

THE CORD

We didn't pick the nominees, but if we did...

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The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

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MARISSA EVANS
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

"Until two weeks ago, we didn't have a budget crisis. There was no forecast that we were in a budget crisis," said David Monod, chair of the history department at Wilfrid Laurier University.

"Something has happened that has led people to decide that we are in a budget crisis. Something has changed."

Monod was one of the many Laurier faculty and staff who attended the "Town Hall 2014: Laurier's Financial Future" presentations given last week in Waterloo and Brantford. While Monod said the discourse has been that the university is in a good financial state, the presentation countered this with the recommendation that Laurier make a two per cent budget cut in the 2014-15 financial year to balance a forecasted deficit of \$12.3 million.

This deficit could reach \$21.9 million by the end of 2017.

On Thursday, Jim Butler, vice president: finance and administration at Laurier will be making this recommendation to the board of governors.

"We wanted to educate everybody on the financial picture next year," explained Butler on the reasoning for the Town Hall event.

His presentation covered the three main areas that are hurting Laurier's finances: a revenue/cost squeeze, pension expenses and deferred maintenance.

Revenue/cost squeeze is a result of Laurier's expenses being higher

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Weighed down by deficit



With a forecasted deficit of \$12.3 million, Laurier proposes a 2 per cent cut to its upcoming budget

LENA YANG GRAPHICS EDITOR

Housing options diminish for students

LAURA BUCK
LEAD REPORTER

The landscape in Waterloo is changing.

Over the last several years the areas in close proximity to Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo have taken on a new look. Clusters of highrise apartment buildings have appeared on the skyline, casting a shadow over the houses that once stood in their place.

The Region of Waterloo has reached its capacity for urban sprawl and the universities continue to grow.

The only solution is to build up. Sam Somwaru is a landlord in Waterloo who owns multiple properties throughout the city. He is frustrated, however, because of the increase in development companies in Waterloo that are buying out small rental properties to erect highrise apartment buildings.

"It makes things difficult for us small guys because [Waterloo has] so many restrictions and those big buildings are exempt," Somwaru explained.

Landlords, according to Somwaru, have to adhere to specified room sizes and provide HVAC inspections annually.

"And the big buildings are exempt from them," he added. "They don't have to adhere to the license process; they don't have to have a license. But these small guys with houses have to get a license renewed every year and it's expensive."

"There are so many restrictions with houses."

Somwaru was approached by a development company who offered to buy one of his properties on Lester Street.

"They say it's a safety issue but I don't think it's a safety issue because with big buildings, they are more prone to accidents, like fires, because you have so many people in

a building," he said.

Mike Milovick, president of the Waterloo Region Apartment Management Association provides leadership to roughly 500 landlords throughout Waterloo Region. He addressed some of the concerns from the rapid increase in apartment buildings..

Milovick explained that bylaw regulations differ for houses and apartment buildings.

"In Waterloo there is a licensing bylaw that affects properties that are smaller than four-plexes or what the city deems to be an apartment

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"It makes things difficult for us small guys because [Waterloo has] so many restrictions and those big buildings are exempt."

—Sam Somwaru, landlord from Waterloo

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And they're off

Students' Union elections are officially underway with the all candidates meeting on Tuesday

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Toronto MP Olivia Chow speaks about her latest book at Princess Cinema in Waterloo

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Coming home after being abroad for a few months may not be as easy as it seems

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Laurier's women's basketball team moves up to the No. 7 spot in the national rankings

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Editor's choice
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This Week in quotes



"I'm going to take your pizza and eat it."

— Dani Saad, WLUSU CRO on candidates' spending responsibilities

We've got all your WLUSU election coverage



Election Watch 2014:

Chris Walker, Bem De-bebe and Ben Head kick off a new series to give analysis and commentary on the Students' Union elections.

Follow @ElxnWatch_WLU on Twitter!

Follow @cordnews on Twitter for up-to-date info on the elections. Also check out thecord.ca for more coverage on this year's election.

Vocal Cord

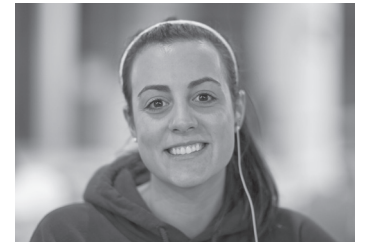
What are your thoughts on women's only gym times?



"I don't really care, it doesn't matter to me."
— Janviere Mukama second-year, biology



"I feel like there would be a point for others, but not me."
— Megan Howe fourth-year, biology



"If people care about that they should use an all girls gym."
— Nicole Presutti third-year, psychology



"You go to the gym to better yourself, why do you have to be alone? Men are everywhere."
— Adrianna Gonzalez second-year, psychology

Compiled by Ryan Hueglin

RADIO LAURIER IS LOOKING FOR SOME RADIO DJs

ALL GENRES

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CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER AWARDS

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

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

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Preamble to The Cord constitution

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

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

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

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

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

Quote of the week:
"You look like a giant toddler."
— Graphics Editor Lena Yang re: Opinion Editor Dani Saad's nighttime attire of sweatpants

NEWS

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RYAN HUEGLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Chief returning officer Dani Saad addressed WLUSU elections hopefuls and students at the all candidates meeting on Tuesday, which started off the campaign period.

WLUSU campaign period kicks off

LINDSAY PURCHASE
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

The candidates have announced. The papers have been signed.

And the race has begun.

The 2014 campaign period kicked off on Tuesday with the all candidates meeting, bringing out all presidential, board of directors, board of governors and senate candidates who are running in this year's Students' Union elections.

Four presidential candidates submitted nomination packages. The number of board of directors candidates, senate and board of governors candidates could not be confirmed at the time of publication.

Chief returning officer for the WLUSU elections, Dani Saad, provided an overview of the rules for candidates, from items such as campaign spending and promotional materials, to demerit points for infractions.

"I think we're at a point now where everyone, at least in a broad

sense, understands their role and what they're supposed to be doing and how to act, which is good, which is my job," said Saad.

The meeting went smoothly after a 35 minute delay at the onset due to the late arrival of candidates. All but one—who was determined to have legitimate reasons, according to Saad—were present.

"We'll catch them up, make sure it's still an even playing field," he said. "And make that clear to everyone here as well so they don't feel disadvantaged. It's been dealt with fairly."

All four presidential candidates, which includes Andres Melendez, Chandler Jolliffe, Justin Tabakian and Sam Lambert, were present.

"I'm excited. It feels like it's been a long time coming, so by the end you just get anxious for it to get going after so many months of prep work. I'm glad it's finally kicking off and we can actually get going," said Jolliffe.

Jolliffe expects that keeping the

election focused on the key topics may be one of the challenges he'll face.

He continued, "I think getting the elections really focused on core issues and factual issues is the biggest challenge. But that being said, I think it's a good one and I think we have a good enough candidate pool this year that the election will be very issues-focused."

Melendez anticipates making the student body aware of his personal profile could be difficult—but it's also what he's most excited about.

"[I'm most looking forward to] talking to students. Getting their perspective," he said.

"Because this is a democracy and in order to have an idea, to pitch something, you have to get everyone's perspective, you know, because it's a school that has so many different people, so many people of different personalities, different backgrounds, different needs."

None of the presidential candidates have previous experience

with the WLUSU board of directors. Similarly, the vast majority of candidates for this year's BOD are also lacking prior formal experience in the organization.

Matt McLean is one of three directors running for a second term.

"We made a lot of progress this year, had a great year. My hope is to keep that going next year, get the board a little bit more involved than it was this year and continue some of the issues, make sure those get carried over," he said.

McLean, a third-year political science and history student, said he'll be focusing on talking about the strategic plan to students during the campaign period.

Second-year student Rochelle Adamiak is new to Laurier's student politics and is aiming to bridge the gap between students and the board.

"I'm mainly focusing on transparency, so I really want communication between the board and the student population. Coming from

being a first-year, now in my second-year, I also want more connection and communication just with Laurier in general," she explained.

All candidates can now begin campaigning and will be engaging with students through upcoming events like the open forum.

While the ground rules have been laid and none can plead ignorance, Saad—who ran for WLUSU president last year—will be maintaining a dialogue with candidates and campaign teams throughout the election period.

"As a candidate I was a bit lost at the beginning, so I know how that feels to be overwhelmed, especially at the beginning and in this meeting. It's a big room, so sometimes it's tough to ask questions," he said.

"Just really making people feel comfortable enough to come to me with questions I think is the most important thing." Voting will take place on Feb. 5 and 6.

*Disclaimer: Dani Saad is the Opinion Editor at The Cord.

ON expands Tuition Grant

ASHLEY DENUZZO
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

5,000 additional students can now apply for Ontario's 30 per cent Tuition Grant who were previously ineligible.

Brad Duguid, the minister of training, colleges and universities, announced an expansion of the program on Monday to accommodate students who are in their final year of a five-year co-op program.

"Ontario leads the world when it comes to post-secondary attainment," the minister said Monday morning at the University of Waterloo. "And we want to ensure students have access to their post-secondary education."

The previous criteria for the grant required students to be four years or less out of high school. This meant that students who were enrolled in a five-year co-op program could not access the rebate during their last year.

"I'm going to graduate soon so unfortunately I won't fit into it," said Stéphane Hamade, a UW math and business student who is also in his final year of study. "But now students in my situation will be getting the 30 per cent."

Duguid said that the idea for the program extension came from student leaders and postsecondary education advocacy groups in the province.

A strong advocate for the change was John Milloy, the MPP for Kitchener-Centre and former minister of training, colleges and universities.

"I hope that when students see post-secondary education they only worry about the program there and they don't worry about finances," Milloy said.

"I want them to know there is a whole range of support."

However, some restrictions still apply in spite of the new expansion.

"This rebate goes to families that are all lower-to-middle income families," Duguid said. "Students who qualify for OSAP would be eligible for this; the cut-off point is \$160,000 ranged families, but it does increase with inflation so it is a little higher than that now."

When asked about whether fifth-year students who are not co-op students can apply for the same 30 per cent rebate, the Minister explained that there were "limits as to how far [the province] can go for that."

"There are other areas where we can expand this program to, the challenges are always costly and this is a very costly program," he said.

"We're already spending about a billion dollars a year when it comes to OSAP, the 30 per cent off program and other programs for students."

Milloy also weighed into the question on restrictions with the expansion.

"We designed it as best we could to examine any anomalies that existed and have recognized that not every student is covered," Milloy added.

Stephen Franchetto, the vice president of finance for the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) explained that his association would like to see more eligibility expansions for Aboriginal students and students with disabilities and dependents.

"Those groups of students are statistically going to take longer to completion than the average student, so their eligibility we've been pushing for awhile to expand as well," he said.

230,000 students are currently eligible for the original 30 per cent rebate from the province.

The University of Waterloo notably has one of the largest student co-op programs in North America, with 62 per cent of undergraduate students enrolled in over 120 co-op partnerships.

"The University of Waterloo is front and center when it comes to co-op programs," Duguid said. "I felt that this was the best place to make the announcement."

The Tuition Grant expansion is effective as of Jan. 1. Students who are currently in their final year of a full-time five-year co-op program will be able to apply for the grant immediately.



RYAN HUEGLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Minister Duguid and MPP Milloy made the Monday announcement.

CAMPUS

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Union exec gets reworked

LINDSAY PURCHASE
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

In order to better operationalize changes made during the 2011-2012 academic year to move toward a multi-campus governance structure, the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union announced a restructuring plan for the student executive last week.

Changes will be made over a two-year period and have been incorporated into the strategic plan until a period of review in 2017.

The changes will see a number of positions added to the student executive at both campuses.

Instead of having one VP: programming and services located on the Waterloo campus, there will be one representative for the position on each campus. An assistant vice president (AVP): clubs and associations will also be created at both the Brantford and Waterloo campuses. AVPs for finance and administration, as well as university affairs, will also be introduced over the two-year period at each campus.

"We're moving towards a system that is functionally-driven, rather than geographically-driven," said Seth Warren, WLUSU VP: finance and administration.

Adding new positions to both campuses, Warren explained, will help create a unified voice for the campuses, as well as to differentiate between internally-focused or "student-facing" positions that need more autonomy, and portfolios that

require more integration, such as finance or hiring.

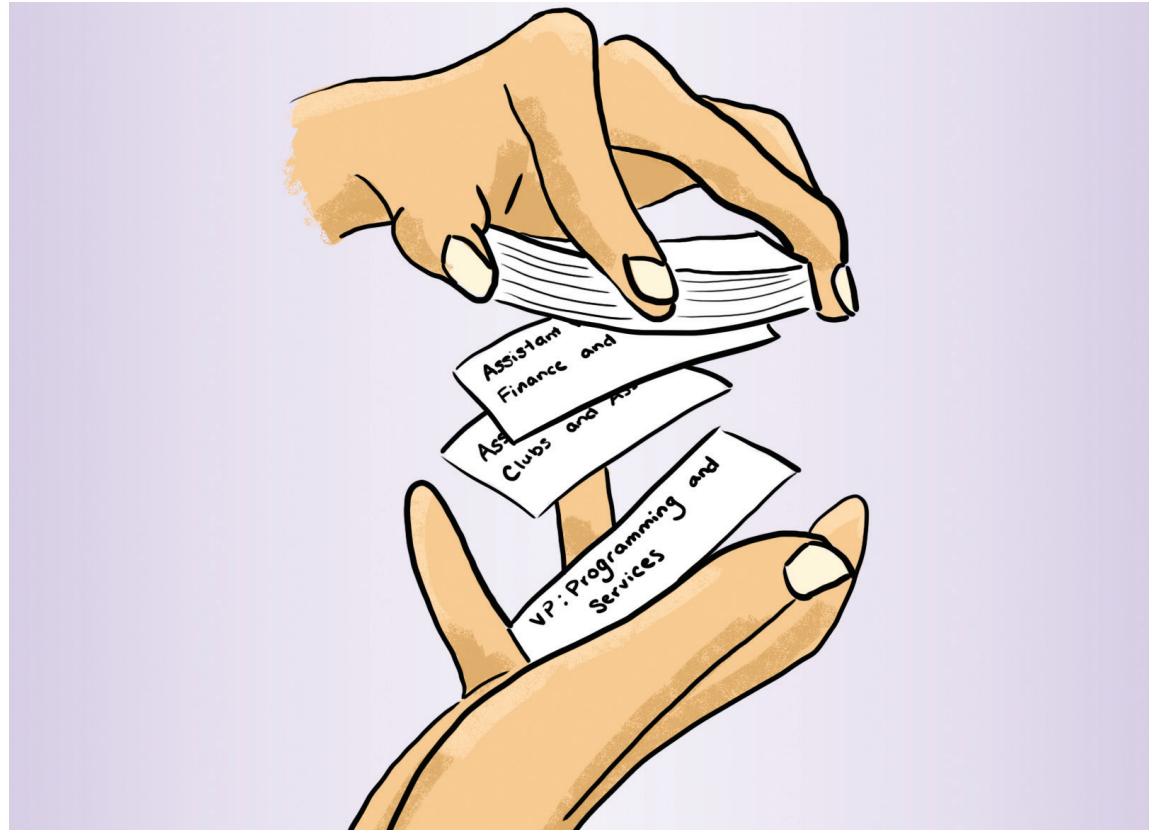
He also noted that dividing up responsibilities under university affairs will allow representatives to take up greater advocacy roles on behalf of students.

Warren was involved in the three-month process to develop the restructuring plan and will continue to be involved in hiring for new positions this year.

The changes over this year and the next are meant to enact the multi-governance structure established under former president Nick Gibson. During that year, an executive VP role—a position which operated much like a president on the Brantford campus—was eliminated to create consistency across the campus, according to WLUSU president and CEO Annie Constantinescu.

She says that the upcoming changes will be consistent with the multi-governance structure established two years ago—something that was moved away from last year. "There wasn't necessarily much guidance from Nick Gibson's year to really ensure how that structure would succeed, so they kind of diverted to what they knew, which was kind of Brantford did their own thing, Waterloo did their own thing," Constantinescu said.

She added, "We've set it up so that it's very clear why we made the decision and making sure next year's team will be prepared to understand why and hopefully not backtrack



LENA YANG GRAPHICS EDITOR

on it."

New positions are being added in the context of a difficult financial time for WLUSU. Emphasis has been placed on cost-cutting and finding efficiencies to service a large debt sum owed to the university.

"Finance is one of the things we were very critical of, because this is not a year where we can go and invest in things such as a couple thousand dollars for a position," said Constantinescu.

The funding for the new positions, she says, will come from savings already found within WLUSU that can be reinvested into the organization.

She continued, "They've been eliminating VP positions, AVPs last year ... We've been doing those to reflect cost-cutting measures, but it's at a point where we've kind of squeezed ourselves a little bit too thin, so it's time for us to invest back into actual capital of people. And that's what we've all deemed as being a priority."

"A lot of thought was put into it to make sure it wasn't going too quickly," added Warren, noting that spreading the changes over a couple years helps to manage the additional costs.

The process to determine the new structure of the student executive

and the creation of new positions were intended to reflect cross-campus cooperation.

"I know what I wanted in this whole process was to give Brantford kind of a fair chance across the board and that's where I think this structure came in," said Bre Carnes, VP: Brantford Operations.

"It was a really long process and it was because we worked together to ensure that for both campuses and the whole student body that it came together as one to be kind of together, to get the best and the full Brantford voice included from myself and the AVPs on the Brantford campus," she continued.

Mayor shares wisdom

ERIKA YMANA
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 16, Brenda Halloran, mayor of the City of Waterloo, came to Wilfrid Laurier University to talk about her life and how she ended up where she is now.

Her talk was a Professional Development Speaker Event, one segment of a series of workshops being planned by ACCESS U, a student-run club at Laurier. The workshops aim to inspire students by inviting developing world leaders to share their words of wisdom.

Halloran's talk focused on her past and the struggles she overcame, such as working three jobs as a single mother, an abusive relationship and never being taken seriously as a woman. In particular, her experience with buying a home that had been built atop contaminated land and refusing to move away while sticking to her morals and values fueled her drive for fairness.

"There are times when I thought, 'why didn't I just go away?' ... but I couldn't because it went against my values and how people should be treated by government," said Halloran.

After years of litigation over her contaminated property, in May of 2006, Halloran officially declared that she would be running for mayor.

"I was always enraged by how I was treated and how my neighbours were treated by city hall ... I fought



HEATHER DAVIDSON PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

The mayor of the City of Waterloo visited Laurier on Thursday.

the system for ten years. I had to get into the system and change it for people. Because what happened to me shouldn't happen to other people," said Halloran.

According to Sylvia Larke, co-president of ACCESS U, this was the mayor's third time speaking at WLU.

"This is my third time hearing her speak and it's still inspiring," she said.

Although Halloran will not be running for another term, she explained that she will continue to

make an impact on a number of topics such as economic development in Waterloo, technology for food and food security and will continue to advocate for women.

"I'll continue to fight for people's rights," said Halloran.

Michelle Paonessa, general member of ACCESS U, found the talk inspiring.

"It shows that you can turn tragic things into something positive. And that your attitude with an issue leads to how you end up."

Active prevention

New roles encourage academic integrity

ROBERT CONTE
STAFF WRITER

Handling academic misconduct is about more than just setting some rules down on paper. At least that's what academic integrity advisors Lea Caragata and Judy Eaton believe.

The position of academic integrity advisor was only recently created in January of 2013 at Wilfrid Laurier University and Caragata and Eaton have spent the past year developing the role.

The two advisors handle individual cases of academic misconduct, as well as educate faculty on how to prevent cheating in their classes and students on how and why they should avoid cheating.

"We want to create a culture where people know about it and talk about it ... we usually don't talk about it until there's a breach," said Caragata, who is the advisor for the Waterloo campus.

According to Laurier's Code of Conduct and Discipline, "Academic misconduct is an act by a student, or by students working on a team project, which may result in a false evaluation of the student(s), or which represents an attempt to unfairly gain an academic advantage, where the student either knew or ought reasonably to have known that it was misconduct."

In some cases, academic misconduct can lead to expulsion and an infraction will remain on a student's record permanently.

"We have a whole process in place for dealing with academic misconduct issues. Academic integrity, though, is about more than just penalizing students for plagiarism,"

said Caragata.

Caragata and Eaton have begun working with professors to help them design and write tests and assignments that are as cheat-proof as possible.

They are also preparing a survey, which they will likely make available later this semester, to collect the opinions of students on the issue. They are interested in the factors that can lead a student to cheat.

According to Caragata and Eaton, technology has made it easier than ever for students to cheat.

"We see a range of it. We need to be active about new ways to cheat such as essay mills," said Eaton, who is the advisor at the Brantford campus.

An essay mill is a service that provides buyers with essays and assignments so that they can pass the work off as their own.

Eaton believes through the education of students and faculty, the university can create a culture where students don't even think about cheating.

In the year since the position of academic integrity advisor was created, much research has been conducted looking into misconduct cases and their frequency at Laurier. To help solve the issue, Caragata emphasized creating a dialogue with students.

"Many universities are hesitant to talk about it ... it's an issue that's not going away or getting better, it's probably getting worse."

Caragata has plans to organize a student-led conference to discuss handling the issues of academic integrity next year depending on approval for funds from the Student Life Levy.

Dealing with the deficit

—cover

than its revenues. Both are increasing, but they are forecasting that the gap between them will continue to widen.

As the cost of pensions continues to rise, this is also becoming an issue.

Lastly is that, starting this year, the university is planning on budgeting for deferred maintenance for Laurier buildings.

In the past, when maintenance issues at the university arose, the money was pulled out of operations— as happened last year when \$5 million had to be found to fix a leak in the Science building on campus.

Butler explained, however, that Laurier should be setting aside \$7 million per year in order to maintain the condition of all buildings.

“I’m trying to budget for it rather than just waiting for something to happen. Enough is enough; we’ve put it off too long,” he said.

This year, they will be putting aside \$1 million.

These factors have been contributing to Laurier’s increasing structural deficit which, according to Butler, isn’t anything new.

“We’ve been sending warning signals for a while now, even as recently as the June budget. We indicated that there would be a cut because of these factors.”

In fact, the university has been able to operate with the deficit for years.

“That’s because we budget conservatively and we usually end up with a surplus,” Butler explained. “I use the surplus from the previous year to balance the budget for the following year.”

The surplus is known as ‘appropriations.’ But these appropriations are being depleted due to the factors outlined above.

In the 2013-14 financial year, appropriations were at approximately \$10.6 million. By 2015-16 they will be depleted to \$833,000.

The 2013-14 deficit was \$7.9 million and, as such, the appropriations were able to balance the budget. But according to the forecast, in 2014-15 this deficit will be projected to be \$12.3 million, \$17.6 million in 2015-16 and \$21.9 million in 2016-17. This means that cuts will need to be made in order to balance the budgets each year.

There are three options to help deal with the increasing deficit, which Butler outlined.

The first two options involved deferring cuts or increasing the cut to four per cent. However, Butler is recommending the third option: a two per cent cut in 2014-15.

“\$672,000 cannot be taken out of the faculty of arts budget without it affecting the number of teachers who are in classrooms.”

—David Monod, chair of the history department

But in order for the budget to balance, this cut must be coupled with liberal assumptions in mind.

This means the assumption is made that the government will pay for every student who is enrolled and that underspending will continue to happen as it has historically.

With these liberal assumptions tied into the forecast, the two per cent cut in 2014-15 will be followed by a 4.73 per cent cut in 2015-16 and a 3.57 per cent cut in 2016-17.

“We told everyone to start planning for two per cent on the assumption that we would get permission,” said Butler. “If it’s something different than that we’ll tell them to model it differently.”

According to Monod, for the faculty of arts, this means cutting \$672,000 next year.

“\$672,000 cannot be taken out of the faculty of arts budget without it affecting the number of teachers who are in classrooms ... So what’s going to happen is you will have fewer teachers in classrooms next year for students.”

With the proposed cuts for the next three years, Monod said this will result in a total of a \$2.5 million cut for the faculty of arts.

This may not result in layoffs, he continued. Instead, it will be a combination of no re-hires of faculty and cuts to contract academic staff.

If the two per cent cut is passed, the integrated planning and resource management (IPRM) process will help to inform how the cut is applied.

And according to Monod, students should be unhappy that these budget issues will be impacting them.

“I think students should be getting angry about that,” he said. “Because you’re paying the same tuition. And you’ll either have less choice or bigger classrooms.”

If Butler’s recommendation is passed at the board of governors meeting on Thursday it will progress to Senate in February.



RYAN HUEGLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Despite construction being shut down due to the ice storm, GIE building construction is on schedule.

GIE building moves upward

VIRGINIA TREMAINE
STAFF WRITER

“If you want to work in construction, you’ve got to like being outside.”

Mark Dettweiler, director of planning, design and construction at Wilfrid Laurier University’s physical resources department remarked lightly about the recent weather impacts on the construction workers working on the new Global Innovation Exchange (GIE) Building.

The recent weather conditions in Waterloo Region, beginning with an ice storm followed by extreme cold and plenty of snow, halted construction on the building temporarily a couple weeks ago.

“We lost a couple of days just because everything gets coated with ice and you have to dig everything out,” explained Dettweiler. “Certainly one concern was safety. When everything is coated with ice you have to make sure all that ice is removed before people are walking on these elevated areas.”

He also noted that the cold limited their ability to work with

concrete, as cold temperatures cause concrete to freeze before it sets, creating a structural problem.

“Really a lot of work goes into the concrete part, pouring and forming the basic bones of the building,” said Dettweiler. “People will really begin to notice as we continue to build up.”

If part of your daily routine involves travelling on that stretch of University Avenue West between Hemlock and Hazel Street, you may have noticed some notable changes in scenery over the fall term: cranes and construction workers working on erecting the foundations of what had long-appeared to be a hole in the ground and a sign promising a new building in the near future.

Construction on the GIE Building has started moving upwards, a welcome indication of progress for those hoping to be using the building as soon as the fall of 2015. The building will be home to Laurier’s School of Business & Economics and the math department upon its completion and will provide some much-needed study space for students.

Weather aside, construction has been running smoothly without any contract difficulties, according to Dettweiler.

“There is a lot involved in a construction project this size,” he said. “It has been going quite well, there haven’t been any big issues with anything unexpected.”

The only other setback that the GIE building has experienced was due to a change in design, with the original courtyard being converted to an atrium.

“That design change cost us about four months and moved the end date back a bit,” explained Dettweiler. “We had hoped it would get done a bit earlier in 2015, so that design change took away some of the slack we had.”

But despite these setbacks, Dettweiler anticipates the deadline is still an achievable reality.

“We want to deliver the building by the fall of 2015,” said Dettweiler. “That’s our goal and we are on track with that, so I don’t think anyone is too concerned at this point that we aren’t going to make it.”

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LOCAL

Local Editor
Ashley Denuzzo
adenuzzo@thecord.ca

The end of the student house

—cover

building,” he said. “A property that is generating any rental income, whether it’s a single family house, a duplex, lodging house, triplex, require rental license, whereas with the apartment buildings they do not require one.”

Somwaru does not believe that these bylaw regulations are fair.

“One of the guys that owns twice as much as I do, it costs him like \$47,000 to have his places licensed,” Somwaru said, “Whereas these big guys don’t have to pay anything.”

Milovick was optimistic that the increase in large-scale residential development will address the growing student population in Waterloo from the two universities.

“The universities are growing and they are growing on a permanent basis,” he said.

“According to Milovick, there are expectations of an additional 1,000 students at the universities each year until around 2017.

Olivia Gabrielli, a student at Laurier, has lived in both houses and apartments.

“It seems like they’re constructing buildings really quickly,” she said. “I personally hate living in apartments. I like more living space but it’s harder to find houses close to

“My impression is they’re trying to force the small guys out of business.”

—Sam Somwaru, Waterloo landlord

campus.”

Gabrielli explained that when she first arrived at Laurier four years ago, one of the appeals was the number of houses close to campus. Apartments are more expensive, she has found, in spite of the smaller living space.

With the rise of student apartments, Somwaru continues to advocate for the conservation of houses.

“The noise level is more controlled in a house,” he said. “Students love houses.”

“My impression is they’re trying to force the small guys out of business.”

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UW startups shine

LightBot mobile app earns \$25,000 grant at the Waterloo Velocity Garage last week

CONNOR WARD
STAFF WRITER

To teach computer-programming to kids may sound like an impossible challenge, but that’s exactly what Danny Yaroslavski set out to do when he began developing his mobile app, LightBot, back in high school.

LightBot is now one of 35 startups that will be occupying the University of Waterloo’s Velocity Garage workspace at the Communitech Hub in Kitchener this term.

Through a series of challenging puzzles and by using step-by-step instructions, the app aims to teach computer-programming basics in a relaxed, unintimidating and educational way.

“I first created LightBot in high school, and back then it was just a fun idea. After I released the game, I heard back from teachers that were using the game in class to teach programming concepts. I realized that programming was a trend, and I hopped on it,” said Yaroslavski, who is currently studying computer science student at the University of Waterloo.

Once he realized the application he created had more potential than just a fun game, he quickly started to pursue entrepreneurship. He sought out resources, offered by the University of Waterloo, to learn about business and to move LightBot from being a game idea, to a viable business venture.

“I think it really clicked that this could be a business about a year ago. I started attending Velocity workshops at Waterloo, to learn about business, which any student can go to,” he said.

Yaroslavski then decided to apply for the Velocity Fund, a \$25,000 grant given by the University of Waterloo to young entrepreneurs with viable business ideas.

However, the process was more

than a simple application, as a business plan had to be put together and various pitches had to be made to judges and students.

“We applied for the \$25,000, we pitched and we won, allowing us to work here at the [Communitech] Hub around these awesome startups,” said Yaroslavski.

Recently, LightBot has seen rising success. Code.org, a prominent computer-programming site, picked up the application.

LightBot was also asked to participate in the Hour of Code, an event last December which featured students around the world logging on to Code.org and taking part in tutorials, learning the basics of computer programming.

“We had over 100,000 users hitting our site everyday, tweeting and liking, and people were so excited about the product,” said Yaroslavski.

“It was amazing. These were real people that were really enjoying our product and we hit on something; we actually compete with other ways to teach programming.”

LightBot is looking forward to expanding its horizons in the not-to-distant future, with another game in the works. Yaroslavski wants to be part of the computer-programming curriculum in schools around the world.

“The next goal we have is just developing the next game in the series and maybe having three games packaged together for teachers to use in their classroom.”

On balancing life as both a student and an entrepreneur, Yaroslavski gave this advice: “If you’re in a moment of motivation, you have to take advantage of it. In that little timeframe, I’m putting 100 per cent into what I’m actually interested in. At the end of the day, if I lose ten to 20 per cent on an assignment or exam, but I learned a skill I’m interested in learning, then that’s a win for me.”



RYAN HUEGLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

The wife of the late Jack Layton was in Waterloo Tuesday night to speak about her personal memoir.

Olivia Chow on life, death and politics

DAINA GOLDFINGER
STAFF WRITER

Olivia Chow, MP for Trinity-Spadina and wife of the late Jack Layton, visited citizens of Waterloo Region on Tuesday for a lecture and book signing regarding her recently released memoir, *My Journey*.

Chow's memoir explores the story of her personal life journey and political career, by discussing issues such as domestic violence, abuse, mental illness, loss and her passion for public service.

The book talk took place at Princess Twin Cinema Theatres in uptown Waterloo.

Chow took the crowd through her life, beginning with her immigration to Canada from Hong Kong at 13-years-old, after which she said her father began abusing her mother.

Overcoming the challenges of her childhood with strong-mindedness and self-discipline, Chow studied

fine arts and philosophy in university; however, a few years after graduating she decided that as an advocate for social change, she should pursue a political career.

"I wanted to make a difference," she said. "I got into public service because I did not want other people to go through the difficulties I did. I wanted to make life better for others."

Chow sought roles as a school board trustee, Toronto city councillor and lastly a Member of Parliament.

Chow explained that she helped her community as a public servant, specifically with children nutrition and child-care programs. She also aided with suicide prevention, and tried to counsel people of attempted suicide, in order to make a difference in Canada.

In the late 1980s she met her late husband and former NDP leader, Jack Layton.

Chow spoke about tragic loss of her husband, in both her

autobiography and lecture.

"Talking about grief and human sorrow, I realized it was pretty difficult times," Chow explained.

"Life was pretty tough, and I found my strength, and I thought it was a good story to tell."

Looking to the future, Chow also spoke to rumours about her political intentions, noting that she is contemplating contending Rob Ford for mayor of Toronto in the next election.

"I am seriously considering it," she said.

"Toronto deserves a lot more than Rob Ford. As to when I'll decide, I'm not sure yet."

Chow spoke about a need for change in her city.

"I don't want my grandkids to have Rob Ford as their role model," she said.

"I don't think parents want Rob Ford as their kids' role model."

"We need a change, but am I the person? I am not 100 per cent sure."

Prepping the polls

Familiar faces arise for regional election

ASHLEY DENUZZO
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

A string of familiar faces have announced their intention to run for re-election in the Region of Waterloo's upcoming election on Oct. 27.

Regional councillors Jane Mitchell and Sean Strickland, among others, have made it clear that they want to remain in regional office for another term.

Councillors are elected as representatives for their city or township. Mitchell has been a regional councillor since the year 2000 and Strickland has been involved with public office since 1993, both as representatives of Waterloo.

Prior to their involvement in regional government, neither candidate had experience as a professional politician. In fact, there are very minimal restrictions for running for Regional office — any ordinary citizen can do it.

"To run for office you would need to run for a regional councilor position or a city council position, pay \$100, have to be over the age of 18 and a Canadian citizen," Mitchell said when asked about the requirements to get a name on an election ballot.

"They are just ordinary people who come through, most of us haven't gone to school for political science."

Prior to her 13 years of service with the Region, Mitchell was a local librarian. Strickland was the executive director of the Food Bank of Waterloo for 15 years and a minor league hockey coach.

"I was actively involved with my community at a young age," Strickland said.

Despite the open accessibility to run for regional office, many candidates are familiar politicians. While Mitchell and Strickland have both submitted their names for regional re-election, a third familiar candidate has emerged.

Karen Scian, a councillor for the City of Waterloo, is hoping to make

the leap from municipal government to regional.

"It's just the three of us who are registered," Mitchell explained. "But it is still early for people to put their names in, that usually happens in April or May."

At present, there are two councillors and the mayor representing Waterloo at Regional council.

In total there are 16 representatives — the four mayors from each township as well as corresponding regional councillors.

The chair of Waterloo Region, Ken Seiling, is also planning on returning for another term.

"Over the past few months I've received a lot of pressure from all around the community to stay involved in local politics," he said. "I've been doing it for a long time, there are a lot of things that I find important and things that resonate with a lot of people."

On that list is the Light Rail Transit, which will certainly be an important topic during October's election. Dave Macdonald, one of the mayoral candidates for Waterloo, has openly discussed his intention on shutting down the LRT project.

However, Seiling, Mitchell and Strickland all feel that the LRT project needs to stay.

"The fact of the matter is that we have made a decision focusing on building the LRT and shaping the future for generations to come," Strickland said.

"We have gone way too far down the road just cancel this and there is a \$500 million construction tender in the next six weeks to come in." "It would cost millions of dollars to cancel the contract before December rolls around."

Seiling also weighed in on LRT, explaining his belief that Waterloo has "grown to its limits" and that LRT is needed to continue growth and expansion within the community.

"I think it would be most unfortunate that leadership wouldn't want to support the LRT," he said.

Martin Luther King Jr. celebrated in K-W

BRYAN STEPHENS
LEAD REPORTER

In recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Non-violence Festival in Kitchener held their seventh annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.

The event brought speakers, spoken word artists and musicians together to honour the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and the impact his life has had on subsequent generations.

"The event is about celebrating the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and all of his work," said Matthew Albrecht, co-founder of the Nonviolence Festival and the celebration held Monday night. "We wanted to get across that non-violence is not just something of the past."

"We want to instead not only look at the symptoms of the problem, but also the root of the problem, which is that violence is seen as acceptable."

The event saw an array of performers, showcasing their talents and insights into the messages put forth during the life of Martin Luther King Jr. Speaking on the importance of the performances, Albrecht said it was another way of challenging non-violence.

"Spoken word and music is another way we felt we could communicate the message of the event, adding visuals and sounds to the words spoken by King," he said. "It was just another way of communicating the messages throughout the event."



HEATHER DAVIDSON PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Monday's celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. both celebrated his life and promoted non-violence.

Cheyenne Gold, a third-year global studies student at Laurier, was one of the spoken word performers at the event. She held the event in high esteem.

"This kind of celebration is important because a lot of people dismiss non-violence as idealistic or non-feasible," Gold explained. "I think it's important for people to

understand not only the success of non-violence in the past, but also the potential of non-violence in the future."

When asked why she felt the event was important within the community, Gold said she believes in the collective cooperation and understanding of the cause it promotes.

"It's a way of bringing people together in the community and makes its aims of equality and peace seem feasible looking into the future."

The celebration paid tribute to King in various ways, including speaking on the accomplishments he made such as his infamous 'I had a Dream' speech.

"His life is incredible, and to look

"This kind of celebration is important because a lot of people dismiss non-violence as idealistic or non-feasible."

—Cheyenne Gold, a third-year student at Wilfrid Laurier University

at the obscenities today and the amount of people who don't know what to do about it is frightening," said Albrecht. "King was about transcending those problems and overcoming these issues, and hopefully this event can help people overcome issues in their own lives."

Following the conclusion of the event, Albrecht hoped that people left with the continuing thought that nonviolence is something important in practice all the time.

"Non-violence is as simple as treating others the way you would want to be treated. We need to recognize the humanity in ourselves and in those around us."

NATIONAL

National Editor
Ashley Denuzzo
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Sexes divided at gyms

JORDAN SMITH
STAFF WRITER

If you've stepped foot inside a gym recently, you may have noticed the rising trend of fitness centres accommodating women's only time slots and facilities.

Now, this feature is not only incorporated in corporate gym chains, but also on university campuses.

Ryerson University, for instance, is currently looking into creating specific gym hours for female users.

"Students came to us and said 'this is a need that we have' and we've been working with students to make it happen," said Melissa Palermo, president of the Ryerson Students' Union (RSU).

"There are women on campus that weren't able to use [the facilities] for religious reasons or for reasons to do with past experiences when they would have felt uncomfortable in those situations with men."

Nothing has been finalized, however.

"Right now we're just in the lobbying process," she added.

When asked about any vocal opposition to segregated gym times Palermo could not point to any.

"We've collected over a thousand, I think close to two thousand, surveys and the response has actually been overwhelmingly positive. Most people of all genders actually have been quite accepting of the idea and have responded in really positive ways."

However, a Facebook post by RSU from last month, which outlined the plan to create women's only gym times, generated some online criticism.

One commentator wrote that men and women should not be segregated in any sort of university



RYAN HUEGLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Many campus gyms are now accommodating women's-only times.

facility.

While it is still up for debate at Ryerson, other campuses have already accepted gendered gym times as the norm.

Larissa Sage, a master's student at the University of Toronto already experiences segregated gym times at her school's gym.

"I don't see any reason not to have it," she said. "It's not like the entire gym goes into lockdown mode and only women are allowed in."

Sage dismissed the argument that these policies cut down on men's opportunities to access facilities.

"If there are enough men saying 'I would like that' [segregated hours for men] then I'm sure any quality establishment would consider that as well."

Wilfrid Laurier University is among other universities looking at creating women's only gym hours.

Pat Kitchen, associate director of recreation and facilities at WLU explained that some women may feel more comfortable working out during segregated gym times.

"Ultimately our goal is to get as many students in the space being healthy and active," she said.

"When we actually designed for the addition and renovation we knew that we wanted to have the ability to have women's only [capabilities]" added Kitchen.

When asked about any concerns over the segregated facilities, Kitchen assured that Laurier has "designed it such that in the segregated space there is a range of equipment so you can go in there and have the same experience that you would have in the rest of the fitness center except for some of the high free weights."

She added, "so males and other women that maybe don't care to have a segregated system will have lots of room."

Not only will there be plenty of equipment during the women's only hours but segregated areas and programs will provide opportunities for new-comers of both genders.

As more fitness centres begin to provide exclusive hours or areas for female users, the debate of segregation continues to be a hot topic amongst campuses.

"It's not just for women, but even for males that might be new to [gym] experiences," Kitchen said.

Reaping rewards

Pan Am volunteers to earn OSAP breaks

ASHLEY DENUZZO
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

For the first time ever, Ontario will play host to the Pan American and Parapan American Games in Toronto to summer 2015.

And it's not just the province that will reap the benefits of this major sports event.

The ministry of training, colleges and universities announced that students who receive support through the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) and also volunteer for the Games will receive breaks and grace period deductions for their student loans.

"We want to make sure that all students can have that once-in-a-life time opportunity to volunteer," Minister Brad Duguid said. "This is probably something that more of a once in a generation opportunity."

New and returning students who volunteer for the games will not be required to make a pre-study financial contribution — a contribution from the money you earn up to 16 weeks prior to the start of your studies.

This will ensure that students will receive more support through OSAP to account for their inability to work at paid jobs during the summer break.

Toronto 2015 will require 26,000 volunteers; this program hopes to attract 5,000 students.

"It's a break for students. It gives them an opportunity to do this without being financially harmed while doing it," said Duguid.

Volunteers will also be able to defer paying their OSAP loan for one full year after completing their full-time studies. This will provide an additional six months before interest is charged on top of student loans.

However, questions have arisen about whether an OSAP break for this group is fair.

For example, there is criticism that students who volunteer for any

not-for-profit organization should be eligible for OSAP deductions or loan extensions.

But according to the Minister, they can.

"Just this year we made provisions where any student who is volunteering or working in a not-for-profit organization or any student who starts their own business will get a six month grace period before they have to start paying back their student loans and their interest kicks in," the minister said.

When The Cord spoke to the Ontario Volunteer Centre Network, they were unaware of such a program.

"I would love to know more about it," said Carine Strong, the Chair of the OVCN.

"We are the volunteer centre and that's a great incentive," she added.

"I wish it was publically known because if that is the case then that is a huge boost for volunteerism."

The criteria for the not-for-profit volunteerism OSAP break is currently only eligible for those who are currently paying off their OSAP loans, but are also working 30-hours a week in a paid or volunteer position with an eligible not-for-profit organization in Ontario.

This means that students who volunteer while in school are not eligible for OSAP extensions.

Students can also apply for a six-month extension on the existing grace period. During this period, no payments will be required on full-time OSAP Loans and the province will pay the interest.

"30 hours a week is a fair bit," Strong admitted.

"That would prevent you from seeking employment."

Duguid expects that the Pan Am Games will generate a lot of interest.

"These aren't just students who live in Toronto," he said.

"I think students would want to come from all across the province to take advantage of this opportunity with the Pan Am Games."

Province plans to expand online education

LINDSAY PURCHASE
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

Postsecondary students in Ontario will soon be able to access online education in a new way, with the announcement of a new course-sharing centre set to be operational within a year.

The Centre of Excellence for Online Learning, funded over a three-year period with an initial investment of \$42 million, will allow students from participating institutions to take online courses approved by the Centre. All courses approved will provide transferable credits within the university and college sectors.

"This is I think one of the more exciting initiatives I've been able to be part of as minister of training, colleges and universities, because I think it positions us to be globally competitive," said minister of training, colleges and universities Brad Duguid.

The Centre of Excellence, or Ontario Online, will be divided into three main components: a course hub, where students can access online courses; a support hub to provide professors and students with help to adapt to the technology; and a knowledge hub for profs to share ideas, best practices and research on online learning.

While it is being created and

initially funded by the province, the aim is to create a self-sustaining non-profit organization run by the participating institutions themselves.

"This will not be a government-run organization through the ministry. It'll be independent and it'll be run by the post-secondary sector and their representatives," said Duguid, acknowledging that the province will not be dictating courses.

The idea of having an online course sharing hub is nothing new for Ontario's colleges. Ontario Learn, where 24 of Ontario's colleges share more than 1,000 online courses, has been in operation since 1995.

Administrators have been involved in talks with the ministry since around August to help bring about the Centre of Excellence.

"It has helped in some way to guide their vision of what they want this new entity to look like," said Ontario Learn executive director Dan Holland.

According to Holland, while colleges may be farther ahead in course sharing, universities have internally been providing strong online course options internally to students. He feels positively about the developments that have been made in conversations between the sectors.

"It's going to open access, it's going to open wider the transferability

of credit and I think it'll hopefully someday make that seamless transition from college to university or from university to college," he said.

He hopes one day to see credit transfer across sectors, something which universities and colleges are meeting on now.

Ontario Learn will now exist under the umbrella of Ontario Online, but there is no pre-existing structure for the province's universities.

Institutional participation will be determined on a voluntary basis. It is not yet known whether students from universities that do not choose to participate, if there are any, will still be able to access courses.

"I don't think we've determined yet how that would happen. My expectation is the vast majority of institutions are going to join up fairly quickly," said Duguid.

The Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance has expressed its support for the increased focus on online education, which has been a strong lobby point for them as of

late.

"I think it's a great announcement, to be honest," said Stephen Franchetto, VP of finance for OUSA

Franchetto noted that credit transfer is hugely important and will help to improve accessibility of university education in Ontario. The student lobby group will be releasing a paper with recommendations for online education this year and will continue to push for increased quality in course offerings.

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said to be accessing online education.

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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 Life,
An enormous thank you to the girl who found my phone on Thursday and returned it to me in Bricker. Please never stop being awesome! Sincerely,
Sorry if I Embarrassed You in Front of Your Class, But They Need to Know How Much You Rock

Dear Life,
I am very grateful for the new renovations that have been done to the gym. It's great that there's more space, more equipment...and a shit ton of more people! Which is amazing! But why didn't you add any more lockers?? Compensate for the growing population of gym-goers! Sincerely,
Throwin' bows to try to find a locker

Dear Life,
To those girls that sit at the end of the row in the lecture with your laptop and Starbucks taking up two seats, do not scoff at me when I give you an awkward lap dance to try and get by you. Do not roll your eyes at me when your coffee is taking the desk of the last available seat and I ask to sit there. Sincerely,
Your starbucks isn't paying tuition for a seat in this class.

Dear Life,
To the New Years resolution gym goers that are new to the gym. Stick with it. I don't care about your goals, but it's fucking hilarious watching you use the equipment improperly. Two thumbs up to your creativity. Sincerely,
You can do it.

Dear Life,
Being able to read The Cord without losing my mind at the amount of spelling and grammatical errors sprinkled on every page would be a dream come true. Sincerely,
Even if you're not in English you totally see them too

Dear Life,
Last semester of university. I'm gonna miss this. Sincerely,
4th year

Dear Laurier,
You have as much parking as Rob Ford does common sense. Sincerely,
I hope I don't get a ticket trying to go to class.

Dear Life,
I don't know about you but I am sick of freezing every time I am in the concourse. Whose brain-dead idea was it to install sliding doors without the proper heating elements? Students unite! If we must put up with those door scertainly the university can put in the required heaters. Sincerely,
Freezing my ass off

Dear Life,
There isn't a day I don't think about my assailant. You've made me afraid of my own shadow. I just want my life back. Sincerely,

I left, he stayed
Dear Life,
When the first flake fell, my heart was touched. When it stayed on the ground, I was moved to tears. I never thought that I could be this happy; To see the snow pile up as high as it has is the fulfilment of my wildest dreams. When I'm soaring down a snowy hill on a sled, the fat wet flakes in my face are little hugs just for me. When I'm skating on the ice, the whole world is at harmony around me. But all I really need in life is for the snow to just be there. O beautiful flakes, ye are not crystallized water but crystallized joy. Sincerely,
Mister Ten Below

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FEATURES

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And the Oscar goes to...

Just for funsies, Arts Editor Cristina Almudevar, Visual Director Kate Turner and Graphics Editor Lena Yang imagine what the Oscar nominations would look like this year if they were running the show



BEST PICTURE

Who was nominated: Our version:

- American Hustle
- Nebraska
- Captain Phillips
- Philomena
- Dallas Buyers Club
- 12 Years a Slave
- Gravity
- The Wolf of Wall Street
- Her
- American Hustle
- Inside Llewyn Davis
- Saving Mr. Banks
- Dallas Buyers Club
- 12 Years a Slave
- Gravity
- The Wolf of Wall Street
- Her
- Blue Jasmine

2013 was a great year for film. So choosing just nine movies that could be the best of the year is quite a feat.

While *Nebraska*, *Captain Phillips* and *Philomena* are all great films, they're simply not "best picture" worthy. Snubbed by the Academy, *Inside Llewyn Davis*, *Saving Mr. Banks* and *Blue Jasmine* deserved their chance to be in the running for the prestigious award.

The critically acclaimed *12 Years a Slave* is our favourite, and the film most likely to win. Every aspect of the film is incredible, from the cinematography to the music and acting. The story is beautiful and heart-wrenching and manages to make us hate Michael Fassbender — a task we all thought impossible (I mean come on, look at his face).



ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE

Who was nominated: Our version:

- Leonardo DiCaprio
The Wolf of Wall Street
- Christian Bale
American Hustle
- Chiwetel Ejiofor
12 Years a Slave
- Bruce Dern
Nebraska
- Matthew McConaughey
Dallas Buyers Club
- Leonardo DiCaprio
The Wolf of Wall Street
- Christian Bale
American Hustle
- Chiwetel Ejiofor
12 Years a Slave
- Oscar Isaac
Inside Llewyn Davis
- Matthew McConaughey
Dallas Buyers Club

There are no surprises when it comes to the incredibly talented men nominated for this award. We can all agree that these were the best leading performances of the year, however *Inside Llewyn Davis'* Oscar Isaac was notably snubbed.

Isaac showcased his amazing skills as the folk singing titular character of the Coen Brothers' latest film, and surpassed every other nominee. His vocals and guitar were absolutely incredible, and all the more impressive when you take into account they were done live during filming, not dubbed in during post-production.

The other actors nominated in this category deserve a lot of credit, especially McConaughey, who completely altered his body to perform his role as an HIV-positive rodeo cowboy. There's no denying these are all incredibly talented actors, and DiCaprio is due for an Oscar ... but sorry, Leo, it's just not your year.



ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE

Who was nominated: Our version:

- Amy Adams
American Hustle
- Judi Dench
Philomena
- Cate Blanchett
Blue Jasmine
- Meryl Streep
August: Osage County
- Sandra Bullock
Gravity
- Adèle Exarchopoulos
Blue is the Warmest Colour
- Judi Dench
Philomena
- Meryl Streep
August: Osage County
- Cate Blanchett
Blue Jasmine
- Emma Thompson
Saving Mr. Banks

This category is full of incredibly talented women; any category that has Meryl Streep and Judi Dench nominated for the same role is going to be tough.

Though we agree with the nominations, we were hoping that the Academy would be controversial and nominate Adèle Exarchopoulos for *Blue is the Warmest Colour*. But no one is that surprised that she was not nominated, unlike Emma Thompson's performance in *Saving Mr. Banks*, which has garnered a lot of confusion for not being nominated. Everyone has an opinion on Thompson's blatant snub, even Meryl Streep, who was nominated. Streep confessed to Ellen DeGeneres that she had written Thompson a long heartfelt email regarding her friend's snub. We'd also like to see Carey Mulligan nominated for *The Great Gatsby* for not throttling Tobey McGuire on-screen for his lack of acting skills (we kid ... kind of).

We'll place our bets on Cate Blanchett for *Blue Jasmine*. There has been a lot of buzz around her performance and she took home the Screen Actors Guild award for the same category, which is always a safe predicting tool.



ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

Who was nominated: Our version:

- Barkhad Abdi
Captain Phillips
- Jonah Hill
The Wolf of Wall Street
- Bradley Cooper
American Hustle
- Jared Leto
Dallas Buyers Club
- Michael Fassbender
12 Years a Slave
- Daniel Bruhl
Rush
- Jared Leto
Dallas Buyers Club
- Michael Fassbender
12 Years a Slave
- Dane DeHaan
Kill Your Darlings
- James Gandolfini
Enough Said

This is a fairly packed category this year, with five very deserving and talented nominees vying for the award. However, there were more than a few who fell through the cracks.

The lack of nominations for *Rush* came as a surprise, especially for Daniel Brühl's onscreen portrayal of Niki Lauda, which scored him a Golden Globe nomination but no recognition at the Oscars.

Dane DeHaan, who portrayed Lucien Carr in *Kill Your Darlings*, is another actor who has yet to receive his due. However, his absence in the best supporting actor category came as no surprise given the overwhelming amount of talent displayed throughout the year.

Many were hoping James Gandolfini would be recognized posthumously for his work in *Enough Said* alongside Julia Louis-Dreyfus. However, he didn't make the cut despite his powerful and charming performance.



ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

Who was nominated: Our version:

- Sally Hawkins
Blue Jasmine
- Jennifer Lawrence
American Hustle
- Julia Roberts
August: Osage County
- June Squibb
Nebraska
- Lupita Nyong'o
12 Years a Slave
- Lupita Nyong'o
12 Years a Slave
- Scarlett Johansson
Her
- Julia Roberts
August: Osage County
- Emily Watson
The Book Thief
- Oprah Winfrey
Lee Daniels' The Butler

Of the five nominees, the one most likely to win (and most deserving of the award) is fresh-out-of-acting-school Lupita Nyong'o for her performance as Patsey in *12 Years a Slave*. But that is not to say the other four nominees haven't proved their talent.

This is another packed category, though there are a fair few who missed the cut, despite their extraordinary contributions to film this year. Scarlett Johansson's work as Samantha in *Her* has been completely neglected, despite the difficulty in portraying a well-rounded character solely through the use of her voice.

Perhaps in a less crowded year, Emily Watson would have gotten recognition for her performance as the offbeat foster mom in the big screen adaptation of *The Book Thief*. But in a year where notable performances like Oprah Winfrey in *Lee Daniels' The Butler* was excluded, it comes as no surprise that a less recognized role would slip past the Academy's notice.

LIFE

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The art of beginners yoga

STEPHANIE JOSEPH
STAFF WRITER

Upon hearing the word “yoga”, I instantly imagined a group of individuals posing in ways I never thought people could do.

Whenever I think of yoga, I would always correlate it to one’s flexibility. During my first yoga class, I was already dreaming about the numerous poses I’d be able to do and how my body would be unbelievably flexible.

There are several beginners like me who are anxious to become experts, so consumed in our dreams that we tend to forget the dedication and hours of practice that went into each pose.

Erin Behl, the yoga instructor at Goodlife Fitness on Weber St. in Waterloo, gave me some fantastic tips on what beginners should focus on when practicing yoga.

Behl is also an ambassador for Mr.Yoga.com and has contributed a number of enlightening articles regarding yoga techniques to the website.

Mr.Yoga.com is one of the world’s biggest yoga pose encyclopaedias and has a plethora of articles on yoga, as well as information on different kinds of poses, videos and helpful yoga supplements.

Behl encourages all beginners to focus on their breathing techniques. This is the most essential ingredient to an overall successful yoga experience.

Behl encourages all beginners to focus on their breathing techniques. This is the most essential ingredient to an overall successful yoga experience.

“Focus on the breath, allow the breath to carry you through the posture,” Behl said.

“A lot of time when we lose the breath, we lose the posture.”

Breathing is very important in

“Focus on the breath, allow the breath to carry you through the posture. A lot of time when we lose the breath, we lose the posture.”

—Erin Behl, yoga instructor at Goodlife Fitness and ambassador for Mr.Yoga.com

yoga and there are even several different types of breathing techniques.

The most well-known breathing technique is called Pranayama, which is a Sanskrit word which means “extension of breath” or “extension of life force.” “Prana” means life force and “ayama” means control, it is important to breathe deeply because it helps to create a calm mind and is the foundation for the pose.

Behl said that breathing is important because it nourishes our bodies with the oxygen it needs for our practice and it subconsciously clears our minds from distracting thoughts.

Behl encourages beginners to “take full breathes into the lungs and inhale as much as you can.”

The more you practice on your breathing, the longer you’ll be able



HEATHER DAVIDSON PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Practicing breathing and posture is essential when mastering yoga.

to hold the sometimes compromising poses.

Yoga can be practiced every day. However, Behl warns that, as a beginner, you will want to remember not to fatigue the body too much.

Behl recommended that when a beginner is stretching, make sure that they also stretch different areas of the body.

Patience is a very important characteristic that one needs to remember when practicing yoga.

During my yoga classes with Behl, she encouraged our class to go into the child’s pose whenever we needed to do so.

She also reminded the class that we shouldn’t press ourselves too

hard and we should practice the poses at our own pace and within our ability.

Behl also said that by putting 100 per cent effort into our practice, even if we struggle to execute the pose perfectly, practicing will allow us to go deeper within ourselves and the pose and hold it for a longer time.

Remember to breathe as much as you possibly can while building your endurance at yoga; be patient and practice with all your effort and one day what you imagined will become a reality.

If you do these simple tasks, you will become an expert at yoga in no time at all.

What would Wilf do?



Dear Wilf,

I’ve had the same group of girlfriends for the last eleven years. Despite going to different universities, we were always close — until now, apparently. These last few months, we have all been distant with each other, but it feels like I’m getting the brunt of it all. They don’t talk to me nearly as much as they talk to each other and they don’t bother inviting me out anymore. I’m scared that I’m going to lose them as friends, but is there actually anything left worth holding onto?

Sincerely, The Neglected Friend

Dear Neglected Friend,

It seems like you and your friends have gone too many years without fighting and now you’re all making up for it!

Obviously, it hurts when you get into an argument with a friend. It hurts even more when you get into a fight and you never talked about it. Before you make any rash decisions or cut anyone out of your life for good, I think you need to at least sit them down and have a conversation about what happened. Relationships of any kind never die a natural death. They are always murdered by either ego or lack of communication.

You never know what has been going on in their lives, so it is important that you take that into account before jumping to any conclusions about why they have been acting distant with you.

If your friends admit that there is an issue and it is something that involves you in particular, take that into consideration rather than be defensive about it. You can work from there and talk about how to deal with future issues so this doesn’t continue.

If not, then you need to accept that you are all growing up and sometimes that means growing apart. They can always be an important part of your life, but the relationship will mean something different now.

Sincerely, Wilf

My crush will not see me doing this

Staff writer Scott Glaysher talks about the five things your crush doesn’t want to see

If you’re reading this right now, chances are, you’re between the ages 17 and 23.

These may seem like just numbers, but they are the years of romantic opportunity. This may seem super corny or something you read in a Hallmark card but it is all true.

If you think about it, we are at that age where falling for someone is almost expected at some.

Plus, here at Laurier, we are always surrounded by beautiful people. I can almost guarantee that you’ve spotted out a few attractive classmates in your lectures or tutorials.

I am all for being attracted to someone; it can be a pretty satisfying feeling, especially if it works out for the better.

Knowing that someone likes you for just being you is pretty rewarding, no matter which way you slice it. However, there are times where guys and girls won’t totally be themselves around their crush because they are scared that they will scare them off.

This phenomenon goes all the way back to our elementary school days and those extremely awkward recess interactions. Apparently, times haven’t changed at all.

There are things that we don’t do around our crushes because we wouldn’t want them thinking we’re some weirdo that can fit our entire fist in our mouth; even though it may be true.

Everyone changes themselves in one way or another to please those

that they find fairly attractive, but some of these are more common than most.

Talking about your past relationships

If you are attempting to start a new relationship with someone, the last thing you want to do is bring up past relationships.

People usually avoid bringing up past romantic relationships because it steers away from the main goal of starting something new.

When you bring up any of your past relationships, you give the impression that you are not entirely over the last person you dated and your crush may not want to waste time going out with you until you are completely over your ex-boyfriend or girlfriend.

If you had a successful past relationship, it’s weird to brag about it to the person that you may potentially date next. And if your last breakup was a mess, it’s lame to sob about it to the person that you may potentially have a relationship with.

Questionable eating habits

If you and your crush are planning on leaving the bar for a little after-hours snack, odds are, your inner Tyrannosaurus Rex won’t be coming out to feast just yet.

People do not like admitting or showing their totally strange eating habits to their crush until they are completely comfortable being around them.

As much as you would like to devour an extra large, all dressed pou-tine or a fully loaded shwarma, you don’t want to do it in front of your crush.

Impromptu bodily functions

This may very well be the last thing you want to do in front of your crush. That’s right, I’m talking about passing gas, belching or even vomiting.

These are some of the most embarrassing actions you could possibly do in front of the person you are trying to charm.

Passing gas by accident or throwing up from nervousness is not attractive and it will not guarantee a second date.

There is absolutely no way to effectively recover from such bodily functions. People will refrain from exuding these embarrassing bodily functions at any costs. It’s a real game changer.

Revealing how often you creep their Facebook

This should just be the one written rule that everyone abides by.

Sure, you may have seen your crush around campus, at the bar or even at a house party, but your attraction is more than likely based on your constant lurking of them on Facebook.

Your crush’s Facebook profile is like a gateway into their lives. Everything that you could ever want to

know about them can be found on Facebook.

You can easily find out who they are best friends with, which clubs and bars they went to over the weekend and, the most crucial fact, whether they are dating someone.

Even though you may know them backwards and forwards thanks to your extensive Facebook creeping skills, you will never admit that to them under any given circumstances.

Imagine someone knowing everything about you before you even meet them. It’s creepy and no one wants that.

Only talking about yourself when your crush is around

You know you’re awesome. Your friends all know that you are awesome.

Having a wingman that is by your side to compliment you around your crush is always pretty awesome. Talking about how awesome you think you are around them isn’t so awesome.

People refrain from talking about their every achievement because it takes your eyes off the real prize — your crush.

Instead of boasting and bragging about your aced exams, your good looks or maximum bench press, your focus should be on getting to know your crush as best you can.

Trust me, you do not want your crush to think that you are more into yourself than you are into them.

Hey Golden Hawks! Do you need advice on friends, romance or school? E-mail wilf@thecord.ca and Wilf will advise you through whatever you are misguided on!



HEATHER DAVIDSON PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Adjusting to normalcy

Coming home can be difficult for those who studied abroad

SPENCER DUNN
STAFF WRITER

Coming home from another country can be difficult. But what if you were away for 14 weeks? This is the case for students who partook in an international exchange. Coming back to Canada after being away for so long can be a shock.

Last semester I took part in an international exchange to Swansea University in Wales. I haven't felt reverse culture shock since being back in Canada. I have been fortunate enough to have a supportive family and group of friends who are interested in hearing my stories from Europe. Being able to talk about my journey has helped me take in all that I've learned and has let me keep a piece of that trip with me. However, this is not the case for all students who return from exchange.

This week, Laurier International hosted a re-entry session for students returning to Canada. The evening involved strategies for coping with anxiety associated with being back in Canada and ways the exchange students can use their experience in everyday life, especially

pertaining to job interviews.

Barry Leung, a third-year student, partook in an international exchange with me last semester. He returned to Laurier last week and has had trouble adjusting.

"Their school system is totally different over in Europe," said Leung. "So I still had one assignment due (in Europe), and I just handed that in."

Because schools in Europe continue their semester into January, this is a problem many students face. Alternate assignments often have to be given to international students, which can be hard to deal with when returning back to Canada because resources are not available.

Daisy Heung, a Laurier student, went to South Korea on an international exchange. She is finding it much harder on a social level to readjust to living in Canada.

"I felt that I was more suited for the Eastern culture after having experienced it for several months and didn't feel like I belonged at all here."

Despite this, Heung had come up with some interesting techniques for coping with this readjustment anxiety.

"I pretended that I was here at Laurier on exchange, trying out a new culture, and coupled with time, I felt much better and things looked up."

The number one re-entry frustration as outlined by the Laurier International program is boredom. Coping with being back at Laurier can be difficult and boring when travel is not a weekly option. Leung stated, "I'm constantly thinking about where do I travel next? When do I travel? I'm always thinking about travel."

Another frustration can be with friends. Often, friends back in Canada are jealous or too bored to hear stories of your trip. This is my number one recommendation for people dealing with re-entry frustrations: find someone who is interested in your trip and tell him or her about it. Keeping a journal or writing a blog can help as well.

Laurier International provides open office hours to come and speak to someone about your travels and there is almost always an international volunteer with whom individuals can discuss their travels and future travel plans.

Dress for the job

JASMINE AULT
CORD LIFE

It's time to face the facts: we're getting to that age where wearing whatever you wore to school, presumably dirty jeans with rips along the hem, and your favorite hoodie or t-shirt, to an after-school job interview is considered unacceptable and tacky.

With summer quickly approaching, the respectable jobs are beginning to get snatched up by your fellow classmates, friends and roommates, and while you're happy for them, you too want in on the secret to landing a great summer gig.

Aside from having a killer resume that landed you the interview, you're going to have to dress the part to prove that you're more than just a piece of paper.

Ladies, I am not saying to put all your goods out on display, despite what any Katherine Heigl movie has told us.

Gentlemen, I am not telling you it's time to whip out your dad's old powder blue three-piece. This "how-to" will not only tell you how to look the part, but also how to be the part and take the work force by storm.

It's 2014 and that means old school traditions are out and people are all about embracing the new. This means that what your mother is insisting you wear to your interview may not always be the right choice.

For starters, it all depends on the type of establishment you are seeking work in. If your upcoming interview is at Gymboree, then you are not expected to show up wearing a tailored Ralph Lauren pantsuit.

Use your discretion and be the judge of what you think is acceptable to wear to a casual place of work.

Ladies, a casual interview would

be the perfect place to wear a cotton blazer with a pair of harem pants and a comfortable blouse underneath.

If you're seeking work in a corporate atmosphere, such as a bank or a business establishment, it is a good idea to consider something a little more professional.

"Dress pants, maybe a button-down top. A decent length skirt if its warm out," said Brittany Curran, who worked for Annual Giving as a student caller, a role that demanded she be dressed professionally.

For men, try a dress shirt and classic tie, paired with dress pants and a simple brown or black shoe.

By wearing something simple yet professional, it separates you from the frat boy in distressed jeans whose interview was just before yours, while also making it look like you know a thing or two about fashion.

According to Curran, you're already well equipped and ready to take on more responsibilities at a serious workplace.

"I definitely think that school and life has prepared us for the real world and what to expect in interviews," said Curran. "It's obvious that you can't show up in jeans and get away with it at this age."

Coming from my own personal experience as someone who had the opportunity to work in a corporate atmosphere at RBC last summer, I found that having a few staple pieces in your wardrobe such as a blazer, pencil skirt and simple black heels never hurts.

With that being said, don't be afraid to have fun. Your unique style should still be able to show through in what you're wearing to interviews or the workplace.

After all it will be your personality that will get you the job. Stay professional, act the part, most importantly, have fun and good luck.

Annual General Meeting

WLU Student Publications

Wednesday, February 5th is the AGM.

Social @ 6pm, Voting @ 7pm in the Turret

Nominations for 4 Director and the President/ Publisher positions are now open. Nomination packages are due by *January 24 at noon* to Allison Leonard (Waterloo) or Jessica Lalonde (Brantford)

And Remember...

Tuesday, January 28th Brantford open forum and advanced polling are open on both campuses.

Go to wlusp.com for nomination packages, application rules and deadlines, and AGM details.



Have a say in your campus media.

ARTS

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Sex exhibit creates stir

CRISTINA ALMUDEVAR
ARTS EDITOR

For some, talking about sex is an uncomfortable matter. Whether it is in a casual conversation with peers or having the ever-feared 'talk' with parents, the topic of sex can be downright awkward to talk about.

There are many ways to discuss getting down without talking dirty. With all the euphemisms for sex, it's easy to have a conversation without ever addressing the topic head on. But you won't find any of this at "The Science of Sexuality" exhibit opening at THEMUSEUM on Friday, Jan. 25.

"The Science of Sexuality" has had a long and controversial history before its current location at THEMUSEUM. The exhibit was first created in Montreal by the Montreal Science Centre for young people ages 12 and up as a way to respectfully teach exhibit-goers about all types of sexuality.

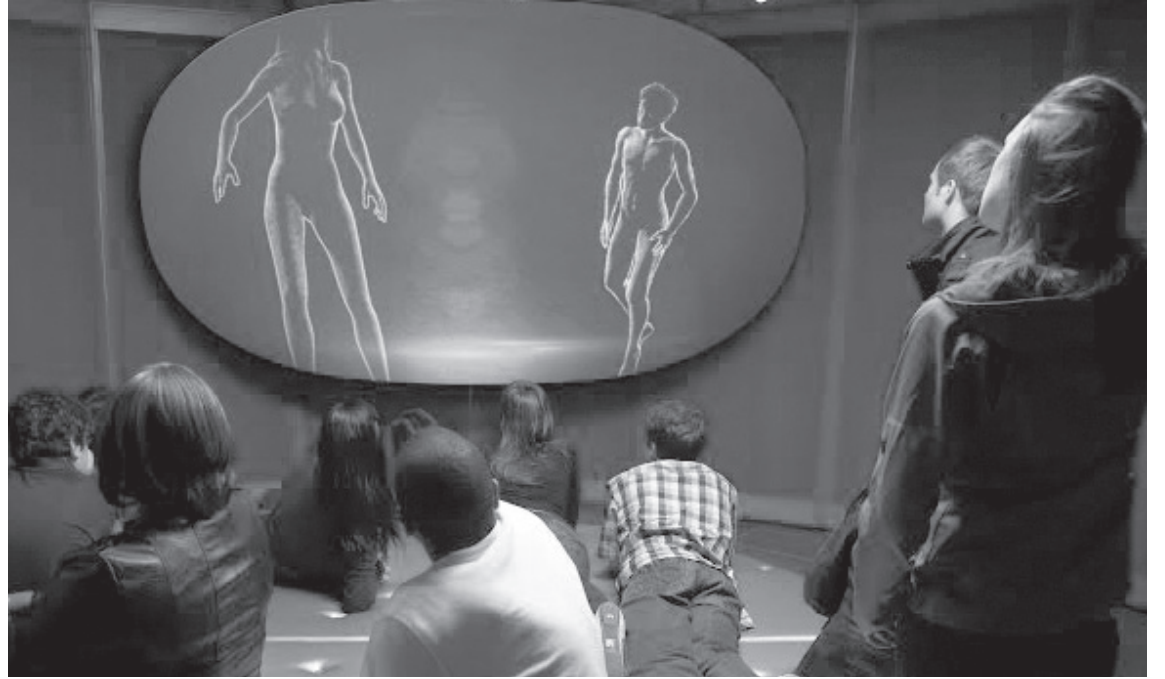
The controversy grew quickly after and has followed the exhibit to Kitchener. To promote the exhibit, THEMUSEUM created radio advertisements, one of which has been causing some controversy within

the radio community. The ad featured words that sounded sexual, but weren't, to play off of the sexual theme.

"The common denominator between the one federal and three provincial museums that I spoke to was that while it was created for 12 and up, all ages were coming. The senior market was coming up saying 'hey, you didn't go far enough. We're active too.' That's something that we took notice of and built into with 'The Sex Dialogues,'" said David Marskell, CEO of THEMUSEUM.

"The Science of Sexuality" covers a range of topics such as abstinence, sexual orientation, masturbation and sexually transmitted diseases featuring videos and interactive exhibits. Tying in with the exhibit, THEMUSEUM is hosting a series called "The Sex Dialogues" which features a range of speakers, such as Sue Johanson and Ellie Teshler, and topics, such as how to reignite the spark in a long term relationship. It begins on Jan. 25 and goes until April 27.

"It became important for us to go beyond the exhibit and talk about the conversation—to have a smart conversation about sex ... we want



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

to accomplish that [we can help] young people who are unsure realize that A) feel normal about their body and the way they look and B) learn about the bad stuff that can happen if they do not take precaution with whatever decision they make," reflected Marskell.

While it would be easy to play up the sexual aspect to get attention, THEMUSEUM has tried to stay away from the obvious jokes.

"I know we're going to get some pushback but I'm really pleased that we're presenting this. It was really tough not to [sensationalize] anything—there are so many double

entendres when you talk about a teaser campaign ... just when you're sitting around talking, people were saying 'we're going to have sex on the fourth floor for three months,'" joked Marskell.

"It should be a straightforward, smart conversation. We don't want to sensationalize anything."

While the controversy surrounding the exhibit has begun, Marskell is worried about something far more sinister: passivity in the audience.

"My fear is two part. There won't be any pushback. I just hope people are passionate enough to care. And then how far people will go. I hope

people won't picket here because of a reference to abortion, for example," Marskell said.

Despite the controversy surrounding the exhibit, there is nothing truly sensational about the exhibit. The exhibit is respectful and inclusive of all genders and sexualities. While humour is utilized, the exhibit does not rely on it to prove its point which allows its message to come out stronger. Instead, it is an educational and fun exhibit that is well-suited for all ages.

Check out "The Science of Sexuality" at THEMUSEUM in Downtown Kitchener starting January 25.



RYAN HUEGLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Re-visiting an old tale

CRISTINA ALMUDEVAR
ARTS EDITOR

If you forgot your towel to Thursday, Jan. 16's staged reading of Douglas Adams' *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, don't panic. The performance was the brainchild of a collaborative effort between the University of Waterloo's Drama and Speech Communication program and local Lost and Found Theatre.

"It's something I've wanted to do for a long time in terms of [performing] a reading of [*Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*]. I've always liked the story, it was just a matter of figuring out the timing," said Alan Sapp, narrator of the staged reading.

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, written by Douglas Adams, is a comic science fiction radio series that was later turned into a novel of the same name.

Hitchhiker's Guide follows the adventures of Earth resident Arthur Dent as he and his friend Ford Prefect, an alien who is the creator of

the book series *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, learn that the world is about to be demolished by the Vogons, an alien race. By hitchhiking their way onto the Vogon ship, they begin an insane adventure throughout the galaxy.

With the storyline and plot calling for otherworldly settings, bringing the series back to its radio roots only made sense for Sapp.

"To me, it's much more of an audio experience—that's how I learnt to appreciate it ... to me, a reading like that allows the audience to engage their imagination. If we were to try to create Vogons and whatnot, it would be a real challenge," said Sapp.

"You saw that the actors got involved. [The actors get] physically involved when they're reading something like that."

While the original medium of *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* was a radio show, part of the context of the performance may have been lost among audience members.

For those unfamiliar with the radio series, it could have come off as a group of talented people doing British accents all night.

Even if that was all you got out of the performance, you could not deny the vocal talents of the cast. James Miniou was a strong choice for the perpetually baffled Arthur Dent—as Sapp put it, he did well because "he had a bit of naiveté that Arthur has."

Derek McGill and Ryan Bassett were also standout performances as they played at least three vastly different characters each.

This performance covered the first three episodes of the original radio series. Though there were no physical props, there were many auditory sound effects and music controlled by Nick Storrington.

Sapp has mentioned that there is the possibility of returning for episodes four-to-six.

"We will be talking over whether we want to do episodes four through six. It's possible that people should stay tuned and we'll see."







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JODY WAARDENBURG LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

B. Rich takes Chainsaw 'out for a rip'

Canadian internet sensation B. Rich performed at Chainsaw on Jan. 17 and sat down with Cord Arts

TJ MROZ
STAFF WRITER

Since late November, Brandon Richmond, better known as B. Rich, has managed to accomplish something most aspiring artists look forward to but never achieve: get millions of views on YouTube while creating a cultural phenomenon simultaneously.

If YouTube seems to be a regular part of your life and you live anywhere in Ontario, it's safe to assume you're familiar with the hit song "Out For a Rip."

On Jan. 17, B. Rich stopped by Chainsaw to give fans a better glimpse into who he is and ultimately take everyone "out for a rip." Chainsaw had a great atmosphere

within the bar that night and was, without doubt, the best overall choice of venue for the type of theme "Out For a Rip" incorporates.

Chainsaw had a country feel to it which invited everyone in the room to briefly get back in touch with their true Canadian roots. As the show started, B. Rich had command of the stage from the beginning and the crowd was eager to return the energy.

After a great set, everyone left satisfied with the crowd hinting at their desire for the return for the new YouTube icon.

It's sometimes hard to measure internet success as it can spread so quickly and be offered on so many forms of media, however, iTunes now offers the track and this will

hopefully show B. Rich how well-received the humorous song really is.

As the song continues to spread across the country and gain popularity, some have even gone so far as to suggest replacing the old national anthem with "Out For a Rip," which is a huge honour in itself.

"Yeah it's pretty crazy, it's definitely an unexpected, cool thing, that's going on right now... [and] I've been trying to find out, but [iTunes] is weird about sales and numbers so it takes a month or two months, it's kind of a mystery right now," B. Rich told The Cord about his overnight success.

By far the most appealing aspect of "Out For a Rip" has to be the lyrics. Completely original, they seem to fit almost perfectly with some of

the values of Canadians. Whether it be the stereotype of being too nice, learning how to cross-check properly before learning to walk or the undying hope that the Maple Leafs might make the playoffs this year, "Out For a Rip" hits them all.

Aside from the catchy lyrics, the music video is hands down a must-see and an important component of the hype surrounding the song. B. Rich and his friends can be seen acting out most of the hilarious lyrics and, of course, going "out for a rip."

"The lyrics were all me: the video is listed 'and friends' cause they are actually just a bunch of my friends, but for the most part it was just an idea I had and I kind of brought everybody in. I picked certain buddies

I knew that would fit the bill for the characters," he continued.

"I think my favourite part was the timing of it, it was kind of done on a whim, it was super last minute ... and finishing it and realizing it looked exactly like I pictured it in my head doesn't happen very often."

From large urban cities to small rural communities, it's becoming difficult to not get caught up in the trend. Everyone from university students across the province, NHL players and famous Canadian actor Jay Baruchel, have reached out to the Canadian YouTube sensation over the popularity of the song. With such success in such a small amount of time, hopefully this won't be last unofficial national anthem courtesy of B. Rich.

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Peter and the symphony

CARA PETICCA
STAFF WRITER

Despite the cold weather over the weekend of Jan. 18, audience members flocked to Centre in the Square for a matinee performance of the opera *Peter and the Wolf*.

Members of the audience ranged from toddlers to grandparents as everybody came to experience a rendition of Prokofiev's magnificent composition.

Conducted by Evan Mitchell, the symphony tells the story of a young boy named Peter who defies his grandfather's request to stay out of a dangerous meadow. Peter's act of disobedience allows him to interact with many animals, which are represented by specific instruments and melodies.

For example, the flute represents the bird, the grandfather is represented by the bassoon and Peter himself was represented by numerous string instruments.

The orchestra contained approximately 55 musicians from the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony.

Not only did this large group manage to play the entire show flawlessly with no audible mistakes, but they also became a part of the performance as they swayed with the music.

The story was narrated by Saskia, an articulate and vibrant little girl who captured the attention of the audience from the moment she appeared on stage.

As she recited the story, the instruments behind her whimsically hummed in a collaborative effort to bring the symphonic element of story-telling to life.

To engage his audience, and to liven up a well-known story, Mitchell put a twist on his own performance.

"You never know what is going to make [children] laugh. I go with my instincts about humour," he explained.

This was demonstrated as Mitchell's imaginative approach to conducting had him sporting patterned pink flannel pajamas and a pair of bunny slippers as he introduced himself.

Eventually, he removed the flannel to reveal his more formal black conductor's attire. However, the audience persuaded him to keep the funky footwear.

Interestingly, this performance resonates with Mitchell on many levels. Before the performance began, he referred to the symphony as a masterpiece.

"[When] I was about ten years old, the very first school show that I ever saw was *Peter and the Wolf*. It was the first time I had seen a professional orchestra live."

Not only does the conductor have ties to this specific composition, Mitchell is extremely contented to engage with a much younger audience.

"It's an opportunity to show everybody that a lot of the unfair conceptions about the symphony are not true."

"[If] I can cut away from the idea that [the symphony] is an elitist thing you can't stand or something that is overly ritualistic, I will just throw on bunny slippers so people can't argue that anymore."

After conducting *Peter and the Wolf*, Evan Mitchell highlighted some events to come in the K-W region. Currently busy working on 14 separate programs, he was eager to promote his third family concert to be showcased in March 2014.

"It is a primer for young people [regarding] opera," Mitchell said, adding there was a puppet involved in the performance.

"The puppet is learning about opera; therefore, the audience [will be] learning about opera. This is actually going to be a big deal. As far as I know, no other orchestra is doing anything like an operatic primer with orchestra singers for kids."



ANDREAS PATSIAOUIROS STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

OVERWERK takes Pearl

ANDREW SAVORY
STAFF WRITER

2013 saw the genre of electronic dance music (EDM) grow to unprecedented heights, and with fast-rising producers such as OVERWERK doing their best to further establish the genre of music, the future looks bright for 2014.

Since his early beginnings, Edmond Huszar has managed to make a name for himself as one of the premiere DJs to keep an eye on thanks to his unique electro style that is unlike the sound of his counterparts.

Furthermore, with the release of his two recent EPs, *Conquer* and *After Hours*, he has even experimented in songwriting alongside frequent collaborator, Nick Nikon, whose vocals can be heard on must-hear tracks such as "Control" and "House."

Jan. 17 saw OVERWERK bring his talent to Pearl Nightclub and it was clear from the start of his set that he would not disappoint.

Famous for his steady build-up and emphatic drops, OVERWERK paved the way for an energetic night by consistently changing musical

pace with tracks like "12:30," which samples Madonna's "Hung Up," as well as more melodic beats such as "Daybreak."

Throughout the evening OVERWERK would continue to showcase the wide breadth of his skillset by alternating between familiar and crowd-pleasing club bangers combined with unexpected transitions that kept the crowd on their feet.

OVERWERK's ability to perform a live set that surpasses audience expectations was on full display, and it seemed as the night progressed that the up-and-coming DJ turned up the tempo to fuel the audience's enthusiasm. This proved to be the right choice because as the music became more fast-paced, the cheers of the audience grew louder.

Although OVERWERK's style differs greatly from that of other DJs who sometimes fall into the generic EDM trap of playing repetitive build-ups with similar sounding drops, OVERWERK showcased at Pearl why he will never fall for the lure of discouraging audiences with redundant performances. He stayed true to electronic roots and consistently varied his rhythm throughout

his set with differing levels of intensity to maintain the energy of the room while also providing all the thrills that fans look for when attending a DJ set.

Ultimately, over the course of an exciting evening that entailed a two-hour set time from the young Canadian DJ, perhaps the most exhilarating moment arrived during the finale when OVERWERK finished his mix. As the lights dimmed, the noise of the audience grew to a low murmur. Suddenly, it became evident that the audience craved a final display of OVERWERK's expertise as they shouted for one more song.

Just as one suspected that the night was over, OVERWERK blasted the title track of his new EP, *Conquer*, to the delight of the crowd at Pearl. The track garnered loud cheers from the audience that appreciated OVERWERK's new release.

Following a great performance at Pearl, it is clear that OVERWERK is an electro force to be reckoned with, and fans of his work can look for him to further push the boundaries of his productions in 2014.

OVERWERK was unreachable for an interview with *The Cord*.

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A week with Davis

SPENCER DUNN
STAFF WRITER

Inside Llewyn Davis, the Coen Brothers' latest movie, is playing exclusively at Princess Twin Cinema for Waterloo viewers. John Tutt, owner of the Princess Cinema, indicated that over the opening weekend, many showings of the movie were sold out.

The film chronicles a young man's journey as he tries to be a folk singer in 1960's Greenwich Village in New York City.

The film features Oscar Isaac, John Goodman, Carey Mulligan and a turtle-neck-wearing Justin Timberlake. The movie, like most Coen brother's movies, is outstanding. The film provides a deep melancholy that will last for days. The flick actually has very little plot, but the actions that Llewyn takes makes the audience question their own day-to-day activities. The film also stars a number of cameos from famous modern folk musicians.

The movie can technically be classified as a musical because it features live recordings of Isaac singing folk songs and entire songs are performed in the same style as a musical. Isaac's voice coupled with the acoustic guitar is the perfect blend for the soundtrack.

The soundtrack is a combination of traditional folk songs, written-for-the-movie songs and folk songs of the '60s. It is performed primarily by Isaac, but features a vocal cameo from Marcus Mumford who

performs the song "Fare Thee Well."

Much of the film is based on Dave Van Ronk, who performed in Greenwich Village in the '60s, parallel to Llewyn Davis' journey. Van Ronk was overshadowed by an up-and-coming Bob Dylan and the movie features a very brief scene that indicates the same thing may happen to the titular hero of the film.

Listening to the soundtrack and watching the movie are like going to a folk concert. The songs are sung with conviction and emotion and are performed in their entirety in the movie, giving a feel of sitting in a dingy cafe (much like the infamous Gaslight Cafe featured in the film).

The movie is one of many films that came out this year that featured music from popular artists.

Unlike usual soundtracks where the director chooses songs to match the tone of the film, movies like *Inside Llewyn Davis* and *Her* are both collaborative works with the directors and the songwriters. This could be a shift from traditional musical styles into a different way of seeing how musicals can be performed and acted.

The film was not nominated for any of the major Oscar categories, though it has been nominated for Cinematography and Sound Mixing. This is a real shame as the movie had real promise to be one of the best pictures of the year and, in my opinion, still holds true to this title.

Check out *Inside Llewyn Davis* exclusively at Princess Twin Cinema until January 23.

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EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor
Dani Saad
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New housing developments changing student experience

The traditional idea of a student home in Waterloo has been largely erased by the demolition of older student homes in favour of apartment buildings. These apartments have been accompanied by higher prices, zoning issues and increased restrictions on existing small-home owners.

Before the latest “build-up” trend, there were many houses in various states of disrepair prior to being replaced, so it is a positive step having clean, safe housing available for students. New developments, such as the new Northdale plan, offer student accommodations that vary in quality and in cost, despite average costs rising in recent years.

However, as apartment buildings continue to develop near campus, we need to look to alternatives. Students aren’t the only ones running out of options, as landlords are increasingly limited by licensing bylaws that do not apply to apartment buildings. Waterloo and the university should be looking at comparable student towns to gain insight into student housing solutions that do not exclusively focus on apartment buildings.

Apartment buildings are severely altering the history and culture of the area while also taking business opportunities away from homeowners and landlords. At the very least, they are increasingly unoriginal as more are built each year, lining the streets surrounding campus with dozens of similar structures. There seems to be a sense of contentment among development groups to continue constructing similar buildings and a fear of branching out to other types of student housing options like townhouses.

Eventually, rent prices will level out and possibly decrease as apartment buildings continue to create supply faster than demand requires. However, in the meantime, students are suffering from rent costs substantially higher than just a few years ago. Comparable to Toronto prices, some apartments charge upwards of \$800/room which are not only too high for the area but also unreasonable for most student budgets.

Developments are designed and constructed with remarkable pace, but community members, developers and university stakeholders need to be sure that a structured approach is taken with the future of Waterloo and student housing in mind.



LENA YANG GRAPHICS EDITOR

OSAP break for volunteering clever but limited in scope

The provincial government announced recently that post-secondary students in Ontario will be given a break on their OSAP student loans in exchange for volunteering for the 2015 Pan Am Games in Toronto. The offer is enticing but presents several questions regarding selectivity of the initiative.

Students with personal loans or student loans, or those who have worked through university to make ends meet, will see no break for their volunteerism.

One particular concern is that students and recent graduates can only take advantage of the opportunity if living in close proximity to the games. Those outside of the GTA have no incentive to volunteer beyond personal desire and it is unlikely that students can afford to travel long distances to volunteer instead of working a summer job, often necessary to pay back student loans.

It is unclear what kind of commitment is required to receive the OSAP credit, but the government will have to put a value on student volunteerism, which will reveal their understanding of student debt as well. In addition, it is unclear how students will manage to volunteer in the middle of July when they would typically be working a summer job.

It is certainly a smart strategy for the Pan Am Games, which will require volunteers. Moreover, it could be argued that students should take any break they can get on loans. It is not in the best interest of students to fight back against saving money.

However, this offer devalues the volunteerism of others who are spending time volunteering elsewhere. If someone has volunteered at a homeless shelter, a group home, a hospital or food bank for years while attending school, is the volunteer work of those students somehow worth less than the work of those volunteering with the Pan Am Games?

The idea behind this initiative is good and mutually benefits students and the Pan Am Games, but limiting this offer to one specific event and location does a disservice to individuals who actively volunteer and need help with student loan repayment.

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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Gender shouldn't define how we appreciate sports



SHELBY BLACKLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

I've come to the — probably not even close to shocking — realization that I am absolutely obsessed with sports.

I've also come to the realization that I am obsessed with university sports.

But regardless, my involvement in the entire university sport realm has opened my eyes to many different aspects I otherwise would have never noticed.

First, let's back up a little bit. In my first year at Laurier, and essentially my first year with The Cord, I had the privilege of covering the Canadian Inter-university Sport (CIS) women's curling championship. Laurier won. Around the same time, Laurier's women's hockey team also won the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) championship.

It was a thriving time for sports at Laurier. Teams were bringing in banners and finishing high in national competition. Media coverage was frequent and the school had plenty to celebrate. But there was one problem. They were women's teams.

Fast-forward almost two years later and I'm having the discussion again. I've been lucky enough to be the sports editor for two years.

I've seen teams fail, I've seen teams thrive, I've dealt with drama and I've experienced celebration. I've seen all that you could in a two-year tenure in the same position.

But the more I cover sports at Laurier, and even university sports across Canada, I notice more and more the imbalance in gender that surrounds me.

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This is a plea to recognize a good sports team by their record and players rather than their gender identity.

Let's start with the same example I used two years ago. Women's basketball is having one of their best seasons, arguably, ever. They're currently 12-2 with eight games left and just cracked their best-ever national ranking on the CIS top ten. They're one of my favourite teams to watch right now because of their impeccable depth and outstanding ability to win close games.

Still, regardless of how good they've been playing or how much they've accomplished, the men still have a better showing and arguably better recognition for events. Be it as it may, but it's a fact.

Women's soccer won an OUA championship this past fall. It was a huge accomplishment for the program, as head coach Barry MacLean considered this year to be a rebuilding year. Qualifying for the OUA final was a feat on its own, but the Hawks proved why they were the best in Ontario.

And yet despite that accomplishment, despite the fact that almost no one expected a banner to be brought home, the achievement was almost swept away with the fall season.

It seemed to be almost a fading presence, especially when the team went to nationals and came home with nothing but injuries.

I heard plenty of comments about the woes of the Laurier football team around campus and at bars, but nothing about the women's soccer team's glory.

Moving to hockey now. Laurier's women's hockey team has, since Rick Osborne has been at the helm, one of the best teams on Laurier's campus. They've brought home back-to-back-to-back OUA championships and yet they never get the recognition they deserve.

Even when I say I'm covering women's hockey on a Friday night, I get sexist comments about how it's not even worth it. And events always surround the men's team.

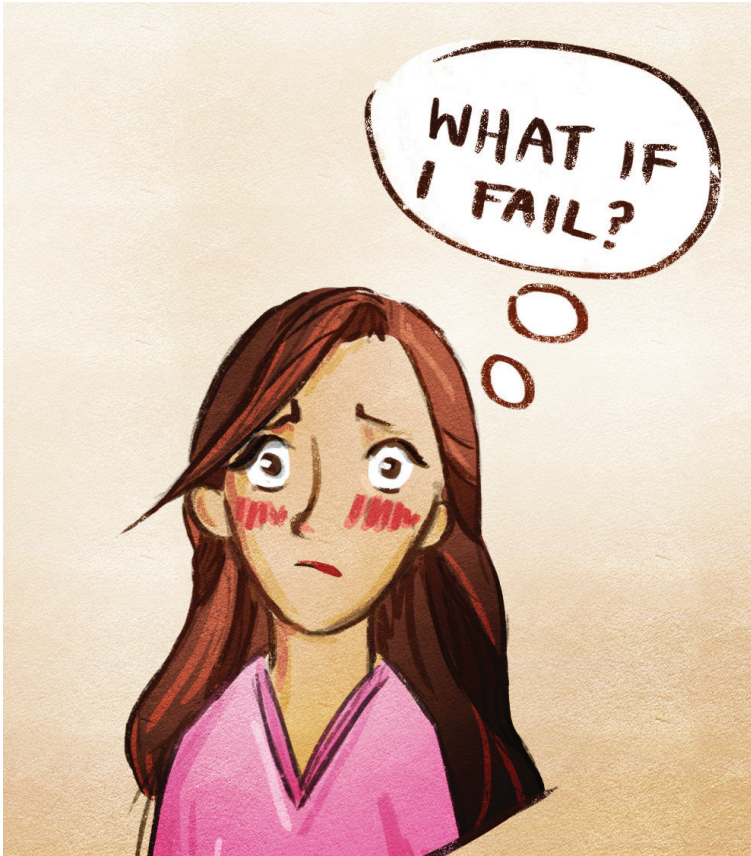
It's almost juvenile to think that way, but the amount of times I've found myself justifying the accomplishments of the women's teams is outstanding.

This is a plea to recognize a good sports team by their record and players rather than their gender identity. Regardless of their gender or the team they play for, this is about celebrating varsity sports and their accomplishments. Not just the sex of the players.

I enjoy a good men's hockey game on a Thursday night. I will gladly take in a good men's basketball game on a Saturday afternoon. They're fast-paced, interesting games that have the potential to entertain me for eternity.

But I would equally enjoy watching the skill and speed of the women's hockey team, or the balanced offence of the women's basketball team any day of the week. So don't count them out. Because they, too, are bringing Laurier hardware.

OPINION

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LENA YANG GRAPHICS EDITOR

Push through your own limits

Take time to reflect and figure out how to accomplish goals and find self-fulfillment

LEAH DEJONG
OPINION COLUMNIST

Sometimes I ask myself why I haven't done anything, or at least any of the things that I planned to do. I was going to get in shape, finish writing that novel and generally do great things. But I didn't. There was no big reason why I didn't do them, I just didn't.

I had opportunity. I know where the gym is and how to open that file on my laptop. I had time. Those hours I spent binge watching TV or lying on the floor could have been spent more productively. I just didn't. I had motivation. It's easy to dream of that life just beyond the horizon. I know what I want but for some reason I've never bothered to get up and go get what I want.

I've had years and I just 'never got around to it'. This isn't just me. We all have plans, intentions and goals. All the lovely things that 'we're definitely going to do... just maybe tomorrow.' We dream the impossible dream and then let it get dusty.

We know that life is about chasing that dream so we plan it all out in our heads. We know exactly what to do. Our hands are on the figurative door to our ideal future. And then we don't push.

And I'm betting that my reason is the world's reason. Fear. Shame. Guilt.

The second I put my hand on that door and start to push, the demons start leaking through. "You'll never be able to do it. You're not good enough, remember that one time when... You don't deserve that. I know your secrets. Who do you think you are?"

Fear that I'll crash and burn. Shame that I even want to try. Guilt that I'm not good enough anyway.

But we don't like to hear those things. I don't even like to acknowledge that I'm being bombarded by them so we cover them up. Apathy.

"It doesn't really matter. I'll do it later. Uggg, it's too hard. Who really

cares? I'll never get there anyway."

We're not lazy, we're afraid to try. Laziness is just a convenient excuse. Nobody likes looking fear and shame in the face. So we just don't do anything. We think, "I can't go to the gym, everyone there will already be in such good shape. I'll look like a fool." We say, "I just don't have time to go to the gym. I'm too tired."

The first is true but we come to believe in the second. We believe our own lie because we don't want to face the fear that the first might be true. It's easier to simply dismiss it then to check its validity.

If I finish writing the novel then I have to let people read it. It might stink. Better to not write it. I'll write it when I'm a great writer and there's no chance that anyone will reject it. But how can I be a great writer if I never write?

It's easy to say that I'll go to the gym when I'm in shape, that I'll push the door to my future open when I know that the demons can't get me. When I know I'll succeed.

But in my opinion there are two truths that punch huge holes in that plan.

The demons will always be able to get me. Much of that fear, shame and guilt comes from me. I'm my own demons and, though I might be able to diminish them, I'll never be rid of myself. I know all my shameful secrets and my biggest fears.

There's plenty to fuel my apathy. The second truth is the only way I think I might be able to open the door. No good story starts with a bulletproof character; every hero has a weakness — a hole for the demons to pick at. Superman had kryptonite.

The demonless person does not exist. If I keep telling myself that I'm only going to open the door when I can kick it down and crush the kryptonite between my teeth then I'm never going to open the door.

So I don't want to see the bulletproof person. They're a lie. What I want to see is the person who does something in spite of the demons. The person who dares to face the fear, guilt and shame, who refuses to hide under apathy. I want to watch myself grapple with my own demons.

To dare greatly. To do something. To do.

Legalization advances inevitable, admirable

BRAD KLEINSTUBER
OPINION COLUMNIST

On Jan. 1, the media waited in silence for something to happen on the first day of marijuana legalization in Colorado. Someone had to go crazy, yell at the police or give an embarrassing interview.

Pretty much nothing happened, of course; marijuana was legal in all but name in Colorado before full legalization, and many of the first-day shoppers were from out of state.

At this point continued coverage of marijuana legalization is basically a joke.

The plans in Colorado and Washington, which will have its beginning in the spring, are reasonably solid. The only real threat is federal action.

The fact that Barack Obama's regime has continued the crackdown on medical dispensaries is disgraceful. Early in his career it looked like he'd be willing to compromise on marijuana, but his government has dramatically increased raids on legal sellers.

The debate over pot is now more about jurisdictional squabbles than any real moral or political features. Practically nobody feels that the recreational use of marijuana by adults is immoral, provided the user is responsible.

And thus far, participants in marijuana legalization have been nothing but.

There are more good arguments than you can count on the legalization and decriminalization side, but I think there's a greater point that isn't made often enough. All the comparisons

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At this point, continued coverage of marijuana legislation is basically a joke.

to alcohol, the medical and industrial uses and the extra revenue are great arguments to legalize. But marijuana should never have been made illegal.

Marijuana just isn't sufficiently dangerous or destructive. It just isn't.

Sure, there are some side-effects to serious, long-term use, but nothing on the order of most other kinds of abuse or overuse.

Laws should not be based on such nonsense. Using drugs is not immoral, and for the most part marijuana in particular is just so innocuous no credible harm-based arguments remain.

The War on Drugs has been sustained for at least a few years by media hysteria and momentum more than substance.

Witness the hysteria over bath salts: mostly made up. There were few confirmed cases of people using bath salts as drugs.

You may have heard of krokodil, an alternative for heroin used in Russia. Reputedly, it causes gangrene, infection and even the loss of limbs. Once again, almost none of it is true: desomorphine is dangerous, but more importantly it is cheap.

With codeine widely available over-the-counter in Russia, manufacturing krokodil was very cheap as the cost of heroin production rose.

Desomorphine, also known by its street name, krokodil, became associated with skin damage and horrific tales because most of its users are desperately poor and using a very unsafe, unhealthy drug with little access to medical care. Infections would be common in such an environment anyways.

Now there's a panic over the use of krokodil in the United States. It's been whipped up by the media to no end, who delight in showing gory images of supposed addicts.

That only a handful of cases have been confirmed is irrelevant, as is the fact that codeine is not widely available in the United States, and creating krokodil would be much more expensive than buying heroin, for the most part.

Whenever people point out that the War on Drugs has failed in all of its objectives, that prohibition is a foolish strategy and that recreational drugs are widely over-hyped as a source of harm, the furor over scandalous new drugs like krokodil and bath salts gives defenders an easy way out.

So don't watch the headlines for crazy legal-recreational-pot stories. There won't be any. There might be some media sensationalism over nothing, but it won't be hard to tell when it is in fact based on nothing.

Medicinal marijuana is great. Decriminalized is good. But legalization is transparently obvious. There's few people to oppose it now.

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Neil Young misleading on oil sands

The public should educate themselves or trust reliable sources on a complicated topic like the oil industry



SPENCER GIBARA
OPINION COLUMNIST

Musician Neil Young has gotten a lot of attention lately for speaking out against the Alberta oil sands.

The problem, however, is Mr. Young simply doesn't know the facts. Everyone can have an opinion, but when someone has such a large platform, it would be nice for him or her to be knowledgeable about the subject.

After all, information is a powerful tool, and can be a dangerous tool if used incorrectly.

So what exactly is Neil Young's beef with the oil sands? Well it's the same rhetoric we've heard a million times already. He says it's bad for the environment, and bad for Canada. But this is a serious oversimplification.

He's singing the same tune that many politicians and environmentalists have been on about for years. But regardless of how many times a factually inaccurate statement is said, it doesn't suddenly become truth, even when it's coming from a celebrity.

Let's get the biggest error out of the way first. Neil Young is calling the oil sands, "tar sands." This alone shows what little understanding he has of the issue. We've all heard the phrase "tar sands" before, but what you might not have known, is that calling them that is misleading.

There is actually no tar in the sands. Not one drop. The oil sands refer to bitumen deposits, and while it may look and smell like tar, it isn't.

Now I wish Neil Young's misunderstandings stopped there, but it doesn't.

It seems like every day on tour, Young makes outrageously false

claims that he can't back up with evidence. First was when he claimed that Fort McMurray looks like Hiroshima. Yes, he actually said that. He compared the oil sands in Alberta to the city of Hiroshima after the atomic bomb was dropped.

Fort McMurray is a beautiful city, in the middle of a lush forest. Now where they actually do the mining, it's far from green, however, it looks no different from other open pit mines around the world, including the ones in California where Neil Young lives.

Young went on to declare that there has been no reclamation of land around the oil sands. Again, this is false.

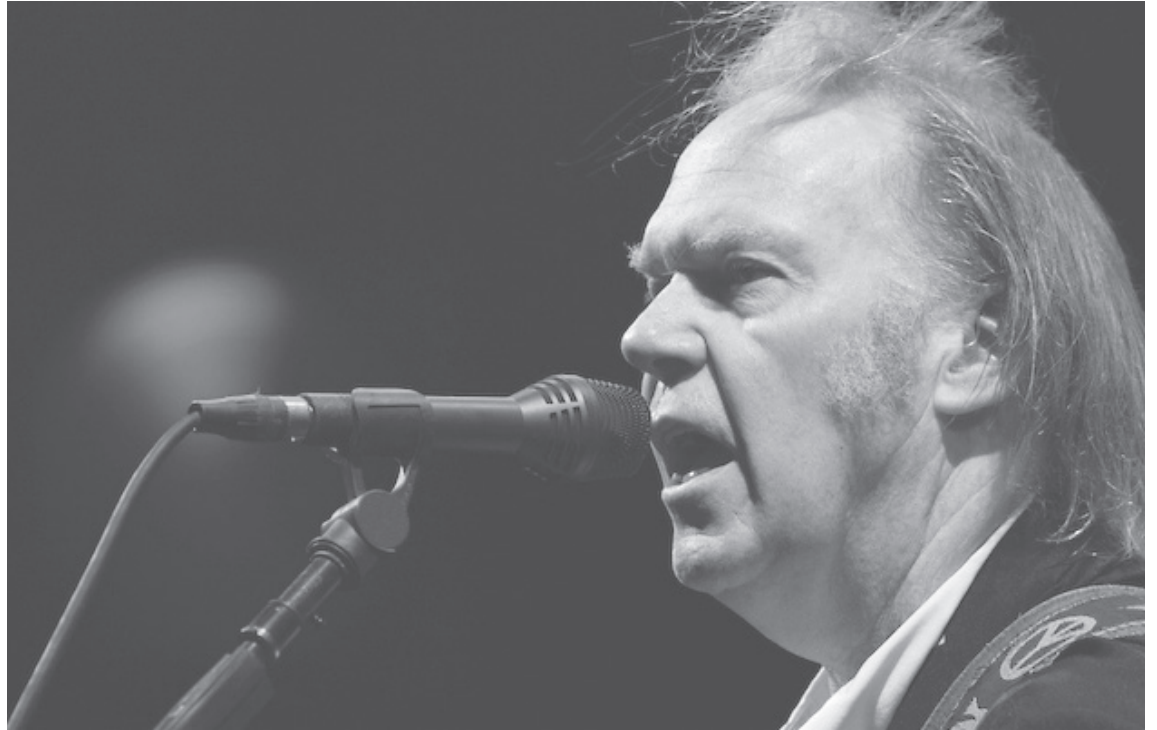
There isn't reclamation of land in states like California, or in the asbestos mines of Quebec, but in Alberta, it's the law that all open pit mines must be reclaimed. Already, around 70 square kilometres of land have been reclaimed in Alberta, and it's gorgeous. There are hiking trails, and even roaming herds of bison. It looks pristine.

Now as ridiculous as those claims of his are, they're still only referring to the aesthetics of the sands. People understand that mining looks dirty, but what we're really wondering about is the philosophical justification of these sands. Canadians debate about the benefits of these oil sands, and I'm afraid that once again, Young is plain wrong.

He argues, "The Canadian oil coming out of the ground is going to China. It's not for Canada. It's not for the United States. It's all going to China."

When I heard this, I was speechless. In the entire history of the oil sands, not one barrel has been sold to China, because as it stands, there is no economic way to actually get the oil to China. Every ounce of oil from the oil sands we export goes to America. Young really should do some fact-checking before making such claims.

Even after all of his statements, ranging from untrue to completely



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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I fear that in our celebrity-idolizing culture, we're too quick to trust the judgement of someone we see on TV.

laughable, we're still missing a major part of the debate: the environmental aspect.

What needs to be asked, is how much oil sands production affects the environment. And as expected, even on this question, Young stumbles into more myths that should

tarnish whatever credibility he has left.

He states that so much carbon is being emitted by the oil sands, it equates to all car emissions across Canada. All oil sands companies combined emit about 45 megatons of CO₂ a year, while all vehicles emit 170 megatons.

That means all vehicles across Canada generate almost four times more carbon than the oil sands. What he's saying just isn't true. It's all propaganda.

Finally, his next statement about the oil sands' pollution takes the cake. Young has travelled to Fort McMurray, and he tells his story about how the air around there smells like fuel and how the scent burns his eyes. I'm not going to dispute that claim, because the air there has been known to smell like gasoline; but that's my point. The oil in the oil sands has been bubbling up beneath the surface for hundreds of thousands of years.

The land around Fort McMurray has always smelled like that according to the earliest historical references we have. The air has been like that forever, and it has nothing to do with the mines. He doesn't understand the history.

What angers me about this whole thing is not Neil Young himself. I know numerous people who don't know or care about politics and the issues around us. The bothersome part comes from the Canadian public putting their trust into people like him, who don't hold intellectual weight.

Now I have professors who hate the oil sands, but at least they're in a field of academic study. Neil Young is a musician who has taken on the hobby of activism.

I fear that in our celebrity-idolizing culture, we're too quick to trust the judgment of someone we see on TV. It's gotten to the point where if Miley Cyrus started bashing the oil sands, I think we'd listen.



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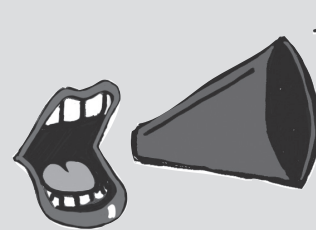
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SPORTS

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WILL HUANG STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

First-year goaltender Amanda Smith takes on a shot against the Toronto Varsity Blues on Saturday. Laurier lost 3-2 in a shootout.

Searching for the right combo

Women's hockey tries to shake up line combinations in effort to score more goals

DREW YATES
STAFF WRITER

After three shootout losses in four games, something had to give.

On Saturday night, the Wilfrid Laurier women's hockey team lost to the Toronto Varsity Blues 3-2 in a shootout.

Earlier last week, head coach Rick Osborne decided to mix up his lines coming into the game against the Ryerson Rams, where the team pulled away with a 4-2 win.

"Our lines were going really well and each line had a rookie on it. Since the beginning of the year ... the Degagne-Prevette line did all the scoring. Last night they did all of the scoring and a couple of [defence] scored. It was puzzling me why

the other two lines couldn't finish around the net," Osborne explained. "So I tried the three fastest players, the most skilled players on our team, and put them together because I assumed that they just weren't seeing people. We were trying to establish the ones with good vision on the ice and put them together, and the ones who win the races, win the battles."

Just like clockwork, the "fastest players" line — which consists of Laura Brooker, Megan Howe and Devon Skeats — connected, tying the game 1-1 late in the second period against Toronto.

Brooker also captured her 100th career point as a Hawk.

"The goal was created by knowing where each other was. It was like

a tic-tac-toe and it was all created with competitive speed in their end," Howe said.

"Sometimes you can think and you can think and you can think and other times it's just blind luck. You just decide, you get ticked off with somebody and you put three out together and all of the sudden it becomes magic and it stays that way for a little while," Osborne said regarding the line change. "You try to put the science into it, but sometimes it's just gut feeling."

So far, the line has picked up two goals and five assists over the weekend, with four of those points coming from the game versus Ryerson.

What is the next step forward if this line is to find success? Crashing the net is the answer.

"I think it's good that we have a girl driving the net. Me driving around the side [and] passing over. It's good when we have one girl over at the net and one girl that will hang back in the slot. [We] found that's the most effective," Skeats said. "The blue paint is where it happens. You have to have the speed, the skill and the courage to go there. When you play the top teams, that's where they are, around our net," Osborne reasoned.

The Hawks look to continue producing when they go against the Queen's Gaels on Saturday in Kingston. The game has major implications on the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) standings as two points separates the top four teams. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Five more years

Puhalski, Campbell sign extensions

The department of athletics and recreation at Wilfrid Laurier University signed the contract extensions of men's basketball coach Peter Campbell and men's hockey coach Greg Puhalski for an additional five years Tuesday afternoon.

Puhalski, currently in his fourth season at WLU, led Laurier to the playoffs in his first three seasons. He was named the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) West division Coach of the Year after the Hawks went 9-3-0 in the second half of the season. The award was the first for a Laurier men's hockey coach since the 1998-99 season. Laurier is currently 7-11-1.

Campbell is in his 14th season with Laurier's men's basketball program. WLU qualified for the playoffs in every season with Campbell except for one, and he has won the OUA West Coach of the Year award. In 2005-06, Campbell helped guide WLU to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships where they finished 9th in the country. The Hawks are currently 7-8 this season.

According to the release, the contract extension guarantees that Campbell will finish his tenure as a coach in the OUA with Laurier.

Both coaches have signed on with Laurier through the 2018-19 season. —Compiled by Shelby Blackley

Men's hockey hits playoff push

SHELBY BLACKLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

It's true that nothing's sweeter than revenge.

Last year, on Feb. 17 in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) West first round of the playoffs, Wilfrid Laurier's men's hockey team was eliminated by the Guelph Gryphons in a devastating 3-2 overtime loss in game three.

Laurier met Guelph in the first round and after winning game one, dropped two in a row to say goodbye to their championship dreams.

That was the last time the Hawks and Gryphons saw each other before last Thursday, when Laurier welcomed Guelph to the Waterloo Recreational Complex.

And the game began exactly where it left off.

In a penalty-filled, dramatic scene, the Hawks and Gryphons couldn't solve were forced into a shootout, where former Kitchener Ranger Derek Schoenmakers scored the game winner in a 4-3 victory for Laurier.

"I kind of blacked out for a second there," laughed Schoenmakers. "It was a good feeling, especially today. The fans were great today ... so as soon as I saw the puck go across the line, I was thrilled."

In a back-and-forth affair, Laurier and Guelph combined for 70 minutes in penalties, while goaltenders Vinny Merante and Andrew Loverock stopped over 30 shots each to keep their teams in the game.

"We hadn't seen this team yet this season, but they're a very good

team," first-year Merante said, who stopped 34 of the 37 shots he faced. "They move the puck well and they're fast, but we answered and it was a good all-around game by both teams."

In his first year, Merante has shared the net with first-year Shayne Campbell as well as veteran Duncan Long. However, against Guelph, Merante came up big for Laurier, making two of three stops in the shootout.

"I felt comfortable out there, knowing the team's there with me and playing a good, team game," Merante said.

The win was much needed for WLU, as they currently sit tenth in the OUA West, needing to be at least eighth to make the playoffs.

"It's a huge [win]," Schoenmakers said. "Guelph's ahead of us and we're definitely chasing the playoffs, so these are the teams we want to catch if we want to get there. So tonight's win was huge."

Currently the eighth position is occupied by the Brock Badgers, who sit six points ahead of Laurier with nine games left.

After a loss against the Windsor Lancers on Friday, the next few games will be crucial for Laurier to climb their way into a playoff spot.

"We've been playing strong together [lately] and we know we're in a playoff push right now and we have to keep coming through," Merante said.

Laurier will entertain the York Lions Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the Waterloo Recreational Complex.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of January 20-26

RECENT SCORES

01.15.14

W Basketball 67- Brock 47
M Basketball 98- Brock 88

01.16.14

M Hockey 4 - Guelph 3 (SO)

01.17.14

W Hockey 4 - Ryerson 2
M Hockey 3 - Windsor 6

01.18.14

M Basketball 69 - McMaster 87
W Hockey 2 - Toronto 3 (SO)
W Basketball 70 - McMaster 69

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

01.22.14

W Basketball vs Waterloo
Athletic Complex Gym, 6:00pm
M Basketball vs Waterloo
Athletic Complex Gym, 8:00pm

01.23.14

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

01.25.14

W Basketball vs Guelph
Athletic Complex Gym, 1:00pm
M Basketball vs Guelph
Athletic Complex Gym, 3:00pm

01.28.14

M Hockey vs Waterloo
Waterloo Rec Complex, 11:00am

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HEATHER DAVIDSON FILE PHOTO

Big win gives Hawks record ranking

MARK BAXTER
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier women's basketball team refused to throw in the towel this past Saturday as they faced the McMaster Marauders. Despite being down for the majority of the game, the Hawks managed to edge out the Marauders 70-69.

"I was happy with our compete level, we made a bunch of mistakes but through hard work we found a way to win," said head coach Paul Falco.

With that win, and an additional win earlier in the week against the 7-7 Brock Badgers, Laurier vaulted to No. 7 in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) top ten rankings on Tuesday.

This ranking is the best in the program's history, after being ranked No. 9 for the weeks of Jan. 14

and Dec. 3, 2013.

"It's obviously great for the program," Falco said Tuesday afternoon.

"It's nice for the girls and for the program, but the big thing for us is to keep our position and move up in the standings.

A play that optimized this compete level against McMaster on Saturday was made by fourth-year veteran centre Doreen Bonsu in the late stages of the game. After Bonsu missed her potential game tying shot, she drove the net, collected her own rebound and sank the second shot while being fouled. The basket was vital for the Hawks as it tied the game at 69 with 21.9 seconds left.

"It's been huge having her back and healthy. She's playing hard and playing well. She is an inspirational leader for us," Falco said of Bonsu.

Bonsu was sidelined earlier in the

season with continuous concussion symptoms from the 2012-13 year.

She returned to the Hawks in mid-November.

Laurier then went on to cap off the comeback thanks to an ill-advised Marauder foul with 2.1 seconds on the clock that sent Laurier's Lee Anna Osei to the line on the bonus.

Osei made one of two free throws to secure the win for the Hawks with minimal time left for McMaster to move up the court.

Throughout the game Laurier struggled to contain McMaster's leading scorer Hailey Milligan who scored 34 points, and eclipsed the 1,000 point mark in her career against WLU. She now sits second in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) for points with 274.

"Number 12 [Milligan] is a great player, we needed to focus on her

... but we just were not there defensively," said Bonsu.

Nevertheless, Laurier's offence countered with a balanced offensive attack as ten different players scored for the Golden Hawks.

Leading the way were fourth-year guard Laura Doyle and first-year guard Nicole Morrison who scored 13 and 12 points, respectively.

"It is definitely a confidence booster, but then again we see we won by one [point], so there is lots of work we still have to do," said Bonsu.

Laurier won a close game against the Western Mustangs merely a week ago, when the Hawks edged out the visiting Mustangs 74-73.

The win sees Laurier hold on to their second place position in the OUA West division.

Falco acknowledges the challenges that come with keeping the

mentality of a highly-ranked team focused, but believes the depth of his team will help in the upcoming weeks.

"It's a concern as a coach that the girls might come out flat, but hopefully with the experience [we have], — we have a lot of fourth-year girls — some of them have been ranked in previous years and have experience with that," he said.

"Hopefully they can help stay focused and realize what we do on the court is what we're going to be known for."

The Golden Hawks will look to continue to chase down the top spot in the OUA West division on Wednesday as they host the battle of Waterloo against the Waterloo Warriors.

Tipoff is 6 p.m. at the Athletic Complex.

—With files from Shelby Blackley

Laurier drops to tie for third

Men's basketball loses 87-69 decision in divisional battle to Mac

JOSH PETERS
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier men's basketball team welcomed the dominant 10-3 McMaster Marauders to the Athletic Complex on Saturday afternoon looking to grab an upset and reach .500 on the season.

Unfortunately, Laurier put forth a disappointing performance, falling 87-69 in a game where they were never really able to get going.

Right off the opening tip, McMaster established their inside game, which tended to be a trend, as their centre Nathan McCarthy finished with a game-high 18 points.

Laurier's outside shooters, fifth-year Max Allin and third-year Will Coulthard, struggled to get their shots to fall early.

However, some good defence and timely baskets helped the Golden Hawks to be down just seven at half time, 39-32.

Head coach Peter Campbell focused on the few positives from the first half which included a solid defensive stretch.

"There was one brief period we played pretty good defence for the first 25 minutes ... if we could do that consistently against a team like that, that has lots of weapons, then we are playing good defence," said Campbell.

The Golden Hawks carried that effort into the second half for about two to three minutes until some brutal turnovers and missed shots

from key guys allowed the game to slowly slip away. McMaster pushed the lead all the way up to 16 and it grew from there.

McMaster is a team whose offence is a well-oiled machine on an average day and coach Campbell attempted to break down what makes them so hard to guard.

"The problem with that is if you don't double down. [Joseph] Rocca is a three-point shooter, [Adam] Presutti is a three-point shooter ... we are not going to win a game like that, if all of our guys aren't going," stressed Campbell.

The Marauder's style of play forced Laurier to play more of a half-court game, which suits the visitors a lot more.

It was a frustrating day offensively as the Hawks were getting the opportunities, but the shots just weren't flowing.

Allin was just 5-for-17 from the floor and only 3-for-10 from three-point range and the team as a whole shot just 32.4 per cent.

Fortunately, there was a lone bright spot on the court on Saturday in Matthew Chesson, who had a long-awaited breakout game.

Chesson had a double-double, scoring 12 points and grabbing 13 boards.

Chesson suffered a concussion in the fall and didn't have an opportunity to get going so far this season.

"It's definitely the breakthrough game I was looking for. It's been a

"We need to just be working hard, exploding, rebounding like hell and we have to transfer that to the game."

—Matt Chesson, second-year centre

rough season with me and injuries. This is kind of the way I expected to play in my second year," said Chesson.

Chesson's play gave him some recognition from his coach as well.

"He played hard and he had some things go well for him ... so that's the first time he's looked like a basketball player since that hit so that's good," said Campbell.

Next up for the Golden Hawks are the Waterloo Warriors on Wednesday at Laurier's Athletic Complex, as they look to get back into winning ways after dropping three of their last four and falling to 6-8 on the season.

"We need to just be working hard, exploding, rebounding like hell and we have to transfer that to the game," Chesson said.



HEATHER DAVIDSON FILE PHOTO