



THE CORD

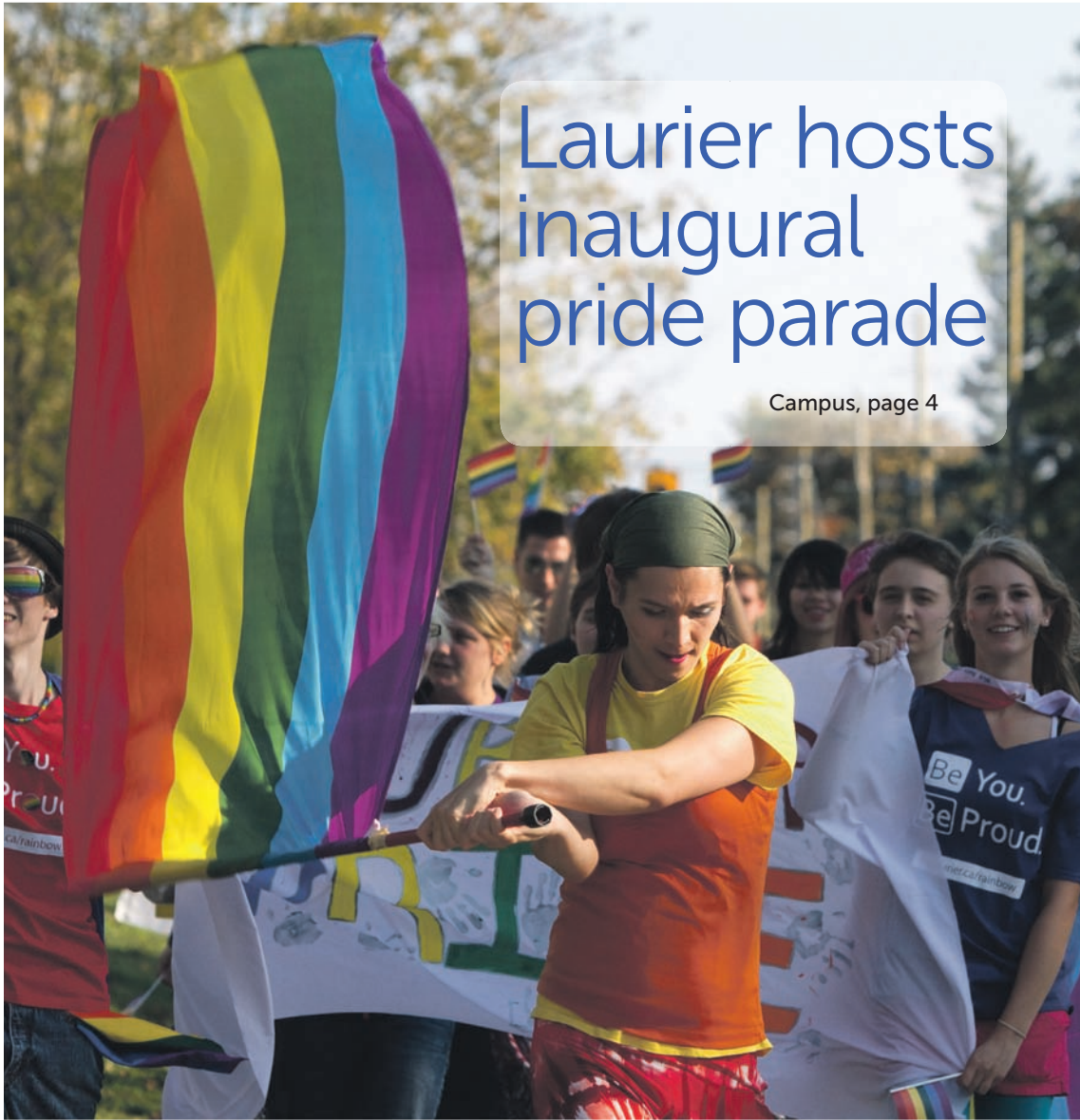
The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

Taking a look at '80s and '90s WLU Features, page 10

Volume 53, Issue 9

Thursday, October 11, 2012

thecord.ca



Laurier hosts inaugural pride parade

Campus, page 4

Nephenee Rose leads a group down Albert Street during last week's first-ever Laurier pride parade.

NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

A turbulent relationship

Often lacking proper resources, students find struggles dealing with landlords

JUSTIN SMIRLIES
NEWS DIRECTOR

Dealing with a landlord is a process that is new to most students — and it's not always easy.

"I think from time-to-time over the years you could say there has been issues associated with more absentee landlords," explained David McMurray, the vice-president of student affairs at Wilfrid Laurier University, who has been heavily involved in the new developments in the student-dominated Northdale neighbourhood.

"[There are the] landlords who may not respond — as a good landlord should — to issues associated with your accommodations."

While it may not be the worst form of accommodations, student living has been a topic of discussion for many developers, the surrounding universities, the city and the students themselves. Some students, however, many feel issues arise from their relationship with their landlord.

For fourth-year Laurier business student, Mike Megraw, that was exactly the case. While only subletting

an apartment for the semester, Megraw rarely sees an active presence of his landlord — especially when help is needed.

"I don't know the landlord as much but I do know he is very delayed in doing activities that should be done frequently," explained Megraw.

"Like, we have a big issue with garbage in the apartments, it took him like a month to take out the garbage that accumulated over a long period of time."

He added that at one point it had gotten so bad that the garbage room in his building was overflowing and that the stench of unbearable. As well, a semi-glass door in his apartment was broken, but wasn't fixed for an extended period.

"It's a safety concern because you're getting glass everywhere and if you're touching the wrong part you can accidentally cut your hand," he said.

This difficult experience with his landlord wasn't particularly new to Megraw. When he was in second

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Baseball team looking to appeal suspension

"The purpose is to draw attention to the way in which procedures were handled."

—Fran Smyth, parent of a Laurier baseball player

SHELBY BLACKLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

On Thursday Sept. 20, the Wilfrid Laurier University men's baseball team was suspended four games following a hazing incident at a rookie party.

The team collectively put on a presentation for members of the Laurier community explaining reasons regarding why they should be allowed to continue their season.

Three weeks later, after finishing their season, the issue has been raised again — but this time, with an appeal.

Fran Smyth, a professor at Seneca College and a mother of one of the WLU baseball players, helped draft a complaint to the university on Tuesday regarding the "procedural and substantive" issues in the process of the suspension in September.

"The purpose is to draw attention to the way in which procedures were handled," she told The Cord. "And we also want the university to examine how the athletic department conducted itself throughout the entire event and exactly what the athletic director Peter Baxter did."

According to Smyth, the appeal will outline portions of the

procedure the team felt were unfair, as well as issues the team had with Baxter and his alleged treatment toward the members of the baseball team.

"We think the university needs to know what he did."

Baxter expressed Wednesday afternoon that the policy and procedure regarding the suspension were followed correctly.

"The director, under the policy, has the ability to impose a temporary suspension, which was done," he said. "In terms of the athletes, they were given the ability to speak to it. They gave a pretty good case to

continue their season. You know the story."

Before Wednesday, Baxter had not heard anything regarding the appeal. The complaint was sent to WLU's acting dean of students, Adam Lawrence.

"We're waiting for [a hearing] to be scheduled," Smyth said.

In a statement, Smyth added that the purpose of the appeal is not to overturn the four forfeited games.

"We can't get those games back," the statement read. "But the appeal

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Inside

Dinner with Cardiff

The Cord sits down with Juno-nominated artist Craig Cardiff prior to a show at Maxwell's

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Enough is enough

Cord Life's Michael Porfirio makes a desperate plea to humanity to stop using some popular phrases

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K-W celebrates roots

Annual Oktoberfest celebrations take hold across Kitchener and Waterloo

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Editor's choice
Five phrases that really need to stop
Life, page 13



Editor's choice online
This Week Around Laurier
thecord.ca



CORRECTIONS

In the Oct. 3 article "Trudeau announces leadership bid", The Cord mistakenly identified Justin Trudeau as a Member of Provincial Parliament, when in fact he is a Member of Parliament.

In the Oct. 3 article "Transportation hub to accompany rapid transit," The Cord stated that a new transit hub is being built at the intersection of King Street and University Avenue, when it is in fact being built at the intersection of King and Victoria Street.

The Cord apologizes for these errors.

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This Week in quotes

"I think it was a more carefree time to be honest with you. In a lot of ways that's good and in a lot of ways that probably wasn't good. But it was our time, and we got by okay."

—Chris Dodd, Laurier director of residential services and WLU alum re: going to the university in the 1980s

"Do I think that if I raised a bunch of baby humans in my aviaries without adults, they would be promiscuous and not aggressive? I don't know. I'm not planning on trying that."

—David White, Laurier prof

Vocal Cord

Which "pop culture" word or phrase annoys you the most?



"YOLO."
—Dion Flores
second-year music



"Clutch."
—Alex McKnight
third-year sociology



"YOLO."
—Sarah Coakeley
third-year health science



"YOLO."
—Raghav Bhatia
first-year health science

Want your face in the paper? The Radio Laurier Street Team will be on campus doing Vocal Cord every Monday

Compiled by Autumn Smith
Photos by Kate Turner

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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:
"Gimme all that ass beer."
—Photography Manager Nick Lachance re: Oktoberfest photo.

NEWS

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NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Oktoberfest president, Vic Degutis (L), Scott Cozens, Lindsay Coulter and Sheldon Smithens (R) celebrate at the keg tapping.

More news inside:

Look ahead



STEPH TRUONG GRAPHICS EDITOR

Women's History Month advocates for women in leadership roles

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'Prosit!' Oktoberfest hits K-W

JUSTIN SMIRLIES
NEWS DIRECTOR

Hundreds of people held their glasses high and cheered at Kitchener city hall last Friday at the official opening and keg tapping of the 44th annual Oktoberfest festival, the largest version of the traditional Bavarian festival in North America. With the smell of grilled sausage, the sounds of polka music and festival-goers in traditional German dress, the official kick-off to the K-W staple was nothing but enthusiastic.

"I've been coming since I was a little boy, and my parents have been taking me since we were little and it was more of a family thing and we never stopped going. It was just fun," said Shawn Batte from London, Ontario who was born and raised in Kitchener. With his wife and uncle beside him, Batte noted that he hasn't missed the opening since he started going when he was a child.

"I've been coming to the openings

"It has clearly changed with the times, you see the marketing and it draws on different people. It's good — it keeps the tradition alive."

—Shawn Batte, Oktoberfest attendee

ever since it started. My uncle has been coming for 44 years, this particular event," he added.

Like many around him, Batte proudly wore his German lederhosen and displayed a giant smile, most likely eager to take part in the activities that were occurring later that night and throughout the week. King Street, which was closed for the kick-off and over the Thanksgiving long weekend, had various vendors, amusement rides and beer tents.

To assist in the keg tapping were Scott Cozens and Sheldon

Smithens, hosts of the television show *Canadian Pickers* that airs on the History Channel. Also in attendance was the 2012 Miss Oktoberfest, Lindsay Coulter.

"I'm really enjoying it, going to all the different events are a huge privilege and to be the ambassador for Oktoberfest. It has been a very big honour," explained Coulter, a third-year geography and environmental studies student at the University of Waterloo. "It's a lot of fun."

As it was for Batte, Oktoberfest has been a huge tradition for Coulter.

"I've been going to the parade as long as I could remember and when I turned 19 I started going out to some of the festivals," Coulter continued. "And I was on the marketing committee before I became Miss Oktoberfest."

In addition to the official keg tapping, there was the annual Thanksgiving Oktoberfest parade on Monday where an estimated 150,000 people were in attendance. The parade also collected food donations for the local food bank.

The celebrations end on Saturday, but the tradition doesn't die there. Without a doubt, Oktoberfest will be back projecting the same numbers next year. According to Batte, the marketing and the effort put into the celebrations is what keeps it so strong each year.

"It has clearly changed with the times, you see the marketing and it draws on different people," concluded Batte. "It's good— it keeps the tradition alive."

Bored?



NICK LACHANCE PHOTO MANAGER

UW prof joins team to research why we get bored

Local, page 6

Students' Union, WLU seek student feedback

ELIZABETH DICESARE
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Nearly a month after the semester has begun, many Wilfrid Laurier University students, staff and faculty are still voicing many concerns about food services on campus. In order to help subdue these frustrations, both the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union and Aramark have launched different programs to get feedback from the campus population in an attempt to alleviate concerns and address any relevant problems.

WLUSU has recently been promoting their "Fix My Laurier" (FML) program on campus for students to voice any concerns they may have about the school as a whole.

"It's a tool designed to give students the opportunity to provide feedback on every aspect of their Laurier experience," explained Chris

Walker, vice president of university affairs. "The dining hall is something that has come up a number of times."

While the FML program was launched last February, this semester has seen a major push for student participation.

"We're trying to launch it a little bit more strongly at the beginning of this year, obviously using issues that have been happening on campus as a way of promoting the service, so again referring back to the dining hall; there's a number of people that have brought up concerns about that," continued Walker. "Our marketing strategy is to promote FML through issues ... so it's a bit more meaningful and you can see a tangible connection."

The concerns raised through FML regarding the dining hall are no longer major issues, such as those raised last month concerning the

wall and lockers.

Now, they are smaller issues that can be addressed easily, such as specific dietary aids and microwave use.

However, WLUSU is still encouraging any type of feedback regarding the dining hall, as well as other issues that may arise across campus.

"We'll take any and all feedback," Walker stated.

"It's critical that we have an idea of what tools students need to be successful."

Dan Dawson, the vice president of university affairs, echoed Walker's sentiment of needing valuable feedback from the Laurier population regarding food services.

Earlier last week he forwarded a survey to all students, staff and faculty, on behalf of Aramark, to gain feedback regarding food services on campus. This was the first year the

survey was extended to staff and faculty.

While the survey has been done for the past five years, this year it is increasingly important because of the new system put in place in the dining hall.

"We've received some concerns from faculty and staff with the changes we have done, so I on purpose sent it to staff this year to try and get some feedback from that category," explained Dawson. "The more feedback we get the better, good, bad or indifferent, I'd rather hear what people are thinking or concerned about so we can fix them."

After receiving the results from the survey, any necessary changes or improvements will be discussed and decided upon.

"We're genuinely trying to make people understand that we're here to listen."

"It's critical that we have an idea of what tools students need to be successful."

—Chris Walker, vice president of university affairs at WLUS

CAMPUS

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Parade boasts awareness

WLU's first pride parade successfully marched through campus

JUSTIN SMIRLIES
NEWS DIRECTOR

For the first time ever, the Rainbow Centre at Wilfrid Laurier University, as part of Queer Awareness Week (QAW), which ran during the first week of October, hosted a Pride Parade on campus on Oct. 4 to promote queer awareness.

By sporting colourful clothing, waving flags and banners and cheering enthusiastically, a group of about 50 students marched around campus and through the buildings to spread awareness about the queer community.

"It was pretty good, I'm glad it was such a success," said Jessica Mennen, a third-year English and psychology student.

Mennen is also the events and discussions co-ordinator at the Rainbow Centre.

"We were glad to have a bunch of groups to come out and support us and join us in our march," she continued.

The parade began in the Quad and then moved into the Fred Nichols Campus Centre.

It went all the way across campus to the Science Building, and then finished back in the Quad.

Along with the other events occurring during QAW, the goal for the parade was to ensure that Laurier students know about the queer community, not just at Laurier, but locally, nationally and globally.

"It's just about making Laurier students aware of queer people and queer issues, the history and all of that," explained Christopher Owen, a fourth-year English student and the administrator for the Rainbow Centre.

In addition to the events held during QAW, Owen and Mennen mentioned that the Rainbow Centre has many other events in the works throughout the year, notably the Drag Show that is held every November in the Turret.

When asked if homophobia is still a challenge on Laurier's campus, Owen responded by saying that his experience at the university has been relatively positive.

"From my experience at Laurier — I'm in my fourth-year now — we haven't really had very many

reported incidents of homophobia," Owen explained.

"The homophobia that exists here, are the minor things, like people saying things such as 'that's so gay' which is actually really hurtful and offensive, and it's things like that."

He added that misuse of language is what needs to be filtered out on campus, but Laurier is a very accepting place.

"I'm really happy with Laurier," he added.

But as QAW came to a close, both Owen and Mennen wanted to express their gratitude to all those who supported them and the events — something Owen hopes to see increase as time goes on.

"Thank-you for being a school that I could out in, a school I could be proud in, and a school that I could really be myself at. As well, thank-you for the huge support that we got today and the huge support that we'll get to see the rest of the year," Owen continued.

"And I'm really excited to see the rest of the year."



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Students showed their support for Queer Awareness Week at WLU.



CRISTINA RUCCHETTA LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

New programs being instituted by the ecohawks are aiming to create a greener atmosphere on campus.

New sustainability plans

JUSTIN SMIRLIES
NEWS DIRECTOR

Various groups on campus are trying to make sure that Wilfrid Laurier University's campus stays green.

After the restructure of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union last April, the EcoHawks, a student-run sustainable group on campus, was shifted from being under the services department to the university affairs department which is led by Chris Walker. According to Laura Curk, a fourth-year communications student and the co-ordinator of the EcoHawks, the new restructure will allow the group to promote more advocacy.

"I thought about our events and what we could do with them to have more of a research and advocacy feel for it. So that's why I created the sustainable advocacy campaign," she explained. EcoHawks held an event in the Concourse during the last week of September for the sustainable advocacy campaign.

"It's basically an opportunity for the EcoHawks to invite groups internal and external to the organization that have to do with sustainability and the environment," she added about the campaign. As a result, EcoHawks have the ability to be a bit more interactive with the community and the university.

"The expectation is that the

EcoHawks will maintain their campaign mentality," explained Walker, the vice-president of university affairs at WLUSU. "However, the EcoHawks are also going to pick up the role of generating research and working with the university to ensure that they are employing environmental safe practises."

With that research — which, according to Curk, will be done through various student surveys — the EcoHawks and WLUSU can go to the university to advocate on the behalf of the students to implement more sustainable practises.

Both Walker and Curk noted that in addition to their on-going cooperation with the sustainability office at Laurier, they are pushing for stronger relationships with sustainable groups in the community, one of which is with a new bike share program that is currently in the works in the Waterloo region.

"It's the opportunity to pay for a bike and to bike somewhere else," said Walker. "It's an accessibility initiative as well as an environmental one."

Claire Bennett, the co-ordinator of the sustainability office, noted that her office — which is now in its second year — is implementing other programs to ensure sustainable practises. One of the new programs has been the installation of new recycling stations on campus.

"We also centralized waste centers in a bunch of different buildings. We have more individual recycling bins instead of multi-sort units ... so recycling can all go into one bin," she said. "It goes through a facility in Cambridge [to be sorted] which is really close, it's nice. Because a lot of the time different contractors will send it all the way to the States."

Another one has been the creation of a new sustainability course which won't necessarily be part of one particular faculty. This course will teach anyone, regardless of what program they are in, about environmental and sustainable initiatives and practises.

"It would be Laurier's first course that wouldn't actually 'live' anywhere, it will be interdisciplinary," explained Bennett.

While she already believes that Laurier works effectively in terms of staying green, Curk believes there's always room for improvement. The challenge, however, has not been that people don't want to be environmentally aware, it's the fact that they just don't have the opportunity yet — something that she hopes the EcoHawks will be able to give.

"The answers people have been giving us is that they are in support of environmental change, they just don't really know how they are supposed to go about doing it," she added.

WLU prof looks at the real 'tweet'

JAMES SHIN
CORD NEWS

What do humans and songbirds have in common? They both "tweet" for social communication.

Social behaviour such as "tweeting" by songbirds can have great implications in the animal kingdom. David White, a psychology professor at Wilfrid Laurier University, studies the brown-headed cowbird, its songs and the intricate social complexities surrounding it.

The cowbird — a species of songbird — must learn a very specific song necessary for communication, courtship, territorial defence and more. And almost all the songbirds need to be taught their songs by their fathers.

"Every other songbird on the planet has to learn its song when it's in the nest," said White. But, he added, this is not the case for the cowbird.

In fact, it can develop its song without ever coming in contact with another cowbird. White believes this may likely be due to genetic programming that has produced an innate instinct.

To investigate this, an experiment was done where cowbirds were hand-raised so they were never exposed to other cowbirds. And as expected, these cowbirds still developed proper songs. But what was most striking were the following consequences of developing a song in isolation.

"Put that male out with cowbirds that have grown up in other flocks of cowbirds and he sings his song — females love it. But the males react aggressively and kill him," said White. "The song's too good."

It turns out there is a lot of delicate social learning involved in a cowbird singing a song. And this social learning is critical for cohesive functioning and survival within a social structure.

"It's not just about the song. It's about all the things that go into being a good cowbird."

These kinds of observations of social dynamics are diverse and

"I don't think evolution would have favoured such a dynamic system."

—David White, WLU psychology professor

widespread. An exemplary illustration is found in studies detailing the social development of juvenile cowbirds. Juveniles that grow up alongside adults develop the stereotypical traits of aggression and monogamy. Juveniles that are raised separately, however, develop contrary traits of non-aggression and promiscuity.

"I didn't think evolution would have favoured such a dynamic system where the same bird could come out in two very different ways depending on its early developmental experiences," said White.

The implications of such findings can run deep. But when asked whether there were implications for humans, White jokingly replied, "Do I think that if I raised a bunch of baby humans in my aviaries without adults, they would be promiscuous and not aggressive? I don't know. I'm not planning on trying that."

But White said the demands of living in a group are very general across species. They all require competing, cooperating and navigating the social environment, so there may be useful knowledge to be learned about people as well.

Today, White continues his research on cowbirds that began back in 2000 with a focus on how females are influenced by the social environment.

"The males are just a measure of the females. They're just reacting to the females. The females are running the show," he concluded.

LITC presents 'Laurier likes Facebook'

Facebook employees from the Toronto office came to speak to and recruit students for their office

ELIZABETH DICESARE
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

On Oct. 10, the Laurier Innovation and Technology Club (LITC) hosted their first major event of the year: "Laurier Likes Facebook."

Three Facebook employees, Daniel Habashi, a marketing solutions manager, Sean Hutchinson, manager of partnerships and operations and Sachin Monga, a platform and market developer, came to Wilfrid Laurier University to speak to students about their experiences working for Facebook, and the new opportunities available within the company.

"Facebook is coming to Laurier in order to give us an inside look into the company; they're going to talk about marketing strategies, how they're going to execute the strategies [and] their vision for the future," explained Bob McMaster, LITC's vice president of internal affairs.

Michael Gagliano, LITC's co-president, explained why the club chose Facebook as the company to come address students.

"Basically, Laurier is in one of the top tech cities in North America, and never before has Facebook, one of the most important and relevant companies today, hired from Laurier," he said.

"And Laurier, being one of the two universities in the city, we wanted to give them [Facebook] an



Sachin Monga (left), Daniel Habashi (middle) and Sean Hutchinson (right) speak in the Turret at WLU. KATE TURNER PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

opportunity to come here."

"I think it's a really cool opportunity for students, and hopefully they hire a few of our attendees tonight," he added.

The networking session for students occurred after the panel discussion. It gave students that attended a chance to speak with the Facebook employees, and hand out

resumes. This idea, according to McMaster and Gagliano, was Facebook's idea.

"Their office is in [Toronto] in a business development, and marketing and sales offices, so we're hoping it's going to be a perfect crowd [for the event]," added Gagliano. "We're hoping it's going to be a perfect crowd for them [to recruit

from]." During the discussion panel, plenty of advice was given to the audience about how to secure a job within Facebook.

"We look for people that are flat-out smart," explained Hutchinson. "We just look for people with an interesting background ... and huge brainpower."

Problem solving is a key element

in securing a job with Facebook. As the panelists explained, they don't have technical job descriptions, as their goals are constantly changing depending on whatever project they are working on. As a result, being able to hold your own is essential.

"We reinvent ourselves often ... we basically hack our own jobs," Hutchinson continued.

Habashi echoed these statements, and emphasized the need for goal-oriented employees who are willing to put in ample time and effort into their jobs.

"We need doers," Habashi said. "There are a lot of people that can talk the talk, but you have to do things too."

The panels also discussed new aspects of Facebook that are currently in a testing stage, and will hopefully be released soon. One of these was a new "want" button.

Monga explained that the "want" button is similar to the pre-existing "like" button.

It can be used by businesses to publish lists of their products, and then users can "want" items that they would like to purchase.

"It shows aspirational aspects of your identity," he explained, which is part of expressing yourself on the website in a positive environment.

Overall, the event, much like Facebook itself, strived to provide a positive experience for its audience in order for people to develop.

Laurier in brief

WLU students win community award of excellence

Two Wilfrid Laurier University students received Awards of Excellence for their community contributions on Sunday, September 30. The event was held at the Cambridge Holiday Inn, honouring a total of seven students who received awards.

Chelsea Salfarlie won the Chloe Callandar Scholarship, one of three \$1,000 awards the regional chapter of the Congress of Black Women gives out each year.

Jason Simon won the Betty Albrecht Academic Scholarship, one of four awards offered by the Caribbean-Canadian Association of Waterloo Region.

Marcia Smellie, president of the regional chapter of the Congress of Black Women of Waterloo Region, said that the event was initially created to recognize a minority that was getting negative press in the late 1990s and early 2000s. The event has been running since 2001.

—Compiled by Marissa Evans

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LOCAL

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Volunteerism drops across region

LINDSAY PURCHASE
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

Volunteerism is down in K-W, and people are taking notice.

The Waterloo Region Vital Signs annual report, which was released on Oct. 2, indicated that in the five-year period concluding in 2011, participation in volunteering had dropped 5.3 percentage points.

Jane Hennig, the executive director for the Volunteer Action Centre, an organization which connects volunteers to placement opportunities in Waterloo Region, said that she has seen the drop first-hand.

"I would say that we are lower and continuing to decrease in volunteer hours," she observed, though she acknowledged that the statistic was more drastic than changes within their own membership.

The drop in volunteer service may, in part, reflect the demographic make-up of the region, according to Hennig.

"There are some real anomalies in this region," she claimed. "Our region, in terms of demographics, skews younger and we know that younger people volunteer fewer hours than older people."

Although youth are required to contribute 40 hours of volunteer work in high school, this is not required for most post-secondary programs. For students who are attempting to balance school often with work and extra-curricular activities, volunteering can be low on the priority list.

"It's really about how do we attract and find ways to engage that younger population that is going to be meaningful on both sides," Hennig explained.

"Volunteers bring something to an organization and a community unity you can't buy."

—Dale Gellatly, volunteer coordinator for Mosaic Counselling and Family Services

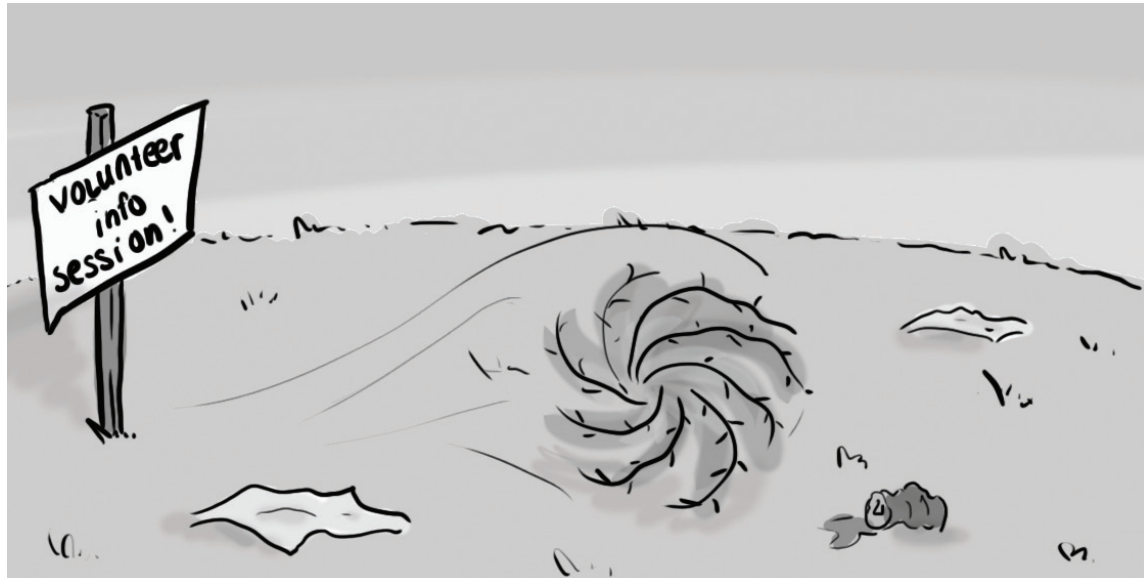
Many universities, including Wilfrid Laurier University, are working strategically with community partners to facilitate student volunteering as part of Community Service Learning (CSL) courses.

"If you can do it as part of a course, which is something that they're going to have to do anyway, it's not going to take away from the time they have for part-time work, for extra-curricular, for homework, for family," Hennig added.

Taryn Graham, who is the business communication coordinator at the Volunteer Action Centre, noted that younger volunteers are often looking for positions in which they can apply skills they've acquired. "I know that something that youth volunteers tend to look for is a sense of responsibility," she said.

For Sustainable Waterloo Region, a local business, which operates with 53 volunteers and only six staff members, it's all about creating positions with substantial opportunities for contribution.

"We don't have volunteers



STEPHANIE TRUONG GRAPHICS EDITOR

because we can't afford to pay them, it's rather that we see they're valuable for the organization in terms of what the volunteer can contribute and then as well for the volunteer in terms of their development," said Sustainable WR executive director Mike Morrice on creating a mutual partnership for volunteering success.

Finding volunteers who are passionate about where they're providing their time, he says, is also key for engagement.

Morrice continued, "When we know that there's that strong passion fit, when they have a lot to get out of it, whether that's through network connections socially or professional development or connecting to the community in a meaningful way, that's when we identify those volunteers that have that clear benefit."

While Kitchener organization Mosaic Counselling and Family Services has maintained levels of volunteer support, volunteer coordinator Dale Gellatly was not surprised by the decline.

"It's because of an aging population. It's because people are busier with careers and have less time to contribute," she said. "I don't think it's because people are less passionate or less caring."

Recognizing these changes and structuring volunteer recruitment and programming strategically around them is needed for organizations that are concerned about levels of interest dropping, Gellatly believes. For example, recognizing the different interests of varied demographics of volunteers is important to consider when creating positions, something which can be determined

through formal communication about needs and expectations from both sides of the relationship.

"The places that feel the impact of that five per cent the most are the places that don't have that professional management of volunteers," she contended.

Underlying the discussion overall, however, is an agreement that volunteers are integral to the community and that the Vital Signs' statistic should not be ignored.

"I think volunteers bring something to an organization and a community that you can't buy with staff," said Gellatly. "What they bring is a passion and a belief that it is possible for things to be better, for things to be different."

People who are interested in volunteering can find many placement opportunities at volunteerkw.ca.

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ULTIMATE FAN CONTEST

Boredom attracts interest

ALANNA FAIREY
LEAD REPORTER

Sometimes throughout an individual's day, they feel bored and cannot fully comprehend the origin of their feelings. With a new research initiative being undertaken by several Ontario university professors, that may be about to change.

Three university professors are banding together to study the science behind the occurrence of boredom.

University of Waterloo professor Daniel Smilek joined forces with lead researcher John Eastwood at York University and Mark Fenske, co-author of *The Winner's Brain: 8 Strategies Great Minds Use to Achieve Success*, an associate professor in neuroscience at the University of Guelph.

After a lengthy discussion of their interest in the matter of boredom and the logistics behind the materials, the three researchers pooled their research funds and collaborated to hire post-doctoral student Alexandra Frischen to help with the beginning stages of their work.

"Boredom is something that is universally experienced, but we know very little of," Fenske said.

"Compare that with something like fear. We've done a lot of work on fear and how we perceive threat. If you think about western societies, how often you feel that experience compared to how often you experience boredom, I'm willing to bet that more people are experiencing boredom than they do fear, yet we know very little of it."

Boredom, which has been defined as feeling weary, because one is unoccupied or displays a lack of interest in one's current activity, has



NICK LACHANCE PHOTO MANAGER

"Boredom is something that is universally experienced, but we know little of."

—Mark Fenske, associate professor at the University of Guelph

attention in different ways. Attention can cause a person to better focus, as well as distract the person from the activities which they are engaged in.

The intention of this study is to attain many distinctive tools to examine monotony in further detail. Understanding how attention is related, Fenske maintains, is a critical tool to discovering the root cause of boredom among people.

According to Fenske, very little work and earlier scientific investigations had previously been done in the topic of boredom, which was initially a surprise to the three professors.

With their research, they hope to inspire a lot more future research on the subject.

"By having this new framework we can start moving forward. We can start looking at attention, measuring attention, manipulating attention within the context of boredom," Fenske shared.

"It allows us to move forward thinking about new ways to manipulate boredom itself."

proved to be a complex emotion to describe to another individual, as there are a lot of different aspects to dullness, according to Fenske.

The topic of boredom is not as simple or straightforward as one may assume. Boredom, in fact, can be associated with a plethora of serious mental health issues.

These problems include depression as well as attention deficit disorder (ADD), among others. To understand the concept of boredom, the concept of concentration must also be well understood and investigated.

Different circuits of the human brain allow individuals to give out

Youth gangs and crime in our backyard

A complex issue with intricate underlying socioeconomic issues, many are unaware of gang activity in K-W

LINDSAY PURCHASE
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

When most people think of gang activity, it brings to mind images of the dangers of big city life and highly violent encounters between youth that have no place in quieter communities.

And yet, while awareness may be minimal, this is a problem which exists within smaller cities, including those in Waterloo Region.

In 2007, the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) received funding to open a guns and gangs unit, which will help monitor and address gang activity in the region.

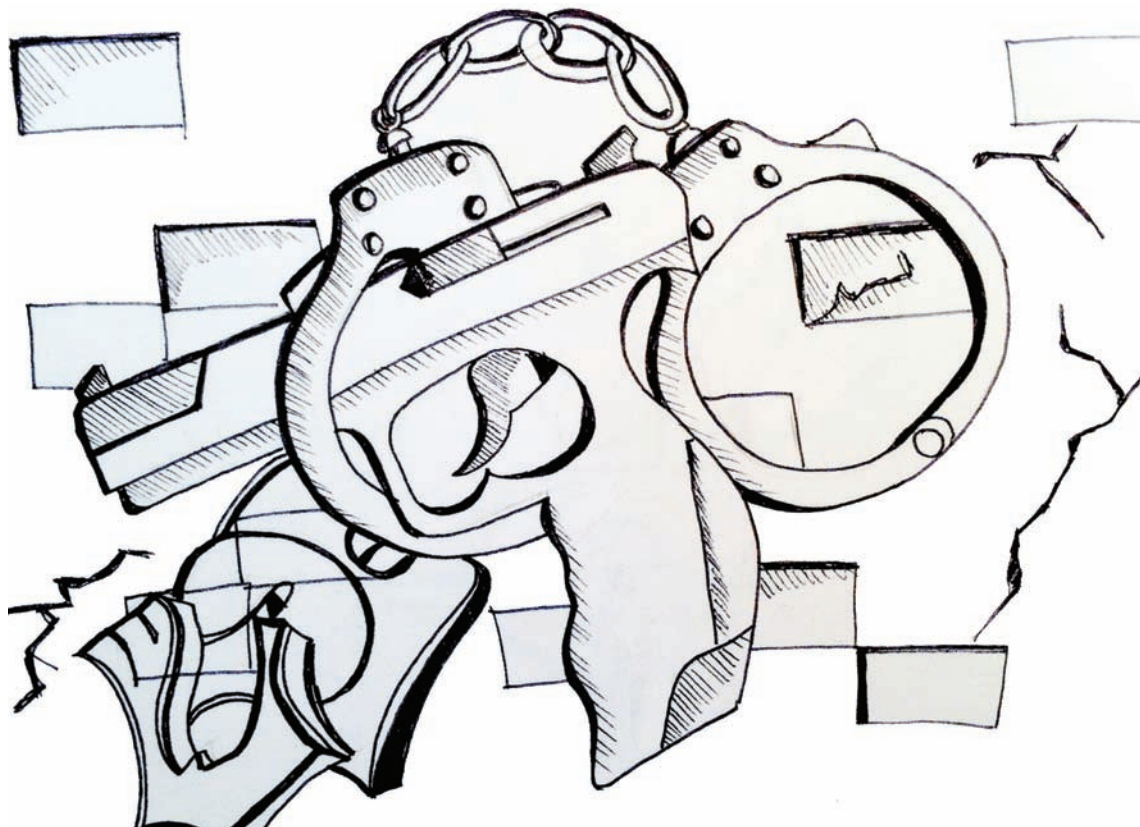
"The municipal police services went to the government and said, 'you know, this isn't just a big city, Toronto problem, we're also having these issues,'" said Sgt. Andy Harrington, who works with the guns and gangs unit.

Harrington said that local enforcement officers became more aware of the problem after Toronto's targeting of the issue caused many gang members to relocate into other Southern Ontario communities, including Waterloo Region.

The unit closely monitors around 300 people who are believed to "have the highest risk to the community for public safety." This involves working with youth from ages 13 into their mid-twenties to gather intelligence about weapons use and proactively take measures to avoid dangerous situations.

While law enforcement is one necessary component of addressing gang-related problems, it is a complex issue that is steeped in socioeconomic factors as well.

Joshua Dills, the associate director at Reaching Our Outdoor



TAYLOR GAYOWSKY GRAPHIC ARTIST

Friends (ROOF), a local organization with services directed toward at-risk youth, explained that there can be many background issues that would cause someone to be involved in a gang.

"For many of them it could be a matter of not having a sense of belonging in the community, not having a sense of belonging at home and utilizing a gang as sort of a surrogate family for themselves," he said.

Underlining all of this is the feeling that they do not have the options or opportunities to succeed.

Dills continued, "It might be controversial to say, but the gang is filling their needs. Even though it's filling it in an unhealthy way, it is filling it."

However, he also acknowledged that attempting to convince members to leave their gangs could be highly detrimental, as there must be adequate supports in place sustain transition to a different lifestyle.

"It's a matter of providing them with options so that they can make that choice for themselves when they're ready," Dills explained.

Providing a range of social

services and increasing youth awareness of healthier ways to address their problems is crucial to alleviating this problem.

One organization which works toward street gang prevention in Waterloo Region is inREACH, a three year pilot program funded by the national crime prevention centre. It partners with other community support groups, including ROOF, to work in the areas of intervention and prevention.

Rohan Thompson, who is the project manager for inREACH, agreed that the problem

is more complicated than is often understood.

"If we have young people that are gang involved or at risk of gang involvement, or they have involvement with the criminal justice system, that's typically what shows on the surface. That's a manifestation of some other underlying problem," he explained.

The funding for the program finishes in March 2013, and efforts are currently being taken to determine if additional support can be found to continue inREACH.

Thompson says that "There's still significant work to be done."

While the organizations do provide many social services and supports, bureaucratic barriers still exist that inhibit ideal levels of effectiveness from being attained.

"Because of policies and mandates from various, from different organizations and different systems, it's difficult for any one organization to sort of provide comprehensive, all-encompassing type of support for this particular population," Thompson stated.

Dills reiterated these sentiments, adding that, "We are trying to take step to connect the different resources so that we have more effective communication."

Positive progress has still been seen, however, and the issue is not thought to be growing.

In addition, most of the regional population, with the exception of those who are directly involved in gang activity, are not impacted by the problem.

"We're beginning to see a lot of community ownership around the issue and providing support and looking how to work with this particular population," said Thompson.

Landlord inconsistency causes problems

—cover

year, he and his roommates – where they had an agreement with their previous landlord that their rent would be monthly payments after the yearlong lease was done – were essentially forced out of his apartment and left to find a new place. His new landlord wanted to bump up the rent \$100 more. Once Megraw and his roommates refused, the landlord told them that his

immediate family was moving in instead.

"But his immediate family didn't move in because I ended up knowing the people who moved in after. Obviously, they weren't his immediate family," Megraw explained.

"It makes you feel like you're taken advantage of, basically. We're students, we're on our own for the first time, we don't know all the legalities."

In a more extreme case, a recent Laurier graduate, who asked

to remain anonymous, rented an apartment on King Street last year.

Her landlord, who lived in the side unit of the building, was a drug dealer.

"He was a drug dealer. I know this for sure, because when I moved in there were sketchy things going on," the graduate explained. "I was only living there because it was cheap rent and I can't afford to live in those expensive apartments."

According to the graduate, the landlord was unresponsive, reluctant to do repairs, had people come to the building at inconvenient times of the day and even told the tenants to not call the cops to the property.

"When we first started off we did have a few issues with the landlords where they wouldn't do things that we would recommend and they wouldn't spend the money where it needed to be spent. We have gotten rid of many landlords because of this," said Ho Tek, part owner at Domus Student Housing Inc., which manages properties for landlords that do not live in the city.

"We've had our own fair share of problems. We just let go of our property manager because we didn't feel like he was getting to repairs in a timely fashion," Tek added.

Many issues do arise with landlords if they are "absentee", meaning that they do not live in the area where they rent a house or building. As a result, it makes it more difficult for them to do repairs or to aid their tenants un-

less they have the infrastructure to do so.

"I don't think it's a big deal, but the landlords come all the way from Vancouver to all the way from Australia," Tek continued, noting that Domus has their own maintenance person to address those specific repair issues.

"In that case, it is very important to have someone here. If there's an issue it can be dealt with right away."

But McMurray, who feels the situation is getting slightly better, urges students to do their research and go over the lease with their parents to ensure they are more proactive if an issue arises. The Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union also offers 30 free minutes with a lawyer through their new Ceridian help line.

"Spend little bit of time to understand what your obligations are and what your alternatives and options are," McMurray said.

Megraw,

however, wished there was a bit more resources in the community and at the universities to prepare him for the experience of dealing with a landlord.

"It would be nice if there were a lot more readily available resources to help out with certain issues. What can we do in the instance where the landlord is threatening to kick us out?" he said.



CRISTINA RUCCHETTA LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

Many Laurier students reside in student housing for the duration of their degree, but absentee landlords can be problematic.

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NATIONAL

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Ontario education reforms under debate

RAVI BALAKRISHNAN
STAFF WRITER

The annual World University Rankings released by Times Higher Education (THE) showed a disappointing Canadian standing, with Canada's top three institutions, led by the University of Toronto, all falling in the ranks compared to their respective previous positions. This ranking is released at a time when there is much discussion in Ontario about the government's proposal to overhaul post-secondary education in the province.

Gyula Kovacs, senior media relations coordinator with the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities, elaborated on the proposed post-secondary changes.

"The goal is for students to participate in lifelong learning through seamless mobility between multiple

institutions and regions during their education and for the higher education sector to have greater fluidity between learning, training and the workforce," Kovacs said.

While the changes could impact the student experience and the way universities will need to operate, Kovacs makes it clear that three-year degrees are not replacing four-year degrees. In 2003, when the Ontario Government removed OAC, shortening high school to four years, many students were left struggling with the transition out of high school.

Similar concerns are being voiced about the decision to potentially shorten university degrees and offer more online courses. The argument is being made that this could leave Ontario graduates increasingly unprepared for the workforce.

"There is a growing body of

evidence that corroborates the success of online and other forms of distance education as being of equal quality to more traditional education styles," said Kovacs, countering the skepticism. "As more institutions explore these areas ... the quality of online learning will only improve."

Zach Dayler, the national director at the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), explained that people in more remote geographical regions do particularly stand to benefit from the proposed changes to increase accessibility to students.

"Getting online learning out there is important, I think, in terms of expanding access to education in probably, what could be an affordable way," he reflected. "That being said, you're never going to replace being in the classroom."

Dayler went on to caution that online learning is a new means of education, and that it will take time for it to get developed extensively. It is something he feels the government should be investing in though, and it is an area of post-secondary education that Canada could become a leader in one day.

"It's always tough to look at university and college rankings, because there's so many things that go into it," explained Dayler, regarding the Times' rankings, "I think the first point for looking at the rankings is that there are 400 universities on there. In the context of things, even being within the top 50 there is a positive sign."

"The idea that you grow your country by investing in education is the issue that I think some countries are taking more seriously than others," he said.

Despite a lot of the criticisms, other reviews of Canada's global position in terms of education helped shed positive light on the country as a whole. An international review conducted by 24/7 Wall St. released late last month placed Canada at the number one spot on the list of the world's most educated nations.

The review cited the fact that 51 per cent of the Canadian population had some sort of tertiary education. This is a significant achievement for the country as a whole since the figure is up from just 40 per cent in the year 2000. Universitas 21 also ranked Canada third in the world, in their ranking of countries on the basis of their universities.

"I think for us as a country, Canada's definitely getting to the point where we're seeing innovation and research as an important piece to invest in," concluded Dayler.

Women's History Month promotes equality

ALANNA FAIREY
LEAD REPORTER

As Women's History Month marks its 20th anniversary, Canadian citizens are being inspired to look at the future rather than the past.

Beginning in 1992, the month of October was chosen to celebrate women's history, as it commemorated the judicial decision that arose from the "Persons Case" on Oct. 18, 1929.

Known as the "Famous Five," these women took their objective of having Canadian women appointed to the Senate to what was then the highest court of appeal, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. After much debate, women were declared as "qualified persons."

Wilfrid Laurier University history professor Cynthia Comacchio recognizes the historical relevance for women's history, but also maintains that there is still much more that needs to be done to achieve equality in today's politics.

"This was a historic breakthrough for Canadian women, but the reality is that they are still very much a minority in politics and certainly in the Senate, which continues to function

by appointment only," Comacchio said.

"Senators are chosen with great care by Prime Ministers and their consultants, the appointments are usually partisan and consequently reflect the minority of Canadians who are wealthy and influential, who also remain, to this day, mostly white men."

Comacchio added that the creation of Women's History Month draws attention to the fact that Canadian citizens have to create such an event to celebrate and promote the encouragement of women in Canada.

The month of October is meant to be an empowering reminder that women have a greater sense of entitlement than in the past.

"We won't ever really make strides toward gender equality at every level unless we encourage young women to take up the torch and lead, as they are fully capable of doing and fully entitled to do," Comacchio said. "This is a global concern, not just a Canadian one."

Recognizing this, the world's first "International Day of the Girl" was declared for Oct. 11, 2012. This day aspires to improve the lives of girls and young women.

Founder of non-profit organization Little Women for Little Women in Afghanistan, Alaina Podmorow was named the Honorary Youth

Ambassador for the event.

The Government of Canada led the in-

ternational community in establishing this day. The event means to teach women in Canada that they now have the resources to becoming leaders in Canada today.

The theme of Women's History Month 2012 celebrates the leadership roles that girls and young women have played throughout our country's history.

Mary Murphy-MacGregor, executive director and co-founder of National Women's History Project, spoke of the role of women changing in the last twenty years. She believes that women's roles in society have had such a great impact because society had been informed.

"People's ideas of who women are have changed dramatically," Murphy-MacGregor said.

"You give people more information, you give people more role models you let them know what women have done in their lives and how they have been partners with everything that has happened to make

"We won't ever really make strides toward gender equality ... unless we encourage young women to take up the torch and lead."

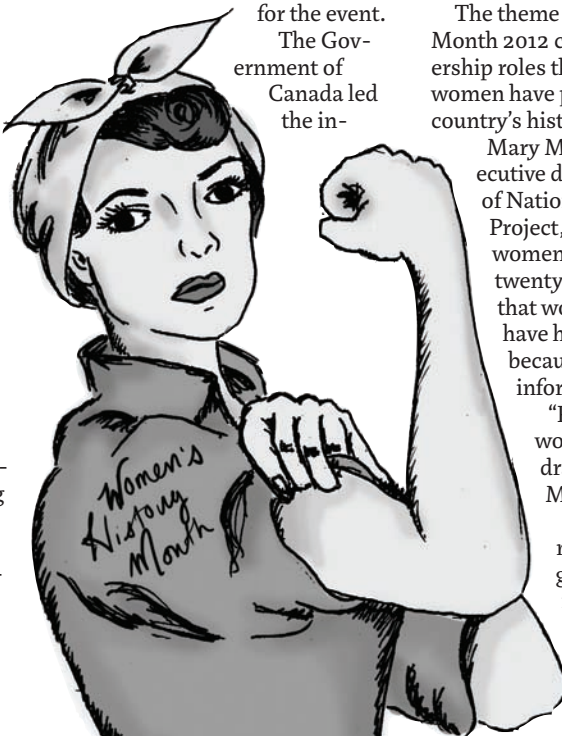
—Cynthia Comacchio, professor of history at Wilfrid Laurier University

this society move forward."

Murphy-MacGregor also put a big emphasis on young women today campaigning for the rights of women, as they have the access and the tools to ensure that women continue to have a place in society.

"You have your whole life to make sure that movement goes on," Murphy-MacGregor added.

"There is pressure on young people because they have a lot more time. They also have a lot more expectations and a sense of how things should be fair today."



STEPHANIE TRUONG GRAPHICS EDITOR

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Laurier GOLD

Beginning with the eccentric 1980s and gnarly 1990s, **Features** experience of past generations. In next week's issue,

The 1980s

With their side ponytails and mullets, shoulder pads and leg warmers, the average Laurier student of the 1980s was certainly different in appearance from that of today. The school itself was even a dissimilar display as this era witnessed the initial opening of the Peters Building, the John Aird Center and the completion of the Laurier Library. But construction of the Science Building, Bricker Academic and the Schlegal Center were yet to come.

"There were no single rooms on campus. There were only double dorms," said Laurier Alumni Chris Dodd. "The study rooms in the residences got used all the time, the library was a very popular place to study but those were basically the two places that we had."

Dodd attended Laurier during the late 80s and graduated with a degree in political science and history in 1992. Dodd now works at Laurier as the director of residential services. The minimal space on campus at this point in history however also had its benefits.

"There was no way to message someone or anything like that. But it was a pretty small place so if you were going to meet someone on campus and they didn't show up you could just wander over," said Dodd. "That's the way life was back then."

This created an even greater sense of togetherness than Laurier is still appraised for to this day. "I always loved that; the tightness of the community and the way people interacted in central spaces like the lounge, in the concourse or the torque room," Dodd reflected. The torque room was a cafeteria area located in the lower Concourse, where the Starbucks is now and existed as a popular hangout place for the rather smaller student population at the time.

"The spirit and sense of belonging was very much the same, it was just manifested differently because of technology and where people gathered and what not," said Dodd.

The matter of technology also had a big influence on the academic aspect of being a Laurier student.

"For research we had to go into the library and search through the little cards ... you found the journal or book that you wanted. You went and found it in the stack, if it was there," Dodd recalled. "It was busy work, you couldn't just sit at your desk and get what you needed. You had to physically take yourself to the library and do your research."

The closest thing to computers were typewriters, which everyone had in their room for writing up assignments. This didn't help much when signing up for courses however.

"It was a physical manifestation of Loris," said Dodd. "You'd stand in line in your department and you'd have to get the prof to sign you in and get a sticker. Once you got all your stickers and signatures you'd take it over to the register's office."

Students of this era were not completely focused on academics, however, and were much deserving of the breaks they had on weekends to party in

the style of their generation.

"The hot place to go was always the Turret," said Dodd. "On Thursday, Friday and Saturday night."

"The Turret would have a lot of cover bands and a ton more live music than they have now. They would have a live band a week," he reflected. "You'd see a Genesis cover band, a Springsteen cover band. When I was a student those were big."

The city of Waterloo offered a few alternatives for student nightlife, but nothing really in comparison to these days.

"Off campus there used to be a place in downtown Waterloo called Taps and it was a really popular place with students. Chainsaw was called Stingers ... After a football game on a Saturday night it was very popular with football players, friends of the football team," said Dodd.

"It was such an amazing time for the football program because they were so good for so many years ... so football games were massive events."

The house party scene also had its differences.

"It was a lot more socializing and sort of more hanging out ... There were some [drinking games] but I don't remember it as a focus at all. Beer pong wasn't invented," said Dodd.

Laurier's much smaller population of students meant that basically everybody knew everybody and went to the same events together since there were only a few things to do every weekend.

"I can remember a party at that house right there" Dodd remarked, pointing out the window of his office on King Street at a building across the street. "There used to be a balcony and there were so many people on the balcony that it crashed down. I can remember being at parties where you couldn't even move."

The social life, sports and days hanging out around campus were what Dodd cherished most about his university experience as a student of the late 1980s.

"Back in my day maybe we weren't as academically focused as students are now. It wasn't always the first thought, we were busy with other stuff," he said.

Dodd went on to explain that the culture of a student is different now with the added pressures of increased competition when applying to schools and achieving the right grades to succeed on the other end. "I mean, for us, university was the next thing that you did."

In this way, it is not only the student life at Laurier specifically that has gone through its fair share of transitions.

"It was a really fun time, but a very different time. Everything is different now. Campus is different, so much bigger," concluded Dodd. "Like I said the reason students are here is maybe the same reason but with a different focus. I think it was a more carefree time to be honest with you. In a lot of ways that's good and in a lot of ways that probably wasn't good. But it was our time, and we got by okay."



GOLDEN YEARS

es Editor Colleen Connolly takes a look into the Laurier student a glance at the golden hawks of the 1960s and 1970s.

The 1990s

Besides embracing the popular 1990s fads of owning Tamagotchis and listening to CD Walkmen, Wilfrid Laurier University students were able to experience many new activities on campus as this era saw the establishment of the Student Union's Peer Help Line, Emergency Response Team and Foot Patrol. This was good news to Laurier Alumni Megan Harris who attended the university from the late '90s until 2000 when she graduated with a degree in history.

"I have to say I wasn't the academic, I was the extracurricular person," Harris admitted. "That was our way of getting to know people outside of the classroom and for me that was the highlight of my university career because that's where I made all my friends."

There were a lot of ways that a student could feel a part of the university experience at Laurier during this time period, even if it wasn't something they sought out.

"There were a lot of traditions then that I don't think exist anymore," said Harris.

Certain events at particular times of the school year would bring everyone together.

"Like the boar's head dinner," recalled Harris. "It was a long-standing tradition that I think took place in the fall because it was harvest season. It was in the Theatre Auditorium and you had big harvest tables. They'd bring in the full pig with the apple in the mouth and it was a big, huge harvest dinner for everybody."

Another event that took place in the fall was Homecoming, which in many ways was the same as it is today.

"The clothing, everyone was still as proud as they are now. Like when you see the students at Homecoming, we were exactly the same thing," said Harris. "We were as crazy as they are."

But drinking wasn't the only thing that students enjoyed as a group each year.

"We used to have a parade before Homecoming and all the residences used to have a flat bed, so we'd put together something and it would go up and down King Street," said Harris. "The Pikes [Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity] would always run the ball in as well."

The community of Laurier was nurtured through these sorts of shared experiences. But most of what students did on the average was done in groups.

"You had to go out to see your friends, you got out of the house to be with everybody," Harris said. "You were around each other a lot more... you interacted with people more, I think, because you weren't hiding behind a computer all the time."

Computers were just beginning to grow in popularity at this time, but since the internet hadn't made its breakthrough yet they did not serve the same purpose as they do today.

"The only thing I used my computer for was to write my papers," said Harris. "And if I wanted to check e-mail there were three or four computer rooms on campus. You went in, you had to wait your turn and then you would sit down at a computer, check your email

and go."

This meant that students in the '90s were cracking books in the library most of the time when it came to their academics, but the outcome was still the same.

"It's the same degree, it's the same process to get it, it's the same requirements to get it. What you guys are going through now, we went through then," said Harris.

"Same with the student experience, everyone got involved. It's just different opportunities now."

This is true for both the extracurricular social life and the party scene.

"Wednesday night at Wilf's was the big thing, the Turret was packed every Friday and Saturday night," Harris recalled.

King Street didn't have the same nightlife it has now, so students generally stayed close to campus when it came to going out. These venues are still relatively popular at Laurier today, but the fashion and music has changed.

"At that point in history the top was where you showed your midriff. So we'd always call them, even to this day, Turret tops. Because that's what you would see at the Turret, just short tops," said Harris.

"Aqua was big, Notorious BIG... raving was really coming in as we were leaving."

There were places to go off campus, however, on the odd night. In University Plaza there was a bar called Loose Chance Louie's and The Silver Spur downtown where Chainsaw is currently located.

"We went to The Silver Spur. That was pretty much the same. It was the karaoke bar," said Harris. "Ethel's has always been there and you'd go to Ethel's, but it was rare. Usually we went to Ethel's and The Silver Spur on pub crawl nights."

House parties had their similarities though. But while students now hit up the local convenience stores for Red Solo Cups and ping pong balls, the students of the 90s were in search of other supplies.

"I think Canadian Tire probably would have laughed at us, because if any student ever came in there looking for plastic tubing and a funnel they knew what it was for," said Harris. "There was always flip cup... beer-pong existed, but it wasn't a big thing."

In the midst of everything Harris was involved in throughout her time at Laurier, she still feels that her education was her greatest achievement.

"My biggest accomplishment in life is getting my degree, because I worked hard at it. But I also worked hard at everything else."

The other activities that Harris pursued alongside her education were ultimately what led her into the field she's in today. Before becoming a manager of marketing and communications at Laurier, she worked many years as a director of events.

"I have to say that I don't do anything with my history degree except that I'm an excellent writer. I spent my history degree writing papers," concluded Harris. "For events, that came from everything I did outside the classroom."



Computer Lab



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Auditions



FrInge Festival 2013. Love to act? Can't find the right creative outlet on campus? Come and audition for the WLU FrInge Festival, Thursday Oct. 11 in N1001 (the Science Building). Bring a monologue and your smile!!

Open casting call & orchestra call for Curtain Call Production's 'Cabaret'! Cast Auditions: Sunday Oct. 21, Tuesday Oct. 23, Thursday Oct. 25, Friday Oct. 26, and Saturday Oct. 27. Please prepare a short monologue, 2 contrasting songs, and be prepared for the dance portion to be taught at the audition. Band Auditions: Wednesday Oct. 17 & Thursday Oct. 18. Please prepare 2 contrasting songs, and expect to sight read scales at the audition. To book your audition, or for any questions email curtain@uoguelph.ca.

DearLIFE

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

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

Dear Kelly,
Will you marry me ... cause racing.
Sincerely,
Reezy

Dear Life,
Why is it that I'm forced to sit in a language tutorial for 50 minutes with a tutorial leader who knows no more about the language I'm learning than I do.
Sincerely,
Sprechen sie Deutsch? Nah, didn't think so.

Dear Life,
Why did academic advising tell me that I was "jumping ship" on my university career by deciding to get a 3 year general arts degree?
Sincerely,
It's not like I was gonna find a job with an honors anthropology degree anyway.

Dear Life,
Is best in Euro
Sincerely,
Bro

Dear Life,
I've noticed recently that people who ride horses kind of look like horses themselves! Or alpacas....
Sincerely,
The casual observer

Dear Life,
I forgot my cell phone and iPod in the women's washroom off the concourse Tuesday night, and went back eight minutes later to collect them when I noticed them to be missing. Thank you to the wonderful lady who returned them to Special Constable Services!! I only wish there were more thoughtful people like you!
Sincerely,
One Relieved Student

Dear Life,
To the First Year who drew on my face at FYCE-T's epic event Return To The O: you're doing it wrong.
Sincerely,
I'm not your breaker.

Dear I do not pay tuition to view your bird's nest
I would not consider a lack of doing my hair as a sign of laziness. Some of us girls have better things to do with their time like studying, rather than spend 20 minutes to an hour to do our hair. If one of us girls is blocking your view in lecture, come to class earlier and sit closer to the front.
Sincerely, I love my bird's nest

Dear Laurier,
Thanks for supporting the Queer community during Queer Awareness Week. Your participation in our events, especially the parade was awesome.
Sincerely,
See you at Trans* Awareness Week.

Dear Editor-in-Chief,
I am alone in bed, naked and yearning for you.
Sincerely,
Join me, I've got toys

Dear Life,
I would like to share that in my almost four and a half years at WLU, I have not once stepped foot inside

Wilf's. Do I get a prize for this? Maybe a gift card?
Sincerely,
Wilf's virgin and proud

Dear Life,
I have a sneaking suspicion that this group of ten loud students hanging out in the private GRADUATE study space in the library are in fact undergraduates.
Sincerely,
Security?

Dear Life,
So I'm studying at Williams' and this couple comes in. They buy drinks and then they both play games on their iPhones for the next half-hour. Without speaking.
Sincerely,
Texting you instead of speaking to you totally gets me hot too

Dear Life,
Ever notice how all the best films of the past 100 years have one thing in common? Sinbad.
Sincerely,
I hope he's wearing something made out of windbreaker

Dear whoever planned the construction on James Street, FUCK YOU.
Sincerely,
Who the fuck thought that was a good idea on a tiny, fucking dead-end street

Dear Life,
Ohhhh.
Sincerely,
David Yoon

Dear show me some diversity,
You say Cord staff only interviews their friends? Joke's on you, they don't have friends.
Sincerely,
The Boss

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Arts bites

The latest news in entertainment

Ashley Tisdale a prostitute?

In the recent episodes of FX's hit show *Sons of Anarchy*, airing Sept. 25th and Oct. 2nd, you may have noticed former Disney star Ashley Tisdale partaking in activities alongside the infamous biker gang. Her role on the show was a prostitute — quite a difference from her puritan role as Sharpay Evans in Disney's 2006 *High School Musical*. Tisdale's career has taken a nose-dive as of late, so if you're bored or just looking for a laugh, here's your chance.

50 Shades of Grey gets a screenwriter

Author E. L. James announced through Twitter that the pre-production for the on-screen adaptation of her smash-hit erotic novel *50 Shades of Grey* has taken a huge

stride forward through the hiring of Terra Nova screenwriter Kelly Marcel. Whether you're a fan of what is known as the "mommy porn" sensation or not, you can expect a lot of hype to build up around the casting of the leading roles of Christian Grey and Anastasia Steele.

Two action movie re-makes release trailers

20th Century Fox and Disney released the first teasers for two highly-anticipated films that are set to hit theatres in February and July respectively this past week. *A Good Day to Die Hard* is the fifth installment in the Bruce Willis-driven *Die Hard* series and the movie's already pre-sold out on the basis of getting another chance to watch the aging American hero still kick bad guys around the room one more time. With regards to *The Lone Ranger*, Johnny Depp stars alongside Armie Hammer (*The Social Network*) as the Native American "Tonto" in the Jerry Bruckheimer reboot of the 50's television series classic.

—Compiled by Andrew Savory



ALI UROSEVIC GRAPHICS ARTIST

GRFF to open next week

ALI CONNERTY
ARTS EDITOR

Beginning next week, the Grand River Film Festival (GRFF) will be taking over movie theatres across the tri-city area.

Running from Oct. 16-21, the festival explores the relationship of people to their community by exploring meaningful stories through the medium of film.

Tamara Louks, the executive director of the GRFF spoke of the intuitive ways in which the festival is engaging with the community, including traditional screenings and free events in more intimate settings. According to Louks, the festival is trying to push the boundaries of what a film festival can be.

Centred on their mission of "Celebrating community life through film," the GRFF works hard to stay true to its mission and vision.

"That's really important for me," said Louks. "That's what helps us make all of the decisions about the films we schedule and the programming we have around each one."

Heading into its sixth year, the GRFF has become creative in its mode of presentation and

organization of the films it brings to the community. From a local feature film competition, to a short film festival and inviting speakers to present before screenings, the audience engagement with the content goes beyond screen itself.

"We try to have an event-style screening so there's something attached to it," Louks continued. "Whether it's a Q&A, a panel discussion, a performance or a party. So, you walk away learning a little bit more."

Many of the films being screened are influenced by this year's theme of sport as two thirds of the chosen films this year explore the relationship of sport to the community.

Though some of the films have been screened at festivals around the world, Louks notes that the GRFF is not a market festival but rather the program is comprised of "films where our audience can come and learn something."

"It might have a local context, a national context, an international context," Louks explained, referring to this year's films. "We're not really picking what's hot at film festivals around the world, we're picking films that have a really good story

and that have something to do with what we're doing in the region."

An exhibit of the history of sport fashion is being sponsored this year by the Fashion History Museum and is being shown at the Empire Theatres. A new program this year called the Cantabrigians, a compilation of clips depicting life in the tri-cities, filmed by members of the community, will be screened at the University of Waterloo School of Architecture in Cambridge on Oct. 21.

The opening night involves a short film festival which take place at the Princess Cinemas in Uptown Waterloo. Over 50 applicants submitted entries, many of them residents of the Waterloo Region, and only ten will continue to the screening on Oct. 16. The event will be followed by a talk from guest speaker Laura Archibald concerning documentary film making and will feature a networking session with food and drink catered by the Princess Twin.

All other events will be taking place at Empire Theatres in Kitchener. Screenings are scheduled daily and a reduced student ticket price has been introduced due to a corporate sponsorship program.



NICK LACHANCE, PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Burlesque at the AC

The Athletic Complex's new drop-in classes began this week with burlesque.

AMY MELISSA GRIEF
ARTS EDITOR

On Tuesday night, the recreational dance program at the Laurier Athletic Complex held its first-ever burlesque class.

An emerging trend in dance and fitness, classes like burlesque are increasingly popular as they offer women an artistic and sensuous alternative to a traditional work-out regime.

Instructor and fourth-year communication studies student, Monica Gold, first proposed the idea of teaching a burlesque class at Laurier after attending a similar class in Toronto this past summer. Over Facebook, Monica posted a status to gauge interest levels.

"I was hypothetically speaking, would people take a Burlesque class, if you know I taught it?" said Gold.

Overwhelmed by the positive response, Gold was approached by the AC's dance coordinator who arranged to run the class on a trial basis this semester.

Along with burlesque, Gold teaches acro at the AC, is member of the competitive dance team, and will be competing with Alias at the Ontario University Competition for Hip Hop (OUCH)

Nervous about a class where the required materials were high-heels, Gold eased the class into the burlesque style of dance with a light, yet sensual warm-up. She then instructed everyone to put their heels on to strut across the floor.

At first many participants were wary because it's not often that women get to strut their stuff without fear of being judged. However,

after the first few tentative walks, everyone's apprehensions melted away as Gold encouraged the class to channel their inner divas.

"Everyone has a little girlicious side to them, or their Sasha Fierce as Beyonce might say," explained Gold. "And you know it's just a good way to let off some steam in like a really fun environment while promoting good self-esteem and confidence."

Following the across the floor portion, Gold taught a short routine to Beyonce's "Naughty Girl." Many girls wore their heels for the entirety of the class, however, some, probably fearing a broken ankle, took theirs off.

Gold's energy and enthusiasm was infectious throughout entire class. Cognizant of everyone's varying levels of experience, the class was suitable for everyone, even those who consider themselves beginners.

Participant and fourth-year communication studies student Jennifer Nahabedian said "I took this class because I love to dance and I think that this is a great opportunity to find my alter-ego aka Sasha Fierce."

Third-year biology student Brigitte Hudy piped in saying, "I think it's a good way for girls to open up and feel very secure about themselves and their sexuality and self-esteem."

The energy level was noticeably different as everyone left the class a little more confident, albeit sore, from dancing around in heels.

Held every Tuesday night from 10-11 p.m., each drop-in class is \$7 with the option of registering for all eight classes for \$40.

EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor
Devon Butler
dbutler@thecord.ca

Oktoberfest a good way to experience K-W culture

The year was 1810 in the city of Munich, Germany. It was a landmark year, as it is believed to have created the origins of Oktoberfest. It took over a hundred years, but in 1969 the Bavarian festival of Oktoberfest was brought to Kitchener-Waterloo.

The K-W region was founded upon a rich German heritage, as Kitchener was originally named Berlin. The founders of the cities borrowed from their Bavarian traditions and re-created the two-week long festival at the Concordia Club in Kitchener.

The festival was more about celebrating local heritage and German culture than drinking excessively in a hockey arena.

With just \$200 to its name, the festival volunteers got support from the local German clubs as well as the official tourism office in Munich. In its first year about 75,000 visitors came and it was an instant success.

Since its inception, the popularity of the fall festival has only increased. It is now among the largest on the planet. However, many people, primarily students, neglect to realize there is more to the event than drinking gallons of beer and sporting a feathered hat.

The nine-day event has over 40 family and cultural events, including the Thanksgiving Day parade, and family day at the Concordia club in which you can play games, eat traditional food and learn Bavarian dances. With an incredible amount of community support, it now offers the ability to engage with and explore a new culture.

The success of Oktoberfest in Kitchener-Waterloo demonstrates the potential for people to appreciate and celebrate Canada's multi-cultural landscape.

It gives students the opportunity to experience something outside the usual top 40 playing clubs, a privilege many other students do not have.

With the excitement of another Oktoberfest year at its peak, it's worthwhile to acknowledge the rich cultural history of the event and recognize the potential to explore K-W's many other multicultural celebrations.

Of course, lifting a beer mug and saying "prosit!" will always be a large part of the festival, it's just important to remember there's more to it than that.

Increase in volunteering needed

Liberal university students often pride themselves on their engagement and knowledge on local, national and global social issues. Similarly, people often look to give their financial, emotional and personal support to international causes as it can sometimes feel that those in developing countries need our help more.

The unfortunate result however, is a serious drop in volunteering in our very own community. The 2012 Vital Signs report for Waterloo Region reveals a significant drop in volunteerism. This decline has been gradually decreasing over the past five years.

Only 42 per cent of people were volunteering their time, creating a 5.3 per cent drop and there were over 8,000 fewer volunteers compared to the previous period of study at the time of the report's release.

What is perplexing about this rash drop in volunteer numbers is not just with the dramatic shift in which they declined. The study revealed that the Waterloo Region is well below the provincial and national rates for volunteering.

Our region is greatly impacted by the 40,000 students who call Waterloo home during their post-secondary education. While Laurier views itself as a university with charitable causes, it is evident from this study that we are not doing nearly as much as we can.

Volunteering your time is not necessarily just working at a soup kitchen, but can include helping out children's activities, cultural festivals or organizing community events.

As students, it is not just our academic record that will impact us later on, but a demonstration that we value experiences outside the classroom that truly help others. Since we are a vital part of this community it is important that we set an example as future citizens and don't become another statistic.

—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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Dear WLU Students,

As an unfortunate mistake, last week's Editorial cartoon was missing the punchline of the intended joke, and therefore made little sense. To make up for our oversight, please accept this drawing of *Mad Men's* Don Draper with his robotic monkey friend about to indulge in a club sandwich. We hope you accept our apologies.



WADE THOMPSON VISUAL DIRECTOR

Social media not an outlet for personal problems



SHELBY BLACKLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

It's hard today to find someone — including myself — that does not express their emotions through a form of social media.

Similarly, it's become almost imperative for an individual to say something online in order to receive feedback from the now "critical" audience known as the Internet.

But when does it become too much? I'll be the first to admit that I tweet far too much on the world's currently favourite social media Twitter.

I have a lot of opinions. I tweet about sports, my family's strange tactics, or random thoughts that make absolutely no sense to anyone but me.

At least I understand that my personal life, and personal problems and thoughts are not to be disclosed to the entire world.

Facebook users are constantly writing massive paragraphs for their statuses about various ways life pisses them off.

It's used as an outlet to complain about people they can't stand, how many people have broken their heart in the last three months and self-pitying woes that they'll find love.

We get it. Life is awful. The issue that bothers me the most is not even finding out that people are pregnant at 16 and "love their boyfriend."

It's when people don't take responsibility for what they write online.

“
The idea of public domain means nothing to anyone anymore.

If you're willing to tell me about your latest series of unfortunate events online, then I have every right to comment my informed opinion on what I think of it.

A few weeks ago, I got accused of not being given "permission" to share something someone had said on Twitter in an article, I couldn't help but laugh.

The idea of "public domain" means nothing to anyone anymore.

Everyone can see your Facebook information. Everyone can read your tweets.

If it's not something you would shout in the middle of campus, please don't tell the world on the Internet.

The reality is most individuals seek attention when they express something irregular on a social media.

Whether it's a daily complaint, a picture of their new engagement or a constant countdown to their upcoming wedding day in a year and a half, they just want others to comment for

attention.

I don't disregard the benefits of social media.

Many companies, writers, sports teams and political figures use Twitter as a way to reach out to their readers and fan base, when normally they would not be able to do so.

The other day, for example, my favourite curler and Laurier alumni John Morris tweeted at me regarding being a Laurier student.

The same theory applies to Facebook and my dad is a prime example.

He found his high school best friend after a few years apart and they were able to rekindle their friendship.

It was great to see, and it was because of social media that it occurred.

It truly is a great public access — when used properly.

As a student journalist, in the last couple months the majority of my tweets have been circulated around sports, school and the daily complaints about being a university student that gets sick weekly.

I appreciate the constant tweet about something informative.

I will admit I can be damn annoying on Twitter, but I refuse to yell across my Facebook page about how drunk I can't wait to get because everything sucks and how I'll be #foreveralone.

Keep using social media.

Let it prosper for humans to make networking easier.

But don't use it as your personal diary for everyone to read when it's meant for you.

Don't use it to bounce your personal life's thoughts and then get mad when people comment against you.

If you really feel the need to verbally express your unhappiness, buy a journal.

OPINION

Opinion Editor
Devon Butler
dbutler@thecord.ca

Rob Anders doesn't represent Canadians

With numerous gaffes to his name, Anders has become an embarrassment as a member of parliament



ALEX REINHART
OPINION COLUMNIST

Maybe it is just my personal preference, but I like to believe that members of parliament should behave in a manner that is representative of Canadians by being respectful and compassionate.

These qualities however, have never been used to describe Conservative MP Rob Anders.

Over the past few weeks, Anders has ignorantly shot his mouth off on numerous occasions.

The first of these being his accusations directed at opposition leader Thomas Mulcair.

He claimed that Mulcair, the current leader of the NDP, helped to hasten the death of Jack Layton.

Essentially, Anders was suggesting that Mulcair encouraged Layton to call an election in an attempt to commit a gradual homicide.

A few days later, Anders stated that the goal of Bill C-279 was to give transgendered men access to women's public washroom facilities, deeming it a "bathroom bill".

When in fact, Bill C-279 is a private member's bill that proposes amendments to the Canadian Human Rights Act and hate crime section of the Criminal Code.

It intends to include "gender identity" and "gender expression" as grounds for discrimination.

Anders' comments towards Bill

“
Anders behaviour is not appropriate, not for an average citizen, and especially not for an MP

C-279 are insulting to the entire transgender community.

Clearly, Anders' behaviour is not appropriate, not for an average citizen, and especially not for an MP.

These two recent incidents are just the latest incidents in MP Anders' dismal record. Since being elected in 1997, Anders has been in the public spotlight for all the wrong reasons.

While I do not credit Conservatives for being intelligent, Anders takes stupidity and ignorance to a completely new level.

In 2001, the Liberal government put forth a motion that proposed honorary Canadian citizenship be granted to former South African president and Nobel Peace Prize winner Nelson Mandela.

Anders was the sole Member of Parliament to vote against it.

To add insult to injury, Anders went on to state that Mandela was a communist and terrorist.

Anders made headlines once again in 2010 when signing a card in support of the Canadian troops.

Anders sent the following

message to the troops: "when in doubt, pull the trigger."

While Anders may be more than willing to encourage trigger-happy troops, even his constituents were upset by his remarks.

Conservatives may have an affinity for guns, but encouraging anyone to shoot first and ask questions later is a horrific prospect, and unthinkable behavior for an MP.

While his record as an MP is pathetic, this year, Anders' career devolved into what can only be described as a perpetual downspin.

Earlier this year he was kicked off the Veterans Affairs Committee.

This decision was reached after Anders was caught texting and falling asleep during meetings.

This behaviour seems more typical of a high school student than of a representative of the Canadian public.

Anders' comments regarding Jack Layton were horrible.

Undoubtedly, his comments were likely made for two reasons: to make headlines and to indulge Conservative partisans.

Regardless, his remarks were not only un-parliamentary, they were both vicious and incredibly dark.

While Anders went on to apologize, his apology does not make everything okay. Anders has crossed every line of decency by making such crude comments.

Anders is not a politician, but a sorry excuse for an elected representative who uses his position as an MP for a soapbox. He represents everything that is wrong in the House of Commons.

He should be, as a petition recently started by his constituents suggests, be removed from office.



Flickr Commons

Anders attempts to stay in the spotlight despite negative press.

Excessive government regulations threaten society

While regulating health, safety and accessibility standards is important, how far should the government go?



JAMES POPKIE
OPINION COLUMNIST

In a world where cut throat business practices dominate the corporate scene, it's easy to see how health and safety standards and accommodation for the disabled are areas overlooked when the market doesn't demand it.

However, recent government regulations have proven that in some cases, the obsession with ensuring health, safety and accessibility has simply gone too far.

It has been taken to the point of being downright damaging, repressive and impractical toward businesses.

An example is demonstrated from the United States Department of Justice, led by the Obama administration's Attorney General Eric Holder.

Holder has mandated that all public pools — including those at hotels and community centers — must include mechanized lifts to ensure disabled access.

These lifts are expensive to install at a prohibitive cost ranging from \$8,000 to \$20,000 US dollars.

In turn, this may influence some hotels and centers to close their pools entirely.

While it is understandable that accessibility is a priority, this expensive solution will drastically harm

public pools and may force them to shut down.

As a less-expensive alternative, staff could be mandated to help lift disabled people in and out of pools instead.

This policy has not been enforced yet, and the administration has vowed to hold out on enforcing it until next year.

However, in theory, lawsuits could already be carried out against establishments with swimming pools that have failed to comply with the new regulations.

This is one of many recent examples of creeping government regulations.

Regulations that seek to micro-manage the practices of businesses and other establishments.

In New York City, Mayor Michael Bloomberg has attempted to ban the sale of soft drinks in portions with a volume over 16 ounces.

These drinks will be banned within all city restaurants, as well as at other establishments such as movie theatres and sports stadiums.

This measure is meant to target obesity and promote a healthy lifestyle.

However, what it really does is impose an arbitrary limit upon personal choice.

It similarly, impacts the ability of companies to sell a product in whatever amount people desire to buy it.

There is no consideration for the possibility that someone may just be very thirsty or might be buying a big drink for a long walk or drive.

Regardless of people's intentions in purchasing large drinks, it raises some fundamental questions that

“
Is it really the business of the government to micro-manage such minute decisions in peoples lives?

citizens, desperately need to ask.

Is it really the business of the government to micro-manage such minute decisions in people's lives as what size drink they order?

Is it really worth taxpayers' money to pass and enforce ridiculous laws such as these?

Defending this law, New York City's Deputy Mayor Howard Wolfson stated, "People will come to see this very much in the interest of public health.

This is going to start a na-

tionwide movement toward this, a nationwide trend."

Unfortunately, there is already a widespread trend here, one that is growing across America and beyond.

This is a trend to enact needless government regulations where they are not necessary, and to limit citizens and businesses alike with red tape.

These sorts of excessive regulations are strangling and bloating the American economy, and cast all government regulation in a negative light.

The truth is, without government regulation of any sort, we would live in a state of anarchy.

However intrusive government regulation into the practices of private businesses are, even when regulation is needed,

they will start to appear reprehensible and undesirable in the eyes of citizens when ludicrous legislations such as these continue to be passed and proposed by the government.

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1st Self Serve Frozen Yogurt

Surviving family thanksgiving

Returning home from university is a nostalgic transition



JESSI WOOD
OPINION COLUMNIST

Standing in the corner of your grandparents' tiny bungalow hiding behind a beer you don't want, staring out into the chaos.

A sea of people ebb and flow between the dining room and the kitchen, occasionally rising into cacophonous laughter for no reason before settling back down into a wash of murmurs and chit-chat.

The food represents every eclectic flavour of what Cost-Co thinks Thanksgiving is about, and you watch all that salted meat and roasted veggies slowly fade away between fingers and printed napkins, only to end up in mid-conversational mouths.

You stop to ask yourself "What the hell am I doing here?" Yet you return every year to indulge in the free food, snicker secretly at poorly-dressed relatives and attempt to drink yourself into a functioning oblivion.

I can't be the only one feeling like a total alien during holidays. An alien bombarded by questions and scrutiny from my relatives about my daily life.

If my life were interesting enough to allow bragging about grandiose

“
I can't be the only one feeling like a total alien during the holidays.

excursions, I'd understand.

But when my grandest trip in months involves finding time to fall asleep in a movie theater, the fervor with which family interrogate me feels less justified.

Maybe this is just me, but I have a huge family (we hit 35 attendees for my mother's Thanksgiving alone this past weekend) and not one of them had the sense to consolidate their questions.

They all asked me what program I was in and a variation on where my boyfriend was. It's also the older relatives who often get excited at the idea of living as a poor 20-something.

Nothing about this excites anymore. It might, if you're in first year — but by the time you cross the threshold into "How soon is my rent due again?", coming home starts to feel weird.

Let's face it, you're gone most of the year and things change pretty drastically in that time.

The dog might have slowed down considerably from age, mom might have a new car, younger siblings might develop actual angst.

The family photo you know and love is there, but the details have aged.

Life goes on; even when you begin a new one the old one never has the good sense to evaporate — because you can always go back.

Yes, it's a drag to dress up stories about your living situation instead of just admitting to the amount of TV you torrent, but this is what you do.

When the leaves fall, or the commercialism starts swirling like snowflakes around December, you pack some slacks and hop a bus to free food. It's what we do.

It's what our family wants from us, the opportunity to see the progress of the person they created or watch grow up, a little human now a decent distance away from regular visits and probably not so little anymore.

As odd as the disconnect can feel, once you realize that you're no longer a steady fixture in your household, you can't help appreciating the nostalgia of home-cooked meals.

Coming home may never seem the same again, but you'll always do it. Even if you convince yourself that it's just for the free food.

You can say it's for old times sake—but you know you care.

It's just what you do.



STEPHANIE TRUONG GRAPHICS EDITOR

Prisoners need proper mental health care



DON MORGENSON
COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR

Looking at Canada from a distance could easily deceive some people. We appear to be a content and somewhat smug people by assuming we live in one of the most developed and progressive countries in the world.

We have however, somewhat slipped on the United Nation's "Best places to live" scale.

Domestically, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's majority government faces calmer seas and Canadians lap up whatever emerges from our rich cornucopia.

Beneath this mask of sanctimony lies a brutal reality; a large percentage of Canadian citizens are behind bars and many of them are jailed for non-violent crimes. The problem this brings to light is that many of these prisoners have mental issues.

Despite the sustained fall in the extent and seriousness of violent crime, unprecedented numbers of the poor and mentally ill are in local, provincial or federal jails and prisons.

Given Harper's penchant for "tough on crime" laws and prison privatization, it will not be long before aggressive, for-profit corporations will control the billion-dollar prison "supply-and-demand" business.

In the United States, corporate profits will grow with more mentally ill people in prison as they have one of the highest incarceration rates in the world.

Until the time when Canadian prisons are reformed, we should be concerned about the percentage of mentally ill who now languish

behind bars.

There has always been ambiguity around mental illness and criminality. Some confusion stems from the complexity of most psychological impairments.

Similarly, there is the glaring problem of lack of hard facts about a person's mental state at the time of the alleged crime.

Difficulty arises from the unreliable correspondence between fine legal distinctions and our psychological knowledge. Furthermore, there are serious questions regarding how appropriate it is to apply medical considerations to issues of morality and crime.

With serious budget cuts, continued de-institutionalization and the diminishing number of hospital beds, many chronically ill psychiatric patients are now homeless or enmeshed in the criminal justice system.

Estimates from criminologists suggest that 25-30 per cent of prisoners in inmates are psychiatrically disturbed and such a number is thought conservative.

In these settings, treatment is often not available even though inmates problems are severely complicated by the physical abuse, sexual assault, isolation, noise, boredom and separation from families that are all common characteristics of prison life.

A rapid increase of those suffering from mental illness will be found in our prisons while a raised number of patients left in mental institutions are spillovers from the criminal justice system.

We insist on our pretensions to pluralism and those compelling populist ideals, yet we remain a punitive and intolerant people, confusing professional care with social control and compassion with greed.

Don Morgenson is a professor of psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University.

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SPORTS

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MEGAN CHERNIAK FILE PHOTO

Laurier's men's baseball team files appeal following suspension.

Parents express concern with suspension process

—cover

is not about the lost season. The appeal is about restoring the reputation of the players and uncovering the real story.”

In the same statement Smyth claimed Baxter allegedly “bullied and threatened” the players during the process.

Smyth further claimed in the statement that a Toronto Star article published on Sept. 20 which had a quote from Baxter emphasizing that the hazing incident was a humiliating, dehumanizing activity with alcohol involved, and “declined to say if the hazing was sexual in nature.”

“When you say you’re declining to say, you might as well had said it happened,” Smyth said regarding the sexual comments.

Smyth also claimed the connection between the “vague sexual innuendos” and Baxter’s mention of the activities that happened in previous years with other universities.

McGill had a hazing issue with one of their teams where sexual activities had occurred and St. Thomas University had a player die after falling down a set of stairs following a rookie initiation party.

However, Baxter emphasized his continued support in the young students throughout media conferences. However, he stands behind his decision to suspend the team.

“When people sign off on things, there’s a consequence that has to be made,” he said.

“But at the same time, and I’ve said it all along even before the

Sunday night meeting, I have faith in the young people that they understand why.”

Baxter also mentioned that he attended the baseball team’s final game of the season in Kitchener on Saturday, where the team played crosstown rivals, the Waterloo Warriors.

“I was at the game Saturday. I cheered them on. Talked to a number of the players and thought they played really well. I was there to support them. No body talked to me there,” he said.

The hazing incident was investigated before the suspension was given out in mid September, however no details were released from the university or athletic department regarding the issue.

Smyth revealed the nature of the event, saying that it was “nothing horrible” and were “typical drinking games.”

“The team had played a double header at McMaster that Sunday, so the party started late at about 9:45 [p.m.]. There were about 15 minutes of rookie drinking games (including an obstacle course) and then a normal party ensued with no more rookie features and some non-team members arrived,” Smyth wrote in her statement.

“There was no sexual abuse, no nudity, and nobody was hurt. Rookies told me they had a great time.”

Smyth also claimed that players were bullied into media presence following the release that the team was cleared to continue their season.

“...I’m open to scrutiny from anybody that wants to do it.”

—Peter Baxter, Laurier athletic director

According to Smyth, interuniversity sport coordinator Wally Gabler dismissed the issue while Baxter continued to criticize the team.

“That’s why we’re not going to roll over and play dead,” said Smyth.

After clearing the team from the possibility of a year-long suspension, Baxter said the team would move forward from the incident as better individuals. He also said he would take the appeal with open arms.

“Obviously in any kind of aspect of it, I’m open to scrutiny from anybody that wants to do it,” Baxter said. “I’ll cooperate with anyone. But as far as the process in which we conducted it, I’m fully within my rights to place a temporary suspension so we can deal with it.”

In an e-mail, Laurier head coach Scott Ballantyne declined to comment on the matter, saying it was too early in the appeal process.

Men’s golf focuses on OUA title

LIAM ALLUM
CORD SPORTS

With the fall schedule about to wrap up for the Wilfrid Laurier men’s golf team, they’ll get a chance to win a title in their own backyard.

Next week, Waterloo’s Grey Silo Gold Course will play host to the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) finals, pitting the provinces best university golfers against each other.

“Fall golf is tough, enough said,” third-year golfer Bishop said. “The wind is blowing, you wear mitts and tuques because of the cold weather, and the rain makes it a grind on every hole.”

In his third year with the team, Bishop led the Hawks to strong performances in September, including two second place team finishes at the Queen’s Invitational and the Carleton Invitational and a third in the Waterloo/Wilfrid Laurier invitational just a couple weeks ago at Grey Silo.

“We’re a confident group,” Bishop explained. “I am confident in the group of guys we have on the team. If we all prepare ourselves in the right ways, and take care of the issues we have control of, I certainly believe we can be crowned the OUA Champions next week.”

The stage is set for Bishop, with the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) championship being played at Grey Silo, a place he knows well and has fond memories from previous weeks at the Waterloo/Wilfrid Laurier Invitational.

Along with Laurier’s third place team finish at the event, Bishop finished third individually, which is no

small feat in its own.

Another great advantage is that Wilfrid Laurier team has also been using Grey Silo as their practice grounds.

“Grey Silo has been a great facility for our team to practice at all year,” Bishop said. “They provide us with unlimited access to the course, and have treated us very well.”

Despite the finish on the links just a couple weeks ago, the Laurier golfers treat Grey Silo like any other.

“The golf course itself allows you to play holes in different ways,” he said.

“You can lay back or go for a bunch of shots on the course, but off the tee it is pretty wide open. The tricky part is that because it is wide open, the wind tends to pick up and can blow your shots into the fescue next to the fairways.”

Also at stake is a birth in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) national championships, which will be held in Québec in the spring.

“Our first goal next week is to qualify for the national championship next spring,” Bishop said. “The OUA Championships is our major tournament in Ontario and of our short golf season in the fall. However, the major tournament is the CIS national championship.”

With the amount of work the golfers have put in with coach Jim Zwolak over the past couple of weeks, they are determined to get that number one finish that they have been hoping for all year.

“Winning as a team and celebrating with a win would mean a lot to our golf team and the coaches, as well as the Laurier athletic community.”

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
October 7 - 13 2012

RECENT SCORES

10.03.12
W Soccer 2 - Brock 0
M Soccer 1 - Brock 2
10.04.12
M Football 12 - Waterloo 0
10.05.12
M Baseball 3 - Guelph 2
M Baseball 2 - Guelph 3
W Soccer 0 - McMaster 1
M Soccer 0 - McMaster 0
W Rugby 12 - Brock 39
M Rugby 13 - Waterloo 19
10.06.12
M Baseball 14 - Waterloo 7
W Hockey 2 - Western 7
W Lacrosse 16 - Brock 4
10.07.12
W Hockey 2 - Windsor 0

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

10.11.12
W Basketball vs. Cape Breton Athletic Complex, 7:00pm
10.12.12
M Basketball vs. UBC Athletic Complex, 7:00pm
W Basketball vs. McGill Athletic Complex, 9:00pm
10.13.12
W Lacrosse vs. Brock University Stadium, 9:45am
W Soccer vs. Western Alumni Field, 1:00pm
M Soccer vs. Western Alumni Field, 3:15pm
M Basketball vs. Concordia Athletic Complex, 4:00pm
10.14.12
W Lacrosse vs. Western University Stadium, 9:45am
W Soccer vs. Windsor Alumni Field, 1:00pm
W Lacrosse vs. York University Stadium, 1:15pm
M Soccer vs. Windsor Alumni Field, 3:15pm

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KATE TURNER PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Defensive tackle Jordan Schulz takes down a Waterloo Warrior during Thursday's battle of Waterloo. The Hawks defeated the Warriors 12-0 to improve their record to 3-3.

Playoff hopes hang by a thread

SHELBY BLACKLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

Whoever said 'it ain't over 'til it's over' certainly had the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) football league in mind.

With only two weeks left, the final OUA standings — and more so the playoffs — still can't be determined and seven teams have the chance to make the six-team post-season.

One of which being the Laurier Golden Hawks.

"I think the balance is as close as it's been in the last number of years," Laurier head coach Gary Jeffries said. "The teams that have traditionally been down have all gotten better and so it's gotten [closer] every given week."

And after an unpredictable weekend that saw the Ottawa Gee-Gees pick up their first win of the season against the Toronto Varsity Blues and the Guelph Gryphons defeat the No. 7 Western Mustangs in a nail biter of a finish, it leaves the entire

league shaken up wondering what will come next.

There is no team that is winless and only the defending Vanier Cup champions from McMaster sit undefeated going into the final two games of the season.

Three teams — York, Ottawa and Waterloo — sit at 1-5, mathematically eliminated from playoff contention, while three teams sit at 3-3 still fighting for the dwindle of hope.

"You have to be ready to go out there and compete and there's no easy weeks. That's basically what's happened," Jeffries said.

Last Thursday, the Hawks hosted the battle of Waterloo against cross-town rivals, the Waterloo Warriors.

In a game that featured 11 turnovers, 16 punts and only four scoring plays (all field goals), the Hawks found a win hiding behind the foot of second-year kicker Ronnie Pfeffer.

Laurier defeated the Warriors 12-0, with Pfeffer recording his season best and career high on a 44-yard

field goal.

After having to recompose himself following a rough start in Toronto for the season opener, Pfeffer has made 11 field goals on 15 attempts, 10 conversions while punting 50 times for 1,676 yards in his 2012 season.

"I was off to a rough start in Toronto," Pfeffer said following Thursday's game. "I made a mistake; I kicked it out at the 3-yard line. It was dumb mistake."

But if Laurier hopes to have any chance at the playoffs, they will need to find hope in places other than the foot of their special teams.

"Western turned the ball over eight times [versus Guelph]," Jeffries said. "That's what could happen. That's the main focus for us — not turning the dang thing over and not making it easy, giving the other team half a field and the more we take care of that, the more competitive we'll be every week."

Laurier defensive tackle Asante Mizan expressed the team's

progression toward their critical game Saturday.

"We're just going to keep fighting hard," he said after Thursday's win. "We've always had bad blood [against Western], but we're just going to keep hard, stay on our assignment, work hard and just keep fighting."

Western, who also sits 3-3 on the season, comes off a tough loss to the Gryphons Saturday afternoon. The Mustangs were just short of a comeback after trailing 33-7 going into the fourth quarter.

When Western came back to tie it, Guelph found strength in their last minute field goal for the second straight week to win 42-39.

Following the weekend, Guelph was ranked No. 7 in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport Top 10 rankings, two spots higher than last week. It's also the first time Guelph has been ranked this high since their fourth-place ranking in October of 1997.

"I think [Guelph] has a good

football team, there's no question about it," Jeffries said. "We went over Saturday and watched them and they played a good football game against a good football team. You just never know."

With the unpredictable outcomes of the last few weeks, the Hawks will try to muster a win against either Western or the first-place Marauders in order stay ahead of the Varsity Blues, and essentially the Mustangs and Lancers.

Dropping to 3-5 on the season will make Laurier's hopes to get into the playoffs unscathed harder, and possibly require a tiebreaker.

"The physical errors in any sport, they're going to happen. They're going to happen to everybody," Jeffries said. "It's the mental errors. They're the ones we definitely have to clean up."

Laurier will travel to London to take on the Mustangs this Saturday. The Hawks could get a break, as star quarterback Donnie Marshall will likely miss the game with an injury.

Athletes reach out to youth

ASHLEY DENUZZO
STAFF WRITER

Recently, the Ontario Trillium Foundation has awarded a \$150,000 grant to the Canadian Center for Ethics in Sport (CCES) in hopes to develop an anti-performance enhancing project set to tour Kitchener-Waterloo high schools.

Wilfrid Laurier University, University of Waterloo and the Kitchener Rangers have collaborated with the CCES to introduce the topic of appearance and performance enhancing drugs (PED) into the education system.

"It's a pilot project," said Peter Baxter, Laurier's director of athletics and recreation. "Basically, [it's] an athlete peer-mentoring program that will go into the schools."

The abuse of PED in Ontario universities burst into the spotlight in 2010 when nine players of the Waterloo Warrior's men's football team tested positive for steroid use.

The incident was marked as one of the largest in Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) history, which resulted in a cancelled season and saw some students go to trial due to alleged trafficking.

"We know of all the different cases that have come out in the media," Baxter said. "But in [Canadian]

college sport, that was the first. So, if it's around, you want to make sure that young people get the right information."

The plan then, is to bring in eight athletes from each institution and talk to students about the implications and effects of steroids.

The program will target students ranging from grades seven through 12.

"That's where they start," said Baxter, referring to the age that people become caught up in trying to achieve an ideal body image.

"People think it is just a sport related issue, for high-performance athletes, it's not. A lot of these drugs are being used just for appearance."

In fact, one of the highest growth rates of steroid users is actually among young women. Baxter explained that girls are now using steroids to "cut muscle" and tone their bodies.

"This is a program we can make improvements to as we go along," Baxter added.

Online print surveys will also be distributed among parents, educators and coaches to evaluate the existing knowledge of performance enhancing drugs.

"We might find that they know a lot more than what we hope," Baxter said.

Two Laurier athletes, Spencer Troop and Eleanor Whitney, work with the community service learning department to coordinate volunteers for the program. Their job is to recruit the eight students to take part in this pilot initiative.

"We'll have lots of applicants for it and we wanted to make sure that we get athletes that are, a) interested in doing this and b) are people that can present particularly to young people," said Baxter.

And that's where Chuck Williams comes in.

Williams, a retired Waterloo principal, is responsible for creating the whole curriculum of PED awareness. Williams is going to train the 24 athletes in how to appropriately address the issue to the targeted group.

The athletes will have to learn aspects regarding the background of the audience, what kind of questions to expect and techniques on teaching the age groups.

"When you're talking to a grade seven class it's different than doing a presentation in business," laughed Baxter. "We'll be confident that [after training], our athletes will be ready to go."

The initiative is also seeing increased support from the Waterloo Regional Police, particularly the



ALI UROSEVIC GRAPHICS ARTIST

chief of police, Matt Torigian.

Torigian initially assembled Baxter, Williams, Bob Copeland of UW athletics and Steve Spott of the Kitchener Rangers back in the spring to discuss the project.

"It just makes sense that we do it together," Baxter said.

"Athletes giving back," he smiled.

The program is among the first in Canada to incorporate student volunteers in educating youth on drug-related issues of high-level athletics.

Despite the use of drugs, the CCES believes education and discussion need to occur at a young age so that students may make more informed decisions.

Baxter is excited about this collaboration in the CCES and hopes that the program will be replicated across the country for years to come.

"That's what is all about," he said. "What you learn here and what you can make a difference with later on. That's called leadership."