



A recent partnership with Centre in the Square and loosening licence restrictions are bringing K-W food trucks out of hiding.

Arts & Life, page 8

Class scheduling system raises concerns

MARISSA EVANS
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

The new process for scheduling classes at Wilfrid Laurier University was intended to optimize space and make scheduling easier, but has resulted in students and faculty alike expressing concerns over the changes it has produced.

“It seems like they really didn’t think about how it would affect their students or even their profs,” said Ivana Ivankovic, a fourth-year Laurier student.

The process, which is now

automated and involves a computer crafting the schedule, created more Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes than in other years to ensure there are no gaps in the schedule.

Ivankovic started a petition at the end of the winter term to discourage these 50 minute classes. Her main concern is the problems they cause for commuters.

“What I try to do is get all my classes down to two or three days a week so I’m not wasting my money on gas and my time,” she said.

But with classes three times a week that last 50 minutes, her

commute will be more frequent and take longer than the actual class.

Now that the dynamic schedule has been posted, Ivankovic said she isn’t sure she’ll be submitting the petition and will instead “have to try to make it work.”

Tom Buckley, assistant vice president of academic services, emphasized that it’s a different scheduling process they’re using, rather than a completely new system. Previously, departments provided the registrar’s office with a list of classes and times. The office would then manually schedule all 1,500

course sections in the 60 available classrooms.

A draft schedule would be published and faculty would communicate conflicts to the registrar, who would then correct them.

“We’d get all these requests from the faculty and then have to change 40 per cent of them because they were developed in isolation,” Buckley explained.

In an effort to resolve this first round of conflicts, the registrar’s office decided to use an automated

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“It seems like they really didn’t think about how it would affect their students or even their profs.”

—Ivana Ivankovic, fourth-year Laurier Student

Inside

Wellness on the way

Services move to Bricker residence for the summer due to wellness centre construction.

Campus, page 4



Life of a summer student

Being a student is a year-round gig for many who remain in Waterloo for spring and summer classes.

Features, page 7



Rugby coach says goodbye

After a 0-7 season this year, men’s rugby looks for replacement

JOSH PETERS
SPORTS EDITOR

On May 5, Wilfrid Laurier University’s athletics and recreation department announced men’s rugby head coach Rob McQueen will not be returning for the 2014-2015 season.

Since joining the program in 2010, McQueen has compiled a 3-27 record with the club, with a winless season this past year.

“We went to our student athlete evaluation process, as we do every year. We do this with all of our sports, and all of our student athletes,” said Wally Gabler, coordinator of interuniversity sport at Laurier. “Based on those evaluations we felt that with the men’s rugby program we needed to move in a different direction.”

Second-year player Matthew Sneath was surprised with the decision and voiced his opinion on the coaching change.

“I just didn’t think it would happen so soon. I mean, I know that our record hasn’t been great in the past since he’s got here, so I can see from a record standpoint how the whole thing was probably conceived,” he explained. “It seems unexpected, because we had a lot going on in the next year or two.”

The team’s record was a blatantly obvious blemish in Laurier’s rugby program, however the student evaluations revealed their on-the-field record was as much of an issue as the off-the-field player-coach relationship.

“It was not based solely on his record. I would say connecting with

the players was definitely an area that we looked at and some of the feedback we got resulted in the decisions we made,” Gabler said.

However, while Sneath agreed communication was an issue in the past years, he insisted McQueen’s fundamental know-how of the sport was exceptional.

“His rugby knowledge is awesome. He is a hundred per cent dedicated to winning, and getting the best out of all of the boys,” Sneath said. “Sometimes he is so focused on that, that his ability to communicate things to players and have the more personal interactions wasn’t always there.”

Sneath said he understands the overall decision and where it is

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Editor-in-Chief
Kate Turner
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Editor's choice
Region prepares for election
Local, page 5



Editor's choice online
Laurier's signs get a facelift
thecord.ca



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EDITOR'S NOTE



KATE TURNER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It's hard to believe another year of The Cord has started.

Allow me to get sentimental for a moment. Four years ago this fall I joined The Cord as a volunteer photographer. Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought I was going to be the Editor-in-Chief one day.

But here we are four years later, and here I am sitting in the very chair I never thought I'd be in.

My only hope for this year is to make something that students love to read. And I really hope you do. More than anything else I'll be filling these pages with content you care about — because that's why The Cord exists.

The Arts and Life sections have been combined to better serve the needs of students, and will have a whole new focus on food, drink, sex and health, among other things.

This year I'm incredibly excited to introduce a redesign of both our print product and website. Both will be completed by September, and will be more visually appealing and functional.

I'm fully aware of the struggles the newspaper industry is facing. The "newspaper is dead" mentality drives my passion to make this one exceptional and prove the medium's worth.

That is why, in combination with heightened functionality and aesthetics, I'm fully committed to the quality of content The Cord will be producing this year. We are going to be taking new approaches to reporting that we hope will enlighten and entertain the likes of Laurier's student body.

All I can say is I hope you enjoy what we do this year, and I hope you all stay informed about what's happening around you.



Meet The Cord's 2014-2015 staff

Top row, left to right:
Joshua Awolade - Graphics Editor, Daina Goldfinger - Lead Reporter, Connor Ward - Lead Reporter, Heather Davidson - Photo Editor, Bryan Stephens - Arts & Life Editor, Shelby Blackley - Campus News Editor, Will Huang - Photo Editor, Andrew Harris - Copy Editing Manager, Josh Peters - Sports Editor, Kha Vo - Lead Photographer.

Bottom row, left to right:
Alanna Fairey - Features Editor, Kate Turner - Editor-in-Chief, Lena Yang - Creative Director.

Not pictured:
Marissa Evans - Senior News Editor, Mynt Marsellus - Web Director, Kaitlyn Severin - Lead Reporter, Moyo Arewa - Opinion Editor

UPCOMING EVENTS: MAY 14-JUNE 18

Screening of The Way, Way Back Waterloo Public Library May 14 at 6:30pm	Victoria Park May 19	May 24 Waterloo Memorial Rec Complex
Unwrapping Egypt exhibit opens THEMUSEUM May 15	Tai Chi Waterloo Public Square May 20 7:45 a.m.	Open Streets Waterloo Uptown Waterloo June 15
K-W Psychic fair Bingemans May 16-19	Craig Cardiff Maxwell's May 22 at 8pm	Hey Ocean! Starlight Social Club June 18 at 8 p.m. (19+)
Victoria Day Celebrations	Tri-City Roller Derby TKOs vs Dishes/ Tramps vs Kingston Derby Girls	Just for Cats: Internet Cat Video Festival Princess Twin June 12 at 7 p.m.

Vocal Cord

Do you get the true "student experience" as a summer student?



"Yeah. Experience is based on what you do with it."
—Neera Kohli, fifth-year business & math



"I think it depends on what faculty you're in."
—Dylan Cleary, fourth-year business



"Probably not because there are no students to experience it with."
— Maggie Olszewski, third-year biochem



"No because there aren't many people here and not everything is open"
—Nick Garcia, second-year business and financial math



"I think you do, you still learn a lot and it's more intense, but it really depends on the student."
— Hirra Gilani, fourth-year political science

*Compiled by Shelby Blackley
Photos by Heather Davidson*

THE CORD
The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

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MAY 14, 2014
Volume 55, Issue 1
Next issue: June 18, 2014

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In 2014, the Canadian Community Newspaper Association awarded The Cord first place in the campus photography category.

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

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

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

The Cord is created using Macintosh computers running Mac OS X 10.5 using Adobe Creative Suite 4. Canon cameras are used for principal photography.

The Cord has been a proud member of the Ontario Press Council since 2006. Any unsatisfied complaints can be sent to the council at info@ontpress.com.

The Cord's circulation for a normal Wednesday issue is 6,000 copies and enjoys a readership of over 10,000. Cord subscription rates are \$20.00 per term for addresses within Canada.

The Cord has been a proud member of the Canadian University Press (CUP) since 2004.



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:
"It could be shitting outside and I would still get coffee"
—Arts & Life Editor Bryan Stephens before a Tim Hortons run when it was raining outside.

Mental health disclosure questioned

ASHLEY DENUZZO
CORD ALUM

Ellen Richardson was ready for her dream vacation.

This was until she was denied entrance into the United States due to an event from her past — one that should never have been disclosed to border officials.

Richardson had signed up for a cruise exclusively for persons living with physical disabilities. However, once she reached the border, an officer looked up her personal information online.

“What’s this?” he allegedly asked. “You attempted suicide two years ago.”

Stunned and embarrassed, Richardson offered the personal number of her psychiatrist but it wasn’t enough. She was denied entrance unless she had signed permission from a pre-approved physician and physiologist in Toronto.

Richardson was unable to attend her dream vacation and lost her \$6,000 deposit.

“Could you imagine if that was you?” said Ann Cavoukian, the Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner. “The last thing you’d expect is a US border official having sensitive mental health information.”

Richardson’s now public story launched a national investigation into how and why such sensitive information was leaked to American officials.

It was found that some regional police services have been uploading personal records onto the Canadian Police Information Centre, an online database overseen by the Royal



Richardson was unable to cross the border after a US official accessed her personal information.

JOHN LIEDTKE CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

Canadian Mounted Police.

According to Cavoukian, the database is accessible by US officials.

“We didn’t know that there was a reciprocal sharing agreement with the United States FBI, Homeland Security and Border Crossing Officials,” Cavoukian added.

However, while some police services have been uploading all information, others have been using discretion, logic and reasoning when selecting which reports are uploaded and which ones remain confidential.

When it comes to suicide disclosure the Waterloo Regional Police

Services has been “doing this right,” said Stephen Beckett, the deputy chief of systems and innovation for WRPS.

“We establish a criteria of determining when an individual would be placed on CPIC.”

Cavoukian issued an announcement explaining that while no police services should be sharing private information regarding suicide attempt, there are four exceptions.

The suicide attempt must involve the threat of serious violence or harm to others, an intentional provocation of a legal response by the police, a previous history of violence

of harm to others or the suicide occurred within police custody.

“If one of these conditions do not apply then don’t send it,” Cavoukian emphasized.

“There is some room for us to improve,” said Beckett, on WRPS’s response to the new criteria. “The recommendations [Cavoukian] provided in her report are ones that are workable and we will certainly adopt.”

Recently, Cavoukian has been working with Matt Torigian, chief of police of WRPS. She has been learning their practices and devising a mental health disclosure test to use

in cases to determine when information should and should not be uploaded onto CPIC.

Cavoukian said that WRPS has emphasized a focus on the needs of police officers when dealing with a suicide case.

“We’re always looking to learn from experts in the field,” she said. “We paid attention and we incorporated this into our four-part test.”

Beckett was also asked about the ethics of CPIC — whether a suicide attempt should remain a private matter between a person’s family.

“I do believe that it is ethical for sharing information,” he said. “The debate surrounds the line as to where it gets shared or how it is used. For border services, to use information for anything other than public safety is where the questions come into play,” he continued.

“It’s very hard to say ‘no you cannot share information’ because it can be valuable and necessary in many circumstances.”

Moving forward, Cavoukian and WRPS are hoping to get more discussion flowing about mental health and public safety.

WRPS have actually partnered with mental health professionals when suicide calls come in. There is also sensitivity training taking place to better prepare officers for dealing with emotionally disturbed individuals or people experiencing mental health issues.

As for Cavoukian, she just hopes that suicide survivors are able to move past their incident without being haunted by past decisions.

“Ensure that they are not continually being stigmatized by this one mistake,” she said.



HEATHER DAVIDSON PHOTO EDITOR

Students gaining tech skills in the classroom

MARISSA EVANS
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

In response to the growth of technology’s role in the lives and careers of Canadians, some school boards in Ontario have agreed to allow a program into their elementary and high schools giving students the opportunity to develop computer-related skills.

The program, TechU.me, is an initiative led by the Ottawa Network for Education. Its mentor program began in Jan. 2012 with four schools and has since grown to 55, all within the Ottawa region.

“The purpose of the mentor program is to expose students young and old to science, technology, engineering or math – STEM kinds of career possibilities,” said Steven Evraire, director of TechU.me. “So they’re looking at what they can take in high school, what they can take in post-high school studies and the way to do that is to start them very young.”

The program involves industry

professionals visiting computer science or communication technology classes at a high school once a week for an entire semester, acting as a mentor to students. Students work for the semester on a mobile app, which they are developing for an elementary school class that they have been paired with.

As such, they are given the opportunity to be mentored and to become a mentor themselves.

“It’s really a deep dive because it’s not just a drop into an industry for a day and go back to school – it’s part of their regular curriculum and it lasts the whole semester,” explained Evraire.

In addition to developing programming and computer interface design skills, Evraire said students are also developing soft skills like teamwork and collaboration, how to listen to clients and respect deadlines.

Evraire explained that in his time as a teacher he noticed a slow decline in enrolment in computer science courses.

“From last year to this year in the schools that we partner with the mentor program, the enrolment in computer science and communication technology courses is up on average about 30 per cent,” he said. “So it’s really big.”

Carla Kirby, a teacher at AY Jackson Secondary School in Ottawa, is currently in her fourth semester working with TechU.me.

“They no longer believe that these programmers sit in front of a computer all day and that’s all they do,” said Kirby of what the program has taught her students.

This, she continued, makes the jobs more appealing to them and helps them see the possibilities a job in the technology industry could lead into.

The program has also made her students more invested in their work because they have elementary students relying on them to complete their apps.

“There’s a lot more ownership on it to the students. It’s not me fighting to get assignments in from the

kids,” she said.

Through the program, Kirby’s students have been able to use BlackBerry tablets and new versions of programs the school would be unable to afford otherwise.

“We give them on-site support and we provide them with the hardware, the software and the expertise to work with their students,” said Evraire. “For all of our initiatives, there is no cost to our schools.”

The mentor program is now in Waterloo as a pilot project.

Karen Klink, the executive director of the Business and Education Partnership in Waterloo, has been working with TechU.me on the pilot which has been rebranded as Apps4Learning. It began in February and will be finishing up this June.

Whether or not the program will continue in the fall is up to funding, Klink explained. Their funding for the pilot didn’t come through, but the two school boards in the region decided to foot the bill regardless.

“There’s 21 area high schools in the region – I would really love to

see this in all [of them],” she said.

Beyond expanding to Waterloo, Evraire said he’s also been contacted about bringing the program to Edmonton. Despite the possibility of having the program or initiatives like it nationwide, Evraire explained the difficulties of this as the federal government doesn’t have jurisdiction over education.

“But it is something that is really growing as a demand,” he continued.

Jonathan Grover, founder of iNotForProfit, has been mentoring at Saint David’s high school as part of the Apps4Learning program.

Grover said that hands-on learning is very important to him.

“I believe it’s difficult in a classroom setting to get that much hands-on learning rather than book smarts. I think this is a fantastic opportunity for them not only to get that hands-on learning, but actually see how the knowledge and skills they learned throughout their careers actually apply to a real world scenario.”

Health services move to Bricker

New wellness centre construction begins

KAITLYN SEVERIN
LEAD REPORTER

Counselling and health services have moved to Bricker residence this summer to prepare for the renovation of the new wellness centre.

The renovation, which is scheduled to be completed around mid-August, will merge both counselling and health services into one wellness centre at Wilfrid Laurier University in the same space, accommodating both the physical and mental needs of students.

In the meantime, Karen Ostrander, director of the student wellness centre, explained the services made the move on May 9. Health and counselling services reopened again on May 13 at their new location on the ninth floor of Bricker residence.

To access the services at their new location in Bricker, students will now have to use their OneCard. They will also have to call either the health or counselling extensions for permission to go up.

“Over the summer, we are all coming together in an integrated wellness centre so we’ll be using the circle of care model. We’ll be keeping one record-keeping system for all, so we’re hoping it’ll really improve the student experience,” Ostrander said.

She explained this “circle of care” model is part of the merging process of the services into the new wellness centre.

According to Ostrander, Bricker will need their building back by Aug. 15, when the new centre is set to open. Regardless, contractors estimate the newly-renovated space for the centre should be open in time for the fall term.

During the summer, health services will only have one doctor working each day, as the number of students on campus drastically decreases during the spring and summer term.

Ostrander said there are still enough appointments and counsellors to help out students during

“Over the summer, we are all coming together in an integrated wellness centre so we’ll be using the circle of care model.”

—Karen Ostrander, director of the student wellness centre

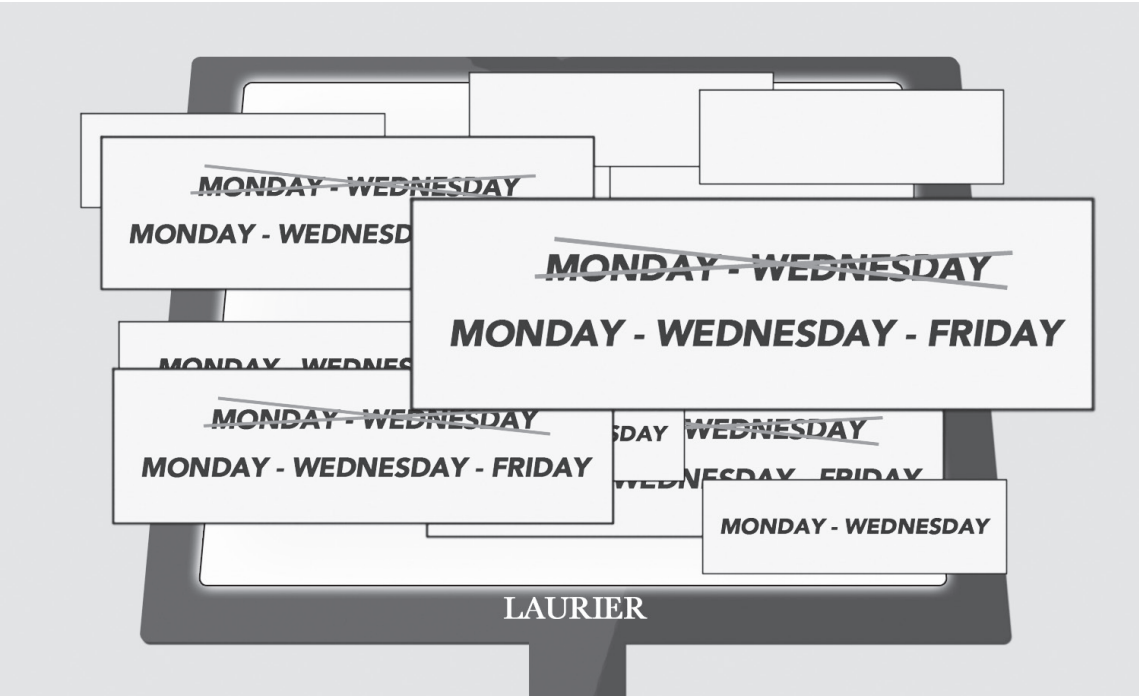
the summer months. Hotel Laurier, which allows outside contractors such as sports teams and conferences to rent out rooms in residence, is usually run out of Bricker throughout the summer. While King Street residence is also rented through Hotel Laurier, Bricker is one of the more popular residences. Laurier conference services, as well as Laurier-related events are also held in Bricker.

“They’ve been very gracious about making sure that we have an alternate location. Our dean of students [Leanne Holland Brown] felt very strongly that we obviously need to continue on with the services because, even though we have a decrease, we do need to provide services to students over the summer,” said Ostrander.

She also believes the new renovations will help students with a multitude of illnesses, both physical and mental, and said there will be new services in the centre, such as a dietitian and a chiropractor.

Adrienne Luft, Laurier mental health and student support team leader, said renovations for the new wellness centre will take place in the health and counselling services offices in the student services centre.

“The space will be reconfigured so we are all together,” she said.



JOSHUA AWOLADE GRAPHICS EDITOR

System to optimize space

—cover

system, inputting information such as courses, class size, teaching assignments and technology requirements into the system.

They also created standardized start times for classes.

“This was really about optimizing space,” Buckley continued.

From here, any conflicts that were realized were attempted to first be resolved within departments and then with the assistance of the registrar’s office.

“It’s fair to say a lesson learned for us was [when] we developed the draft schedule, in some instances we didn’t have a full set of requirements defined.”

Buckley explained that if teaching assignments weren’t provided prior to the scheduling, the system couldn’t avoid certain conflicts.

This also resulted in some faculty being scheduled to teach five days a week – a violation of the full-time faculty contract which stipulates they receive one day free of teaching per week.

The university has now entered into arbitration with Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association to discuss the contract violation.

And while the opening of the

Global Innovation Exchange building next year will create more space, Buckley said they will continue to use the automated system.

“If we don’t optimize the use of space then we won’t realize utilization outside of scheduled classes.”

The optimization of space, in other words, means there is more room available for student groups and speakers, for example, to use classrooms.

“Laurier is tight for space — we recognize that,” Markus Poetzsch, an associate professor in the English department, said.

“But we also recognize that human beings in many ways make more nuanced and better decisions than computer algorithms.”

He continued to say he believes the change was “rolled out too fast” and there was not enough collaboration behind it.

Poetzsch explained that as a result, he and his colleagues feel frustrated.

WLUFA president Robert Kristofferson believes the automated system “gives no opportunity for faculty members or chairs of departments to consider the best interests of their students or their own faculty members.”

“What we don’t understand is

why the administration would insist on using a system that prioritizes software over the experience and expertise of our faculty members,” Kristofferson said.

Pat Rogers, associate vice-president of teaching and learning, said of faculty members who are concerned about the learning outcomes associated with 50 minute classes, “I don’t know of any research that says one hour classes are better than one and a half hours or that three hours are better. It really comes down to how you design that period of instruction.”

Jeanette McDonald, manager of educational development, agreed with Rogers that no one timeslot is better.

“I’m just being very realistic that there are pros and cons to each timeslot and part of it is just thinking very purposefully about what you can achieve in that timeframe,” she said.

McDonald continued that she hopes professors see the changes as an opportunity to re-evaluate their courses and teaching.

“Sometimes having a push that comes externally, even though you don’t at the time appreciate it, hopefully it leads to something more positive.”



WILL HUANG PHOTO EDITOR

Ghose was honoured at the Women of Waterloo Region Awards.

An award for what you love

WLU professor claims Women of Waterloo award in education

KATE TURNER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Shohini Ghose doesn’t view teaching as a job — she views it as a privilege.

So when the physics and computer science professor at Wilfrid Laurier University claimed the prize for education at the Women of Waterloo Region Awards, she said she felt honoured to be acknowledged for something that is fun for her.

“I get to take my students on this journey of discovery about how the universe works. It’s like being a detective, and helping students solve this nice, interesting mystery – the ultimate grand mystery,” she said.

“That’s a privilege to be able to share my passion, so to me it’s really not a job.”

Last week, nearly 400 people attended the awards, where Ghose and seven other women were honoured for their achievements in entrepreneurship, health, science and technology, creative arts, professional service and more.

Ghose started teaching at Laurier in 2005 after seeing a job posting

for people with expertise in chaos, quantum information or optics.

“It was [for] one of them and I had all three, so it felt right.”

Her research focuses on quantum physics specializing in quantum information science.

However, she also has extensive experience with quantum optics and chaos theory in relation to quantum physics.

In other words, she was a perfect fit for the job.

Ghose has taught first-year astronomy, however she now predominantly teaches upper-year courses in quantum physics and quantum computing.

Rather than regurgitating information to students, she takes a much different approach to their learning.

“I want my students to be engaged in a way so that they are the ones who are unraveling the puzzle and working through to the ideas,” she said.

“It’s about how do they learn to learn? How do they get those skills where they ask the right questions — or any questions — and how do

they approach how to answer those questions themselves.”

In addition to teaching at Laurier, Ghose is also an affiliate at the Perimeter Institute for theoretical physics, a TED fellow, has co-authored a textbook and began the Centre for Women in Science at Laurier, which started in 2012.

Ghose is involved in substantial outreach for women in the sciences — encouraging women in science who face biases and inequality.

She herself faced bias in school, when many of her professors assumed she was a man when she handed in papers.

So, for her to win an award honouring the contributions of women is significant.

“This is an amazing group of women to be a part of, and Waterloo Region is full of incredible women doing incredible things,” she said.

“On one hand I find this is an incredible honour, on the other hand picking out one or two, or [eight] in this case is not enough. There’s too many incredible women doing incredible work that don’t get acknowledged but they’re out there.”

Region prepares for upcoming election

Job growth and transit are among the main concerns of all parties vying for the Kitchener-Waterloo riding

CONNOR WARD
LEAD REPORTER

On May 2 the lieutenant governor of Ontario, David Onley, ordered a provincial election for the date of June 12. The decision was made by Premier Kathleen Wynne after the leader of the Ontario New Democrats, Andrea Horwath, announced the party would not support the recently proposed Liberal budget.

The candidates of the Kitchener-Waterloo riding, housing both of the region's universities, seem to have met the announcement with newborn excitement and encouragement.

"I was part of the decision to force the election. The caucus and myself made the decision to not support the Liberal budget," said the riding's current member of provincial parliament, Catherine Fife. Fife is the New Democrats' economic development critic, and was privy to Horwath's decision.

Jamie Burton, the riding's Liberal candidate said, "The only thing I thought was 'Wow, what an incredible opportunity this will be.'"

"I was very excited to go into a campaign, because we do need change," said the Progressive Conservative candidate, Tracey Weiler. Weiler also mentioned the election announcement was a sign the voice of the people has been heard.

The campaign is now in full swing, with candidates making their way through the region to spread their respective party's platforms. The local candidates have largely taken the same strategy of canvassing door-to-door and meeting with members of the community in various other ways.

The candidates all mentioned that during canvassing, the same core issues of job growth, affordability and transit were concerns of various community members. However, each party differs on how to solve



Catherine Fife, pictured here during the 2012 byelection, is the current MPP for the Kitchener-Waterloo riding and will be running again. NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO

these core issues – especially job growth, which is quickly becoming the main talking point of the parties.

The New Democrats will be releasing their official platform in the near future, but have mentioned a key set of policies that they would enact if elected. Their platform is largely based on affordable hydro services for Ontario, implementing a financial accountability officer, seeking lower auto insurance rates and fostering job growth.

"We have a new job strategy, favouring a targeted tax credit system that focus on rewarding companies who do create jobs," said Fife.

The Liberal's platform is mainly running off their recently proposed budget. The budget's main policies were increasing partnerships with businesses in the province to

increase growth and innovation and increasing funding for the province's various education initiatives.

"The platform is about building opportunity and securing our future," said Burton.

"I think the key is the policy that has never been done before: the \$110 million investment into the developmental services."

The Progressive Conservatives are focused mainly on the issues of job growth and reducing Ontario's current provincial debt.

Their main job policy is called the "Million Jobs Plan," which aims to create one million new jobs over the next eight years. According to the plan, these jobs will be created through fostering a positive environment for businesses to invest, training more skilled workers to

keep up with current demand and reducing red tape.

"We have a plan to grow jobs over the next eight years, including jobs for young people, with youth unemployment being the highest in Ontario today," said Weiler.

The candidates also discussed what their party's platforms would bring to the K-W riding, and how each party would impact the region as a whole.

"Jobs will be there for students who either want to stay in the region, or move to another area of Ontario," said Weiler. "We want to keep K-W the great place to live and work that it is."

Burton discussed both the new partnerships with OpenText, bringing new jobs to the region and the Liberals' proposed transit initiative.

"Top of the list is the all-day, two-way Go [train]. It's a strong piece, and will absolutely increase investment to the community and bring in new business," said Burton.

Fife also believes the New Democrats would bring jobs to the region through their tax incentive policy, and differs with Burton on transit.

"We have endorsed the K-W plan for two-day all-day Go. That is different than the Liberals, who have just added two new trains," Fife said.

Overall, the three candidates do agree on a few things. First, the province needs change. Second, their party is going to win the K-W riding.

This further shows the confidence of the three main parties as Ontario moves through the following weeks to election day.

Adventure Rooms a new alternative to team building

JAMES BLAKE
STAFF WRITER

A local business tailoring to groups of friends and co-workers has introduced Kitchener-Waterloo with an entertaining activity that puts laser tag to shame.

Adventure Rooms, located near downtown Kitchener, offers a unique experience for groups of two to seven people in a race against the clock.

"The basic idea is that you are locked into a room and inside the game there are hidden elements. So you would be looking for things like codes, clues, keys, hints. You may use objects in very strange ways," explained Lisa Thomas, owner of Adventure Rooms' Kitchener location.

Players then have to use these tools to get out of the room in 60 minutes or less.

"Right now we have two games. So the original game has been here since we opened in October. We just opened the second game at the end of March," Thomas said.

According to Thomas, a third game may eventually be added as the response has been overwhelming so far in southern Ontario.

If you're unable to finish the game in the 60 minute time limit, she

explained that it's possible to try it again.

"Some people do. We generally have a rule that if you have made it less than 75 per cent you can return."

The record for the first game is around 21 minutes remaining and about 15 minutes remaining for game two. Only about 20 per cent of groups complete the games.

Adventure Rooms originated in Switzerland by a physics teacher who created it as an experiment for his students, Thomas explained. She took the concept and adapted it for a Canadian audience.

The response was overwhelming.

"They absolutely loved it ... It snowballed from there."

What brought the idea directly to Kitchener was Thomas's own participation during a trip she took to Europe.

"I went over as a tourist and I played the game. I also loved it," Thomas said. "I contacted them when I returned home. I asked them if they would be interested in franchising. At the time they had not even considered it."

Kitchener's Adventure Rooms — open since October 2013 — is the only official franchise in Canada and one of two in North America, along with a Hartford, Connecticut location. There are also several locations

"Really it appeals to everyone ... We generally recommend 11 years old up to 77."

—Lisa Thomas, owner of Adventure Rooms in Kitchener.

across Europe.

"Really it appeals to everyone. We have people who come that are eight to 10 years [old]. We generally recommend 11 years old up to 77."

And while their target audience is corporations, they still have groups comprised of family or friends.

Thomas also added that the game is playable by those with English as a second language as well as people who have claustrophobia as one can leave the game at any point. There is no scare factor to the game at all. It's all about problem-solving and using logic to find your way out.

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JOSHUA AWOLADE GRAPHICS EDITOR

Social media revenue down, membership up

CONNOR WARD
LEAD REPORTER

In the past few weeks, many of Silicon Valley’s major social networking companies have released earnings reports. In this round of report releases, many social networking giants have posted results that are more adverse than one might expect in an industry known for its rapid growth and prosperity.

The prominent professional networking company, LinkedIn, faced a six per cent decline in their stock price on May 1.

Reports of this kind may point to various changes in social media trends.

In the past few years, older demographics have come to embrace social media sites, changing their fundamental makeup. In addition, with so many people already having registered with sites like Facebook, it’s no wonder slower growth is being seen.

“I think they’re likely to reach a point where saturation happens; at which point it becomes more difficult to raise revenues,” said Peter Carr, lecturer of management sciences at the University of Waterloo.

However, companies like LinkedIn have not seen decelerated

growth in membership. They claim more and more professionals are travelling to the site every day, both to set up new profiles and take advantage of the new services their existing profile can offer them.

“I think back a few years ago we gained a member every two seconds. Now we gain two members a second,” said Danielle Restivo, head of global programs at LinkedIn.

LinkedIn is seeing an interesting change in demographics where the largest growth is occurring. A younger generation is starting to take advantage of networking and realizing the potential services like LinkedIn offers.

“Students are our fastest growing demographic,” said Restivo. “We’ve tailored the site to allow students still in school to show what courses they’re taking, what degree they’re pursuing, their extracurricular activities, etc.”

That being said, the social media market is definitely changing. A market that was once quite small has become immense, and new niches are found every day. Companies must now adapt to this new reality and find areas where they can both create and excel.

“It’s two things: allow current users to spend more time on the site,

and then also perhaps to attract new people who the new services and functionality is likely to appeal to,” said Carr. “But, the other key is to change how their advertising works.”

Sites like LinkedIn have already taken some of these thoughts into account, as they have fundamentally changed the features of the site, and allowed for users to spend more time logged on.

“The recent addition of all the content we have is making a difference in the number of times people want to keep coming back,” said Restivo.

As the social media market expands and changes, new trends will certainly come, and old trends must go. Recent changes by giants like Facebook and Twitter have come to show us that nobody can truly predict what the market will be like in the next few years.

“What could happen is the big products could introduce their own niche functionalities, or the smaller companies could expand and claim bigger market share,” said Carr.

“I think the biggest danger would be that big products would take over the market, making the market harder to penetrate, and that would be too bad.”

Liberal budget rejected by New Democrats

The Cord spoke to Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath and Liberal candidate for the Kitchener Centre riding Daiene Vernile to discuss the opposed budget from both sides in the wake of the upcoming election

DAINA GOLDFINGER
LEAD REPORTER

On May 2, Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said she would not be supporting the minority Liberal budget that was to be implemented, resulting in an election in June.

The budget supported by the Liberals is a 10-year economic plan that promotes job creation, changes in transportation and infrastructure and a provincial pension plan.

According to Daiene Vernile, Liberal candidate in the Kitchener Centre riding, there are plans for an all-day Go Train service, as well as the removal of the debt retirement charge from citizens’ hydro bills.

“I saw that they were promising 70 new promises in that budget after not having fulfilled three promises from the previous budget, and I couldn’t support a budget that I knew the Liberals would not deliver on,” Horwath said.

One crucial promise that was not fulfilled by the previous Liberal budget was the development of a financial accountability office.

“The Liberals did try to hire two qualified candidates, but on both occasions the NDP blocked it. In particular, it was Catherine Fife who stopped those guys from being hired, and yet that is the excuse they gave for not wanting to pass the budget,” Vernile said.

Horwath said the Liberals have also failed to fulfill promises of the reduction in Ottawa insurance rates, as well as homecare services.

She claimed the budget is a tactic used to distract Ontarians from the “scandal and waste” the Liberals have been involved in during their governance.

Vernile, however, stated this opposition and discussion of scandal is simply being used to distract citizens from the core issues at hand.

Horwath brought up the incidents of the cancellation of gas plants in Mississauga and Oakville, as well as the Ornge air ambulance scandal as previous examples of Liberal mishaps, despite this having little to do

with the budget.

“People deserve much better than that, and it is frustrating to watch the same things happen over and over again,” Horwath said. “People are tired of that kind of waste and misguided priority.”

Vernile continued to explain how, despite the budget encompassing a number of NDP-friendly initiatives, the party still chose to reject the motion, thus resulting in an election.

Horwath said that while there are some interesting components to the budget, it is not worth anything if the promises cannot be fulfilled, which is something she believes is a recurring theme with Liberal promises.

“...it is frustrating to watch the same things happen over and over again...”

—Andrea Horwath, Ontario NDP leader

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SUMMER IN THE CITY

Features Editor *Alanna Fairey* explores the life of a summer student by speaking to three Wilfrid Laurier University students who chose to stay here for work or classes

For many Wilfrid Laurier University students, the end of April marked the end of the school year and the beginning of summer holidays. However, while a large portion of students move back home for the summer, there are students who stay in Waterloo.

Whether they are in Waterloo for work, or because they are enrolled in spring or summer courses, the WLU campus and atmosphere still differs significantly in comparison to how it does during the fall and winter terms.

Being a summer student involves many adjustments. These students face a limited number of food services on campus, as the lack of student traffic has led to reduced hours, with many of the services to be closed until Labour Day weekend. This especially affects business co-op students, who often have a full course load. However, the social scene off-campus continues to thrive, despite a majority of students moving back home.

Services limited

Campus is not as busy as it is during the fall and winter terms, a pivotal factor in why most of the food services on campus do not re-open until the end of the summer. However, during the spring and summer terms, some services maintain limited hours.

Starbucks in the concourse is open until 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday and until 4 p.m. on Friday. Subway in Bricker Academic is open Monday through Friday — the hours are mostly focused around the middle of the day for the lunch period. In addition, the Graduate Student Association has Veritas Café open every day.

The Students' Union has also made the decision to have the on-campus restaurant, Wilf's, open only for special events, but they are

“...it’s not a ghost town like I thought it would be, that’s for sure.”

—Dylan Bannister, third-year student at WLU

not open for regular business over the summer.

“I tried to go to Wilf’s once this term and it was closed,” Sarah Mathews, a third-year English student staying in Waterloo for the summer for work, said. “I will have to research the hours of [other campus food services] for summer, because they don’t advertise it well.”

Dan Dawson, assistant vice president: student services at WLU, explained that Tim Hortons found in the Peters Building has normally been open during the summer in the past, because that is where the majority of classes are held for summer co-op students. However, there are renovations being made that have altered the decision to open it.

“This summer, there are some very extensive renovations taking place in the science building, where we do all of our baking to support our Tim Hortons locations. We can’t use the bakery this summer because of all the renovation work that is going on,” Dawson explained.

“We couldn’t open the Tim

Hortons to satisfy that demand so that’s why we chose to keep Subway open and extend the hours in that location, which is obviously the next closest location to the Peters Building where those summer classes are being held.”

The decisions to have these few food services open during the summer are not arbitrary — they are chosen based on where most students frequent during the summer.

“Basically, what [factors into the decision] is the traffic on campus, and then pick two locations that are centered on the campus,” Dawson said.

Andrew Lovett, a third-year BBA student, recalled his first day on the campus for the spring term — he was surprised the Terrace was closed. He said he had assumed this would be one of the open locations.

“The Terrace was always the busiest location during the year, so I thought that, at the very least, Union Market or something would be open,” Lovett said. “I was shocked, to be honest.”

Despite its popularity during the fall and winter terms, the Terrace does not generate a large crowd during the spring and summer terms, according to Dawson.

“We can’t have too many locations open because none of them would be busy enough to substantiate it,” he explained.

The Terrace and Wilf’s will open for regular business on the Labour Day weekend before incoming first year students move into their residences. Other non-food services available for summer students on campus are also the bookstore and printing services, as well as the athletic complex.

Student life still present

Dylan Bannister is in Waterloo for the summer to take a full course load at WLU and complete the third year

of his co-op program. He expected the presence of students on and off campus to be rather scarce. However, he said that is not the case.

“I thought the campus would be a lot emptier than it is, but it’s actually quite busy,” Bannister noted. “Certainly there are less students here than in the fall and winter terms, but it’s not a ghost town like I thought it would be, that’s for sure. I’ve only been here one week so far, so I haven’t had time to notice a ton of differences, but everyone seems a little more laid back — it’s nice.”

Mathews, who has frequented the campus on her days off work, has noticed that although there are students enrolled in classes, it doesn’t compare to the earlier terms.

“There are some people here but it’s a negligible number in comparison to the amount of people usually

meaning the attendance for classes are fairly high or equate to the normalcy of a class during the fall and winter semesters.

“My classes are just as full as they would be otherwise. Nothing to complain about in that regard though, it’s nice to see everyone again after four months away from Laurier,” Bannister said.

Due to the steady incline of warmer weather, a number of students are spending most of their time doing their readings and studying for their classes in areas such as the quad, as well as taking study breaks by blowing off steam on alumni field.

Summer students are not just sticking to campus either — they are also marking their territory on the familiar bars and clubs in the area.

Even though a significant number of students moved back home for the summer months, the bars and clubs in Waterloo have continued to thrive off business because of remaining summer students in addition to visiting students.

“The bars are just as full or more than in the other terms, and the restaurants all seem to be doing okay,” Bannister said. “I guess it’s something about the warmer weather, it just brings people out of their houses to spend money.”

There are many notable differences about being a summer student in Waterloo as opposed to being a fall and winter student. However, the experiences are still catalysts for a memorable semester and the summer students enrolled have many positive expectations for the semester.

“This seems to be shaping up to be a pretty fun term,” Bannister said. “I’ve signed up for enough things to keep myself very busy, and there’s always someone around to hang out with, so I’m quite looking forward to the coming semester overall.”

“We can’t have too many locations open because none of them would be busy enough to substantiate it.”

—Dan Dawson, assistant vice president: student services at WLU in regards to services during the summer

puttering around,” she said.

Business students enrolled in the co-op program have mandatory attendance for summer classes,

ARTS & LIFE

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Arts bites

The latest news in entertainment

‘Daily show’ comedian to take over ‘Colbert Report’ time slot

Larry Wilmore, currently a correspondent on The Daily Show, will be replacing The Colbert Report next year with The Minority Report With Larry Wilmore starting January 2015. Comedy Central released a statement saying the new show will cover news and current affairs, and feature a “diverse panel of voices currently underrepresented in comedy and television.”

Cult TV show Community cancelled after five seasons

After more than five years on television, NBC has officially announced that Community has been cancelled. While a cult hit among fans, the show has been struggling to achieve the viewings needed to keep it alive. The show’s creator Dan Harmon and cast members promoted the hashtag #sixseasonsandamovie, but it fell short of the sixth season, with no word about a potential movie.

Chris Brown will spend 131 days in jail after admitting to violating terms of parole

A Los Angeles judge has ruled R&B star Chris Brown will receive a full year in jail after violating the terms of his parole. The judge gave Brown credit for the 234 days he already spent in jail and rehab, which reduces the sentence to 131 days. Brown had been on parole since 2009, after pleading guilty to assaulting his girlfriend at the time Rihanna. His most recent altercation in Washington last year was a result of a misdemeanor charge from a man who claimed Brown and his bodyguard assaulted him outside a hotel.

-Compiled by Bryan Stephens



KHA VO LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

On May 8, people lined up at the many food trucks before Jim Belushi and the Boards of Comedy at Centre in the Square in Kitchener.

Food truck culture revitalized

BRYAN STEPHENS
ARTS & LIFE EDITOR

Food truck vendors were recently able to bring their mobile cuisine options to more venues across Kitchener after a period of hardships for the industry. Due to a recent partnership between Centre in the Square and United Food Trucks Unlimited, local food truck vendors were positioned outside the venue’s Otto Street entrance for several shows between May 8 and 13. “The ability through the food trucks to build the experience both pre and post shows was a phenomenal opportunity,” said Sandra Bender, CEO of Centre in the Square. “Food trucks are the only vehicle to do that for us because we don’t have a restaurant on site.” The demand for food trucks at the Centre came from audience input to have more options for food either before or after a show. “Our audiences told us in focus groups that outside of parking, their second biggest beef was there was nothing to eat once you get down here. There are restaurants around

us, and some of them are phenomenally successful and supportive of the Centre, but they have a capacity issue,” Bender said. From the perspective of the food trucks operators, the ability to work around the Centre is a multi-beneficial partnership. “What we can do is reintroduce Centre in the Square, which exists but is out of sight and mind, so we are going to create a daily hub where we are going to try and attract as many people as possible,” said Reuben Salonga, co-owner of the Lunchador Gourmet Streatery and founder of United Food Trucks Unlimited. “We want people to look at food trucking not like it was 10 or 20 years ago. These aren’t chip wagons; that’s not the new food truck movement. You have people who are passionate about food, and these are people who are pushing the very threshold in our greater food services.” May 5 also brought a victory for food truck operators within Kitchener. New legislation that allows food trucks to operate in identified parks

and business areas across the city was passed under new licensing agreements. The approval from the city has been viewed very positively. “The fantastic thing is now both Waterloo and Kitchener have comparable legislation, in terms of cost and opportunities. What UFTU hopes to do with the new legislation is to help coordinate some of the sites, so that we have representation of food trucks being showcased in both cities,” Salonga said. Looking at how the new legislation will affect the regional food truck movement, Salonga pointed out how it looked a year ago. “I’ll be honest. If you were to ask what food trucking was like in Kitchener-Waterloo one full year ago, we were at the very bottom,” he said. “We didn’t have viable downtown core locations that we could operate from; the picture was bleak. When UFTU brought together all the food trucks within this region, we were able to create an impetus for the city of Waterloo to change their laws, and now, Kitchener-Waterloo is the new frontier for food trucking.”

Scott Yates owns the food truck Chef Scotty Cooks, which is a member of UFTU and one of the trucks that was outside of the Centre. He sees the new licensing agreement from the city as a reason to keep his business in the city. “It’ll make me want to stay here more, because I didn’t want to be driving out of the city if I didn’t have to. If I can stay home, and spark our local economy, teaming up with local businesses like [Centre in the Square], it just brings the city of Kitchener more to the forefront.” Bender believes that with the food trucks being on site, it will further the Centre’s ability to reach out into the community. “Food trucks are not going to make us rich, but again, it was trying to think of a way to engage with the community and audience,” he said. “Right now, people come and go for shows. If we can make this a destination that is fun and exciting, and at the same time a place where people can get drinks and food, then it will allow people to enjoy the space around the Centre in a more broad manner.”

Waterloo fry shop serves up Belgian delicacy



SCOTT GLAYSHER
STAFF WRITER

Fries can be a letdown if not done right. You can find good fries, but it’s hard to find great fries — the type of fries that make your mouth water and fill you up for more than 15 minutes. Well, now your fry desires have been answered. Frites is an amazingly placed fry eatery that offers fresh Belgian fries. In short, they are massively cut “pomme frites” that come out perfectly crunchy and golden brown. Each and every bite is greeted with a mixture of seasoned salt, paprika and dry mustard. At first glance they look like

average fries, but when they hit your lips you taste the difference. Served in a unique cone, the fries come equipped with one of 25 different sauces in which you can dip, dunk or lather them. This is arguably the best part of Frites. The fries on their own are satisfying, but the different sauces are the deal breakers. Flavours like sweet chili and honey mustard can accent the fry seasoning, whereas jerk chicken and madras curry give the fries a face-lift. Other sauces include mesquite BBQ, peppercorn ranch, wasabi, roasted garlic and Sriracha mayo. For those who are more adventurous, their beefed up poutines and unconventional hot dogs are a must-try. All poutines come in a double-layered style, with fries, cheese and gravy overlapping one another. Toppings like pulled pork, beef chili and bacon mushroom turn a simple poutine into a full course meal. The hot dogs on the other hand

get drenched in a variety of sauces, which makes the classic summer snack a little bolder. The fry boutique is strategically placed at 258 King St. N. — a very close proximity to Wilfrid Laurier University. However, because of this it is in competition with other student favourites. With the famous Burrito Boyz next door, they need to keep their fries fresh and their outreach fresher. An average meal price of \$7 means they will definitely need to sweeten their deals to tailor to the student population. All in all, Frites does a great job of making the notorious side dish a true main course. The thick cut Belgian fries coupled with the plethora of dipping sauces make it filling and flavourful. With so many different options to choose from, and the opportune location bringing people through the door, it is clear that these fries are here to stay.



HEATHER DAVIDSON PHOTO EDITOR

Outside of Frites, the new Belgian french fry restaurant on King St.

Mounties not just another ‘jam band’

Supergroup Mounties used improvisation during their energetic show at Starlight Social Club on May 8

CRISTINA ALMUDEVAR
CORD ALUM

A spontaneous encounter at the 2009 Juno Awards between Hawksley Workman, Steve Bays of Hot Hot Heat and Ryan Dahle of Limblifter quickly and intensely brought the three seasoned artists together and began a fast friendship.

“[We] were hanging out backstage and really got along as buddies ... every time [Workman] came to town, we’d drink wine in his hotel ... then one day he said that we should make music together — I thought that we’d work together on his new solo record but then it just ended up becoming a band,” said Bays.

Improvisation quickly became a theme for the Canadian indie-rock band Mounties. Their live shows are unique — the band chooses to improvise onstage, adding in solos and elongating the written songs as they see fit. While this could easily spell disaster for some artists, Mounties and their fans have embraced this new method.

Parker Bossley, bassist from Hot Hot Heat is more involved in the live performances, and describes it as the members possessing ESP — there has never been a moment of miscommunication on stage while performing.

While the band is proud of their improvisation aspect, they aren’t as big of a fan of the labels that come with it.

“I definitely do not want to be known as a ‘jam band,’ but only for one reason: when I think of the word ‘jam band,’ I think of ‘shitty band’ ” Bays said.

‘Shitty band’ is not a label that one could attach to Mounties after



Peter Bays, of Hot Hot Heat fame, performing with The Mounties at Starlight Social Club on May 8.

KHA VO LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

their May 8 performance at Starlight Social Club. Playing to a crowded audience, the show was energetic and fun.

Bays ran around the stage, jumping on speakers, putting his face near the audience and almost tilting his keyboard completely over. Workman was equally as passionate as he joked around with the audience and played numerous drum solos.

One of the definite highlights of

the night was their performance of their first single “Headphones.” The band appeared to finish the song, but Workman and Bays stayed on stage for a percussion solo while Workman sang, eventually beckoning the other members to join them for one final revival of the chorus.

However, while the improvisation works well for the band, there are numerous other things that would work on stage, but the band doesn’t

want to push their limits.

“If I were to all of a sudden drag a song on, these guys would follow. I think the band is so new and we’ve just done one tour so we’re not testing the waters on too extreme of a level, but the fact that the potential is there. These guys are such talented musicians; we know the framework of the song and that’s all we need to know.”

The closeness of the band has

“These guys are such talented musicians; we know the framework of the song and that’s all we need to know.”

—Steve Bays, keyboardist for Mounties

a lot of influence on their onstage chemistry. Bossley and Bays spoke about the various projects of the other band members that they are all involved in, as well as numerous upcoming projects and festivals for Mounties such as Hillside Music Festival in late July and Riot Fest in early September.

Despite rushed beginnings and a jam-packed touring schedule, it has turned out positively for Mounties. This is most likely due to the chemistry of the band off and on the stage. On stage the band laughed and joked with one another and played off of each other’s intense energies.

When asked about the immediate chemistry of the band, Bays had a straightforward answer: “I think because we’re all a bit older ... when you’re older you filter out people who are bullshit and these guys aren’t bullshit.”

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EDITORIAL

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Coding in classrooms giving children important skill set

In an attempt to give high school students the opportunity to develop technical computer skills, some school boards across Ontario have approved the implementation of a program, TechU.me, which does just that.

It gives students, young or old, what is now considered the necessary exposure to science, technology, engineering and math.

Some might argue that the sequestered nature of learning computer skills would lead to a generation of children with little understanding of the world outside of the computer screen.

However, TechU.me provides all-around education in addition to computer skills. The program gives students the opportunity to learn and grow as individuals and it casts a more positive light on computer sciences, one that strays away from the stereotypical nerdy and lonely computer scientist.

The result, contrary to what sceptics might think, is a generation of children who have, in addition to their basic high school education, an elementary understanding of computer sciences. It creates a generation of children who, having been equipped with the right skillset, are well prepared to face an ever-changing and dynamic world.

Nonetheless, this is not to say that every child must or will become some form of computer scientist in the future; rather, it simply accepts that primary knowledge of the computer sciences is just as vital to childrens’ future as knowledge of languages or social sciences.

Moreover, the implementation of TechU.me in high schools signals the slow, but encouraging evolution of education to meeting societal demands.

The world has become increasingly dependent on technology, and schools must find ways to adapt to this change, lest they become obsolete.

Profs, students need to embrace change

The registrar’s office, in an attempt to efficiently use campus space, made some changes to the scheduling system. These changes have led to a three-way disagreement between students, professors and the administration.

Among other stipulations, these changes mean there would be more Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes than usual, most of which would only be 50 minutes long.

On one hand, professors and students who commute are not happy because they believe it is unfair to require them to travel to Waterloo three times a week for only a 50 minute class.

On another hand, some professors and students argue that these changes should have been made gradually, and in consideration of the nature of more interactive, discussion-based courses, which require a little more time-allocation to be efficient. For example, math courses like calculus or statistics can be efficient when divided into three 50 minute classes. But, in programs like English or film studies, three 50 minute classes are too short a time span to properly educate students.

It is well known that since the closure of St. Michael’s campus, the university has struggled with campus space.

The changes that have been made to the scheduling system, although inconvenient to some, will optimize campus space. As a result, there would be a lot more room for student groups and activities.

As with other conflicts, the pragmatic line of action here is to reach a compromise. The university administration should recognize that the changes they have made will affect certain programs, like English and film studies, in an unfair manner. To prevent this kind of mishap in the future, they must ensure the changes made will affect vulnerable programs minimally.

That said, the inconvenienced professors and students must make their peace with the changes and accept that the need to optimize campus space is greater than the need to accommodate their inability to embrace change.

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.



JOSHUA AWOLADE GRAPHICS EDITOR

Ontario elections: the three plans for provincial failure



MYNT MARSELLUS
WEB DIRECTOR

The provincial election set for June 12 is undoubtedly going to be one revolving around the economy.

Kathleen Wynne’s Liberals presented a budget about revitalizing transit and a new Ontario pension system for long-term economic gains. Tim Hudak’s Progressive Conservatives are touting a million new jobs as a part of their platform to revitalize the Ontario economy. Andrea Horwath’s New Democrats are mostly talking about affordability for families and again, the strength of the Ontario economy.

The problem with all three parties is they designed plans with the aim of attracting votes rather than creating a plan to fix Ontario’s economy. All parties admit there is a problem. They scream about the deficit, the debt and the slowing economy, and yet none of them have a plan that will actually fix these problems.

The problem in this election begins with Tim Hudak and the policy paper his party released called, “An Agenda for Growth.” Hudak makes a strong case for freezing and even decreasing government spending to balance the budget before 2017, citing good examples from across the political spectrum of governments having done the same thing. The problem arises on the next page when Hudak suggests cutting taxes while simultaneously cutting spending.

Wynne does something similar in her new transit funding and pension plan. The Liberals are looking to increase

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Austerity measures are only effective in the short term. They are only useful as a means of eliminating debt quickly because otherwise they stifle economic growth almost as badly as decade long streaks of deficits.

taxes to pay for these new expenditures while claiming the deficit will be gone in four years – also because of the raised taxes.

This is the same problem most politicians have during election campaigns. They all seem to think that deficit reduction can be done in a haphazard way. The PCs want to cut spending and taxes while the Liberals and NDP want to increase both. Looking back to the 1990s in Canada and Ontario, it is easy to see neither of these plans is set to do well.

In 1993 the Liberal Party of Canada was elected to government and Paul Martin became finance minister. Over

the next nine years Martin fundamentally restructured the federal budget, scaling spending further down than it had been in 40 years. However, there was an important part of the Liberal election platform Martin did not implement.

The Liberals had essentially promised to eliminate the GST in the election, but when they got into government Martin knew to cut taxes at the same rate as spending would make the spending cuts ineffective. With minimal tax cuts and major spending reductions, the federal government balanced their budget in 1998.

At the same time in Ontario, Premier Mike Harris also made substantial cuts to government spending. He also made massive tax cuts across the board, which made Ontario’s debt problem worse rather than better.

Austerity measures are only effective in the short term. They are only useful as a means of eliminating debt quickly because otherwise they stifle economic growth almost as badly as decade-long streaks of deficits.

Ontario has a debt problem. This is a problem that has to be dealt with and none of the parties seem to have any real solutions to offer. If you want to get Ontario out of debt, you shouldn’t follow the Harris plan of drastically cutting services and taxes at the same time. It creates the same problem as increasing spending and taxes at the same time.

If you need \$100 to buy groceries and borrow \$70 from your friends, you either cut \$30 of spending or find some way to get the missing money. If your plan is to give \$30 back to your friends while also buying fewer groceries, you are still going to be short \$30.

All the parties are missing a proper plan for fixing Ontario’s financial issues, and it is because they care more about getting votes than actually fixing the province.

An account of Nigeria’s abducted girls

International community is distraught as Boko Haram kidnaps 230 girls from secondary school in Nigeria



MOYOSORE AREWA
OPINION EDITOR

“I abducted your girls, and I will sell them. I will sell them in the market, by Allah. There is a market for selling humans. Allah says I should sell. He commands me to sell. I will sell women. I sell women.”

Those were the words jovially declared by Abubakar Shekau, the supposed leader of Nigerian terrorist group, Boko Haram.

Weeks after Boko Haram took 230 Nigerian girls from their school desks, the world has finally realized the severity of the situation.

The problem, however, is not one of awareness, or the lack of — it is a multi-dimensional problem of insecurity, the aloofness and ineptitude of the Nigerian government and its army and a possibly sycophantic international community.

The incompetence of the Nigerian government and its army is evident not only in its response to the abduction of the girls, but also in its reactions to other acts of terror, including the two Nyanya bombings in the state capital, Abuja.

Moreover, in the days immediately following the kidnapping, the Nigerian military released a statement, which would later prove to be

false, claiming most of the girls were rescued.

Their lies could have been forgiven if they proactively sought to rescue those girls in the aftermath of the kidnapping, but unsurprisingly, none of that heroism was present.

Miles away, Nigeria’s President, Goodluck Jonathan, basked in the gaudy comfort that comes with the position and was unable to act as a leader should.

For three weeks he did not offer a statement and he did not take any perceivable actions that would have assured the people of a possible solution.

Instead, his wife has tried valiantly to shut down the protests being organized by concerned citizens because they “are bringing shame and embarrassment to Nigeria.”

The situation becomes worse when you consider the Nigerian military’s extended history of brutality. In fact, many believe that Boko Haram’s history of abductions are in retaliation to the army’s similar actions towards wives and children of the group’s members.

Like Boko Haram they kidnap, torture and massacre innocent civilians. The only difference is they operate under the seal of a legitimate government, while Boko Haram operates anarchically.

Perhaps the real issue is deciding which of the two forces is the lesser evil: Boko Haram or the Nigerian Army.

Predictably, especially considering the incompetence of the



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

Thousands have gathered around the world in protest, calling for the rescue of the Chibok girls.

Nigerian government, many have called on the international community, specifically the United States, for assistance.

However, in consideration of America’s recent history, this plan must be approached with caution, lest Nigeria becomes the new Iraq.

In place of turning to the self-proclaimed saviours of the universe, Nigeria should seek to engage with

other, more reputable entities, such as the Economic Community of West African States, the UN or even the EU.

The harsh reality is that regardless of the sophistication of rescue attempts, it will be extremely difficult to bring those girls back.

Over a decade ago, the Lord’s Resistance Army, led by Joseph Kony, kidnapped hundreds of children,

many of whom are still missing.

While they must not give up on the search for these girls, the Nigerian government — and the Nigerian people — should use their abduction as a trigger for future sociopolitical change.

They must focus just as much attention on constructing a framework to prevent the re-occurrence of such egregious crimes.

Intern exploitation



CARA PETICCA
OPINION COLUMNIST

Today at a local coffee shop I overheard someone say, “It’s not exploitation if everyone benefits.”

The trouble is this: the entire concept of exploitation suggests that not everyone benefits — at least, not equally.

As students, some could argue we ourselves are exploited. We have climbing tuition fees paired with lower quality education and lower grades in massive classroom environments.

This tradition of exploitation transcends academia. As we trade our backpacks for briefcases, we naively accept grim employment opportunities and conditions with the mindset of “something is better than nothing.”

Decidedly, the most illegal form of this unethical employment is internships.

In theory, an internship can be a pivotal opportunity in a young adult’s career. But this delusion ends in theory. The transaction between young workers and employers is unmistakably exploitative, yet it remains virtuous via its promise of reciprocity.

In Ontario, employers are required to adhere to the Employment Standards Act.

The ESA ensures workers are paid minimum wage and are protected against unlawful treatment. However, the role of an intern often narrowly bypasses these lawful stipulations.

The question becomes this: when

does an opportunity exceed the seemingly unessential role an intern would have at a workplace and begin to comprise a position eligible for employment?

The Ministry of Labour in Ontario outlines criteria for a just internship. Unfortunately, this list is comprised of only five conditions, all of which must be met to indicate a legal internship.

Importantly, one obligation is that the preparation an intern receives must directly benefit the individual while another requirement prohibits the employer from benefitting in any substantial form.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Labour candidly addresses post-secondary students claiming the “ESA does not apply to an individual who performs work under a program approved by a college of applied arts or technology or a university.”

In 2013, the Students’ Union at the University of Toronto responded by having this added stipulation eradicated. They rightfully believed unpaid work of any form is unacceptable because it indisputably abuses young workers.

With that said, legal internships are an excellent way to network and gain invaluable experience, which is instrumental to students’ future endeavours. But, illegal internships are nothing but a tool to provide free labour to companies that tread the thin and ambiguous ESA guidelines.

As you leave academia and venture into a corporate environment, I encourage you not devalue your individual worth to gain miniscule experience.

It is acceptable to question an internship and it is equally acceptable to decline free labour if a company breaches ESA policies.

Perhaps something is not better than nothing when something reduces you to nothing.



LENA YANG CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Rise of keyboard activists



VICTOR LY
CONTRIBUTOR

When Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web, he probably didn’t foresee this.

He, and other early pioneers of the internet, likely dreamed of a network overflowing with information, which would bring humanity into a golden age of knowledge and reason. Discussion and exchange of ideas would prevail, bringing the truth to all. It’s sad to say that this is not the case.

Instead, the Internet has been hijacked by a growing number of what I call “keyboard activists.” They are people who take everything good about the Internet and attempt to ruin it in every way possible.

Instead of participating in rational debate, these groups prefer a more fascist approach: to create propaganda, generate hysteria and attack those who would dare be indifferent to such vital matters of social justice.

Normally, this wouldn’t be a problem - let them be, right? The problem is when extremists hang around other extremists, their opinions become exponentially more extreme as they attempt to one-up another and demonstrate how socially responsible they are.

These communities do not facilitate discussion about real solutions that can change the world; they simply reflect one’s own opinion to the point that it becomes inconceivable that one could possibly be wrong.

Now bearing the resemblance of a Fox News broadcaster, these empowered activists participate in shouting matches that can be heard across the Internet, spreading their irrefutable gospel.

Which brings about the real problem: these activists, loud and (arguably) well-meaning as they may be, do nothing to help remedy the issues at hand.

“Raising awareness” is more often than not simply clicking “share” for a video participating in a comments section brawl, which makes the activist feel good but has no effect on the world at large.

As people begin to notice this, they too hop aboard the keyboard activism bandwagon and perpetuate the delusion that they’re making a

change. It’s infectious, and it opens up innocent people to endless exploitation by those who can see through the hysteria.

For instance, take the Kony campaign back in 2012. Capturing the evil man became all the rage, and it set the social media world on fire. #Kony2012 became the number one trending topic on Twitter, and the video garnered 50 million views in just four days.

But to what end? Was he caught? Have the lives of these Ugandan children been made any better by the western world’s cries? The answer is no. Invisible Children made a lot of money off of this campaign, a lot of which has been used questionably. Lots of money was generated, but no souls were saved — no children were freed.

Such is the moral of this story: if you want to see something change, you have to get off of your ass. You’ll have to sacrifice some money, some actual energy, something.

Don’t fool yourself and think that “spreading awareness” online is any substitute. It isn’t. These activists are outraged, but they don’t care.

You can tweet about the litter all you want, but it’ll still be there until someone picks it up. That’s the difference.

Raptors season excites nation



DAVID DESSAU
CONTRIBUTOR

When people talk about Canadian sports, hockey is usually what comes to mind. However, other fan bases are emerging strong and united to cheer on other Toronto teams — most recently the Toronto Raptors.

The Raptors — coming off another subpar season — started the 2013–2014 year with a 6–12 record and traded Rudy Gay, their highest paid player. Expectations were destined for a lottery pick in the 2014 NBA entry draft.

Then the incredible happened — one of the youngest teams in the NBA started to find the chemistry to have success and finished with the third seed in the Eastern Conference to make the playoffs for the first time in six years.

What followed? A craze of fan support for the Raptors that caught the attention of the entire basketball world.

To promote the Raptors play-off berth, the media marketed the campaign as “We the North,” giving Canada a sense of unity and clarity of where they stand within the NBA.

Through numerous commercials leading up to the Toronto-Brooklyn series, the We the North slogan gave a “Canada against the World”

“Despite being a sport created by a Canadian, basketball is seen as an American game.”

mentality that seemed to ignite the fan base even more across the nation.

Despite being a sport created by a Canadian, basketball is seen as an American game. They dominate the Olympics and are home to 29 of the 30 NBA teams so they get a majority of media attention. The We the North concept not only highlighted Canada’s increased passion for the sport but it also fed a nation that has been starving for playoff basketball.

The fan base in Toronto made headlines across the continent and made a strong case that Canada is ready for a return to basketball glory.

The passion resonated from fans, to players, all the way up to management. This was emphasized by the infamous speech by Raptors general manager Masai Ujiri. He addressed Raptor fans outside the Air Canada Centre before Game 1, and yelled a short but sweet profanity against Brooklyn. The crowd reached a new



level of excitement and there was an atmosphere for basketball that has not been seen for quite some time in Canada.

I believe this mindset expands the growth of Canada’s only NBA team and gives each and every Canadian basketball fan a team to root for.

The “one versus all” mentality took effect early on in the series as fans were outraged at the referees for possible blown calls and favouring the well-known, higher-paid roster of the Brooklyn Nets. Twitter erupted with complaints about the NBA, wanting a second round match up of the Miami Heat against Brooklyn and skewing calls in favour of that.

The referees were not the reason

the Raptors lost the series, but the passion and pride the fans displayed proved their loyalty and faith they had in their team.

They bought it in completely to the We the North campaign and fought for the Raptors, when no one else could. The promotion did not isolate the Toronto Raptors, but it united them with their fans.

Basketball has never been the sport people think of when they talk about Canada, but with the unity that has been created with the Raptors and the nation, that reputation may soon have to change.

We the North is a statement that will guide not only the Raptors team but the fans countrywide for years to come.

A fresh start for rugby

— cover

coming from, but is a firm believer that the players could have taken a bit more initiative and are just as much to blame for the team’s performance.

“Guys who have been around the block a little bit should be able to read [the situation] at that level and pick up on the fact that maybe he can’t communicate as well, but there are 20-25 guys on our team,” Sneath said.

“Everyone can always do more to contribute to the win, Rob is only one cog in the whole machine.”

Looking forward, a search for a replacement will begin immediately, and Gabler has a very specific set of expectations for the incoming head coach.

“Someone who has a distinct and unique vision on how to move the program forward and connection with regards to recruiting. They must have the nerve and vigour to move the program forward,” he said.

Sneath believes the new coach is going to have some major shoes to fill in order to live up to McQueen’s standards.

“Recruiting wise, I don’t think you can get any better than Rob did. It’s no secret that Laurier is not one of the best teams in the league right now and we don’t attract the most players,” Sneath said.

“Rob put in tons of time and effort into it, and we still did not get all the players we want. Recruiting is going to be huge for whoever fills his spot.”

Laurier’s All Stars

Men’s baseball
Adam Shaver
Second-year first baseman

Jonathan Brouse
Third-year outfielder

Jordan Petruska
Third-year pitcher

Daniel Murphy
Fifth-year outfielder

Brett Van Pelt
Fourth-year pitcher

Men’s football
Chris Ackie
Third-year linebacker

Ese Mrabure-Ajufo
Third-year defensive lineman

Dillon Campbell
Third-year running back

Women’s soccer
Kelsey Tikka
Fourth-year defender

Sarah Farano
Second-year defender

Julie Maheu
Third-year midfielder

Emily Brown
Third-year striker

Women’s basketball
Laura Doyle
Fourth-year guard

Golden Hawk scores in showcase

Julie Maheu gets goal and assist at the annual soccer showcase in Vaughan, Ontario

DREW YATES
STAFF WRITER

On May 3, Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawk women’s soccer midfielder Julie Maheu became the only Golden Hawk to have picked up both a goal and an assist during the second annual Ontario University Athletics Women’s Soccer Showcase.

Maheu scored on a penalty shot after a mistake from the East team defender to bring the score to 3–2 in the dying minutes of the game.

Joined by two of her other teammates, defenders Sarah Farano and Kelsey Tikka, they played hard and gave a solid effort. Despite a 4–2 loss, Maheu said she enjoyed her experience playing with her teammates and the other girls across the OUA.

“It was kind of awkward because you normally play against these girls on the normal season, but you were supposed to be on their side,” Maheu said.

She is no stranger to stepping up and scoring in important games. Even in the losing effort for Laurier in Nationals last year, Maheu potted one goal on four shots, and it was the only goal in the tournament for the entire team.

She was given the opportunity to play in the soccer showcase last year, when head coach Barry McLean extended an invitation to fill in after one of the girls could not play. This year was her first time being honoured as part of the OUA all-star first team.

“I like to think that I’m a big player and I like to think that I’m a leader

on the team, and the fact that other people from the entire league think that I’m one of the top midfielders in the province, that’s amazing,” she said.

It came as a surprise to Maheu that the OUA recognized her as being a first team all-star. Earlier in the year, she fractured her hand and was sent straight to the hospital. Her determination to get back to playing soccer demonstrates her character and just how much soccer means to her.

“I really wanted to continue to play and that was my issue,” she said of her injury.

She remained persistent with the doctors and it paid off. They gave Maheu a removable cast so that she could continue playing with her team.

She only missed a total of four games last season before getting back on the field just in time for the playoffs to begin. In such a short season, every game mattered.

Laurier went on to win the OUA championship with Maheu, cast on hand.

As for the upcoming season, she said she is excited to start playing and for the new rookie class coming into the following 2014 season, which, according to Maheu, is around eight girls.

And she’s looking to go further than just winning the OUA championship. Her mind is set on capturing nationals being able to accomplish everything she wanted to during her university career.

“I’m expecting to win it all. So ... we better win it all,” she said.



HEATHER DAVIDSON FILE PHOTO
Maheu helped guide her team to an OUA championship last season.