-1 during preseason, including defeating two previous Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) contenders, the Wilfrid Laurier women's basketball team was ranked No. 9 nationally going into their home opening weekend.

But after the Toronto Varsity Blues defeated Laurier 58-54 Friday and the Ryerson Rams won an overtime match 72-69, the Hawks dropped to 1-2 on the regular season and were taken out of the CIS top ten.

"You got to give it up to Toronto," said first-year Kaitlyn Schenck after Friday's game. "They played an amazing game. They hustled, they worked and we got little things to work on that we can do in practice but we played hard and did all we could."

The Hawks kept with the Varsity Blues for the majority of Friday's game before allowing Toronto to widen the gap in the third quarter.

Despite a last-minute attempt to tie the score, the Hawks were unable to get past Toronto's defence.

"Toronto's a tough team," said head coach Paul Falco Friday. "We saw them on tape and we knew they played hard for 40 minutes."

Saturday's game featured a quick start by Ryerson, but the Hawks were able to maintain their offence and tie it up by the end of 40

minutes. However, in extra time, Laurier would come three points shy of their second win of the season.

"Obviously we didn't shoot well, that was a big factor," Falco said. "Our defence was okay; we did better in the second half. I think the rebounding hurt us more in the first half, but overall our offensive game was not where it needs to be so we've got to get better at that."

After losing the past two Rookie of the Year winners, Felicia Maze-rolle and Shelby Kurt, Laurier found depth in some new faces.

True-rookie Schenck had 12 points against Toronto and 11 against Ryerson, while transfer Whitney Ellenor put up 13 points on Friday and 13 on Saturday.

Doreen Bonsu also continued her performance from last weekend against the Queen's Gaels with nine points and four rebounds Friday and five points and ten rebounds Saturday, as well as getting a key bucket late in the game to help force overtime.

Falco believes that despite the winless weekend, the Hawks will learn from their mistakes and focus on the rest of the season.

"I thought we had too many gaps in our game where we gave up an easy transition or we forced a couple shots when we didn't need to, but it's a learning process," he said. "It's early in the season, so if we can improve on those areas then it bodes well for the rest of the season."

Schenck agreed, saying the team

"It's early in the season, so if we can improve on those areas then it bodes well for the rest of the season."

—Paul Falco, women's basketball head coach

needs to focus and work on certain areas.

"[It's] a new game, it's a new day, we really got to focus on the little things, work on some things like shooting, communicating and we'll be ready to go," she said.

Laurier defeated the Queen's Gaels 68-64 last weekend in the first game of the 2012-13 season. Bonsu recorded a double-double with 13 points and 18 rebounds.

The Hawks will travel to Toronto and Sudbury this weekend to play York and Laurentian before returning home for their last two games before the winter break on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.