

TURKEY & SLEEPING & FAMILY & RELAXING

Laurier students describe what the holidays really mean for them Features, page 8

THE CORD

THE TIE THAT BINDS
WILFRID LAURIER
UNIVERSITY
SINCE 1926

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Grand River Transit recently announced a list of proposals for the 2015 Transit Improvement Plan. One of these proposals outlines the elimination of the 7E and D branches of the route 7 bus, which service the areas surrounding the two universi-

ties in Waterloo. GRT gave several reasons for eliminating the 7D and E busses, noting the proposal mostly has to do with the upcoming ION light rail transit service. "We know that down the line once ION rail service is running in a few years, the 7D

and E are going to be pretty duplicative of the rail service," said Reid Fulton, acting supervisor of transit development at the Region of Waterloo. "So what we're looking at essentially, in order to prepare for ION and to simplify the schedule, would be the elimi-

nation of the D/E branches." The other main reason that GRT is considering eliminating the busses is due to the fundamental setup of the route 7 bus system. "We know that there is a certain complexity associated Local, page 7

ACADEMICS

Business course challenged

Student starts petition to raise concerns about financial math class structure

MARISSA EVANS
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

Last week, an online petition entitled "BU 383: Inspiring Students...to Stay at Home" began circulating among students at Wilfrid Laurier University. The petition outlines concerns the "vast majority of students" enrolled in BU383/283, Financial Management I, have with the new structure of the course. The petition is addressed to the "undergraduate business programs director and other relevant WLU staff" and is signed "concerned SBE student."

Lisa Keeping, undergraduate business programs director, said a hard copy of the petition was delivered to her office last week. "I was disappointed because it was anonymous, and I mean I've certainly dealt with student complaints before but I've never had a petition that was posted online," she said of her initial reaction. Generally, she approaches situations like this by talking with the concerned student and then approaching professors to try and find a solution. William McNally, the course coordinator, designed a new structure

"I've certainly dealt with student complaints before but I've never had a petition that was posted online."

-Lisa Keeping, undergraduate business programs director

for the course this year, which he and Keeping referred to as a "flipped classroom" approach. In the past, the course was taught using a lecture format — where students were lectured in the classroom and would do problems outside of class time. In the new approach, students are provided with an online textbook with video lectures, spreadsheet templates, interactive graphics and algorithmic practice problems which they are to engage with at home. In class students work through their workbook and ask questions of the Campus, page 5

NEWS



Is minimum wage enough for students to support themselves?

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SPORTS



Laurier's swim team captures third place and 24 medals

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CAMPUS



Students' Union revises their hiring model for volunteers

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VOCAL CORD

What bus routes do you typically use?



"Sometimes the 7 but normally I just walk."

-Natalie Kruger, fourth-year kinesiology



"I don't really take the bus anymore because I have my own car."

-Stephanie Ricottone, fourth-year kinesiology



"I usually take the 7 to Conestoga Mall."

-Victoria Gomez, fourth-year history and N.A. studies



"I usually take the 7."

-Shaina Mann, third-year biology



"I usually take the 202 or I walk."

-Sarah Tate, second-year global studies

Compiled by Katysha Manning
Photos by Kha Vo

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



ANDREAS PATSIAOUROS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Laurier's swimmers claimed 24 medals and third place overall at the Ontario University Athletics Tihanyi Divisionals meet at home this past weekend.

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News

SENIOR NEWS EDITOR
MARISSA EVANS

CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR
SHELBY BLACKLEY

LOCAL NEWS EDITOR
VACANT

OFF-CAMPUS SAFETY



WILL HUANG/PHOTO EDITOR

Many students are worried that University Avenue West is dark and dangerous at night due to the few sections that have streetlights on both sides of the road, like the one pictured above.

University Ave. lighting a concern

MARISSA EVANS
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

With the days getting shorter, students and residents in Waterloo find themselves walking and driving more frequently in the dark, posing more of a chance for issues stemming from impaired visibility. The stretch of University Avenue West from Wilfrid Laurier University to the University of Waterloo is notoriously busy with both vehicles and pedestrians, who have expressed concerns about safety after dusk.

Emerson Diodati is a second-year business student at Laurier who says the dim lighting along University Ave. W. has been a noticeable concern for him.

"I live off campus so I have to wait for the bus sometimes at 11 or 12 at night, and seeing cars come down its

sort of scary because you don't know if they see you because it's not lit up," he said.

Kelly Eitel, engineering technologist at the Region of Waterloo, explained eight years ago the region approved an illumination policy which directs the placement of street lighting on roads. One of the stipulations, for example, is that any road that has a bus route, bus stops and a sidewalk must have streetlights on it.

Currently, University Ave. W. only has streetlights down one side of it. According to Eitel, the policy stipulates that streetlights are only placed on both sides of roads that have five lanes or more.

"In some locations like when they have the centre split lanes, the left turn lanes and things like that, that would warrant putting illumination on both sides," he said.

Accordingly, some sections of University Ave. W. that have additional lanes could qualify to have lighting on both sides. However updates such as these only take place when the road undergoes reconstruction or if it becomes a priority due to things like a frequency of nighttime collisions.

"No scheduled work is going to be done between Westmount and King in the next 10 years," Eitel said.

This means extra streetlights will not get added to these sections of University Ave. W. that don't meet policy until this time or unless there is an increase in collisions or complaints.

"I'm not sure about University Ave. itself," Eitel said, when asked about whether he has received complaints. "I can't recall any complaints. But definitely yes we get complaints

about lighting all the time."

"We put areas into priority and we have prioritized them — walking pathways to schools, nighttime collisions, pedestrian collisions and things like that so in each year we do some street lighting work that needs it. But there's a lot of places that need it so we have to prioritize and then it's going to take some time."

Reid Midanik, a fourth-year kinesiology student at Laurier, reported experiences where vehicles did not see him at nighttime. His concern is that cars go quite quickly along University Ave. W. and it is heavily used.

"I remember recently I was crossing at King and University cross walk, I wasn't even jaywalking, I don't know if it was dark or if he just wasn't paying attention, but it was actually a cab driver and I was able to reach out and smack his side window with my

hand," he said. "And he just continued driving. It definitely wasn't very comforting"

Midanik said he would like to see more streetlights be put up.

Fourth-year Laurier psychology student, Matthew Soukas, said he used to live on Hazel Street and within three weeks was almost hit by cars while crossing the street on five occasions.

"About four of them were at night and one of them someone just wasn't paying attention," he said. "I agree, lights do help, especially on University Avenue."

However even if there were complaints or a number of collisions along University Ave. W., if the section of road in question meets policy, no additional lights will be put up.

"There's nothing I can do about it if it meets our policy," Eitel said.

FINANCES

Examining the minimum wage

Prof, student address future changes

SHELBY BLACKLEY
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

The cost of living is different for every city, so making a provincial level for minimum wage can be difficult — and residents, students and workers are feeling the pressure.

According to Tammy Schirle, an associate professor of economics at Wilfrid Laurier University, minimum wage is based off the cost of living for a family of four. If two parents worked at a certain dollar amount an hour, they would be able to achieve what would be considered a "good" standard of living.

She explained raising the minimum wage will not be the most efficient way to mend problems across the board as it would not benefit all parties.

"Raising the minimum wage is a very blunt policy instrument to try and achieve a goal of raising people's standard of living, which can be done in other ways more effectively and in a way that doesn't have the same negative effects like minimum wage does," she said.

These negative effects, Schirle explained, may involve small businesses being unable to afford their labour costs with higher wages. If minimum wage is raised, small businesses will be less likely to lay people off, but

also less likely to hire many people. It can also affect the job experience younger people have.

"With higher minimum wage, young people might be getting better jobs and more stable jobs, but they're going to be unemployed a lot longer trying to find them," she said.

"There's a trade off there, unfortunately."

To fix the conundrum, Schirle suggested people look to other individual policies rather than the entire demographic. The Canada child tax benefit can help low-income families take care of their children, while the working income tax benefit could be expanded without affecting the employer by helping low-income individuals.

However with these policies, students are the odd ones out.

"Well, who's left out then? It's the students, who are often struggling to pay their own bills and pay their schooling and everything else, but that's where we tend to look at the student loans system," Schirle explained.

She went on to say that Ontario is "pretty generous" with bursaries for low-income students, but if students have a lack of money to pay for comfortable living, the solution may be in expanding the loans rather than the general policies that raise minimum



HEATHER DAVIDSON/PHOTO EDITOR

An increase in minimum wage may have both positive and negative impacts on businesses and workers involved.

wage for everyone.

"If we're looking for a broader 'let's make sure people have a minimum standard of living,' target people instead of wasting money on handing everyone some cash. Target people that need it the most."

Laurina Mahendran is a fourth-year business student at Laurier, who works 35 hours a week at minimum wage while taking three classes. She explained OSAP "only covers so much," and for her to cover the rest of her living expenses she needed a form of income.

"It's low," Mahendran said. "People who make minimum wage, it's like nothing. Especially

dealing with food and stuff — it's a lot of work."

Mahendran worries she will end up back in a minimum wage job after she graduates. She explained that with the amount of qualifications graduates need, it's harder to find a field occupation and battle with job cuts.

"There are so many qualifications people need and everyone's looking for experience, but when you're in school, you can't get all the experience you want or need."

Schirle is confident students with a university education are not the ones that need to be worried about the post-graduate search for work.

She says students may end up in minimum wage jobs for a bit after graduation, but many find stable jobs in related fields.

"When we're worried about minimum wage workers in the long run, we're typically worried about high school students or those that didn't finish high school. They're the one that kind of get stuck at the minimum wage [level], working in clerical jobs, sales, retail for the rest of their lives," she explained.

"University students, it's a tough run out of the gate and it's hard when you first start, but in the longer run we don't need to worry about them as much."

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Events held for GEW

Students discuss startup options

PEARL LEUNG
STAFF WRITER

This year, Global Entrepreneurship Week took place from Nov. 17-23. The week was dedicated to celebrating the innovators and risk-takers who followed their passion and started their own business.

Throughout the week, events and workshops were held locally, nationally and globally in order to raise awareness about the importance of entrepreneurship.

Located in the city of Waterloo, which is known to be an entrepreneurial powerhouse, Wilfrid Laurier University was heavily involved with the weeklong event.

Numerous clubs participated in GEW, hosting different events and workshops. Two events were held by Startup Laurier and Enactus Laurier, who managed to bring in influential speakers like Adam Belsher, the CEO of Magnet Forensics, and Matt Schnarr, the founder and managing partner of AWAKE Chocolate, a product of the New Venture competition in which all first-year business students participate.

The second event was Innovation Takeoff, which took place on Nov. 14. The two clubs brought in representatives from Eagles Flight, a business that specializes in training individuals to work together effectively as a team.

These two events were “a few of the largest and most impactful student-focused entrepreneurship events of the year,” said Josh Fujimagari, Laurier LaunchPad’s creative marketing leader and prime representative during GEW.

Laurier LaunchPad is an initiative that aims to help aspiring startups get up and running. Fujimagari played an important role in its involvement in the week.

“I was promoting innovation and entrepreneurship [and] connecting with campus clubs, mentors and other advisors to bring a full entrepreneurial experience to the Laurier student body and inspire them to take action,” he said.

Laurier’s school of business and economics itself is a heavy promoter of entrepreneurship.

“LaunchPad and the things that we do provide the tools and help students understand how to build an enterprise based on what they are interested in,” said Michéal Kelly, the dean of SBE.

The university offers a social entrepreneurship option new to this year.

On Nov. 12, students were treated by the Social Innovation Project to the documentary *Who Cares?*

“We wanted to introduce the program and introduce SIP to the Laurier community,” said William Sutter, the co-founder of SIP.

“And we thought the best way to do that was by inspiring and motivating students through the documentary.”

With over 100 attendees at GEW and the networking session, both events were deemed successful.

“GEW at Laurier was magical,” said Fujimagari.

“It was an inspirational week fueled by passionate Laurier entrepreneurs.”

Fujimagari said he learned from his entrepreneurial experiences.

“It truly takes a community to allow an entrepreneur to thrive,” he explained.

“That said, GEW is a great platform for connection and collaboration.”

STUDENTS' UNION



JOSHUA AWOLADE/GRAPHICS EDITOR

Hiring practices evaluated

SHELBY BLACKLEY
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Hiring practices for the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union will have undergone changes by the time volunteers apply for positions in March 2015.

As of March, the Union will be implementing a new hiring policy for all volunteer positions, which does not include the “lottery” method that has been used since the 2012-13 year.

Samantha Deeming, vice-president of finance and administration for the Students' Union, explained hiring practices were something she wanted to review coming into her current role. She was part of the executive team for hiring and recruitment that approved the lottery process and believed volunteers were “slipping through the cracks.”

“Coming into the role it was part of my proposal to evaluate the hiring process, what can we implement, what can we make better and make it fair so that anyone ... can get involved without leaving it up to chance?” she explained.

In the past, the hiring policy has been created by the vice-president and implemented by the hiring and recruitment department without any discussion between the two parties. This year, Deeming worked with the department’s executive team on the

research and planning of the new policy.

Deeming hopes that by working alongside hiring and recruitment this year, it will create one cohesive unit when implementing the new policy.

“If the people who are helping implement it can’t buy into the process, it’s very difficult to get others to buy into the process at that point.”

An extensive process went into reevaluating the hiring practices, Deeming said. Surveys were sent out regarding different scenarios, everything from keeping it the same to getting rid of the lottery system. She believed there were good responses from both volunteers and non-volunteers.

Student executive roundtables and focus groups took place in the following months, putting together research from other schools as well as what would work best for Laurier’s students.

In the last few weeks, the Union has come up with what the policy will look like when it is finally implemented.

Coordinator positions, which are the highest volunteer position the Union has, will move to a full hour-long interview from a 30-minute interview. It will also include a short icebreaking question, three STARR questions, a roles and responsibilities question and a question-answer period with the vice-president.

“Things that will actually happen in the position are being asked now,” Deeming said. “It’s adding that extra component to it that allows a lot more freedom in answering and not just rigid STARR.”

The executive position has gone from a 30-minute interview to a 45-minute interview and will include an additional question on what the executive’s responsibility is along with an icebreaking question. The candidate will still have to complete an eight-minute presentation, a cover letter and three STARR questions like before.

Deeming explained that the reason they changed the interview formats was because before the executive and coordinator interviews were “basically the exact same interview process” which isn’t fair for the coordinator who is in a higher position.

General volunteer hiring will see the biggest changes, as Deeming explained this is where the Union saw most of their volunteers being left out by chance.

Four different categories will be used this year. Carousel interviews will occur for GO Team, Shinerama and Icebreaker applicants; situational interviews will be used for Emergency Response Team; a personal statement/letter of intent will be required for BACCHUS, Peer Help Line External, EcoHawks, Food Bank,

Winter Carnival, University Affairs, Foot Patrol and Hiring and Recruitment. Formal interviews will take place for Peer Help Line Internal.

ERT coordinator Jordan Brazeau, explained that when he was in first-year they did not include the first aid component and it was all STARR. Now, with a formal situational component to the interview, he can see which applicants are best for the position.

“I think that works best for us because at the end of the day, I’m interested in people’s abilities as somebody giving first aid. And I can see that when they come in,” he said. “If they hate STARR, they can see we’re not just hiring based on a marking scheme, we’re hiring based on you.”

Brazeau said he believes the Union’s volunteer hiring practices are moving in the right direction to fitting what each service and team needs.

The Union will be holding open forums for final feedback before the policy is actually implemented and put into place. The goal, Deeming said, is to give students a more realistic environment for hiring practices.

“It’s based on how you answer questions, how you’re selling yourself, basically. So it allows, I’m hoping, for a more realistic experience for what hiring is like in the real world,” she said.

AWARDS

Garden recognized by community

KAITLYN SEVERIN
LEAD REPORTER

Wilfrid Laurier University was recently recognized for its improvements in energy efficiency and stormwater projects by winning the Residential Energy Efficiency Project’s Green Solutions community engagement award. Laurier was honoured for the Mino-Kummik Aboriginal Community Garden located at the Aboriginal Student Centre.

“It gives us exposure of what we’re doing, but it also helps us give back to the community and I think that’s really what was recognized in the award,” said Claire Bennett, manager of Laurier’s sustainability office.

REEP is a non-profit environmental organization that provides services, tools and programs to help people use energy wisely. It supports Waterloo’s RAIN program, which is a stormwater education and action program that the Aboriginal Student Centre began forming a relationship with in 2012.

“The Aboriginal Student Centre has implemented new technologies to tackle stormwater problems on



WILL HUANG/PHOTO EDITOR

The Mino-Kummik garden won the REEP community engagement award.

their site and are sharing what they have learned with the community. Their leadership will inspire others to take action to protect our groundwater, rivers and lakes,” said Cheryl Evans, program manager of RAIN, in an e-mail.

Aboriginal Student Support coordinator Melissa Ireland initiated the relationship with RAIN when the centre began experiencing a stormwater issue that involved water running into the basement and erod-

ing part of the property. They gave solutions on how to fix the problem,

“With them, it was a great partnership because they were actually able to provide some advice on the projects,” said Bennett.

The main features at the Aboriginal Student Centre are the RAIN Butterfly Gardens and an above ground cistern. The cistern captures water from the roof and is used for grounds maintenance water on campus.

“We will eventually run out of

ground water and the next solution is to tap into the Great Lakes, which is a huge amount of cost because they would have put in pipes all the way into the Great Lakes,” said Bennett.

“Which is crazy. So Waterloo Region is really promoting having stormwater projects and managing stormwater from a variety of ways, from cisterns to biosoil to greywater harvesting and building, so we’re taking that very seriously as well.”

According to Ireland, the award is a representation of the centre’s relationship with RAIN.

“It demonstrates that we can all work together for a common goal and I think our recognition is very important because more people can find out about the project,” she said.

Ireland said the award will also represent the 10,000 Aboriginal people in the Waterloo-Wellington area and the 300 aboriginal students on campus.

“I think that we will show that we have an urban aboriginal presence on campus and through the community through this award, so I think that more recognition for Aboriginal Peoples will occur,” she said.

FROM COVER

Finance course to be reviewed

—cover professor as needed.

According to the petition, this new approach is causing students to struggle in the course.

"This particular approach was a result of kind of feeling like because finance is A: a difficult discipline for a lot of students and B: it's a problem based discipline that it would be a good course to do the flipped approach because the lecture approach students have not liked that in the past," Keeping said.

The student who wrote the petition, who wished to remain anonymous, said she doesn't find this new approach effective.

This is partially part due to her busy schedule which makes it difficult for her to find time to teach herself the concepts.

"My issues were that when I did sit down to do the homework on my own time ... and I reached out to the professor for help, I was told that he will not help me and he doesn't have office hours, etcetera, which is unreasonable I think," she said.

Few students attend class, she continued.

While she believes they are supposed to all be on the same page so they can work through problems together, this doesn't happen because students are all at a different point in the course.

"There is no engagement because everyone is at a different pace and you can't even group together because there are literally six people in the classroom."

Pat Rogers, Laurier's associate vice-president of teaching and learning, explained that she has used the flipped classroom approach in the past.

While McNally and his fellow professors are following a similar model

"There is no engagement because everyone is at a different pace..."

— Anonymous student who wrote BU283/383 petition

of a flipped classroom, it is not identical to the way Rogers described the structure she implemented.

"It's basically moving the getting knowledge, getting the concepts outside the classroom and using the classroom differently to engage in deep discussion," she explained in regards to how she ran her flipped classrooms.

Rogers would prepare problems for students to work through together in class, providing the opportunity to engage in discussion.

In an e-mail, McNally said he allows students to shape what happens in class and that he does not prepare any problems in advance.

As a result, the student who wrote the petition explained there is no discussion in BU383's version of the flipped classroom. Students work quietly and individually ask the professor questions during class time.

After receiving the petition, Keeping contacted McNally and the area coordinator, Brian Smith.

McNally declined to speak in an interview, as did the other professors who currently teach the course.

On Monday, Keeping sent out an e-mail to all students enrolled in BU383 and BU283 to acknowledge she had received the petition and outlined their course of action.

They have sent out surveys to



JOSHUA AWOLADE/GRAPHICS EDITOR

students to get more concrete input on their experience with the course format.

"My main issue was that they gave the impression that something was going to change," the creator of the petition said of the survey.

"But from the nature of the questionnaire that was sent out, the questions that were being asked weren't reflective of the issues addressed in the petition."

Part of the problem with the online and anonymous nature of the petition, Keeping said, is that it is difficult to tell how many students in the course are actually concerned.

"Although there's a number of people who have signed it, it seems

to be you don't need to have a valid e-mail address to sign it, you can put any name you want," she said. "So Bruce Wayne has signed it, for example."

Max Tian, a third-year math and business student who is currently taking BU383, commented on why the student may have chosen to create an anonymous, online petition.

"On the one hand if you're doing things online that sort of invalidates some credibility to it because anybody can sign up anybody can sign the petition," he said.

"But at the same time, going online is a lot more effective way of communication than standing in front of a classroom asking people to

sign a physical petition form."

He also said he finds lecture-based courses to be more effective.

"When I go to lectures I'm paying attention to what the prof is saying, what's written down on the board — I'm writing it down myself" he said.

"It helps me personally memorize a lot of the concepts better."

Rogers explained she has found her version of the flipped classroom approach to be more effective because students are more active in their learning.

"It's hard work for students, there's no doubt about it," she said. "You probably resent it bitterly at the time. But what happens at the end is you really understand stuff."

PROFILE

Student combines passion with academics

Shailyn Drukis takes part in World Parks Congress

MADDY CUTTS
STAFF WRITER

Wilfrid Laurier University was represented this past week at the World Parks Congress held in Sydney, Australia.

The congress, which is put on by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, aims to facilitate information sharing internationally regarding protected areas and conservation, as well as establishing global goals and objectives in the field.

In attendance was Laurier student Shailyn Drukis, a fifth-year environmental studies student whose research focuses on the natural parks and protected areas of northern Canada. She was one of only 30 young people to be part of the workshop.

Held every decade since its founding in 1962, the congress is one of the oldest international environmental organizations in the world and continues to be highly influential in setting global standards for the protection and conservation of natural areas.

After having attended numerous international conferences pertaining to the protection and conservation of natural areas — notably two regarding the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity — Drukis found her work with the topic gradually growing.

"I noticed that even though the

"I think that's what I got out of the congress most — was hearing and experiencing case studies ..."

— Shailyn Drukis, fifth-year environmental studies student

rate of protected areas was increasing globally, the loss of biodiversity was still increasing, so I was really interested to find out kind of why, and really started focusing my research on effectively managing protected areas," she explained.

Having helped found the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, as well as being a youth board member to the Canadian chapter of the IUCN, Drukis was invited to be a representative at the congress in Sydney.

Hosting thousands of delegates from over 150 nations, the event allowed for a diverse representation of the world's various natural landscapes and climates.

"I think that's what I got out of the congress the most — was hearing and experiencing case studies related topics from different regions," said Drukis.

"Being able to make comparisons,

and learn a lot about how to integrate some of those ideas into the region that I'm focused in and within Canada itself."

The opportunity to attend the congress was supported by Drukis' professors, who supported and facilitated her time away from class, and by the university, which helped fund her trip.

In keeping with Laurier's attitude of encouraging learning outside of the classroom, the conference highlighted links that can be made between academics and real world application.

"I just found a lot of the topics and sessions I went to at the congress are things that I'm learning about in some of my courses," said Drukis.

"So I've even been able to integrate new perspectives that I've heard now from around the world into how I think about the course work that I'm studying."

Drukis is now planning to head to Norway in December to present her undergraduate thesis at the Arctic Biodiversity Congress.

She hopes the valuable insight and knowledge gained throughout the conference will impact not only her current studies, but also help build the basis of her future graduate studies.

"I'm really excited to see if I can take some of the ideas that I heard from the other regions and see if I can apply it," she said.

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COMMUNITY

Nutritious donations encouraged

Collection centres urge people to donate healthy foods that will contribute to a balanced diet

JULIA VASILYEVA
CORD NEWS

As the winter months approach, food bank collection centres are urging people to focus on providing nutritional donations over junk food and treats.

The Food Bank of Waterloo Region, located at 50 Alpine Court in Kitchener, supports hot meal programs, shelters and residential programs in the community. For them, the quality of the donations they receive are as crucial as ever.

"If you think about Canada's Food Guide, most food banks are looking for donations in each of the food groups so that ultimately they are able to deliver a nutritious, balanced, food hamper or community meal for a food program at the residential program that is being served," said Ruth Friendship-Keller, the manager of community partnerships at The Food Bank of Waterloo Region.

Their website indicates their most needed items at the moment are peanut butter, beans, canned fish, canned fruit, cold cereal and canned pasta.

"We are very grateful for every donation that we receive," Friendship-Keller continued. "And as I mentioned, we are very fortunate. We get donations from food industry supporters so that we have milk coming in from dairy farmers of Ontario, we have eggs from egg producers, we have frozen meat coming in from partners like Maple Leaf Foods, Pillars sausages and during the growing season, the local farmers are giving us fresh product. We have

"A simple rule is to think of what you would want to receive if you were experiencing some very difficult circumstances..."

-Ruth Friendship-Keller, manager of community partnerships at The Food Bank of Waterloo Region

no complaints about donations that are coming in."

With children and infants making up a big portion of recipients of food bank items or related food programs, milk, formula and nutritious snacks are always in high demand.

One of these programs is Nutrition for Learning, dedicated to providing healthy meals to students in Waterloo with their breakfast, lunch and healthy snack programs.

According to Brian Banks, community development officer at Nutrition for Learning, their most beneficial donations are "healthy items like whole grain Cheerios, whole grain Rice Crispies or Shreddies versus the candy cereals. Healthy granola bars, apples, fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grain crackers or whole grain frozen pancakes and bread."

The program's mission is to provide students with nutritious resources to encourage and maintain their concentration at school.

"Who benefits are the students and the teachers by a classroom filled with focused and attentive students," said Banks. "The com-



LAILA HACK/GRAPHIC ARTIST

munity and school as well, because it puts everyone on an even platform for learning."

Banks advised people to share the most wholesome option they would like to eat if they had only one chance to eat.

Marillac Place is another program assisted by the The Food Bank of Waterloo Region. It is an emergency shelter for women ages 16-25 who

are pregnant, who have a child or who are trying to regain care for their child.

"The big, most in-demand thing is the homo milk that we get on a weekly basis from the food bank," said Julie Hause, fundraising manager at Marillac Place. "This is highly in demand, of course, because of the babies. We do get the odd cans of formula and stuff like that. The one

other thing the food bank provides us with is dairy products which is excellent."

With their lengthy accommodation of 12 months, The Food Bank of Waterloo Region's support to Marillac Place is crucial.

"Because of our situation with public health and again because of the age of the children, we aren't allowed to have any nitrates or anything like that," said Hause. "So any processed meat, we can't accept. But any type of snacking, granola bars, stuff like that we can accept from the food bank."

Since the possibility of keeping a stock of fresh foods like milk and produce is difficult, people are encouraged to consider a cash donation to the food bank.

"It costs money to keep trucks on the road and the enormous fridge and freezer that we have here running," said Friendship-Keller. "Financial donations are used so that we can pick up large corporate donations of perishable as well as the non-perishable food donated by the community. We are very fortunate because of the great support we have that we don't have to purchase very much food. But if we are short on one of the key items we will use it to purchase to fill in gaps."

As the winter months draw to a close, people are encouraged to be more mindful of their community.

"A simple rule is to think of what you would want to receive if you were experiencing some very difficult circumstances and you weren't able to purchase your own food," said Friendship-Keller.

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FROM COVER



HEATHER DAVIDSON/PHOTO EDITOR

Bus routes reconsidered

Grand River Transit may be cancelling the 7D and 7E bus routes in Waterloo

CONNOR WARD
LEAD REPORTER

-cover with the way the route 7 is setup with the six different letter branches, and we've heard from the public in the past that it is confusing," said Fulton.

The route 7E and D busses have their stops based at the University of Waterloo and are primarily used by university students.

Although the proposals would replace the busses with additional 200 iXpress busses, there is still some concern from students who frequently use them.

"The 7D/E busses go all the way around UW campus, and if they take it away the students that take the night busses to get home wont be able to," said Zayan Imtiaz, a first-year student at UW.

"So I think it'd be a bad idea if they took it out."

GRT is also looking into how they will ensure continued service for riders of the 7D and E if those busses were to be cancelled. The main suggestion has been to facilitate additional busses of other routes and

integrate busses with the ION rail stops.

"We would be looking at providing additional trips on other routes, like route 7, that would remain on King Street and routes on University and Columbia to mitigate the change," said Fulton.

"We'll also be looking at adding additional stations for the 200 iXpress at the location of ION stops. That would help mitigate the loss of the D/E by opening up additional options for people by adding those stops."

One key factor in whether GRT will adopt this proposal is public perception and feedback. They have been hosting public consultation sessions to get feedback from riders in Waterloo, with the last session being hosted on Nov. 26 at Emmanuel Village. Riders can also give their feedback on upcoming proposals using GRT's customer service phone line.

"We're trying to gather feedback from riders and particularly students in the Waterloo areas on these proposals before any decisions are made," said Fulton.

BUSINESS

City 'very welcoming' of local small businesses

DAINA GOLDFINGER
LEAD REPORTER

Amid commercial stores and corporations, many small businesses are present in Waterloo. However, getting a small business started in the city and keeping it running has its challenges.

"I think it is pretty easy to start a business here," said Chris Farrell, manager of the Waterloo Region Small Business Centre.

"Especially not only easy in terms of regulatory issues, but easy in the sense that there are a lot of people who are willing to volunteer their time to help startups to become successful."

The Waterloo Region Small Business Centre helps more traditional brick and mortar businesses start and maintain their business by offering seminars and workshops that could be helpful to entrepreneurs, networking sessions, one-on-one consultations and mentoring opportunities.

"A lot of it is helping them work through their ideas and some of the regulatory things they would need to address, connecting them with experts, helping them to prepare business plans and market research," said Farrell.

Words Worth Books, a bookstore in uptown Waterloo, has been up and running for just over thirty years and utilized the Small Business Centre's services.

According to co-owners David Worsley and Mandy Brouse, these services were helpful in developing the business in a hands-on manner. Worsley did not believe there was much for them to improve upon, as the services were all extremely beneficial for them.

When asked if Waterloo is supportive to small businesses, Worsley responded, "Yes, generally. Uptown has changed around here a lot. There has been a lot of development."

In addition to Words Worth Books, the Small Business Centre has helped a little over 450 companies start up in Waterloo just over the past year.

Nougat Bakery and Delicatessen started about 18 years ago and currently has locations in Waterloo and



KHA VO/FILE PHOTO

Uptown Waterloo hosts a multitude of small businesses owned by locals.

"...Certainly there is nothing the City of Waterloo has done to make it difficult ... there is an encouragement for us to do well."

-Jay Konduros, owner of Nougat Bakery and Delicatessen

Kitchener. Jay Konduros and his wife took over the Kitchener location two years ago and opened the uptown Waterloo location this past summer.

They utilized the government's services to get permits from the City of Waterloo and are also a part of the Uptown Waterloo Business Improvement Area, which they believe is very "welcoming and informative." Overall, Konduros said Waterloo is a great place to run a business.

"It seems to be very welcoming

of local independent businesses, certainly there is nothing the City of Waterloo has done to make it difficult ... there is an encouragement for us to do well," Konduros said.

Despite these successes, Farrell explained that, according to statistics, only 50 per cent of businesses that started would remain in business their first year, but as years go on this number begins to decline.

According to Worsley the construction of the light rail transit system could be a cause for concern. The LRT is planned to extend 19 kilometres between Conestoga Mall in the City of Waterloo and Fairview Park Mall in the City of Kitchener.

"Construction is going to be right at my front door for four months," said Worsley. "The train runs basically from mall to mall ... that's a lot of small businesses that are really going to need help from the region or the city."



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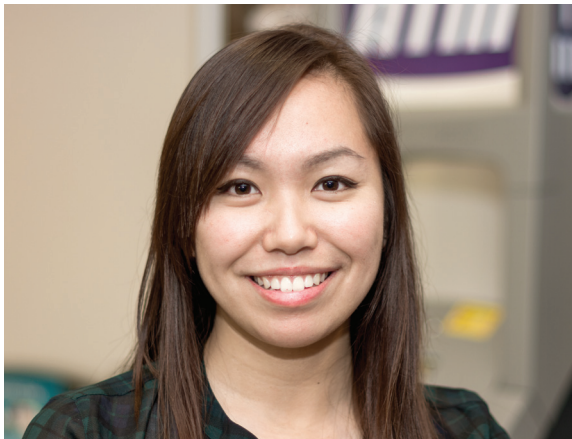
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Features

FEATURES EDITOR
ALANNA FAIREY

Define this: the holidays

For the second segment of 'Define This,' Features Editor **Alanna Fairey** went on campus and asked nine students how they would define the holidays



Kelly Su, fourth-year business

"My definition of the holidays is having great food with great company."



Ese Mrabure-Ajufo, fourth-year general arts

"The holidays means family comes together and spend time with one another."



Winta Yonathan, second-year business

"The holidays just means coming together with your family and remembering the important things."



Ryan Hueglin, fifth-year English

"To me, the holidays mean copious amounts of turkey and sleeping in."



Moe Kohli, second-year business

"My definition of the holidays is a time of giving."



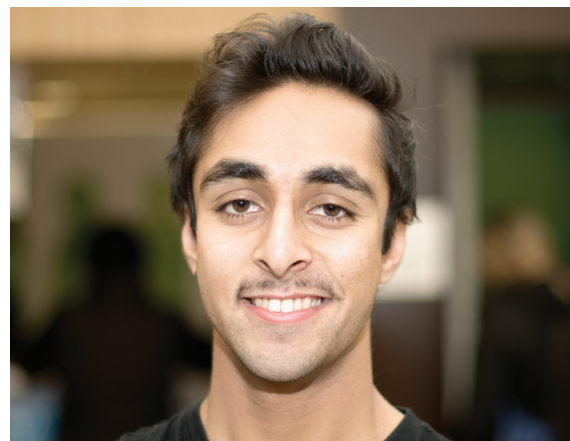
Sarah Neeb, fourth-year business

"My definitions of the holidays are just getting together with friends and family."



Albert Alberto, fourth-year business

"To me the holidays are a lot more about spending time with family. It used to be when I was a kid about presents and stuff, but now I guess it's just a lot more about the people you're with."



Imran Syed, third-year health sciences

"I just find it's a time where you have time off in general. Personally, I don't celebrate Christmas – I was born on Christmas so I celebrate myself very well ... I love being born on Christmas, it's always fun."



Karina Flores, third-year business

"I get to spend time with my family and with my dogs too, and time to relax and get to know my family. We don't really focus much on gifts, so it's just about spending time together and just getting to know each other more."

Arts & Life

ARTS & LIFE EDITOR
BRYAN STEPHENS

FILM

Power of score in film



ZACH GUITOR
STAFF WRITER

A peculiar phenomenon occurs when you watch a scary movie. A secondary character is executing an arbitrary task — maybe he's doing the laundry — but somehow you just know it: they're going to die. You've come to this conclusion based on the raised hairs on your neck or perhaps the enlarging pit in your stomach and next thing you know they're dead. Sure, you could credit this psychic event to scary movie stereotypes, but the true master at work — the root of your superpower — was simply the music.

A film score has the power to instill the deepest emotions, unparalleled suspense or even the utmost inspiration.

It's a shame film scores are often overlooked and merely considered background noise by many filmgoers. The truth is, musical scores are at the root of the emotion filmmakers wish to translate from the screen to their audiences. The most heart-breaking scenes may make you feel upset, but it's the hushed strings that will bring you to tears. Without a strong score supporting it, some of your favourite movie scenes would be passed off as insignificant, since dialogue and actions alone can't always evoke emotion the way music can.

It is often the score that brings an exciting final act to epic proportions. Film scores serve to amplify your emotions, to move you.

An intriguing recent example is the movie *Nightcrawler*. Initially the score may feel out of place or even inappropriate, but its brilliance shines as we learn more about Louis Bloom (Jake Gyllenhaal) and his personal demeanour. Traditionally, scores are composed to match

the tone of the events occurring on screen, but composer James Newton Howards opts for a more ambitious route by matching his music to the emotions of an evident sociopath, Louis. As the camera pans over a decaying body, joyous strings and horns of celebration play — it's disarming as an audience member and almost makes you feel like a sociopath yourself. I walked out of the theatre in awe, amazed at how effectively the music served to immerse the audience into the mind of Louis Bloom.

This film really opened my eyes to how much a score can truly impact a film.

Imagine some of the most treasured moments in cinema — *Jaws*, *Lord of the Rings*, *Star Wars*. Would they still be the celebrated films they are today had they been paired with an uninspired score devoid of passion? The answer to that question alone proves that the score is among the most essential facets to successful filmmaking.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

The music in *Nightcrawler* brings out the tribulations of Gyllenhaal's role.

GAMING



SHANNON MILLAR/GRAPHIC ARTIST

Glitched perspectives

Criticizing glitches doesn't help game developers improve



CHRIS DONALD
STAFF WRITER

Anyone following the release of *Assassin Creed: Unity* has probably seen the viral image where the character models have no face other than eyes and a lipless mouth. It's rather funny looking, as if some nightmare creature from *Beetlejuice* decided to spend a day in 18th-century France and nobody realized it. These kinds of silly mistakes in multi-million dollar games are always worth a laugh at the expense of software giants, but whether they are worthy talking points about the quality of the game itself is another story.

When looking at criticism of the game, the glitches seem to come up as some unsightly blight on what they see as fairly rote entry in a series. Without them it's just standard, but with them it's one of the great

disappointments of the year. This can be seen when looking at Metacritic and the mixed critical reception but the furious audience reception. Glitches have ruined the experience for them to a point beyond annoyance: they are actually offended by these technical problems.

This says a lot about the hypocrisy at the heart of gaming culture. Many gamers want games to be seen as the next great modern art form, but if anything is wrong with them on purely mechanical and technical levels they go into an uproar. This mindset not only trivializes the games in question but does a disservice to those who play them because games can be so much more than their basic functionality as stabbing simulators. They can explore grand ideas of death, identity, trauma, friendship, lost innocence and human accomplishment itself. But if a character falls through the game world then it's all for naught for too many players and even professional critics. The game is not giving them exactly what they were expecting and thus they reject it as a defunct product.

If the greater culture wants their games to be accepted as anything more than toys, then this mindset has to evolve. Glitches can be bothersome, but critically labeling them as deal-breakers is hyperbolic. From an experience standpoint glitches are comparable to continuity errors at best — funny to point out — and DVD skips at worst — annoying but not an actual significant flaw with the piece itself. If the overall product is less-than-stellar then it's better for the game developers to hear about that rather than the glitches because they can actually learn from the former criticism.

So if you've already played *Assassin's Creed: Unity* and noticed these bugs, try to keep them as a footnote in your mind and focus on the game itself. Is it telling its story well? Is it using its gameplay to meaningful effect? Is it engaging and interesting?

Asking yourself these questions will enhance your experience far more than complaining about glitches and may even lead to better, smarter games being made in the future.

FILM

More than just a love triangle

The latest in *Hunger Games* series reveals the down-playing of violence



LENA YANG
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Nearly six centuries ago Sir Thomas More coined the term "utopia" — an imagined place in which society has reached an ideal perfection. Fast forward several centuries and the paradisiacal fantasy of *More* is no longer an alluring idea; rather, its bleak and gritty counterpart has claimed dominance and its name is "dystopia."

One of the most popular dystopian texts — certainly amongst teenagers and the media — is Suzanne Collins's trilogy of a totalitarian government that derives entertainment and pleasure from child-on-child murder.

The third installment in the film series, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1*, premiered this past weekend to polarizing reviews with many critics coming to the consensus that this is a film to be endured rather than enjoyed.

The narrative padding and uneventful progression is a derailment from its action-packed predecessors, which suggests a complete shift from the familiar structure of the previous movies.

The source material is weak, which puts extra pressure on producers to extract a compelling narrative, especially one that is able to span the combined 269-minute runtime of parts one and two. However as the novel is narrated strictly from Katniss' point-of-view, writers are granted the liberty to explore unfamiliar avenues.

The strongest aspect of the film is the diversion from Katniss' narrative to that of the districts. It's a reinforcing nod to the old "show, don't tell."

It is one thing to dabble with the idea of revolution, but it's a whole other thing to witness the passion and anger of common civilians, to watch the driving forces of change influence the progression of the movie.

It's a darker chapter in what is already a grim series. Critics' yearning for the glamour and action of the previous movies suggest a sinister part of our consciousness that is not often acknowledged.

What does it say that we are deriving enjoyment from the very source of atrocity that provided entertainment for the Capitol?

What does it say that, despite the platform for discourse on poverty, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, oppression, violence and popular culture that the novels and films provide, the media has again and again fallen back to the question: Peeta or Gale?

The trivialization of an enormously political text reflects the deliberate downplaying of violence by the Capitol in favour of the more inconsequential aspects of the Games.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1 is banned in Thailand where civil unrest is brewing. The central message of the story hasn't gone unrecognized because censorship ultimately suggests the government is afraid of the implications of a story that shows authority can be overturned.

The Hunger Games may be a speculative text, but Suzanne Collins hit it right on the nose. 1,725 children have died in the Games, a 16-year-old girl suffers from intense PTSD, there are televised ISIS-like public executions — but the media chooses to focus on the love triangle.

Hate President Snow, vilify him and the Capitol, call them names and make them the villain. It doesn't change the fact that we are very much in danger of becoming the antagonists that we so abhor.

BOOKS

Read for leisure

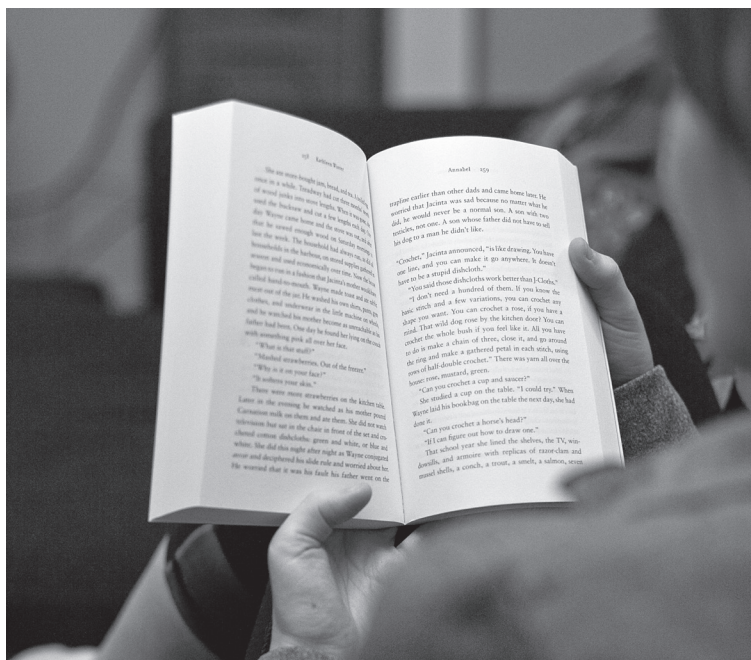


SCOTT GLAYSHER
STAFF WRITER

We all know one of the most integral parts of succeeding in university is completing the required readings. Reading is a massive part of academic prosperity no matter which faculty, program or concentration you are in. These school readings come in all different shapes and sizes; everything from academic articles, course packages and online readings to the classic textbook must be carefully read in some capacity. The required readings for a course might very well be just as important as lecture material, putting that much more importance on students actually completing the readings.

So where can students fit in time for non-academic reading? The thought almost seems ridiculous to those who would never use their spare time to do more reading. However for those students who find reading their most pleasurable pastime, how can they fit it in their schedules?

It's important to realize there are many different types of pleasure readers. There are those who like nothing more than to read. After their readings and notes are done for a class, they have no problem picking



HEATHER DAVIDSON/PHOTO EDITOR

Students may use different forms of reading as stress-release from school.

up a dense 600-page Dan Brown soft cover and melting into the couch for hours on end. This type of reading can be rewarding but risky. Oftentimes those books can become quite addicting and those course readings get put on the backburner, especially if it's in a series. Being a full-blown book lover can be manageable in university, but be sure to distribute your time evenly to get priority readings done first.

There are also students who like to pleasure read but on a smaller level. These are the students who might pick up a light novel mid-semester but mainly stick to magazines and long form blogs. Having a more casual pleasure reading style naturally fits better with a university course load and lightens the literary mood. Reading light-hearted magazines and thought-provoking blogs can be a good way to contrast the heavy literature you often find in course readings. This type of pleasure reading would be most recommended because it perfectly balances out time commitment and subject mat-

ter.

Last is the procrastination pleasure reader. This type of person exclusively reads time-consuming list articles from BuzzFeed or Thought Catalogue that have little-to-no literary substance. The main motive behind reading is so they don't have to read course material. This probably makes up a decent portion of pleasure readers on campus but it's not all bad. Reading different posts from all over the Internet can expand opinions and spark conversations. You have to make sure to have some self-control because one clicks too many can quickly turn into three hours of wasted time.

Pleasure reading while at university is do-able. There are tons of opportunities to brush up on a good book or even indulge in some short, quirky study break articles. This type of reading is good for stimulating creativity and free flowing ideas, but be cautious of not getting too caught up in too much of it. Balance is the key to success with all the readings you have to do.

CULTURE

Social media harassment



JASMINE AULT
STAFF WRITER

The pressures of dating are higher than ever during young adulthood. Long gone are the days in which a couple would meet each other at your local Sadie Hawkins dance and live happily ever after. Today, all the rage is dating apps on our ever-evolving smart phones and tablets..

If you haven't heard or used dating apps like Tinder, OkCupid, Plenty of Fish or Grindr, then you've likely been married for decades or you're in the one-third percentile that met the pre-social media way.

While using these apps can be entertaining, one of the largest problems with online dating is the constant harassment received from men who can't understand that not every cheesy pickup line they drop is automatically well received. To be fair, women could easily be on the other end of the harassment, spewing hurtful messages to men who simply aren't interested, however women risk being labeled the unfair title of "thirsty."

There are a few unspoken rules people are forced to abide by in the online dating world and most of these rules unfortunately apply to girls: do not message the guy first; do not double message during a conversation; don't state what you're looking for in your bio; be thankful for any and every lewd pic you may

be "lucky" enough to receive in the first five minutes of conversation, because if you're on a dating site, you're asking for it. If you don't follow these rules you will most likely become a victim of harassment from other users.

A popular Instagram account "Bye Felipe" is dedicated to screenshots of the harassment women receive on online dating sites, specifically Tinder. It is the latest Internet sensation since Alex From Target and it perfectly demonstrates the harassment received by many looking to connect with someone.

What many men obviously do not understand is perhaps the person they are messaging has already found someone else on the dating app, or out there in the real world.

So before sending a hateful message, consider what the other person may think when they receive it. It is not worth taking the chance of having your online profile put out on full display on a popular Instagram account — no one wants to be that jerk.

According to the account, the purpose of the page is to "call out dudes who turn hostile when rejected or ignored." It is safe to say everyone at one point or another has received messages like these or worse.

Through the rubble and catfish messages, how many of the messages received on popular dating apps could be seen as potential relationships, friendships or hook ups? This is the question and also the answer as to why many women suffer through the harassment in an attempt to meet their potential mates.

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ENTERTAINMENT



JOSHUA AWOLADE/GRAPHICS EDITOR

Aesthetics over content



VICTORIA BERNDT
STAFF WRITER

With technology getting better and better, artistry has really taken off. What was once rough and hard to swallow is now smooth and satisfying. Films have become fluent in computer-generated imagery and music has become indistinguishable from auto-tune. With such a leap taken over the past few years, the industry's ability to lull the audience into submission has grown drastically. But as consumers in such a culture, it is our job to take a step back and look at what exactly we're getting.

It's easy for anyone to praise aesthetics. Whether it's through traditional art, film or music, there will always be a way to judge something based on how pretty it is. This is a trap for the conscious consumer. Let

us take the example of James Cameron's *Avatar*. The scope of the film was epic, rich and detailed. However that only extended to the visuals. New technologies got audiences to theatres, but afterwards, many could say there was something cheesy about the film.

Countless albums, regardless of their popularity, will be same-sounding edited tracks that have no meat to them. Lil Wayne and T-Pain are examples of artists that use the technological leap to their advantage, but there is nothing in their songs worth talking about.

The reason so many people still watch classic movies or listen to old songs isn't necessarily because they find the old graphics or sound quality to be amazing — it's because of the story. The narrative itself is enough to make them stay, regardless of how many terrible crafted puppet monsters or old timey audio edits they have to sit through. This is important to understand in our era of digital technology and the seamless blurs between quality and

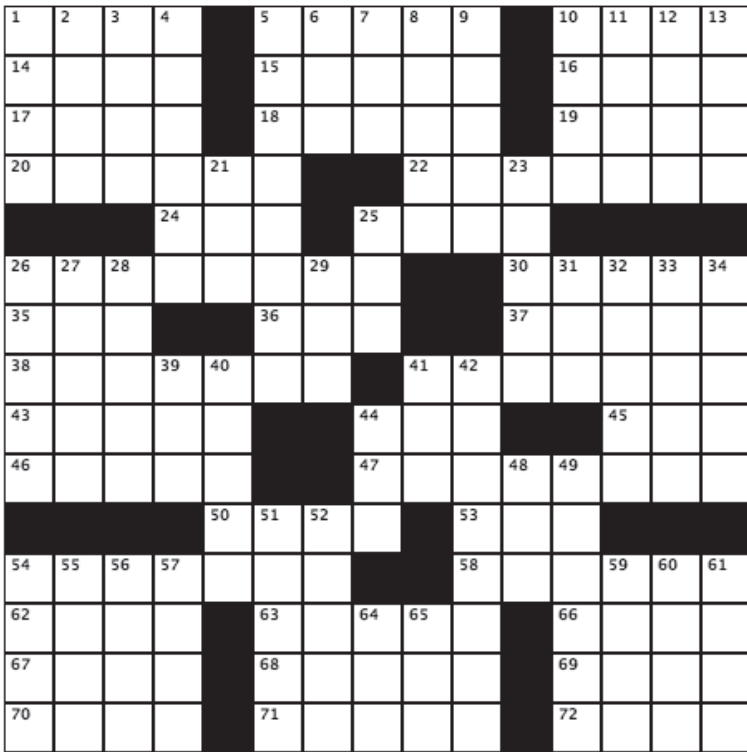
quantity that are a consequence of this abuse of power.

Ultimately, those who abuse aesthetics will be found out. The film could be as obviously flimsy as *After Earth* or as hard to criticize as *Thor*; as terrible as "Friday" or as commonly accepted as "Wrecking Ball" and yet the judgement remains the same: art without story is just a series of pretty pictures and worth nothing.

So then, how does a film effectively use both? Knowing the narrative comes first. A good example of the effective marriage of aesthetics and story would be *Guardians of the Galaxy*, which maintained a joking yet serious tone throughout the entire film, earning it the right to be able to use slightly ridiculous CG settings to add to the already strong narrative. Or even take Taylor Swift's "Shake It Off," which, while terribly catchy, proves a good point. This is how art should work.

Not through trying to buy its way into the audience's heart, but by earning their approval through a carefully placed aesthetic.

Crossword



ACROSS

- 1- Horrors!
- 5- Spoil
- 10- Heinous
- 14- Suggestive look
- 15- When prompted
- 16- Fermented grape juice
- 17- Author ___ Stanley Gardner
- 18- Chopin composition
- 19- Acquire through merit
- 20- Ride at full speed
- 22- Twisted
- 24- Go downhill fast
- 25- Discounted
- 26- Chair for two persons
- 30- Heaps
- 35- Actress Gardner
- 36- Heston's hero, with Loren: El ___
- 37- "Goodnight" girl
- 38- By the day
- 41- Foot lever
- 43- Examined furtively
- 44- Bind
- 45- Bit
- 46- Stagnant
- 47- State in the central United States
- 50- Editor Wintour
- 53- Funnyman Philips
- 54- Spiral-shaped passage of the inner ear
- 58- Suitcase
- 62- Burn balm
- 63- Yoga posture

- 66- School founded in 1440
- 67- The back end of something
- 68- Babbled
- 69- Stick around
- 70- Routine
- 71- Bias
- 72- Marsh bird

DOWN

- 1- Couturier Cassini
- 2- Mother of Ares
- 3- 1994 Jodie Foster film
- 4- Threatening words
- 5- Footwear
- 6- Aardvark morsel
- 7- Hosp. section
- 8- Gentle push
- 9- Ages between 13 and 19
- 10- Water pitcher
- 11- Antidote holder, maybe
- 12- As to
- 13- Grant temporary use of
- 21- Approves
- 23- Easy ___
- 25- Old Ford
- 26- Reindeer herders
- 27- Not concealed
- 28- Miscellany
- 29- Intention
- 31- Lyricist Gershwin
- 32- Resulted in
- 33- China's Zhou ___
- 34- Sows
- 39- "Runaway" singer Shannon
- 40- Model

- 41- "... ___ the cows come home"
- 42- Pertinent
- 44- Acapulco aunt
- 48- "___ Believer" (Monkees hit)
- 49- Surprisingly
- 51- Approaches
- 52- Like Fran Drescher's voice
- 54- Singer Vikki
- 55- Butter alternative
- 56- Paint layer
- 57- Roll call call
- 59- Sock ___ me!
- 60- Fly
- 61- "Only Time" singer
- 64- Gasteyer of "Saturday Night Live"
- 65- Prefix with profit or fiction

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							8	
3			1	4	8			2
	4			7		5		9
6	7					9		
9	8			1			3	7
		1					5	6
5		4		9			2	
1			7	8	5			3
	6							

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Editorial

OPINION EDITOR
MOYOSORE AREWA

The minimum wage problem can't be easily resolved

As of June 2014, the minimum hourly wage in Ontario has been \$11 — an increase from \$10.25. However, when looking at the realities of many of the people in Canada who are confined to jobs that pay minimum wage, it is clear that some changes need to be made. Although we understand there are several cohorts of people earning the minimum wage, we focus our attention entirely on students.

That said, it is no surprise that many of the positions available to students are unpaid and volunteer-based.

When they do pay, it is usually just the minimum wage. We might think that since students are young and have fewer responsibilities, they don't have much use for money — or at least they don't need a lot of it to be comfortable.

This perception is miscued and simple-minded. From the time of their admittance into university, students today are held captive to the burden of debt. The cost of obtaining a university education has increased exponentially and all signs point to further increases in the near future. However, before this becomes yet another rant on students' misfortunes, we are able to recognize and respect the intricacies that accompany this issue.

It is often argued that if the

minimum wage increases drastically, students will be less motivated to seek better jobs. They would be more inclined to settle for those mediocre, minimum wage-paying jobs, rather than pursuing the harder route towards substantial employment in their respective fields.

Furthermore, it has become an aphorism in economics that as wages increase, the cost of living tends to increase as well.

Hence, following this logic, an increase in the minimum wage could in the long run do very little to mitigate the students' unfortunate standard of living.

Moreover, we can't dismiss the possibility that some students are to blame for their circumstances — they often spend recklessly on frivolous things, without paying much attention to the future or to their impending debt.

It is clear that the solution to this isn't going to be simple, but there must be a way to find a middle ground between the perceived low minimum wage, the unrealistically high costs of university education and the reckless habits of some students.

Until then, we must continue to make hay while the sun shines and persevere through whatever difficulties we might be experiencing.

When donating, it is important to exert diligence

What drives us to give to those in need? Some give because they believe it'll bring about good fortune in return. A few give for purely altruistic reasons. Others give because some Holy Book or another has promised them eternal life if they do so. Regardless of the motivations behind it, the process of giving back is so prevalent that it has occupied the minds of some prominent thinkers in time, from Homer, Hesiod and Cicero, to St. Augustine, St. Martin and St. Basil The Great. Just as the motivations behind giving are contested, methods of gifting are also contested.

Are we to give only when it is of convenience to us, without properly considering the situation of the recipient, or are we to give selflessly, putting our families and ourselves second? This conundrum manifests in several areas of modern life, one of which is with the local food bank here in Waterloo. The food bank runs primarily on donations and in turn it gives whatever donations it receives to people in need.

The problem, however, is that many of the food items they receive are selected by the donors from the

filthy crevices of their pantries — items that may have been bought months ago and have now been long-forgotten. These items are of very low nutritional value, if any at all, and are items the donors themselves wouldn't dare to eat.

They give these items to the food bank not because they have had some sort of cathartic revelation and suddenly feel an altruistic desire to do good, but because they wish to simply get rid of the item and perhaps create some room in their otherwise jam-packed pantry.

This disregard for the recipients of the food is imprudent at best and dehumanizing at worst.

Nonetheless, we concede to the fact that it may be difficult to expect everyone to give generously and diligently, but the difficulty of the task isn't reason enough to abandon all efforts.

Hence, when giving, we must always remember that, at the end of our respective gifts, there are real people with very real problems, and the least we could do is put some thought into our efforts at assuaging their misfortune.

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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JOSHUA AWOLADE/GRAPHICS EDITOR

Self-reliance is a virtue



KATE TURNER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When I first came to university, I followed the same pattern many students adopt when at school.

Go to class, nap, hit the dining hall, study in my room and go home every other weekend.

I was pretty much confined by the four streets surrounding our school and rarely ventured off campus.

While this is normal and somewhat expected from first-years who are brand new to Waterloo and to Wilfrid Laurier University, it often continues after that year and seriously hinders students' abilities to become independent human beings.

Most students move just a street or two over from campus after their year in residence and find themselves falling victim to the same pattern: go to class, nap, go to Subway or Pizza Maniac, study on campus or in their room and go home every other weekend — if not every weekend.

Few people are able to escape the tiny bubble surrounding campus and as a result they never feel at home in Waterloo.

It's really a vicious cycle because when students don't feel comfortable here they tend to go home a lot, which then takes away their chance to actually get to know the city and feel comfortable here.

I was in the same boat for my first couple years of university, and so were all of my roommates.

There was seldom a weekend when we were all in the house at the

same time because so many of us would go home.

It all comes down to the fact that a lot of people don't want to get out of the bubble.

They view their time at university as fleeting because they're only in the city for four years of their lives — not including the summer for most students.

Many of their friends are still in their hometown, they feel the need to go home to do laundry and eat a decent meal.

Frankly, this tells me people are afraid to let go of the comforts of childhood and accept that they are on the cusp of adulthood.

Once I started to explore the city and all the cool stuff it has to offer, I instantly became more comfortable here. I no longer viewed myself as a temporary resident, only here to get my education and leave.

I started becoming more independent because I began to let go of my childhood in my hometown and began doing more for myself here.

It's a lot harder to get out there and explore when you're attending a school like Laurier, which isn't integrated into the city at all. Some universities are a lot more spread out or just amalgamated into the city so it really feels like you're a part of the community.

Laurier's campus is tiny and tons of people appreciate that aspect of it. But it means you have to really go out of your way to make yourself comfortable in the city; but a great way to start is actually being here.

If you're attending university, chances are you're at least 17 or 18-years-old. You're adults. You don't need to be running back to your parents every weekend just because you miss the comforts of

You also don't need to be afraid to get too far away from campus. Utilize your independence. Get out of that tiny campus bubble.

home.

You also don't need to be afraid to get too far away from campus.

Utilize your independence. Get out of that tiny campus bubble.

A great way to start being an independent adult is by trying things out for yourself and viewing home as wherever you are, not where someone else does laundry and cooks for you.

It sounds harsh, but I'm willing to bet your parents are tired of it too.

There are so many beautiful parks within walking distance, amazing restaurants and bars that people are missing out on because they're afraid to go too far away from campus or they're just too lazy.

Likewise, people miss out on them because they still cling to everything in their hometown.

But I can tell you with absolute certainty that you will never feel comfortable here if you are never around.

There will come a day when you will be totally out on your own in a new city and you may not have the capability to just go home.

You won't be able to just stay within a small radius of your work or home and lead a happy life.

So why would you do that now?

Opinion

OPINION EDITOR
MOYOSORE AREWA

The vindication of Sun News



SPENCER GIBARA
OPINION COLUMNIST

Sun News has always attracted criticism. Since the earliest days in printing papers it's been slammed as a hard-right, fringe and radical organization.

This hatred came to a head back in 2011 with the launch of the Sun News television station, and the nickname "Fox News North" became synonymous with the network.

Due to its high channel placement and forceful campaigns to discredit it, the network has always struggled with ratings.

Nonetheless, it has only been three and half years since its founding, and it's not going anywhere.

Even though the network has found its footing and the hosts have become more experienced, the mountain of disdain still remains.

But one look at the critiques shows a sea of hypocrisy. In fact, I'm extremely glad to have the Sun News Network around, because although it has its flaws, it has managed to contribute greatly to the Canadian body politic in numerous ways.

Political bias is the number one complaint hurled at the organization, but anyone familiar with the state of Canadian journalism can see that it has been incredibly polarized for half a century.

We know the Toronto Star has a strong left-wing point of view, the Globe and Mail is more of a Liberal paper and The National Post and Sun chain of papers are conservative.

But Sun doesn't just have a bias; it has an honest set of hosts and contributors that admit their ideology.

That is a sharp and welcome change of pace from the Canadian broadcasting norm, where television organizations propagate the laughable idea that they are totally objective.

In fact, Ezra Levant, Sun's most popular figure, has openly said on air, "If it was Stephen Harper who admitted to smoking marijuana, I wouldn't bash him like I do to Trudeau. That's because I'm a conservative commentator who is here to take the conservative side."

Contrast that with the CBC's David Suzuki, who is framed as a non-parti-

san scientist and TV host.

Not only does he bash Stephen Harper routinely, but has gone so far as to actually appear in a television ad endorsing the Ontario Liberal Party.

I think most Canadians would appreciate a more open and honest approach to political commentary, as opposed to a hidden bias that can sway a program.

Apart from bias, those who hate the network simply write the shows off as stupid and the hosts idiotic.

The level of criticism has actually reached the point where if someone on Sun disagrees with the mainstream Liberal view, they are just written off as idiots and phony journalists.

This is more of a political tactic than anything else and shows the laziness of some who can't properly critique Sun and settle instead for cheap insults.

People have opinions that others don't like. That's a part of life.

But the willingness of the left to vehemently despise a network that has a different point of view shows close-mindedness and intolerance.

To make matters worse, those who Sun criticize the most refuse to go on to defend themselves.

For example, the unwillingness of Justin Trudeau to make an appearance so he could argue his beliefs is staggering.

I'm extremely conservative for the average Canadian, and even I don't agree with everything I see on Sun, but I've watched the CBC for years and it eventually became too much. They often covered the same story for weeks and even months.

Opening every episode of Power & Politics with half an hour dedicated to the senate scandal got boring after three weeks.

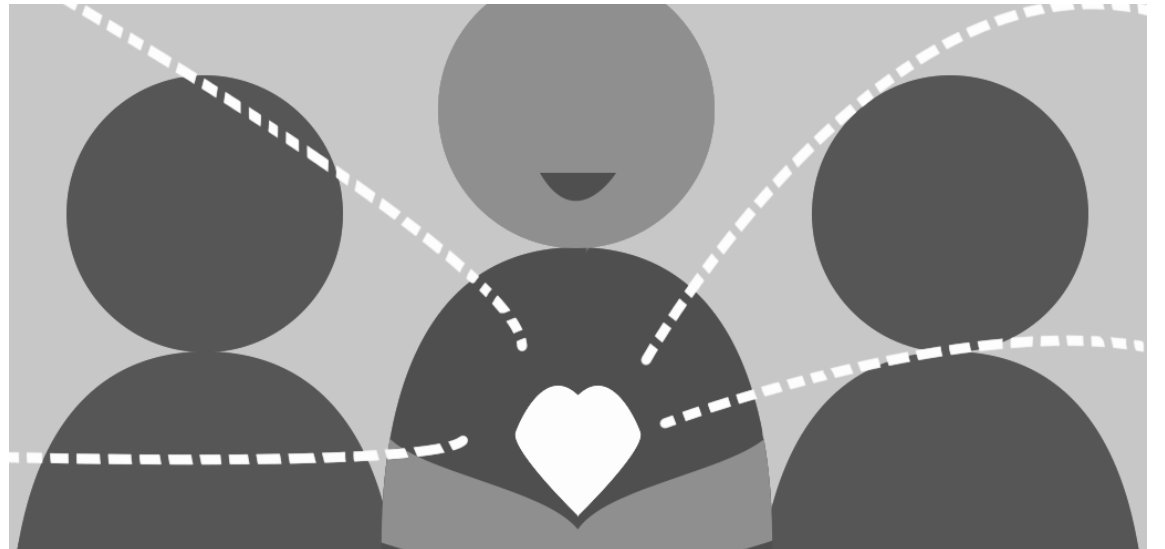
There are other stories to be reported on, and these networks aren't doing so.

I find Sun presents stories that are extremely underreported. And sometimes they're irrelevant, but other times they're significant and catch on.

Numerous times a story brought forward by Sun has sparked interest in other news outlets and enters the mainstream debate.

Overall, Sun News is just a conservative news outlet — nothing more, nothing less.

They give the viewers exactly what they advertise. If you don't like it, then don't watch it.



JOSHUA AWOLADE/GRAPHICS EDITOR

Empathy and justice



DON MORGENSON
COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR

Philoctetes was a good man and a great warrior. Misfortune, however, overtook him and on his way to Troy to fight the Greeks — a venomous serpent bit him.

His wound began to ooze a foul-smelling exudation and his cries of pain disturbed the other soldiers.

Worried about the morale of the fighting unit, the military leaders abandoned him on an island.

According to Sophocles' story, a decade later the soldiers returned to the island to retrieve Philoctetes, realizing they could not win a battle without their great warrior and his magic bow.

And while his superior officers had no other purpose but to use him in battle, the Greek chorus imagined and described the many difficulties Philoctetes faced during his exile; for the chorus and the audience it was an experience in empathy.

What followed was the systematic study of empathy.

Numbered among empathy's advocates were Rousseau, Schopenhauer and Adam Smith; empathy's many opponents were Spinoza, Kant and Nietzsche.

For some, empathy was a vital bridge between the individual and their community, a fundamental way of linking our own interests to the interests of others.

Those opposing empathy worried that it might compel us to make decisions in terms of emotional rather

“Those opposing empathy worried that it might compel us to make decisions in terms of emotional rather than rational factors.”

than rational factors.

In *Rhetoric*, Aristotle argued empathy is a painful but necessary vicarious emotion directed at another person's misfortunes and suffering, and matters deeply for our own lives.

Rousseau argued that an awareness of one's own weaknesses and vulnerabilities is a necessary precondition for empathy.

In *Emile*, Rousseau writes: "Why are kings without pity for their subjects? Because they count on never being common human beings. Why are the rich so hard toward the poor? It is because they have no fear of being poor... make him understand well, that the fate of all these people can be his, and that all their ills are there in the ground beneath his feet, that countless unforeseen and inevitable events can plunge him into them from one moment to the next. Show him all the vicissitudes of fortune."

There are laboratory data to support Rousseau's wise lessons.

In a recent issue of *Science*, researchers found that seeing a loved one endure a slight electric shock activated an area in the brain of the observer responsible for processing pain, pointing to a possible neuro-

logical basis for empathy. Through what are referred to as mirror neurons, reflective brain areas of observers appear to recreate the unpleasant experience — neurologically, they sensed the other's pain.

When individuals watched their partners being shocked, their own sensory cortex was quiet but emotional centers in their brains sprang into action.

We do seem to put ourselves in another's emotional shoes, and it may be hard-wired.

Empathy, as it is with other emotional responses, may have gradually evolved in humans, but such responses may be shared by other species.

For example, monkeys will stop eating if they see that pressing a lever delivering food causes a second monkey to be shocked.

To many critics, empathy can provide a powerful vision of social justice and can repudiate our modern tendencies toward the dehumanization of others.

Our public institutions can commit themselves to cultivating in students the ability to imagine the experiences of others and participate more actively in their sufferings.

Often bereft of vision, our own political leaders must develop an ability to take on, in their imaginations, the lived experiences of the many diverse groups they supposedly serve.

Martha Nussbaum, in her book *Upheavals of Thought: A Theory of Emotions* writes: "Tragic pity provides a powerful vision of social justice, and that judgment that does not employ the intelligence of compassion in coming to grips with the significance of human suffering, is blind and incomplete."

A case for allowing eSports in university



ANASTASIYA SMIRIKOVA
OPINION COLUMNIST

Last month Robert Morrison University, a private university in Chicago, became the first to accept video gaming as a varsity sport.

The university even gave a student \$15,000 in scholarship money for playing a popular online game, *League of Legends*.

The game was once the reason the student almost did not achieve his

high school diploma, but is now the reason for him receiving a scholarship and attending university.

The university has even set up a classroom for practice, with an expansive screen, computers and gaming gear.

The university was the first to add *League of Legends* to their athletic program.

Athletic director Kurt Melcher said in a press release, "*League of Legends* is a competitive, challenging game that requires significant amount of teamwork to be successful."

This just goes to show that eSports are becoming recognized not only by young people but by authoritative figures in universities as well.

Qualified gamers at RMU can earn up to 50 per cent tuition scholarships, which is as much as any other sport at the university.

According to RMU, spending money on these students will enrich campus life and add to its ranks of high-achieving graduates.

Before this, video games were often considered for slackers and nerds.

People did not take gamers seriously and put them down because they did not believe playing a game was a good use of time and could even lead to worse grades in the long run.

However, now that games have drastically evolved, requiring ex-

treme skill and strategy to perform, eSports have become popular in the gaming community and beyond.

Gamers spend a lot of time and energy becoming the best that they can be, so why shouldn't they get rewarded for their efforts?

Many professional gamers earn salaries in the six digit figures but are unable to participate in the eSports community because of time devoted to their studies.

I think that somebody who has a lot of skill in a competitive video game should be rewarded just as they would for a sport such as soccer or football. Millions of people play competitive online games such as *League of Legends*, *Starcraft* and

DOTA 2. There is no reason for such a large community not to be recognized by the varsity sports community.

These gamers should not be treated differently from any other athletes out there because the games are considered to be a real sport and do require extreme skill and practice to be at the top.

No university in Canada has offered scholarships for e-Sports or have taken them seriously.

Hopefully this will change soon as the gaming community continues to expand.

It is great that video games are becoming something to be proud of rather than looked down upon.

Sports

SPORTS EDITOR
JOSH PETERS

HOCKEY

Women bounce back strong

DREWYATES
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier University women's hockey team's power play units are clicking.

The Hawks had a three-point weekend as they lost 5-4 in overtime against Ontario University Athletics championship rival the Queen's Gaels, but bounced back on Sunday, winning in a convincing manner against the University of Ontario Institute of Technology Ridgebacks by a score of 5-1, improving their overall record to 7-3-2.

Over the weekend, the Hawks scored four power play goals on seven opportunities and killed six out of eight penalties, which was good for 57 per cent on the power play and 75 per cent on the penalty kill. Brooker also added a shorthanded goal to open up the scoring versus the Ridgebacks.

"It's really good because that can be the difference most games," said head coach Rick Osborne.

"Our power play, over the years if you look back, it's been a little rough on the rocks, but this year [Laura] McIntosh, our assistant coach has been helping each line develop something," said fifth-year captain Laura Brooker. "As a team we feel more confident this year on the power play, no matter the line and no matter who you're playing with, we seem to have more confidence."

Over the weekend, multiple players had a multi-point weekend. Brooker scored three goals and added two assists in both games,



SHELBY BLACKLEY/CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

After losing to Queen's, women's hockey dominated UOIT on Sunday, winning 5-1 at the Waterloo Rec Complex.

whereas fourth-year Jessie Hurrell had a goal and an assist.

After the loss, Osborne decided to shake up the lines, putting Hurrell, Brooker and Dollee Meigs on the same line, which proved to be a catalyst, as the trio combined for five points in their win against the Ridgebacks. Osborne was impressed with the way both Brooker's and Platt's line played during the game.

"It really gave us a good one-two punch," he said.

Not only was the matchup against Queen's a rematch of the OUA final, but for some Hawks it meant the return of a familiar face to the ice. Fiona Lester, who was once the

captain of the Hawks in the 2013-14 season, was playing against the purple and gold.

"Fiona is a good, classy kid and she's such a hard worker, and that is kind of the foundation of our own team's success, is the work ethic we have. I thought there was some pretty good matchups between Brooker and Lester on the line," Osborne said.

Lester used to play for the Hawks as a defender, but switched positions and now plays as a centre for the Gaels. Brooker and Osborne both joked about seeing her on the opposite end of the ice.

"We joke around with her, saying

'you look better in purple and yellow,'" Brooker said. "It's definitely different seeing them on another team. But understand that they didn't choose it on purpose, they are there for schooling and you wish them the best that they do well in hockey and in school."

"She gave us four great years at Laurier and she never took a shift off of practice or in games so, I wish her nothing but the best against all teams, except for Laurier," Osborne said.

Next Friday, the Hawks will show-down against their crosstown rivals, the Waterloo Warriors. Puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of November 24-30

RECENT SCORES

11.21.14
M Hockey 0 - Carleton 3
W Basketball 73 - Carleton 58
M Basketball 50 - Carleton 91

11.22.14
W Hockey 4 - Queen's 5 (OT)
M Hockey 6 - RMC 5 (2OT)
W Basketball 69 - Ottawa 59
M Basketball 95 - Ottawa 113
M Curling 9 - Queen's 8
M Curling 10 - UOIT 1
M Curling 8 - Brock 4

11.23.14
W Hockey 5 - UOIT 1
M Curling 7 - Trent 3
M Curling 6 - Carleton 2
M Curling 8 - Brock 2

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

11.26.14
M Hockey vs Waterloo
Waterloo Rec Complex, 11:00am

11.29.14
W Hockey vs Waterloo
Waterloo Rec Complex, 7:30pm

11.30.14
Fall Dance Showcase
Athletic Complex Gym, 6:00pm
W Hockey vs Toronto
Waterloo Rec Complex, 7:30pm

12.02.14
M Hockey vs Western
Waterloo Rec Complex, 7:30pm

LAURIER BOOKSTORE
ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

BASKETBALL

Facing tough competition

Men's basketball lost to the top two teams in the country

WILL PROWSE
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier University Golden Hawks struggled to keep pace with some high-octane competition on the weekend.

As underdogs against the country's two top teams, Carleton and Ottawa, the Hawks knew a grim challenge lay ahead.

"You know [Carleton]'s averaging 91 points a game ... Ottawa's averaging 104 points a game. Its not like you think, 'Oh, this will be a piece of cake,' said coach Peter Campbell. "You know what you're up against, it's whether you have the courage to step up and compete at that level."

In Friday night's matinee, Laurier struggled to restrain Carleton's vaunted Scrubb brothers, consisting of fifth-years Thomas and Phillip Scrubb.

Despite a first quarter filled with spirited defence from the Hawks, the first-ranked Ravens took off in the second and decisively put the game out of reach on their way to a 91-50 final.

The Ravens offence was led by Thomas' 23 points, while his brother Philip chipped in with 12. Laurier's Owen and Will Coulthard scored 12 points apiece in the loss to the top ranked Ravens.

Carleton's defence proved impenetrable for most of the night.

In the first half, the Hawks mustered just 15 points and only shot 28 per cent from the field in total.

This, combined with the Ravens' ability to capitalize on mistakes and

create transition offence, meant there were no openings for Laurier to work its way back into the basketball game.

Despite the lopsided score, Campbell felt positives could be drawn from the loss.

"There were some positives, and even in the first quarter, we played pretty good defence. We gave up some transition baskets which we didn't want to do — and we've identified those — and then we gave up second chances," he said.

"Those were two of the areas we were focusing on defensively and we still did a pretty good job. So there were some good things, but they were way out-weighted by the bad things."

Saturday night brought a matchup between the Golden Hawks and the Ottawa Gee-Gees. Early on, the home team held their own admirably and hung right with the Gee-Gees until halftime. With the score 45-40, it seemed the Hawks were well within striking distance. However, that was the closest Laurier would get, as Ottawa's prolific offence took hold of the game in the second half.

The Gee-Gees opened the third quarter on a 12-3 run, and despite captain Will Coulthard's 16 second-half points, the Golden Hawks simply could not match the explosive scoring ability of their opponents, falling 113-95 to the number two team in the country.

"I think at halftime they raised the standard. They were going to come out and play harder and we talked about that," he said. "

We didn't match that intensity right off the bat, so they were able to gap us a little bit. We missed a couple of easy ones early that would have kept us in it, and then the momentum swung and you're fighting to catch up."

"It's hard to catch up against a team that can score like that."

The back-to-back losses dropped the Golden Hawks to 3-3 on the season. While the blowout losses were trying for the team, Coulthard felt the team can refocus and find success going forward.

"We know we can play with some of the best teams in the country. We just have to focus for 40 minutes and make sure we play our best ball," he said.

The recent success of two of the team's veteran leaders is also a cause for Laurier optimism.

Both Coulthard and third-year forward Aiddian Walters had solid weekends. Coulthard scored in double-digits for the fourth straight game, while Walters added 16 on Saturday and was an energetic defensive leader.

"I found my shot, I'm feeling a little more comfortable out there and the guys have been finding me in position to score," said Coulthard.

"It's just about being comfortable out there and playing with confidence."

Laurier's next course of action comes on Wednesday night at Waterloo University, when they visit a 1-5 Warriors team that managed just 36 points in their last game against Carleton.

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BASKETBALL



SERENA GILL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Women's basketball took care of the Carleton Ravens and Ottawa Gee-Gee's at home this past weekend, winning by final scores of 73-58 and 69-59 and improving to 5-1 to start the season.

Starting out with a fifth straight win

JOSH PETERS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Wilfrid Laurier University women's basketball team has blasted out of the gate this season. A week after picking up two wins on the road, the Hawks held their own on their home court and improve to 5-1 on the season.

This past weekend they downed the two clubs from our nation's capital — the Carleton Ravens and Ottawa Gee-Gee's, by scores of 73-58 and 69-59 respectively.

On Friday evening, the Hawks faced off against the Ravens in a rematch of last year's Ontario University Athletics bronze medal game, in which Laurier came away with the victory. According to fourth year guard Sam Jacobs, it was something that was definitely in the back of the team's mind.

"We knew that we had a bit of a target on our back because we knew they wanted to get that one back. We had to come with everything we had," she said.

Jacobs dropped 12 points on the night, however she was not the only player to make a statement. In what is becoming typical of this ball club, multiple players reached double figures yet again.

Fifth-year forward Whitney Ellenor finished with a team-high 18, third-year guard Kaitlyn Schenck had 14 and second-year guard Nicole Morrison chipped in with 12. The Hawks only led by two at the half, but head coach Paul Falco thought a stronger compete level was the key to the large margin of victory.

"We competed harder. We were almost even in the rebounding in the second half. In the first half they destroyed us, so I was pleased with our

second half that game," he said.

On Saturday the focus shifted from the tall inside presence of Carleton, to a shorter, floor spreading Ottawa club. According to second-year guard Sarah Dillon, the wins over the weekend were strongly attributed to being prepared for the opponent.

"I think we just followed the scouting report. We had to know our matchups and play to their strengths and weaknesses. I think we did a really great job of knowing the scouting report of both teams. We made them make tough shots," she said.

Dillon was the Hawks leading scorer on Saturday, pouring in 15 points, all of which came from beyond the three point arc.

Falco explained for a shooter like Dillon, it is only a matter of time before things start to fall for her.

"Sarah is a really good shooter. She's had some tough luck in some

games so far where things just haven't dropped. She's making the right choices and as a shooter you just have to keep shooting so it was nice to see them drop for her," he said.

In both games, the Hawks were involved in a two-point contest at halftime, before they began to pull away from both teams from eastern Ontario. Falco believes that is due to a combination of heart and halftime adjustments.

"I guess maybe a little bit of perseverance. We knew that there was a few mistakes we made in the first half that were correctable, so we talked about trying to do things a little bit differently on the defensive end," he said.

They will now look to take care of a 1-5 Waterloo Warriors squad at Waterloo on Nov. 26 before the term ends.

"We had to know our matchups and play their strengths and weaknesses."

-Sarah Dillon, guard

As of now, the team is rolling and Jacobs is starting to see a formula for the success they are having.

"I think it's our intensity. You can definitely tell in the games that we haven't brought it 100 per cent, we have struggled. When we are able to get that 100 per cent effort from everyone on the court and on the bench, that's when we really pull away in game," she said.

SWIMMING

Third place team result at home

KOBI LEE
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier University swim team brought home some serious hardware this past weekend.

They won 24 medals at the 2014 Ontario University Athletics Tihanyi Divisionals meet at home and finish third with a combined team score of 1131.

They fell behind the Laurentian Voyageurs in first with 1837 points and the Waterloo Warriors with 1680 points at the seven-team meet.

The team was led by strong performances from second-years Kate Vanderbeek and Dean Bennett.

Vanderbeek led the women's team, winning gold in all three backstroke events and receiving medals in two relay events and the 100-metre freestyle. Her performance in the 50-metre backstroke, where she won in 29.18 seconds, qualified her for her third race at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport Championships in March.

"I'm pretty happy with today," she said. "To get my best time in my 50 [metre backstroke] this early in the season is great."

Third-year Miranda Smelt and first-year Kristen Thompson also had strong showing for with Smelt winning four medals including three

silver and one bronze and Thompson winning three medals, all bronze.

Dean Bennett won two gold and three silver medals. He won gold in both the 50-metre and 100-metre and silver in the 100-metre butterfly and the 50-metre free.

He rounded out his weekend winning silver in the 200-metre medley relay.

First-year Andrew Beaton-Williamson and fourth-year Scott McAuley had excellent performances for Laurier. Beaton-Williamson won gold in both the 50-metre and 100-metre events and won silver medal in the medley relay alongside Bennett and McAuley. McAuley won five medals over the weekend, winning an additional three silver medals and a bronze.

Laurier's men dominated in the 100-metre butterfly with Beaton-Williamson,

Bennett and Nicholas Misner winning gold, silver and bronze respectively for the Hawks.

In his first season coaching the team, Mike Thompson was pleased with the team's performance but feel they have some a way to go before CIS championships in February.

"I think we did very well. Everyone on the team achieved at least two personal best times ever in the history of what they have done ... I



ANDREAS PATSIAOUIROS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Under a new head coach, the Laurier swim team took home 24 medals at the Athletic Complex on the weekend.

think we have made from great steps and I think the culture of the team is changing very positively," he said.

Changing the culture is something Thompson wanted to bring to the program, and in what can sometimes be a very individual sport, he believes on focusing on the team aspect.

Really what we have to base it on

right now is whether or not these guys are going to be a good team or are going to be a bunch of individuals that just happen to swim on the same team," he said.

According to Vanderbeek, with Thompson at the helm, the culture shift is definitely apparent.

"I am so excited to have him. Last year it was kind of a little more laid

back. Mike really is going a good job like getting like getting on people ... he is really trying to get everyone going," she said.

"I am super excited for the year coming with him here."

The Golden Hawks wrap up their fall semester competition schedule on Saturday when they head to Brock for the Brock Badgers Invitational.