

# THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

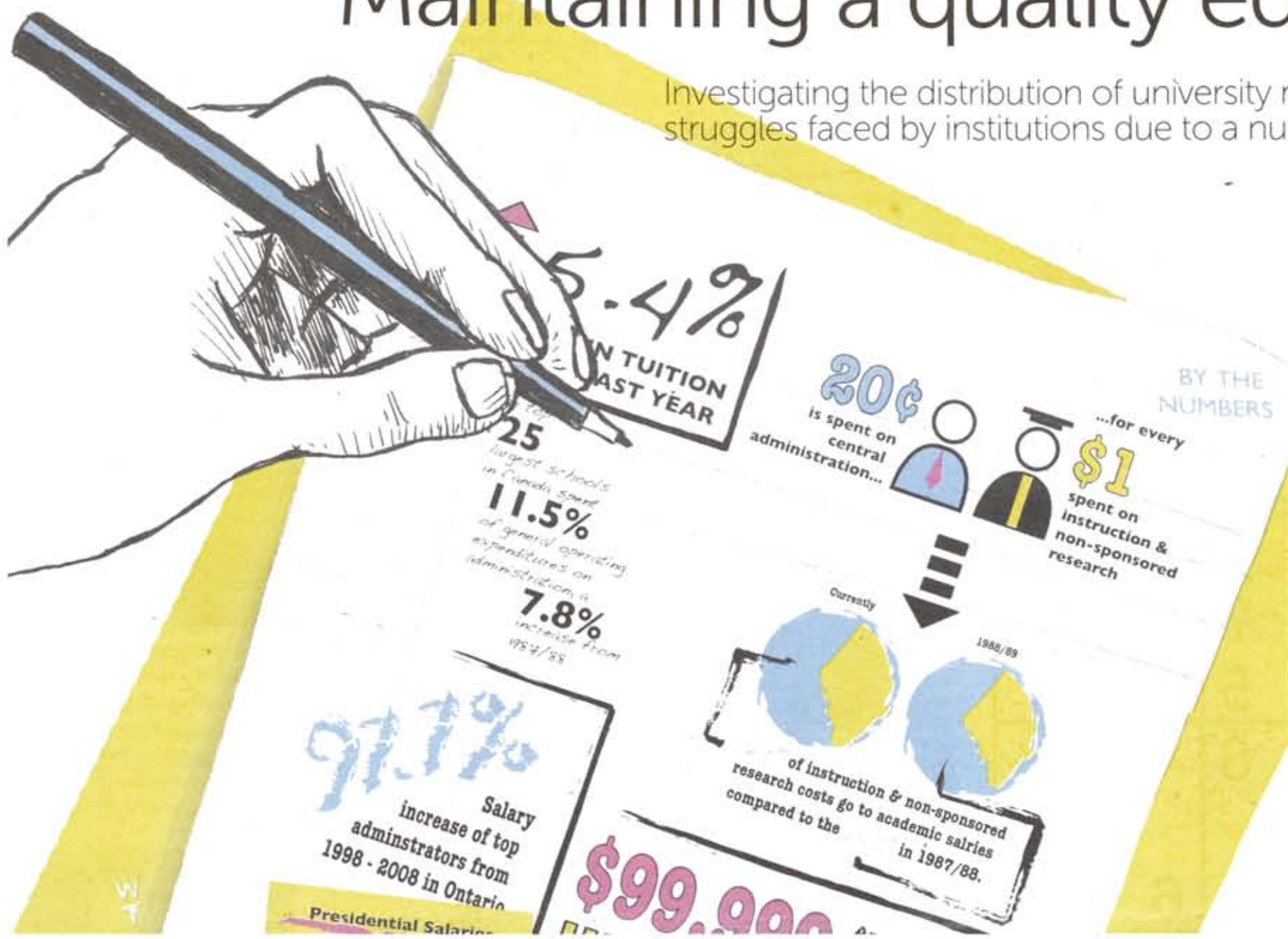
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Wednesday, January 12, 2011

thecord.ca

## Maintaining a quality education

Investigating the distribution of university resources and the struggles faced by institutions due to a number of factors



REBECCA VASLUIANU  
IN DEPTH EDITOR

With class sizes growing, enrolment skyrocketing and cuts to staff and programming across Ontario universities, the question of where money should be spent is constantly at the forefront for post-secondary institutions.

Problems relating to poor government funding and high central administrative costs within universities often play a leading role in this balancing act.

As a result, finding the best way to maintain fiscal responsibility and ensure a quality academic environment can be a struggle. Currently the Ontario government provides less funding to universities per student than any province, according to a report prepared for the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario.

The share of Ontario post-secondary institutions' operating budgets fronted by government contributions has decreased approximately 28 per cent since 1988 according to the *Globe and Mail*.

In Depth, page 10

## Mel's fire ruled arson

Blaze that tore through local businesses no longer considered an accident

MIKE LAKUSIAK  
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Even eight months after the blaze, questions still remain in the fire that destroyed several businesses in the Campus Court plaza at 140 University Ave. on April 22.

Last week, the report of Ontario's fire marshal confirmed that the fire, which caused approximately \$3 million in damage, was in fact being treated as arson and the criminal investigation has now been turned over to Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS).

Unfortunately, the treatment of the case as arson has been the sole new development since the blaze, the aftermath of which saw accusations proliferate on the Internet as to where it originated and to who may have started it.

"If you look at the Facebook groups and all the social media going around at the time, there was a lot of commentary about what may or may not have happened," said Jerry Smith, owner of Mel's Diner.

His business was not yet in reach of the flames when he arrived at the scene that morning and he was forced to watch it burn, saving only some possessions from inside.

WRPS spokesman Olaf Heinzl explained that since there is now an active criminal investigation into the matter, no further details will be released for the time being.

"At this point, they can't really

"I personally don't want to put my family in danger by making any insinuations or innuendos about what happened."

—Jerry Smith, owner of Mel's Diner

discuss the particular details of the investigation," he said of the investigators. "But as we move forward we might be able to, when it's appropriate, release further information."

Smith congratulated the fire marshal's office on its findings.

"I wasn't surprised," he said of the report's verdict of arson. "It's terrible, but I can't wait for the day until they find out who it was."

He was careful not to speculate further on his own theories of what may have happened.

Local, page 7.



NICK LACHANCE VISUAL DIRECTOR

At least three pedestrians and one driver involved in the Jan. 10 incident are from Laurier.

## Students injured in collision

BREE MANTHA  
LEAD REPORTER

Chaos erupted on the corner of King Street and University Avenue on the evening of Jan. 10 shortly before 5:30 p.m. when a collision involving two cars and six pedestrians occurred.

According to witnesses, the initial collision happened in the middle of the intersection when a black Mazda SUV was making a left turn south onto King from University. As the driver of the Mazda was making his turn, a late model Ford Taurus heading east sped through the light and collided with the SUV.

Though the identities of all parties involved have yet to be released, it has been confirmed that at least three pedestrians and one driver were Laurier students.

Second-year Wilfrid Laurier

University student Paula Ghelman was among the pedestrians struck. Ghelman, who appeared slightly shaken up, insisted she was fine, though her legs were somewhat sore.

According to Ghelman, the two cars collided first. The Taurus then hit Ghelman and her two friends — also WLU students — who had been crossing King Street. The Taurus then careened into a pole and hit three more pedestrians on the sidewalk.

Ghelman told *The Cord* that while she felt fine, her friends found themselves in pain.

"My one friend, her leg's really, really hurt and the other's back is sore," said Ghelman. One of her friends was seen being taken away on a stretcher.

She later disclosed that her two friends had gone home to their

parents' houses for a few days to rest and recover from the shock.

Ghelman said that while she and her friends were not hit too hard, she noticed the three pedestrians on the sidewalk fall back and hit their heads on the pavement. According to other witnesses, at least one of those pedestrians collided with the small retaining wall outside the Royal Bank of Canada.

Mohamed Maher and Richard Gonzales, two second-year BBA students, were standing near the 7-11 when they heard the sound from the initial collision. "I only turned around when I heard the first noise," Maher said. "It wasn't ordinary. It was big."

News, page 5

**Editor's Choice**  
*Jays land at Laurier*

Sports, page 20

News ..... 3  
Local ..... 6  
National ..... 8  
World ..... 9  
In Depth ..... 10

Arts ..... 12  
Features ..... 14  
Classifieds ..... 15  
Opinion ..... 16  
Sports ..... 20



**Editor's Choice**  
*Business as usual for women's hockey*  
thecord.ca/sports

Editor-in-Chief Alanna Wallace • awallace@thecord.ca

**This Week in quotes**

“Bring them to brown Jesus; I have them right here!”

—Saad Aslam, VP of university affairs for WLUSU, asking board members to take their Secret Santa presents to him for distribution



“When I was just starting in the band, I didn't have a whole lot going for me. I was into hacky sack and smoking weed, so who knows where I'd be now. Probably in jail.”  
—Rich Beddoe, *Finger Eleven*

“You'd pay these huge amounts of money for tuition and what you get out of it is you show up and you have a guy talking at you for an hour.”  
—Mike Silagadze, founder and CEO of Top Hat Monocle, regarding the problems with the current teaching model in universities

“The seasons don't overlap too much so we can share the love between baseball and hockey because I know during the off-season I'm all about hockey, it's a great sport.”  
—Jays Catcher J.P. Arrencia re: baseball competing with hockey in Canada

“Other than maybe a cell phone plan change and not being able to find a few things that you can get in the States, it's really just been an incredible experience being able to be a part of such a great city.”  
—Jays outfielder Travis Snider re: adjusting to living in Canada

**Vocal Cord**

What are your experiences like with off-campus housing?



“I live with a family on exchange and it has been very nice getting to know the culture.”  
—Adriana De La Torre  
Fourth year global studies



“My experiences have been very good. I've been living in Brantford at a private residence previously.”  
—Kyle Gerber  
Fourth year English



“Last year I lived in a disgusting house and some one broke off my car mirror with a baseball bat.”  
—Brittany Porter  
Third year arts



“We just had a pipe burst in our house. It's been very unpleasant and now we're just waiting.”  
—Zac Corbett  
Seventh year geography

Compiled by Alexandros Mitsopoulos  
Photos by Elli Garlin

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	6			1

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From the archives:  
**Winter Carnival**

**2010**  
Celebrating its 50th year, this year's events included an updated "pageant" that reflected the original nation-wide "Campus Queen" event that used to be part of the week's events.

**2007**  
The Waterbuffalo team painted their faces black, put fried chicken buckets on their heads and carried around novelty-sized joints, drawing national media attention.

**1984**  
An attempt was made to integrate under-age events for those not of drinking age.

**1970**  
UBC student Janiel Jolley protested the Campus Queen pageant. Afterwards universities stopped sending females to compete.

**Editor's Note**  
**Changes to the Features section**

Starting this week, the Features section of The Cord will begin having themed sections — starting this issue with a page very much like the "Life" section that used to run weekly in the paper. Next week will be a "Travel" themed section, along with other sections that address fashion, food and health in the coming weeks. It is our hope that this will create a more cohesive product that will become a favourite for its relateability to university life. The section will include exclusive features online at [thecord.ca](http://thecord.ca).

If you are interested in writing for the Features section, or any other section printed in The Cord, please visit [wusp.com](http://wusp.com). For any feedback please contact [editor@thecord.ca](mailto:editor@thecord.ca).

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**THE CORD**  
*The one that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1928*

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In 2009 the Canadian Community Newspaper Association awarded The Cord third place in the campus newspaper category.



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- Corporate Secretary: Vacant
- Distribution Manager: Karl Singer

**Colophon**

The Cord is the official student newspaper of the Wilfrid Laurier University community.  
Started in 1926 as the *College Cord*, The Cord is an editorially independent newspaper published by Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications, Waterloo, a corporation without share capital. WLUSP is governed by its board of directors.  
Opinions expressed within The Cord are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board, The Cord, WLUSP, WLU or CanWeb Printing Inc.  
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The Cord is created using Macintosh computers running Mac OS X 10.5 using Adobe Creative Suite 4. Nikon cameras are used for principal photography.  
The Cord has been a proud member of the Ontario Press Council since 2006. Any unsatisfied complaints can be sent to the council at [info@ontpress.com](mailto:info@ontpress.com).  
The Cord's circulation for a normal Wednesday issue is 8,000 copies and enjoys a readership of over 10,000. Cord subscription rates are \$20.00 per term for addresses within Canada.  
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Campus Plus is The Cord's national advertising agency.



**Preamble to The Cord constitution**

The Cord will keep faith with its readers by presenting news and expressions of opinions comprehensively, accurately and fairly. The Cord believes in a balanced and impartial presentation of all relevant facts in a news report, and of all substantial opinions in a matter of controversy.  
The staff of The Cord shall uphold all commonly held ethical conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or of commission has occurred, that error shall be acknowledged promptly. When statements are made that are critical of an individual or an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity to reply at the earliest time possible. Ethical journalism requires impartiality, and consequently conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest will be avoided by all staff.  
The only limits of any newspaper are those of the world around it, and so The Cord will attempt to cover its world with a special focus on Wilfrid Laurier University, and the community of Kitchener-Waterloo, and with a special ear to the concerns of the students of Wilfrid Laurier University. Ultimately, The Cord will be bound by neither philosophy nor geography in its mandate.  
The Cord has an obligation to foster freedom of the press and freedom of speech. This obligation is best fulfilled when debate and dissent are encouraged, both in the internal workings of the paper, and through The Cord's contact with the student body.  
The Cord will always attempt to do what is right, with fear of neither repercussions, nor retaliation. The purpose of the student press is to act as an agent of social awareness, and so shall conduct the affairs of our newspaper.  
Quote of the week:  
"A lady named Bonnie signed for it."  
—Domino's Pizza explaining why The Cord's pizza was never delivered.

# NEWS

News Director Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca

## More to house flooding than thought

The Cord investigates complaints about off-campus housing at Laurier after house irreparably damaged

**BREE MANTHA**  
LEAD REPORTER

Six second-year Laurier students returned to their rented house after the holidays to find the residence in shambles. A burst pipe had caused over a thousand litres of water to spill into their Columbia St. house.

The flooding is said to have destroyed clothing, furniture, textbooks and electronics, as well as the walls and the floors. Even more troubling for the students, however, was the reaction of property management company Domus Student Housing.

The students, who did not respond to requests for comment in time for print, felt that Domus's solutions were unjust and unethical. In an article published Jan. 4 in the *Waterloo Region Record*, the students claimed that Domus staff suggested that the two students whose rooms had not been damaged could stay in the house.

Domus vice president Ho Tek has repeatedly denied that this exchange occurred, stating that Domus would never allow students to continue living in such conditions.

Tek said that on the contrary, a Domus handyman immediately offered to help find the students alternate accommodations. Several of the students said that they were opting to stay with friends for a few days, while several insisted upon staying in the house.

"[The handyman] spoke to one of the tenants and was like, 'Do you have a place to stay?'" Tek told The Cord. "He said, 'Yeah, I'm going to stay at a buddy's place.' The other



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

The exterior of the Columbia Street student house that flooded over the holidays, destroying the tenants' belongings and sparking questions over how the situation was dealt with by Domus Housing.

guy said, 'Oh, I'm going to stay here.' I'm like, 'You can't stay here. You have to leave.'"

"The next day that I went in," Tek recounted, "There were two guys still staying there."

According to Tek, after a brief examination, Domus found that the damage was too great for their staff to repair and the insurance company had to be involved.

After the publication of the article in the *Record*, Laurier's housing services and residence life office

stepped in to help to put a roof over the students' heads. According to manager Chris Dodd, the school offered to put the students up in a house owned by the school on Albert Street.

Both WLU and the University of Waterloo have policies to assist off-campus students in cases where they can no longer live in their houses.

Dodd said that four of the students took him up on the offer, and while he is unsure of what the other

two decided upon, he has heard that the four students recently received their keys.

Unfortunately for the students, despite having a place to live, many personal belongings have been damaged beyond repair. These students may be out of luck, as personal belongings are technically their own responsibility.

"Content that gets destroyed or damaged or stolen inside the property is not the responsibility of the landlord," said WLUSU legal

resources executive Adrian Saccon. "[The landlord] would have to pay for the pipes, they'd have to pay for damaged doors and stuff, but the content that is owned by tenants, [tenants] would have to have individual insurance on that."

What could make things worse for the displaced students is their recent admission that the burst was as a result of them turning off their heat for the Christmas break.

Some student tenants — particularly those who pay their own heating bills — believe that turning off the heat during the winter is a good way to save energy and money. However, according to Ontario Power Generation's website, radiant heat systems should not be shut off during the winter, as the conditions of a typical Ontario winter will cause pipes to freeze.

Tek also pointed out that the leases his tenants sign contain an article about not turning heat down to lower than 15 degrees Celsius for that very reason.

Tek said he feels that Domus was portrayed negatively by the *Record*, insisting that the company did all they could to assist the students. According to Tek, the same day that the *Record* published their article, Domus showed the students a house on Ezra that they were hoping would suit them.

"We're a property management company," Tek said. "These things just happen and we try to deal with it. It was dealt with in 48 hours. The only thing we can do is just try to find them a new place, that's it. We can't really do anything else besides that."

## English training program developed

**JUSTIN SMIRLIES**  
CORD NEWS

In an attempt to attract a larger international presence, Wilfrid Laurier University has introduced The Laurier English and Academic Foundation (LEAF) Program, an English-as-a-second language (ESL) preparatory program designed to assist international students in developing the skills needed for success in a Canadian post-secondary institution.

Dave McGuire, the manager of international recruitment, spearheaded the project in order to recruit a larger number of international students and to create a program targeted at language development in an academic field.

"One of the ways to improve our international student numbers was the development of an in-house language training program so that we could recruit students that met the university academic requirements but for some reason didn't do the standardized English proficiency test or have a high enough score," he

said.

The LEAF program, based at the Brantford campus, essentially draws students from numerous non-English countries and helps them develop and prepare for an English university by providing university-like lectures and classroom environment.

It also offers residence on campus or with host families.

With experienced instructors from Canada and abroad, preparatory "core" English courses such as academic listening and speaking, punctuation, reading and writing are offered to the students.

"Typically in language-based programs, the classroom environment is more relaxed," explained Fred Perkins, the ESL facilitator for the LEAF program in Brantford.

"The main thing is to have an atmosphere that is very positive and to allow students to have a forum in which they can practise and improve their English abilities."

As well, the program has a conditional offer for students who do not

have the required TOEFL or IELTS English test scores.

"Tests are expensive and they are really quite stressful. Students spend like a year in a private school preparing for some of these tests and some write them a number of times," McGuire continued, "Having a student go through an academic English program is generally more favourable than having them submit a test."

The program has five intake dates throughout the year to give plenty of opportunity for students to join the program. Once enrolled, the student will be tested and placed into a "level", and must complete the program's fifth level with a grade of at least 70 per cent in order to fulfill Laurier's English proficiency requirements. Each student goes through at least one ten-week cycle of instruction.

Since its launch in September 2010, the program has had six graduates from the first cycle, five of which are now undergraduates at the Waterloo campus with the sixth

“

The main thing is to have an atmosphere that is very positive and to allow students to have a forum in which they can practise and improve their English abilities.”

—Fred Perkins, the ESL facilitator for the LEAF program

at Brantford. According to McGuire and Perkins, students are responding well to the program.

With 20 students currently enrolled, McGuire hopes for that number to double by the third intake on Jan. 31.

Tom Buckley, VP of academic services at WLU, also commented on the growth of the program, "The program will grow modestly and incrementally for the next year or so, until it gets up over 100 students. We

are proceeding almost in lock-step with our enrolment projections."

McGuire, with the growth of the LEAF program and his experience in language training, is hoping to acquire the funds to create better opportunities, such as language labs, for international students at Laurier. "It is kind of like a mini-faculty," he added, "And things like this cost money."

20

Number of students currently enrolled in LEAF

40

Target for students enrolled with LEAF by Jan. 31

<2%

Percentage of international students at Laurier

70%

Level at which students must complete program to gain admission

# CAMPUS

Campus News Editor Mike Lakusiak • mlakusiak@thecord.ca

## Local organic juice firm confronts Coke contract

**MIKE LAKUSIAK**  
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

As with many universities and colleges, the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) has a contract negotiated with Coca-Cola for the beverage supply in its food service and retail locations across campus. Expired as of Dec. 31, the agreement is currently being renegotiated according to WLUSU general manager Mike McMahon.

In past years, the monopolies Coke contracts often create on Canadian campuses have made headlines due to a perceived lack of choice for students as well as the quota systems in place. At the University of British Columbia, McMaster and Queen's University, contracts have been artificially extended if schools did not meet a required level of beverage sales.

"We're working with Coca-Cola right now on a renewal of that agreement," McMahon said of the previous contract which included sales quotas that he admits weren't met. "We've made it clear that we're not going to have an agreement that has the same types of parameters that this one did."

"We need to worry about how we're going to allow students to make healthy choices without worrying about how it will affect a committed volume," he continued.

Due to a confidentiality clause

written into the contract, McMahon could not discuss more specifics of WLUSU's relationship with Coke, such as its total worth. Contracts with the cola giant prevent retailers from selling competing products, though McMahon noted the non-Coke product Red Bull is exempt and therefore sold on campus.

Mike Kelly, who co-founded the Kitchener juice company Kiju, raised concerns in December after his Kiju Organic juice was only briefly sold alongside Coke products in the C-Spot convenience store in the Fred Nichols Campus Centre.

"We did everything we had to and within four weeks, we were gone," Kelly explained, noting that over the month of November, seven cases of Kiju had sold. His juice was allowed to be offered since Coke at the time offered no competing product and, he argues, still does not. Coke's Odwalla line of "all-natural" drinks sold by WLUSU appear nearly identical to Kiju, but lack organic certification.

In late November, Kelly received an e-mail from the manager of the C-Spot saying that while Kiju had sold okay, they would no longer be stocked because the "all-natural" Coke Odwalla drinks would be sold instead of and not along with it. This should not have been in violation of the Coke contract according to Kelly since Odwalla is fundamentally different and not organic.

"That's usually our easiest way to circumvent a contract; Coke doesn't have any organic products," he explained, noting that Kiju is being sold at numerous campuses with Coke contracts nationwide because of this.

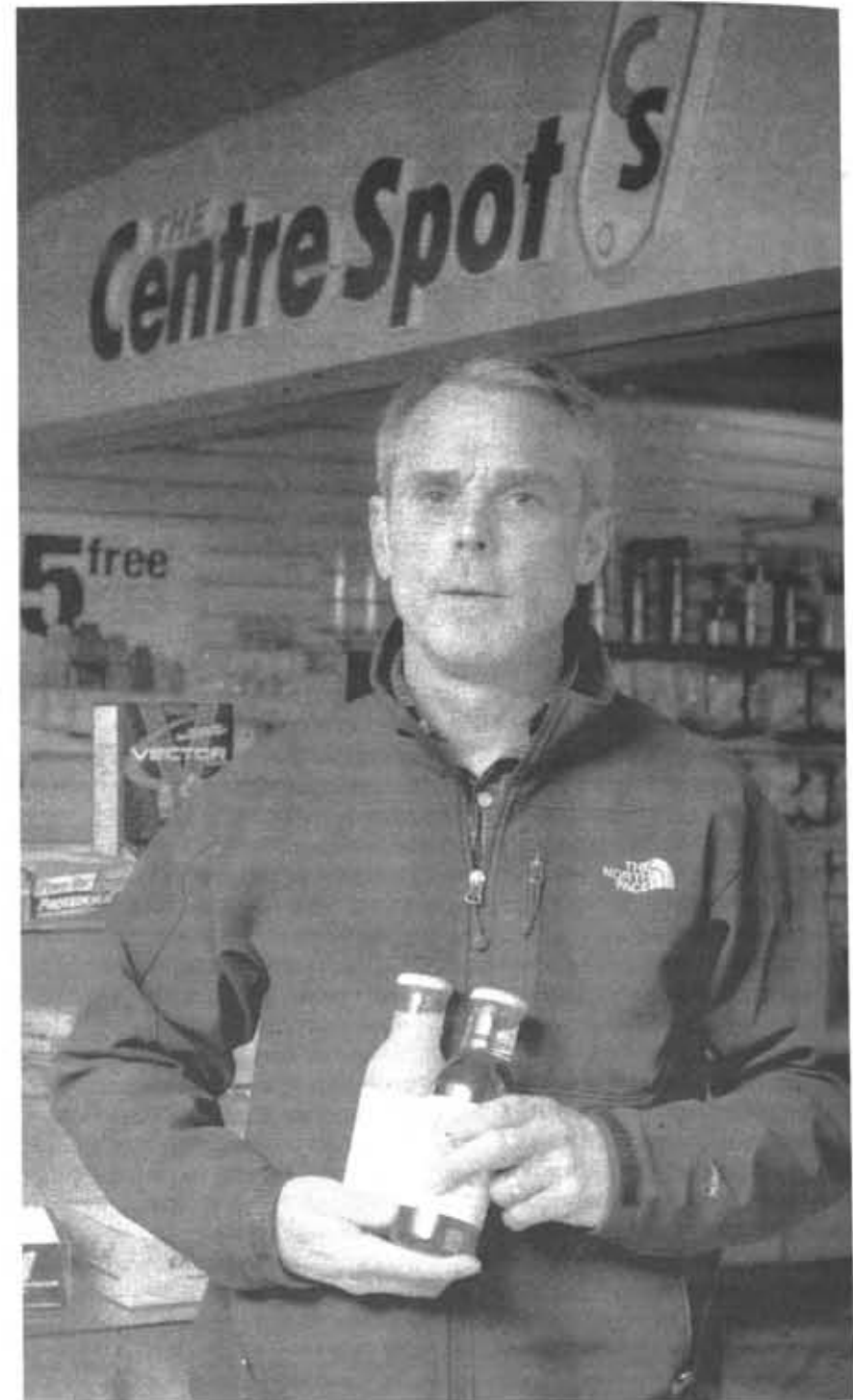
McMahon cited low sales instead for the decision to stop selling Kiju. "It didn't work out, from a sales perspective, not from a Coke contract perspective," he said flatly. Kelly questioned whether the Coke representative had simply told WLUSU to pull the plug.

"Students dictate what they will drink, well is it the students or the Coke rep?" he asked, paraphrasing a response he received from WLUSU. "The fact that there's no organic products on a campus the size of Laurier, that's a head-scratcher."

While Kelly didn't dispute the financial sense of signing a Coke contract from WLUSU's standpoint, he still feels that the arrangement creates a dearth of choice and makes it nearly impossible for a smaller, local company like his to get a foot in the door.

"There's a market out there, consumers looking for products with no GMOs, no pesticides, no herbicides," he explained of the significance of organic certification.

"There is a population at Laurier that's looking for them, but unless Coke has it, they're not going to see it."



ELLI GARLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Mike Kelly of Kiju Organic juices with some of his products that are no longer available at the C-Spot.

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## News in brief

### Hawk's Nest to serve clubs next year

Wilfrid Laurier University Students Union (WLUSU) will be enhancing the Hawk's Nest space in the 2011-2012 school year to better serve the clubs and student associations of Wilfrid Laurier University.

WLUSU recently announced a restructuring of its positions with a larger focus on campus clubs. Because of this, the Hawk's Nest will no longer exist as part of the Turret Night Club and instead exist as a space where members of campus clubs may study, collaborate, meet and store their belongings.

To further serve those involved in Laurier's various student organizations, the vice president of clubs and faculty associations and the student experience manager will hold regular office hours in the space to ensure active communication and involvement from the management team.

—Compiled by Bree Mantha

### Winter Carnival begins

The 51st-annual Winter Carnival began Monday, Jan. 10. It runs until Saturday and features the usual staples of Winter Carnival that draw hundreds of participants each year. The "Balls of Steel" dodgeball tournament will be held Wednesday, sled races Thursday and a quiz game in the Turret Friday night.

—Compiled by Mike Lakusiak



## Injuries prove minor

NICK LACHANCE VISUAL DIRECTOR

—cover

Maier then witnessed the Taurus strike at least one pedestrian. "He hit him full-on," Maier told reporters.

Both felt that the accident could have been easily avoided. "It was just pure negligence," Gonzales remarked.

Maier and Gonzales both said that the driver of the Taurus was speeding through a yellow light while the SUV was making a left turn.

When reporters arrived on the scene, one of the pedestrians hit on the sidewalk appeared to be bleeding profusely from his face. He was attended to by emergency workers

for a short time before being taken away in an ambulance.

A total of five pedestrians were taken away on stretchers, though all appeared conscious and emergency workers were optimistic about their states. It was later reported that the worst injury sustained by any pedestrian was fractured knees.

The driver of the SUV, first-year Laurier student Andrew Sorsdahl, re-affirmed that he had been turning left on a yellow when he was struck by the speeding Taurus.

"I was turning left and I guess I didn't see a guy coming through the intersection," Sorsdahl told The Cord at the scene of the accident.

"He was going really fast and I just didn't see him and I just kind of caught him a little bit."

Sorsdahl was not treated for any injuries, though he was visibly distraught after the encounter. "I'm physically fine, I'm just shaken up," Sorsdahl said.

The Cord was unable to contact the driver of the Ford Taurus, but witnesses said that he also appeared unharmed.

"The driver's fine," Ghelman said. "He walked out and was like, 'is everybody okay?'"

At the time of the accident, it was not yet confirmed who was at fault in the collision.

## Collisions at intersections bordering Laurier

Nov. 29, 2010

King near University:

- Hit and run, one pedestrian taken to hospital in critical condition

Sept. 7, 2010

King and University:

- Two car collision with minor injuries

Sept. 9, 2009

King and University:

- Motorcycle collides with car, life-threatening injuries

March 11, 2009

King and Bricker:

- Student struck, hospitalized temporarily for broken bones

Sept. 24, 2008

Albert and Bricker:

- Minivan struck pedestrian, minor injuries

—Compiled by Olivia Nightingale

Check out Campus News next week as we interview researchers at Laurier and collect their predictions for what this decade will bring in their respective fields

## Teach English Abroad



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## LOCAL

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# Number of renters limited

The city of Waterloo reviews by-laws for rental licensing, possibly limiting the number of renters to three per household

LINDSAY PURCHASE  
STAFF WRITER

"We're going to have to do some work to get this right," admitted Ward 6 councillor Jeff Henry in response to the Jan. 6 release of a report detailing a new Residential Rental Housing by-law that looks to improve living conditions, maintenance and density concerns in rental housing.

This by-law has been developing since 2007, when Bill 130 was passed by the province granting municipalities the right to license and regulate residential renting.

Director of by-law Jim Barry explained "We want to provide those safe and healthy places for people to live and that's really what our focus is."

In order to achieve this aim, a series of conditions must be met by the property owner before attaining a license. Along with a fee, they

“ [This system] will provide an equal playing field across the board.”

—Jim Barry, director of by-law

would be required to submit floor plans, acquire liability insurance, comply with all existing health and safety regulations, as well as provide various other documentation.

Compliance to these regulations would be observed through a self-audit basis. By leaving intervention to only "risk-based enforcement" Barry believes that the city would be able to more efficiently address the needs of the community.

One problem that many students have encountered in their lodging is a higher density of people occupying one rental home than is healthy or necessary.

As the by-law currently stands, rental houses are able to obtain a lodging house licence in order to contain more than three lodgers.

Should the new by-law be passed, any new property owners would be required to restrict the number of bedrooms to three per rental accommodation, a number which is derived from Waterloo's census family statistics. More people could inhabit the space provided the property conformed to the Zoning By-law regulations or if a boarding house licence is sought.

For property owners who currently hold the lodging house licence, which allows them to accommodate greater than three lodgers, a transitional license would be available.

Barry believes that this system

"will provide an equal playing field across the board." The transitional license allows current owners to maintain the number of lodgers which they were permitted under the former license until the property is sold. The initial reaction from landlords has been less than positive, an "understatement" according to Henry.

However, Henry believes the dialogue and response must be diverse in order to ensure that the by-law is best suited for everyone. "If we don't hear from all sides," he said, "It's going to make it even more of a challenge to get the balance right and to make sure it serves everyone in the community."

The plan was proposed to city council on Jan. 10. Barry anticipated the varied reactions to the proposal, but believes that "it's going to be up to the community to decide the level of health and safety they want to provide." A revised by-law will be released in April in response to community input.

Student and community involvement will be crucial in determining the success or failure of the by-law. "We're encouraging everybody to come out and voice the good, the bad, whatever they have to say," concluded Barry.

Online registration is available for open houses at the City of Waterloo website, which will be held at the Hauser Haus Jan. 13, 18 and 20.



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NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Where Campus Court plaza once stood remains barren. Residential development is being considered.

## Identity of arsonist uncertain

—cover

"I personally don't want to put my family in danger by making any insinuations or innuendos about what happened," he said, adding, "but I believe firmly that it will all come out nicely in the wash."

Though rumours of culpability circulated in the days and weeks after the fire, the delay of several months in declaring it arson was not unusual according to Waterloo Fire Rescue spokesman John Percy. "Because of the magnitude of the fire, obviously our protocol is to notify [the Ontario Fire Marshall] and they come in to do the physical investigation," he explained. "They had sent samples to the Centre for

Forensic Sciences in Toronto, and that process takes a while."

While Smith says there is some consolation in the findings, he and other business owners are facing difficulties in rebuilding what was lost.

Early speculation had projected that construction was to begin months ago, but Smith said the landowner is receiving offers from numerous parties that would redevelop the site to create high-density housing.

"At this point it could go either way," he explained. "The landowner has offers coming in from all over the world from developers who want to buy it and level it and put up a 38 story building."

He added, "The city of Waterloo is right there with the building permit to let them do that because they want higher-density usage there."

Smith and the owners of Mr. Sushi and University Vision Centre met with the mayor and others from the city recently to advocate for rebuilding. "I don't think they were seeing what was happening behind the scenes, the fact that there are people relying on this to get their businesses and lives back in order," he said.

Smith is now more optimistic about reopening in Waterloo, possibly as soon as September, though he has secured a site to build a new eatery at the intersection of King and Victoria in Kitchener.

## Cell phone use promoted in lectures

Tech company finds ways for students to participate in class using mobile devices

LINDA GIVETASH  
NEWS DIRECTOR

"As engineering students we went through the university experience and found that lectures were pretty bad," said Mike Silagadze, founder and CEO of Top Hat Monocle, an interactive learning program that utilizes computers and mobile devices to increase communication between professors and students in the classroom.

Silagadze explained that his company began as a developer for smartphone applications, but transformed after considering how the software could be brought to the classroom with the technology becoming so commonplace.

"The whole education process hasn't changed in 100 years," explained Silagadze, regarding his frustrations of being a student at the University of Waterloo (UW). "You go in to the university classroom and it's like you're travelling back in time."

Looking for a way to update the classroom experience, Silagadze and his team, including co-founder Mohsen Shahini, spoke to different schools, professors and students to pinpoint how technology could improve learning.

The result of their research was the easy-to-use software Monocle-CAT, that professors can use as part of their lecture to increase interaction between students and the course material.

"As part of the lecture, the instructor engages the students with all kinds of different activities and the student becomes part of the learning process, rather than this kind of passive observer," explained Silagadze.

The program allows course instructors to create a platform for their class where they can develop quizzes, polls, interactive demonstrations and collaborative learning modules allowing students to respond in real time to the lecture.

There is no cost for the instructor to create and use the platform, and for students the fee for registering is currently a mere \$20 per semester for an unlimited number of classes. Students are able to apply a wide range of personal technology for the program, including smartphones, laptops and iPods.

The program was used last fall by over 2,000 students, primarily at UW.

"We've actually just now started getting results back on the various courses we ran the system in September and it looks like the results are positive," said Silagadze, noting that trends are showing an increase, of five to seven per cent in students grades after using MonocleCAT.

While the program has proved its success in classrooms and has growing support from professors and students alike, Top Hat Monocle has not found equal support from university administration.

The lack of interest in the technology, according to Silagadze, is due to the fact that universities are not invested in the classroom experience as much as they are with funding research and expanding their campuses.

"Fundamentally, universities are research centres and the education side of it is just diploma mills," Silagadze reasoned, adding that the funding universities often receive are conditioned for research initiatives or infrastructure.

This model focusing on research has resulted in the ineffective lecture model of the classroom, which Silagadze described: "What it amounted to was you'd pay these huge amounts of money for tuition and what you get out of it is you show up and you have a guy talking at you for an hour; really reading the textbook to you."

Silagadze believes universities should invest more in the learning experience of their students to ensure they excel in the classroom and take knowledge away with them. However, he is not discouraged by their lack of support thus far.

"The reason we've been able to be reasonably successful is by taking the grassroots approach by going directly to the professors and directly to the students to try to bring this in to the classroom," he said.

This semester, Top Hat Monocle is expanding its service to approximately 400 students in classes at Laurier.

The company is also creating a package that will allow students to order their textbooks and subscribe to MonocleCAT for a reduced cost, ultimately merging traditional schooling with technology.

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## NATIONAL

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## Millions spent on summer jobs

The federal government is doing more to promote jobs for students this year

EMMA GODMERE  
CUP OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF

OTTAWA (CUP) — More Canadian students will be able to find full-time work this summer, thanks to a \$10-million investment from the Conservative government.

Ted Menzies, newly-appointed minister of state for finance, announced on Jan. 5 that the government would help create as many as 3,500 new student jobs for summer 2011.

"It's welcome news for debt-ravaged students," said Dave Molenhuis, national chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students. "The Canada Summer Jobs program is important in that it's created employment opportunities for students that would not otherwise exist."

In an email to Canadian University Press, a Human Resources and Skills Development Canada spokesperson explained the national budget for the Canada Summer Jobs program is being permanently increased by \$10 million, starting this year.

The Conservatives first put Canada Summer Jobs into place in 2007 after slashing funding to its predecessor, the Summer Career Placement Program, in the 2006 federal budget. Since then, the Tories have invested \$10 million in the summer employment initiative each in 2009 and 2010 as part of their Economic Action Plan.

Both of those years saw some of the highest youth unemployment rates on record, according to Statistics Canada. Last summer, 16.8 per

cent of Canadians aged 15-24 were jobless; 19.2 per cent of youth were unemployed in summer 2009.

NDP youth and post-secondary education critic Niki Ashton explained that while the government's investment is an important step, it's not enough to help young Canadians.

"But not only are they not doing enough, they're not showing any sort of innovation or really any strategy to deal with this in the longer term," she said. "The high rates of youth unemployment are not just a phenomenon of 2010 — this has been a trend."

Additionally, not all students will be able to benefit from the Conservatives' new investment. The jobs that will be created will only be available to full-time students aged 15-30 who are returning to full-time studies in September 2011.

According to HRSDC, "Canada Summer Jobs is specifically designed to support full-time students returning to school because they only have summer months to be employed full-time and to save money to support their tuition costs."

Molenhuis agreed that not enough attention is being paid to part-time students.

"Looking at who is a part-time student, especially today's economy, [it] includes mature students, students with dependants, students with disabilities, as well as those requiring re-training," he said.

"These are students who can only complete their studies on a part-time basis because of financial

circumstances, because they have to work during the school year in order to be able to afford the costs of living and afford the increasing cost of post-secondary education," he continued.

According to Statistics Canada, there were 284,154 part-time university students registered for the 2008-2009 academic year — the most recent year for which information was collected. In that year, part-time students made up about 25 per cent of all university students in Canada.

"To not allow them the opportunity to access summer employment, or to ignore that demographic and the needs they have, is further setting them back in the challenges they face," said Ashton.

Along with age and full-time status criteria for students, the federal government will be investing specifically in non-profit organizations, public sector agencies and small businesses.

Priority will be given to jobs and workplaces that support local communities and priorities, offer career-related experience to students, and will hire students with disabilities and youth who are members of visible minority groups.

Employers will be able to apply for funding throughout the month of February and are expected to be able to have students working starting in May 2011. According to HRSDC, students will be able to apply for jobs directly with employers, although a full list of supported workplaces will only be available after the summer.

## Canada in brief

## Good music stimulates as much as sex: study

MONTREAL (CUP) — Researchers from McGill University have discovered that music can trigger the brain's pleasure centres in the same way as food, sex and drugs, like cocaine.

According to a study published in the journal *Nature Neuroscience* on Jan. 9, music can release the neurotransmitter dopamine, a chemical in the brain that is associated with pleasure and reward.

The list of music used in the study is quite diverse. While it has a significant amount of classical music, DJ Tiesto as well as post-rock bands, like Explosions in the Sky and Godspeed You! Black Emperor were used.

—Jacob Serebrin, CUP Quebec Bureau Chief

## Tears a turn-off, says study

VICTORIA (CUP) — Dry those eyes, ladies — it turns out crying does nothing to attract the opposite sex.

According to a new study performed by Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science, tears of sadness may temporarily lower a man's testosterone level by sending a chemical signal when the man gets close enough to sniff them, even though there's no discernible odor. Researchers also found that emotional tears are chemically different from the reflex tears that form from an irritated eye.

The study could not conclude if male-to-male tears had the same effect, since researchers found it difficult to find to male volunteers. —Danielle Pope, CUP Western Bureau Chief

2007

the year the Canada Summer Jobs program began

\$10 million

increased investment by the federal government this year

3,500

new student jobs this summer through the program

16.8 %

of youth were jobless in summer 2010

19.2 %

of youth were jobless in 2009

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## WORLD

World Editor Alexandros Mitsiopoulos • amitsiopoulos@thecord.ca

# South Sudan: The road to partition

Since Eritrea's departure from Ethiopia in 1993, South Sudan stands to become the newest country to gain independence in Africa. The international community now looks to Omar al-Bashir for the next move.

**ALEXANDROS MITSIOPOULOS**  
WORLD EDITOR

Jubilant has swept through southern Sudan as millions line up to vote in a referendum to effectively separate from the north.

The polls opened this past Sunday and will continue until Jan. 15 to ensure that voting stations are accessible to all.

The decision to hold a referendum resulted from the ceasefire agreement in 2005, ending a 20 year civil war between the north and south.

The source of the conflict lies with the deeply segmented factions that reside throughout Sudan, one of the biggest countries in Africa.

John Laband, chair of the history department at Wilfrid Laurier University, explained, "Sudan is a typical colonial problem. The southern provinces were ruled very differently and the British were very conscious of the fact that northerners and southerners had all sorts of cultural and economic differences."

"They tended to look to the Arab Muslim population in the north as the more advanced," he added.

As such, southerners have deeply resented the years of oppression sustained from the north, which helped instigate two decades of violence.

"What changes everything is oil," Laband explained. Sudan's primary oil reserves lay intertwined along the border separating the north and

south.

A large issue that will come under scrutiny when negotiating the terms of secession will be the division of the oil reserves.

"There is really no agreement in advance to work it out so that's going to be a contentious issue," explained Timothy Donais, professor of global studies at WLU.

"It's one thing to secede and its another thing to iron out all the other arrangements involving secession that will have to be negotiated with the north if the referendum is successful," Donais continued.

Thus far, north-south issues have proved to be substantially problematic.

Apart from the pervasive socio-economic and ethnic differences, unclear border demarcation and extensive issues concerning the accumulated debt in the south further complicate partition.

In response to the problem, Bashir recently announced that his government is willing to acquire the south's debt, an alarmingly uncharacteristic move given Bashir's reputation in light of charges handed down by the International Criminal Court.

Despite these expectations, Bashir has claimed that he will allow the south to secede peacefully. Many have questioned his motives.

Mindful of Sudan's history of voting fraud, there has been considerable concern with the integrity of

the voting process.

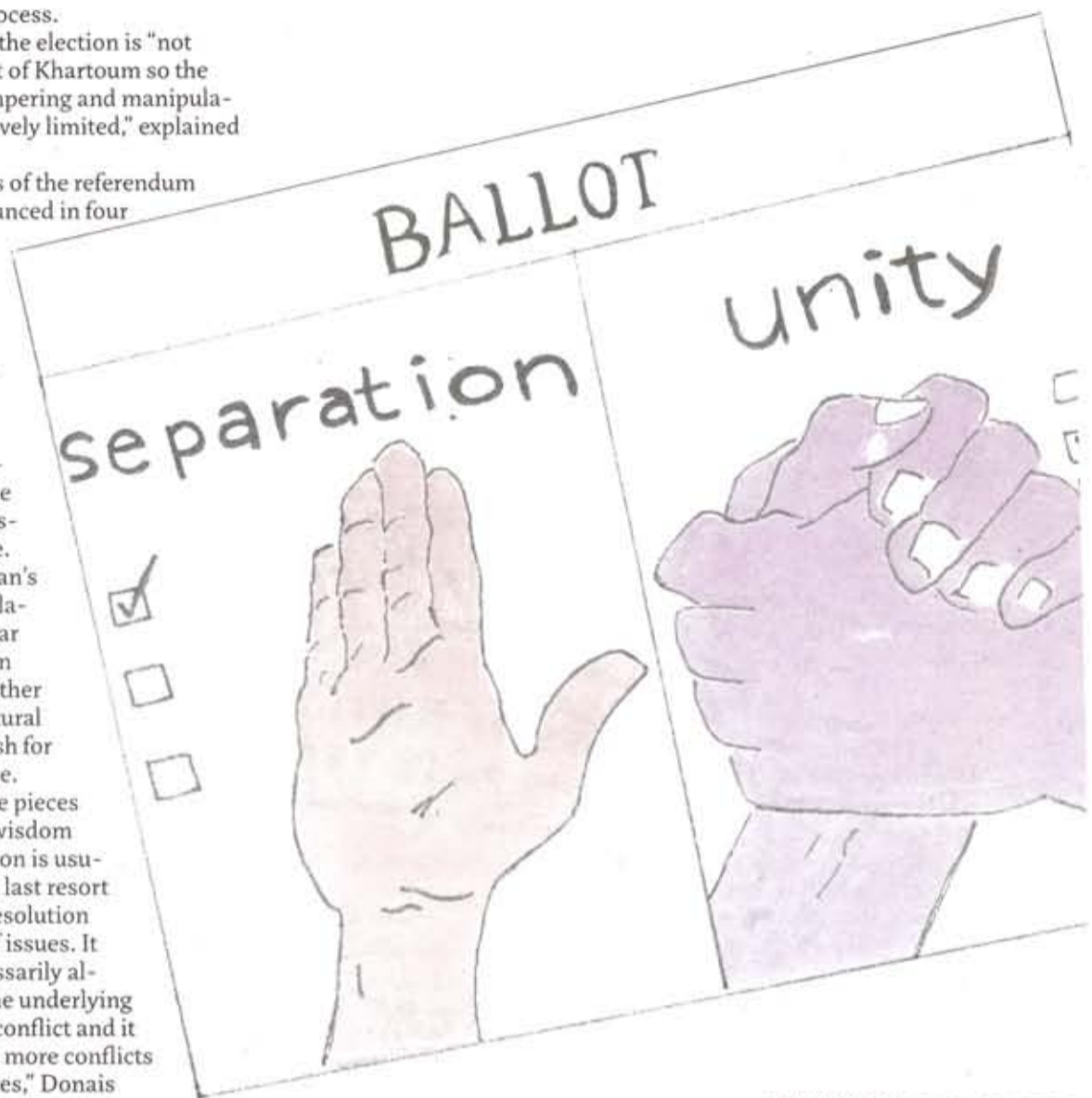
However, the election is "not being run out of Khartoum so the scope for tampering and manipulations is relatively limited," explained Donais.

The results of the referendum will be announced in four weeks from now.

Analysts have come to speculate whether Sudan will sustain further splintering should the south successfully separate.

Given Sudan's diverse population, some fear that secession will inspire other ethnic or cultural groups to push for independence.

"One of the pieces of common wisdom is that partition is usually seen as a last resort for conflict resolution for a range of issues. It doesn't necessarily always solve the underlying cause of the conflict and it often creates more conflicts than it resolves," Donais concluded.

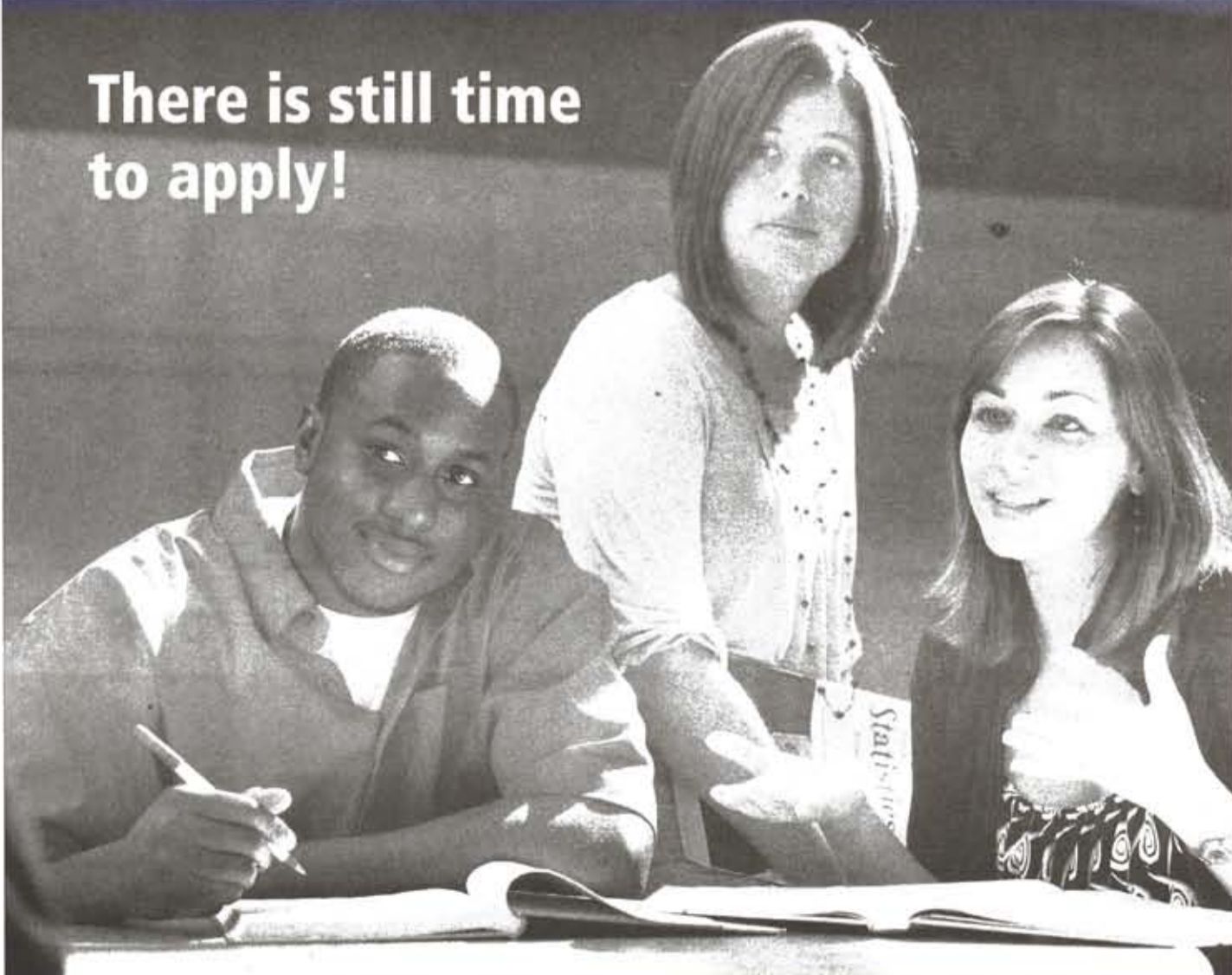


LIZZY COOK GRAPHICS ARTIST

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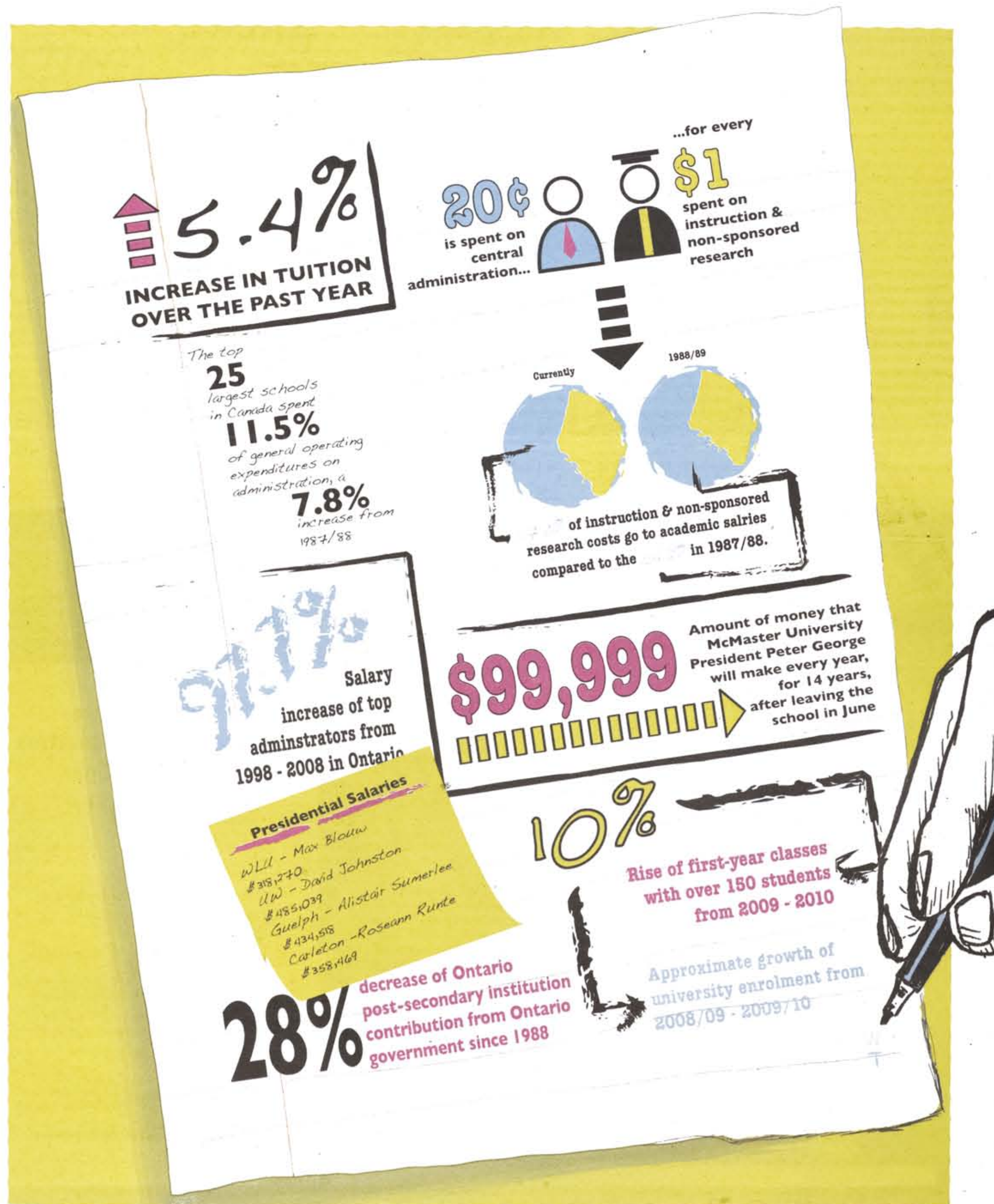
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# Post-secondary priorities

The balancing act of improving and maintaining academic quality in the wake of financial strains



In Depth Editor **Rebecca Vasluianu** investigates the competing factors of decreased governmental funding and high central administrative salaries and their impact on universities across Ontario

“The funding per student is the lowest in Ontario,” remarked William Salatka, Laurier’s undergraduate business programs director and associate professor of accounting. “In many ways it’s not the fault of the administration; it’s just the government not having the right priorities. Our government says they have priorities but if you look at the numbers you still see a decline,” he added.

Jim Butler, VP finance and administration, told The Cord that the Ontario government has made efforts to ensure faculty salaries are on par with those in the private sector. However, with regard to decreasing class sizes and directing more money to the classroom, Butler stated these problems would be easier to rectify if the government would “give us the funding for it.”

For some, however, the major question of how to ensure quality comes down to an inflated bureaucracy within universities across Ontario. “As they’re expanding the number of VPs and associate VPs and top bureaucrats, that’s money that is coming out of the classroom,” said Herbert Pimlott, associate professor of communications at Laurier.

According to Macleans.ca, 20 cents is now spent on central administrative costs across the largest 25 universities per every dollar expended on instruction and non-sponsored research, compared to just 12 cents 20 years ago.

As a result, central administrative costs have usurped \$18 million that would have previously gone towards instruction and non-sponsored research.

“Yes, there has been an increase in central administrative costs,” remarked Butler.



“The way we’ve organized this university, really is quite medieval. Universities are really a direct descendent of how organizations have been organized in the Middle Ages... so evaluating administrators really isn’t something that has been done.”

—William Salatka, Laurier’s undergraduate business programs director and associate professor of accounting

He explained that the increase has been largely necessary, noting that since approximately 1988, certain laws have required the creation of new positions, such as the Access for Ontarians with Disabilities Act for which Laurier hired a co-ordinator.

Butler added that changes to employment law, the need for specialists in human resources due to increased staff unionization and other reasons have made the gradual increase in central administrative costs unavoidable.

“I do know that all universities are becoming more top-heavy,” said Salatka. “When we look at stories all across the province, they’re adding lots of layers of administrators. With that being said, universities are being asked to do more and more so there may be some good reason for that. They certainly don’t share that information readily though,” he added.

“People at the bottom have to do more with less, while people at the top do less with more,” Pimlott remarked.

He explained that the university is over-recruiting new students, which “does not make sense.” Pimlott noted that larger class sizes put strain on professors while decreasing the quality of education for students. He also cited the 5.4 per cent tuition increase over the past year, which paradoxically is spent on a lower quality education.

“You can’t maintain the standards when you have 350 students in a class and you cut their tutorials in half and lower the standards,” stated Pimlott.

“I have yet to see outside of their rhetoric in their actions, something that would assure me and my colleagues that the administration has academic quality at the forefront of their concerns,” he added.

VP academic and provost Deb MacLachy explained that while there has been an increase in the number of central administrators, specifically the number of vice presidents, associate vice presidents and assistant vice presidents in recent years, this does not come at the cost of a lower quality of education.

“Academic quality is the number one priority of the university,” said MacLachy. She added that some of the new positions are meant to specifically target and improve the classroom experience at Laurier.

Despite some of the benefits found by increasing central administrative costs, several irresponsible agreements at Ontario universities have garnered controversy in recent months.

Most notable was the case of former McMaster President Peter George who not only raked up questionable expenditures to the tune of approximately \$200,000 in 32 months, but also negotiated a contract in which he receives \$99,999 each year for 14 years after leaving the university.

While numbers like this can make one wonder where tuition and government funding are being directed, Butler told The Cord that Laurier’s central administrative costs are growing at a similar rate to other costs.

“Central hiring is no different than faculty or any other administrative hiring which is pretty much commensurate with enrolment growth,” said Butler.

“Nobody is a big winner.”

Director of communication and public affairs Kevin Crowley also explained that Laurier’s upper management salaries and benefits are “in the middle of the pack” and have remained reasonable.

Laurier President Max Blouw currently earns \$318,270 with \$28,987 in taxable benefits. This has increased from \$300,000 in 2007 when he signed his five-year contract.

Crowley told The Cord that Blouw and many other administrators took a voluntary wage freeze in 2009, and in 2010 took another wage freeze in accordance with the requests of the Ontario government.

“Senior administrators across the university are well aware of the financial constraints across the system. All universities across Ontario and Canada are facing the same pressures. Leaders at Wilfrid Laurier University are well aware and trying to lead by example,” said Crowley.

However, Pimlott explained that some problems might arise because while students and faculty receive constant evaluation, central administration is not regularly assessed.

“There has to be accountability to the mission of the university,” said Pimlott.

“What perplexes my colleagues and I is that the very institution that is meant to value education and the expertise that is garnered through years of studying seems to be actively pushing to undermine the process,” he continued.

With regards to expansion within the university and the multi-campus model Laurier has adopted, Pimlott stresses that these should not be at odds with the educational purpose of the institution.

“The administration has a choice to make,” he noted. “There is no problem with expansion but not until you’ve pursued the goals of the university.”

Salatka explained that these various competing factors are what make the Ontario post-secondary institution so complicated to manage in a way that maintains fiscal responsibility but also pursues academic excellence.

“To run a university, you have to worry about education, you have to worry about research, you have to worry about funding.... So there’s a lot of competing kinds of things the university is sort of balancing.... If you go too far one way or another it’s going to hurt other areas,” he explained.

“What perplexes my colleagues and I is that the very institution that is meant to value education and the expertise that is garnered through years of studying seems to be actively pushing to undermine the process.”

—Herbert Pimlott, associate professor of communications

# ARTS

Arts Editor Sarah Murphy • smurphy@thecord.ca

## Photo exhibit sheds light on abused land

Peter Sibbald's *Elegy for the Stolen Land* — on display at the Robert Langen Gallery until Feb. 12 — visually depicts the destruction imposed on aboriginal agricultural lands as a result of urban development

ANTHONY DAMIAO  
STAFF WRITER

Peter Sibbald calls *Elegy for the Stolen Land* an investigation into "the changes that humans have wrought on the land in Southern Ontario."

A slight anomaly in many of the Robert Langen Art Gallery's past exhibits, Sibbald is a photographic journalist.

His display is a social commentary and exploration of a Canadian crisis that often slips beneath the conventional media's radar.

*Elegy for the Stolen Land* is a collection of black and white photographs.

Most of them are wide shots, many of them landscapes.

The pictures are beautiful, poignant and political.

They expose the unchecked decay of Ontario's aboriginal and agricultural landscape, as well as the fall of Canadian heritage sites to urban sprawl and a lack of government concern.

As an accomplished photojournalist, Sibbald's work is about as far from abstract art as photography gets.

*Elegy for the Stolen Land* holds a concrete message that is apparent almost immediately upon viewing any of its components.

Not only are there clear political statements in the photographs, they are accompanied with clear descriptions, disclosing the location portrayed as well as its social, political and ecological context.

Sibbald has travelled worldwide, hired by such renowned media giants as *Time Magazine*.

He has worked throughout Asia,



Peter Sibbald's collection of photography documents rural destruction in Southern Ontario.

MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Europe and the United States harnessing incredible images.

That said, Sibbald has not forgotten his roots.

He still lives in a rural community just north of the Greater Toronto Area.

*Elegy for the Stolen Land* strongly reflects his passion for the province he calls home.

The images beg for an awareness and compassion for what is happening to Ontario's heritage sites, ecosystem and aboriginal vitality.

His photographs bear terrible accounts of desecrated native burial grounds and shameless infringements on native land agreements.

They accuse Ontario's provincial government of being dismal at

supporting and preserving our heritage sites.

In this respect, Ontario has proven to be not only the worst province in Canada, but inadequate in comparison with most of the United States as well.

These photographs call for viewers to take the first step towards decisive action.

### Upcoming exhibits

Sue Ellen Eatrides' "Landscape Abstracted and Minimalized"

Opens at the Button Factory on Jan. 14

Robert Linsley's "A Geomorphic Fantasy"

Opens at KWAG on Jan. 21

Karen Tam's "Pagoda Pads: Opium Den"

Opens at the Robert Langen Gallery on Feb. 23

They call for us to educate ourselves about these issues.

Sibbald also regards Ontario's dwindling agriculture industry as an issue of impending severity, as made clear in his portrayal of acres of farmland laid to waste for the sake of urban sprawl.

Sibbald claims that the Greater Toronto Area alone expands at a rate of 90,000 suburban homes per year.

There is an urgency in Sibbald's photography.

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"I'm really lucky to do what I dreamt of doing as a kid."  
 —Rich Beddoe (Finger Eleven)

# Finger Eleven to play Kitchener

LAURA SEDGWICK  
 STAFF WRITER

Rich Beddoe always gets nervous before going on stage, even though he has been playing live shows as the percussionist for Finger Eleven for over 20 years.

"The nervousness just shows that I'm excited for what I'm about to do," he said in an interview with The Cord.

"I think if you're not nervous there is something wrong," Beddoe explained.

"Anyone who says they don't get nervous are medicated or they're lying," he added with a laugh.

Growing up in Kitchener, Beddoe is thankful that his dream of becoming a musician in a rock band came true.

"I'm really lucky to do what I dreamt of doing as a kid," he said. "That doesn't happen for a lot of people so I never take that for granted and I always try to be humble."

Even still, Beddoe is appreciative of how his life is turning out.

"Everyday I pinch myself and

think about how lucky I am to be living my dream," he said.

"People along the way seem to forget what it was like starting out," he continued.

"I live in Hamilton now and whenever I go home I see so many of my friends who are struggling musicians and I'm reminded that not everyone gets to achieve this."

Musing on what life might be like without Finger Eleven, Beddoe said, "When I was just starting in the band, I didn't have a whole lot going for me. I was into hacky sack and smoking weed, so who knows where I'd be now. Probably in jail."

This past October, Finger Eleven released their fifth studio album, *Life Turns Electric*.

"This is probably the most positive, uplifting record we've made," said Beddoe. "It's a really high energy, positive, rock and roll record with a classic rock vibe to it."

Unlike many of their past albums, *Life Turns Electric* doesn't have the same level of angst or dark undertones.

"In some ways we've become



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

known for that sound but at the particular moment in time when [Scott Anderson, Finger Eleven's lead vocalist] was writing this batch of songs there wasn't a lot to complain about and I think that that comes through in the music."

The songs on all five of Finger Eleven's albums are about Anderson's life. "He writes about what he goes through, his thoughts and things he has happen to him," said Beddoe.

"It's funny, if you go back and

listen to all the records it's like listening to Scott growing up."

Despite Anderson's heavy lyrical influence, Beddoe noted the importance of each individual member to the group's dynamic, stating, "We are five differently eccentric people and that's what makes up our sound."

He jokingly continued, "We are like a *Curb Your Enthusiasm* episode."

Along with sincerity, the longevity of the music is important to Beddoe.

"When we make records we want them to still be relevant 20 years from now," he said.

"It's always really rewarding that there are no B-sides on our albums, every song is something we can be proud of."

"We spend a lot of time and take a lot of pride in writing these songs and I think people get that," he concluded.

Finger Eleven's *Life Turns Electric* tour comes to Wax Nightclub in Kitchener on Jan. 25.

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# FEATURES: LIFE

Features Editor Vacant • editor@thecord.ca

## That 'fuzzy feeling' explained

*Love is patient, love is kind ... Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*

IRMA SHABOIAN  
CORD FEATURES

Unfortunately, the Bible explains how love manifests itself, like with the above line from the book of Corinthians, but it fails to explain how love comes about. In the Christian context, the Bible is the basis for all beings and the foundation of many beliefs.

This leaves many of us at a crossroads with questions regarding love that only science can answer. Instinctive in nature, the topic of love proves itself to be far more complex than imaginable. For decades scientists have been studying what love is, what it does to us and how it can be defined. For now, it has been boiled down to just a few chemicals in our brain that, for a lack of better words, control us.

Feeling weak in the knees, butterflies in the stomach, sweaty palms and nervous jitters. How is it possible that just the very thought of someone can have such control over our bodies? According to Helen Fisher, a well-known researcher and anthropologist at Rutgers University, it is the combination of both physical and psychological reactions taking place within you.

In more scientific terms, you see your partner (or person of interest) and you experience a rush of sensory neurons travelling to your thalamus — the lower part of your brain that processes sensations — where neurotransmitters signal arousal and pleasure. This sends signals that travel to the amygdala (an almond-shaped cell group in the brain which responds to sense perception), hypothalamus (the brain's control station of the autonomic nervous system) and pituitary, ensuring the release of hormones which initiate a response in your body.

Yes, all of this happens in your brain just by looking at your person of interest.

Research conducted by Fisher in 1996 was a multipart project to try and decipher which specific chemicals and networks in the brain were involved when a person claimed to be "just madly in love." In this experiment, participants were told to complete a questionnaire entitled the "Passionate Love Scale." Afterwards, Fisher collected data from the brain activity of the participants using an fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) when they were shown two photographs: one of their beloved and the other of an emotionally neutral acquaintance.

The fMRI would record the blood flow in the brain based on the principle that brain cells that are active require more oxygen.

The findings were extraordinary; those who were "just madly in love" had high concentrations of receptors for dopamine and norepinephrine, while maintaining lower levels of serotonin. This explains why people who are often "in love" experience states of euphoria, feelings of elation, hyperactivity and even mania.

The lower levels of serotonin contribute to, obsession over your love interest. What is most notable about these findings is that the same system in your brain becomes active when you're experiencing "love" as you do after you take cocaine. Fascinating, yet mildly perturbing. While some assert that love is like a drug, science has a different elucidation.

What makes love similar to cocaine is the "high" a person would get from either. Love junkies are those who are addicted to the "love high" the way a drug junkie would be addicted to that "drug high." Love junkies are addicts who crave the amphetamine-like rush of the neurotransmitters released by the brain. However, since the body builds up a tolerance to these chemicals (which also explains why some



TAYLOR GAYOWSKY CORD GRAPHICS

relationships plateau), love junkies go through continuous strings of relationships in order to get their "fix" — a helpful insight as to why some of our friends seem to always be in a dire need of a relationship for absolutely no logical reason.

The debate of whether love is a deeply spiritual emotion or a biological addiction proves to be

intertwined; humans have a naturally selected need to pass on their genes while simultaneously integrating emotion into our consciousness. It is up to us to interpret what love is: a rush of dopamine at the sight of someone or the compatibility of personalities. After all, it will be the longest lasting and cheapest high we will ever experience.



NICK LACHANCE VISUAL DIRECTOR

## 2011 in new technology

NATHAN CHAU  
CORD FEATURES

Technology has become the fashion trend of the new decade, which is why the Consumer Electronics Show of 2011 (CES) was held in Las Vegas last week. The event gives manufacturers from around the world the opportunity to meet annually and show off their latest technology innovations. This year's CES was packed with tablets, 4G enabled devices and 3D glassless technology.

Motorola stole this year's show with their 'Xoom' tablet running the new Android OS Honeycomb 3.0 made especially for tablets, winning CES Best of Show Award from both CES and CNET.

The tablet market has exploded over the past year after the introduction of the Apple iPad. Competitors have been working hard to make products that can compete with the iPad. Other honourable mentions at CES include RIM's Playbook, which seamlessly integrates BlackBerry features like mail, calendar and BBM from your BlackBerry onto their seven-inch tablet.

Many major carriers in the U.S.

will have 4G connectivity networks available in 2011. 4G has the capability to deliver broadband speeds anywhere where there is coverage on your mobile devices.

Verizon at CES introduced their 4G LTE network push in 2011 including a slew of devices like smartphones, tablets and laptops that are all 4G capable.

At last year's CES there was a huge push for 3D content and televisions. But one can only view 3D content with 3D glasses, which was a major issue as consumers did not want to pay \$100 for each pair of 3D glasses above their \$2,000 3D television.

This year's CES was all about 3D television that allows anyone to view 3D content without additional glasses. However, the technology is still in its early stages and may take another year or two before it can come to market.

In short, CES 2011 showed us that 2011 will be the year of the tablets and 4G connected devices. In a market where the mobile space is booming, Facebook will soon be an even larger distraction, along with maybe likealittle — if it becomes exciting again.

## Future got you freaking out?

Staff writer *Natasha Tacchi* gives you advice for some of the biggest problems students face when faced with real life

For many of us students, the concept of "real life" and what to do after graduating from Wilfrid Laurier gives us the chills. Leaving university can be one of the most stressful times of a student's journey. Not only do students worry about the lagging economy but the hundreds of choices and career routes to choose from can be very overwhelming.

These obstacles leave students with additional burdens on top of their major romantic, monetary and work decisions. Listed below are some suggestions to decrease the common anxieties found in students' lives.

### Freak-Out #1: "What career choices should I make after school?"

In university, students often stress that the decision they make right after graduation will determine what role they will be playing in society for the rest of their lives. In reality, individuals face many twists and turns that eventually guide them to their destiny. Students must realize that there is a time to explore various career journeys and that we are at a place in our lives where we have this opportunity without tons of obligations.

The key is to follow what you love. Usually if you really love something you'll naturally excel in that field. Therefore, narrow down your

passions in life (even if it's not your academic major) and write them down on a list. Research roles in those fields of interest and write down possible employers.

Remember not to be discouraged when you can't find something in your field. While you are on the hunt, take a job or volunteer position that you can somehow relate to that dream job to help pay the bills and keep your resume active. The key to avoid feeling disheartened is to move forward in any way and feel productive.

### Freak-Out #2: "Money, money, money!"

With university loans, credit card debt and rent coming into play, your dreams are often shifted to the backburner. Okay, so how can we achieve this dream? It's time to begin to assess our finances. Students need to take control of their financial situation before they can't breathe and even think about their future.

Suck it up and make a budget. You can have anything you need on a small bank account, you just can't have everything you like.

Your dreams can still come true; they sometimes just need a bit of altering to be practical.

### Freak-Out #3: "Err... are they the one?"

Without being over-dramatic, there

is something intoxicating about thinking of the future after graduation. For most students, the idea of thinking of being with someone after university is even more nerve-wracking.

Many students avoid getting into serious relationships because of the result of missing opportunities. Yet the fear of having no one in the end can be a depressing thought. It's important to recognize that dating is a vital part of being a young individual because it allows us to better understand different personalities and develop relationship skills. Therefore, by trying to avoid your love, you could face the risk of passing by a special someone.

Getting serious doesn't involve saying no to your aspirations and goals. If it does, then it's probably better to say au revoir now before it's too late. When you find the right one, they will encourage you to achieve everything that you put your mind to (cheesy, I know) even if it means slowing your relationship down.

Chill out, have fun and be open about the scary thought of being in love.

For the full story, check out

**thecord.ca**

## Beating the winter blues

Cold, dark January is here and the

serenade of Christmas carols have given way to the howl of winter winds.

But just because the tinsel is off the tree does not mean that we too have to lose our sparkle. Instead

of hibernating, try a different approach to getting through the next few months:

Get active and try snowboarding or skiing at Chicopee or skating at the Public Square Ice Rink.

Take your New Year's resolution seriously and learn a new skill, perhaps through Waterloo's Renaissance School of the Arts.

Get a group together and go to bogganing on local hills such as

Kitchener's McLennan Bike Park.

Meet with friends at a nearby coffee shop and try out their seasonal beverages over good conversation.

—Compiled by Colleen Connolly



# EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • [emerkeley@thecord.ca](mailto:emerkeley@thecord.ca)

## Drastic reform needed in university finances

It is becoming clear to students that a crisis is growing in post-secondary education. Tuition costs are on the rise — Ontario's average tuition is now the highest in Canada while quality of education is on the decline. We are witnesses to fewer course selection opportunities, larger class sizes, congested hallways and a lack of study space. When the consensus of most economists is that Canada needs to transition into a knowledge economy, the current state of affairs is unhelpful to say the least.

We do not believe that the growth in tuition is a bad thing on its own. In tough economic times we are confronting the reality of unsustainable government finances. As such, it is becoming harder and harder to look to the province for increased funding. However, with these increases in tuition, lowering the quality of education is absolutely unacceptable.

There has been an alarming rise in administrative costs over the past several years. Universities are becoming more top heavy. 20 cents is spent on administrative costs for every dollar spent on research and instruction compared to 12 cents 20 years ago. Universities need to better examine the necessity of administrative spending and make it more transparent to students who, facing a budget crunch and poor-quality education, want answers.

The reality is far more complex than simply bloated university bureaucracies. The government has its share of the blame by tying grants to enrolment. Now that government assistance is on the decline, universities are not receiving enough money to cover the costs of dealing with the ramifications of rapidly increasing enrolment. While these grants allow them to survive financially in the short term, it pushes universities on an unsustainable course.

Nor is it all the government's fault. By far the biggest slice of any university's budget is faculty costs. This means a full half of the budget is off limits to reform.

There are many to blame for the continued decline in the quality of university education. It is a complex issue. But for the sake of students and Canada's economy in the future, all parties — including students — need to get together and establish meaningful reform.

—The Cord Editorial Board

## Student housing proposal needs some more work

The housing situation in Waterloo is fast becoming a serious concern to students, Waterloo residents and the City of Waterloo. Recently, there was coverage in the Waterloo Region Record of students whose house was flooded. It seems that everyone has a horror story from living off campus: moldy bathrooms, freezing cold temperatures, shot water heaters, et cetera.

In response, a by-law is going to be discussed by city council to attempt to fix the problem. Certain measures are very welcome, such as mandating that landlords follow appropriate health and safety regulations and file adequate documentation.

However, two issues raise concern for us. First, compliance is achieved through self-auditing and risk-based enforcement instead of proactive efforts by the city to enforce regulations. While doing more was dismissed as going "overboard," this seems like a half-measure at best. One of the problems are "slumlords" who simply do not care about complying with current landlord/tenancy laws and prey off students not well versed in them.

Secondly, landlords will be forced to house no more than three people per dwelling without upgrading their licence at significant cost. Restricting the supply of student housing will drive up housing costs by a large amount. It will also push students outside of current areas of student housing such as Northdale and heighten the problem of community integration in other areas.

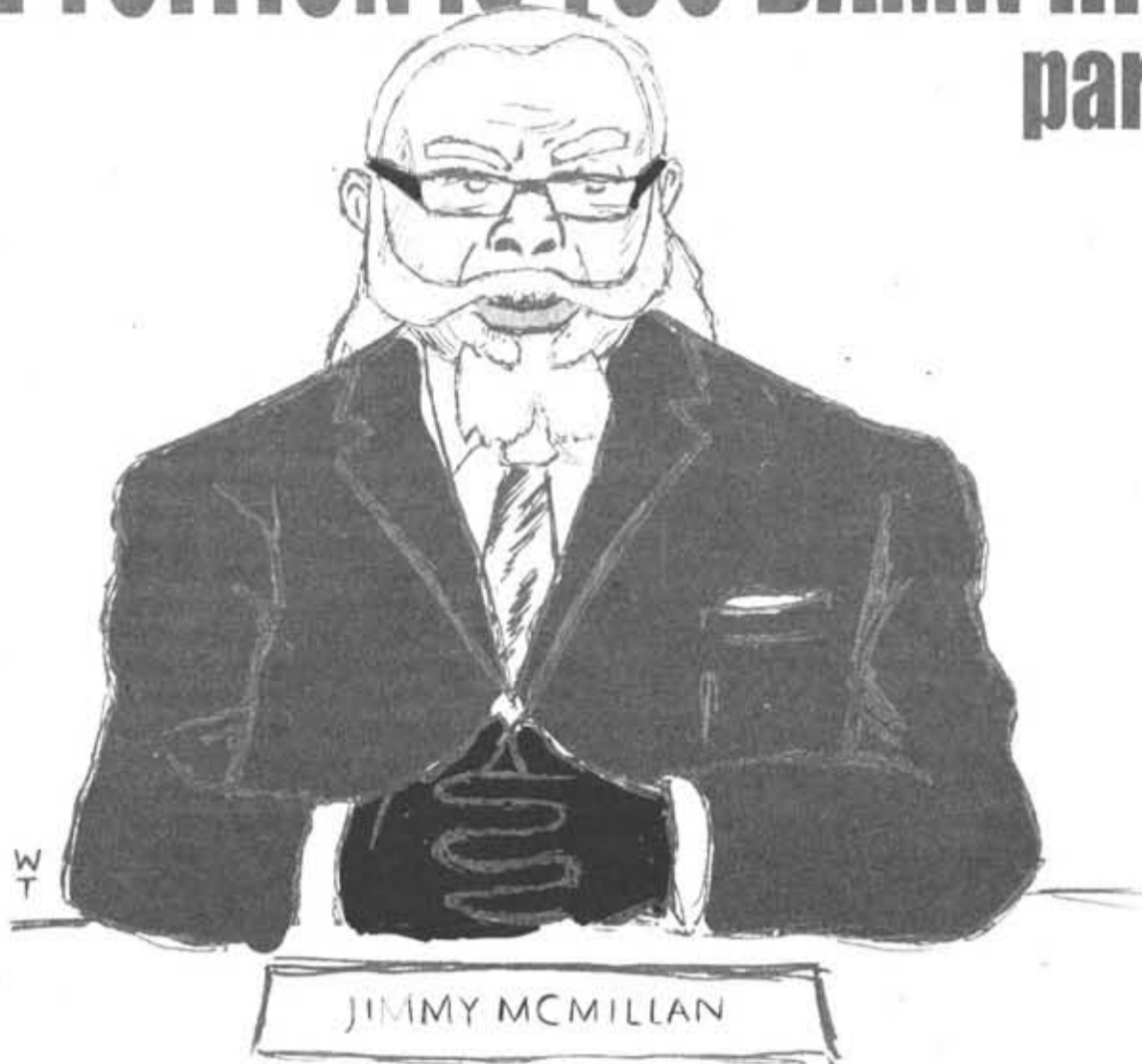
While it is important that the city is working to solve this issue, albeit long overdue, there are clearly problems that remain which need to be addressed by the recent proposal.

—The Cord Editorial Board

*This unsigned editorial is based off informal discussions and then agreed upon by the majority of The Cord's editorial board, which consists of 15 senior Cord staff 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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## NHL Winter Classic needs to reach back to hockey's roots



DAVID GOLDBERG  
[letters@thecord.ca](mailto:letters@thecord.ca)

To me, playing a hockey game in a football stadium or baseball park is about as ridiculous as a football game being played in a hockey rink — but wait, it has already taken place.

Few people know that an NFL playoff game in 1932 was held inside Chicago Stadium, then home of the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks. Inclement weather and a tight schedule led the NFL to take drastic measures, which involved the unloading of dump trucks filled with soil inside "the Mad House on Madison" to make an 80-yard field. The Chicago Bears beat the Portsmouth Spartans 9-0 in front of a crowd of more than 11,000.

Let's take a quick look at not the necessitated circumstances but the novel ones of displacing a sport from its traditional venue in the interest of consumer value.

In 2001, the hockey teams of Michigan State University and the University of Michigan played in Spartan Stadium, a venue usually used to host football, in front of a crowd of more than 74,000. This inspired the Heritage Classic, which was played in 2003 at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton.

This event was a once-in-a-lifetime experience as Wayne Gretzky, Mark Messier, Guy Lafleur and a dozen other hockey legends took to an outdoor

playing surface in an Oilers versus Canadiens alumni game.

It was a special night because it was the first outdoor NHL regular season game in the 86-year existence of the league. It was in Canada and these were two of the most celebrated teams to come out of the North; it was all about going back to hockey's roots.

Now the NHL hosts their own outdoor game every New Year's Day, which they have dubbed the "Winter Classic" (WC). Since its inception, the annual game has been played in historic baseball parks, including Wrigley Field and Fenway Park, and football stadiums with large-scale seating capacities in Buffalo and Pittsburgh.

But unlike the Heritage Classic in Edmonton, something is missing. The NHL has turned the idea of an outdoor game into a gimmick to sell millions in merchandise and attract more viewers on television.

Initially, the WC had been about classic teams facing off. It was to give a vintage feel to the event. Buffalo and Pittsburgh were both part of a very early expansion in the NHL. Chicago vs. Detroit, Philadelphia vs. Boston; these were all previous match-ups based on classic rivalries in which the majority of the teams had played each other in the Stanley Cup finals — in some cases during the Original Six era.

This year's edition was Washington vs. Pittsburgh — well more accurately Crosby vs. Ovechkin, a rivalry that the NHL marketing department has been trying to milk since the two players entered the league after the labour stoppage in 2005.

Unfortunately for the NHL, Crosby didn't shine and there did not seem to be

The NHL is picking the wrong match-ups and the wrong locations for these games to maximize television coverage and revenue.

much friction between the two superstars. It rained and rained until the puck started producing vapour trails. Washington skated to a lacklustre 3-1 win on Pittsburgh's home turf. Not what I call a magical moment.

However, the NHL may be redeeming itself this year with the revival of the Heritage Classic. The Montreal Canadiens will play the Calgary Flames at MacMahon Stadium in Calgary. I am sure that millions of Canadians will tune in to watch these two clubs, maybe even more than this year's WC audience of 4.56 million Americans.

But one thing is still bothering me. The NHL is picking the wrong match-ups and the wrong locations for these games to maximize television coverage and revenue. Why not play on real rivalries instead of inventing some; the original rivalry in the NHL? Montreal versus Toronto. I can picture it now: The Habs take on the Leafs in front of a sold-out crowd at Rogers Centre.

That's my definition of a winter classic.

# THE FORUM

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • [emerkeley@thecord.ca](mailto:emerkeley@thecord.ca)

## Calderon's war on the drug cartels continues to rage in Mexico with no end in sight



**MARTIN PINEDA**  
[letters@thecord.ca](mailto:letters@thecord.ca)

It seems as if disturbing reports of escalating drug violence in Mexico has become a norm on international news reports. Recent headlines like "Headless bodies found in Acapulco" or "Mayor of northern Mexican town shot to death" paint a picture of utter barbarism and an entire country plagued by internal armed conflict and violence similar to that of West Africa in the 1990s.

While the majority of such drug-related violence is restricted to those involved in the trade and within certain areas of the country, the extent to which the cartels are increasingly destabilizing security in the country is absolutely disturbing.

Mexican drug cartels have changed their usual operating procedures in response to President Felipe Calderon's "War on Drugs." Launched at the beginning of his

presidency in 2006, it has been the cause of the surge of violence.

The code of ethics once held by those involved in organized crime of keeping a low profile and using violence sparingly to keep rival cartels in check has now changed to making a hobby of torture and gruesome killings. The recipients of such abuse are more often appearing to be innocent civilians or officials of the Mexican government who are made an example of in order to terrorize the population.

The culture of corruption that exists in Mexico has much to do with the proliferation of drug violence in the country. Much of why the government has been unsuccessful in its attempts to bring down the cartels is how drug traffickers have been successful in employing bribery and coercion to infiltrate key areas of Mexican society such as law enforcement, the judicial system, the press and even political representatives.

Unlike their Canadian counterparts, individuals with careers in these occupations often earn salaries that are marginally enough to survive (minimum wage is roughly \$6 per day in most parts of the country), making them more than willing

to risk the integrity of their careers for lucrative bribes from drug cartels that are equivalent to that of several annual salaries. It is extremely hard for organized crime to be mitigated when many of those that society trusts to enforce the law abuse their positions by being complicit in such crimes themselves.

The growing power of the cartels over local populations in Mexico is reason for great concern with respect to national security. The billions in profits that the drug trade brings in annually, combined with the deficiencies of border security in the United States, has allowed for cartels to obtain arsenals of assault weapons, surface-to-air missiles and helicopters that are of much better quality than those possessed by the Mexican Armed Forces.

When you put these kinds of tools in the hands of ex-Mexican special forces personnel using their extensive training for the purposes of drug trafficking, the authority of the government to project its sovereignty through the use of the military is often undermined.

Grave social problems in Mexico will arise if the issue of the drug cartels continues to fester. In a country with a high unemployment rate,

where a significant portion of the population lives in abject poverty like Mexico, many of those living in adverse economic circumstances will be drawn to making lucrative sums of money as part of the illegal drug trade.

This reality is especially dangerous when considering how drug cartels have increasingly been targeting impoverished youth for recruitment into their ranks. This raises grave concerns about future generations becoming socialized to accept the practice of earning large sums of money easily through a life of crime rather than through education and hard work.

As Mexico enters 2011, it seems as if a civil war of ideologies is continuing to play out. On one side there lies the majority of the population — those that wish to see an end brought to drug violence and corruption so that they can live in peace and maximize their full potential free from danger.

On the other hand, lies those who carelessly resort to a life of deviance out of personal greed or in rebellion to the reality of profound inequality in the country. We can only hope in the new year that the former will prevail over the latter.

**28,000**

People killed since President Calderon's crackdown in 2006

**1,234**

People killed in July 2010

**411**

Million dollars (US) confiscated from the cartels since 2006

**84,000**

Weapons confiscated from the cartels since 2006

—Statistics courtesy of the Guardian

## Letters to the Editor

### Economic costs of smoking effect us all

RE: War on tobacco undermining its cause, Jan 6

People are free to make choices for themselves so long as those choices do not infringe on the basic rights of others.

"It is estimated that smoking-related diseases cost Canada \$3 billion per year in direct health care expenses. This does not include the cost of lost productivity, increased insurance premiums and other indirect expenses, which increase the cost of tobacco use in society to \$11 billion annually." And they don't pay for themselves. An earlier study suggests smokers cost \$15 tax billion while contributing only \$7.8 billion. Leaving the rest of us to make up the shortfall.

As a person who contributes to that tax base and certainly you will to at some point Mr. Merkley.

High taxation and education are at the forefront of good policy on fighting activities that have a high cost. Smoking contributes to more than 37,000 deaths a year in Canada, of which almost 11,000 are heart disease and stroke-related. Almost 6,300 non-smokers die each year from exposure to second-hand smoke. Smoking is responsible for

14.54 per cent of all heart disease and stroke deaths.

If current rates of tobacco use continue, approximately 1 million Canadians will die over the next 20 years as a direct result of smoking and second-hand smoke.

While I think your point on watching the careful line of price and black market is good, your last paragraph on individual choice has serious flaws and reads like a throw-away paragraph.

—Matt Symes

### Copyright change ridiculous

RE: Decision made on copyright, Jan 6

Does anyone know if the bookstore will accept photocopied money when paying for coursepacks? Or Monopoly money, if all else fails.

—T.A. Pattinson

### Letter policy

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# OPINION

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • [emerkeley@thecord.ca](mailto:emerkeley@thecord.ca)

## Religion and school don't mix



**ANDREW CHAI**  
[letters@thecord.ca](mailto:letters@thecord.ca)

In the United States, the topic of religion and its role in relation to secular institutions remains a highly contentious issue. Today, the Christian faith is virtually a prerequisite for public office. The Ten Commandments have been placed on several government properties and has even been judged as constitutional in at least one case. Indeed, many Americans are as religious as they are patriotic. Thankfully, there is comparably less religious zeal up north.

Nevertheless, over the years we have seen the U.S. take great strides towards greater separation of church and state. For instance, creationism, and its poorly disguised doppelganger, intelligent design, have met their demise in court. The hope of some that their religious beliefs will someday be taught in science classes of public schools has all but disintegrated.

No doubt this has been because of

the careful application of the "Lemon test," which came about from a notable court case that struck down a program that supplemented the salaries of teachers in religious-based private schools.

This test describes the requirements for legislation concerning religion, mandating the government's action: it must have a secular legislative purpose, must not have the primary effect of either advancing or inhibiting religion and must not result in an "excessive government entanglement" with religion. If any of these requirements are violated, the government's action is deemed unconstitutional.

So far it has been mostly good news. Unfortunately, in the much more secular United Kingdom one-third of all public schools funded by public tax dollars are faith-based schools.

Given the opportunity to reform the education system, the previous government of Tony Blair decided to expand faith schools for minority faiths rather than abolish them altogether.

This is something that may have happened in Ontario had former Progressive Conservative Party leader John Tory become premier, but fortunately it was one of the main causes of his defeat.

But, I digress. Many of these faith schools require the parents of the attending child to be practicing members of the given religion. The result of this is that parents who are of a different faith or who have no faith are effectively discriminated against.

Some parents have gone as far as to pretend to be Catholic or Anglican by going to church every Sunday and making good with the priest or pastor in order to secure placement in a local faith-based school. They are essentially forced to do this because regular public schools are sometimes too far away and are deteriorating in quality.

What is even more disturbing is the curriculum in some of these schools. I know religions like to and need to trap and manipulate children while they are young, but doing this with public tax dollars is just ridiculous.

At Yavneh College, a Jewish school in Hertfordshire, more time is dedicated to religion than to science in the classroom.

Check out the rest of Andrew Chai's column and more at

[thecord.ca](http://thecord.ca)



NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO

## Living conditions are appalling in low-cost student housing



**MARCIE FOSTER**  
[letters@thecord.ca](mailto:letters@thecord.ca)

The conditions under which students are living are appalling: mouldy basements and bathrooms, faulty heating, leaky roofs and flaky landlords are frequent problems. The universities, the Region of Waterloo and landlords are all scrambling to come up with excuses for why this is the case. They pass the buck and refuse to take responsibility.

Some landlords charge \$500 plus a month per person without utilities. This huge cost gives the students four walls, a kitchen with a dishwasher that barely works and a house with an inability to hold heat. We, as students, are being taken advantage of, simply because we don't know "the system" or are too financially strapped to choose somewhere else.

Take the recent coverage in the Record as an example: students were left to find a new place to live after their house was flooded from a burst pipe over the break. With the loss of personal belongings, as well as a place to live, a parent fortunately was able to step in to foot the hotel bill. The article also mentions how many problem houses are not being reported and that the city can't do anything unless more students come forward. I'm pretty sure a lot of us fall into that boat.

I know I can say the same for myself. Last year I was living in a house on Ezra which had a mouldy and frigid basement.

It was unusable to us. Even though we complained to the landlord frequently for months, they simply removed our basement windows, boarded them up and filled them with concrete.

The mouldy drywall remained, along with the heating issues of the house. My bedroom, on the main floor, rarely reached 18 degrees: a Snuggie would have been very useful.

The problem is that students are unknowingly complying with landlords who infringe the Residential Tenancies Act. What's worse is when these landlords know the Act and can manoeuvre their way around it, doing the bare minimum for maintenance when students complain about it. Not acquiring a permit or consulting plumbers or electricians is one method, doing a cover-up job being another.

And worst off are those students who put up with no heat or hot water in the middle of winter because certain landlords pay their own bills before those of the students. Hot

The universities, the Region of Waterloo and landlords are all scrambling to come up with excuses for why this is the case. They all pass the buck and refuse to take responsibility.

water is not a luxury item, it's a vital service under the RTA; landlords are required to provide it.

I've gone without hot water three times in a month: showering at a friend's is certainly very inconvenient.

But it's pretty difficult for the city to do anything about these instances when students aren't reporting them. Complaining about the issue to your friends won't get your landlord to fix it, especially if you're spending more time elsewhere because of a problem. When your landlord is generally a good guy, or you feel like you have no voice against a major corporation, it's difficult to get up the courage to call the city and complain about what seems like a temporary or avoidable issue. Start reporting problems such as mould or heating issues directly to your landlord as soon as they happen and if they are not fixed in due time, then call the Waterloo Region By-Law office.

Taking responsibility for the complete failure that is student housing in Waterloo is something that has to happen and fast. I'm tired of hearing the same old story about Northdale. Even when I lived on Ezra it was the same situation.

The city and universities seem to be making it our fault, as though we somehow deserve these living conditions, so the fallout comes back on us: the students. No one at Laurier or the University of Waterloo deserves to live in a house with mould or other health risks.

It's pretty sad when the basic needs of humans are not being met and the blame is being shifted back and forth between parties. We are the hot potato of terrible living situations; nobody wants to hold onto it long enough to fix it. We're stuck with problems ranging from peeling paint, to full out flooding; nobody is taking responsibility and parents are being stuck with the bill. The nightmare will continue until someone, namely us, steps up and resolves what is actually going on: students being treated as dirty, destructive toddlers who have no say against their dreadful living situations.

# Different Strokes

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"It's almost as if our status as one of the world's top nations is up for grabs every time one of our national teams hit the ice. If we lose: oh shit, there goes our ability to make a name for ourselves on a world stage. If we win: it's usually a display of arrogance at its finest." —John Kennedy

# Please shelve the Canadian 'small man syndrome' for a change

Canada loses the gold at the World Junior Championship in hockey in a 5-3 meltdown against Russia; cue the typical shrieks and cries of faux Canadian nationalists, argues Cord columnist John Kennedy



**JOHN KENNEDY**  
letters@thecord.ca

If I was asked to describe myself surely one of the first things that would pop into mind would be "sports fan." As a sports fan, what I saw last Wednesday was one of the most amazing things I've ever seen. Being born, but not raised in Canada, I guess I'll never fully know what it's like to live and die by the maple leaf or cry myself to sleep because Canada placed second at one of the few sports it's competitive in. Normally, I'd be complacent to let the usual grumbings of a Canadian silver medal in hockey go on with no bother, but I'm really getting sick and tired of it.

I will always remember this year's World Junior Championship (WJC) gold medal game as one of the greatest comebacks in recent memory.

It ranks right up there with the 2004 American League Championship Series, where the Red Sox came back from 3-0 to beat the Yankees. Now, I know many of you are still seeing red and are huffing and puffing about the absolute meltdown by everyone wearing a Team Canada jersey on the ice, but I'm hoping you'll see too once the smoke clears.

If you had watched the Sweden

game, you knew a third period collapse was definitely possible, especially as this group of juniors has been labelled as "choke artists" from to bringing home the silver medal in 2009.

Oh my God, two silvers in a row? What are we going to do now?

Never have I been anywhere where a sport is so closely tied to the theme of national identity (yes, I've been to Europe several times and I'll argue all day that the English and other Europeans don't care about soccer as much as Canadians care about hockey.)

It's almost as if our status as one of the world's top nations is up for grabs every time one of our national teams hit the ice. If we lose: oh shit, there goes our ability to make a name for ourselves on a world stage. If we win: it's usually a display of arrogance at its finest.

And yes, Canadians are just as arrogant when it comes to hockey than the Americans or Russians are at anything else. Whenever we lose, we are always quick to insult the victor ("stupid Ruskie, they only won because Putin would have them killed had they lost" or my personal favourite "stupid Americans, at least we have health care!")

I don't know how many Facebook statuses I have seen where

my friends were jumping for joy over the Russians getting kicked off their Delta flight due to their obnoxious post-game celebratory attitudes. Yeah it's funny, but who's still going home with the gold?

I root for Canada just like most people in this country when it comes to hockey, but I don't let a loss to a more deserving team ruin my night or my week. Be proud of your team, wear your jersey, watch the game but tone it down for

God's sake.

Canada coming in second, two years in a row no less, is not the end of the world nor will the world think less of Canadians.

Baseball is known as "America's Game," but do the Americans piss and moan as much as we do when they don't win the World Baseball Classic?

Of course they don't. It's just a sport. Sure, when

Tarasenko roofed the puck to take the 4-3 lead my stomach churned, but I also admired

the solid cross-ice pass that led to the goal and wondered whether or not Tarasenko would be able to replicate his play throughout this tournament as a newly-drafted member of the St. Louis Blues.

It wasn't enough to enjoy a really good WJC tournament this year with one of the deepest pools of prospects in some time. No, Canada apparently must win the gold for anything in hockey to be enjoyable. Get over it already.

Dynasties come and go in sports and the Canadian stranglehold on WJC gold simply isn't as tight anymore. Can we all just put Canada's Small Man Syndrome on hold for next year and enjoy some good old fashioned junior hockey?

I highly doubt it, but here's to hoping.



## You know what yanks my Cord...

...People who bitch about the cold. We're in one of the warmest parts of the country, so suck it up! Yet every year once the cold hits, people bitterly start complaining.

It's not like people even have an excuse to complain anymore either, with the Internet and smartphones we can get weather forecasts in the palm of our hands before we even leave in the morning. Even those feeling old school can still get it off the television or radio before school.

If, for whatever reason, your parents failed to lecture you as a child on the do's and don'ts of the winter season, here is some advice on how to enjoy the cold instead of dreading it.

The first thing you have to do is completely change your mindset. If you keep thinking how cold it is, it's going to feel cold.

The best way I've found for remedying this is to trick yourself into thinking it's warmer than it actually is by no longer thinking of temperature in the Celsius scale. This time of year has too many negative temperatures attached to it, you are better off straining that brain of yours and learning Fahrenheit. Who the heck wants to go outside in when it's -10 degrees, when you could be enjoying some crisp 14 degree

weather?

It may sound ridiculous, but in a society bombarded by Celsius temperatures it may be enough to keep you positive during the winter. At the very least it will keep your mind occupied.

Your other mistake was wearing insufficient clothes to go outside in. Walking around campus this weekend I saw many people not even wearing gloves.

Living in Waterloo is not like living in Toronto.

It is colder here. Having lived here for four winters I can say that there will be times that bundling up is necessary, and that investing in a nice wool scarf, a good jacket, a hat and some gloves will make the winters more manageable.

After all life is too short to fear the cold; start embracing it or if you don't embrace it, at least quit bitching about it.

—Keith Marshall



Keeping you in the know and on the GO

Starting Saturday, January 1, 2011\*, we're adding new trips and making some changes to the 25-Waterloo GO Bus service.

There will be more westbound trips from Square One GO Bus Terminal on weekdays and new eastbound trips from both the University of Waterloo and Wilfred Laurier University on Thursdays and Fridays.

The 2:25 p.m., 4:20, 5:20 and 6:25 eastbound trips from the University of Waterloo will now depart earlier at 2:15, 4:10, 5:10 and 6:15 p.m.

There will also be more trips on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays in both directions so be sure to check the new schedule.

\*On Saturday, January 1, 2011, our service will operate on a holiday schedule.

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# SPORTS

Sports Editor Justin Fauteux • [jfauteux@thecord.ca](mailto:jfauteux@thecord.ca)



Jays' outfielder Vernon Wells and a pair of Laurier baseball players instruct a group of kids at the Athletic Complex on Monday night.

MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

## Blue Jays land at Laurier

JUSTIN FAUTEUX  
SPORTS EDITOR

On Monday night the purple and gold of Laurier got a temporary injection of blue as four members of the Toronto Blue Jays visited the WLU Athletic Complex.

Outfielders Vernon Wells and Travis Snider, along with catcher J.P. Arrencibia and pitcher Jesse Litsch, teamed up with Jays' coaches and members of Laurier's men's baseball team to give local kids instruction in baserunning, throwing mechanics, outfielding and infielding.

"At the end of the day, it's all about the kids," said Arrencibia. "We were in this position at some point, we grew up wanting to meet players, and I remember what it was like for me when I got to hang out with someone I looked up to.... [The kids] get to see that we're just like

them. At heart we're just big kids playing the game we love."

The event was the first road stop of the Jays' 2011 Winter Tour, which will be travelling across the country offering skills camps to young baseball players throughout Canada. The tour was brought to Laurier's campus thanks to Hawks' baseball head coach Scott Ballantyne.

"I got a phone call from a contact I have with the Jays, telling me about the tour and that they wanted to make Kitchener-Waterloo a stop, they just needed a facility," said Ballantyne. "And I really have to say thanks to a few of the varsity teams who gave up their practice times so we could be out here but we're just thrilled to host it.... I think it's huge for Laurier baseball, anytime you can get 100 kids out here with their parents, their families and introduce them to Laurier it's great."

The Jays are travelling across the country this winter in an attempt to re-establish the national support they received in their World Series years by branding themselves as "Canada's Team." Despite Canada's taste for hockey, the players see great potential for acquiring new fans from coast to coast.

"Canada's pastime is hockey and I don't think that'll ever change," said Snider. "We probably have the biggest fanbase to draw from of any team in the league and if Canadians buy into the fact that we are Canada's team I think we'll start to see more and more fans giving us support."

While the people of Canada are crucial to the Jays' success, the team has just as an important role to play in helping to increase popularity of baseball in this hockey-dominated nation.

"I think it's all about getting back the support that was here in the early '90s," said Wells.

"You hear everyone talking about it and then the strike in 1994 really hurt things and the momentum of baseball Canada kind of slowed. But we're being proactive and getting to work and letting people see that the Blue Jays are doing everything we can to make a connection with our fans."

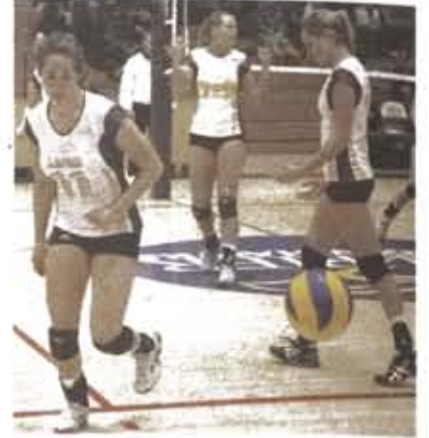
While events such as the winter tour will help to generate a stronger fanbase, Wells knows there is one thing that will do more for the Jays' popularity than anything else.

"Winning," he said. "Winning solves everything. That's what we're trying to do is build a winner here and once we start to win and play the kind of baseball that we're capable of playing we'll get this country back into the game."

Read more on  
**thecord.ca**

**Winless weekend for volleyball Hawks**

—Justin Fauteux



ELLI GARLIN PHOTO MANAGER

**Business as usual for women's hockey team**

—Kevin Campbell



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTO MANAGER

**Men's basketball downs UW**

The Hawks scored a season-high 114 points, beating the Warriors 114-82.

—Laura Sedgwick

**NFL playoff picks**

The Cord's **Brenden Decker** weighs in on this weekend's games.

### GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of  
January 10 - 16, 2010

#### RECENT SCORES

01.09.11  
W Hockey vs Queen's

01.08.10  
W Basketball 70 - Waterloo 19  
M Basketball 114 - Waterloo 82  
M Hockey 2 - Western 1  
W Volleyball 0 - Guelph 3  
M Volleyball 0 - Guelph 3

01.07.10  
W Hockey 5 - UOIT 1  
M Volleyball 2 - McMaster 3  
W Volleyball 0 - McMaster 3

01.06.10  
M Hockey 5 - Brock 4

01.05.10  
W Basketball 60 - McMaster 50  
M Basketball 72 - McMaster 64

#### UPCOMING HOME GAMES

01.13.11  
M Hockey vs York  
Sunlife Financial Arena, 7:30 p.m.

#### LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Patrick Donnelly  
Men's Basketball

Katherine Sherriff  
Women's Hockey

## Hawks score historic blow out



ROSALIE EID STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Laurier's Mallory Kohlmeier (7) blows past Waterloo's Saraya Hickey (15) during the Hawks' 70-19 rout of the Warriors on Saturday.

JUSTIN FAUTEUX  
SPORTS EDITOR

Holding an opponent to 19 points is a pretty good defensive effort for most football teams. But holding an opponent to 19 points in a basketball game? Ridiculous.

However, that's exactly what the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women's basketball team did on Saturday afternoon as they dominated the Waterloo Warriors 70-19.

"I think our team defence was really dominant," said Laurier head coach Paul Falco. "We've been working on a lot of things defensively.... We were able to control their penetration and really take over the boards and I think it paid off."

The 19 points marks the lowest recorded total given up by the Hawks in team history and continues the team's best start since 2007, improving them to 8-2.

"We identified a couple things that we knew we had to do better this year, one certainly was playing better defence," said Falco. "We had to bring our points against per game down and we've done that by altering a few things on defence, changing the philosophy."

That change in defensive philosophy was never more evident than on Saturday when the Hawks forced 40 turnovers and held the Warriors to a paltry 19.15 field goal percentage on the way to the lopsided victory.

The Hawks' 8-2 record marks a

dramatic improvement upon where the team was at this point last year (4-6) and even the year before (4-7). For Falco, who's in his third year as the team's coach, the strong start is an indication that the players are starting to thrive in his system.

"It always takes a couple of years to get things really implemented but I think by this point it is really our team," said Falco. "We've got a couple years of recruiting in and that certainly helps, but the people who were here before me are players that I would've recruited anyway.... Also I think having some girls who are now in their third year in the system, they've really gotten more comfortable playing our brand of basketball."

That brand of basketball has translated into the second-lowest points against total in the division and a record that's good enough for second in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) West.

Despite the team's current spot in the standings, Falco maintains that now is not the time to worry about the team's record.

"It's way too early to get caught up in that sort of thing," he said. "The biggest thing for us is to keep getting better because if we do that our record will take care of itself."

This weekend the Hawks travel to Thunder Bay to take on the Lakehead Thunderwolves who sit just two points behind the purple and gold in the OUA West.

[www.laurierathletics.com](http://www.laurierathletics.com)  
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