

THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

Volume 51, Issue 21

Wednesday, February 2, 2011

thecord.ca



Too close to call

Late in the evening of Feb. 1 it was decided that the WLUSU election would be postponed due to the pending snowstorm; the election will instead begin on Feb. 3 at 8 a.m.

Inside: Elections

Sitting down with the possible president

In Depth Editor Rebecca Vasluianu interviews the WLUSU presidential candidates at their favourite location on campus.

In Depth, pages 12-13

Who we would vote for

Five Cord editors endorse the WLUSU presidential candidate they believe will do the best job. The Editorial Board also provides their endorsements for three members of the board of directors.

Editorial, page 18

Referendum questions seek rise in fees

All three questions posed to students in this year's election will deal with the increase of three very different fees including the Fitness Centre expansion, SRP fee and a rise in the SBESS contribution.

News, page 6

Voter behaviour explained

Lead reporter Bree Mantha investigates what makes people vote the way they do in the Laurier student elections.

News, page 6

Online coverage

Check out The Cord's online coverage, constantly updated with the latest elections stories, video and information and follow the #wlusu2011 hashtag on Twitter.

thecord.ca/pages/wlusu-election

Editor's Choice "Feral waves of democracy"

World, page 11

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Editor's Choice Fringe Festival Gallery

thecord.ca

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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 1929 as the College Cord, The Cord is an editorially independent newspaper published by Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications, Waterloo, a corporation without share capital. WLUSP is governed by its board of directors.



Opinions expressed within The Cord are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board, The Cord, WLUSP, WLU or CanWeb Printing Inc.

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Preamble to The Cord constitution

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

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

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

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

The Cord will always attempt to do what is right, with fear of neither reprisals, 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 newspapers.

Cover photography by Megan Cherniak, photography manager

Quote of the week: "Actually, if he created a sex room that would be amazing." -In Depth Editor Rebecca Vasiliou re: Aeron Lawrence's platform goal of creating a games area in the 24-Hour Lounge

WLUSU election in quotes



"Please take a button because I spent my entire budget on them."

-Saad Aslam Candidate for the board of governors



"I would have to follow the refugee question, of course."

-Aneesh Lal SBESS president defending his referendum question



"The constitution is a public document. It's not a secret, OK? This is not KFC's chicken recipe."

-Kyle Walker WLUSU president

"I have problems with saying words sometimes." -Nick Gibson, presidential candidate

"Brantford students have been promised shuttle busses, venues, the moon." -Matt Park, presidential candidate

"I hope I can be a great governor and board of director." -Tom Papanastasiou, candidate for board of governors and WLUSU board of directors

"I'm going to tell you how I got to this point and how I fell in love with WLUSU and Laurier." -Jenny Solda, candidate for WLUSU board of directors

"I only know what I hear on the news." -Jonathan Collaton, candidate for the WLUSU board of directors

"I realize I sound like Asif which is terrible." -Kyle Hocking, current chair of the WLUSU board of directors re: former chair of the board Asif Bacchus

"I'm not wearing my lucky Superman shirt underneath this." -Ryan Sher, candidate for WLUSU board of directors

"You might remember me as Sunny with some bunnies, maybe not money, love honey. You remember that." -Sunny Chan, candidate for WLUSU board of directors

"For those of you who don't have it it's 519-590-9943." -Aeron Lawrence, presidential candidate

"I don't have the ends that they have because I'm not on the board.... I'm keen, don't hate." -Scott Flemming, candidate for the WLUSU board of directors

Bag O' Crime

Injured/sick person Location: Mid Campus Drive Date: Jan. 26, 2011 @ 1:35 p.m. SCS officers dealt with a 19-year-old male student that had sustained a knee injury.

He had jumped over a puddle of water and upon landing he 'popped' out his left knee. This apparently is a recurring medical problem with him.

He did not require any medical assistance. He was transported home to his residence by SCS officers.

Theft Under \$5000 Location: Athletic Complex Date: Jan. 26, 2011 @ 6:45 p.m. SCS officers are investigating the

theft of a men's winter jacket from the A.C. The complainant had left this article of clothing in an unlocked locker. The coat was recovered the following day in another locker and turned into 'The Lost and Found' section.

It is believed it could possibly have been a prank.

Theft Under \$5000 Location: Residence Reported: Jan. 29, 2011 @ 2:04 p.m. A resident reported the theft of some prescription drugs from his room.

He called a short time later advising that he found them under a pile of laundry. The theft is unfounded.

Graffiti Location: Lot 32 Reported: Jan. 30, 2011 @ 4:20 a.m. Person(s) unknown wrote something inappropriate in the snow on the rear window of a vehicle parked at St. Michael's Campus.

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

Did you feel adequately prepared for university coming into first year?



"Yes, and I was...I went to a rich school." -Lisa Richardson Second year global studies



"Yes, one hundred percent." -Sam Nash First year sociology



"No, they don't tell you the level of expectation. High school is way too easy." -David Blitzer Fourth year psychology



"No, in university you write on such a higher level, the expectation is so much greater." -Ally Siggla Second year global studies

Compiled by Justin Fauteux Photos by Nick Lachance



Elections disaster

This week's election being postponed is not the first time the WLUSU election has seen turmoil. On Feb. 13, 2008, The Cord reported that candidate Brian Punambolam had been disqualified from the presidential race and a re-election was held on Feb. 28 to determine the 2008-09 WLUSU president. Colin LeFevre ended up beating Ross Fraser by 97 votes.

NEWS

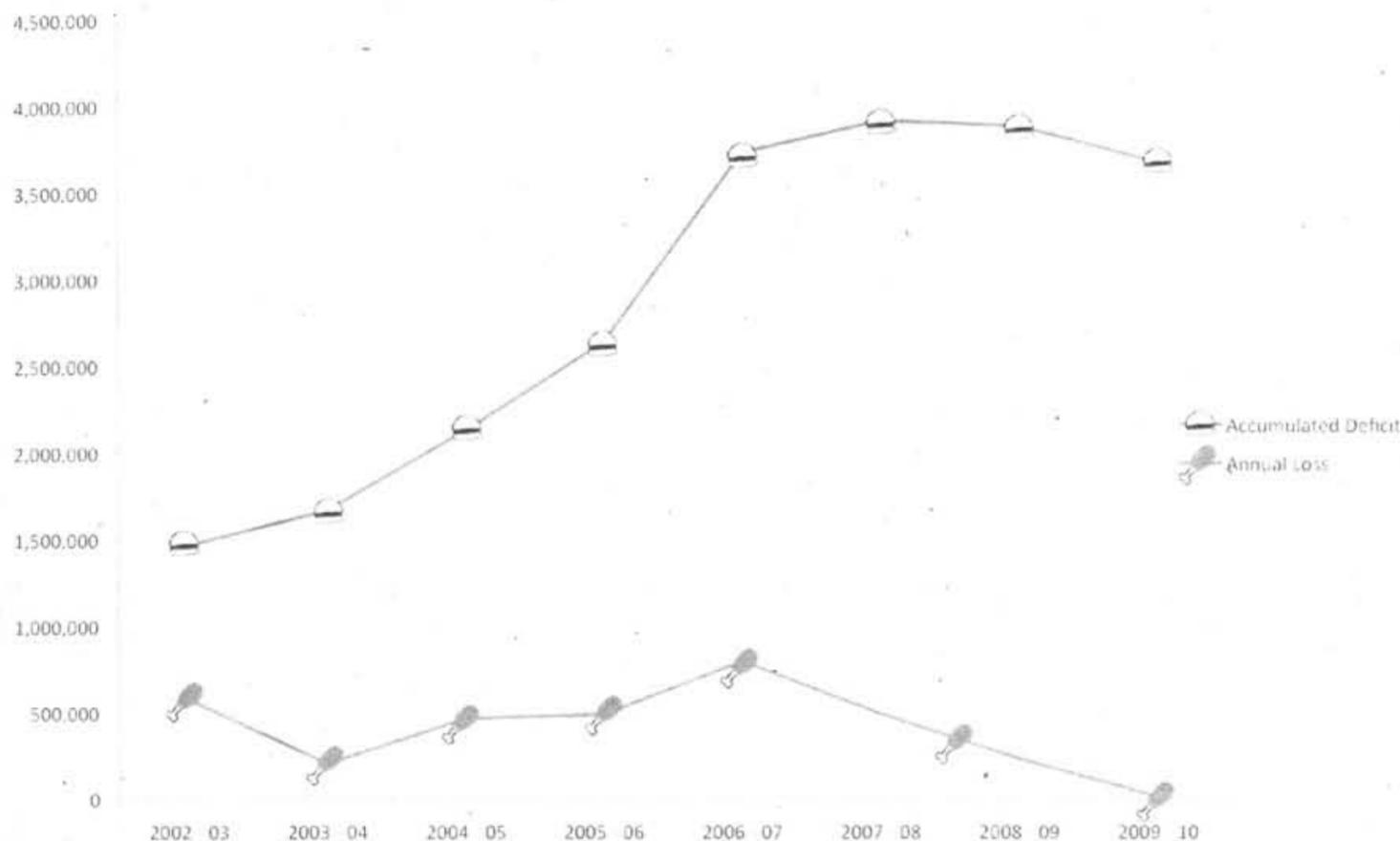
News Director Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca

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Food Services accumulates tremendous deficit

Laurier plans to recover \$3.65 million deficit gradually, though additional measures may be on the horizon



Laurier's Food Services arm has built up over a \$3.65 million deficit in the last decade. With dropping annual losses, however, the university forecasts that it will recover up to \$100,000 this year through existing means.

“There’s no magic fruit tree out there we can pull money out of, we’re going to have to earn it, one operation at a time.”

“We weren’t very efficient with the way we were managing people. The collective agreement ... was definitely not in the university’s best interests.”

—Dan Dawson
Director of student services

MIKE LAKUSIAK
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Since 2000, the Food Services ancillary operations of Wilfrid Laurier University have accumulated a running deficit of \$3,651,851.

While the causes of this negative number on the university’s books are varied, the ultimate conclusion is that the deficit needs to be repaid — how and when that will happen remains unanswered.

Laurier, as a publicly funded university, cannot include ancillary operations including food services, residence, parking or the bookstore in its operating budget as these areas cannot use government funds.

“At the end of April 30, 2010,” assistant VP of financial resources and comptroller Gary Lambert said, “we had an accumulated deficit on ancillaries of approximately \$4.7 million. Food Services is a big part of that.”

“We don’t charge the ancillaries any interest or anything on that deficit, we’ve never charged food services for that deficit,” he continued. “But it is a deficit that’s sitting there and it is in essence money that the university has spent that we haven’t recovered.”

The history

Lambert said that the deficit has been accumulated since April 1999, at which point Food Services operations were “essentially at zero.” In July 2000, a major contract was signed with food service provider Aramark to manage part of the business.

Rather than have Aramark wholly operate Food Services as is common practice, Laurier entered into an agreement that sees Aramark make the food purchases and have a small number of Aramark employees manage the business. This is opposed to the university simply contracting out Food Services entirely to a company that would pay a fee back in exchange for the right to operate on campus.

Aramark is entitled to an annual management fee, initially \$250,000 in 2002, providing that the operation breaks even or profits — which has not been the case all but one of the past ten years. If not profitable, the company forfeited half the value of the fee.

“Laurier didn’t enter into that kind of contract for a couple of reasons, one was the complex relationship we have with WLUSU and with WLUSU being a significant partner, that was not an attractive business scenario for Aramark to enter into at that level,” director of student services Dan Dawson explained.

“The second factor was a desire of senior administration at that time that they did not want all the Laurier food service employees to become Aramark employees.” These employees are unionized and represented by United Food and Commercial Workers Canada (UFCW) Local 175.

How did we get here?

Dawson assigns blame for the accumulated deficit to a few areas. “One, the design of the meal plan was very much in favour of the student customer,” he said, “and very much in favour of WLUSU from a competitive advantage standpoint.”

“The second thing, and probably the most significant thing, was labour cost,” he added. “We weren’t very efficient with the way we were managing people. The collective agreement in place with UFCW was definitely not in the university’s best interests.”

Ryan Lloyd-Craig, the director of Food Services employed by Aramark, has managed the operations since 2009. He was well aware of the accumulated food services deficit when he entered the position and also cited labour costs as a major contributing factor to financial woes.

The percentage cost of wages and benefits has been as high as the 45 per cent range over the last decade

and currently sits at 37 per cent — a level more than a tenth over what is normal in the restaurant industry.

“We’re still ten per cent higher than a regular restaurant,” he said. “But that’s directly attributed to the unionized environment.”

He explained that the benefits guaranteed in the latest collective agreement effective 2009-12 are above average. These benefits include a full Laurier pension, health and dental insurance, meal allowance and free tuition for family members up to six half-credit courses annually.

Employees at regular restaurants or other types of food outlets would not receive anything approaching similar benefits, Lloyd-Craig explained. “You wouldn’t necessarily have benefits at all, whereas here they get vacation time, sick benefits that you wouldn’t believe, everything. Full dental, full medical, all that stuff.”

During negotiations for the current agreement, the language was clarified to ensure that workers covered under the agreement were not the only ones entitled to overtime pay, but rather non-union student employees.

Overtime hours on weekends for unionized workers, including double-time on Sundays was a major cost.

By increasing the shifts given to students to closer to the 20 per cent amount permissible in the UFCW contract, the operation saved over \$80,000 last year in overtime pay according to Lloyd-Craig. He also attributed the drastic decrease in money being lost annually to the hiring of additional managers to better oversee Food Services.

As reported to the university’s board of governors last week, Food Services nearly broke even last year, despite losing up to \$788,000 in previous years and \$225,723 the year before. Dawson also pointed out that there is a \$100,000 surplus forecasted for this fiscal year.

Recovering the deficit

Dawson explained that the \$3.65 million deficit will not be easily recovered. “There’s no magic fruit tree out there we can pull money out of, we’re going to have to earn it, one operation at a time,” he said.

“To balance that, I don’t want to give the impression that we’re going to try and take advantage of students in the future to do that.”

Catering offered under Food Services has been successful, Dawson noted, and employs a high proportion of students. As well, the commission rates charged for use of the OneCard system that students access their meal plans with will be raised for off-campus vendors, Dawson said, as well as possibly for the students’ union — although nothing has been settled and negotiations are ongoing concerning WLUSU’s operating agreement that could see an increase over the current four per cent.

“They need to compensate Food Services for the right of earning that business,” Dawson said of the union’s food offerings.

“They’ve accepted that logic, we’re just finalizing what rate of return that will be.”

He continued, “WLUSU is very concerned that any increased commission rate we get from them is just going to go to pay off this deficit.”

Recovering from the accumulated Food Services deficit will need to come from other areas than a WLUSU commission increase, which would simply, if approved, support day-to-day operations, Dawson said.

“Basically what we need to be able to demonstrate to them is that the extra earnings we make on those other lines of business are more than what we’re going to contribute on an annual basis to the accumulated deficit.”

WLUSU general manager Mike McMahon responded. “I think the university is in a position and has

provided evidence of why a higher commission rate is necessary,” he said.

“Whether or not we will end up paying a higher commission rate — we’re still in the middle of the process.”

The WLUSU/WLU operating agreement has not been ratified as of Feb. 1. The Cord will continue to follow this story in the coming weeks.

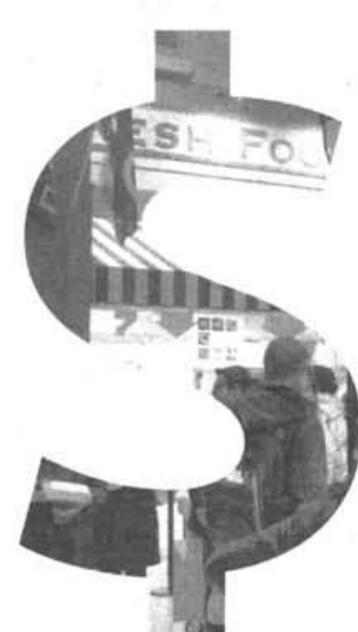


PHOTO: ELLI GARLIN
ILLUSTRATION: WADE THOMPSON

CAMPUS

Campus News Editor Mike Lakusiak • mlakusiak@thecord.ca

WLUSU open forum caps off election campaign

MIKE LAKUSIAK
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

The four candidates in this year's Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union presidential race were given opportunity to respond to students' questions Monday afternoon in the Concourse during the annual open forum.

Asked for a single important change to make in WLUSU if elected, Nick Gibson opened with his 'back to basics' platform that suggests the students' union needs to focus more on its student representation and advocacy role. Aeron Lawrence explained a need for greater focus on approaching students rather than waiting for students to approach their representatives.

Dan La Cute also pointed to advocacy as important along with accessibility in the presidential role. Matt Park expressed that the most important change to be made needs to be with student engagement with WLUSU. "Students don't see the value, they are forced to pay fees in to an organization and they question if it's valuable," he said. "It's about going to them."

Candidates were also asked for their ideas for improving female representation in elected students' union positions, quizzed on policies and ends and methods of lobbying the university.

Gibson spoke to lingering problems with wireless Internet connectivity on campus, saying the focus should be on reliability over exceptional speed. La Cute explained that the university's information technology services (ITS) arm has received funding to put toward improvements.

The question as to what the relationship between WLUSU management and the president should be was posed. "In talking with the current president, there's a very rich relationship with the [general manager]" Lawrence said.

La Cute expanded, saying that general manager Mike McMahon's role is to advise the president and his experience should be taken into consideration. Park again noted his

experience in WLUSU, replying, "If you consistently have to defer to his interpretations then you lose student control over the organization."

Experience was a topic revisited numerous times throughout the forum. Asked to describe experience with policy and governance, La Cute said that though he has not had practical experience in WLUSU, he has prepared on his own.

"To be honest I've done a lot of my own research," he said, noting his attendance at board meetings. "A lot of other presidents haven't had policy background," he added, "I'm definitely willing to put in the time and effort to ensure that I do the best job."

Gibson, who has not had first-hand experience with WLUSU policy either, highlighted his background outside of the union. "I have not been on the board before but I have done external lobbying and external advocacy," he said. "I also know the policy governance manual very well - I'm a policy nerd." After questions on campus clubs restructuring and environmentalism, the candidates made their final remarks.

"What we're going to change is make you the focus of your organization," Park said. "Give you power and control over what you're supposed to have power and control over."

La Cute encouraged students to make informed choices. "We've all spoken about our platforms and you've been able to critique us," he said, "go out and read the platforms and get educated."

Lawrence said that the campaign had been about communication. "It's people that are going out to you and giving you information, going to where you are."

"This is not a two-week commitment to your cause, this is a continuation of my four years of passion to things that go on here at Laurier."

Gibson closed, saying, "My legacy is simply going to be this: I want to ensure that the students' union is in a better place than when I entered it. That means that students are more engaged, that students feel like their thoughts, concerns and ideas are being heard."



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

The four presidential candidates face questions Jan. 31 in the Concourse during the open forum.

Board of director hopefuls stand up

LINDA GIVETASH
NEWS DIRECTOR

The candidates running for the WLUSU board of directors revealed their knowledge of the position and union policies during the open forum Monday. Most of the candidates presented similar reasons in running for a position on the board. Chris Oberle, a current director running for re-election said, "I will work to increase communication between the board and students... [and] make sure that we're advocating on issues that you feel are important."

However, first-year candidate Scott Fleming took a more inane approach to why he is running by declaring that, "Like everyone else here that won't admit it, I want that extra point on my resumé."

Fourth-year student Noah Habtemichael brought up the importance of the board's relationship with management, stating, "I think it's forgotten that the role of the board is to hold the president accountable."

A question on fulfilling WLUSU's ends, posed by current board chair

Kyle Hocking, tested the candidates' knowledge of the board's policy and procedures. First-time candidate Luke Dotto responded, "[Students] told us in the market research analysis that [their] number one priority is advocacy."

Dotto's vision for improving advocacy included creating more opportunities for students to contribute to the university affairs department and encourage Brantford students to volunteer with the external affairs committee (EAC).

"Students don't know about these social interactions," said Tom Papanastasiou, running for re-election, regarding the opportunities the union provides adhering to the third end. "I think we should provide packages in the summer to students ... so that we can get them involved with WLUSU."

Reflecting the inexperience of being a first time candidate, Flemming said, "I don't have the ends that they have because I'm not on the board."

A following question regarding better representation for Brantford students resulted in several candidates citing the Brantford Campus Council as a group the board should

work closely with.

Running for re-election, director candidate Chris Walker shared his idea to have the president alter the method for writing monitoring reports to acknowledge and show compliance at both campuses.

Dotto expressed that he had shared his platform with the Brantford campus newspaper The Sputnik to develop more connections, however, at the time of the forum he had yet to receive a response from the publication.

An environmental sustainability petition sent to the board candidates by Laurier student Sean Campbell was discussed, revealing the general consensus of support for the initiatives listed on the condition that further research was done to ensure its goals were feasible.

When the candidates were asked who would be running for the position of board chair if elected, experienced directors Chris Oberle, Sunny Chan and Chris Walker declared they were interested.

All 18 candidates, running for a total of 15 positions, were present at the open forum.

Board of director candidate platforms

Sunny Chan



My platform for the WLUSU board of directors is to represent the students of Wilfrid Laurier University to the best of my abilities. I will do this by ensuring WLUSU is sustainable, fiscally prudent, socially aware and accountable to its membership by providing good governance.

Andrew Chudnovsky



My name is Andrew Chudnovsky, a third year honors political science major.

I have been involved in many WLUSU initiatives including O-Week, L.U.C.K, Legal Resources, and Winter Carnival. If elected I aim to "Bring the Student back into the Student's Union."

By this I mean making the union more accountable to the students, more transparent, and creating an atmosphere where students have the ability to become knowledgeable about what the students union is doing for them.

Jonathan Collaton



Being a current member of the Board, I know that one Director alone cannot possibly know the concerns of the entire student body. It takes a group of Directors with a variety of experiences all around the Laurier campus to ensure that the Board is truly speaking for the students it represents. I am a student who has been involved in a variety of volunteer experiences both inside and outside of WLUSU in my three and a half years at Laurier and I believe that with these experiences I can responsibly represent the Laurier community.

I have not set any specific platform goals because I want to be able to dedicate my time, if elected, to issues that students bring forward to the Board. I have some interesting ideas about study space on campus and WLUSU involvement in academics but ideally I will work towards the needs of students.

Zach Desson



If elected to the WLUSU Board of Directors, my main priority will be to improve the transparency of Board actions for all Laurier students.

I believe that the Union should act on behalf of the students that it represents and will work to make that a reality.

Through co-operation with WLU Student Publications and an active presence on campus, I will make the activities of the WLU Student's Union more accessible to all of its members.

Improving transparency is an integral step to ensuring that all members of the Board of Directors and the WLUSU President are held accountable for their decisions by the Laurier student body.

As a member of the Board, I will work to represent each and every student at Laurier.

Luke Dotto



Listen, other candidates are going to promise you everything in your wildest dreams, but my promise is better, because mine is real. My promise is the only one that anyone can follow through on, that if elected to your Board of Directors, I will do everything within my best power to advocate for your needs.

I'd like to bring Brantford students into our advocacy efforts, I'd like to create ends policy for our lobbyists to hold them accountable and give them direction, I'd like to create statements of position to help guide our Management Group, and I'd like to conduct research on the proliferation of ancillary fees and how they are used as a windfall for the Administration.

And most importantly, I'd like you to vote for Luke Dotto to be on your Board of Directors. Go Hawks!

Scott Fleming



I believe in accountability and transparency when dealing with political and financial decisions. Students also need to be kept abreast of issues before the board and how the board is voting.

On the issues: for housing I will support the proposed rental housing licensing program that would improve living standards for students and make land lords more accountable. I support the A.C. Extension but hope to avoid the budget overages that harassed the terrace extension and hope to spend my term making Laurier a better place.

The best part about Laurier is how involved the students are in everyday life and I hope to continue that into the future and would love to support more programs dedicated to that end. For more information see About.me/ScottFleming.

Bill Papanastasiou



As a double-degree student studying business and mathematics, I can bring about ideas from the University of Waterloo that would be beneficial to the student body at Laurier. The ambitious attitude that I possess and diligent work ethic that I continue to show are both testament to the effort that I can demonstrate as a board of director. I am one who constantly strives to capitalize on their endeavours without a complacent mindset and thus, will provide my utmost commitment to providing students their needs.

Understanding the importance of satisfying the student body, the goals that I aim to accomplish as a member of the board will bring positive change to the university. My immediate concerns are the following: internet service, congestion at the athletic complex, communication from the board to students, and meal plan terms and conditions. On February 2 & 3, 2011 vote Bill Papanastasiou for WLUSU Board of Directors!

Max Tremaine



First and foremost a delegate, I will represent the thoughts and opinions of Laurier's student body. I vow to keep a sober, rational outlook and an eye for waste when considering new projects. With transparency as my mandate, social networking tools will be central to my campaign and position. WLUSU should be a stepping stone rather than a tripping block, giving power to our clubs by preventing unnecessary expenditure. Max Tremaine is... whatever you need him to be.

Noah Habtemichael



Hey Laurier, my name is Noah Habtemichael. I am in my fourth year majoring in Political Science. If elected I fully expect to make your voices heard not just figuratively but literally. I will work to improve relations between WLUSU and the student body as a whole. Having the experience of working as a LOCUS OCA and student advisor with the JAC, this has allowed me to come in regular contact the student body. I believe that with hard work and dedicated people in place the board will be a model of efficiency. There WILL be accountability and transparency that will lead my platform. Every dollar spent should be explained and justified, no more wasteful spending. I am excited for the opportunity to represent you and make Waterloo and Brantford campuses the best it can be. On February 2nd- 3rd vote NOAH HABTEMICHAEL for WLUSU Board of Directors.

Jon Pryce



My name is Jon Pryce and I'm a third year Honours Political Science and History student. If I am reelected to the WLUSU Board of Directors I will ensure that transparency, practicality and communication are always being enforced.

I feel that students have the right to know what is going on in their Union, and therefore the Union should make a conscious effort to grasp their attention. I will ensure that the Board has a realistic outlook in any initiatives or decisions that it makes.

And lastly, I am committed to ensuring that Board Directors meet on a frequent basis, hold open forums for students to voice their concerns, and communicate properly with management.

Chris Walker



Both WLUSU and the University have a role to play when it comes to providing for the needs of students, but it is up to WLUSU to hold the University accountable to their obligations and maximize the return on investment for you, the owners. When it comes to minimal study space, over enrolment, growing class sizes, and many other issues pertaining to life at Laurier, your WLUSU has to be your advocate. In addition, communication to and from students is at a deficit and must be improved to better engage and inform students. Furthermore, students should know who is working for them and who to contact when they have concerns. This can be accomplished by the Board and the Management Group having a more public presence on campus. Your WLUSU, your issues, your representative. Visit me on Facebook at "Pryce and Walker."

Nick Nyhof



As President of House Council, member of Inter-Residence Council, and a BBA major, I've worked hard for every community I'm a part of - serving Laurier is my next goal.

As a member of the Board of Directors, I plan to focus on improving relations between the Board and the students by seeking out input directly, through face-to-face interaction. The majority of students are disconnected from the organization and unsure of how or why it operates - this cannot continue.

Being the primary stakeholders in WLUSU, students deserve to know the Ends of the Union and how they represent the student interests. Through Board open forums, we can allow active engagement of the students. Engaging the students in every stage of the strategic process is essential as it allows the Board to fully represent the students, make goals public, and assess their performance.

Your union should represent your interests. Not define them.

Alex Reinhart



Hi, I'm Alex Reinhart. I am a second year History and Political Science student. If elected to the WLUSU Board of Directors, I would advocate for the rights and needs of all students, in both Brantford and Waterloo.

Communication with the students: I would focus largely on increasing the communication between the board and students. Manage the budget responsibly: I plan to provide a transparent budget, as well as ensure student input on spending.

Individual accountability and collective responsibility: I would make use of the WLUSU website to create transparency among the board. As a result, all members of the board would be accountable for their decisions.

Reallocate funding to services: I would attempt to reallocate funding towards WLUSU services. I would work to create an Emergency Response Team at Brantford, as well as increase the accessibility and sustainability of current services.

Adam Warner



As an outspoken individual my primary goal is to be the voice of the student body, representing their opinions and concerns. First and foremost I am declaring war on doosh baggery and the old wasteful ways of spending student's money. I am not afraid to ask questions regarding decisions being made and will ensure that all decisions made by the board will be the result of rationale thinking and spirited discussion. I will give a voice to fiscal restraint and end wasteful spending. It is essential that a Director on this board bring to the table an open mind yet also have the willingness to point out unnecessary and excessive actions. Adam Warner represents you, he is a voice of reason. Vote Adam Warner and all your wildest dreams will come true.

Chris Oberle



Hi, my name is Chris Oberle. I am a fourth year student pursuing a double degree in History and Political Science. I am currently a member of the WLU Senate and President of CICDA (Council for the Intellectual and Cultural Development of the Arts). I am involved in several clubs around campus including the History Students Association and Political Science Association. If re-elected to the WLUSU Board of Directors I will work towards increasing communication between the Union and the student body. I will continue to advocate and use my experience to represent Laurier students to the best of my ability while ensuring that WLUSU is accountable and transparent. Finally I will work to ensure that Laurier students have increased access to services and opportunities available through WLUSU. Vote Chris Oberle for WLUSU Board of Directors. Check out my Facebook group "Oberle for WLUSU BOD!"

Ryan Sher



Your WLU experience

How can we make your student life better? It's this simple question that makes reasons why the student voice needs to be heard. As Laurier students, we all take responsibility for the actions around our campuses. We need to stand up together to make sure our voice is loud and strong.

Student Issues

How long must the same issues brought forth by the student body remain unexpressed? Lack of study spaces, cuts to classes and poor internet are just several of the many issues still present on our campus that continue to go unnoticed.

Action

Actions take place on a higher political stage, Board of Directors. The Board of Director responsibility is for all aspects of student representation. Do you know who is representing you now on the Board?

My name is Ryan Sher; I care about this university and the students that come from it. How can we change it? I want to know.

Tom Papanastasiou



As a current director, I bring experience as well as knowledge on how the WLUSU operates.

In my first year on the Board, I was elected onto the Strategic Planning Committee and Ends Policy Review committee. For next year, I plan to take this knowledge and experience gained and advocate on a grander scale.

As a student going into my third year in the BBA Program at Laurier, I've had the pleasure to meet a number of different students, either through school, intramurals; or social events.

Understanding how important their voices are, I aim to improve their experience by advocating to improve Laurier Wireless, restructuring OneCard meal plans, as well as adding and improving study spaces on campus.

Jenny Solda



My name is Jenny Solda, I'm a third year business student running for re-election for Board of Directors. Over the past three years Laurier has become my home and the students within it my family, I see the board as a chance to be the voice of a community I care so much about. After a term already on the board I can say with confidence that I have what it takes to ensure that student needs are brought to the forefront of every decision. My promise to you if re-elected is I will be honest, I will be approachable, and every vote I cast will be for the students.

Senate candidates

All candidates for Laurier's senate were acclaimed. Cameron McGregor is the representative for the Brantford campus.

Kyle Hocking



Saad Aslam



Chris Oberle



Cameron McGregor

(Photo unavailable)

For party chair, SBESS and Brantford candidate information, check out thecord.ca

Board of governors candidates

Saad Aslam



Re-elect a friendly, tireless and experienced advocate as your Student Governor. After 2.5 years as a Student Governor and 4 years of representation within the WLUSU and WLU, I believe I am by far the most qualified candidate for this position. If re-elected, I promise to continue being informed, accessible, and outspoken in support of our collective student issues. My reputation and past experiences stand up for themselves, they include:
CASA Campus Ambassador 2007-2009
WLUSU Director 2008-2010
Chairman of the WLUSU BOD 2009-2010
WLU Student Senator 2008-2010
Current WLUSU VP:
University-Affairs
Current OUSA VP: Finance
Current WLU Student Governor
Thanks for your continued support and if you have any questions or concerns post a message on the Facebook group: "Vote Saad for BOG" or e-mail saslam@wlu.ca

Ted Brown



I'm a third year politics, philosophy, and economics major at WLU. I am heavily involved around campus working at the pool, volunteering on the board of directors, and competing for the WLU Debate Society. What sets me apart from my fellow candidates (charm and smouldering good looks aside) is my involvement with the Senate this year and next. I am currently on the senate finance committee and next year I intend to join the board finance committee if elected. Personally, I believe that I can be a far more effective student representative and advocate if elected to this second position. Lastly, as I have stepped out of the running for board of directors, I have decided to make senate and board of governor's issues my top priority, as I see these two houses as the most viable avenue for change.

Tom Papanastasiou



As a current director of the WLU-SU, I have seen first-hand how the WLUSU and WLU interact. I believe that although we have a good relationship with the university, it would be more effective to advocate for students to WLU by being directly part of their corporate government. That is why this year I have chosen to run for both the Board of Governors and BoD. My main objectives if I am elected to the Board of Governors are to advocate for increased study space, improvements to the Athletics Complex, and improvements to Laurier Wireless.

For In-Depth Editor Rebecca Vasliuanu's interviews with presidential candidates, turn to **pg. 12**

Referendum questions

ALANNA WALLACE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Three individuals defended the referendum questions put forward to be posed to students this election during the open forum Monday in the Concourse.

The two referendum questions pertain to the Student Refugee Program (SRP) fee increase and a program that provides scholarships for refugees to allow them to study at Laurier. Laurier currently has five refugee students taking advantage of funding from the program.

"I believe this is really important for students to consider because for such a small amount we really do have the opportunity to create very powerful change in these people's lives," explained Sean Gallagher, who defended the fee increase to a small crowd.

Another referendum question being posed is an increase to the Student Life Levy (SLL) fee – money to be eventually funneled towards the expansion of the Athletic Complex's fitness centre.

"We have run out of space at the fitness centre, one of the most popular places on campus," Matthew Rice put simply. He went on to explain how the new expansion would include eight new multi-purpose rooms, an expanded ground floor, an entire new second floor for more equipment, and all the "latest and greatest" equipment, among other

things.

Third was Aneesh Lal, who defended a hike in the School of Business and Economics Student Society (SBESS) fee.

"We want to maintain our quality that we have as one of the best business schools in Canada," explained Lal, mentioning the great expansion the SBESS clubs have had over the past five years as a factor in the increase.

Lal summed up the points of all three party chairs by pointing out their common interest – students.

"We're all looking to sustain the growth coming into this school," said Lal. "We're all looking to make a positive change for our school and we're not asking for much at the end of the day."

On the ballot:

The SBE faculty-based referendum question aims to raise the fee from \$15 to \$21.25 per term.

The SRP is asking students to consider the creation of a new fee of \$1 per half credit, to a maximum of \$4 per term.

Saying YES to the SLL increase will cost each individual student \$8/class. Students are currently charged \$41.92 per semester.

—courtesy of wlu.com

How students vote

BREE MANTHA
LEAD REPORTER

With the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union 2011-12 elections days away, The Cord asked students about their voting methodology, and found that some vote more critically than others.

What Concerns Students

While many director candidates stated a desire for increased opportunities for social interaction, third-year biology student Kathryn Deeming stated that science students are often left out.

"I feel that we're really neglected by WLUSU," Deeming said. "We tend to not get any funding. Even if you just look around at posters of events ... most campus clubs ignore us."

Third-year business student Jillian Smith felt that all candidates' platforms focused too much on long-term plans. "I really don't care about the Athletic Complex and the future business building ... I'd rather have stuff that's going happen in the next year or two while I'm still here."

Other students were concerned about the possibility of cutting down O-Week in favour of a fall reading week. Brian Voegtle, a second-year psychology and womens' studies major said he hoped WLUSU favoured O-Week.

"I really like the way O-Week was run this year," said Voegtle, a former Ice Breaker. "I know the reading week would be a good thing, but it would affect O-Week and it takes away from the first-years' experience of learning more about Laurier."

First-year students are also entertaining the idea of voting, even those with little background on candidates. History student Dan Graziotto said he is eager to vote, but has not followed any campaigns closely.

Regardless, Graziotto said he knows what he is looking for. "The best quality I look for in a president

or for the board of directors is decisiveness in their actions," he disclosed. Graziotto, along with other first-year students, felt that the most important issues were wireless Internet and food services.

Is Everyone Well-Informed?

When it comes to making decisions, some students are taking the task quite seriously. "I feel like I can make an informed decision," said Brian Voegtle. "I've been trying to ask everyone questions."

Deeming and Smith noted that they were more apathetic towards their decisions, with Smith stating that she has never voted in a WLU-SU or SBE election, but hopes to this year.

On choosing a president, Smith said she focuses more on the personality than the platform. "I don't really focus too much on their campaigns. I'm more focused on their attitude and the way they present themselves."

With 18 directors to choose from, many students are overwhelmed with the selection.

Smith believes most students aren't voting for these directors based on platforms. "It's mostly just going to be people voting for who they recognize, or checking off the names they recognize."

"There are too many [directors] for me to choose from," said first-year business student Joel Caruso. "I feel like that will either be a non-vote for me, or just me voting for the names I recognize."

"I vote based on the prettiness of the posters," admitted ill-informed first-year business and computer science major Alana Boyczuk. "I like the panda. It was really cute."

Voegtle is one of the students taking a more guarded approach. "I know people are using the gimmicks ... I feel like people need to get past those, and ask [candidates] about their platforms. A really strong platform is important for a corporation as big as WLUSU."



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Tool designer
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Presidential candidate platforms

Matt Park



What can you imagine for Laurier? That is the simple question that started my time with student politics in 2004.

Since that time I have served three terms on the WLUSU Board of Directors, two years on the University Senate, one year on the Board of Governors and two years with the Residence Life program. Throughout my university career I have learned one thing: it is possible to accomplish anything, so long as we are willing to strive for it.

I can imagine a Students' Union that is engaged with the students; a Students' Union that focuses on the concerns of the students of these campuses. But beyond that I can imagine fast, accessible wireless Internet for students across Laurier.

I can imagine a Student Awards system that makes it easier to search and apply for student awards, scholarships and bursaries.

I can imagine an independent Brantford Campus in charge of its own destiny with its own Students' Union. These are the plans I imagine and strive for.

I have other goals in mind to work towards. Developing green space and reusable water bottle refill stations, the creation of a new student caucus to ensure the student voice is active within the union, increased advocacy and outreach communication for the students, and a continued and improved support for the Diversity and Equity office, Leadership Centre, and the first year experience.

But more importantly, I want my time to be about that one powerful question: What can YOU imagine for Laurier?

Dan La Cute



My vision is that next year I will be able to work alongside the students of WLU to improve the experiences they have on our two campuses. The way I will achieve this is through the facilitation of communication between all Laurier students and the President and CEO. I will create a relationship of trust and be accountable to the student body by ensuring that students are always well informed of my actions and future endeavors within WLU. I strongly believe that the academic career of students will improve if WLU commits to working towards a closer partnership with University Administration. In addition to the current professor evaluation procedures, I will create a mid-semester "Start. Stop. Continue." assessment which would provide professors with constructive student feedback that is directed and goal oriented. Furthermore, through the creation of Faculty Orientation Days for each program, student academic relationships can begin before the first day of classes. I have developed a "Community Safety Program" because I believe that student safety on our campuses and surrounding areas is a top priority. Establishing safe havens at local businesses along frequently traveled streets, University Ave. and King St. in Waterloo will help to reestablish a sense of security amongst Laurier students. I care deeply about this school and know that my passion for our school will bring Wilfrid Laurier to even greater levels of excellence. Through my leadership abilities and commitment to my word, I will guide my fellow Golden Hawks through the next academic year.

Aeron Lawrence



My name is Aeron Lawrence and I am going for WLUSU President. My platform is made up of ideas that I have come up with over my time here but without your input, they do not come close to fulfilling the needs of all Laurier students. Right now many students feel that if they do not directly volunteer within WLUSU than they are not apart of the Student's Union and are unable to use all the resources and services it provides.

I would like to shift that thinking and work with students so they know that WLUSU exists to serve ALL undergraduate students.

I would like to increase communication with Laurier students through actively going to where they are and incorporating them in the decision process for decisions that directly affect them.

Lastly I want to empower the voice of students by giving them an outlet to voice their thoughts publicly.

Nick Gibson



Easing the financial burden on students...

- Fight for a Better Dining Hall: make admin deal with high labour costs
- Stand up for students at the provincial/federal level
- Turret for study space now, and a more versatile space moving forward

A more conducive environment for academic success...

- Comprehensive study space plan: use of the turret, classroom-bookings by WLUSU for study space, and a more accessible booking process
- Implementing a fall reading week, coupled with exam schedule flexibility
- Keeping administration accountable for the student to teaching faculty ratio
- Keep admin accountable for reliable internet & install Ethernet ports on campus
- Empowering Foot Patrol to improve safety on/off campus, fighting

for more effective Health Services & a more empowering environment for ALL students in the classroom · Providing/supporting, meaningful leadership/growth opportunities for all students...

- Implementing a "culture-of-appreciation": ensuring all volunteers are valued; WLUSU or otherwise
 - Supporting Greek Life to find a working arrangement with admin
 - Initiate integration of campus clubs between both campuses
- Implementing sustainable practices through prudent financial means...
- Reduce waste: better train our staff & ensure that there are recycle bins in ALL classrooms
 - More water dispensers to provide alternatives to EXPENSIVE bottled water
 - ACCOUNTABILITY in the Sustainable Campus Committee
 - Empowering all students through an "Open" presidency...
 - Weekly presence in high-traffic areas
 - "Ask WLUSU" drop-box in high-traffic areas
 - Proactive document release & recorded/Podcast board meetings
 - Improved "Ask WLUSU" tab on the wlsu/mylaurier.ca websites

For more of the WLUSU presidential platforms see wlsu.com/elections

See videos of the candidates at thecord.ca/pages/elections

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A Celebration of Laurier Authors With Readings and Discussion Wednesday, February 9, 2011

10:30 a.m.

Thomas O. Hueglin, author of *We All Giggled*
Tanis MacDonald, author of *Rue the Day*

2:30 p.m.

Andrew Kaufman, author of *The Waterproof Bible*
Roy MacSkimming, author of *Laurier in Love*

6:30 p.m.

Terry Copp, author of *Cinderella Army*
Paul Heinbecker, author of *Getting Back in the Game*

• Admission is free.

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Increasing traffic flow

Experts explain the increased use of roundabouts throughout the region

LINDA GIVETASH
NEWS DIRECTOR

On Jan. 25, a Region of Waterloo committee approved two roundabouts to replace intersections on Ottawa Street in Kitchener.

The trend of utilizing this traffic control plan was initiated in 2004 and has become a priority consideration when reviewing the layout of intersections.

"Locations in the United States were starting to look at them," said Steve van De Keere, head of expansion programs and transportation engineering for the Region of Waterloo, about the inspiration for the project.

"Some of our staff attended information seminars and heard about roundabouts being considered and then that spawned interest."

Although roundabouts are uncommon in Ontario, they have many benefits.

"They are the safest type of aggregated intersection you can have," van De Keere explained.

Jeff Casello, professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Waterloo's school of planning, echoed this sentiment in stating, "The likelihood of having 90

degree angle collisions ... is much smaller because the angle that the cars approach each other is much shallower."

Roundabouts also eliminate the problem of waiting at red lights. "They tend to work better with less delay than signals do during peak rush hour times and even more so during the off peak because you're never waiting at a red signal when there's no traffic," said van De Keere.

Less waiting also proves to be better for the environment.

"There is less idling so there's less fuel used," said van De Keere. "They are also better for aesthetics because we can put plant material in the intersections and make them look nicer than traffic signals."

When a building project was proposed to develop the area around Ira Needles Boulevard in the west end of Kitchener and Waterloo, the region found the perfect opportunity to begin implementing the idea.

"From there we looked at a number of other locations and realized that we are getting that safety performance that we were expecting from them," said van De Keere.

"Now it gives us more confidence to look at them at a lot more



COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

Roundabouts are seen as environmentally friendly as they reduce idling and provide green space.

“They are the safest type of aggregated intersection you can have.”

—Steve van De Keere
Head of expansion programs and transportation engineering at UW

locations.”

While there is some concern about drivers being educated on how to approach a roundabout, the region has taken some steps to correct this issue and has found it successful overall.

"Drivers in general and even in the region here are still on the learning curve so to speak," van De Keere admitted.

He went on to add, "We observe that at most of our roundabouts and the collision experience that we're having with them shows us that

most drivers get it."

Although the trend remains most popular in Waterloo Region, it does have merit in other urban areas.

"I think in some ways the region is ahead of many other places," said Casello.

Van De Keere noted that the ministry of transportation is considering this traffic plan.

However, he speculated, "They're not going to be common in all Ontario cities for probably generations."

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Immigrant students more likely to pursue university education, report

NICOLE GREEN
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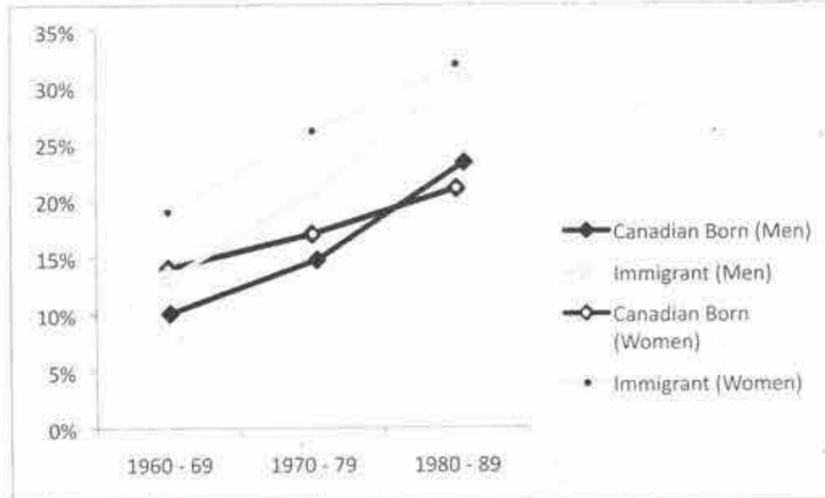
A university degree has become a very popular pursuit for Canadian youth, but according to a recent report from Statistics Canada it's an even more popular trend for immigrant students. Statistics Canada reported that immigrants who arrive in Canada before age 12 are more likely to obtain a university education than Canadian-born students and this gap is said to be growing.

In attempting to explain the trend, the report stated that Canada has shifted its focus in immigrants towards countries where adults have traditionally had higher levels of education.

In agreement, Meaghan Coker, the president of Ontario Undergraduate Students' Association (OUSA), said, "It's not surprising that immigrant students are participating at a higher rate because of the point system. When adults have a degree they get a lot of points and are more likely to be approved."

This is important as the immigrant child is able to see the costs and benefits of a university degree from their parents.

According to the study, in the 1960s men who immigrated had a university completion rate of about 6 percentage points higher than Canadian-born men. In the 1980s that gap grew to 12 percentage points. Nearly 32 per cent of men who immigrated in the 1980s obtained a university degree by the time they



WADE THOMPSON GRAPHICS EDITOR
The trend of immigrant students attending post-secondary education continues to climb each year.

were 34.

However, Coker criticized the report for being too broad. "While on the whole it is true that immigrant students are going more often than domestic students, sometimes it is more dependent on their ethnicity. Asian parents are doing more for their children in terms of academic preparation versus Latin American or Caribbean students," she said.

Coker warned that a report like this "may lead people to think that [immigrant students] are doing okay but that is not necessarily true."

Coker emphasized the importance of parental engagement and early outreach programs such as Pathways to Learning. "A child

has usually decided by grade eight whether they will attend university or college. So it is important for parents and institutions to emphasize education early on." Developing pathways to learning eliminates barriers such as informational, motivational, cultural and physical barriers in order to make post-secondary education feasible for all.

Saad Aslam, vice president university affairs for Wilfrid Laurier University Students' union, who comes from a Pakistani background and immigrated to Canada when he was two years of age, agreed that parental encouragement was the number one factor in his decision to attend university. "For me

[university] was never an option," he reflected.

Echoing Coker's concerns, Aslam explained that the greatest barrier for him was financial and informational; some of which he was able to overcome through utilizing the internet and particularly websites like Studentawards.com.

Both Aslam and Coker agree that while the study is not surprising, immigrant students face the same kind of obstacles that domestic students face when looking towards post-secondary education. What is setting immigrant students apart is how they are able to use their resources to overcome these obstacles.

Canada in brief

UBC primate experiments draw criticism

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Stop UBC Animal Research held a protest on Jan. 30 to urge the University of British Columbia (UBC) to end research on monkeys.

It was aimed at a proposed experiment that plans to study the development of Parkinson's disease in monkeys. The experiment, L91, would involve injecting four rhesus monkeys with the compound Lactacystin, which leads to the onset of symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

John Hepburn, UBC's vice president of research, explained that L91 has yet to be approved for funding, as the most recent attempt was denied by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. He also stated that there was no chance the experiment would happen before Apr. 1.

—Fabrizio Stendardo, the Ubyssy

Perfectionism hurts: study

HALIFAX (CUP) — A psychology professor at Dalhousie University has found that perfectionism may be doing some people harm.

"It's an ugly situation, where you're striving for more but achieving less," said Simon Sherry, one of the authors of the new study. "It's associated with writer's block, public speaking anxiety [and] fear for failure." All of these, he said, are traits students can relate to.

The study surveyed approximately 1,300 professors from psychology programs throughout North America. It suggests professors with high levels of perfectionism tend to produce less research.

—Torey Ellis, the Dalhousie Gazette

WORLD

World Editor Alex Mitsiopoulos • amitsiopoulos@thecord.ca

Making the case for the coca leaf

Bolivia has attempted to make diplomatic efforts to decriminalize the leaves, facing international scrutiny

DEVON COOTE
CORD WORLD

Bolivian citizens have been pushed to their limit by the United Nations (UN) 1961 convention effectively placing an international ban on the cultivation and use of coca leaves. Protestors demonstrated their discontent at a rally on Jan. 27 in front of the U.S. Embassy.

The Bolivian government, led by Evo Morales, is attempting to amend this treaty to permit the local use of coca leaf chewing and other common practices, while still maintaining control over its cultivation. UN representative Pablo Solon has explained that if the proposed amendment to sanction the chewing of coca leaves is not met, Bolivia will appeal to have the case brought to an international conference.

"Coca leaves is as culturally ingrained to them as coffee to us and the way it is used without being refined doesn't make it more a drug than coffee," explained Anne-Marie Colpron, professor of anthropology at Wilfrid Laurier University.

The coca leaf itself contains certain alkaloids, which can be extracted and used as the base ingredient in cocaine; however, the leaves themselves can be used for a variety of purposes such as tea and toothpaste. Additionally, chewing the leaves can diminish hunger and altitude illness.

"To understand the absurdity

of the situation, we just have to reverse it: how would we react if the UN would forbid the use of coffee in North America because it considers it harmful? The cultural impact would be huge and the protest totally understandable," continued Colpron.

The United States has released a formal objection to any amendments to the UN convention, arguing that permitting the use of coca leaves in any context would be detrimental to eradicating the drug industry.

Britain and Sweden have also filed objections to any potential amendments, while Spain openly supports Bolivia and Colombia.

"The United States' primary concern is probably drug importation; any drugs coming from anywhere into the U.S. is a threat to the U.S. That's why the U.S. is being sympathetic to the UN resolution," remarked Barry Kay, professor of political science at Laurier.

"Why is Spain taking the side of a drug culture? It is not that they really support a drug culture, they would define it in terms of a big country, like the U.S., is trying to impose its will on a poor Spanish speaking country," Kay concluded.

Bolivian citizens are in disbelief that any complaints have been made against the use of coca leaves.

Those who assembled at the U.S. Embassy were demonstrating that claims made by the U.S. hold no

"To understand the absurdity of the situation, we just have to reverse it: how would we react if the UN would forbid the use of coffee..."

—Anne-Marie Colpron
Professor of anthropology

influence over their activities and lifestyle.

The citizens are rejecting the legitimacy of a notion submitted by any international community that solicits to criminalize a deeply entrenched cultural practice that is not associated with drug use.

Residents of Bolivia are perplexed by the fact that countries like the U.S. are supporting the prohibition, essentially against Bolivian cultural practices, opposed to investigating the drug problem from within their own borders and jurisdiction.

"The gravity of the situation here, is the intrusion on other people's ways of life, the ethnocentrism of such a legislation: it is a Western based hegemony," Colpron concluded.



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abbr. **Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group**; a student funded, student-oriented organization that provides opportunities for Laurier students to create social change.

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"[I don't] have a lot of optimism that they're going to be able to push through." Michel Desjardins

Feral waves of democracy



ABCHARLIE CREATIVE COMMONS

Egyptian tank commander is celebrated in the streets of Cairo as the army supports popular protest. Uprisings in Tunisia have had residual effects in many Arab nations.

LINDSAY PURCHASE
STAFF WRITER

The road to democracy is not paved by founding fathers, grand speeches or a mere transfer of power facilitated by peaceful negotiations.

Rather, it seems that change must be fuelled by animosity and frustration, by violence and destruction, all in hopes of a less bleak tomorrow.

Following extreme upheaval in the North African country of Tunisia, Jan. 14 saw the expulsion of former President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, who had held power largely uncontested since 1987.

Considering the iron fist with which he had grasped power for so long, Ben Ali's submission to protestors' demands came unexpectedly quick.

Michel Desjardins, chair of the global studies department,

speculated, "He was aware of the degree of frustration and he knew that if he stayed around he had more to lose than if he left, so he took his money and ran."

The uprising was sparked in mid-December, when street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi died after lighting himself on fire in response to repressive actions by authorities.

This act of defiance resonated strongly with the oppressed Tunisians, who have been suffering from the effects of extremely high unemployment rates, corrupt government leadership and growing poverty.

Desjardins, commenting on the complexity of the situation, stated that it's simply not one issue pertaining to youth, economics or America but rather an inextricable web of factors.

America has had an undeniably strong influence in Tunisia since

the end of its colonization under France in 1957. The United States has often been condemned for their contradictory methods of supporting questionable governments while preaching democratic values.

"It puts America in a really awkward place," said Desjardins. "They can't be seen to go against this kind of movement and yet they've been supportive of the leaders for all this time."

He believes that the outcome is highly dependent on the actions of the Obama administration, whose support may be necessary for the formation of a new government.

The intensity of the uprising has been surprising to some, as Tunisia is often viewed as more economically stable than its Arab nation counterparts.

Currently, Prime Minister Mohammed Ghannouchi has taken

over as interim president.

In an attempt to placate protestors, Ghannouchi has now replaced twelve cabinet ministers in a large overhaul of the government.

The domino effect of the disturbances in Tunisia has already been followed by large-scale uprisings in Egypt and stirrings in Yemen.

On Feb. 1, long-term Egyptian President Mubarak responded to the quarter million protestors who had gathered in Cairo, demanding his immediate expulsion from the country.

Mubarak announced that he had never had intentions of returning for another six-year term in the fall.

On Jan. 31, Jordan's King Abdullah appointed a new prime minister and discharged his cabinet.

Newly appointed Prime Minister Marouf Bakhit is a returning figure, having held the position from 2005

to 2007. Opposition to the government appears to have aims to continue their objections, as many are questioning the depth these new changes will have.

Desjardins foresees a dismal fortune for other Arab countries, expecting that there will be "more repressions that will come by the regimes" to prevent any potential revolts.

He added that it was also likely the United States would tighten its talons in foresight of protecting foreign interests.

As for Tunisia, Desjardins said, "[I don't] have a lot of optimism that they're going to be able to push through."

Although resistance is still running strong, it remains a strong possibility that democracy will continue to be near in grasp, but out of hand for the citizens of the Arab world.

The ten dollar Taliban

AMANDA STEINER
STAFF WRITER

After almost a decade in Afghanistan, American and Canadian troops are considering the terms of their withdrawal.

In an attempt to compensate for their leave, negotiations between governments have been taking place for a tentative reintegration and reconciliation plan. Their success is dependent upon the co-operation with Taliban forces.

Dalibor Misina, professor of global studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, agreed that it is, in fact, "an attempt to do something as a substitute for the west not being there."

"Maybe this is an alternative way to try and stop the war," Misina added.

There are many complications with the reintegration and reconciliation plan. Mark Sedra, a senior fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation stated, "There are a number of certain criticisms towards this plan. For example, how do you tell who is actually a Taliban fighter? It's not like they carry ID cards."

The main element of the reconciliation plan is to offer a monetary incentive to Taliban fighters. In return, they must pledge to cease all operations. The monetary support would help reformed militants start a new life.

"Many of these people might not have any education or skills to enter a formal economy," Sedra said. "So

you help train them to be a carpenter, or you give them tools for farming, or they're given micro grants to open a small business."

Misina makes a clear distinction, however. He said, "I just want to clarify that reintegration and reconciliation are two different processes. Reintegration is basically trying to bring back soldiers and have them renounce violence and the Al Qaeda ideology and then offer them some financial opportunities as an exchange for their pledge not to participate in violence anymore."

"Reconciliation is trying to strike a political deal with the Taliban and having them participate in the official process of the country," he continued.

Though the reintegration and reconciliation plan is hopeful, it is quite complicated. According to an estimate by Sedra, Afghanistan has a 40-50 per cent unemployment rate, one of the lowest in the world. Sedra said, "People call them the 10 dollar Taliban because the assumption is that because they are so poor they are just fighting for money. A lot of the low level fighters fight on a temporary or seasonal basis. They will fight when they need money then go home and return again when they need more money."

For the rest of this story, check out thecord.ca/world



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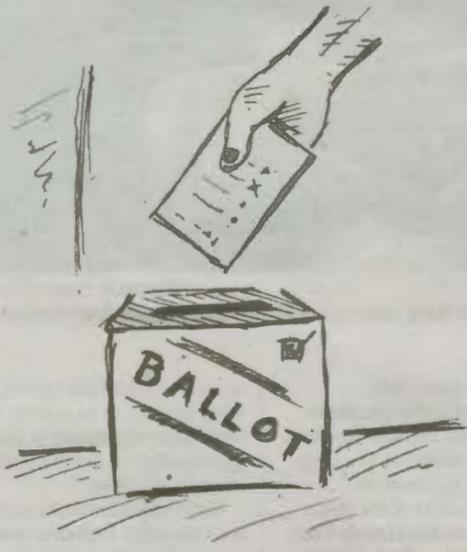


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Who are you voting for? The Co

In Depth Editor **Rebecca Vasluianu** sat down with each of the four presidential candidates in the 2011 Wilfrid Laurier University bring The Cord to the place on campus most representative of their time here as a student and a candidate, and were qu their responses on the five topics they were each asked about, as well as several personalized platform-based questions.



The questions

- 1 Why did you choose to meet here and how is this spot meaningful to you?
- 2 Aside from the goal of representing and serving students, why do you want to be president?
- 3 How well do you think WLUSU management is operating currently? What would you do better?
- 4 What would make you a better president than your opponents?
- 5 What is something about you that the electorate may not know?

The key issues this election season

- **Brantford autonomy** — This campaign season, there has been discussion of whether the campus should be given an independent Students' Union.
- **Fall reading week** — Universities across Canada have been debating whether to implement a fall Reading Week and candidates have discussed how they would lobby the university to achieve this goal.
- **WLUSU spending** — After the cost of the terrace expansion went over budget by \$430,541.13, there were questions as to whether the Students' Union has spent responsibly and whether this was the fault of the current board, management or the president.
- **Campus safety** — After a string of crime on the Waterloo campus, many candidates have mentioned student safety on and around campus as a key issue that needs to be addressed.

- 1 I enjoy the 24 lounge. It's a very social atmosphere, you can also get your work out and things like that. Around exam time maybe not so much because it gets a little bit busy in here.... I just enjoy when I'm studying, for example sitting at a table and laboring over my work, being in a comfortable position.... It's that sort of balance between all of that ... not stressing out too much.
- 2 Well, I didn't really think of it much beyond that. I guess I'm not sure if I'm really answering beyond that but I've enjoyed every single experience I've had at Laurier. Obviously there are days that are not the best in the world but every day and ever since I came to this campus I've just had a really good feeling about it. I sort of enjoy that I can give myself an opportunity to give back. But it's sort of a combination of that and that I think I'd be good in the role.
- 3 I sound like a broken record here but I think we run internally pretty well. Spending wise we need to be a lot more accountable. We were just talking about with things like the terrace expansion. Spending was not even the biggest problem. The biggest problem was the communication was awful and we broke procedure.... Those are problems. But the biggest thing like I said is that we have a lot of power in the students' union and we need to get that psychology back that says 'We are a strong union, we're going to work with the university in a professional manner but we're not going to get walked all over'... Damaging the relationship with the university shouldn't be our reason for not pushing for more.
- 4 I think it goes back to this notion of balance. I think that the most important thing for a president is to have that knowledge ... knowing exactly what they're getting into. Obviously they're going to have that learning curve going into it. The only person that wouldn't have it is a returning president.... But I believe with my knowledge and background I may have a pretty small learning curve. But I also think I bring that balance in the sense that I'm someone who's very approachable. I like to interact with students. I genuinely feel like I connect with students and I talk about their issues and their concerns. I think that sort of two-pronged balance is very important.
- 5 I guess I can say two things. The first thing is for people who may not know me they see me as a guy doing flash mobs and commercials and stuff like that. The reason why I did that is because I don't necessarily have the best name recognition, so I was trying to get my name out there ... trying to have some fun during this campaign and I think it's really important to engage students. But I do bring some substance. I do think my platform is very comprehensive but achievable.... I guess in a fun sense people may not know that I'm a Leafs fan ... it's one of the more delusional things I have. I'm also a Jays fan which is a bit less delusional.

- 1 The reason I chose to meet here is that it's a place I find I get the most work done.... I spend most of my time on campus. I need some sort of noise while I'm studying ... it's something that I've grown to like. You get to see a lot of people coming in here too so it's nice to see some friends on a daily basis.
- 2 I'd like to be president because in my four years I've really gone around and tried to meet as many people and I truly have had an amazing experience.... Just the ability to stay around a year longer ... I'm truly in love with the culture here. I've truly grown to love it. I've had a lot of experiences here that I've learned from.... I'm learning every day.... I love now having the chance to go and possibly affect it the other way. I can't imagine leaving right now. I think it's a good next step to affect the campus but also to learn more.
- 3 I think they're doing a good job. In talking to them myself, they have good ideas. They have some things that can be improved. I think a big thing right now is a lack of information students are getting. While the information is there, we'll say it's a lack of a communication medium.... I don't find the WLUSU website very interactive.... Even just having a calendar of knowing when events are, there are a lot of students who want to know what is going on or where resources are.
- 4 I think I would make a better president than my opponents because I think we all have very deep involvement, but in saying that, I know I've gone through my experience already to go out and meet people.... I've gone and met a lot of people and taken the time to get to know a lot of people and have conversations with them, to make the connections with them. Many of the other candidates may not have such strong relationships because of the choices that they've made.
- 5 I've heard other people saying that I'm pretty casual and laid back.... People have called me lazy and not hard working. One thing that may be important for students to realize is that I'm very passionate about school. I love this school more than be put into words. People who know me know that when I'm truly passionate about something I give everything I can to make it the best that it can be and this is something that I'm truly passionate about.... I'm a very approachable person but I'm very hard working. I've heard people to say to me that I'm like a chicken with my head cut off but I have destinations where I'm going.

Nick Gibson

Location: 24 Hour Lounge

Gibson is a fourth-year Political Science student with a minor in French. He has been a three-time Icebreaker at O-V Motion Volunteer and a member of the External Affairs of the Students' Union. He has also been president of the L alts for two years and a member of the Sigma Chi Intern



MEGAN CHERNIAK PH

Aeron Lawrence

Location: 24 hour lounge compu

Lawrence is a fourth-year business student. He has been DU@L (Discussing University at Laurier), Residence Life and Ice Breaker for Orientation Week. He has also been involved in Habitat for Humanity and has worked as a Special Constable Within Laurier Athletics. Lawrence has participated in m



MEGAN CHERNIAK PH

The Cord profiles your candidates.

Windsor University Students' Union (WLUSU) Elections to be held today and tomorrow. Each individual was asked to answer questions, and were questioned on important issues ranging from student engagement to WLUSU spending. Read below for their answers to the most asked questions. While each response has been shortened, full-length videos of each interview are available at thecord.ca

Lawrence Location: Lounge

Lawrence is a Business student with a minor in Psychology. He has been involved with the Student Union, Residence Life and was a Head of House. He has also been involved with A-Team, worked as a Special Constables Dispatcher, and has participated in men's varsity rugby.



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Matt Park Location: The Concourse

Park is a sixth-year Political Science student. He has served as a director and chair on the WLUSU Board of Directors. Along with serving on the Board of Governors, he has sat on several advisory councils regarding Student Services and the One Card. Park has also been Vice President and President of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and worked as a Residence Life Don.



ELLI GARLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

- 1 I think it's because it's a central location. For me a lot of it was when I chose to come where I wanted to be on campus for the interview a whole lot of places went through my mind: somewhere in residence, maybe in Wilf's.... But I basically fell back to this idea. I've spent so much time in here writing papers, I've spent so much time in here talking to friends and just wandering around even that the Concourse made the most sense
- 2 For me the final decision factor came down to I was looking around campus one day and I still felt like there were a lot of things that could be changed. This is my last year as a student and it just didn't seem right to say 'Alright well things aren't right but I'm just going to leave'. I've gotten a lot from Laurier. I've met some amazing people and I feel like it's really changed how I am and my outlook on life. And I feel like it would be really selfish to just say 'Well, I'm going to leave. I'm not going to try and change anything'
- 3 I think what I can do better is for one bring a wealth of experience to the organization. Like I said I've got a certain amount of experience at the management level of the students' union so I'm not going to have to spend a long amount of time figuring out how a \$13 million budget works.... Instead of sitting in a boardroom or in an office and thinking 'Why aren't students interested in what we're doing?' ... it's getting out of that room and talking to them. Management isn't doing that right now. And the easiest way to solve that is to just get out and talk to them.
- 4 I don't really think it's about me. I don't really think it's about them. A lot of what I think it breaks down to is an experienced standpoint.... I'm the only candidate who's been involved in management in the Students' Union before, I'm the only candidate who's done budgeting for the Students' Union before, I'm the only candidate who's done VP Hiring before.... With the exception of Nick Gibson I'm the only candidate who's been lobbying government. And I think that that has a huge impact. Instead of learning what all of that means, I can go to the office on day one, I can prioritize and I can start working on what my platform initiatives are.
- 5 I think that the biggest thing is people feel like I might not be that personable or that I'm just not interested. And it couldn't be further from the truth. Throughout this campaign students aren't going to see me out dancing and singing ... it's not my personality. But I couldn't be more interested in who they are, why they're here and what they want to get out of the university. My passion may not be perfectly visible every time. But when we start talking about the issues I think it will really come across.

Lawrence Location: lounge computer lab

Lawrence is a Business student. He has been involved with the Student Union, Residence Life and was a Head of House. He has also been involved with A-Team, worked as a Special Constables Dispatcher, and has participated in men's varsity rugby.



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Dan La Cute Location: Hall of Fame

La Cute is a fourth-year Communication Studies student. He was President of Activities for his House Council and a member of A-Team for two years. He has worked at Wilf's as Programming Assistant. La Cute has also been a Residence Life Don for two years, has volunteered with 5 Days for the Homeless and worked as a Student Ambassador.



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

- 1 The reason why I chose the Hall of Fame is that we wanted to meet in Wilf's but unfortunately because it would be actively campaigning we weren't allowed to. Wilf's has been pretty important to me in terms of my extra-curricular involvement. In my first two years I did A-Team for two years and then in my third year I was also the Alumni and Promotions person for Winter Carnival and then I worked in the kitchen and then this year I'm a program person for Wilf's and the Turret. So I've spent a lot of time in Wilf's and I think that that's had a huge impact on my extra-curricular involvement and definitely made me into the person that I am today.
- 2 I think this is a great opportunity to get to know more students and get to hear about their needs. I would consider myself a very approachable person and I think that because of that I can actually get out there and get to know what students actually want. I know that past presidents haven't always been the most open to hearing new ideas and they're busy with policies but I really want to make myself more approachable to all students.
- 3 I think WLUSU management is doing a really great job. I think that Kyle, although he received a little bit of flack on the Terrace expansion, a lot of the finances were out of his control. And although we did have to spend that additional money I think that it's benefiting students in the long run. And in the sense of the VPs and the management group I think they're doing a great job. But I think one of the main things that I hear from students time and time again is just communication. Students don't know who are the management group... so I think it's about getting out there and making sure students are aware.
- 4 My involvement on campus. Because of the fact that I've done so many things I think I can pull my various experiences together to pull towards it. I'm also actively engaged in the community. I know a lot of people on campus.... Because if I feel like I know many people then I can just go talk to people.
- 5 I'm the oldest of four kids. My sister goes to Western, both my brothers are in high school back home in Orangeville. Maybe something that they wouldn't know is that my parents have been really supportive of me and my family is actually coming to hear the results on Thursday. So if everyone comes out to hear the results on Thursday you can meet my dad, my sister and my brother.

FEATURES

Features Editor Vacant • editor@thecord.ca

Wisdom for the body

A local registered nutritionist gives advice on what kinds of foods will encourage a healthy student lifestyle — from consuming healthy fats to those nights out drinking

YENNY VAN ANDEL
STAFF WRITER

As many Laurier students can attest to, eating healthy during university can be a challenge.

Not only are we bombarded with unhealthy food options, we don't always have the time or finances to buy healthy alternatives.

Joanne Willis-Smith, a registered nutritionist in Kitchener, shared some helpful tips and insight into the world of healthy eating.

Having battled and won against lymphoma cancer at age 26, she dedicated her life to learning ways to strengthen her immune system, eat healthy and help others become aware of the importance of a healthy diet.

According to Willis-Smith, one of the most important foods that many people are deficient in is fatty acids.

"Society has been told we are supposed to go on a low fat or no-fat diet to lose weight."

She continued by describing our bodies as a building made of bricks and cement. "However, this causes our cell health to be lacking."

When we are lacking in certain nutrients and essential fatty acids like Omega 3, the cement holding the bricks together can crumble,

causing our bodies to be "wide open to free radicals."

"It is important to include the good fats in your diet," Joanne continued. "Walnuts, fruits and vegetables, avocado, salmon, almonds and nuts are all good choices."

She also stressed the importance of cooking with the right fats such as coconut oil, avocado oil and cold pressed extra virgin olive oil.

In a perfect world, we would eat healthy foods all the time and never get sick.

However, we are not living in a perfect world and frankly, many of us don't have time to always stick to eating healthy while studying for midterms and juggling a social life.

In light of this, Willis-Smith gives a few suggestions for university students who are busy and lacking in the financial department.

"At this point in your life, you need your brains right now for the best performance," Willis-Smith said, referring to the intense workout our brains go through during a term.

"That's why it is important to fuel your body with protein to feel full and complex carbohydrates to balance blood sugar levels."

She thinks portable healthy food is important and said it can take a bit of planning and preparation.

"Boiling eggs or having cans of tuna to put in salads," she said, are a cheap way to get protein into our diets.

Most fruits and vegetables are inexpensive too and can be brought on-the-go to class. "Just try to eat as close to natural as you can," Willis-Smith hints.

When you do eat out, there are things to avoid and things to look for. "Try to order foods that have been steamed or grilled over other options," she recommended. "Also, pass on dips and sauces."

Finally, what is the 411 on drinking alcohol? Willis-Smith is a fountain of knowledge on this topic as well.

"Frankly, it's not bad to have two or three drinks a week," she postulated. "However with more than that your liver is being taxed."

She continued, "all alcohol, whether it's beer or vodka, burdens the liver because it causes it to become busy detoxifying. It's busy regulating your blood sugar levels, your protein levels and more."

So, she gives a few tips: "Eat healthy complex carbohydrates and protein right before you go out drinking for a good base." She also suggested, if possible, to "alternate drinks with water to keep hydrated."

The important thing to realize is

“
Eat healthy complex carbohydrates and protein right before you go out drinking for a good base.”

—Joanne Willis-Smith
Nutritionist

that by making small changes now in your diet, there can be long-lasting effects for the future.

Willis-Smith, having battled cancer and won, is an inspiration for us all. She realizes the importance of eating healthy in relation to overall strength and immunity.

Why wait for a wake-up call twenty years down the road? Make positive dietary changes now and increase your chances of a long, healthy life.

After all, wisdom is to the mind what health is to the body.

Food for thought

COLLEEN CONNOLLY
STAFF WRITER

We are faced with many changes in university — one being our diet. Our cupboards at school become filled with processed food when we say goodbye to home-cooked meals.

However, there are some consistencies when it comes to being a post-secondary student — like the objective of an education.

Even though there are no foods that can necessarily make us smarter, there are some that can benefit our brains more than others.

Peter Tiidus, professor of kinesiology at Laurier, stated, "The brain is made up of neurons and their development and health depends on the supply of appropriate fatty acids."

He also added that "Omega 3 fatty acids in particular" are beneficial.

Those in abundance will allow the brain to appropriately function.

"[It's] a molecule that is very important to making the signalling work well in the brain and is one of the things that our diet is rare in," explained Rudy Eikelboom, chair of the psychology department, of Omega 3, which are found largely in fish and nuts.

Antioxidants are another source of benefit for the brain; they increase its longevity and are found abundantly in berries.

Tiidus explained that "oxygen is an oxidizing agent. It will react with cells and start to break them down... antioxidants prevent a lot of this damage."

Some of the things that may slow down the aging process would include eating fruits and vegetables which contain antioxidants," but to my surprise (and delight) other foods that are high in these molecules include chocolate and coffee.

Their advantages go further: "there are substances in chocolate and in caffeine that are stimulants and have the properties to bring you to a state of alertness," explained Eikelboom.

"He goes on to say that 'stimulation to a certain level is positive, but beyond that level it might become detrimental.'

Moderation is the key to keeping healthy in any sense.

In regards to what we eat, "Some of it is great and some of it is not so good," said Eikelboom.

"And we may need to supplement some of what we get for that balanced diet we need to make the brain work well."

Think local

NATASHA TACCHI
STAFF WRITER

Eating local food is better for the environment, our bodies and our taste buds. There is something satisfying about knowing where the meal you're eating came from and that you are making a positive impact on local farmers by consuming it. Wilfrid Laurier University is surrounded by a very resourceful landscape, which the majority of the student population doesn't put to their advantage.

To encourage these students to eat locally, Alison Blay-Palmer, professor of geography and environmental studies at Laurier, suggested that there should be a direct bus to the nearest market available to encourage them to buy and eat locally. There are currently busses that will bring patrons to the market, but not without transfers, which can be time-consuming.

"Students need to be educated and care where their food is coming from," said Blay-Palmer. "Ask the vendors if their food is local as it demonstrates that students care about their food choices."

Students who wish to experience the excitement of local culture at St. Jacob's Market on Thursdays and Saturdays need to be informed individuals as well. Remember to ask the other vendors if their products are local and organic before assuming they are, as the vegetables and fruit sold during the winter are normally brought from the Toronto Food Terminal. A great alternative to driving or bussing to St. Jacobs is joining Bailey's buying club, which brings local and seasonal food to KW residents every 4-6 weeks.

Buying local not only has the benefits of tasting fresher but is a lot more energy efficient and better for the Canadian economy.

There are also sustainable food conferences and talks occurring throughout the year for individuals yearning to become more knowledgeable in organic, local and eco-friendly food products. Upcoming events include the "Growing a Greener Future from Field to Table" conference in Toronto and "Farming for Foodies: The realities of farming sustainably in Ontario," to be held in Kitchener.

It takes a lot of planning to buy locally and often as students we find ourselves with empty cupboards, relegated to eating on campus. When buying lunch or snacks on campus, be aware that some of the vendors are more environmentally friendly than others. Also, there is always the weekly WLU Farm Market, which offers locally grown foods for a good price.

And when you do have to make a hasty trip to the grocery store, remember that the basic products that you normally buy there are usually processed at some point or another from a group of major corporations.

With the rise in our student population, we can have more of an impact on what food is sold at our university. Students that are interested in purchasing smarter food can join a share in a community-supported agricultural co-op (CSA).

By knowing that your money is going directly to producing quality food you can rest assured that you will positively impact your local community, while satisfying your body.



ARTS

Arts Editor Sarah Murphy • smurphy@thecord.ca

Fr!nge provides alternative theatre

The 2011 edition of the festival delivered a variety of memorable theatrical and cinematic performances

SARAH MURPHY
ARTS EDITOR

Only at Laurier's Fr!nge Festival could one see a horror movie, an absurdist one-act play and an a cappella performance — all within a two-hour span.

This past weekend, all of these and more were delivered to small but enthusiastic crowds at Laurier's Maureen Forrester Recital Hall.

The annual Fr!nge Festival has become a staple source of Laurier talent over the last few years, delivering a wide range of student-written, directed and performed material.

The Cord spoke to the festival's marketing director, emcee and actress in multiple plays Keegan Chambers about the festival preparation process and balancing student life with the demanding rehearsal schedule.

The writers and directors kick off the process, formulating and scripting their ideas before auditions begin in September.

Talking about the audition process, Chambers explained that Fr!nge doesn't want to just be dependent on returning performers. "As much as you can know people who acted in stuff last year, you always want fresh talent," she stated. In terms of dealing with the

extensive practice schedule, Chambers explained, "It's hard to find a balance between something that you're really passionate about and making sure you get all your assignments done on time."

She also noted that the production had to overcome challenges like finding times that everyone in the larger casts could rehearse and missing class to make tech and dress rehearsals.

As marketing director for Fr!nge, Chambers was in charge of advertising this year's show and stated that one of her main goals was to get the community outside of Laurier involved. She believes that the student-run productions provide a

"really cool opportunity" for local Waterloo residents to try something new. "Part of the reason I was drawn to Laurier [was that] I was really intrigued by the fact that there's so much going on," said Chambers.

"There's St. Jacob's market, all the local shops uptown, there's such a diversity in the town and there's so many cool things you can do," she continued, also noting the alternative arts culture that is nurtured by businesses like Princess Cinema and local craft fairs.

Fr!nge stays true to this tradition, providing an option other than going to Galaxy Cinema to see a blockbuster movie.

Chambers also pointed out that

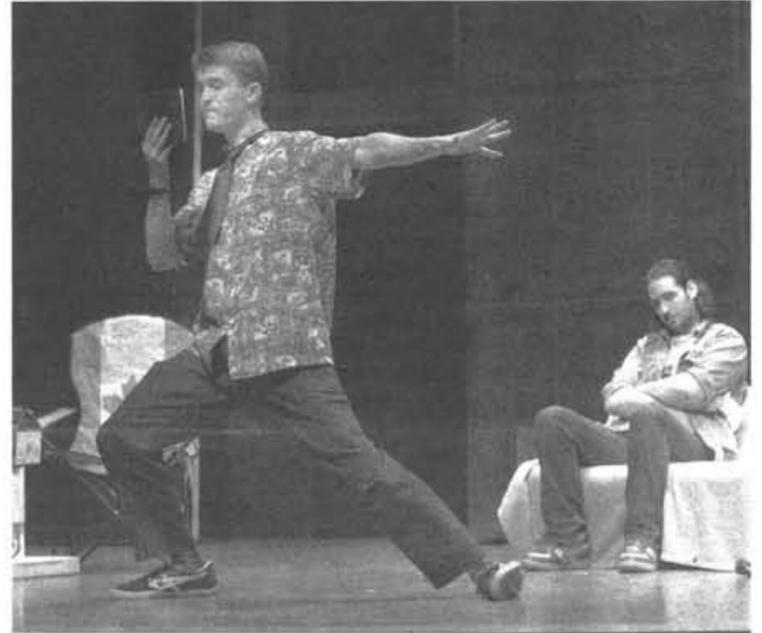
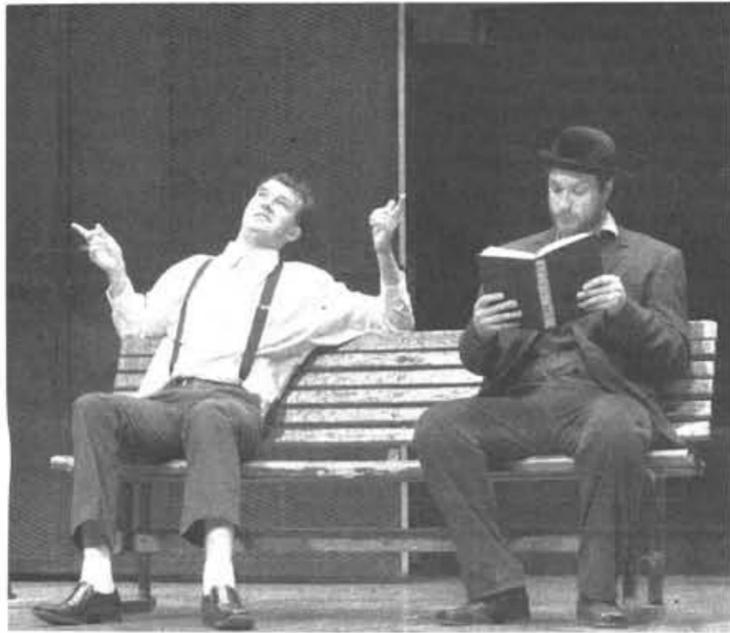
the more controversial pieces, especially from last year's show, are great indicators of how this generation of students is currently thinking.

Submissions are "not always about trying to make the audience laugh," explained Chambers, "Sometimes it's about an expression of the artist."

With Fr!nge over for the year, hopefully the festival will continue to grow and expand amongst the Waterloo community.

"Personally I think everything went really well. I mean, all of the directors obviously have their ideas of what 'well' is," said Chambers.

"But there's always things to learn from."



ELLI GARLIN AND NICK LACHANCE

Performances from (L-R) *Brouhaha*, *Sports Bar* and *The One* entertained crowds on Thursday, Friday and Saturday night as part of Laurier's annual Fr!nge Festival.

In review: Festival performances

Hawkapella

Laurier's a cappella group opened the night, showing off the members' vocal talent, though the performance failed to fully engage the audience right off the bat.

Instrument-free renditions of both Lauryn Hill's "Doo Wop (That Thing)" and Beyoncé's "Ego" were delivered by the group.

The co-ed singing group, clad in black, demonstrated their ability to create pleasant-sounding harmonies, while keeping the beat with rhythmic snapping.

The group will also be performing on Valentine's Day.

Murder by Midnight

Directed by: Luke Dotto
Written by: Jeff Goode
Produced by: Lauren Vastano-Beltrano

In this ten-minute murder mystery play written by Jeff Goode and produced by Lauren Vastano-Beltrano, Dick Piston (Luke Dotto) is enlisted to solve a crime reported to him by a woman in nothing but a towel (Keegan Chambers).

The cast creatively toyed with typical crime-drama and film noir characteristics.

The self-reflexivity of the genre was amusing, the recurring "novelty egg timer" joke received laughs and the speedy dialogue kept viewers

paying attention.

Though entertaining, certain parts of the play seemed a little too overacted and the production as a whole could have benefited from the performances being reined in a bit at times.

The amusing plot twist at the end was an unexpected, but funny, way to bring the one-act to a close.

The Nightshift

Written, directed & produced by: Mike McMurrin

The only film submission at this year's Fr!nge, *The Nightshift* was written, directed and produced by Mike McMurrin.

Short in length, the movie tells the story of two employees (played by Kenny Mak and Lisa Sondergaard) working a late night shift in a restaurant with a gruesome past.

Before leaving for the night, their manager tells them a tale about a series of murders that had taken place years ago in the very same restaurant. In a bizarre twist, employees Billy and Laurie get transported back in time and relive the horrific murders from the past.

The cast wasn't particularly impressive, though they managed to carry the movie through to the end.

The film provided a few frightening moments with its grisly murder scenes, though the plot was ultimately too confusingly played out

for the twists to have any real impact on the audience.

The One

Written & Directed by: Taryn Parrish
Stage Manager: Jocelyn Smith

The final piece before the intermission really got the crowd engaged, as the theatre erupted in laughter throughout most of Taryn Parrish's one-act play *The One*.

Set in the living room of roommates Kyle, Steve and Brent (played by Kevin Hatch, Wade Thompson and Nathaniel Andrew), hilarity ensues when Kyle returns home from a date with a girl that he determinedly believes is "the one."

Hatch delivered one of the most animated performances of the evening, raving ecstatically about his dream girl — who it was later revealed wore cargo pants under her dress and wrote awful poetry by plagiarizing pop songs, all while sporting a furby tattoo.

An example of said poetry? An exact replica of "Safety Dance."

The script was hysterically funny, and Thompson and Andrew provided the perfect sarcastic foils to the over-enthusiastically giddy Hatch, making it one of the most entertaining segments of the night.

If that wasn't enough, the cast members took their bows as "Safety Dance" played. Awesome.

Sports Bar

Written & directed by: Jennilee Hodgson
Stage Manager: Kate Cooper

Definitely the low point of the evening, the performances delivered in *Sports Bar* left the audience uninterested and restless.

What was in reality probably a 15-minute play seemed to drag on for an eternity of boring, badly written and acted scenes. The play tells the story of a failing sports bar, whose disgruntled employees seek revenge against their shady manager Shirley Baxton.

The dialogue was awkwardly worded and painful to listen to at times — though this could have been because it was in place to fuel the meandering and ridiculous plot. A larger-than-necessary cast of bar employees played out an attack on Baxton, which was portrayed as shadow figures behind screens.

Although this effect hinted at a creative idea, it wasn't carried out particularly well, as audience members not sitting directly in the middle of the theatre had to awkwardly view actors sticking out from behind the lit screens.

Transitions between scenes were haphazardly organized, adding an almost welcome distraction from the action of the play. Regardless of how individual audience members interpreted the show, it is clear that *Sports Bar* sparked discussion. Just not the good kind.

Brouhaha

Written & directed by: Wade Thompson
Stage Manager: Taryn Parrish

This absurdly entertaining one-act from writer and director Wade Thompson shone the spotlight on a collection of quirky characters waiting at a bus stop.

The clever script revolved around a mysterious character named Thomas, who the audience never gets to meet. The frustratingly witty banter between characters who were equally hilarious and infuriating provided laughs throughout the duration of the one-act play.

The action opened with actors Shawn Trask and Travis Herron, who delivered two of the strongest performances of the night. Timing and pacing were executed near perfectly, contributing to a production that was genuinely entertaining, if a bit obscure for some viewers. The remaining cast members each completed their acting positions with skill, while Thompson and Kevin Hatch each added the role of puppeteer to their Fr!nge resume.

The two puppets provided even further comic relief, as did an ever-changing bus stop sign — though both of these components were able to provide laughs without becoming gimmicky.

Channeling absurdist experts like Beckett and Monty Python, *Brouhaha* was an excellent ending to 2011's Fr!nge Festival.

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ELLI GARLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Martina Sorbara stole the stage at Dragonette's Starlight show.

Dragonette 'Thrill' audience at Starlight on Friday night

LIZ SMITH
CORD ARTS

The crowd at the Starlight Lounge in Waterloo was perceptibly anxious on Friday night as they awaited Canadian electro-pop trio Dragonette on stage.

Cheers erupted as singer Martina Sorbara, bassist Dan Kurtz and drummer Joel Stouffer appeared through the backdrop and delighted the crowd by opening with "I Get Around," the intoxicatingly catchy hit from their 2007 debut album *Galore*.

The intimate atmosphere of the show can be accredited to pint-sized frontwoman Martina Sorbara, who charmed the audience with her playful rapport and self-deprecating humour, telling the crowd she had nearly been "fired from playing the guitar in this band" the previous week.

"I'm not lightning fingers McGee or whatever the fuck I'm supposed to be," joked the singer before launching into "Fire In Your New Shoes" in a voice both girlish and raspy.

The energy in the Starlight

Lounge only grew as the night went on and the crowd danced their way through a set of high-energy tracks from 2009's *Fixing To Thrill*, plus other singles like the current chart-climber "Hello" featuring Martin Solveig.

The energy peaked when the band pounded out the title track "Fixing To Thrill," as the audience jumped up and down to the beat like a single entity.

"Best, most fun show ever," a breathless Sorbara crooned at the close of the song, just before leaving the stage.

The band reappeared moments later to play an encore consisting of "Volcano" and "Big Sunglasses."

The numerous fans singing along to every song was a good indicator of the successes Dragonette have enjoyed over the past several years.

Notably, they garnered a 2008 Juno nomination for Best New Group, while Kurtz and Sorbara have collaborated with Cyndi Lauper for her album *Bring Ya To the Brink* in 2008.

Although it may not be able to compare in size to shows in their recent catalogue, such as Lollapalooza

"I'm not lightning McGee or whatever the fuck I'm supposed to be."

—Martina Sorbara
Vocalist/guitarist, Dragonette

this past summer, the band members were obviously fond of the Starlight.

"We made a super effort to be here tonight because this was one of the best shows we played last year," bassist Dan Kurtz told the crowd. "We're talking about moving to KW." Doubtful, as the trio are currently living and recording in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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Dear Life,
As one of this year's JDC Central Co-Captains for Laurier, I truly appreciate the hard work and dedication of The Cord in covering this weekend's events. They all but glossed over the fact that Laurier was victorious in one of the most prestigious business competitions in Canada, and more importantly, disregarded the involvement of anyone actually on the delegation when asking for quotes. Instead, the real crux of the weekend was covered, when for the first 7 paragraphs everything except the results were disclosed. Perhaps when someone from Laurier wins a Nobel Prize, they will get a front page article. Here's to hoping.
Sincerely,
Disgruntled Captain

Dear Life,
Are you kidding me Library employee on the 7th floor?!? For the last 35 minutes you've been banging your cart on every fucking shelf in this place! I came here for quiet not to experience you trying to make sound effects for some shitty action movie! What are you even doing? This is INSANE!
Sincerely,
Maybe You Could Drive That Cart Better Sober!

Dear Life,
I am a second year student who was recently robbed by Laurier. Over the winter break, my Onecard had all the funds removed without any notice whatsoever. When I inquired about this, I was told that I had received numerous emails about this and I should have used the remaining money first semester. Funny, these emails must be non-existent because no one I know heard anything about this.
Sincerely,
Now even poorer than I was before the holidays

Dear Life,
It's the fourth week of classes and I'm already getting annoyed with my fellow classmates. Stop spamming my mylearningspace.wlu email account with your weak-ass request for lecture notes that you have missed. I don't care if you missed class for reasons legitimate or not the only way you are getting my notes is if you ask me in person like a respectable human-being and fellow scholar or are a student using the ALC instead of someone who is looking for a free leg up.
Sincerely,
I Make the Effort to Make Friends in Class So I Can Get Notes and Study With Other People, Grow Some Social Skill Outside of Facebook and Twitter and Go To Class

Dear life,
Keep up the good work.
Sincerely,
Hey Look, I'm Not Crying Like a Little Bitch

Dear Life,
As I sit at work on campus, recovering from a bottle of diet pop exploding all over my desk, legs, chair, and floor, my boss walks in with a Starbucks hot chocolate for me - WITH WHIPPED CREAM. Life, how am I supposed to stick to my diet when you have Boss Man bring me such irresistible treats? As I raise the steamy cocoa to my lips, the whipped goodness dribbles down my chin and onto my shirt and pants to join the spilled pop.
Query answered.
Sincerely,
Diet: 4 since breakfast, Me: 0.

Dear Life,
The director of Laurier Musical Theatre's production, "College: The Musical," was quoted in the Cord as saying "There's a ton of talent at Laurier in singing, acting, and dancing, and there's no - at least academic way - to do that."
One of my fellow singers went to the Dean of Music and told him this. The Dean stared for a moment, and then laughed. The student who said this is a superb singer and is in the Performance stream/opera program. Singing, and acting, for credit. Most operas have dance, too.
Sincerely,
Elusive John-Aird Native
P.S. We have a class called "Acting for Singers," too

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EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • merkley@thecord.ca

Cord endorsements: WLUSU president

Nick Gibson



REBECCA VASLUIANU
IN DEPTH EDITOR

Last year I believe The Cord made a mistake in endorsing Kyle Walker: the likeable, less knowledgeable candidate. So this year I have made a conscious effort not to let irrelevant criteria affect me and to select the best candidate for the job.

With this in mind, it's clear that the choice comes down to Nick Gibson and Matt Park. And while Park dominated the all-candidates debate and open forum, his platform falls short in focusing on smaller issues on campus but not making any substantial promises.

Like Park, Gibson has also demonstrated impressive knowledge of policy governance. However, he couples this with a promise to put more onus on the university in terms of providing for students' needs. He has also impressed me with his strong stance on the contentious issue of the dining business that is the Dining Hall. I also believe he has the knowledge and confidence to allow him not to be used as a puppet to further upper management's goals.

I would like to end with an anti-endorsement of Aeron Lawrence, whose platform is full of bizarre promises and seems haphazardly thrown together with spelling mistakes. His ideas are extremely vague and indeterminate, and he's given no indication throughout his campaign of a clear vision or understanding of the Students' Union.

—Disclaimer: Nick Gibson is an opinion columnist for The Cord

Nick Gibson



ERIC MERKLEY
OPINION EDITOR

As one who is admittedly not WLUSU's biggest fan, I came into the presidential race skeptical to say the least. Instead, I find myself strongly backing Nick Gibson as the next president of the union. I am thoroughly impressed with his desire to flex the union's muscle to push the university to fix the Dining Hall, which is a sad joke.

Nick gets the fact that one of the primary roles of the union is to advocate on behalf of student interests. He also understands that WLUSU needs to be prudent and business-like in handling its finances — something lost upon successive administrations.

While Matt Park is the most well spoken of the candidates, his platform is thin on both vision and details. I am always skeptical of career student politician types and there are serious questions that arise from his record with the union.

In terms of other candidates, Dan La Cute has put too much focus on the panda bear novelty. While seemingly a likeable guy, he clearly falls behind Gibson and Park in terms of grasp of the issues.

Aeron Lawrence's platform of video games and cots doesn't warrant any serious consideration. After watching the debates it is clear that "Aero" hasn't a clue what is going on. His election would be a tragedy for Laurier students.

The choice is clear on Feb. 3 - 4.
—Disclaimer: Nick Gibson is an opinion columnist for The Cord

Matt Park



MIKE LAKUSIAK
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

I had this year's candidates narrowed down to two from the get-go. One, Nick Gibson came out strong as the affable and knowledgeable advocacy candidate, the one with the grasp of how to appeal to both informed and uninformed Laurier voters. The other, Matt Park, while asking voters to "imagine" and a platform riddled with third person references, seemed to bring forward just about the only buzzword to actually resound with those who care: "experience".

While Park's tenure with WLUSU as a director and onetime chair of the board built the experience he wields against the others, during that time he was known around this office for refusing to comment or co-operate with The Cord. Not involved at that time, however, I can't hold that against him now and look at his knowledge and realistic ideas first. Dan La Cute seems willing to learn, but with one-year terms and strong competition, leaning on a monochromatic animal prop — oddly reminiscent of last year's less-experienced candidate — isn't enough. Aero is an afterthought in this race, he admitted as much at the close of open forum. Nick Gibson, while he would make a damn good president, seems less self-sufficient than Park and lacks the inside-out WLUSU knowledge.

Log in, close your eyes, and click Matt Park. If you miss and click Gibson it wouldn't be the end of the world though.

Nick Gibson



ALANNA WALLACE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Out of the gates, I knew exactly who I wanted to endorse and why. Nick Gibson had the experience and intelligence to win me over right off the bat. His charisma has failed to wane despite Matt Park's "dark horse" campaign which, much to my surprise, has garnered some of my respect. The WLUSU election has become nothing but a three-ring circus of animal costumes, shit videos and empty promises. And while Gibson did prescribe to some gimmicky methods, behind his tactics was a solid platform of concrete ideas — ideas that, unlike other candidates, he would have the power to make as WLUSU president.

Dan La Cute is kind-hearted and appears to genuinely care about student needs — but that doesn't necessarily mean he would be the best president. And Aeron Lawrence seems completely out to lunch when it comes to union operations and the relationships therein. Although torn between both Gibson and Park, the latter's history at the university and union makes me weary. I question whether he's apt to take over a union that has undergone drastic changes and is extremely different than the one he left three years ago.

At the end of the day, I hope that for once Laurier students understand that their WLUSU president doesn't have to be their best friend — they have to run a \$13 million corporation.

—Disclaimer: Nick Gibson is an opinion columnist for The Cord

Vote for no one



LINDA GIVETASH
NEWS DIRECTOR

The recurring themes in the campaigns and debates this election season have centered on the students' union's lack of communication with the student body and the need to reach out to students beyond the Fred Nichols Campus Centre.

Despite every undergraduate student paying fees to WLUSU, they are generally uninformed and uninterested about the very purpose of the union.

This fact rang clear in last year's election with only a pitiful 14 per cent of the student body taking the time to cast a ballot.

I suspect little will change with online voting. That minority, rather than having a real voice, will split their voice between Gibson and Park who have a policy backgrounds, La Cute with strong experience in student life and Lawrence who fails to exhibit any comprehension of the union or role of the president.

Rather than endorsing one candidate from a pool that promise similar sentiments as years past to connect with students, I am endorsing an option for the apathetic majority. On Feb. 3 and 4, get online and scrap your ballot.

For those who don't care, don't know or don't support any of the candidates, tell the union just that. Voting for no one tells WLUSU that while you care about where your tuition fees are going, they have failed to engage or represent you. Get your money's worth and vote for you.

Board of Directors

The Cord editorial board endorses candidates for the 2011-12 board

Luke Dotto

After an impressive performance at the open forum, Luke Dotto has earned our endorsement for first-year director.

He demonstrated knowledge of the union and its operations and had clearly done his research in preparation for his campaign.

Dotto has plenty of on-campus experience and has worked on campaigns before.

His focus on advocacy and lobbying will be a welcome alternative in the boardroom.

Jon Pryce

Jon Pryce should be re-elected to the board of directors.

He continuously advocates for the needs of students, as was exemplified by his institution of an online live feed of each board meeting.

He consistently reminds fellow board members of ownership linkage and without him, that voice

would be a great loss.

His genuine care and concern for students should continue on the board.

—Disclosure: Jon Pryce is a candidate for the WLUSP BOD

Chris Oberle

Throughout his two-year tenure on the board, Oberle has been consistently well-prepared and engaged during meetings. He displays a strong grasp of Robert's Rules and WLUSU policy.

Oberle is not afraid to speak, particularly when it comes to keeping the president and management of the union honest. He asks tough questions at the right times and knows when to listen and learn from others. We are confident that he could step up next year and take on more of a leadership role.

Chris Oberle should be re-elected to the board in the hopes that he will become chair of the board of directors in 2011-2012.



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Presidential candidates (L-R): Matt Park, Nick Gibson, Aeron Lawrence and Dan La Cute.

THE FORUM

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • merkley@thecord.ca

Letters to the Editor

Music students underappreciated

RE: LMT shows Laurier how to party, Jan 19

I always know when it's Wednesday. The new issue of *The Cord* comes out and someone always has something to gripe about. This week was no exception. While reading the fascinating review of Laurier Musical Theatre's (LMT) "College: The Musical," I was struck by the bold quote within from director Greg Evans: "There's a ton of talent at Laurier in singing, acting and dancing, and there's no — at least academic way — to do that." This caused quite an uproar amongst the music students. I had to re-read the article. Did my eyes deceive me or did my entire degree just get undermined?

Perhaps Mr. Evans' words got misconstrued or perhaps I am over-reacting, but I find myself taking this statement to mean that LMT is the only outlet for musicians at this school. May I direct your attention to the world-renowned Music Faculty, employing some of North America's finest performers, conductors, coaches and composers, and offering one of Canada's finest Bachelor's degrees in Honors Music.

I immensely appreciate the outlet provided for musical theatre. It was my first love as a performer and brings joy and entertainment to millions.

If you're looking for an academic avenue into Laurier's music program, why not audition for one of our many fine ensembles? It has been my personal observations that music students are bar none the busiest and most academically challenged by their degree. So if you are searching for an artistic and academic challenge, please stop by the John Aird Building! There's more to our faculty than a giant elevator.
—Samantha Pickett

In this article the director, Greg Evans, states "There's a ton of talent at Laurier in singing, acting and dancing, and there's no — at least academic way — to do that." On the contrary, Laurier has a grand and well known Music Faculty. Within the music faculty there is the voice department. The voice department puts on an opera and opera excerpts every year where there is plenty of singing, acting and dancing. The students involved in the opera and opera excerpts are graded unless they are a volunteer.

What Evans states in the article does not make sense. I'm sure a lot of business students would be puzzled if I said "There is a ton of talent at Laurier in budgeting, arithmetic, and economics but there is no — at least academic way — to do that". This is complete hokum because Laurier is primarily well known for its Business and Economics Faculty. To recap there is a music faculty at this school and we pride ourselves on our rigorous training. The opera this year is Mozart's "The Magic Flute." You should all come and experience the wonderful singing, acting and dancing!
—Travis Smalley

Arts co-op offers valuable skills for students

RE: Laurier arts co-op needs to be reformed, Jan 19

Individual student interests are diverse within Arts Co-op and the number of academic programs is high (more than 20 different majors). Many students see co-op as a chance to clarify their interests and career goals, taking full advantage of

the opportunity to apply to a variety of positions.

While some arts students elect to apply for jobs that have been secured by co-op co-ordinators and are restricted to co-op students, such as archaeological field work positions through Parks Canada and brand communications interns with packaged goods firms, others are interested in working with their co-ordinator to explore opportunities traditionally not posted by employers, such as specialized research positions with faculty and political positions with federal parties and lobby groups.

Students interested in a career in teaching have the opportunity to obtain valuable experience working with special populations such as children, youth, and those with disabilities.

Co-op fees for Laurier arts students are among the lowest in the province. While Laurier's two-semester system within the Faculty of Arts does not allow for a full co-op model, arts co-op students have the opportunity to integrate paid workplace learning and experience relevant to their academic program and personal/professional goals, while gaining marketable skills and developing valuable contacts during two work terms.

The skills Arts Co-op students learn while conducting a job search and preparing for interviews are an added benefit in their career development.

—Karen McCargar

WLUSU not to blame for lack of gender parity

RE: Lack of female interest in BOD unfortunate, Jan 19

I am glad you highlighted the two female directors this year on the board. I also wish you had given a shout out to Jackie Dobson and Laura Sheridan, likely two of the best WLUSU politicians we saw this past decade.

I'm not sure though why it is the Students' Union's fault that women aren't running for the board or presidency. When I was retiring from the board, I sought out people to further my ideals on the board. If female directors don't find their own replacement then part of the onus falls upon them to have inspired new talent. Most of the blame falls on the general population to have failed to represent themselves.

Finally, I actually don't think that gender or ethnicity make a difference on the board. Directors are there to represent all students, not a special constituency of colour or ethnicity.

—Andrew Fryer

UBB bad for Canadian technology

The overall lack of attention that the recent implementation of usage based billing (UBB) by most major Internet service providers (ISPs) is very troubling. They have been given permission to limit your usage if the internet to a set amount generally between 25GB and 100GB per month. Any usage beyond this will be charged in a way similar to over-using your minutes on your cell phone.

The implications of this are far greater than simply not being able to watch as many movies online or download as many games.

Students rely on the computer more than ever to access online courses on MyLearningSpace as well as downloading of media and

articles for research and presentations. For those who live on their own, this means simple actions online can be more expensive and the last thing we want is more fees to worry about.

And, if that still doesn't get under your skin, perhaps you would like to hear the real reasons for this policy. Since the influx of companies like Netflix and websites like Hulu, ISPs, who also often offer cable to their customers, have seen a decrease in subscriptions to their television services.

So now, instead of these ISPs needing to change with the times and adapt to the changing markets, they have permission to charge you, the customer, to make up for their failing policies and poor quality services.

Remember, you control your money, vote with your wallet and show the ISPs that UBB is not good for business. Without paying customers, they will have no usage to bill.

—Alexandra Orlando

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.

Students who don't vote shouldn't criticize



KYLE HOCKING
letters@thecord.ca

At its core, a democratic system relies upon participation by the people. Our present understanding of democracy stems from the Ancient Greek system of *demokratia* which is based upon the theory that power rests with the people; *demo* meaning people and *kratia* meaning power.

Demokratia, a system of direct democracy whereby decisions were made by the masses, has since become impractical in nations with large populations and therefore has been replaced by contemporary representative democracy.

Yet the fundamentals of the system have largely remained unchanged. Rather than direct participation, the people have now been given the right to vote in elections to determine those who govern and represent them. Thus, the people have been charged with the responsibility to elect those they see as best representing their views.

This responsibility rings true at

Laurier just as it does in a democratic society.

Every February, students are afforded the opportunity to vote in free and fair elections to determine the leadership of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union among other positions and issues.

Students have the chance to learn about candidates and their views through the publication of platforms, discussions at open forums and through general interaction with candidates themselves. Similarly, the opportunity to run for a position in WLUSU is open to every undergraduate student at Laurier. Nevertheless, when it comes to elections, an increasing number of students are content with being apathetic toward the process.

In recent years, voter turnout at WLU has been abysmal. Students who approach me with concerns about how the Union operates or spends their money are typically met with my own question to them: "Did you vote?"

To read the rest of Kyle Hocking's column and more check out

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OPINION

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • emerkeley@thecord.ca

Point • Counter-point: Laptops in lecture

Columnists **Marcie Foster** and **Joseph McNinch-Pazzano** debate the merits and drawbacks of allowing laptops in class at university and the impact it has on a student's academic experience



NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO



MARCIE FOSTER
letters@thecord.ca

As someone who has enough problems concentrating, Facebook is the worst thing ever to be able to cruise during class. This is one of the many reasons why I no longer bring my laptop to lecture — despite the professors who ruin my life by being unnecessarily verbose and having to scramble to write down everything that comes out of their mouths. Yes, I find it difficult to keep up with some lectures without a laptop. But that's a minor inconvenience compared to not being able to pay attention.

Simply put, it's really not just about taking down information — it's about engaging yourself in the learning experience. Learning is an engaged metaphorical and often literal conversation with professors and other students. Having a laptop in front of you creates a barrier behind which you can hide and creep people on Facebook. You're not nearly as attentive as you would

be with a piece of paper in front of you. In order to preserve the learning experience for all students, we need to have a frank discussion on whether or not to ban laptops in the classroom.

So why ban laptops in lecture? Clearly not having one of my own in the classroom has helped me a lot, but it is the impact of other laptops in my line of sight that is the true nightmare. As I said before, I have a hard time concentrating and when I can see someone on Facebook or flipping back between MSN messenger and Microsoft Word between lecture slides my eyes glaze over and I'm lost. It's bad enough to hear the soft clickety-clack of nails on a Blackberry, but even worse when you're trying to focus and you have some student between you and the prof all gung-ho flipping through photos on Facebook.

Some would argue that banning laptops would be a step backwards in terms of allowing our education to catch up with technological realities. To that I would say this: when are we actually paying attention to what we're doing? We're constantly texting, typing, talking, but rarely listening and thinking critically, about a whole plethora of things at once. We need that entire amount of concentration to comprehend

properly what is going on in a lecture. We can't retain or actually educate ourselves when we're typing to our friend two rows back about how awkward the professor's shirt looks today. And it's easy to impede other people's learning without trying.

The bankable model of education from Paulo Freire tells us that we simply absorb and regurgitate information in the usual lecture setting. It is that critical engagement that we experience in seminar and experiential classes that actually allows us to grasp concepts. A laptop only stimulates the bankable model. We lose the ability to engage in active discussion with the class. Ultimately this compromises the quality of the education we receive, which should be a great concern for all students.

Laptops simply don't make classrooms that much more accessible, they don't help you all that much in a lecture environment and they certainly do not belong in a seminar. I fully advocate for Laurier to ban laptops and technological devices from senior level classes to start, with exceptions for those registered with accessible learning.

Students should embrace this change as a necessary step to enhance their quality of education, something that has been in decline at Laurier over the past few years.



JOSEPH MCNINCH-PAZZANO
letters@thecord.ca

Laptops have become a staple of the modern university experience. Walk into any lecture hall on campus and you are greeted with a sea of laptops spread out from one side of the room to the other. That's unless, of course, your professor has decided to ban laptops in his/her class.

While I admit that there are students who bring their laptops to class to amuse themselves through Tetris, Bubble Spinner or Facebook,

laptops have a legitimate use. I wrote my notes for the first two weeks of first year before I realized that I could write down much more of what the professor said and have it all in neat, typed up documents when I went to study it.

There are also students who have differing learning styles and abilities. Laurier is committed to providing accessible learning to all students, especially evidenced by the Accessible Learning Centre. However, accessible learning must mean inclusive learning.

If laptops are banned in any class, a professor is obligated to make exceptions for those with individualized needs. However, those individuals would be singled out amongst the students who are forced to revert to their notebooks.

It would be plainly obvious who was in need of these learning accommodations. Perhaps, then, such individuals would stop bringing their laptops to class as well, even at the expense of their own learning. This is not inclusive and is unacceptable.

Students have a right to make their own choices about their education — for better or for worse. If you want to come to university and create the facade that you give a crap about class by showing up to lecture but not paying the slightest bit of attention, that's your problem and you'll deal with the consequences.

But, if you are a committed and dedicated student willing to learn and get the most out of your academic experience and a laptop is part of the way you're going to achieve that, a professor should not have the right to deny you that.

I understand the objection that someone using their laptop for non-class related activities can be distracting. I also understand that professors become fed up with students who aren't paying attention

Students have the right to make their own choices about their education — for better or for worse.

in their class. I don't deny that these are issues that need to be dealt with. Banning laptops, though, is too universal a solution and hurts those who are actually using their laptop to learn.

University is about learning about yourself and how learning works for you. A professor's role, in my view, is to facilitate that process of development by providing an environment where you can discover that.

A happy medium is possible. I have had professors who have stated their acceptance of laptops as a learning tool in their classes. Those same professors have reserved the right to take laptops away from students if they are being used illegitimately.

Compromises like this are fair and they respect the rights of those who want to learn. It is this type of individualized learning that should be commended, and that we should strive for as an educational institution.

We cannot deny new technology (and its place in education) as it becomes available. Education needs to adapt to these changes as they come along. Failing to do so is to deny students the opportunity to use all the tools open to them and that is unsustainable.

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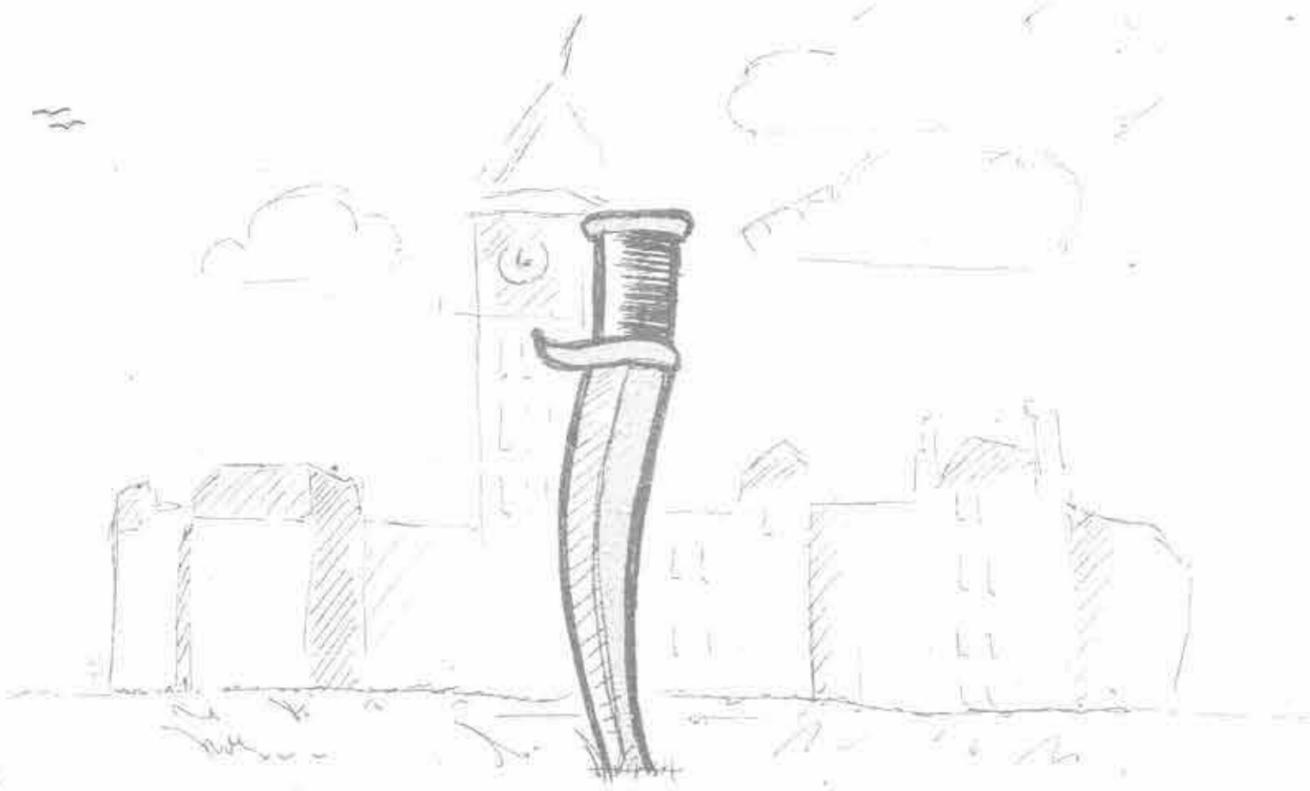
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These pretentious biz kids aren't difficult to spot either. They are rude, obnoxious, sport expensive clothing that the Bank of Daddy funded and, for some reason or other, believe that a [delusional] God has blessed the ground they walk on." —Barbara Ciochon



Kirpan ban against Canadian values



ANDREW CHAI
letters@thecord.ca

As Canadians we pride ourselves on our country's multiculturalism and diversity. It is often used as one of the focal points of Canadian identity in contrast to the American "melting pot." This sentiment is even entrenched in Section 27 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which is the source of some of the most fundamental laws of the land.

So it is very seldom that we see instances where there is such emotionally charged debate over an issue so close to the heart of a minority religious group. But once again a flashpoint has been reached in the debate over banning the kirpan, the ceremonial Sikh dagger, in public places.

In the midst of Quebec's "reasonable accommodation" debate over where to draw the line on minority rights, security guards at the Quebec National Assembly denied entry to four Sikhs because some of

them were carrying kirpans. The irony is that the event they were attempting to participate in was a committee hearing on religious accommodation.

This proposed ban hits close to home with Liberal MP of Mississauga-Brampton South, Navdeep Bains, who is a Sikh himself. He has called this campaign nothing but fear-mongering. I am inclined to agree. Meanwhile, the Bloc Quebecois has tried to make this into a safety issue. But if this was a safety issue then it would have been dealt with much earlier. Bains himself has been wearing the kirpan in the House of Commons since 2004 without any indication of concern. He has also worn it at the United States Congress and the Supreme Court of Canada. In addition, there are at least two other practicing Sikhs in the Commons who likely carry the kirpan as well.

The kirpan is an article of faith for the Sikh religion. In modern times it has no meaning as a weapon. It is purely ceremonial and functions as a symbol of ahimsa or non-violence and the active prevention of violence. It also symbolizes the ability of truth to cut through falsehoods. Furthermore, most Sikhs wear their kirpan under their clothes and it is usually wrapped in a way that

makes it less accessible. Lastly, it is also usually blunted, which makes it even less of a threat.

It is important to note that many of these concerns have already been addressed by the Supreme Court of Canada. In 2006, a 12-year-old Sikh boy dropped his kirpan at his school in Quebec. This prompted some courts including the Quebec Court of Appeal to ban it as a weapon. Ultimately, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that it was not within reasonable limits to deny Sikhs their freedom of religion under the Charter in carrying the kirpan and that doing so would also contradict multiculturalism mentioned earlier.

But these facts did not stop the Bloc from capitalizing on this politically by releasing a statement lauding the issue and proposing that federal Parliament buildings should consider a ban on the kirpan. In Quebec at least the Bloc has succeeded in swaying public opinion in their favour. Commentary coming from the province has been almost unanimous in favour of the ban.

The same could not be said for the rest of Canada which had the exact opposite opinion. And so this debate has had the consequence of re-opening the French-English divide. Prominent Quebecers such as Mario Dumont, who once led the Action

The Bloc is playing politics and trying to shore up support in advance of an election at the expense of cherished Canadian values.

Démocratique du Québec, have accused English Canada of "Quebec bashing" and unfairly painting Quebecers as "bigots," "close minded" and "backwards thinking."

That may be true or false. But it does not at all justify the actions of the Bloc Quebecois. This is a party that does not seem like they are actually interested in "reasonable accommodation." The Bloc is playing politics and trying to shore up support in advance of an election at the expense of cherished Canadian values. As Canadians, English speaking or not, we should stand by our ethnic and religious plurality and all the different groups that represent it.



You know what yanks my Cord...

...Pretentious biz kids. Now, let me be clear in saying that not all business students fall into this category as I am careful to avoid painting individuals with the same brush. I know many who are kind, hard-working and genuinely awesome people. Yet there are those who never fail to raise my blood pressure and more often than not force me to find the nearest wall to put my fist through.

These pretentious biz kids aren't difficult to spot either. They are rude, obnoxious, sport expensive clothing that the Bank of Daddy funded and, for some reason or other, believe that a [delusional] God has blessed the ground they walk on. What is more, they believe that because they will — arguably — one day graduate from the BBA program, they will be raking in six-figure salaries and laughing at poor arts and science students as they drive by in their Beamers and Mercedes.

In response, I am left scratching my head wondering who put such a silly idea in their heads. As in any career or job opportunity, a candidate must possess relevant skills and experience; it also helps if that candidate's head hasn't inflated to the size of a beach ball. With the economy the way that it is at the moment, a piece of paper can't get you anywhere on its own, regardless of whether it says BBA, BA or BSc.

Even if these pretentious biz kids stood in a better position to earn the salaries that they daydream about, I pity their superficial pursuit of wealth and neglect to find a career that they will actually enjoy. Until these pretentious business students get off their high horses, I, as well many other Laurier students, will continue to avoid the SBE building for the sake of our sanity and to keep the school's walls intact — unless of course an uncontrollable craving for a large double-double hits us while in the vicinity.

—Barbara Ciochon

Check out Barbara Ciochon's blog "iBarbara" at thecord.ca

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SPORTS

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Read more on
thecord.ca

Swim team
shines in
home pool

—Justin Fauteux



ELLI GARLIN

"At home, just like any other sport you have the home crowd... It makes a big difference having that kind of support"

—Brittany Shaw
Laurier swimmer

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
January 31 -
February 6, 2011

RECENT SCORES

01.29.11

W Hockey 2 - Brock 3
M Hockey 4 - York 2
W Volleyball 1 - Brock 3
W Basketball 69 - Brock 59
M Basketball 95 - Brock 90

01.28.11

W Volleyball 3 - Ottawa 0

01.27.11

W Hockey 3 - Guelph 2
M Hockey 2 - Windsor 0

01.26.11

W Basketball 64 - Western 70
M Basketball 79 - Western 82
W Volleyball 3 - Waterloo 1
M Volleyball 0 - Waterloo 3

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

02.02.11

W Basketball vs McMaster
Athletic Complex, 6:00 p.m.
M Basketball vs McMaster
Athletic Complex, 8:00 p.m.

01.04.11

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

LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

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Men's Hockey

Brittany Shaw
Swimming

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Hawks take OT thriller

CHRIS MANDER
STAFF WRITER

The Laurier Golden Hawks men's basketball team played one of their toughest games of the season against the Brock Badgers on Saturday afternoon.

In what proved to be a thrilling finish, Laurier won 95-90 in overtime, with several big three pointers keeping the Hawks alive.

Laurier rookie Jamar Forde, making his first career start, hit a huge three pointer with 1:30 left to help the Hawks stay afloat and then fellow first-year Patrick Donnelly made both free throws with 14.7 seconds left to send the game to overtime.

Once in OT, the Hawks proved to be too much for the ambitious Badgers, as Donnelly hit another huge three with two minutes to go and then Max Allin was able to hit two free throws with 15.5 seconds remaining to seal the victory.

Donnelly was the brightest star for the Hawks on this day, as he pulled down 17 rebounds and a team best 24 points, finding his shot that he had struggled with recently.

"He struggled with his shooting for the last couple of games and then his rebounding and defence goes because he begins to worry about his shot. Today he was great on the boards and showed what he can do," said head coach Peter Campbell.

However, it was not smooth sailing all afternoon as at times Laurier looked overmatched and struggled to keep up with the fast pace game that the Badgers love to play.

"They got their transition game

going and really set the tone," said Campbell. "They shoot lots, play hard and play great defense. They did a really good job neutralizing Kale [Harrison] this afternoon."

Despite the great defence played against superstar Kale Harrison, other Hawks were able to step up.

Four other Hawks were able to score double digits and Allin was not far off with 8 points. However, most of Allin's damage came through his passing skills, as he put in a game high 14 assists, one less than the entire Brock squad.

Forde's first career start impressed Campbell enough that he managed to generate a smile out of the coach after the game.

"First career start and the kid was all-world," he said. Strong defence and 14 points is what had Campbell so excited about the 6-3 athletic guard who continues to improve as the season progresses.

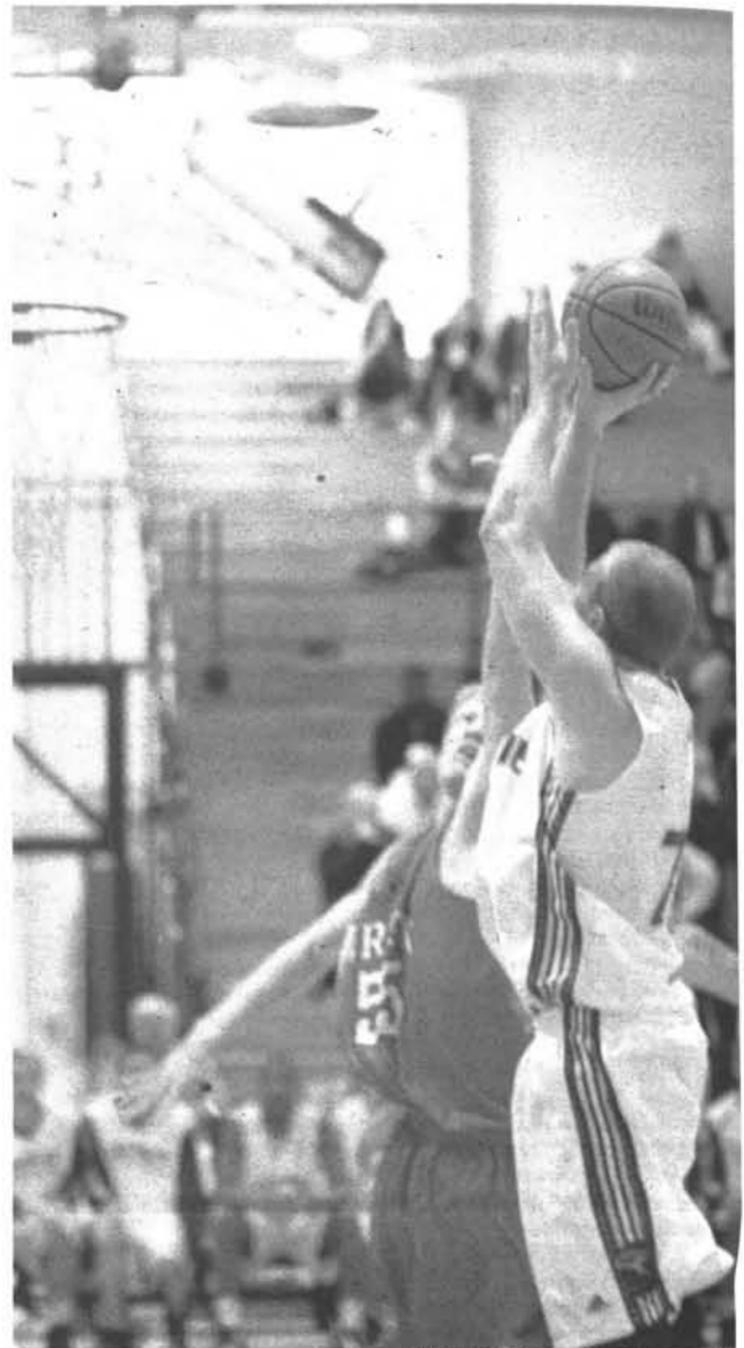
The best player for the Badgers was fourth year guard Andrew Kraus, who scored a game high 27 points, most of which were usually in impressive fashion including a highlight real dunk.

Laurier is now 11-5 and second place in their division, as well as remaining undefeated at home.

Despite their impressive season so far, Campbell is not getting ahead of himself, mainly due to the competitiveness of the entire division.

"We have not lost at home, but I am not so sure we are okay."

The Hawks' next game is against McMaster on Feb. 2 and they then go on the road to face Windsor in a critical game for their season and playoff positioning.



LYLA WILSON STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hawks' rookie Patrick Donnelly (7) takes a shot over Brock's Jordan Johnson (55). Donnelly led all Laurier scorers with 24 points.

Women's basketball back on track



YUSUF KIDWAI STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Laurier's Christa Mancino (23) beats Brock's Devyn Cuncic (12) to the ball during Saturday's 69-59 Golden Hawks win.

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

Not a lot has gone wrong this season for the Golden Hawks women's basketball team. After their 5-0 start, the purple and gold have maintained their spot amongst the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) west division's elite, currently sitting in third.

However, coming into Saturday's match-up with the Brock Badgers, the Hawks found themselves in an unfamiliar position on a cold streak. Having lost three of their past four games and two in a row, Laurier needed a bounce-back game and that's what they got, downing the Badgers 69-59 to improve to 11-5.

"The girls bounced back really well. We played really hard in the first half but I thought we didn't execute as well in the second half," said Laurier head coach Paul Falco. "But it was a good win and a good way to get back in the win column."

The Hawks seemed in control of the game right from the opening tipoff, leading for the entire game. However, the team felt like they let the scrappy Badgers hang around longer than they should have.

"It was a little bit closer than we would've liked it to be," said fourth-year Megan Grant. "It was a little scrambled at times but we managed to pull through at the end."

While veterans Grant and fifth-year Renata Adamczyk led the way for the Hawks with 15 and 13 points respectively, the purple and gold saw a number of rookies step up on

Saturday.

First-year Felicia Mazzerolle continued to grow into the starter's role at point guard, while fellow rookie Laura Doyle put up seven points and two rebounds.

But the best rookie performance of the afternoon came from Doreen Bonsu, who contributed eight points and seven rebounds, coming off the bench and taking control when the Badgers were gaining momentum in the second quarter.

"Doreen stepped up and took care of things defensively and gave us some offence as well," said Falco.

"We're really pleased by our rookies, the 'fab five' as we like to call them all have a bright future."

Those rookie performances, particularly that of Mazzerolle, have been especially key with the injury to veteran point guard Amber Hillis. According to Falco, Hillis is still undergoing tests on the injured back that has kept her sidelined for the vast majority of the season, but could return in the next few weeks.

In addition to ending their first cold streak of the season, the win over the Badgers gives the Hawks some breathing room in the crowded OUA west standings. Laurier now sits alone in third, two points up on Brock and Lakehead. With six games left in the regular season, Grant believes her team can be a dark horse heading into the playoffs.

"People give us a lot of respect," she said. "But that could be one of our strengths because we can come in and surprise a lot of people."

Out of town Scoreboard

(Jan. 29-30)

Women's hockey

	3
	2

(shoot-out)

Women's hockey

	3
	2

Men's hockey

	4
	2

Next up (Sat. Feb. 4)

Women's	@	
Men's	@	

Super Bowl XLV: A classic match-up

The Cord Sports staff makes their picks for this Sunday's match-up between two of the NFL's oldest teams: the Green Bay Packers, who dominated that 1960s and the Pittsburgh Steelers, who ruled the '70s

Green Bay sends them 'Packin'

MARISSA HERNER
CORD SPORTS

After the 2011 NFL Playoff Championship round, the Green Bay Packers and Pittsburgh Steelers emerged triumphant above all the rest eager to represent their cities in a head-to-head battle to claim the identity of champions.

Although both teams are heavyweights in terms of popularity, the ability of Green Bay's wide-outs is among the best in the league.

With concrete receivers on the turf surface and quarterback Aaron Rodgers there is without doubt an unfair advantage on at least one side of the ball. At his best inside the dome, Green Bay's quarterback Rodgers's patience with the ball and game-winning drives will assist in unravelling and exposing Pittsburgh's secondary.

If they can gain an early lead, Green Bay can initiate a vertical offensive strategy, mixing power running and deep passing where they can dominate the remaining quarters.

By rushing deep into Pittsburgh's end without warning, Green Bay can tactically eat the clock while utilizing control of the ground game by running and pushing the ball up the middle.

Due to the rash of injuries that have fallen upon Steelers difference-making players such as rookie center Maurkice Pouncey, wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders and pro bowl safety Troy Polamalu it is debatable whether Pittsburgh can put together a complete game against the Packers.

A subtle but undeniable tactic that Green Bay employs on their competition is their ability to create turnovers by tackling the ball carrier and stripping the ball, spoiling their opponent's confidence offensively. Although Green Bay and Pittsburgh both hold strength in their defensive foundation, the Packers punter Tim Masthay has shown to be a valuable commodity, jeopardizing the Steelers potential opportunities by operating to pin the Steelers in their own end zone.

The Packers are facing off with Pittsburgh in the Super Bowl because they have earned their spot through hard work and dedication, not through chance.

Although the Steelers may win their "stairway to seven" Super Bowl eventually, the Packers have materialized into a resilient contender threatening to pierce through the steel curtain.

Prediction: Packers 21, Steelers 14

'Steel curtain' impenetrable

CHRIS MANDER
STAFF WRITER

Next Sunday, two of the most storied franchises in North American sports will meet on the world's biggest stage for football supremacy.

The Pittsburgh Steelers have been here a lot, going back to 2006, they have won two Lombardi trophies.

The Packers on the other hand, have not won it all since 1996 when Brett Favre was in his prime and not stalking New York Jet employees. Now this is Aaron Rodgers's team and he has taken full advantage.

The main matchup to watch in this game will be the Steelers dominant defence and their attempt to at least slow down the Packers explosive offence that lives through Rodgers and their passing game.

There is no way that Green Bay will be able to run the ball against the front seven of Pittsburgh. The Steelers allowed an unparalleled 62 rushing yards per game in the regular season, while Green Bay barely had a run game and would abandon it early in games.

The Steelers on the other hand, had one of the best rushing attacks in the league this year, being in the top 10 in all major categories. Green Bay's rush defence is their weakness, allowing 4.7 yards per carry.

Come Sunday, if the Steelers run the ball effectively, they will keep Green Bay's potent offence off the field and keep points off the board.

In terms of offence, the Packers put up 358 yards per game, with the Steelers averaging just 13 yards less. The Packers only averaged one more point a game offensively, so in that category, it's pretty much a draw.

The difference on the defensive side of the ball is also very small, with the Steelers defence averaging exactly one point less a game.

In order for the Steelers to pull out a victory, they will need to be able to stop the Packers spread offence and Reshard Mendenhall will need another big game on the ground.

One way the Steelers can try and stop the Pack is by generating a pass rush and forcing the always-efficient Rodgers to become uncomfortable. The game in which Rodgers was at his worst this season was against the Jets, who were able to put him on the ground consistently and early, getting an outside pass rush via their 3-4 defence.

James Harrison and LaMarr Woodley combined for 20.5 sacks this season, and should be able to get around Chad Clifton and rookie Bryan Bulaga.

Both coaching staffs have brilliant defensive coordinators in Dom Capers and Dick LeBeau and they share the same philosophy: get after the opposing team's quarterback and not let passers get comfortable.

I believe the Steelers will be able to run the ball and keep the Packers offence off the field, I pick the Steelers in a very close and entertaining game.

Prediction: Steelers 27, Packers 24

Cord staff picks

Elizabeth Bate, Cord Sports
Steelers: 45-38

Kevin Campbell, Staff Writer
Steelers: 31-17

Justin Fauteux, Sports Editor
Packers: 31-20

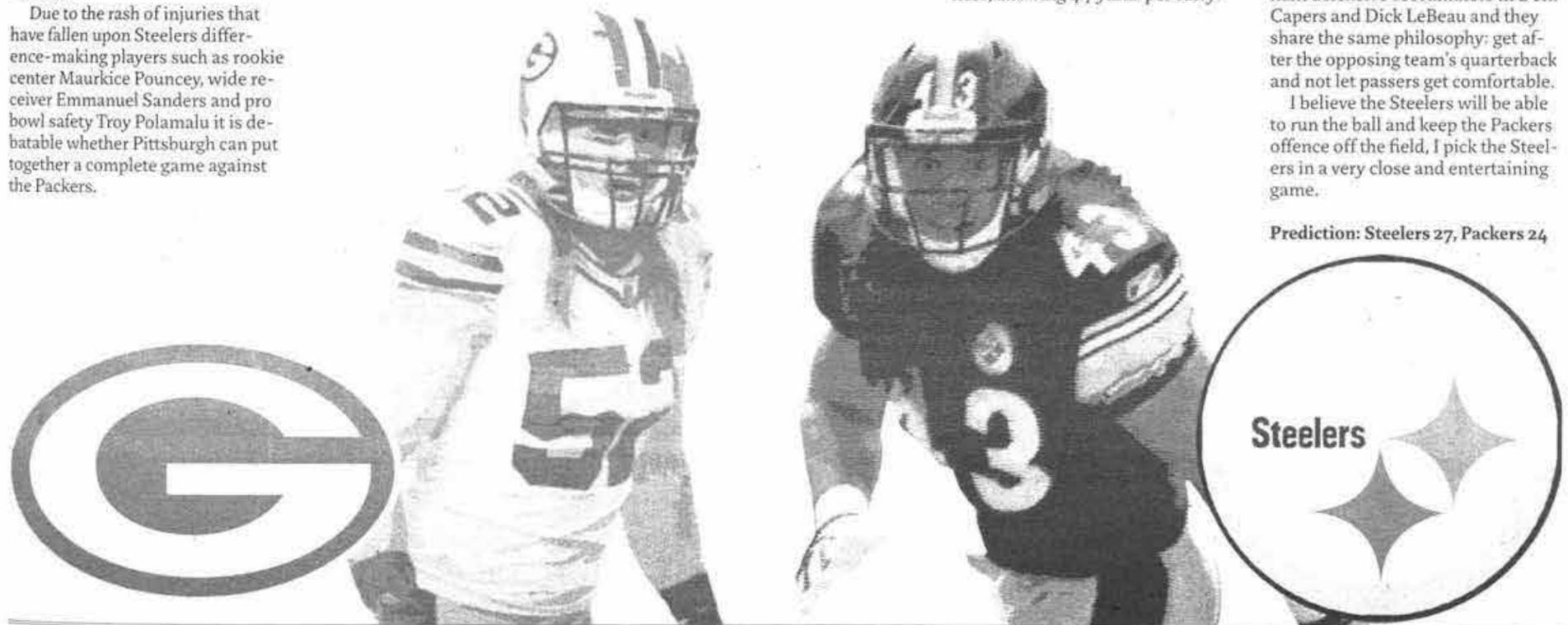
Eric Merkley, Opinion Editor
Packers: 21-17

Jamie Neugebauer, Staff Writer
Packers: 21-20

Alanna Wallace, Editor-In-Chief
Steelers: 31-17

Tyler Warry, Cord Sports
Packers: 28-24

PHOTO MANIPULATION BY WADE THOMPSON



Hawks' winning streak snapped at three

Women's volleyball team falls to 5-10 after beating Ottawa on Friday but losing to Brock on Saturday

CASSANDRA BRUSH
CORD SPORTS

The Wilfrid Laurier women's volleyball team took the court this past weekend and crushed the Ottawa Gee-Gees in three games straight on Friday night, but fell short to Brock on Saturday.

Their record before these games stood at 4-9 which did not show much promise.

However, winning their previous two matches against Waterloo and Lakehead proved that the Hawks definitely are hungry for more victories.

As the match progressed on

Friday, the team seemed to be improving with every game. With some impressive recoveries and amazing blocks, head coach Luke Snider felt as though his team played an impressive game.

"Today we were able to execute the exact same way that we did the last couple matches against stronger opponents," he said.

"And a team that had more offensive capabilities than our past two wins. And so particularly to defend to the same level means likely that we defended better."

Although proud of every member of his team, Snider thought that veteran Megan Gilmore was a great

contributing factor to the team's victory against Ottawa.

"I thought Megan Gilmore, our middle, was particularly outstanding," he said.

"All the things that she has been challenged by me to do I thought she executed very well and kept a high consistency at a very high level. She had a huge impact in the last game."

The Hawks took the Gee-Gees with scores of 25-15, 25-23, and 25-14. Despite her outstanding performance, Gilmore gives her team all the credit for Friday's win.

"We played more like a team than we ever had before," she said. "We just had a lot of team chemistry

going on. It was awesome. We just looked to each other for support and we didn't get over excited."

Yet, with only four games left in the regular season, Snider believes the key for the team's success is to continue what they are doing.

"I think we've done an excellent job of playing each match, one match at a time and as cliché as that is I think that's been our greatest strength recently. We're able to focus on the things we can control," he said.

"We're not placing undue pressure in situations because of any external factors with the season coming to a close."

The hard fought loss to Brock on Saturday night brought the Hawks' three-game winning streak to a close, and because of this loss, the team can no longer finish with a winning season, falling to 5-10.

The Hawks are back on the court on Feb. 4th, in London against the Western Mustangs where they will be put to the test to see if their strength and determination will hold up in order to finish the rest of their season with some wins.

Those wins will have to go towards building momentum for next season as with four regular season games left the Hawks have been eliminated from playoff contention.



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