

A new path

After five years, beloved Ginny Dybenko is moving on from her role as dean of SBE

Instead, she stands to take on another leadership position at the university

Because what would they do without her?

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THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

Volume 51, Issue 19

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

thecord.ca

Inside

Solo adventures abroad

Laurier females weigh in on the stereotypes of backpacking alone as a female, providing advice to future travellers

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A splash of colour

The Waterloo Button Factory beats the winter blues by hosting an upbeat, landscape-filled exhibition

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War on steroids strikes Laurier

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

Last March the world of Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) football had its eyes opened when nine Waterloo Warrior football players tested positive for steroids.

It then became plain that performance-enhancing drugs are a very real problem in Canadian university football.

What ensued over the summer was the beginning of a veritable war on steroids within CIS football.

The University of Waterloo (UW) decided to shut down its football program for the year, athletes were randomly tested at their summer residences and the CIS — partnering with the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) — vowed to crack down on doping with more aggressive testing measures and heightened education programs.

Early on the morning of Jan. 12, 67 of the approximately 80 members of Laurier's football team were subjected to unannounced drug tests, marking the first major action in this "war on steroids."

"I think it's an illustration of our commitment to [detering steroid use]," said CIS chief executive officer Marg MacGregor. "University athletes will start to see that more testing will take place and there will be a greater degree of unpredictability when it comes to where and when those tests take place."

That unpredictability of testing was exemplified on Jan. 12 as the Hawks were left questioning what was going on when a last minute message from head coach and manager of football operations Gary Jeffries informed them that their originally scheduled weight training session had become a mandatory team meeting.

"Mandatory definitely had a negative connotation and usually when we have a meeting there's a specified reason," said Laurier receiver Dillon Heap. "We knew it had to be something serious."

An unannounced drug test of this magnitude marks a shift in the approach of the CCES — who decides whom to test, when to test them and ultimately carry out the testing process — as the strategy in recent years has been to randomly test a handful of athletes on different teams as opposed to the majority of a single team.

The only other recent example of an entire team being subjected to drug testing was last March at UW. However, that test came about due to former Warriors Nathan Zettler and Brandon Krukowski being charged with possession of and intent to traffic performance enhancing drugs.

“More testing will take place and there will be a greater degree of unpredictability when it comes to where and when those tests will take place.”

—Marg MacGregor
CEO of Canadian Interuniversity Sport

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Editor's Choice "A little shop of 'oddities'"

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Editor's Choice This week around Laurier photo gallery thecord.ca

THE CORD

75 University Ave W Waterloo ON N2L 3C5 519-884-0710 x3564

January 19, 2011 Volume 51, Issue 19 Next issue: January 26, 2011

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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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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, WLUU 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.



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.

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



Campus Flux 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 as 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 eye 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.

Cover photography by Nick Lachance, Visual Director

Quote of the week: "Who do I look like, John D. Rockefeller?" - National award-winning Sports Editor Justin Fauteux re: A \$2 coat-check

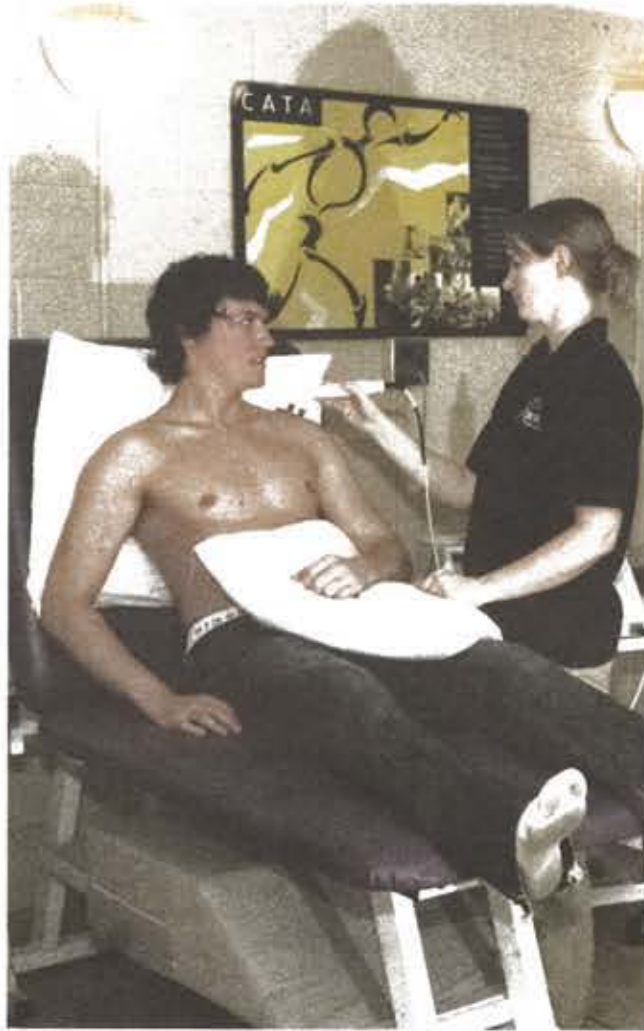
The Cord wins national title

At this year's Canadian University Press (CUP) National Conference, Cord Sports Editor Justin Fauteux was awarded the John H. McDonald Journalism Award for Best Sports Story for his In Depth article 'The psychology of sport injury' which ran in the March 10 issue of The Cord. The article detailed the psychological repercussions of injuries for athletes and featured interviews with numerous Laurier athletes and members of Laurier Athletics.

Congratulations Justin!



The John H. McDonald Journalism Awards



Bag O' Crime

Alarm

Location: Student Services Building Date: Jan. 10, 2011 @ 2:20 p.m. SCS responded to the Counselling Services Department in response to an activated panic alarm. It was discovered that the alarm had been accidentally set off by one of the employees.

Theft Under \$5,000

Location: Student Services Building Date: Jan. 11, 2011 @ 4:47 p.m. A student reported that person(s) unknown had used her lost One Card and spent over two hundred dollars. Investigation identified five suspects who were subsequently found to be responsible. Restitution has been made and the matter is being forwarded to the Judicial Affairs Council.

Misc. Assistance

Location: Residence Date: Jan. 11, 2011 @ 9:48 p.m. SCS officer attended a residence in response to a misuse of a laser pointer. The resident was spoken to and the individual turned the pointer in to SCS.

Assist Other Service

Location: Residence Reported: 10:48pm Fri Jan 14/11 Waterloo Regional Police and Special Constable Service responded to St. Clements House after receiving a 911 call reporting some males in black hoodies and what was originally perceived to be a firearm were banging on windows on the first floor. Investigation revealed that some guests of a resident had arrived and decided to play a prank on the resident. The perceived firearm turned out to be a stick. Regional Police counseled and warned the individuals about the danger of this type of prank. The guests were evicted from the premises and prohibited from staying overnight. No charges were laid by Regional Police.

Theft Under \$5,000

Location: Wilf's Pub Reported: Jan. 12, 2011 @ 2:05 p.m. WLUSU staff reported the theft of a portable debit payment device from Wilf's. The area where the item was stolen from is not covered by video footage. There are no suspects.

Theft Under \$5,000

A staff member reported the theft of a hard backed poster from the first floor of the Aird Centre. There is no video coverage of the area and there are no suspects.

Property Damage

Location: Library Reported: Jan. 14, 2011 @ 7:40 a.m. Special Constable Service received a report that someone has been making a mess in various washrooms in the Library over a period of about two weeks. Copious amounts of toilet paper and feces were found around the toilet. The matter is being investigated.

For the rest of Bag O' Crime, check out thecord.ca

If you have any information regarding these or any other incidents please call 519-885-3333 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. The Bag O' Crime is submitted by WLU Special Constable Service.

Vocal Cord

What's your favourite song this week?



"Dave Brubeck - Blueette." -John Sampson Third year political science



"Kings of Leon - Mary." -Catherine Cook First year political science



"Black Keys - Tighten Up." -Sheana Correia Fourth year global studies



"Bruno Mars - Grenade." -Tayler Levine First year sociology

Compiled by Sarah Murphy Photos by Megan Cherniak

This Week in quotes



"I think there will be fewer of me around, more of you and you'll probably be more frustrated than you are now."

-Geoff Stevens Laurier political science professor describing how he sees the university environment in 2020

"Now everyone and their mother has seen Eat Pray Love which is kind of travel porn in a way and I think that does a lot of things to open women up to the possibility and opens them up to the strength [of travelling alone] but you have to have that passion there in the first place." -Alison Schofield, Laurier alumnus on backpacking solo as a woman

"Very durable, but pricey" -WLUSU general manager Mike McMahon describing the stolen Wilf's sign

"Somebody said to me recently, they've carpet bombed Waterloo region." -Athletics Director Peter Baxter re: the CCES testing the entire teams at both the University of Waterloo and Laurier

"The primary goal of a restrictive government is clear: to make power invisible." -Henri Giroux, addressing the invisible barriers surrounding race, age and socio-economic class

"I was joking with my colleague down the street [UW athletic director Bob Copeland] that knock on wood all our tests are clean, when we play them next year we call it the Clean Bowl instead of the Battle of Waterloo." -Athletics Director Peter Baxter

NEWS

News Director Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca

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LAURA TOMKINS FILE PHOTO
SBE dean Ginny Dybenko has been at Laurier since 2006; she is poised to take on a new leadership role at the university.

Dybenko plans to share experience

DAVID GOLDBERG
WEB DIRECTOR

LINDA GIVETASH
NEWS DIRECTOR

Although the beloved dean of the School of Business and Economics, Ginny Dybenko, will be stepping down from her position before her term expires in August, the change marks greater recognition for her influence at the university.

In a statement issued by Wilfrid Laurier University on Jan. 14, it was announced that Dybenko would be ending her term prematurely in order to take on another role at the university.

According to Dybenko, Laurier president Max Blouw has asked her to take on a new position that is yet to be created.

"It's an amazing time for Laurier. Here we are sitting at our centenary and we have to prepare for the next century," she said. "[Blouw] has asked me to be part of a transformation to become a real leader in this university in the 21st century."

Steve Farlow, executive director for the Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurship, expressed the great influence Dybenko has already had on the university.

"The most important thing is building bridges with the larger business community because that's her background — especially with the technology community," he said. Uncertain of what new position

she would be assuming, Farlow noted, "There's all sorts of alternative roles where she could play a contribution."

Dybenko will maintain her current role until an acting dean is selected.

A committee consisting of senior administration, faculty members and vice president: academic and provost Deb MacLatchy will make a decision in the coming weeks on Dybenko's interim replacement.

"An acting dean is appointed and that acting dean is generally a senior qualified person within the faculty," MacLatchy explained.

Describing the search for a new full-time dean, MacLatchy said, "One of the challenges of looking for people to fill academic positions is that there is a cycle associated with them."

"Right now we're in the worst part of a cycle to start a recruitment process. The best time to do that is really in the late summer and the fall."

However, Dybenko said she's not worried about her successor. She thinks they are coming into a situation with "terrific direction."

"I don't think any successor of mine at such a great business school needs any words of advice at all, other than to listen to the great faculty that are there today and to listen to the fabulous students," she said.

The current vision for SBE is one that can be attributed to Dybenko and the experience and connections she brought to the faculty when she

was appointed dean of business in 2006.

Her resume includes successful stints with Bell Canada and technology firm Syndesis.

Throughout her term at Laurier, Dybenko has overseen the implementation of several new degree programs and building international partnerships in China, India and the U.S.

The ongoing development of a global hybrid MBA and an iBBA program, according to Dybenko, will further expand the faculties programming by allowing students to continue their studies anywhere in the world by utilizing mobile technology.

Looking towards her future at the university, Dybenko said, "In talking with the president, what he would really like me to do is to think about a role that broadens the kind of skill set I can bring to other faculties and to Laurier as a whole."

Elaborating on what that might mean, she noted utilizing her connections with local businesses such as Research in Motion and OpenText to work with the university "on a broader level."

While it is still unclear how these different attributes will contribute to her new position, Dybenko said, "I think that I can give that back to the school, the benefit of those relationships and just spread them beyond SBE."

—With files from Mike Lakusiak

Kitchener campus hosts lecture on youth

BREE MANTHA
LEAD REPORTER

The Wilfrid Laurier University faculty of social work at the Kitchener campus hosted a talk entitled "Youth in a Suspect Society: Coming of Age in an Era of Disposability" by professor and author Henry Giroux on Jan. 18 as part of their Third Space speaker's series.

Genette Lafreniere, an associate professor with the faculty of social work and director of the Social Innovation Research Group at WLU, and author Grace Pollock aimed to create a series where academics and community members could meet with ideas about social change.

"It's like a third space, an ultimate space, an alternative space," explained Lafreniere. "You can engage in a meaningful dialogue that won't be judged, you won't be graded on ... somehow, collectively as stakeholders within the academic realm, we can create social change."

Pollock was eager to invite her friend and colleague Henry Giroux because she felt his passion for change matched that of the faculty of social work.

"A lot of the work that he does intersects with the values and interests of the faculty... He could really contribute something in terms of how passionate he is about social justice."

Giroux, who is currently a professor of English and cultural studies at McMaster University, spoke mainly about the exploitation and policing of youth in today's society.

He described this movement as being two separate "wars" facing youth as consumers and students - what he deemed the "soft war" and

"hard war."

Giroux described the "soft war" as targeting by corporations in middle-to-upper-class youth, taking advantage of their gravitation towards technology.

"This low-intensity war is waged by a variety of corporate institutions that commercializes almost every aspect of kids' lives using the Internet and various social networks."

Giroux believes that this effort is "to immerse children in a world of mass consumption."

On the other hand, the "hard war" refers to the increasingly violent policing of children and teens in schools, this issue affecting poor and minority youth in particular rather than the middle class being targeted as consumers.

Giroux cited events such as the brutal beating of a fifteen-year-old special needs student in Chicago by a school security guard for not tucking in his shirt.

"Where is the public outrage?" he asked of this and similar events.

"Poor minority youth are not just excluded from the American dream, but become utterly redundant and disposable — waste products of a society that no longer considers them of any value."

Giroux, himself once a working-class youth, was "left out of what [I] believed to be the representations of American youth," and said that these subjects are taboo and uncomfortable, but need to be addressed.

"It's important to make people unsettled," he told The Cord. "There's nothing wrong with making people upset. I get really concerned when they don't get upset in the face of great injustice."



NICK LACHANCE VISUAL DIRECTOR
During the night on Friday, Jan. 14, three males urinated on the hawk in the Hall of Fame and later returned to steal the wooden sign from outside Wilf's. A \$1,000 reward is being offered.

Hall of Fame defaced

MIKE LAKUSIAK
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Around closing time on the evening of Jan. 14, three unidentified males urinated on the golden hawk crest on the floor of the Fred Nichols Campus Centre Hall of Fame. Captured on security cameras, the three are seen exiting toward the Concourse.

Two hours later, two of the three returned to the entrance of Wilf's and removed the four-foot-tall wooden sign for the bar. Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union general manager Mike McMahon

valued the sign, which was installed in 1997, at approximately \$5,000. "That's why we're really hoping to get it back," he said.

Special Constable Services are investigating the incidents and working closely with Waterloo Regional Police. Posters hung by WLUSU outside of the restaurant promise a \$1,000 cash reward for information leading to an arrest.

"We had a busy night upstairs [at the Turret] as well with the wrap up of Winter Carnival, the carryover of the festivities of last week," McMahon added. "It was a busy night in the building."

Suspect descriptions:

- #1. Male, white, 6' 2", 180 lbs. thin build, long curly blond hair, wearing a black jacket, blue jeans, and brown shoes.
- #2. Male, East Indian, black hair, 5' 10", 160 lbs. thin build, wearing a green winter coat, pink shirt, blue jeans and black shoes.
- #3. Male, white, 5' 10", 160 lbs. thin build, wearing a white winter jacket, Grey toque, red t-shirt, brown pants and black shoes.

CAMPUS

Campus News Editor Mike Lakusiak • mlakusiak@thecord.ca

Laurier foresight is 2020

With an expertise in social psychology, Anne Wilson believes that there needs to be more developments to align psychology and behaviour to issues such as the environment, obesity and human health.

"A lot of people know what they should be doing but it doesn't always translate into behaviour," she said.

According to Wilson, one of the ways for these developments to occur is the "cross-talk" and sharing of ideas within the different areas of the discipline, so that psychology, as a whole, can find better solutions to these types of problems. As well, Wilson expects a greater involvement between the study of psychology and industry by 2020.

Wilson stresses that students should continue to be devoted to the discovery of new developments in psychology and that they will become engaged in the issues that will occur over the next decade.

Anne Wilson
Social psychology



For Brian Smith, a finance professor, studying the effects of the 2008 economic crisis will be at the centre of financial research in the coming decade. According to Smith, the effects, results and market data of the recession and other financial developments will be easier identified due to newer technology.

"It is similar to in science when you have much more powerful microscopes. We now have this more powerful 'microscope' that is allowing us to analyze investment behaviour that we haven't had in the past," he explained.

With the rise of international trade and activity, Smith is expecting a large shift of wealth to countries with emerging markets such as China. Smith is hoping that students will be prepared for this growing globally integrated financial market and that Canadian authorities adapt newer technologies to enhance international market research.

Brian Smith
Finance



Dean of the faculty of education Colleen Willard-Holt noted that educators will increasingly pay attention to neuroscientific research when examining teaching strategies.

Face-to-face contact with teachers will be rarer in the years to come, she said, as there is far greater focus on online teaching methods – a move that will allow greater individualization of a curriculum to students' needs.

"I don't know whether that's a good or bad thing, but I think that's what's going to happen," she said.

She thinks that the nature of the relationship between students and teachers will change due to technology, possibly decreasing the age gap between those learning and teaching.

"People need to break out of the mold of education," she said. "Just because that's the way it's been for 100, 200, 300 years does not mean that it's best."

Colleen Willard-Holt
Education



Political science professor Geoff Stevens, who spent many years as a journalist, pointed to the impact of the Internet as a tool that may replace political rallying and traditional campaigning this decade.

"I think it's going to fundamentally change the nature of politics," he said of technology's role in democratic process. "You'll be able to deal with your politicians on a one-on-one basis, but you may not actually ever see them."

In terms of media, he was uncertain of what the future will hold for existing media, including print. "I suspect newspapers are going to survive," he predicted. "Perhaps not as many and perhaps not as widely read, but there will remain a demand for quality information that is tactile. It's going to be more of a niche situation in journalism." He also noted that online media could lead to a decline in quality as less people do more work.

Geoff Stevens
Media and politics



Renée MacPhee, whose work focuses on the elderly, explained the potential for robots to aid in surgical procedures in the next few years.

"I think you're going to see some major invasive surgical procedures done internally, robotically and minimizing infection and getting into places you normally couldn't," she said.

As the population ages, the focus will turn to keeping the elderly independent and in their own homes as long as possible, achievable through assistive technology.

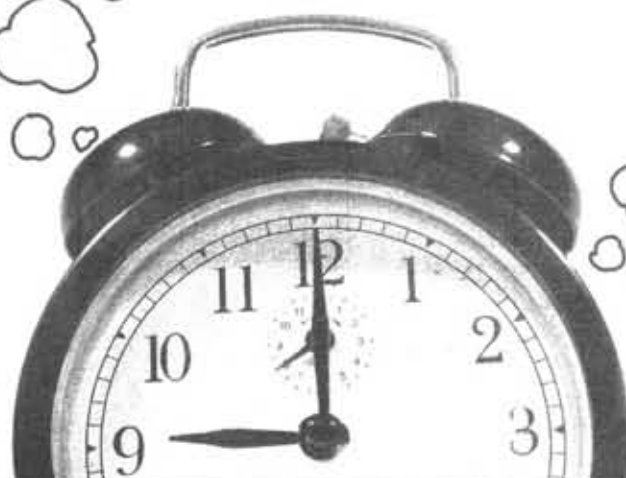
In terms of first response care, she noted major advances in treatment of cardiac arrest that would increase the survival rate from its current dismal level. She expressed some concern about a lack of focus in some areas of research, however.

"We're stalled and not moving forward on things like infectious disease and mutations of all these 'superbugs;' we need to get on that."

Renée MacPhee
Health sciences



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Staff writer **Justin Smirlies** and Campus News Editor **Mike Lakusiak** talk to professors and researchers at Laurier about what developments will come this decade and where their fields will be in the year 2020

Martin Dowding, a communications professor, expects verbal and written communication between people to decrease due to the advancements in electronics. Technology has sped up communication considerably and, according to Dowding, will have a huge effect on personal relationships.

Also, the economy of communications is rapidly changing with the emergence of digitized, on-demand services which will dramatically change the way people view media. Dowding's biggest fear about growth in the communication market, however, is the rise in copyright fees.

"The fact that copyright is just completely out of control is quite problematic," said Dowding. "It is becoming more and more difficult for faculty to find media they can use in the classroom, and I can't see how that's going to get better in the future."

Martin Dowding
Communications



Governance will be the key focus for environmental studies professors, such as Scott Slocombe, as they continue to participate, consult and co-manage with the government, First Nations and other local groups on the issues and conflicts dealing with the environment.

Slocombe expects that there will be continued research in the field of global warming, water resource issues and natural disasters. Slocombe also pointed out that a research focus in the next nine years will be the study of food development and bio-diversity.

However, he is fearful that interest in the environment within the next decade may begin to diminish, "If we don't maintain a strong commitment to environment politically, financially, educationally and inter-disciplinarily," said Slocombe. "Then we may not have the people with the right kind of skills and interest ten years from now."

Scott Slocombe
Geography/environment



Ginette Lafrenière's predictions for the state of social work in this decade focused on an increased politicization of social inclusion and the vulnerable of society, dealing with people using methods that are not exclusively charitable but respectful.

While she would like the field and what it stands for to become more politicized in its treatment of issues, she hopes that it will retain important qualities as well.

"What should stay the same is the practice of humanity, of nurturing, a mission of respect, of being able to journey with vulnerable people in a way which honours peoples' life stories." Students today will see the benefit of the collaboration and politicization she hopes for.

"I think that they will be more adept and better informed social work practitioners who are critical thinkers and not just social technicians," she said.

Ginette Lafrenière
Social work



Peter Eglin, a professor of sociology specializing in human rights, explained that in terms of the study of human rights, there will continue to be a greater focus on how human rights factor in to different areas of study.

"Human rights culture is starting to have an effect on academia and the editors realize that it's already affected disciplines like geography, political science and now sociology."

"If it leads academics to not only think about [human rights], but to see the relevance of their own responsibility in relation to human rights violations, given the privileged position they hold in society, and access to knowledge and resources that allow them to know about and intervene in human rights violations — if we know about it, we can do something."

Peter Eglin
Sociology



“The vast majority of things we haven't seen coming.”

—Patricia Gott
Political science professor

survive
robots online
world basic education
economic crisis
conflicts copyright
technology obesity
personal relationships
neuroscientific research
human rights environment
individualized frustrated
international trade
emerging politicized
market research
bio-diversity stalled
vulnerable

“The buzz and excitement of electronic media is going to plateau a bit. Things like Facebook will become a bit passé in a few years.”

—Kalyani Menon
Marketing professor

Photos by: Megan Cherniak, Elli Garlin and Nick Lachance

News in brief

WLUSP 2011-12 platforms available online

Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications board of directors and presidential platforms will be available to the public to read online as of Jan. 20 at www.wlusp.com.

The WLUSP Annual General Meeting is Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. in the Turret. All readers and volunteers are welcome to attend.

Restructuring will be discussed and the four directors and president will be voted in.

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LOCAL

Local Editor Vacant • editor@thecord.ca

KW in brief

Drug dealer gets nine years for knife attack

On Jan. 18, Justice Robert Reilly sentenced James Agyeman, a Waterloo drug dealer, to the equivalent of nine years in prison for a brutal home invasion in 2008.

According to the *Waterloo Region Record*, Agyeman had set up a shop selling drugs in the home of Jay Mangat who was on a disability pension due to intellectual challenges. Agyeman had threatened Mangat and his roommate with a knife when they tried to leave. He later attacked and injured Mangat with two other assailants who have not been caught.

Cambridge woman named most influential in sport

Martha Deacon, a Cambridge resident, was named the country's most influential woman in sport for 2010 by the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity.

The recognition reflects Deacon's involvement as the chef de mission for Canada at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, India last fall, according to the *Waterloo Region Record*.

An executive officer with the Waterloo Region District School Board, Deacon focused on ensuring the Canadian team had optimal conditions in which to compete.

—Compiled by Linda Givetash

A little shop of 'oddities'

The Cord profiles Bon Mot, a local business that opened in early December which offers a diverse range of quaint collectable objects to the KW community

REBECCA VASLUIANU
IN DEPTH EDITOR

"It's not really anything that you particularly need but lots of things you want," store buyer and manager Krista Blake said of Bon Mot, one of Uptown Waterloo's newest shops.

Bon Mot, meaning "good word" or "clever saying" in French, opened on Dec. 2.

After its previous shop-owner who ran a bead emporium retired, Jane Bond and Starlight owners Bernard Kearney and Josh Kohler — who own the entire building — decided to work with Blake to create the eclectic store.

"You come here and get things you could never really find at the mall. It brings a lot of different countries into one shop," Blake told The Cord.

Having immigrated to Canada from the United Kingdom, Blake is able to exploit her connections with European designers.

Ranging from Swedish Fjällräven backpacks, coats and clogs to up-side-down planters from New Zealand and Japanese balloon speakers, Bon Mot carries "all sorts of bizarre

things," according to Blake.

"I think it kind of celebrates good design and it's a really broad eccentric mix so it's something for everyone," she said.

"It provides something for the curious mind and objects that have more of a life-span rather than just something you buy and throw away eventually."

Blake explained that Bon Mot also carries music, to keep in line with the vibe of Jane Bond and Starlight.

The store has asked local record stores Orange Monkey and Encore Records to supply vinyl albums and box sets in order to introduce customers to diverse music they may not normally be exposed to.

She told The Cord that Bon Mot has already been able to attract clientele from across the KW community.

"We've got a broad mix of people, so it's really inclusive rather than exclusive," said Blake.

Bon Mot also caters to the student population, with objects like backpacks and iPod speakers gaining popularity.

Blake also explained that the new shop will try to work with students

in the future.

"There will be ... projects for which I will try and work with arts students and design students," said Blake. She stated that there is a display case meant to showcase local works, hopefully some of which will be created by students.

Bon Mot is located at 47 King St. N. in Waterloo. It is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Bon Mot, located near Starlight, features a wide selection of one-of-a-kind gifts, office supplies and clothing from across the globe.

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NICK LACHANCE VISUAL DIRECTOR
Minister Milloy visited WLU in Aug. 2010 during his provincial tour to discuss new funding for universities.

Credit transfer system improved

The provincial government has announced that they will be spending close to \$74 million in order to help students graduate faster

LINDA GIVETASH
NEWS DIRECTOR

The provincial government announced on Jan. 17 that they would be improving credit transfer between post-secondary institutions, helping students graduate faster and effectively save money.

Over the next five years, \$73.7 million will be spent towards a Credit Transfer Innovation Fund to develop new transfer opportunities between schools and create a website that will host a list of those options as they continue to grow.

"One of the immediate steps we're doing is to build a very sophisticated portal that will give students access to a lot of the information that is needed," said John Milloy, minister of training, colleges and universities, in reference to the preliminary changes to be launched this September.

This information will allow students to plan their options whether they're interested in moving from a college program to a degree program at a university, or looking for more hands-on skills at the college level after completing a degree.

“If we don't have a good post-secondary education system, we're not going to have the prosperity that we need as a province.”

—John Milloy
Minister of training, colleges and universities

Considering the current system that does include approximately 500 transfer agreements between individual universities and colleges, Milloy said, "You don't have access to all the info you want about how your degree would be treated."

To supplement these changes, Milloy explained, "[We are] working with the institutions, providing them the resources if necessary to provide support to students who are interested in exploring their options at institutions."

The funding towards the post-secondary sector was approved in the provincial budget last March; however, the last 18 months required a great deal of planning before this

project could move forward.

"We've got to give some credit to students, their leadership organizations like OUSA, the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, Canadian Federation of Students, the College Student Alliance," Milloy said attributing the government's focus on particular concerns such as credit transferring to student advocacy groups.

Meaghan Coker, president of OUSA, expressed the importance of the province's funding. "It's something that students and other people in the sector have been asking for a very, very long time and I think it is a great step towards streamlining the system between universities and

colleges," she stated.

With the organization's annual Blue Chair campaign launching this week at Wilfrid Laurier University, and in the following weeks at other universities across the province, this announcement reflects growing support for the education sector.

"Blue Chair represents the student that couldn't make it [in to the university system], that they couldn't overcome those barriers," Coker explained. "Certainly by developing a credit transfer system it's working towards one of the identified barriers which is pathway immobility."

While this does mark an improvement to accessing education, Coker noted that there are still financial, motivational and informational barriers that OUSA will continue to advocate against.

Aware of the importance of creating greater access to post-secondary education, Milloy said, "Jobs in the new economy need education and training beyond high school."

"If we don't have a good post-secondary education system, we're not going to have the prosperity that we need as a province," he concluded.

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Laurier has approved a new Aboriginal student admissions policy. Students will be considered on an individual basis if they fall below the 70 per cent admissions requirement.

Study compares student retention rates

U of O research findings show that Aboriginal, small-town students more likely to drop out of post-secondary education programs

EMMA GODMERE
CUP OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF

OTTAWA (CUP) — Recent research out of the University of Ottawa (U of O) suggests certain students are more at risk of facing obstacles than others when it comes to completing post-secondary studies.

Three studies released by the Measuring the Effectiveness of Student Aid project on Dec. 13 that compared male and female, rural and urban and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students offered several notable conclusions — including, for example, that male students are more likely than their female counterparts to drop out of college in their first or second year of studies.

Ross Finnie, associate professor at the graduate school of public and international affairs at U of O, was the lead author on the studies, which surveyed more than 10,000 students between 2007 and 2009.

"We're identifying the sort of students that are at risk and it's different than what people have been assuming, which is very important," he said, noting that he was even surprised at some of the data.

Finnie explained that while educators and government have held on to their own ideas of just who the students at risk of dropping out of their studies are, this new research brings in some new information.

"Things like not having a history of education in the family is a huge determinant of access, whether or

not you go to university or college," he explained.

"But then to find once people are in, it has almost no predictive power as to whether or not they'll continue on, that was a very interesting and important finding."

In terms of access, one study found that students from smaller communities are more likely than their urban counterparts to have saved money on their own school, while students from larger areas are more likely to have family members who saved tuition money for them.

Additionally, students from larger urban areas reported receiving less government aid and money from summer jobs than their rural counterparts.

Another study noted that females were more likely than males to be concerned about their collection of student debt.

In terms of dropout rates, males attending college were more likely to leave their studies in first or second year, compared to their female colleagues.

A larger gap, however, was found between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students.

Deborah Loosemore is director of advancement and external relations at Algoma University, where information like this is taken to heart — and acted upon.

"[We] have developed programs that are specifically designed to assist Aboriginal students who often

follow a non-traditional route to university and so come with a different set of potential barriers that they might need assistance in overcoming to be successful," she explained, adding that about 20 per cent of Algoma students self-identify as Aboriginal, Métis, Inuit or First Nations.

"One of the things that we have been focusing on for a number of years is really increasing the retention rate from first to second year and so we've instituted a wide range of student services and support," she continued.

According to Loosemore, Algoma provides a "first generation mentorship program" that matches new students with those in later years to engage in peer-to-peer support. For Aboriginal students, dedicated counselling, academic advising and cultural supports are available.

Between the 2008-09 and 2009-10 academic years, Algoma's retention rate from first year into second year went from 73.1 per cent to 78 per cent.

Finnie says the key to this kind of success, reducing dropout rates, is to talk to students about their experiences — something that may seem to be more prominent at smaller campuses.

"Because Algoma University is one of Ontario's smaller campuses, we're able to reach out to students in a very personal way that is difficult on a larger campus," said Loosemore, who explained that when

the Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins and Brampton campuses are all taken into account, there are approximately 1,252 students at Algoma University.

Finnie agreed that more could be done to reach out to college and university students if universities, researchers and even the government work together — and that perhaps this recent research can help make that first step.

"If research was done in a coordinated fashion, we could essentially work together to direct the research to find out even more exactly the students at risk are and then, perhaps more importantly, what we can do to help them," he offered.

"If we gather forces, we can gain more insight into what exactly is going on and then we can work together at the institutional level."

Findings

- 25.2 per cent of men dropped out after their first or second year of post-secondary education.
- This compared to 21.5 per cent of women after first or second year.
- The study found that 30.8 per cent of Aboriginal youth left post-secondary studies in first or second year.
- This compares to 13 per cent of non-Aboriginal students who have done the same.

Canada in brief

Student empathy at 30-year-low: study

BURNABY, B.C. (CUP) — A recent study from the University of Michigan claims that for the past several decades, college students have been getting steadily less empathetic.

The study reviewed the results from over 70 surveys conducted between 1979 and 2009, using a method known as the Davis Interpersonal Reactivity Index. The most dramatic drop in empathy was observed over the period of 2000 to 2009.

One point made by both the study's authors and its skeptics was that increasing economic and social pressures on students could mean that they simply can't afford to be quite as empathetic as in the past. —Graham Templeton, the Peak

CRTC Proposes Relaxing False News Ban

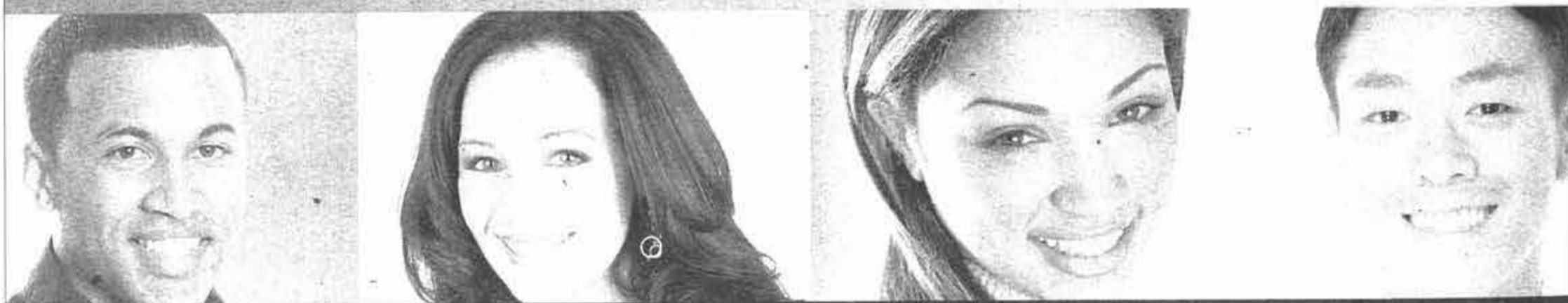
The Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) is proposing a change that would lighten restrictions on publishing or broadcasting news deemed as false or misleading.

The CRTC, claiming that current regulations are too broad, have proposed a ban of "any news that the licensee knows is false or misleading and that endangers or is likely to endanger the lives, health or safety of the public." Many publication groups have reacted negatively to the proposal, stating that the change allows more leeway for lies.

The CRTC is accepting public commentary on the matter until Feb. 9. If passed, the change will take place in September of 2011. —Compiled by Bree Mantha

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GRIFFIN CARPENTER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thousands of students take to the streets of London in protest of the new tuition hike, effective 2012

The radical side of higher learning

As tuition fees increase, students contemplate learning abroad

ALEXANDROS MITSIOPOULOS
WORLD EDITOR

A sense of urgency has befallen students attending post-secondary institutions in the United Kingdom (U.K.) as enrolment soars to 335,795 applicants thus far for 2011.

Prospective university students in the U.K. are now facing the realities of a government budget cut that will effectively triple the cost of their tuition — an issue that has led to mass protests amongst students.

"It's not about the people that are currently in the university system because the changes won't actually come into play while they're students," explained Griffin Carpenter, a Laurier alumni studying environmental policy and regulation at the London School of Economics (LSE).

"It's more about the current high school students."

The tuition increases are projected to take effect in the fall of 2012.

As such, many students are rushing to complete their applications before the increases take place.

The *Guardian* reported that enrolment has increased by 2.5 per cent when compared to statistics during same period just last year.

In November, enrolment had climbed to 20 per cent compared to last year's average, which translates to an additional 8,000 applicants competing for the same positions.

The rise in tuition costs come as a reaction to new austerity measures introduced by the British government.

Students will now be required

“The government is prioritizing sectors in these economic times in very real and explicit ways.”

—Griffin Carpenter,
LSE student of environmental policy and regulation

to cover more of their university's operating budget with their tuition payments.

Carpenter explained, "The government is ending teaching grants to non-STEM (science, technology, engineering, medicine, math) subjects, so soon LSE will lose almost all its funding for professors, including mine."

"The government is prioritizing sectors in these economic times in very real and explicit ways," he added.

The tuition increases in the U.K. may prove to invariably affect enrolment abroad as well.

Students fear that budgetary cuts will adversely affect the quality of their education.

Enrolment in better funded

universities outside the U.K. has become much more attractive.

David McGuire, international student recruitment manager at Wilfrid Laurier explained that recruitment of U.K. students to Canadian universities may prove to be more challenging.

"Mobility agreements make it a little bit more difficult in Europe because a student in the U.K. can very easily go to France, Poland or even Germany where tuition costs just 500 euro," he said.

For Canada, however, McGuire added, "Here, we're just shy of \$19,000 for international students. That's a pretty tough sell."

"In Canada, international students bring in \$6.5 billion a year of foreign money," McGuire said.

Recruitment at Laurier focuses primarily on parts of the world that yield immediate results for enrolment, such as China or Korea.

The rise of tuition increases sparked protest in London taking place on Nov. 24, 30 and again on Dec. 9.

It was estimated that approximately 30,000 to 50,000 students attended the rallies.

"A lot of students are starting to rethink the program they are taking because when you put a price tag on education like this, you have to think about it within those financial boundaries," Carpenter said.

"The transition to an academic environment is not an easy one, especially when you have a load on your shoulders that's now going to be three times as large."

CIGI Wikileaks panel

NIKICIA PHILLIPS
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 12, the Centre of International Governance Innovation (CIGI) held a panel discussion on the scandal surrounding Wikileaks, the website acting as a medium for whistleblowers, and its founder Julian Assange.

Technology executive Mark McArdle addressed the technological aspect of the scandal. He explained, "The scale of things today are much different than they were 15 years ago before the Internet had taken off."

"[There have always been secrets but] the ability to control the secrets were much different ... technology has made everyone in this room a potentially a publisher," he added, finding this problematic because of the lack of editorial oversight or fact checking that accompanies such publications.

Other panelists included Paul Heinbecker, former Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations and former Ambassador to Germany, and Andrew Hunt, a professor at University of Waterloo. Geoffrey Stevens, who currently teaches a media and politics course at Wilfrid Laurier University and former managing editor at Maclean's, moderated the discussion.

One focus of the discussion was the undesirable consequences of Wikileaks notably following the leak of over 400,000 government documents last October, which detailed American and British involvement in the Iraq war, as well as a variety of other governmental activities.

Heinbecker explained that the

leaks are a perfect example of "the law of unintended consequences... [in which] you make a big effort to correct one problem but you create another."

Instead of making the world a more transparent and open place, the leaks will force governments to reconsider what type of information is shared and what interactions are documented.

Heinbecker continued, "[Governments] will just go to greater and greater efforts to make sure that there are fewer hands who get their hand on this information.... governments will work harder to be more secretive".

Furthermore, Heinbecker believes that if diplomats can't count on their conversations being kept confidential, effective diplomacy is in jeopardy.

He added that some interactions and information are best kept secret, especially when you have a "reality-challenged" regime such as Kim Jong-Il's North Korea that is able to access such sensitive information.

The panelists all agree that the Wikileaks scandal has been sensationalized to the point that the issue at hand is not adequately being assessed.

In addition, the question of what Assange's "agenda" is remains a point of interest.

For the rest of this story, check out

thecord.ca/world

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On the road: Travel



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Alone on the road: Fearless females

Colleen Connolly gathers advice from solo women travellers who have done it on their own

It is common that before slipping into the corporate world, both male and female students need to fulfill their travelling desires. As university students, we have entered a new stage in our lives in which the world is open to us, quite literally in regards to travel.

"There are a lot of things that you're going to learn not just from travelling but about yourself and your own direction," said Laurier graduate Alison Schofield, who travelled solo down the western United States, mostly by train.

This self-discovery and need for adventure often propels individuals to take the first steps out their front door and into a backpacking adventure.

However, there is a growing belief that it is more difficult for a female to travel alone. It is thought to be perilous due to the possible dangers of travelling into a foreign country unassisted. Although these threats exist, they are not as prevalent as widely assumed.

"The minimal risks of travelling are far outweighed by the rewards," writes women's travel expert Marybeth Bond, who hosts the website *The Gutsy Traveler*. Often, travelling alone is simply a matter of being prepared and maintaining the right attitude. To get a better grasp of such rewards, I spoke with a few female students from Laurier International, the university's exchange program that "gives you the forum

to travel, but you do the majority on your own," explained Kiran Gurm, who spent five months in Europe.

Sometimes it is the case that when travelling alone, females are often treated with more care than normal rather than the other way around.

"It gave me faith in society because they're so willing to help ... I was in the hostel making dinner and this guy came up to me and offered some of his pasta," Gurm reflected.

When Gurm ventured on a similar trip to Iceland with one other female, "We ran into these two American dads from New York in one of the hostels and they asked if we wanted them to come with us or follow our car and they were just so concerned over us because we were two girls. They even pulled out a map and pointed out the good places to go."

Having experienced life on the road before venturing abroad solo often creates an added sense of self-awareness and confidence, according to Schofield.

"I don't think I would have even thought of travelling by myself if I hadn't been other places with people before," she said. "Travelling can be stressful in the first place."

Sarah Batley, who travelled to Ireland through the exchange program commented on the numerous positive interactions she had with others while she was abroad.

"When you're by yourself you

make more of an effort to meet other people; I was able to meet a ton of people from all around the world," said Batley. "Travelling alone is not any different from women to men, as long as you're not being stupid or reckless."

Although there may be little difference between hitting the road whether you're male or female, caution was stressed by all those interviewed.

"It's easy for women to [travel alone], you just have to be cautious," said Schofield. "As much as I am absolutely a feminist I also know that there are dangers posed to me that aren't posed to men travelling by themselves."

"I wasn't about to keep walking in a direction where I didn't know where I was going," continued Schofield, who recommended that fellow solo backpackers, "Be observant, know your surroundings and do your research beforehand. It's nice to be spontaneous but have a plan and always let someone know what you're doing."

This does not mean stepping out of your boundaries is out of the question, in fact it is the objective. Batley said that sometimes "getting lost is one of the best things you can do," for we travel to foreign places in order to explore and discover new things. Schofield also encouraged fellow solo travellers to "be open to meeting people."

"Don't limit yourself but at the

same time be careful, in the same way that you would be at home," said Emily Slofstra, a Laurier environmental studies student who travelled to Europe last winter.

Often the best accompaniment when travelling is plain common sense – a useful trait in any environment.

Slofstra also offered the advice to "watch your stuff. I never had an issue with pick pocketing or anything like that because I always took everything with me."

Gurm recommended that it is helpful to "know where you are and where you're going ahead of time. I always make sure that I have an idea of what that area is like. Resources are available to us it's just about making the initiative."

All these females expressed that when travelling alone, one will have a completely different experience but it will always be rewarding. Learning about oneself is not to be restricted by gender.

Bond agreed, stating, "Solo travellers enjoy the freedom of making all the decisions, experience the world unfiltered by anyone else's perspective, live intensely, meet people more easily and are invited into their lives more readily, avoid difficult travel companions, and get in touch with themselves. If you give it a fair chance, you too will discover that solo travel is empowering, intense, and exhilarating."

—With files from Alanna Wallace

What to bring

If you're leaving home to travel the world solo, you'd best bring these helpful items along.

1. Headlamp

The best kinds of headlamps also have a red light feature that allows you to read at night without disturbing your hostel mates.

2. Travel towel

You can't carry your wonderful towel from home so invest in a travel towel. Splurge for the high-end quick-dry version.

3. Proper footwear and a hat

Be prepared for any weather by bringing two pairs of footwear – sandals and hiking boots. A hat will be helpful to shield you from the sun.

4. A Lonely Planet book

The most helpful travel resource on the market is available online and for the "shoestring" traveller.

5. Rain gear

The last thing you want is to get everything you own wet. Invest in gear for yourself and your pack.

6. Cases for everything

You lose things – I know you do. So invest in an organizer to keep everything from your passport to visa applications.



Broaden your horizons

Saving money while living abroad can be easily accomplished by enrolling in a study abroad program, where you'll experience what it's like to be both local and tourist

YENNY VAN ANDEL
STAFF WRITER

Do you ever imagine yourself promenading through beautiful Parisian streets, eating a baguette and soaking in the culture around you?

Or do you ever dream of sauntering along the mile-long beaches of Australia, immersed in the hot sun?

As with most Canadian universities today, at Laurier, these opportunities and much more are available for students through Laurier International, which was founded in 1994.

Laurier International administers the Laurier Student Abroad Program, which currently has more than 60 exchange partners with universities in 22 countries, including Ireland, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Russia and Spain, to name a few.

Exchange programs at Laurier make studying abroad easy by allowing travelling students to pay tuition at home.

Studying abroad is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that affords a traveller the ability to transport themselves to another country where they can enjoy all the experiences of tourists while reaping all the perks of being a local.

"Whether outgoing or shy, I would recommend everyone do a semester abroad," insists Ruhi Mamuji, a fourth year bachelor of arts student who spent a semester in Sweden last year.

"You learn so much about

yourself," said Mamuji, a thought that is often mirrored by many students who have taken the leap and left home for four months or more. Sometimes the thought of leaving the comforts of home and leaving friends and family is a daunting idea.

The experiences will be worth the momentary nerves and fears felt prior.

Many who have had the privilege of studying abroad agree that being involved in this type of experience broadens their perspectives inside and outside of the classroom.

"We tend to become self-obsessed in our small university bubble, and travelling abroad opens your mind to new things and cultures," Mamuji expressed.

Joe White, a history major at Laurier, spent an entire year studying abroad in Germany. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience," he said. "I would say it has been the best year of my life thus far."

There are of course preparations that need to be made before leaving, such as getting a student visa, a residence permit and meeting the required grade point average (GPA) for your partner university.

The staff at Laurier International are friendly and willing to help students get started on the initial process.

They are helpful through the entire journey and like to keep in touch even while the student is on exchange, which makes the process

easier for those who are nervous.

Each experience studying abroad is different and unique – particularly depending on the country chosen. Budapest, Hungary for instance, is known for its great nightlife and inexpensive room and board.

Scandinavian countries are known for their safe cities. Ireland is known for its fun-loving citizens and healthy Guinness beer.

In the end however, whatever the place one decides to travel in order to study is going to hold a special place in their heart for the rest of their lives.

It is important to realize that one gets what they put into their experience, much like anything in life. Whether you feel stuck in a rut and need a change, or you want to explore a specific country, travelling abroad gives you much more than anything a textbook can give.

Immersing oneself in another culture means there is ample opportunity to develop language skills.

During White's year abroad he learned to speak German fluently. "Being surrounded by another language, it's a sink or swim atmosphere," he said. Not only did he master a new language, "I'm more confident with myself," he said. "I learned a lot about who I am as a person."

Not only will one get to experience a different culture and perhaps learn a new language, they will make friends and connections from around the world, all the while,

“
It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I would say it has been the best year of my life thus far.”

—Joe White
Laurier student studying abroad

attending a new school and earning credits toward their degree.

Learning outside the classroom is always being encouraged during university – and being a travelling student can help one achieve this goal.

"People around the world are actually very similar," pondered Mamuji. "At the end of the day, everyone just wants to have fun and meet new people."

There is a beautiful world out there waiting for you to explore it. Take advantage of your university experience while you're young.

After all, life is a book and those who do not travel read only a page.

Avoiding the hostel

NATASHA TACCHI
STAFF WRITER

With summer just a term away, many students have already begun to dream of incredible travel plans. As far as traveling goes, the majority of young individuals all have different opinions on how and where they would like to travel. If you are one of those students who really wants to escape and travel but is hesitant on hostels, here are five great suggestions to enjoy a comfortable trip while still being mindful of your wallet.

Making vacation last for months

Working at a resort in a location where you wish to travel makes perfect sense. You will not only be making money but you will be meeting lots of young individuals who are going through the same experience as yourself. An added bonus is a lot of the time you will be able to get a "locals" discount around town. Many resorts are searching for seasonal workers, too.

Airbnb.com

This website is a great resource for travelling. Air BNB offers housing for short to long periods of time in 170 countries. Be sure to check out the reviews of previous travellers and the top 50 homes.

Get a little help from your friends

Trips are usually significantly cheaper when you book it with a group. Why not take advantage of our generation's desire to travel and book a group trip with Contiki, Strip or Ef tours? Time to start using all those organization skills you have acquired over university as many of these companies let the organizer go for free.

Deals of the week

Newspapers, travel agencies and websites often list cheap deals to amazing destinations. Keep searching and eventually you will come across a deal that can include many great features for a pretty penny. Organize your vacation plans like who you will be travelling with and what timeframe beforehand to prevent last-minute panic attacks.

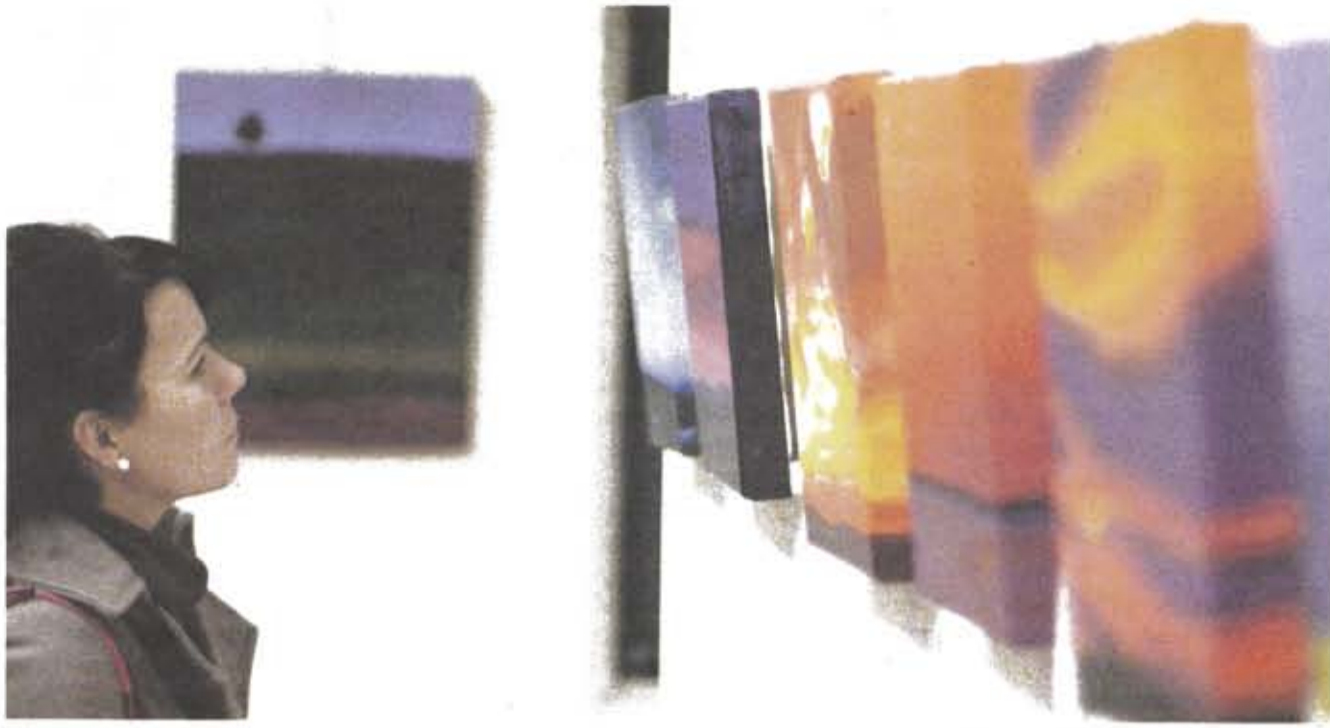
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ARTS

Arts Editor Sarah Murphy • smurphy@thecord.ca



Sue Ellen Eatrdes' *Landscapes: Abstracted and Minimalized* is on display now at the Button Factory.

KATIE FLOOD STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Landscapes colourfully redefined

KATIE FLOOD
STAFF WRITER

The Waterloo Button Factory offers some relief for Kitchener-Waterloo's snowy winter scenery this January with its colourful new exhibition *Landscapes: Abstracted and Minimalized*.

Available for viewing from Jan. 4–28, the Button Factory opened its doors this past Friday for the exhibit's reception.

The intimate venue was accompanied by a cellist and a small but attentive crowd for the acrylic landscape paintings of Sue Ellen Eatrdes.

"I call it *Landscapes: Minimalized and Abstracted*... Some of what you see here is closer to traditional, and others are more towards the abstract, or minimal where they're just colour and a horizon," explains Eatrdes, who expressed excitement

regarding her first solo exhibition.

All across the gallery, Sue Ellen's 27 paintings are displayed. Hanging along the walls, the painted canvases illustrate landscapes of various sizes and concepts.

While some very clearly depict trees, hills and mountaintops, other paintings are simply comprised of swirls and lines of various colours with no definable shape.

Eatrdes told *The Cord*, "I try to exaggerate the colour, I try to exaggerate the shape.... It was, for me, an exercise in artistic freedom."

"I used to paint a lot of realistic portraits... it's not my main focus any more, now I paint with a lot of landscapes. I just needed to, for my own growth, move off into something a little more free."

Eatrdes, who enjoys hiking, often discovers stimulation for her own colourful creations based on of

natural encounters.

"I like to hike a lot and in England and Germany when you hike you're often walking through the farm areas," she shared.

While Eatrdes will only confess to joking that her favourite painting is always one that she finishes last, it is her most detailed paintings, such as her eye-catching red poppies and sunny farm fields that appear to be lingered around longest by viewers.

In the past, Eatrdes has participated in group exhibitions as a member of the Button Factory and the Kitchener-Waterloo Society of Artists. In the future, she hopes to experiment with a more impressionistic style.

The Button Factory's next exhibition, Mark Walton's "SHIFT" available for viewing Feb. 1–Mar. 29.

Laurier musicians garner Grammy nomination

ANTHONY DAMIAO
STAFF WRITER

It has been suggested that every instrument ever created is derived from and inspired by the human voice.

The truth in this idea becomes a formidable testament to raw human ability upon listening to the Elora Festival Singers. Their Grammy-nominated record entitled *Eric Whitacre: Choral Music* draws upon the seemingly bottomless potential of the choral tradition.

The singers are lead by conductor and Laurier alumnus Noel Edison. Edison founded the choir in 1980 and was once in charge of Laurier's choral program.

Laurier music professor Leslie De'Ath and instructor Carol Bauman also accompany the group on the record.

Nominated for Best Small Ensemble Performance, the Elora Festival Singers along with Edison, De'Ath and Bauman will be among fourteen other Canadians nominated for Grammy Awards including Neil Young, Drake and Arcade Fire.

"It's really a nod to the influence of the choir," said De'Ath, referring to his work with the Elora Festival Singers.

De'Ath's involvement as a pianist and Bauman's involvement as a percussionist are the only exceptions the record makes in which instruments are used — the remaining tracks are strictly unaccompanied choral compositions.

The Elora Festival Singers are a professional ensemble comprised of twenty fully dedicated vocalists.

Signed to Naxos, an international classical music label, they have recorded nearly a dozen albums featuring various material ranging from Christmas songs to classical music.

In 1992, the Elora Festival Singers became their own independent organization, performing year round, garnering worldwide acclaim.

They have been working with and have become an integral part of Toronto's Mendelssohn Choir and the Mendelssohn Singers. They return to Elora for the festival of their origin for four weeks each summer.

De'Ath expresses a sincere love for choir and an appreciation for its rich history.

"Choral music has been around many hundreds of years. In fact music probably started out as choral music," he suggested in an interview with *The Cord*.

When asked what in particular would prompt a musician to work strictly with choral music, forsaking the instrumental advances of modernity, De'Ath replied, "for a love of choirs. That may sound a little simplistic, but it's a love for the sound."

The Elora Festival Singers along with Edison, De'Ath and Bauman, are among five other collectives nominated for Best Small Ensemble.

The Grammy awards, doubtless the most glamorous celebration of music prestige in North America, will be held on Feb. 13 in Los Angeles.

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SEAN POLLOCK STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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CLASSIFIEDS

Advertising Manager Angela Taylor • angela.taylor@wlusp.com

Dear LIFE

Dear Life is your opportunity to write a letter to your life, allowing you to vent your anger with life's little frustrations in a completely public forum. All submissions to Dear Life are anonymous, should be no longer than 100 words and must be addressed to your life. Submissions can be sent to dearlife@thecord.ca no later than Monday at noon each week.

Dear Life,
I wish we could all get along like we used to in middle school, I wish I could bake a cake filled with rainbows and smiles and everyone would eat and be happy.
Sincerely,
I Don't Even Go Here

Dear Life,
Whoever says that the Laurier campus is small enough to get from point A to point B in five minutes or less in between classes should maybe try walking from the third floor of the science building all the way to St. Michaels.
Sincerely,
10 Minutes in Between Classes is Definitely Not Long Enough, Unless You're Driving There!

Dear Life,
There is absolutely no point in arguing semantics. It is a useless waste of time and energy. I feel sorry for those who are genuinely frustrated by it and would hate to see how they would react in more serious situations.
Sincerely,
Insert Anonymous and Totally In-sincere Remark Here

Dear Life,
I purposely walk over the Hawk to watch the reactions on the faces of the people around me. Hahaha!
Sincerely,
I Move for Nothing... Except Maybe Wheelchairs

Dear Life,
What is up with girls at Laurier wearing flats in the winter?? It's -15 degrees outside and you're parading around with tiny shoes and no socks! Is this a new fad or you seriously can't afford to buy winter boots? I can't imagine how cold you must be especially with all the snow on the ground!
Sincerely,
Owner of Cheap Boots From Wal-Mart

Dear Life,
I know you like to throw some curves at me just to keep me on my toes, but did you REALLY have to make there be a super cute guy at the bus stop tonight? I mean, I had JUST finished at the gym and I'm wearing disgusting sweated through clothes and probably smell a little bit. Not to mention I was jacked on adrenaline, so I was bobbing my head to way too loud music, while wearing bright white gym sneakers. Hot. And then you made the bus 20 minutes late, which gave him even more time to look me over and assess my insanity. Thanks.

Dear cute boy with the swooshy hair. Don't think I can't see you looking at me under your swoopy hair, I see you. I'm not crazy. Let's get coffee.
Sincerely,
Face-Palm

Dear Life,
I didn't know that by coming to Laurier I would be among the biggest group of fucking complainers. Be happy that you're at school and you have the opportunity to be here. Stop bitching about every single fucking thing that comes to mind.
Signed,
I Think A Transfer is Necessary To Get Away From All the Negative Nancys - I Mean Golden Hawks

Dear Life,
Why do people find it necessary to watch television shows on their computer in public areas without headphones?!?!?! It's really annoying to have to listen to laugh tracks and poor writing when trying to read or meet with friends.

If mummy and daddy can afford to buy you a blackberry you can't put down and a macbook, they can afford a six dollar pair of headphones.
Sincerely,
Think About Someone OTHER Than Yourself

Dear Life,
The Winter Carnival scavenger hunt, "CarnEvil," is a cute play on words, but the scavenger hunt items aren't as endearing. Pentagrams, spell books and voodoo dolls aren't evil. They are used to give good fortune.

Yes, even voodoo, do your research. Not only are these things misunderstood due to outrageous and archaic bias, but they're parts of serious beliefs and faiths. Haven't Pagans suffered enough already? I thought we were past such medieval ideas.
Sincerely,
Mildly Offended

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EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • emerkeley@thecord.ca

Austerity measures must protect gains in education

Students across Canada have drawn their eyes to the recent debate over tuition hikes in Britain. Recently, the British government has tripled the cap on domestic tuition at universities across the country as an austerity measure to help reign in colossal debt and ease the possibility of defaulting on that debt.

Rightly students are worried that this approach is going to migrate to Canada, where we face our own problems with mounting debt. Nova Scotia is considering to hike tuition on average 21 per cent by not renewing its student bursary program.

Tuition in Ontario is already the highest in Canada on average and with a noticeable decline in quality of education at Laurier and elsewhere, students have no patience to pay more.

The province's recent announcement to fund \$73.7 million towards improving the credit transfer system between universities and colleges is a breath of fresh air. Countless students lose thousands of dollars when transferring from one institution to another, as old credits are not acknowledged.

Full benefits of this funding will take five years to take effect; the Ontario government should continue to consider areas to improve the post-secondary sector to benefit students already within the system. Future economic growth depends on vibrant post-secondary education. The government should pause to consider this in case it launches austerity measures of its own and strive to protect the gains made.

—The Cord Editorial Board

Laurier arts co-op needs to be reformed

It is the time of year that students begin to apply for co-op placements in the arts program and with it are the questions that arise — namely: what is the point?

Without a doubt many Laurier arts students apply for co-op. It only adds to the value of a degree in the eyes of future employers, especially in a marketplace with a saturation of bachelor of arts (BA) degrees. However, one cannot help but question whether it adds to a student's work experience beyond what he or she can achieve on their own. This is especially true given the extremely steep \$282.65 per term charge incurred, which will amount to over \$1,000 during the course of the co-op program's cycle for an arts student.

For one, the program consists of two summer work terms. This is in contrast to the University of Waterloo arts co-op program, which alternates school and co-op terms. This opens up a well of potential employers who may not be so inclined to hire in the summer months and also gives students an opportunity to obtain more work experience than simply the summer jobs they would have possibly gotten anyway.

The co-op program also takes a scattershot approach to applications, instructing students to apply to a multitude of placements, many of whom may have little bearing on their future career aspirations or their academic field. It's a stretch to see how working as a camp counselor will set one up for a successful career in politics for example. In reality the majority of the placements are not much different from the jobs many of us had in high school.

Instead, an effort should be made to provide quality placements for co-op students and targeted applications to jobs that will assist students in their career aspirations and develop their transferable skills. Co-op has the potential to be a huge boost to the marketability of our arts graduates. More needs to be done to develop our program to ensure that Laurier maintains its positive reputation in liberal arts.

—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.

The Cord is published by
Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications.
Contact Bryn Ossington, WLUSP President and CEO
75 University Ave. W, Waterloo ON N2L 3C5



Schools need to take dependence on legal drugs seriously



BREE MANTHA
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Schools need to better educate students on the dangers of addictions to legal substances — namely "smart drugs" such as Ritalin and Adderall. *The Fulcrum*, the University of Ottawa's student newspaper's recent article, "Can pills make you smarter?" only further proved this point.

The article took a look at the growing culture of students abusing amphetamines in order to stay ahead of the academic curve and cope with the various stresses of university life. It also brought to light students who will drink copious amounts of coffee or energy drinks and then use the aid of sleeping pills to get to sleep.

The problem is that the article neglects to discuss or even mention in passing any of the potential health risks involved with these activities. The only "issue" the article brought forth was whether or not the use of these substances was comparable to cheating.

A Dalhousie social work student, formerly a community advisor (CA) at the University of Ottawa, tiptoed around the health issue, only stating that it was more important for us to ask why students felt they needed the assistance of these stimulants.

I fully understand that for a Don or CA to comment on this issue as a health issue is technically to impose his or her values on their students.

It is perfectly acceptable that a Don not express his or her viewpoints on, say, homosexuality or abortion in front

of their first-years.

However, a general concern for safety should be *universal*, regardless of your views on legal matters. For example, two years ago, my Don encouraged us to moderate our drinking regardless of whether or not we were legal drinking age, work out regularly and eat healthy.

Yes, they were "his values," but it was completely harmless advice that was in the interest of our health and safety. So when it comes to the matter of students overstimulating themselves with potentially dangerous prescription drugs, school advisors need to step in.

Various medical tests have actually concluded very little about Ritalin and Adderall's effectiveness as stimulants. However, there are a number of potential side effects which are less than desirable — including long-term insomnia, depression, schizophrenia, paranoia and a large risk of dependency.

This "dependency" is not a mental/emotional dependency; it is a chemical reaction — an addiction not unlike to hard drugs.

The drugs are also exceptionally dangerous when combined with alcohol, which is a dangerous risk to take in a university setting. Oddly enough, at Counselling Services and Health Services, you are asked about your smoking and drinking habits and whether or not you take "street drugs" — marijuana, cocaine and ecstasy. No questions are ever posed about whether or not you take legal amphetamines or how much coffee you drink.

For all these services know, a student could be suffering from side effects or withdrawal symptoms from these perfectly legal activities, but the doctor might not make that connection unless it's brought up.

And because excessive consumption of these substances is so "normalized," many students would not think to bring up.

This 'dependency' is not a mental/emotional dependency; it is a chemical reaction — an addiction not unlike to hard drugs.

Oscar winner Heath Ledger died at the age of twenty-eight as a result of abusing prescription medications. Ledger was taking an array of stimulants and relaxants, but each one of them was legal and prescribed to him by a doctor.

Dons, community advisors and residence life area co-ordinators should absolutely be aware of the health risks that come with amphetamine abuse and be able to recognize the signs that a student is addicted to them.

Instead of simply hemming and hawing and vapidly asking why students are so pressured in school, they should be teaching their students that you can get through school without depending on pills.

After all, these leaders are trained to, say, smell marijuana smoke and discipline a student for smoking it.

One proactive thing that schools and residences can do is to hold seminars — mandatory for first-years — on the dangers of these substances and how to manage stress without the aid of "smart drugs."

Students need to be properly educated on this subject and know that just because something is prescribed does not mean it isn't potentially dangerous.

THE FORUM

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • emerkeley@thecord.ca



MARIE CLARE CAMP CREATIVE COMMONS

You know what yanks my Cord...

... People who are addicted to video games. Let me pose you a situation. You haven't seen your friends in a while; they've invited you over for a house party. You dress up a little, grab a case of beer or a couple of bags of chips and head over. You ring the doorbell and it takes ten minutes for someone to answer the door. In their hand, they have a controller and a contraption around their head and they're shouting, "Get in, get in, you're getting me killed!"

Of course, there is no serious situation in which the house is being bombed by a random terrorist attack. Instead, they're playing Call of Duty: Black Ops and you've just done a heinous crime by

interrupting their mission.

You walk in, sit on a stool nearby and drink that lonely bottle of beer you've brought, wondering what other normal people do on a Friday night. But this is what happens when your friends are all video game addicts.

It's fine when you're playing a video game that's fun and interactive, like Guitar Hero or Kinect, prompting you to move around and involve other individuals. Even sports video games or fighting games where you play it for about 30 minutes before you move on with your day. But when you're playing these games for hours on end, seven days a week and when your conversation is based upon different types of tips and

tricks to get to the "next level" with your social network dwindling until it's only you and your TV screen, you have to know something is wrong.

My little nephews and nieces no longer come over to play hide-and-go-seek or start up a rambunctious game of tag. Instead, they are instantly at my TV, starting up the PS3 and shouting at me for not having the latest edition of Halo. It's a new world; a world that is virtual and imaginary.

It makes me a little sad to say that in order for me to stay relevant in this day and age, I have to be able to press the x button and move the joystick at the same time. Which, believe me, is no easy feat.

—Shagun Randhawa

Tips on resume crafting



ALIM MAHERALI
letters@thecord.ca

The problem with the perfect resume is that it is as elusive as finding Bigfoot riding a unicorn.

Human resource (HR) recruiters don't spend more than a few moments looking at a resume. Since they typically receive a lot of resumes for the same position, most people's resumes end up in the recycling bin. While I'm all for being green, if you want to be sure to keep your resume out of the recycling bin then you may need a perfect resume. Luckily this column is all about crafting that perfect resume.

The problem with the perfect resume is that it is as elusive as finding Bigfoot riding a unicorn. Now before you go out to pick up a grocery store tabloid with the latest Bigfoot sightings, let's talk about why creating the perfect resume is difficult and some uncommon advice to help you create the best resume possible.

There are three main reasons why it is difficult to create a perfect resume. First, you can't change your experience. As a result, you may not be the perfect fit for jobs that require different or more experience than you have. The reality is the ingredients for your resume recipe are fixed. You can only change the garnishes and the presentation, which I consider to be the wording and format of your resume.

Second, resume formats vary dramatically by profession and industry. A perfect sales resume will look different from a perfect consulting resume and a perfect resume created for the movie industry will be different than for the medical industry. Lastly, everyone has their own personal preferences. Even for the same industry and role, what one person may consider a perfect resume will be seen by another person as not very good at all.

The lesson here is that a resume should be used to qualify you for an interview. The difference between a perfect and great resume is not in the result you get, but the cost of the extra time and hassle of trying to make a perfect resume. I suggest that rather than customizing your resume in detail for every job, you create a more versatile resume that will get you an interview for your

particular role or industry. Any resume that gets you an interview has done its job.

Consider that in 1543, Copernicus published a book stating that the Earth was not the centre of the universe. Sadly, this implies that the universe does not revolve around the Earth and thus the world does not revolve around you or your resume. Since the resume is requested by the employer, by supplying them a resume they become a customer.

Not giving an employer what they asked for is like someone ordering a small fries at McDonalds and receiving a supersized BigMac combo with a kids' toy thrown in for fun. While the BigMac combo may be more filling and comes with a shiny new toy, it is not what the customer wants. This same principle applies to resumes. High school awards and your passion for reading don't add value to your employer so don't include them. It's not about what you want to have in your resume, it's about what the employer wants you to have in it.

When you do update your resume, ensure every bullet begins with a strong action word. The first word should pack a punch like the ones from the old Batman TV series. Remember not to use the same action words too often. Also, if you use the track changes feature in MS Word remember to clear all the changes and comments.

I have had resumes come to me with draft comments and it was really embarrassing to read. Obviously that person did not get the job. Finally as a best practice, always send your resume as a .pdf file. This is professional and ensures what you see is what they get. This also helps keep a static copy of your completed resume for reference purposes.

Alim Maherali is the President and Founder of Alim Consulting International and speaks regularly on various career related topics. Alim holds an Honours Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) from WLU and an Honours Bachelor of Mathematics (BMath) from UW.

Letters to the Editor

Criticism of religious schools not accurate

RE: Religion and schools don't mix, Jan 12 I understand Mr. Chai's article is an opinion, but I must point out that it is not a completely informed one. I, as well as the majority of my friends, attended Catholic school from the age of five to 17 and not one of their parents had to "pretend to be Catholic: d make good with the priest" to get their child into the school; after all, we do live in a free country.

In fact a few of my friends in high school were Jewish and some were Muslim. And in high school there were only two required Religion courses: one was a class that I'd

summarize as a "morals" class and the other was a "World Religion" class that taught students about the various beliefs around the world, including pagan. I feel Mr. Chai's article focuses on a few radical cases that may have made the mainstream media, but as someone who experienced the Catholic school system first hand I'd like to say that I was never "trapped or manipulated" by shady priests.

I was well brought up and well taught thanks to a set of good teachers and I certainly don't deny science as I am currently in the Chemistry program here at Laurier. Most of the time I keep to myself when

I read something on the opinions page, but this is obviously a very biased opinion and I thought I'd share my personal experience within the Catholic school system to inform the readers.

—Patrick Smith

Letter policy

Letters must not exceed 250 words. Include your full name and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00 p.m. noon Monday via e-mail to letters@thecord.ca. The Cord reserves the right to edit for length and clarity or to reject any letter.

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OPINION

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • merkley@thecord.ca

Point • Counter-point

Feminism in the 21st century

Feminist dialogue as important as ever in modern society



JOSEPH MCNINCH-PAZZANO
letters@thecord.ca

In her concession speech to Barack Obama during the 2008 Democratic primaries, Hillary Clinton referred to the gender barrier as the "highest, hardest glass ceiling." She went on to thank the Americans who supported her for putting 18 million cracks in it, something she hoped would metaphorically light the path for future female candidates.

While Clinton had somewhat shied away from discussing the historic nature of her candidacy during the campaign, her concession

speech showed a marked change. She unabashedly discussed at length the role the suffragette movement played in allowing her to vote and eventually run for the highest office in the land and how she hoped her candidacy would show American girls that they could aspire to be anything they wanted to be.

Clinton's message reflects the fact that feminism is as relevant today as it was when women were fighting for equal political rights — not just because full political equality has not yet been achieved for women but also because having a discourse that isolates and exposes inequalities between genders is of paramount importance.

Some would argue that feminism is not necessary in the modern world. Satoshi Kanazawa is an evolutionary psychologist at the London School of Economics. In his

opinion "modern feminism is unnecessary [...] The fact that men and women are fundamentally different and want different things makes it difficult to compare their welfare directly, to assess which sex is better off."

Kanazawa's point seems to exist in a state of academic unreality. Earlier in December, the U.S. Census Bureau released indicators on economic performance based on sex. It found that in any single occupation, median pay for men almost always exceeds that of women. On average, female physicians/surgeons make 66 per cent of what men make and female lawyers earn 78 per cent of their male counterparts. These are only a few examples.

Kanazawa, though, falls into the same trap that a lot of anti-feminists do: that political and economic equality has gone "far enough" and

that feminism has become irrelevant. In his article, a man with a PhD who can supposedly interpret numeric data in a simple table says that, "Now women make as much as, sometimes even more than, men do." This is not universally substantiated nor is it factual.

There were those who argued — along the same lines — that Hillary Clinton getting closer to a presidential nomination than any woman in history and how Sarah Palin had become the first female Republican vice-presidential nominee, a discourse based entirely on the differences between the sexes was moot. Some argued that equality had arrived.

Again, this fails to acknowledge the reality of women in today's society. In Canada, women make up only 22 per cent of the House of Commons and 35 per cent of the

Senate, not to mention the fact that 100 per cent of the political party leaders with representation in the House are male. In America, only 17 per cent of both the House of Representatives and Senate is female.

The advancements made by women in the last half-century are vast and varied. But the fact that the differences between the sexes are subtler now than they have ever been underscores the importance of maintaining a prominent and sustained feminist dialogue.

A new frontier of feminism must continue to emerge: one that focuses on the continued demeaning of women in popular culture, the challenges for women in insubordinate positions across the globe and how to erase the numerical gap between male and female politicians and shatter the glass ceiling once and for all.

Feminist movement of the present trapped in irrelevance



BARBARA CIOCHON
letters@thecord.ca

Feminism has lost relevance in the modern day — it is no longer clear what feminists are fighting for or, in all honesty, why. Decades ago, the suffrage movement made sense; women faced a time when their most basic rights were not acknowledged.

Since then much has changed; female enrolment in schools at all levels is significantly higher, women may pursue a variety of employment opportunities and the disparity between male and female salaries has decreased significantly. In some cases, we may even expect a reversal in the gender gap in post-secondary institutions where female enrolment in law and medical schools is

nearing or has already surpassed fifty per cent.

Radical feminists are too quick to paint all women with the same brush — in other words, they demonstrate a clear disregard for the diverse interests among women.

Radical feminists condemn women that want to stay at home with their kids instead of committing to a career, divide women more than unite them. They ignore the reality that biological differences exist among men and women that will inevitably lead to a degree of lifestyle differences. If made as a free choice, there is no need to sneer at this lifestyle.

These different lifestyles are reflected in the pay differences between men and women. Analyses of income disparities among men and women fail to consider a number of factors that paint a very different picture of reality. Depending on the profession, some women will work on average fewer hours in a week than men, possess less work experience and opt for part-time

employment as opposed to full-time — all of which are often overlooked among those who are quick to assume that women are continuously disadvantaged.

Thus, once these factors are accounted for the adjusted ratio looks something more like women earning 93 cents to every dollar a man makes — according to Statistics Canada's 2008 findings compared to the 70 cents per dollar claimed by the Canadian Labour Congress.

Modern feminist ideology can also sometimes harm the very cause they support. Some feminists have gone so far as to advocate for improving prostitutes' rights, arguing that as in the case of other occupations prostitutes choose their own line of work and as such, are entitled to dignity, safety and respect.

Yet, instead of empowering these women by encouraging them to pursue fruitful lives with other means, they argue that prostitution is not any more oppressive than other lines of work in the capitalist system. Additionally, one can argue

that prostitution fosters a chauvinistic attitude among men to see women as sex objects.

In addition to backwards ideals, their rhetoric can also be harmful for gender equality. Call me crazy, but I have a hard time understanding why the University of Windsor, among other institutions, opted to spell its "Womyn's Centre" with a "y."

The theory is that referring to women as "womyn" raises awareness or support for women's rights. If anything, it only makes it all too easy for anti-feminists to cling to the perception that feminists are "man-bashers."

Instead of worrying about how the name of a university women's centre is spelled or whether it is the opportune time to stage a mass bra burning, feminists would find their efforts better suited in areas of the world where women are actually oppressed.

They also need to encourage whatever life path women desire, instead of simply condemning attachment to family norms. Only when

Instead of worrying about...whether it is the opportune time to stage a mass bra burning, feminists would find their efforts better suited in areas of the world where women are actually oppressed.

the feminist movement begins to re-focus their priorities and accept the diversity of the hopes and aspirations of all women will they be able to move into the mainstream of political thought in Western society.

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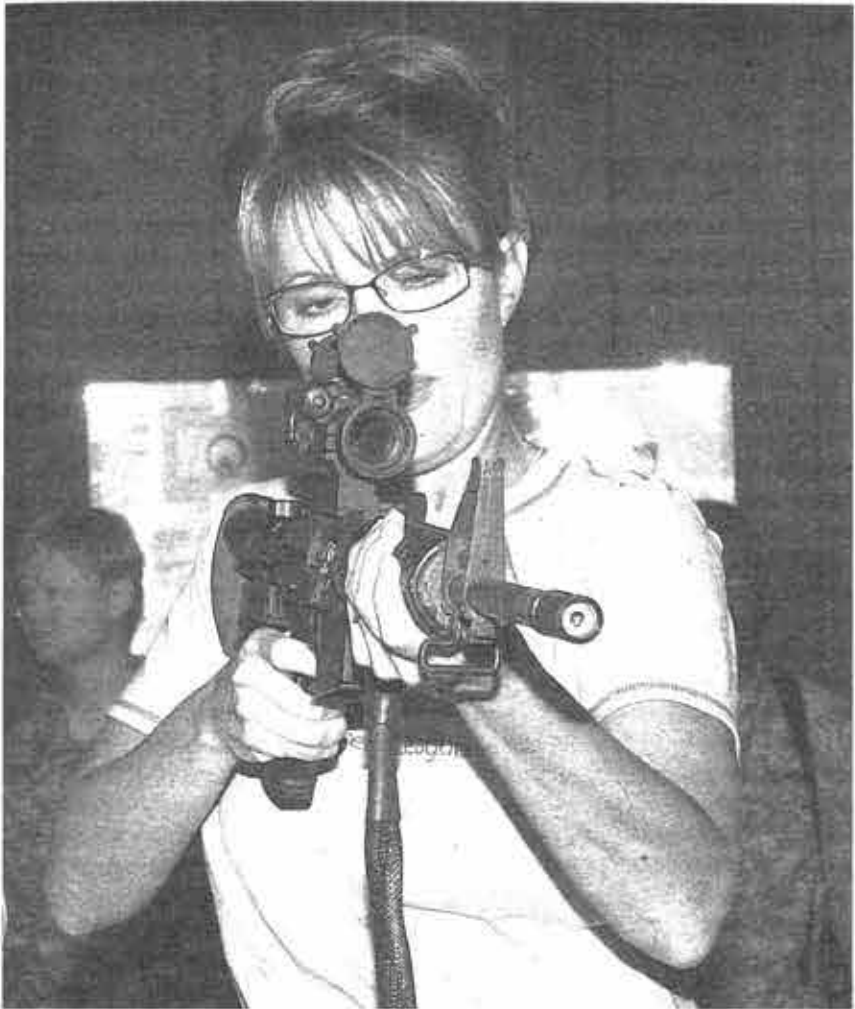
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*The Laurier Students Public Interest Research Group (LSPIRG) is a community organization that promotes Social Justice, Environmentalism, Capacity-building and Empowerment. By offering research grants, training opportunities, and options for social entrepreneurship, LSPIRG is a dynamic organization that is leaving a mark in our community!

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The nomination packages are available on our website: www.lspirg.ca. Please note that the complete nomination package must be returned to the LSPIRG office, room 117, St. Michael's Campus, by noon on January 24th, 2011, or emailed to jonathan@lspirg.ca.

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CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

Sarah Palin's use of virulent rhetoric to defeat Democrats including Giffords in the midterm elections had been controversial.

Partisanship has no place in aftermath of the Arizona tragedy



BRIAN SHAPOSHNIK
letters@thecord.ca

In the immediate aftermath of the tragic shooting that took place last week in Tucson, Arizona, there were two general waves of reaction that are typical in any such tragedy. The first was a sense of shock and sympathy for the victims. The second reaction was one of laying blame and assigning responsibility for the deadly shooting.

While this seems quite ordinary on the surface, something struck me as quite odd. The major target of blame that I could see, aside from Jared Lee Loughner, the man who committed the crime, was former Governor of Alaska and Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin.

How does Sarah Palin fit into this story? The primary target of the shooting was U.S. representative Gabrielle Giffords, a Democrat. Last year, during the U.S. midterm election campaign,

Palin featured a map identifying 20 house Democrats who voted in favour of the health care bill. Each of their districts was labelled with a crosshair and a call was made to voters, "Let's take back the 20, together!" Giffords was one of the House Democrats identified on this map.

Tragically, six people were murdered as a result of Loughner's shooting spree. Fortunately, his assassination attempt failed and Giffords survived, though she is currently hospitalized and in serious condition.

Immediately after the failed assassination, the media went wild; many stories around the world associated the shooting with Palin's campaign. Although there was, at that point, no indications of Loughner's motives, some commentators went so far as to argue that Palin should face criminal investigation.

The argument of whether or not the campaign map was in good taste is a different story. It is not

completely unimaginable that such an image could be considered incitement and that a mentally ill man may misinterpret it as a call for an assassination. But to call for a criminal investigation or even suggest that Palin is responsible for this shooting without any indication that there is any connection whatsoever is ludicrous.

International media outlets went farther than attacking just Palin. According to the French newspaper *Le Monde*, this attack confirmed the fear that "verbal and symbolic violence that the most radical right-wing opponents have used in their clash with the Obama administration would at some point lead to tragic physical violence." With absolutely no evidence suggesting that Loughner's actions were political or that Loughner even held right-wing beliefs, *Le Monde* threw all journalistic integrity out the window in what can only be described as a complete lack of media responsibility.

At this point, there is no definitive motive associated with the shooting spree, as Loughner is refusing to co-operate with the investigation. Various theories have spread based on posts he previously made online. For example, he listed one of his favourite books as Hitler's *Mein Kampf*. Since Giffords's father is Jewish, this has led to suspicions that the attack was based on her ethnic background.

Another one of his favourite books is *The Communist Manifesto*, not typical of someone who is supposedly, at least in the eyes of *Le Monde* and many others, a member of the "radical right wing." There has also been mention of previous history between Loughner and Giffords. According to a friend of Loughner, he held a long grudge against her after she failed, in his eyes, to properly answer a question he asked during her campaign.

Regardless of the true story behind the shooting, it is inexcusable that this tragedy was hijacked by partisan politics.

It is a slap in the face of the victims and their loved ones to turn such a tragedy into a political battle. Instead, the victims' memories should be honoured and the shooter should be brought to justice according to the law.

Organized labour needs to learn to adapt to the present day



NICK GIBSON
letters@thecord.ca

Since when did "union" become some sort of four-letter word?

It's hard to pin down when exactly it did, but it sure is like this now — for almost everyone you talk to. Unions have clearly lost their way, serving a legitimate 21st century function in a 20th century manner.

A union that is to be effective for its members must be strong, but pragmatic. A balanced labour agreement is understood to be a win for both management and unions because it ensures that workers are getting a fair share, but also that management can actually function so that those workers still have a job.

A union leader may look like a hero for getting a lot from management in a labour deal, but in taking such action, one would be sacrificing the long-term prosperity of the business for the short-term interests of the union leader. Unfortunately, workers often do not see that far ahead and legitimize these

actions.

Since when is it about winning or losing and stoking the egos of union leaders?

Unfortunately, that is what it has become.

When the current recession took hold in 2008, union leaders, especially in the automotive sector, took the economic downturn as an opportunity to assert their dominance rather than actually work to find solutions that ultimately would be in the best interests of their members. Many will recall the infamous remark by current Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) President Ken Lowenza in March of 2009 claiming that the CAW would be "willing to make sacrifices" only to not budge on the biggest Achilles heel of the automotive sector: costly benefits.

It is important to have these sorts of benefits; however, to claim that you are willing to sacrifice, but not enter into the negotiations with the intention of sacrifice seems to be a tell-tale sign of unions getting off-track, not to mention bargaining without good faith. Simply relying on the government bail-outs of the sector does not fix the structural problems that existed and still exist.

Let's get back to basics. A union's existence is to stand up for the interests of the membership. As mentioned before, this does not mean

taking all you can get from management to the point that you are paying people to work the cash at a cafeteria for over \$20 per hour — it means finding that medium that gives your members a fair share but also ensures job security.

Nowadays, these fundamentals go even farther.

Much like business and the expectation of being a "good corporate citizen," unions need to finally get beyond their own narrow interests and consider the larger context for a moment.

This has not been the case and subsequently union membership has been declining for the last few decades.

This does not mean that unions must abandon their members. The union's ultimate role is to stand up for the interests of their members — however, the interests of their members are best served by unions who actually understand the increasingly complex realities of the 21st century.

To read the rest of Nick Gibson's column and more check out thecord.ca



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YUSUF KIDWAI STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hawks survive a scare

Last place Warriors prove to be no pushover in tough 3-1 Laurier win

KEVIN CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

Waterloo Warriors goalie Martina Michaud and her Warriors down the street had revenge on their minds.

It was just over two months ago that the Golden Hawks women's hockey squadron flew into Columbia Ice Fields and ravaged their cross-town counterparts with a 6-0 pounding on Nov. 4.

But there were pushovers wearing yellow and black on Sunday when the two rivals tangoed for their second meeting of the campaign.

Laurier emerged the victors once

again — winning 3-1 — but this chapter of the battle of Waterloo featured a much different script.

A scoreless tie with the dead-last Warriors after one period had the league-leading Hawks puzzled.

But a 1-1 tie after the second was concerning.

"I thought they would tire a little earlier than they did and so I was really looking for the second period to be a momentum changer... it happened to be the third," said Hawks head coach Rick Osborne.

Typically a formality in a match featuring any number-one ranked team and a basement dweller, the

third period is usually a time for the winners to mercilessly rack up the points while the losers fruitlessly attempt to find a hole in the ice to submerge in and the audience to check their 50/50 ticket fortunes.

Not so on this day.

"I don't think we were really smart [in our approach]," said Osborne. "They've got a lot of big players and usually our speed compensates for that... but too many of our players were on the perimeter, including our bigger players... they should be on the inside paying the price in the tough areas."

Laurier's lines had a hard time

getting settled and special teams became the order of the day as 13 penalties were called between the two rivals.

"[Michaud]'s a big goalie. We weren't really smart in picking our spots with her. [Alannah] Wakefield picked the upper corner but then we went back to shooting at her big pads down low," said the coach. "(Vanessa) Schabkar's goal was a good example. Anything that makes her move left to right is a good move."

Schabkar broke the deadlock with a wrister down the left flank that beat Michaud early in the third to


seal the game for the Hawks.

"It was a good turnover by my line... I just took a hard, low shot... and it happened to go in," explained the Etobicoke native.

"Rainsy (Abby Rainsberry) was screening her, and that's what we need — bodies to the net."


Liz Knox notched her 18th win of the season in her 20th straight start and the only puck to beat her was a deflection by UW's Brittany Holland. Caitlin Muirhead had the other tally for Laurier.

"Teams play us awfully tough, especially in their home rink," said Osborne. "[UW] played a good game."



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GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
January 17 - 23, 2010

RECENT SCORES

01.16.11
W Hockey 3 - Waterloo 1
W Volleyball 1 - Queen's 3
M Volleyball 0 - Queen's 3
M Curling 3 - Brock 7
M Curling 1 - Guelph 7
W Curling 7 - Brock 2
W Curling 5 - Guelph 9
W Curling 8 - Trent 6
M Curling 8 - Toronto 3

01.15.11
W Basketball 45 - Lakehead 55
M Basketball 84 - Lakehead 90
M Hockey 2 - Waterloo 3
W Volleyball 3 - RMC 0
M Volleyball 3 - RMC 1

01.14.11
W Basketball 58 - Lakehead 51
M Basketball 91 - Lakehead 82

01.13.11
M Hockey 5 - York 2

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

01.19.11
Autograph Day
W Basketball vs Guelph
Athletic Complex, 6:00 p.m.
M Basketball vs Guelph
Athletic Complex, 8:00 p.m.

01.20.11
M Hockey vs Western
Sunlife Financial Arena, 7:30 p.m.

01.22.11
W Basketball vs Western
Athletic Complex, 1:00 p.m.
M Basketball vs Western
Athletic Complex, 3:00 p.m.

01.23.11
W Hockey vs Toronto
Sunlife Financial Arena, 3:00 p.m.

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Men's hockey falls in penalty filled affair

—Jamie Neugebauer



SEAN POLLOCK

Waterloo 3
Laurier 2

"We are here to watch good hockey, and in my opinion he had a bad game."

—Greg Puhalski
Laurier head coach
refereeing

Hawks on the road

(Jan. 14-15)

	Men's basketball	91-82	
		84-90	

	Women's basketball	58-51	
		45-55	

	Men's volleyball	3-1	
		0-3	

	Women's volleyball	3-0	
		1-3	

The future of Laurier's Athletic Complex

Expanded AC to feature second floor, space added to existing fitness centre



IMAGES COURTESY OF LAURIER ATHLETICS
WADE THOMPSON GRAPHICS EDITOR

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

Any student who's worked out at Laurier's Athletic Complex has likely also complained about over-crowding. With the fitness centre's chronic over-crowding in mind, the WLU department of athletics and recreation has released plans for an expansion that will provide much needed space to the facility.

"When we're coming close to 15,000 [students], we just don't have the space in our fitness centre to accommodate the people who are coming through," said Laurier's director of athletics and recreation Peter Baxter.

"The expanded fitness centre will address the capacity problems that we have and a big part of the project, which will have a significant amount of money invested in it will be for new equipment."

As the population of Laurier's student body has exploded in recent years, the Athletic Complex has struggled to accommodate for that growth. According to Baxter, the Athletic Complex sees 13,000 visitors per week, a 22 per cent increase over the 2009-10 school year.

When it comes to the fitness centre in particular, the facility sees over 200 users during a given hour and over 8,000 to 10,000 users per week. This marks a 12 per cent increase over 2009-10. Add in the over 1,600 yearly participants in group fitness and dance programs and it's easy to see where the over-crowding comes from.

"In terms of space, we've maxed

out, there's no more room for expansion," said Baxter. "Because we have such little space, not only is the gym really crowded, but a lot of the student clubs and even intercollegiate programs who want things like yoga as part of their program can't get the time they want."

The expanded Athletic Complex will feature extensions to the fitness centre floor, bringing it right out to University Ave. and closer to Conrad Hall as well as a second floor, which will have a section looking out over the ground level. This will not only create more room in the fitness centre itself, but also add more multi-purpose studios which can be used for things such as dance, yoga or personal training.

"Personal training numbers have doubled in just the last year and we'd like to do things like women-only programming but at this point we just don't have the space," said Baxter.

"With the expansion we'll have the capabilities to do more specialized programming like that."

The plans for this project came about as part of Laurier's master plan, which was released last year and illustrates an infrastructure that will be implemented over the next 15-20 years to enable the WLU campus to deal with its growing population.

As a result, there is no set timetable for the Athletic Complex project in particular. Costs and financing for the project have also yet to be determined; however, Baxter estimates the expansion to end up costing between \$5.2 and \$5.5 million.

Hawks await results

—cover

This has made the tests that took place at Laurier even more unprecedented.

"You want to catch the cheaters but you also want to send the message to the athletes that they could be tested any time, anywhere," said CCES president and CEO Paul Melia. "Performing that test [at Laurier] at that particular time was really important in our overall plan for the year and sending the strongest possible message."

The CCES did not reveal why Laurier was the first team to be subjected to such a large-scale unannounced test; however, Melia stressed that, "Carrying out a test isn't meant to suggest that an athlete is guilty."

While agreeing that this brand of unannounced testing is an effective means of deterring steroid use, Laurier's director of athletics and recreation Peter Baxter notes that the CCES must go a step further.

"We need to continue testing around the country," he said. "If they don't test out west, if they don't test in Quebec, if they don't test out east, the message that they're trying to get across with this testing will be diminished and undermined."

However, that degree of country-wide testing will be difficult to bring to reality. With each test costing an average of \$800, the testing at Laurier would have cost about \$53,000.

Considering the recent reduction in the funding that the CCES received for testing non-Olympic sports — according to Baxter there

were 391 CIS football players tested in 1992-93 and just 89 in 2009 — they simply don't have the resources to continually test entire teams.

While the CFL has partnered with the CIS and CCES in offering more tests, they will only apply to the top prospects in the CFL draft.

"We don't have unlimited resources. If we did, perhaps we would be testing every player on every team," said Melia. "But the reality is we have to allocate those resources in such a way to not be predictable in where we might be testing."

According to Melia, the universities must take on a larger role in doping prevention, something Baxter says Laurier is willing to do.

"Sport Canada, who funds the CCES, shouldn't be just leaving the CCES holding the bag," he said. "As an institution I don't mind putting some money into the testing process but I think first the CCES needs to correct the problem that has happened because of funding."

While the CCES plans its next move, there is still the all-important matter of the results of Laurier's tests. Athletes who been found to be using steroids will have their names announced after what is expected to be four weeks.

However, the Hawks are confident that their situation will not turn into one that resembles what happened at Waterloo last year.

"From talking to the UW guys it was pretty evident that there were guys using steroids," said Heap. "And to my knowledge and to the knowledge of everyone else on the team that's not happening here."

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