

THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

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thecord.ca

Hawks test clean

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

On Tuesday afternoon the football players of Wilfrid Laurier University were finally able to breathe a sigh of relief. A month after Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) officials tested 67 Golden Hawk football players for performance enhancing drugs, 67 tests came back clean.

"It's not something that I thought of all the time, but I guess it was something that was always there," said Laurier manager of football operations and head coach Gary Jeffries of the pending results.

"It's such a relief to get the results that I always knew we'd get and I couldn't be more proud of the team. I'm just so happy for them and now we can put it to bed and move on."

Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) football has been in the midst of a crackdown on steroids ever since nine players tested positive at the University of Waterloo (UW) last March.

This led the university to make the unprecedented decision to suspend its football program for the season.

Those tests at UW marked the first time that the CCES tested the majority of a single team's roster during the off-season, previously leaning more heavily upon random unannounced testing of a handful of players from different teams.



ELLI GARLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Investigating accessibility

Campus News Editor **Mike Lakusiak** examines the state of Laurier's facilities for those with physical and cognitive disabilities

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Sports, page 18

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Critiquing Oscar

Cord Staff review this year's Academy Award nominees for Best Picture. From films like *Toy Story 3* to *The King's Speech*, see how 2010's best of the best are reviewed.

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Election mix-up

Candidate names appeared in alphabetical order on online ballots

ALANNA WALLACE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Widely considered to be a success, this month's Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) elections garnered a considerably wider turnout than usual, with almost 35 per cent of students casting a ballot online.

Voters signed in to find their ballot using their university-issued Novell network login and proceeded through a program designed by the university's Information Technology Services (ITS) department.

Unlike years past, where candidate names were randomized or there were numerous sets of ballots upon which candidates' names showed up arranged in a different order, the online ballots for the 2011-12 election were alphabetized.

"There was, I guess, a communication breakdown somewhere and that's how it ended up happening," explained current WLUSU president Kyle Walker, who had a large hand in administering the online elections.

When asked whether the alphabetization was simply a glitch with the technology, Walker assured The Cord that this was not the case.

"It was just how the names were given to ITS," he said.

"It was just how they were inputted, but I mean the ITS staff

“For the average student, I guess it's possible that they could be influenced one way or another but I really don't see it as a huge issue.”

—Kyle Hocking
Chair of the WLUSU board of directors

wouldn't know any better.”
Of the 18 candidates on the ballot for the 2011-12 WLUSU board of directors, three of the bottom six candidates in terms of alphabetical order were not elected.

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Editor's Choice

This Week Around Laurier photo gallery

thecord.ca

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THE CORD

The oldest daily student newspaper at Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

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Colophon

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

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



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

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Any unsubmitted complaints can be sent to the council at info@ontpress.com.

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



Campus Plus is The Cord's national advertising agency.

Preamble to The Cord constitution

The Cord will keep faith with its readers by presenting news and expressions of opinion competently, 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 eye to the concerns of the students of Wilfrid Laurier University. Ultimately, The Cord will be bound by another philosophy: nor geography in its mandate.

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

The Cord will always attempt to do what is right, with fear of neither repercussions, nor retaliation. The purpose of the student press is to act as an agent of social awareness, and we shall conduct the affairs of our newspaper.

Quote of the week: "I find it hard not to look at Alanna's chest in the short skirt she's wearing... Oh what? You're asking for it!" -Graphics Editor Wade Thompson re: Editor-in-Chief Alanna Wallace

From the archives

10 years ago "Bust just got up and walked away - Statue stolen"

Sometime after 5:00 p.m. on Feb. 7 a bronze cast bust of Wilfrid Laurier was stolen from the Arts Building.

The bust had been given to the university from the office of the Ontario Premier, William Davis on Nov. 1 of 1973 and had been created by Toronto artist Walter Seymour Allward in 1901.

The crime was treated as "theft over \$5,000."

Peter Jorg of WLU security had said the university's "primary concern is that we want it back."

Both the University of Waterloo, the University of Guelph, local pawn shops and the Waterloo Regional Police had been notified about the missing bust.

-Printed: Feb. 14, 2001

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This week in quotes

"Just like the Packers we're going to come in as the wild card and do some damage in the playoffs."

-Erik Kroman, Laurier men's volleyball captain re: his team's chances

"Ours is more fun, the girls are cuter and the rap is hotter."

-Brandon Greenwood, Laurier fourth-year communications student and one of the artists involved in the Laurier rap remix "Gold and Purple"

"He said: 'Come work for a real board.'"

-Jon Pryce, Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications (WLUSP) board member elect re: Bryn Ossington

"There's a kind of superficial community that exists between cultures that's a really stimulating and mind-expanding kind of process to go through and I don't think when you're a long time in one place or you get all your education in one country that you ever have an experience quite like that."

-Patrick Deane, president of McMaster University

"Our number one [priority] was promoting Laurier before dissing everybody else. A lot of other tracks wanted to diss first and then kind of promote their school on the side."

-Adel "Jazi" Hijazi, one of the creators of the "Gold and Purple" video re: the group's philosophy on their rendition of the song

"This is how we did it this year and I don't know if it had that much influence on who was elected."

-Kyle Walker, WLUSU president re: randomized ballots during the online election

"I don't even understand the budget myself sometimes."

-Sunny Chan Member-elect of the WLUSU board of directors



Bag O' Crime

Intoxicated Person Location: Fred Nichols Campus Centre

Reported: Feb. 13, 2011 @ 1:21 a.m. A complaint was received from several females about an intoxicated male bothering female students that were trying to do some studying in the Concourse.

The male (WLU student) was located by a SCS officer, escorted out of the building and sent on his way home.

Assist Other Service Location: Off Campus

Reported: Feb. 13, 2011 @ 1:05 a.m. SCS officers observed a potential impaired male driver entering a vehicle on campus and driving away. W.R.P.S. was given the vehicle particulars and direction of travel.

SCS officers followed at a discreet distance and the responsible party was intercepted by W.R.P.S. on Westmount Road.

The driver's actions on the road had been erratic. He was found not to be impaired by W.R.P.S. officers.

Motor vehicle collision

Location: University Stadium Reported: Feb. 11, 2011 @ 8:42 p.m. SCS officers investigated a motor vehicle collision between a Coach bus and another motor vehicle in the parking lot. There were no injuries and the damage to both vehicles was deemed to be of a minor nature (under \$1,000.00). The matter is to be resolved between both drivers.

Property Damage

Location: Laurier Athletic Complex Reported: Feb. 12, 2011 @ 10:03 a.m. SCS officers are investigating a complaint of human feces that was discovered on the floor in the men's locker room. A similar incident was reported to SCS a week before. The matter is under investigation.

Assistance Call from Public

Location: Student Services Building Reported: Feb. 12, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m. A faculty member requested a third party presence of SCS officers in confronting a student about cheating on an exam. Assistance was rendered and the faculty member's findings will be forwarded to The Faculty of Business.

Property (Lost/Found)

Location: Dining Hall Reported: Feb. 8, 2011 @ 10:39 p.m. A wallet belonging to a male was turned into Dispatch office. The wallet contained fake identifications, and a one card belonging to a female. The female lost her one card a few weeks earlier and cancelled the card. No fraudulent charges were therefore made. The owner of the wallet has not been able to be contacted at this time.

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

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

Vocal Cord

What do you think of awards shows like the Grammys and Oscars?



"It's a great way to recognize the artists, but sometimes they're a little bit biased." -Nazneen Basrai Third year BBA



"I think that they're exciting, my favourite part is the performances. I liked seeing Mumford & Sons with the Avett Brothers." -Dave Light Fourth year BBA



"I thought the Grammys were great last night. A lot of great performances. Ceelo's outfit was like Elton John on steroids." -Mike Hill Fourth year kinesiology



"I watch them sometimes, but it's not a huge deal. I'm not a diehard fan." -Meagan Cameron Fourth year kinesiology



"I don't personally watch them, but I watch it on YouTube later. I get to see a lot of new artists like Lady Antebellum." -Laura Pudlo Fourth year BBA

Compiled by Sarah Murphy Photos by Elli Garlin

NEWS

News Director Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca

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Chair chosen

Chris Walker elected WLUSU BOD chair

BREE MANTHA
LEAD REPORTER

The newly elected directors for the 2011-12 Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) met for the first time on the evening of Feb. 15.

The only item on the agenda was to elect a chair for the board. Those nominated included director-elects Sunny Chan, Chris Oberle and current vice-chair Chris Walker. All three nominees have had experience as directors on the board in past years.

After a lengthy question period, second-year director Walker emerged victorious.

All nominees centred their platforms around communication, training and accountability, though Walker's focused the most on communication.

"I've made some strong ties with a lot of the university administration, a lot of the faculty, within the union," Walker said after the results had been announced. "I'm pretty personable. I'm definitely not afraid of voicing my opinion when it comes to communicating with the directors."

Walker was also passionate about student advocacy and lobbying on various student issues. "I think the

board of directors needs to take a more proactive role in ownership linkage and advocacy," he said. "Finding out what actually matters to students."

"Whether it be Internet access or study space or anything like that - stuff that the union doesn't have total control over, but ... they have a voice at the table when it comes to changing the university's mind on a few of those key decisions."

Other questions posed to the chair candidates focused on training, policy governance, and strengthening relations with Brantford. While the candidates all presented relatively similar values, Walker continuously pushed communication as the key to success. "Brantford is a key part of the students' union," Walker told The Cord, stating that in a year when no Brantford students sit on the board, representation is more important than ever.

"We can achieve this is by creating Brantford-specific monitoring reports to ensure that compliance within the organization is met there."

Also present at the meeting were president-elect Nick Gibson and the newly hired WLUSU management team.

Gibson was pleased with the



NICK LACHANCE VISUAL DIRECTOR

performance of all three candidates and looks forward to working closely with Walker. "He'll be very interesting," said Gibson. "He does have one term on the board. So far, he's done a good job. He's been a very vocal force on the board."

Walker expressed a desire to work closely with the management team, which pleased Gibson. "I think he'll facilitate a lot of communication between the board which is very, very key."

Gibson was optimistic about the team of directors, who will meet next in March. "They were looking very eager tonight and ready to rock 'n' roll. I'm really pumped to work with everyone."

WLUSU VPs hired

The WLUSU management team for 2011-12 was announced Feb. 14.

Lisa Andreana



VP: Programming

Codi Costello



VP: Campus Clubs and Faculty Associations

Holly Kaiser



EVP: Brantford

Sean Madden



VP: University Affairs

Miranda Priestman



VP: Services

Caitlin Thivierge



VP: Administration



Selected stills from the "Gold and Purple" music video.

GRAPHIC BY **NICK LACHANCE** VISUAL DIRECTOR

Laurier shows its true colours

Students respond to other universities with their own rendition of song, video

JUSTIN SMIRLIES
STAFF WRITER

In recent months, universities and high schools across North America - including three students from Wilfrid Laurier University - flooded YouTube with their own remixes of Wiz Khalifa's song "Black and Yellow" as a means of demonstrating school spirit.

"It's the perfect song to build off of and represent wherever you're from," said Brandon "Clutch" Greenwood, a fourth-year communications student and one of the artists involved in the Laurier rap remix.

Greenwood, along with fourth-year students Adel "Jazi" Hijazi and Michael "Mic Tee" Tjahjadi, released a music video on Jan. 29 titled "Gold and Purple."

Since its release, the video - which shows WLU students chanting, partying and wearing school merchandise - has gained over 34,000 views.

"We wanted to kind of represent all aspects of Laurier life, like we were trying to make something different," Hijazi explained. "We wanted to get something that

represents our school, as well as just to entertain."

Originally, this Internet phenomenon emerged in the United States, where numerous high schools remixed the song to boost support for their football teams. However, first to release a video among Ontario universities was the University of Western Ontario in November.

Kevin Crowley, director of communications and public affairs at WLU, commented on Laurier following the trend of the video. "It looks like Queen's and Western and [the University of Waterloo] (UW) and a variety of students from other schools have produced similar videos with similar music."

Many of these videos, especially ones from Ontario, not only boast their school spirit, but also take it further to openly denounce neighbouring universities and heighten school rivalries.

"Our number one [priority] was promoting Laurier before dissing everybody else. A lot of other tracks wanted to diss first and then kind of promote their school on the side," continued Hijazi.

Greenwood stressed the fact that this is a friendly competition

between the schools and there is a mutual respect among all the artists.

"In terms of the whole rivalry thing, the audience was taking this to a whole new level," commented Tjahjadi. "We're the rappers, we're the artists, we'll make the music - let the critics talk."

Much of the criticism for Laurier's video, however, has come from comments on social media and blogs.

"Hijazi actually embraces such criticism," Personally, I like it when people criticize to the point it lets you feed off of it."

Laurier VP of student affairs David McMurray, who was actually referenced in one of the verses, made his own comments about the video, especially regarding the use of alcohol. "There's a big influence on alcohol, which to me is kind of old. It has been around before."

"Some people would get the opinion that it was not in particularly good taste because of the over-emphasis on alcohol. Not every student wants to drink," added McMurray.

That sentiment was also echoed by the university's public affairs department. "There's some really creative aspects and fun elements to

this video," said Crowley. "It's unfortunate that some parts of it link binge drinking and coarse language to Laurier because that's not what Laurier is all about and it's certainly not something the university would encourage."

In relation to Laurier school spirit, the trio believes that Laurier students are loyal to their institution and that their video expresses that. "People are proud of being a Laurier Golden Hawk, and they're proud to show it. So we're just giving people something to chant, something to sing along to," Hijazi added.

"It's a good landmark to show where Laurier is at its hundred years right now, you know, maybe a hundred years from now they'll have to make a new video, maybe they'll be on the moon rapping," Greenwood joked.

The three will embark on a series of shows in March in the Waterloo area, including one at the Turret as well as one at Wilf's.

McMurray also believes that WLU ranks high on school spirit, saying, "I think Laurier taking a part in anything that displays great spirit and loyalty in good taste is great. I'd encourage it. And in good taste, right?"

A new face to sustainability

JUSTIN SMIRLIES
STAFF WRITER

Wilfrid Laurier University has appointed Claire Bennett as the new co-ordinator of the sustainability office - an office devoted to creating environmental and sustainable awareness at Laurier.

"My goal, basically, is to create a very natural environment of sustainability for the whole Wilfrid Laurier campus, not just for students but staff and faculty as well," explained Bennett on her new position. "I just want it to become part of the daily routine instead of certain events there and here."

Bennett is in the midst of creating a 2011 sustainable action plan that includes sustainable guidelines for construction projects, larger recycling programs in residences and academic workshops and talks given by local professionals.

As well, Bennett hopes to work with human resources to create orientation packages for new students, faculty and staff.

"I want it to be accessible for everyone," Bennett added. "I'm not trying to make anyone's life difficult; I want it to be available and easy."

According to Bennett, much of her plan is based on the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) in which Laurier received a "bronze" rating last fall.

For three years Bennett worked as an environmental health and safety coordinator in the alternative fuel system industry and is experienced in environmental design and law, planning and administration.

In addition to her work experience, she is also pursuing a master's degree at the University of Waterloo in environmental planning. "I'm basically hoping for not even just awareness, but just for people to want to come involved," continued Bennett. "I hope we can make it that sustainable choices are right at people's fingertips."

CAMPUS

Campus News Editor Mike Lakusiak • mlakusiak@thecord.ca

Publications holds AGM

GREG EVANS
CORD NEWS

Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications (WLUSP) held its annual general meeting in the Turret Thursday night, attracting more than 50 voting members.

Highlights were president Bryn Ossington's "state of WLUSP" address, the official approval of WLUSP's new organizational structure and the acclamation of president-elect Erin Epp along with directors-elect Judith Brunton, Mike Lakusiak, Tom Paddock and Jon Pryce.

Ossington, leaving WLUSP after four years of involvement and two years as president, used part of his departing address to event attendees to note that WLUSP has become a top-tier campus media group.

"I think we're getting creepily close to being the premier student media organization in the country," he said.

Other topics of interest in Ossington's address included WLUSP's need to seek more community

sponsorship to increase revenue and the need to justify Blueprint magazine's financial position, but he was sure to note that the organization as a whole is financially sustainable and is running at a profit.

WLUSP members had a chance to ask questions of Epp and the board of directors candidates, where the main concerns voiced included the lack of physical space available and the organization's poor record recruiting and retaining volunteers.

Ossington spoke about his involvement in remedying WLUSP's space problem. "To stay where we are is not an option ... we can't wait until 2014."

He did say that the university was willing to work with Student Publications on new space, but that this space would not be available for at least several years.

In terms of recruitment and retention, Epp expressed hopes to further WLUSP's professional development programs for volunteers to attract fresh faces to the organization.

First-year business student and director-elect Tom Paddock

expressed his ability to be helpful in attracting new volunteers. "With WLUSP there's so many different ways to get involved," Paddock noted. "I'm able to bring other first-years in to the organization."

Radio Laurier (RL) program manager and director-elect Judith Brunton noted her excitement for RL to finally have a voice within WLUSP management, declaring that she will "be able to assist Radio Laurier by being a voice for RL on the board, which hasn't really happened so far."

Jon Pryce, a current Wilfrid Laurier Students' Union director, was also acclaimed to the WLUSP board and is excited to perform in a new role, noting that "this is going to be a new challenge for me."

Explaining the relevance of his experience, he added, "Both boards are different in their own ways."

Other highlights of the AGM included the unanimous decision to amend the constitution to allow for "lifetime" WLUSP memberships to be granted by a vote of the general members. The decision was made to allow the first lifetime



ELLI GARLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

The 2011-12 WLUSP board stands by the entrance to its offices.

membership to be awarded to Angela Foster, WLUSP's former general manager who recently retired.

Another constitutional amendment changed the structure of the organization effective immediately, adding the position of publisher, which is now held by Bryn Ossington, and combining the positions

of president and chair of the board, which is now held by Jordan Hyde until the end of the fiscal year.

Regarding the fact that each position was acclaimed, Epp laughed, leaving those assembled with a final note.

"I guess you'd rather have me than nobody."



ELLI GARLIN PHOTO MANAGER

Research Profile: Elham Satvat

BREE MANTHA
LEAD REPORTER

Psychology department researcher Elham Satvat's research is centred around the human brain's generation of neurons under the effects of anti-depressants and focuses largely on comparing the effects of the medication to the effects of physical activity.

All adult brains produce new neurons in a process called neurogenesis, she said. These neurons assist with performance, memory and cognition. "In depression, the number of these new neurons are

suppressed," she said. Anti-depressants are supposed to assist with the reproduction of these neurons. However, according to Satvat, the results are paradoxical.

"When you look at some clinical studies, there are so many reports that people who are taking anti-depressants also have problems with memory and cognition," she explained.

"That's where my study comes into play," Satvat told The Cord. She has received a \$60,000 grant from NARSAD: The Brain and Behaviour Research Fund to continue her research.

"I hypothesize that maybe the new neurons that are produced by anti-depressant treatments are not functioning the way they should."

Satvat's research looks to find the cause of this malfunction. She says one option is to look at the genes involved in memory and cognition to determine if they are defective.

Satvat is also looking at alternatives to medication. She stated that physical activity such as running or biking have been proven to assist in the production of new neurons.

"There's a correlation between the number of new neurons and performance — for example,

running and physical activity usually correlated with the performance of a specific task."

"I'm comparing [anti-depressants] with physical activity to see what's the difference between the neurons that are generated from physical activity to neurons generated from anti-depressants."

Satvat, who has been working on the project for over a year, is greatly appreciative of the grant she was awarded. "They have a grant that's specific to young investigators, and that's the one that I got," she said. "I'm so excited about this grant. I've been very privileged to have it."



5th Annual
Wilfrid Laurier University
Global Citizenship Conference
Saturday March 5th 2011

"Canada's International Image"

Join us on Saturday March 5th 2011 for a multi-faceted event:
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Be engaged. Be empowered. Be proactive.



Featuring:

Key note speaker: Lloyd Axworthy
former foreign minister, human security,
education, environment, sustainability.



Tickets on sale now in the hall of fame,
Laurier International (DAWB 1-101)
online @ <http://www.gcclaurier.org>

Conference tickets: students \$15, community \$20
Key note speaker: students \$5, community \$10

info: wluglobalcitizenship@gmail.com

WLUSU remains confident results are not skewed

—cover

During the 2010-11 WLUSU election, candidate names were randomized and those not elected to the board were distributed evenly throughout the candidates when ordered alphabetically.

Both Walker and chair of the board Kyle Hocking remained confident that despite the lack of randomization of ballots, the results would not be skewed.

"The average student, I guess it's possible that they could be influenced one way or another," said Hocking, "But I really don't see it as a huge issue."

Walker mentioned the fact that this year students could click on candidates' names to receive information about them, therefore nullifying any effects of the order of candidates' names — a sentiment echoed by Hocking when he spoke to The Cord.

"If it was a manual ballot, maybe," Walker said. "But because you were online and you could click the candidates name ... we put enough

information out there whether it was randomized or alphabetical it shouldn't have made a difference."

The lack of randomization of the ballots is not written into policy despite being utilized in previous years, and the issue was not brought up by the WLUSU board of directors.

"It never really came to my attention until [voting] closed," said Walker. "That's the way we did it and then afterwards someone had mentioned it to me."

"Now that the elections are done it's not something we can go back and change," said Walker.

In terms of future elections, despite an aversion to re-ordering ballots, Hocking said the issue could possibly be addressed in this year's post-election review, if decided by the post elections review committee.

"If any of the other board members see an issue than perhaps it's something that we should look into," said Hocking. "But personally I've never found it to be an issue."

For graphic representation of the results from last year's randomized ballots and this year's ballots, visit thecord.ca

MIKE LAKUSIAK GRAPHICS WHIZ

LOCAL

Local Editor Vacant • editor@thecord.ca

Budget reflects stable finances

Tax increases remain low in Waterloo in comparison to the province and country

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

In what is being described as a "status quo" budget, Waterloo city council approved its operating budget for the 2011 year at a meeting on Monday afternoon. Working with a budget of \$143.5 million, the 2011 fiscal year will see the city continue its current staff and services, not adding or cutting in either respect.

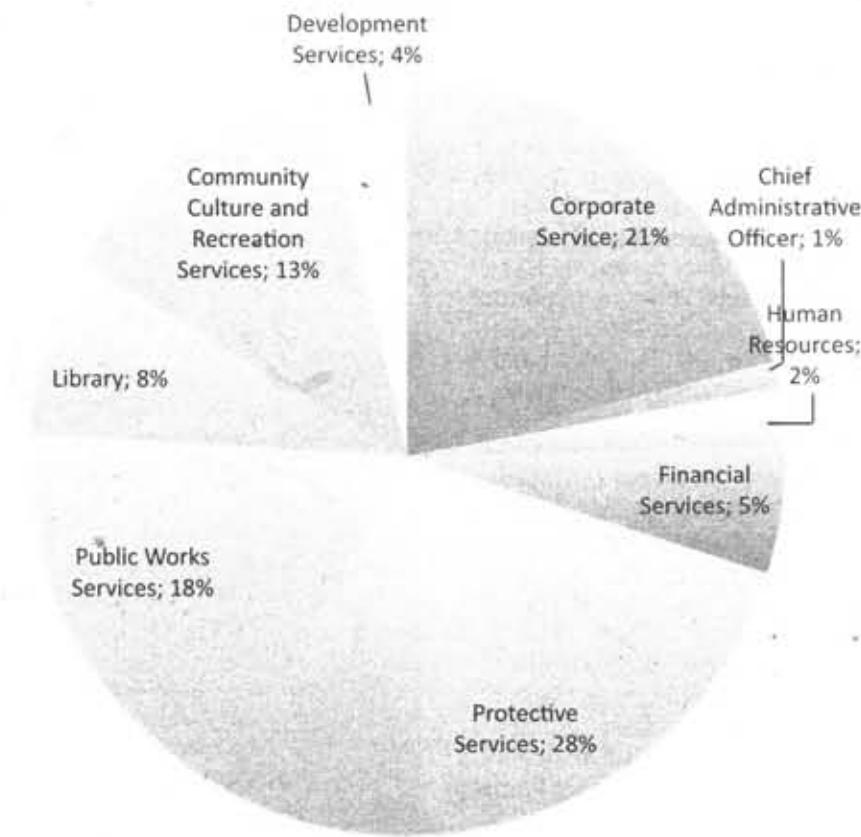
"Status quo budgets are really meant to make sure that we're maintaining our services," said Mayor Brenda Halloran. "We're not making any changes to services, we're really keeping everything the same as it was last year."

Using the Municipal Price Index (MPI), which reflects what the city spends on things such as utilities and maintenance of facilities, council approved a property tax increase of 1.89 per cent that translates to roughly \$18 on the average household in Waterloo. This increase is below the national and provincial inflation rates, which are currently at 2.4 and 3.3 per cent, respectively.

"How we set our target, the MPI, is always a matter that generates a lot of discussion," said Ward Two councillor and chair of the finance committee Karen Scian. "We're very conservative as a community with our targets and we think that's fair to our taxpayers."

With the relatively small tax increase and the ability to maintain all current services and staff, Halloran is confident in the city's financial position.

"The 1.89 per cent tax increase,



The chart depicts a breakdown of the budget by department.

it's keeping everything bare bones, right to the minimum and we're really working to keep that where it is," she said. "Financially we've really gotten ourselves in a better footing; we've really stabilized our finances over the past few years, we've been able to build up reserves and we've really seen things progress."

One aspect of the budget remaining status quo that comes as more of a detriment than an asset is the continued debt incurred by RIM Park.

According to Halloran, every year until 2031 the city will have to pay \$5 million towards the debt that began 10 years ago, a sum that represents "a huge amount of money for a municipality [Waterloo's] size."

While keeping with the status quo, Scian emphasized the need to account for the continuing growth of Waterloo.

"We're a very rapidly growing community and we have to make sure that we're always meeting the

needs of that," she said. "I would also say how we deal with growth is a topic that comes up a lot."

The 2011 budget is essentially meant for the new council - which was inaugurated in December - to plan out its first year in office.

However, the city is planning to immediately begin work on its three-year budget for 2012-14.

According to Scian, council is in the process of instituting a new strategic plan that will ultimately determine the direction of the budget that will be released in 2012.

The city intends on getting input from its citizens through round table discussions, town hall meetings and online interaction in order to determine what direction the city of Waterloo will go with its new strategic plan.

"We've just wrapped up one strategic plan and we're now initiating a brand new one," said Scian.

"We're working to get the community's view of what Waterloo will be and what we will want it to be and that will shape our budget for those three years."

Halloran stressed the importance of the two universities being involved in these discussions, as in the past the voice of the students has gone unheard.

"Both universities are growing and students are still coming in... so would love to see student input," she said. "We need the voice of our students on our strategic plan, it can't just be seniors and adults. This is the perfect time to hear from everyone."

KW in brief

Rail transit debated

On Feb. 15, regional councillors erupted at each other and at planners in response to the latest proposal for a rapid transit system.

According to the *Waterloo Region Record*, Cambridge politicians claimed that the planners were biased in their preference for train over buses. Regional council had previously supported trains in KW and rapid buses in Cambridge. The estimated launch cost has now reached \$818 million.

-Compiled by Linda Givetchash

Addict appears in court

Appearing in Kitchener before a judge on robbery charges, a meth addict told the court he couldn't believe the crime he had committed. In Nov. 2010, Matthew Holmes, 28, burst into Romeo's Hair Salon in an inebriated state. He demanded cash and when employees didn't comply he forced a woman into a headlock. The accused had two failed stints in rehab on his record at the time of his court date. Holmes was sentenced to 100 days in custody and two years probation.

-Compiled by David Goldberg

Blue bin anniversary

Few people know that the blue recycling bins used by millions of Canadians today started in KW. The blue bins are celebrating their 30th birthday this month. The program started with 1,000 participants in 1981 and today is available to every residential address in the region. Last year the region collected 36,230 tonnes of recyclable materials.

-Compiled by David Goldberg

WIUSP is hiring its 2011/2012 staff
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Feb. 18th: Cord EIC, Keystone EIC & Managing Editor, Blueprint EIC, and RL Station Manager

- Feb. 25th: Managers, Cord Director and RL Programming Committee Chair (includes Distribution, Photography)
- Mar. 4: Cord Section Editor and Radio Laurier Managers
- Mar. 1: The Cord Hiring info Session (details to be announced.)

Information and applications can be found at wlusp.com



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Upcoming strategic planning sessions will be held on Feb. 17 and 22 at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex and on Feb. 23 at RIM Park.

Building the city's future

Before Waterloo enters a four-year strategic plan, city staff have turned to residents and students for their input

MATTHEW SAVARD
CORD LOCAL

On Feb. 10, the city of Waterloo held its second input session for citizens to speak about the city's four-year strategic plan. The city is holding the sessions to gather opinions on the direction it should take with the budget over the next four years.

After the introduction and explanation of the current strategic plan, there were two main components to the sessions. The first was small group discussions with city-employed facilitators, while the second was a voting session on the importance of certain values and directions.

The discussion components themselves highlighted what people thought was important in regards to environment, health and safety, the economy and various other municipal issues. Facilitators wrote down all the points that came up in the discussions for future reference by city staff.

Rob Trotter, executive officer to the chief administrative officer, assured that the opinions expressed by

the session attendees are important in the city's planning process.

"People can come to a session with a particular axe to grind, people come for a reason. That is why we are having more than one session, to get as much feedback from as many different groups as possible," he said. "Everything that is down on these sheets, will wend its way into some sort of consideration for the strategic plan."

Many of the important issues looked at in the sessions were about intensification of core areas, the danger of congestion of King Street in the Uptown area, as well as keeping the identity of Waterloo as an innovative city.

A topic that received little attention was student interests. The recent session did not house a single student representative and, as far as the co-ordinators are aware, a single Laurier student had not attended any of the sessions thus far. In the first session of the strategic planning series, co-ordinators noted that at least ten students from University of Waterloo attended.

Trotter expressed the importance

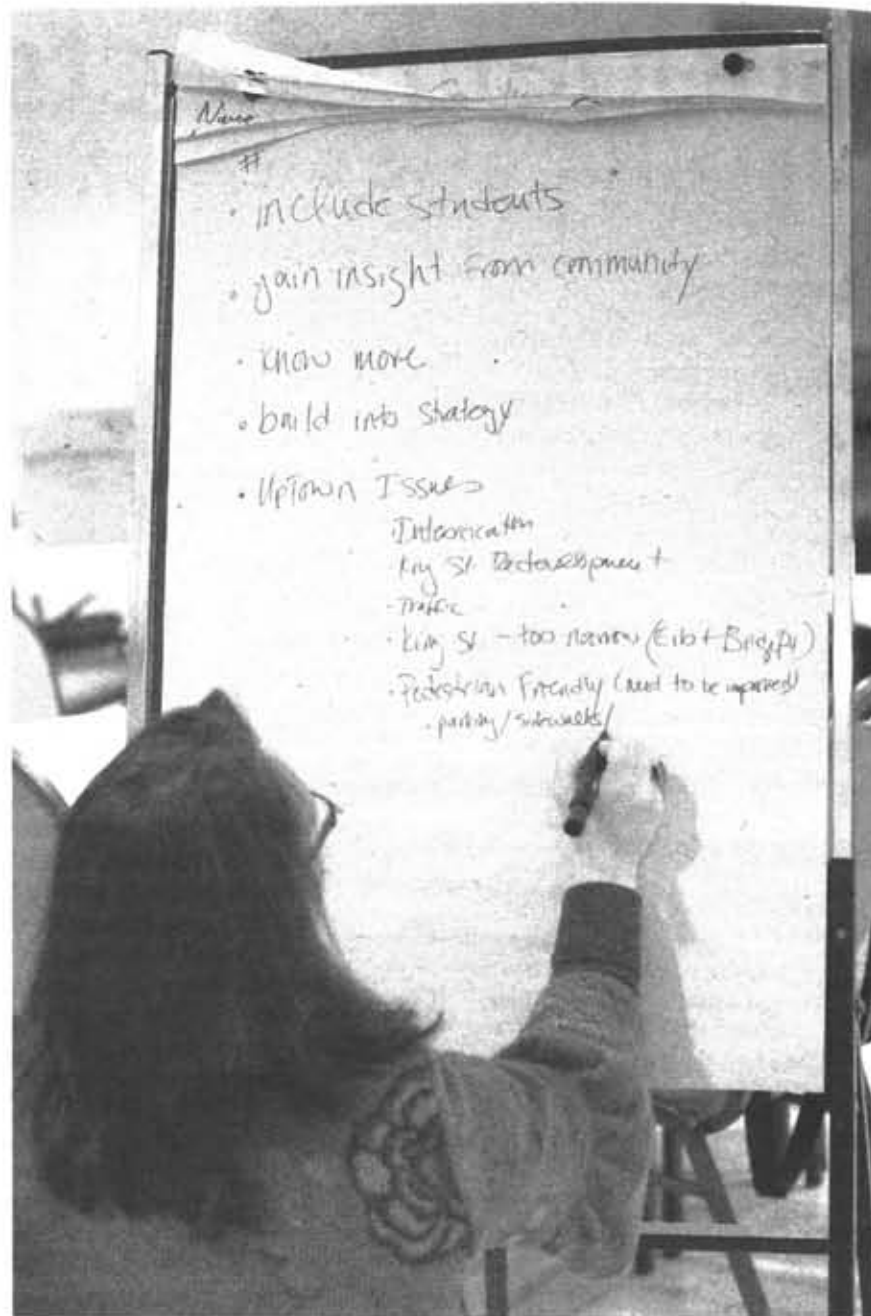
of student involvement. "We're trying to reach out to the university groups. It's tough to get people out," he said.

"I would suggest that [students] have opportunity to have their say," he continued. "There are opportunities on the website — there is a survey they can take and open ended questions they can put comments in."

As an additional incentive to go to a session, other than the opportunity to voice an opinion, the city has made prizes available including a \$50 prize draw for filling out a comment card that is available at the sessions.

To appeal to the more creative groups in Waterloo, there is also a video contest posted on the city's website for students and residents to communicate their vision for the city.

The next planning session is on Thursday Feb. 17 at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex in the Hauser Haus. Visit MyFuture-Waterloo.ca for more times and dates as well as a link to the video contest.



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Facilitators took notes of all the feedback participants provided.

To submit a video to the 'My Waterloo is...' contest check out www.myfuturewaterloo.ca for details.

Submissions are due via e-mail to strategicplan@waterloo.ca on Mar. 11 at 4 p.m.



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Embracing a 'global outlook'

Foreign-educated Ontario faculty use their personal experiences to discuss the importance of internationalism on university campuses

ALANNA WALLACE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In an increasingly globalized world the sharing of information, including education, has become increasingly relevant.

Many Ontario universities have formulated plans to increase the number of international students their campuses will accommodate.

One such plan includes the University of Waterloo's (UW) "Sixth Decade Plan," which mandates that 20 per cent of the institution's undergraduate population will be international students by 2017.

Although much discussion surrounds the monetary gains that international students provide for universities, there is also much to be said for the other benefits that international students can provide an institution.

Numerous Ontario institutions are administered by individuals who are foreign-born and educated abroad.

These institutions include the University of Western Ontario, whose president Amit Chakma was born in Bangladesh but received his undergraduate education in Algeria and McMaster University, whose president Patrick Deane, who immigrated to Canada from South Africa.

Both Chakma and Deane, among others, have a unique and insightful view into the realm of internationalism on today's Ontario campuses and how we can and must foster it.

"I was very interested in exploring other ways of thinking and learning," said Deane of why he came to Canada from South Africa in 1978. "The range of reasons runs from the purely career-driven to the curious and I think all motives of that sort ought to be encouraged."

The creation of other realms of learning were highlighted by many of Ontario's foreign-born administrators, including Geoff McBoyle, who received his education in Scotland and now serves as vice president: academic and provost at UW. "I brought the view of my discipline that was a European view, which was different," he said.

This exchange of knowledge and creation of a realm of international thought-processes have led many, like acting principal and vice president of Wilfrid Laurier University's

Brantford campus Lesley Cooper, to encourage a "global outlook" to education in the province.

"We have to be open-minded to thinking about education more broadly," said Australian-born Cooper, highlighting that many students will not stay in Canada, but go abroad for work and our education system must prepare them for this case.

"We need to have an international and global outlook to what we're doing."

In a world where those seeking education and employment will do so internationally, Ranjana Bird, vice president of research at the University of Windsor, explained that Ontario universities must recruit from abroad because the numbers for graduate programs like those in the fields of science and technology are so low domestically.

"So how are we going to be competitive?" asked Bird, who was born in India and received her master's and PhD at the University of Guelph. "Might as well take advantage of those people who are seeking those opportunities and coming from other countries."

Bird went on to explain that in developing countries like India, many students lose out on opportunities when they lack the funds to attend their local institutions.

She said recruiting talent from abroad in this case is "the approach we have to take" as educators in Ontario.

McBoyle explained three ways that Ontario universities can foster an atmosphere of internationalism on their campuses — one that will be beneficial to both foreign and Canadian students.

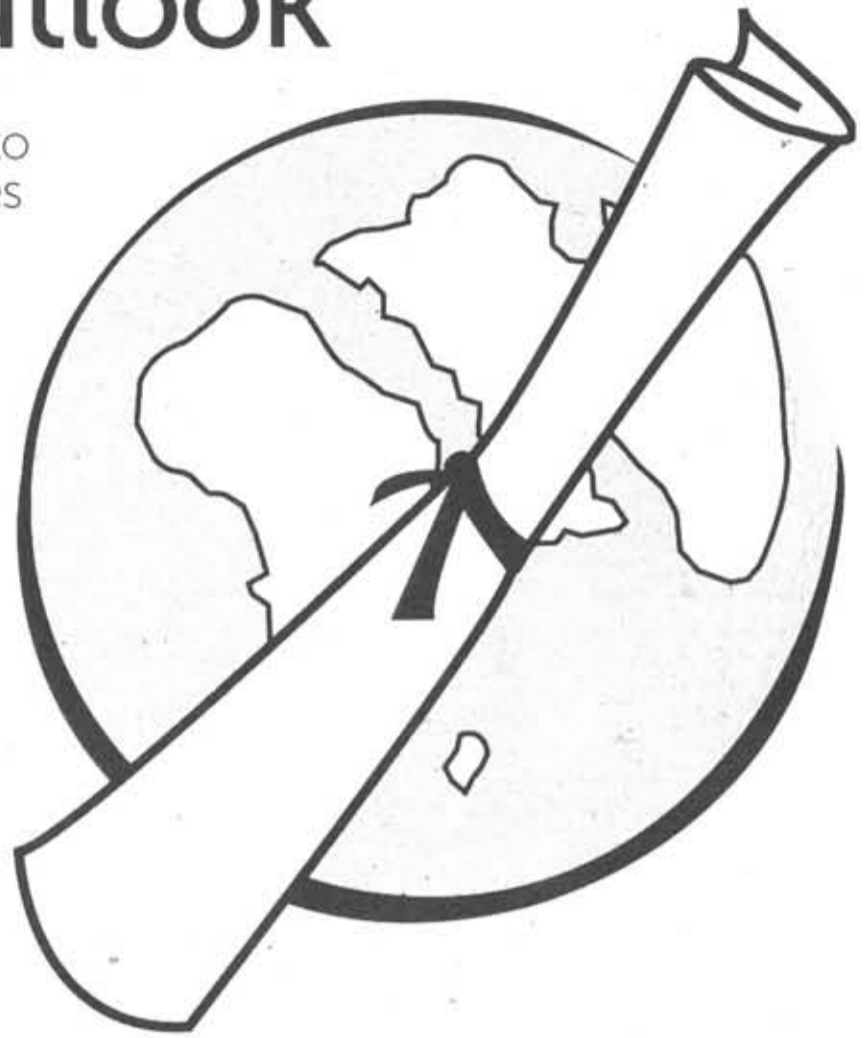
"We can take in more international students and as a result of that hopefully get a mixing of cultures within the university and different cultures have a greater appreciation of each other's cultures," he explained, the second way being to increase the number of Canadian undergraduate students who have exchanges overseas.

"We also need to increase the number of international graduate students so that we can increase the mixing of movement forward in research and innovation, particularly at the graduate level," he concluded.

Drawing on his experience as a

“I was very interested in exploring other ways of thinking and learning, other social frameworks ... reasons from the purely career-driven to the curious.”

—Patrick Deane
President of McMaster University on why he immigrated to Canada



WADE THOMPSON GRAPHICS EDITOR

graduate student at the University of British Columbia, Chakma said, "You create an international setting within your campus and you invite students to go explore opportunities elsewhere and then you facilitate that," of his philosophy regarding fostering an international

community on campus.

International experiences can come at a high expense, as pointed out by Deane, who encouraged alternative ways that Ontario institutions can foster and expand the international experience for students who stay within the province.

"It's possible to erect national boundaries into a kind of false threshold," explained Deane.

"You can provide an international experience through providing contact with international world views and international students and faculty."

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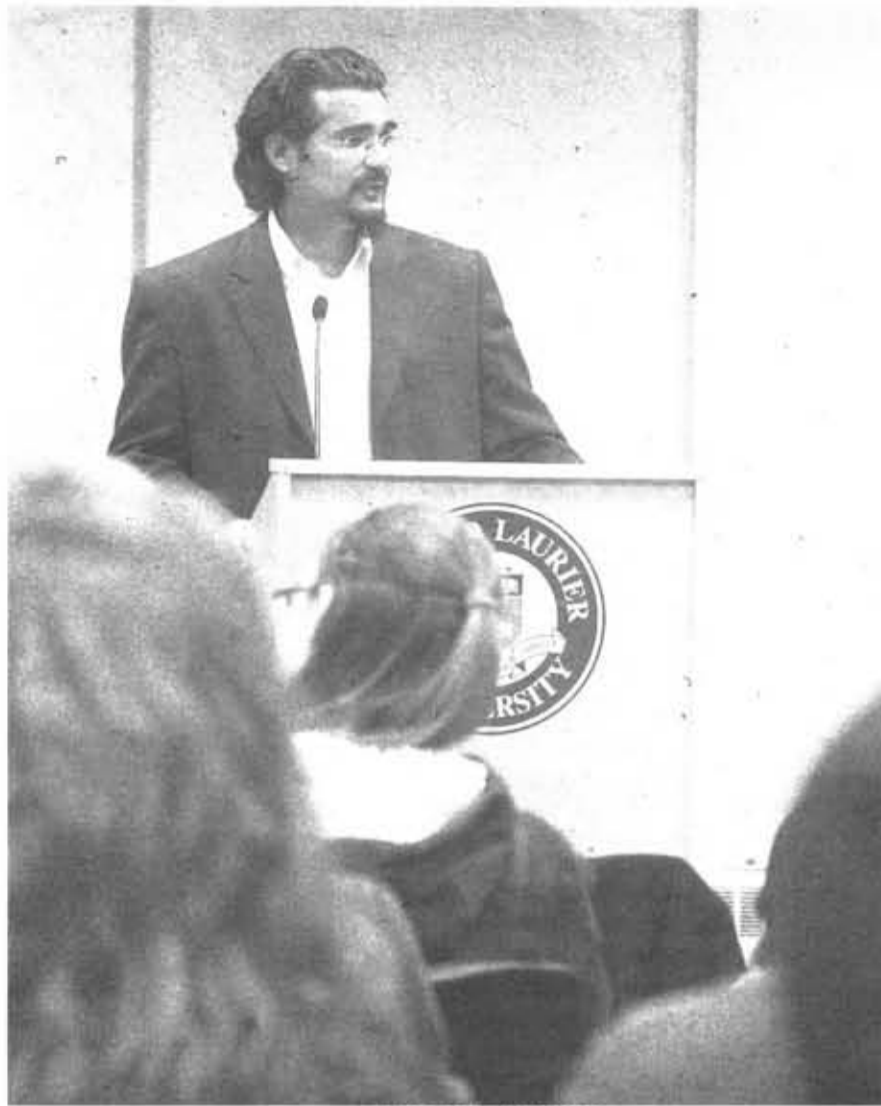
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WORLD

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Muslim extremism in the modern media



AMANDA STEINER
STAFF WRITER

Lead investigative journalist for the CBC, Nazim Baksh gave a presentation on Feb. 9 about perspectives concerning Muslims represented in the media as well as his experiences dealing with the 9-11 attacks in New York City.

"Everyone has their own beat in the newsroom," Baksh said. "There's the religion beat, the crime beat. In the past 20 years I found my own beat: the Jihad beat."

Organized by the religion and culture department at Wilfrid Laurier University, Baksh presented using his narratives from the frontlines and clips from documentaries to contextualize Muslim extremism.

He questioned the ideological forces that deceive Muslim youth and the extent to which Islamist extremism is a threat to Canadian national security.

"You've probably heard of the Toronto 18," Baksh said, referring to the 18 Muslim men who in 2006 conspired to plant and detonate bombs at three locations: the Toronto Stock Exchange, the Front St. offices of Canada's spy agency [CSIS] and a military base off highway 401 between Toronto and Ottawa.

Baksh has worked intensively in the field of national security and

religious extremism, covering issues in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the detention of Omar Khadr in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

His insight has been reflected over a 20-year career with the CBC, appearing on the *5th Estate*, the *National* and serving as the foreign editor on *As It Happens*.

Baksh shared his experiences interviewing some of the most prominent people involved with the 9-11 attacks.

He had an opportunity to see the five men, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who were the masterminds behind the 9-11 attacks.

When asked if they admitted to the crime Baksh remembered Mohammed confidently admitting, "We are proud of what we did."

As the presentation went on, the expected objective view concerning Muslim people seemed to become very negatively one-sided.

Though the presentation dealt with Muslim portrayal in the media, it seemed that the only Muslims portrayed were extremists.

Baksh spoke of an interview with Abu Hamid Maselini and Amu Kaitad, two men known for recruiting young men to join Al Qaeda.

He explained that they were asked how they felt about the World Trade Towers being hit.

As was translated, Kaitad told

Baksh, "Everyone was happy when the planes hit the World Trade Center." Further expressing Kaitad's comments, Baksh said that he explained that it was like when the superhero of a comic finally takes out the bad guy: everyone cheers.

The focus on Muslim extremists was noticed by some of those who attended the presentation.

When an audience member asked if Baksh was concerned that people might take away only the negative stereotypes from the Jihad beat, Baksh's response was frank.

In concluding his response to the question of the negative stereotypes being generated in the media, Baksh said, "There are people who make all of these outrageous arguments but they're utter nonsense. You have to put things in perspective."

He continued by exemplifying conservative radio and television host for Fox News Glenn Beck.

"You know Glenn Beck and how he says that 10 per cent of Muslims in the world are terrorists?" responded Baksh.

"There are 1.5 billion Muslims in the world. 10 per cent is about 158 million if I'm not mistaken. So he's saying 158 million Muslims are terrorists."

"Man, if you had that many Muslim terrorists in the world there would be nobody left."

MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Baksh has worked on the *5th Estate*, *As It Happens* and the *National*

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Dead Sea dying

Environmentalists raise concern over over-extraction of precious minerals

AMANDA STEINER
STAFF WRITER

Deep in the Jordan Valley bordering Israel lies the Dead Sea, one of the most spectacular landscapes on earth.

Yet, some environmentalists predict that by the year 2050, this wealth of minerals and resources could completely disappear.

James Hamilton, professor of geography and environmental studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, does not entirely agree.

"It's a really complex issue," he said. "If you look at the data, yes it appears to be dropping at one metre per year on average, but in its deepest parts it's still 300 metres deep."

Brent Doberstein, professor of geography at the University of Waterloo agreed saying, "Is it depleting? That's what it looks like but I doubt it will completely disappear."

"It's the kind of system," Hamilton said, "that's really hard to get a handle on because there are so many unknowns."

However, research has shown that a third of the Dead Sea is gone already.

"The thing is," Doberstein said, "is that once this problem gets more serious, it will more likely get attention politically and then people will work on a solution."

According to Hamilton, there is no water outlet in the area to contribute to the volume of the Dead Sea.

"So all the water that moves into the Dead Sea evaporates and because the water level is dropping, it's telling us that there is more evaporation going on than water moving in," he added.

"It's what's known as a cumulative environmental impact," Doberstein stated. "Everyone is taking

amounts from the lake in combination with temperature changes causes a net effect on the lake."

The loss of water has already caused severe damage to the surrounding landscape.

Massive sinkholes are appearing on the land, destroying farms and businesses, putting many people out of work.

Adding to the problem, water from the Dead Sea has been diverted for years in order to feed the industrial, agricultural and domestic needs of the local population.

This repetitive strain on the sea has had a disastrous impact.

Yet it is the extraction of minerals, such as potash and salt deposits, that are depleting the Dead Sea so rapidly.

Hamilton added, "Salt mining in the Dead Sea is a major contribution to the increase in evaporation. If the surface [of the water] were not disturbed by that activity, then the rate of evaporation would be lower."

"It comes down to what's more important," Doberstein said. "Industrial profit? Or keeping the Dead Sea?"

Doberstein suggested his opinions for short term solutions. "I think you need to identify the top five drivers of lake decline. You have industry of mineral resources, residential uses etc. You need to focus on the top five and then think of a long-term solution."

He continued to say that perhaps the government could "charge for water. People are willing to pay for resources [like this] and charging in turn is a way of water conservation. People won't waste water they have to pay for."

It is not simple to do anything of a corrective nature but a solution needs to be found if the Dead Sea is to continue to live.

Civilian casualties resulting from the first and second Chechen war are estimated at 100,000



Officially independent in 1991, Chechnya lost its sovereignty to Russia in 2000

Doku Umarov: Russia's Osama bin Laden

LINDSAY PURCHASE
STAFF WRITER

"God willing, we will make this a year of blood and tears," was the hostile threat from Caucasus Emirate Emir Doku Umarov in last week's release of a homemade video claiming responsibility for the Moscow airport bombing on Jan. 24. The Domodedovo airport explosion resulted in the death of 36 innocent bystanders, as well as injuring over 100 others. This extremist group, regarded as an Islamic terrorist association by the Russian government, has made headlines in the past for the 2010 Metro Station bombing in Moscow, as well as a fatal train derailment the year before. As such, Umarov's

warning of an escalation in violence is not to be taken lightly. However, his comments must be taken within the context of Russia's relations with Chechnya, a contentious area in the North Caucasus mountain range which has been warring with Russia for independence since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Len Friesen, professor of history at Wilfrid Laurier University, commented that our perceptions of actions taken by rebels like Umarov are seen through a narrowly defined lens of terrorism. "If you're a Chechen," he said, "then your definition of terror will likely include states ... that can drop bombs that you have no defence against whatsoever, that leave you

utterly vulnerable to their whims." These recent events call to mind the series of threats issued through video by Osama bin Laden since the 9-11 terrorist attacks. Both the Russian and American "war on terror" have been propelled through the use of media by government to present a very specific agenda to the public and to create an understanding of current events that is highly limited and often ignorant of external viewpoints. "The arguments that the Russians use consistently," Friesen noted, referring to questionable suppression tactics of Chechen uprisings, "is that it's the exact equivalent of what the Americans are seeking to do in response to the events of 2001, and it provides all the justification the

Russians need." When the world is presented with an angle that very much simplifies complex historical situations into an argument of democracy versus terrorism, it becomes difficult to retain an open mind. With the media being used repeatedly as a fear tactic by both governments and non-governmental groups, Herbert Pimlott, professor of communications at WLU, believes it is imperative that audiences formulate opinions based on a broader knowledge base. "New media tried to provide an unmediated window into the world, but even a window pane gets dirty," he remarked. "We only get to see part of the picture." Greater exposure to uncensored media also comes with a greater

urgency and panic surrounding events such as suicide bombings. It becomes more difficult to grasp what information and description is valid, and what should be disregarded. "When we use terms that get very emotive," Pimlott concluded, "it may shut down debate, it may shut down understanding of what the hell's going on." While Pimlott remains faithful that the Russian people have been conditioned to "read between the lines" of media outlets, his optimistic view is not shared by all. "[Russia] will persevere, even if they have to devastate that landscape in order to accomplish it," Friesen concluded dismally. "It's hard to imagine a very good outcome to this."

U.K. forests to be privatized

DEVON COOTE
STAFF WRITER

Voices across the United Kingdom were infuriated by the English government's proposal to sell 15 per cent of its forests, which are currently maintained by the Forestry Commission. The government claims a conflict of interest is their motivation for the move, while citizens believe the issue is ruining a part of England's cultural identity. The Forestry Commission currently manages 18 per cent of England's forests, which translates to 257,000 hectares of land. The remaining 931,000 hectares is owned through various corporations, private owners and trust foundations. The issue provoking the anger of the British populace is the implications of displacing the remaining public land into the hands of private owners. To settle concerns, the government has claimed it will ensure the protection of access and biodiversity of the land.

The government has also claimed that selling the forests will provide a greater role in civil society in general, for both corporations, individuals and various charities and trusts. "First of all, it sounds like a cost-cutting measure to me," explained Debora VanNijnatten, political science professor at Wilfrid Laurier University. "Secondly, if you're going to dissolve the power to regulate the forests...the big question is whether these trust groups have the capacity to do this?" A primary concern is the lack of funds and experience these charities have. The British government has stated that it will assist charities in the beginning of their ownership, however they are expected to become self-sufficient. The ambiguity of the plan has distressed the British public and the trusts who have had this responsibility thrust upon them. "The key problem is that the whole issue is very confused," said Kevin Hanna, professor of geography and environmental studies

at WLU. "It seems as though they threw the idea into the public thinking it wouldn't be an issue. There is no concrete plan of organization around this which causes problems." The rapidity of the government's plan is an indication of the lack of rigorous inspection that has been given to this idea. The fact that the movement did not go through parliament exemplifies the rush to have this idea enacted. "This is a bit of an ideological decision" continued Hanna. "The conservatives in Britain are more pragmatic...the move may not pass because of the sheer independence of MPs, who can vote against their own party if desired." Essentially the plan is surrounded by uncertainty of its purpose and application, as well as the persistent expression of dissatisfaction by the British public. The government has been forced to postpone and re-evaluate the movement in order to maintain political favourability with British citizens.



DEVON COOTE STAFF WRITER

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Different Strokes Smoking Culture



First-year student Nathaniel Andrew explained that the resources available on campus are helpful but some less-travelled areas pose difficulties.



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Amount of students on this campus registered at the ALC with a disability

Funds allocated towards accessibility upgrades on campus in 2008-9

Increase in the amount of students registered with the ALC on campus from 2000-8

Millions of Ontario inhabitants who report that their daily life is limited by a disability

'It's getting better'

Campus News Editor **Mike Lakusiak** examines accessibility on campus in terms of the physical and cognitive disabilities many students face daily. Students and Laurier staff members have shared their experiences regarding this issue that often goes unmentioned.

According to Laurier's Accessible Learning Centre (ALC), there are 830 students currently registered through the office with some form of disability, be it learning, cognitive, visual, sensory, auditory or physical.

That number amounts to approximately 6.2 per cent of the students enrolled on this campus, each of whom encounters unique challenges in the classrooms and facilities of this university daily.

"I'm fine. I'm more cognizant of other people and things that can present challenges. I find the main thing is to realize that we are just regular students. I find that sometimes, I don't know, there's a kind of misconception," said Alex Miller, a second year communications student who uses a walker.

Miller and others told *The Cord* that despite some irritations, the university — which offers many support services — fares pretty well in terms of physical accessibility.

Assessing accessibility

While the consensus was generally positive, those with physical disabilities had some worries with particular areas of campus.

All those for whom mobility is an issue spoke of the university's small campus — squeezed for the most part within a single city block — that appealed to them and contributed to their choice of Laurier over other larger schools.

"Because it's a smaller campus, you can actually get around," fourth-year classical studies and religion and culture student Rebecca Watson said.

She pointed to the recent redevelopment of the Quad area and replacement of stairs with a gradual slope, both of which made a noticeable difference for her ability to move freely.

Miller was also sold on the relative proximity of everything on campus.

"It's a huge selling point," she said. She explained that there is potential for the university to capitalize on its physical size as something to market to students with mobility issues.

"Laurier has an opportunity that no other schools have. The buildings are within one city block. They can make money off of that. If they put their money into accessibility, their payoff would be enormous."

Despite Laurier's small campus, both Watson and Miller explained that particular areas of campus were problematic and at times frustrating.

"This year has been a lot better with the improvements ... but it's still quite difficult to get around," Watson said.

"Definitely the area around the new expansion to the Terrace — that's quite tricky, especially with the snow and ice."

Miller said the St. Michael's campus posed the most problems, but the entrance to the Dining Hall was also frustrating.

At the moment, the accessible entrance is blocked off due to ice accumulation that happens every winter. The other main entrance has a set of steps.

This means Miller, and others like first-year psychology student Nathaniel Andrew — who uses an electric wheelchair — are forced to take the elevators up to the Concourse level of the Fred Nichols Campus Centre, make their way through to the Senate and Board Chambers and then take the elevator down to the Dining Hall to get there.

"It's a bit of a pain," Andrew said, assessing buildings like St. Michael's where entrances are problematic.

"There are definitely some areas, I'd say the less-travelled areas, that are not as good." Both Andrew and Watson complained about the availability and proximity of designated parking spaces as well.

"There isn't really anywhere to go that is close to any of the entrances," Watson said.

For students such as Andrew, the ALC can be a valuable resource. He is often in contact with the centre, which he approaches if there is ever something making his route across campus more difficult.

"Occasionally there will be a button that doesn't work for the doors or something and they fix it," he said, adding that under most circumstances, the university is quick to respond.

Sociology professor James Overboe, who teaches courses on disability at Laurier, explained that there has been improvement in the accessibility of campus over the years.

"It's getting better," he said. "I think when I first came here Laurier was behind."

Overboe walks with the aid of canes, and recalled years ago having to regularly call to have trucks that were parked outside the Dr. Alvin Woods Building moved so he could access the sidewalk.

He pointed out that despite the focus on specific funding for infrastructure to be created for people with disabilities, these systems actually affect all individuals on campus.

"One of the things that always bothers me is that there's a budget for accessibility yet everybody uses the accessibility benefits like ramps," he said, noting his own reliance on elevators and ramps to traverse campus.

"I don't know how many times I've had to wait for able people to walk down a ramp so I can walk up it," he added.

Overboe's goal is for disability to be considered first rather than as an

afterthought or exception.

"What I've been trying to work on is the notion of presence of disability, where people think about disability all the time, where it's foremost in their minds," he said.

"Right now there's an absence of disability — disability is considered to be an exception rather than the rule. We need to think in ways that are proactive rather than reactive."

A different approach

Overboe advocates for a new approach to examining disability, which is particularly relevant as issues of disability become more prominent in the media and new legislation comes forward.

"The way I look at it is more from a multifaceted perspective, rather than just looking at physical disability and how we make the physical environment better. How do we make the cultural environment better, how do we make the attitudinal environment better, how do you combine them all?"

Gwen Page, manager of Accessible Learning, said that the number of students with any type of disability — physical or otherwise — that her office works with is steadily rising.

More students with disabilities are attending university, a fact Page attributed in part to greater development work in high school.

"There's a lot more liaison from the high school system in," she said. "A lot of students as well are succeeding at the high school level and able to come here as a result of the accommodations."

Greater numbers of students with disabilities have resulted in the expansion of Laurier's Accessible Learning operations, especially in the last decade in order to provide a variety of services to students as means of lessening the effects of disabilities on their education experiences.

"Those accommodations are put into place to help create an equal level playing field for students," Page clarified, continuing that they are not put in place "to create an advantage or to create a system that evaluates them in a different context. It allows them to perform to the same standard."

Overboe's assessment of the current state of affairs is similar.

"The regular way we think about disability within post-secondary education is leveling the playing field," he said.

"What I would like to see actually happen eventually," he continued, "is that the presence of disability ends up creating a space where disability is not seen as something as lacking but as something positive to the university environment and to disabled students."

"It's a shift in thinking."

New standards

Similar to all public and private institutions in Ontario, Laurier is subject to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

The Act is being continually revised and built environment standards are being brought forward in the next few years that would affect all new building construction and renovations in the province.

In the meantime at Laurier, "A lot of the older buildings haven't been renovated," Dana Gillett, employment equity and AODA officer said.

"For a variety of reasons, some of them may not exist in the [25-year campus] Master Plan, others they don't want to do a renovation now and then in five years have to change it," she explained. "We're just at the beginning stages of the built environment stuff. There will be a lot to come out and a lot of project plans," she added.

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) was put forth in 2005. Its purpose is to improve the lives of Ontarians by "developing, implementing and enforcing accessibility standards."

Its goal is to improve facilities, services, accommodations and other infrastructure by Jan. 1, 2025. The Minister of Community and Social Services created a Standard Development Committee composed of 44 individuals from various areas of Ontario society (half of which have disabilities).

The committee proposed a final Accessible Built Environment Standard in July 2010 for the first five years to be approved by the minister.

The built environment standard refers to buildings, site development, public ways, as well as public parks, trails and playgrounds.

Elements targeted in both the public and private sector will be: common access and circulation, interior accessible routes, plumbing elements and facilities, as well as recreation elements and facilities.

The document states that the main or primary entrances to a building shall be accessible.

FEATURES

Features Editor Vacant • editor@thecord.ca

Reading week hotspots

Cord contributor Rosemary Travers lists the best of abroad and at home

Abroad

Las Vegas — If you're of drinking age, Vegas is the top spot for students over reading week. Flights to Sin City are generally seen as a bargain, which will be helpful for your student budget. Break out your deck of cards, bathing suits and best outfits for a couple of days you hope you'll remember.

Dominican Republic — Pack your bags for summer Laurier. It's all about escaping this frigid winter, only to be kissed by the sun's warmth and caressed by the salty sea air. With affordable prices, Dominican provides numerous options suitable for every guests' wants and needs.

Costa Rica — Experience the "pura vida," where worries tend to retire and the cocktails come free. Try the all-inclusive Allegro Papagayo resort, close to active volcanoes, unspoiled rainforests and pristine beaches gleaming with gold sand beneath your toes.

Florida — It may be somewhat overdone but Disney, outlet malls and the sun never tires. Grab a friend and pretend you're ten again. Or you could cruise South Beach or head to Key West for a more Caribbean vibe.

Canadian Venues

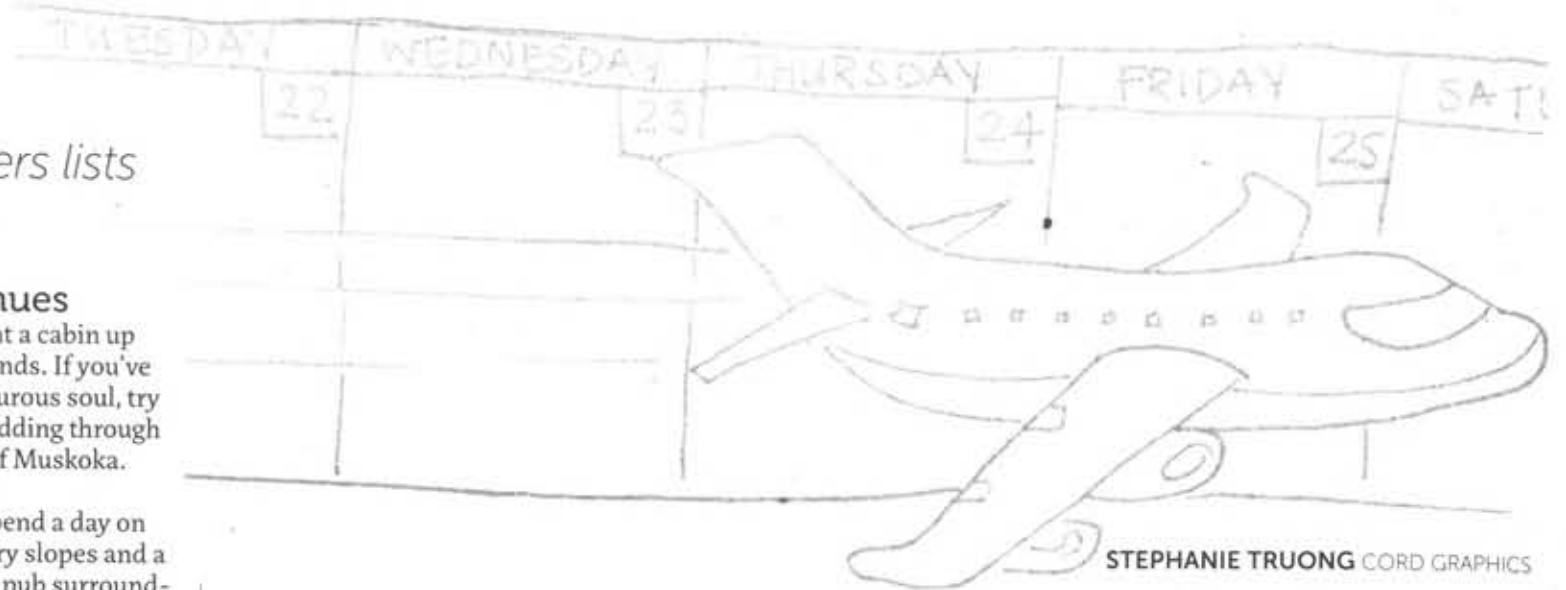
Winter Cabin — Rent a cabin up north with some friends. If you've really got the adventurous soul, try ice fishing or dog sledding through the wintry forests of Muskoka.

Blue Mountain — Spend a day on the whimsical wintry slopes and a night out at the local pub surrounded by dozens of quaint boutiques.

Ottawa — Pride yourself on being Canadian and visit the country's capital. The city offers many unique travel experiences for young adults. Skate the Rideau Canal, enjoy the nightlife and stroll through Canada's historic landmarks.

Quebec City — Experience real poutine and other authentic French-Canadian meals. Visit the Chateau Frontenac to see what Celine Dion experiences when she visits this remarkable city. Don't forget to shop on Petit Champlain and visit the Plains of Abraham to transform yourself to another time.

Niagara Falls — Have a roadtrip with friends and enjoy your cheaper version of Las Vegas. Enjoy the same things as the sin city except with the Niagara Falls as a beautiful backdrop.



STEPHANIE TRUONG CORD GRAPHICS

Lending a hand: Alternative reading week

While some students take some "me-time" over the break, others will spend their time helping others abroad

COLLEEN CONNOLLY
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to reading week, students are often faced with an anticipated selection of ways to spend their few days of freedom.

Some take the opportunity to relax by escaping to the sunny beaches of a tropical resort abroad.

Meanwhile others embrace the careless chaos of a nine-day weekend and a few even accomplish some actual reading.

Then there are those, like the students of Laurier's alternative reading week program, who do something exceptional that will have a significant and indefinite impact on their lives and the lives of others.

The program is jointly established by the student leadership centre (SLC) and the diversity and equity office.

The program began in 2006 as a set of domestic excursions that students took part in to help out in their own and other fairly nearby communities.

"There's so much information present but it's not really put into practise all the time," remarked Adam Lawrence, manager of the diversity and equity office, "like issues of leadership, social justice, diversity, community service learning."

"We really wanted to get people out of the classroom, off of Laurier campus and doing something in the community," he said.

But still this wasn't enough to really make the difference that was desired and so in 2008 the program went international and the true alternative reading week experience was achieved.

"We call it alternative because it's alternative to the preconceived notion of reading week, which has its place," said Drew Piticco, manager of the student leadership centre and associate director of student partnerships.

"But for those students who want to do service work, explore social justice issues, understand another culture or community and really immerse themselves... we want to offer that on a year to year basis."

Over the past few years, students have traveled to such destinations as Central Mexico, Louisiana, Costa Rica and this year the program will be taking its usual 18-20

participants to Guatemala.

Each year the group works with a different organization to ensure that there is efficient aid being offered.

"[We] look for a sustainable project so we're going into a community where a project is already in place," explained Lawrence.

"We're not just going in to do a band aid solution with a community but really going to help with something that is going to be continuous so that when we leave there's another group coming in to keep doing what we're doing."

The program is not just a week-long commitment. Applications begin in September and students, if selected, are expected to meet occasionally and learn about the program and their destination throughout the school year.

Upon their return, the trip's impact stays with a participant indefinitely.

The week causes you to "rediscover how to build relationships," Piticco emphasized.

These days we are all so "tuned in" that going through such an experience without technology, engaged in constant face-to-face interaction is really unveiling — a notion that both Piticco and Lawrence highlighted when speaking to The Cord.

"You're going to be a different person when you come back after only one week," said Piticco, who although he is a staff member on the alternative reading week, explained that the program has an impact on him as well.

"I don't feel like a staff member [on the trip] because I'm going through the same experience as they're going through," he went on to say.

Such experiences include the emotion upon visiting Louisiana's St. Bernard Parish shortly after it was hit by Hurricane Katrina.

"Because we were Canadians and Canadians were the first ones in the community to help... every time we'd walk into a restaurant or when we went and got ice cream there was this appreciation, people even clapped one time," Lawrence reflected. "It was like this warm reception. That was one of the most impactful trips for me."

This sort of reflection is a key component of what the alternative reading week experience is all about and it comes at a good time.

"From starting in September to

“This trip is really to ... look inwards towards yourself and really ask a lot of questions about who you are ... to learn more about yourself.”

—Adam Lawrence
Manager of Laurier's diversity and equity office

December and then January on you have your academics, you have your social life, you have different responsibilities and this trip is really to come and break away from that and to look inward towards yourself and really ask a lot of questions about who you are... to learn more about yourself," Lawrence confided.

Piticco adds that it "pushes people almost to their breaking point, whether that's physically, mentally, emotionally or spiritually. And we think that's a good thing because once you break through that... there is growth there, you're definitely changed as a result."

Lawrence and Piticco hope that in the future this momentous opportunity can be open to even more applicants.

"Resources dictate and our time dictates that we can only really plan and run one of these a year; our idea is to grow to that western model of having seven or eight opportunities."

The alternative reading week program may be young but it has tremendous potential.

They hope that it will soon take on the Laurier way and fall in the hands of a few young leaders, becoming a "student run process that is just housed under our areas," said Piticco.

This year's group will be offering more information on the program and their experience in the course sometime between the Monday and Thursday following reading week.

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ARTS

Arts Editor Sarah Murphy • smurphy@thecord.ca

Reviewing the best of the year

The Cord Arts staff share their opinions on the ten films nominated for this year's Best Picture trophy



127 Hours

It would seem near impossible for a film depicting a man with his arm wedged between a boulder and a canyon wall to be tolerable and interesting, let alone one of the most dynamic and unexpectedly uplifting films of the year. But it seems director Danny Boyle has managed to strike gold yet again.

With adrenaline pumping, caffeine-fuelled cinematography, editing and a beautifully fitting soundtrack, Boyle infuses a stationary setting with a peerless kinetic vibrancy.

Furthermore, while steering clear of traditional emotional expectations (instead of in clichéd slow motion, Ralston's fall and entrapment is shot as an offhand surprise), Boyle manages to find an affirming undercurrent of the human will to survive in the midst of his desolate subject matter, making the film's infamous gruesome scene almost unnecessary, a means to an end.

The spectacular James Franco completes the package, remaining perpetually captivating in his transition from hyper hiker to despairing, self-questioning victim. Far from an easy watch but an endlessly fascinating and very important one, *127 Hours* is without question one of the strongest films of the year.

—Kevin Hatch



The King's Speech

The King's Speech is an impressive movie. From Hooper's gorgeous direction, to one of the best casts of the year, the film delivers on all accounts.

It tells the story of Britain's George VI (Colin Firth), who suffers from a crippling stutter.

Firth's performance is spectacular, conveying the internal shame and fear of public speaking that paralyzes his character.

He seeks help from unconventional speech therapist Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush), which proves to be infuriating, yet ultimately tremendously helpful.

Rush's performance complements Firth's perfectly, as the pair's scenes together range from dramatic to hilariously to heart-warming.

Helena Bonham Carter completes the stellar main cast as George VI's wife Elizabeth.

Expertly written and beautifully translated on to the screen, Hooper's film takes the audience on a journey through George VI's excruciatingly uncomfortable transition from the son of a king, to the brother of a king, to the king of England on the brink of WWII.

If this film wins Best Picture, it will surely be deserved.

—Sarah Murphy



Toy Story 3

Toy Story 3 heart-warmingly portrays the endurance of true friendship and is creative in a manner that only a film from the imagination can achieve.

The movie reintroduces the familiar group of toys, led by Woody and Buzz Lightyear, coming to terms with owner Andy growing up and no longer wanting to play. They end up at a daycare with other abandoned toys, but then must escape when their new acquaintances take a domineering twist.

The inventive plot conquers the negative "all sequels must be bad" stereotype.

Additionally, *Toy Story 3* is a tribute to the computer-animated world — its original film being the first made entirely with CGI.

The humour makes it a movie to be enjoyed by all age groups, and, it carries through the same message of its predecessors that friendship conquers all.

Just as Andy has grown up and no longer plays with his toys, the generation that originally loved *Toy Story* have left their VHS copies behind. But they certainly haven't been forgotten — there is a place in all our hearts for the Disney-Pixar friends we grew up with.

—Colleen Connolly



The Social Network

Director David Fincher has done an impeccable job recreating the inception and controversy behind the enormously popular social networking website Facebook.

The Social Network is delivered by alternating between the stories of creator Mark Zuckerberg's journey to success — the initial creation of the website — and the hefty legal battles that ensued after the site's launch.

Eisenberg does a great job as the brilliant, calculated and uncompromising Zuckerberg, who defends his actions and shows his brilliance in the face of pissed off former best friends and business partners.

It is undeniably a deserving film for this year's awards for both its expert crafting and for tapping into the vein of a popular social movement and culture like none other before it.

The Social Network is an incredible film that has beautifully captured a moment in recent history.

—Drew Higginbotham



Black Swan

Black Swan is an absolutely gorgeous movie from director Darren Aronofsky, depicting a ballet company's rendition of *Swan Lake*.

Natalie Portman plays troubled swan queen Nina Sayers with eloquence and fire, in what might be her best acting performance to date.

Vincent Cassel also delivers a notable performance as the overly-demanding director, while Barbara Hershey plays the overbearing mother and does an excellent job.

The cinematography in *Black Swan* is superb with picturesque dance sequences and strong contrast between white and black onscreen.

With ample amounts of bloody gore, this movie is not for the squeamish. It is a definitively dark twist on the storyline of *Swan Lake*.

Unfortunately, the fairly obvious plotline failed to make the ending deliver.

—Drew Higginbotham

All movie posters by Cord Graphics

Read reviews of the remaining five Best Picture nominees and listen to our staff's panel discussion at

thecord.ca

Cape Breton songstress hits it big with Heart

COLLEEN CONNOLLY
STAFF WRITER

Last Tuesday, Heart's Canadian tour brought them to Kitchener's Centre in the Square theatre for a concert as legendary as the band itself.

Opening for the 1980s musicians was Carmen Townsend, a likewise Canadian with comparably commanding female vocals to match. Coming from a small town in Cape Breton, N.S., Townsend developed an early passion for music.

"Growing up in the country, our fun depended on the weather and when we couldn't go outside we'd listen to my dad's records," Townsend reflected.

"I would definitely say classic rock [was a big influence] growing up," she said.

Around the 1990s Townsend started taking music seriously and "wanted to play guitar and sing and be in a rock band." She cited Radiohead, Nirvana and Pearl Jam as big influences from this time. Still, Townsend acquired her own genuine style which has assisted her in

discovering new opportunities.

"It's always hard to follow your calling in life; it's not always an easy road. It was a long haul for me driving all over the place, running out of money, breaking down on the side of the trans-Canada, just trying to get to the next gig."

The dedication she put forth towards following her dream has definitely paid off, as she hit the road with Heart on Jan. 28.

She still remembers "seeing their videos on TV and lip singing their songs" as a little girl.

Townsend described the opportunity, saying, "This is really a life-changing experience for me because two weeks ago I was touring in a Toyota Corolla in the middle of the winter and now I'm in this massive tour bus that sleeps nine people, playing for thousands of people every night." She continued, "I don't want it to end."

But despite recent success, Townsend maintains her same down to earth attitude in referring to her future goals as a musician.

"I just want to be happy and

healthy playing music. Just being able to pay the bills is all I'm asking," she laughed in a light-hearted trill — a contrast to the powerful sound heard on stage Tuesday evening.

Despite the suggestively reserved title of her opening song "Sweet Little Bird," the piece possessed a resonating power which filled the stage even though only Townsend and her acoustic guitar were present.

It was a refreshing surprise, following the polite welcoming of the audience to her "dream come true."

Townsend followed up with several, self-written tunes from her album *Waitin' and Seein'* and ended with her first single "Start All Over" to the fervent applause of a middle-aged audience, as they waited for the sound of their youth to come through the music of the main act, Heart.

And they were not disappointed as Heart graced the stage to the opening chords of "Cook with Fire" and the audience stood, head banging in a slightly less aggressive manner than the band.

Heart played such popular hits



ELLI GARLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Carmen Townsend opened for Heart in Kitchener last week.

as "These Dreams," "What About Love," "Alone," "Crazy on You" and others from the 1970s straight through to their new material.

Founding member Nancy Wilson commented on the audience's "mixed response to the '80s because if you were there, you're glad you

remember them at all!"

But Heart remembered, engaging the audience with the decade's style and sound until the last exaggerated strum of their electric guitars.

Townsend said it best in suggesting that, like herself, they were all "rock and rollers at Heart."

EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • emerkeley@thecord.ca

Election fails candidates

After the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) elections this semester, our editorial board congratulated the students' union on its successful implementation of online voting, which pushed turnout to 35 per cent and proceeded nearly flawlessly. Evidently, we were too quick to dole out the congratulations. Laurier, they screwed up again.

In politics it is well established that ordering bias does exist. For example, survey research designs randomize possible responses and candidates for all levels of government see it as an advantage to have their name at the top of the ballot. This is even more true when public knowledge is low and general apathy is high. In other words, this is particularly relevant when it comes to the board of directors elections for those without established name recognition or incumbency. There was solid reasoning for the randomization of candidate names on the ballot that was exercised in the past.

In this election candidates were listed alphabetically. The effect of this failure can clearly be seen. Of new director candidates in the race, three of the bottom four on the alphabet failed to be elected. Only three of the new director candidates placed more than one rank away than would have been predicted by the alphabet alone. It is evident that the failure of the board of directors to institute name randomization on the ballot had a bearing on the results.

There is no good reason why the ballot wasn't randomized. The fact that the chair of the board would simply dismiss the results as a "coincidence" when faced with knowledge of widely-accepted ordering bias, displays a profound degree of ignorance considering that he, along with the board he led, was tasked with ensuring fairness in the election rules.

We have said it before and we are saying it again, the students of Laurier deserve better.

—The Cord Editorial Board

Video remix undermines student reputation at WLU

A recent phenomenon has emerged from the United States where university students have made YouTube remixes of Wiz Khalifa's song "Black and Yellow" as a means of promoting their school and denouncing others. This was replicated at Laurier and has had, on the surface, success in its distribution with over 34,000 views.

The creators claim that they sought to "represent all aspects of student life" with a video that shows Laurier students chanting, wearing Laurier swag and drinking excessively. We do not doubt the positive intentions of the creators or the school spirit that they displayed by taking the time and effort to make the video. However, positive intentions alone do not make for a good or effective representation of our university to those outside our school.

Last week, our editorial board commented on the declining academic performance of our first-year students. This is a serious problem that affects Laurier's credibility as an institution of higher learning. Internally, the last thing we need is to continue to promote a culture of drinking and partying that has no doubt been a contributor to the suppression of grades and an inability of students to make the most of their academic experience beyond the classroom.

Externally, the party school stereotype is not the image we want to promote to students thinking of coming to Laurier. It will attract those that aren't serious about academic advancement and repel those that are looking to strive intellectually in the next important chapter of their lives.

So instead of promoting Laurier as a school that is better than the others because we drink more than they do, how about we promote our Music and Business programs, which are two of the best in the country? Or instead of highlighting the fact that Phil's is across the street, market Waterloo as the intellectual capital of Canada that it truly is. We need to take our reputation more seriously.

—The Cord Editorial Board

This unsigned editorial is based off informal discussions and then agreed upon by the majority of The Cord's editorial board, which consists of 15 senior Cord staff including the Editor-in-Chief and Opinion Editor. The arguments made may reference any facts that have been made available through interviews, documents or other sources. The views presented do not necessarily reflect those of The Cord's volunteers, staff or WLUSU.



Award shows are pointless



SARAH MURPHY

letters@thecord.ca

As award season draws to a close at the end of the month, I can't help but reflect on how utterly irrelevant the big-ticket award ceremonies have become. From the Grammys to the Globes to the Oscars, which supposedly celebrate the "best" in music, television and film, it's become clear that flashy broadcasts, glitzy fashion and behind-the-scene politics hold more importance than merit these days.

The Grammys are probably the least legitimate and most ridiculous of the major ceremonies. Grammys don't need to be awarded to bands like the Black Keys and Arcade Fire. It's awkward and slightly embarrassing to see credible bands winning trophies at the same event as Lady Antebellum and Train. Yes, there were some great albums put out last year — I'm not saying that the Black Keys and Arcade Fire don't deserve praise. They just don't need to be recognized by the same "academy" that believes Miranda Lambert and Rihanna are the best in the business.

The aging industry execs behind the voting attempted to look cool and failed; fans now long for the days when "Grammy Winners" wasn't attached to everything that the Arcade Fire will produce from this point on, and all in all it just seems absurd. Furthermore, the awkward ensemble performances at this Sunday's event made the Grammys even more laughable. No one needed to see the chick from Florence and the

Machine stand next to Christina Aguilera to pay tribute to Aretha Franklin. Throw Yolanda Adams, Martina McBride and Jennifer Hudson on stage with them for the show's opening act and it becomes clear that the organizers are trying to attract attention by hastily throwing together big-name performers that really have no reason to collaborate.

The Golden Globes aren't much better. Supposedly honouring the greatest achievements in television and film, it's a wonder how movies like *Alice in Wonderland* and *Burlesque* were nominated for Best Motion Picture (Comedy or Musical).

Although the Globes didn't snub Christopher Nolan in the Best Director category like the Oscars did this year, their ongoing *Glee* ass-kissing is inexcusable.

For a show that has plummeted so drastically in quality since midway through its first season, it didn't deserve a win over a show like *Modern Family*.

As for the Academy Awards, which are set to take place on Feb. 27, I haven't completely given up hope. For the most part I am assured that when I go to see a movie that has been nominated for an Oscar there will be something about the film I can appreciate. Whether it's an overall impressive film or a single superb performance, the Academy still does a decent job of selecting their nominees.

With that said, however, for the second year in a row, films that do not deserve the nomination of Best Picture are garnering it simply because there is space to be filled in the category. *The Fighter*, *The Kids are All Right* and *127 Hours* didn't need to be included. A return to the five-nominee structure would make the nominations more legitimate by making it seem like the ones that made the cut actually fended off some competition for it. Throwing out nominations

It's become clear that flashy broadcasts, glitzy fashion and behind-the-scenes politics hold more importance than merit these days.

to make everyone happy does not bode well for the Academy's credibility.

Additionally, the behind-the-scenes politics and voting process always seem to skew the results. Rather than genuinely picking the "best" performance of the year, awards often go to recipients that the Academy feel are "owed" something based on past performances or losses.

Case in point: Annette Bening. She's nominated for a less-than-amazing film this year, but she's also lost the Best Actress prize twice to Hilary Swank in the past. So she'll probably get the we-can't-snob-her-this-time-vote from a lot of Academy members.

I just don't think that any of these major award shows hold any sense of meaning anymore. The Grammys hand out trophies to the industry's worst year after year, the Globes have become a second-rate Oscars, while the Oscars have become a game of trying to placate actors and directors for former results. So I urge you this year, as the award shows wind down, to watch the ceremonies and enjoy them for what they are — just don't be fooled into thinking that the outcome holds any significance anymore.

THE FORUM

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • emerkley@thecord.ca

'Dammit, ya got to be kind'



DON MORGENSON
letters@thecord.ca

One of my favorite authors, Kurt Vonnegut, sat at his desk when writing, under a sign the letters of which were emblazoned in deep black and read: "Dammit, ya gotta be kind!" And not only Vonnegut – we all acknowledge the blessings of kindness. Marcus Aurelius, emperor-philosopher, once said: "Kindness is humankind's greatest delight."

And certainly there has been much agreement on that principle, at least until our modern times.

Today we seem to lack a simple generosity of heart. We have given up on kindness, except for that one day out of 365 days, hopefully referred to as "Random Act of Kindness Day." My how such a day trivializes the gentle concept of kindness – one act of kindness during such a day over an entire year? Kindness should be a way of life, reflected every day in all of our interactions and permeating all of our behaviors.

It is a tough slog – the social sciences have convinced us that any act of kindness is really a strategy designed to maximize our own personal gains. According to such a doctrine, kindness is narcissism in disguise. We are kind because it makes us feel good about ourselves – kindness is deflected egoism. Or an even darker interpretation might be more Machiavellian – that an act of kindness conceals a raw quest for

power; a means to other ends.

So for most of us in a corporate, capitalistic climate, rivalries and competition prevail. This leads to social anxiety, estrangement from one another and isolation of the self. Theodor Adorno once suggested that even though our distance from other people may make us feel safe, it also leaves us with deep regret, as though loneliness is the inevitable price of unreflective narcissism.

One of the significant pleasures of kindness is that such acts reconnect us with others. When wisdom is analyzed, one of its critical dimensions is acknowledging our dependence on one another – our lives must always reflect such a profound truth.

In their book *On Kindness*, psychoanalyst Adam Phillips and historian Barbara Taylor cite the rather sad

story of John Stuart Mill, the great liberal philosopher who learned about unkindness from his father, James Mill. While preaching love, his father treated his son with contempt. At the age of 20, his son fell into deep despair. With no help from his father, he rescued himself by reading William Wordsworth's poetry, giving Mill a "greatly increased interest in the common feelings and common destiny of human beings."

Many experts suggest that one problem we face today is that people generally love themselves to the exclusion of caring about and for others.

To read the rest of Don Morgenson's column and more check out thecord.ca



You know what yanks my Cord...

...People who post annoying anonymous messages online.

The Internet provides bored teens with an outlet to post whatever they want with no consequences. But the trolling we are plagued with online does not only come from kids with nothing better to do.

For one reason or another, many adults also join in on the irritating trend.

Whether it's political debate, sports discussion or any other topic under the sun, you are sure to find ridiculous comments that are left anonymously. After all, no self-respecting person would be willing to attach their name to these posts.

They range from being stupid, pointless, vulgar, racist or worse. Whatever method these people choose, their comments are sure to piss people off.

The anonymity of the comments and the wide reach of the Internet have contributed to this phenomenon.

But if people are too embarrassed to post these comments with their names, why post them in the first place? Is it human nature to take pleasure in knowing that your actions are making others angry? I'd like to think otherwise, as this is a particularly cynical view of the world.

So if we assume that this is contrary to human nature, the subsequent conclusion is that there is something wrong with these people. Indeed, they need to grow up.

The Internet is a powerful tool that has quickly revolutionized the way we communicate.

But that doesn't mean that we should throw away all common sense that was attached to personal communication before the Internet came around. If you think something you are about to say anonymously online would lead to you getting punched if you said it to someone's face, maybe you shouldn't say it.

Or at the very least post your name with it so that the rest of us get the satisfaction of ridiculing your stupidity.

—Brian Shaposhnik

Letters to the Editor

Don't blame Food Services staff for deficit

RE: *Food services accumulate tremendous deficit, Feb. 2*

I am responding to an article in the Feb. 2 Cord and also thanking Doug Roberts for his support. As a food service associate I resent the statement from the food service director "...labour costs as a major contributing factor to financial woes." I also resent the statement by Dan Dawson that "The collective agreement...was definitely not in the university's best interests."

In 2000, Aramark was hired to manage Food Services. There was no deficit then. The Food Services full time labour force and its associated costs including benefits that Aramark complains about, are relatively the same as they were then. Now the accumulated deficit is \$3.6 million. What is the difference? How did this same labour force suddenly become so expensive?

In reference to Dan Dawson's comment about our collective agreement not being in the university's best interest; that is what a collective agreement is. Management and UFCW members met, agreed, disagreed and compromised. That is what constitutes an agreement. The net wage increase in the current

agreement is about half that of the previous two agreements and is lower than that for other bargaining units at the university.

Benefits are the same across all staff and faculty in WLU. Comparing us to workers in "regular restaurants" is not applicable if we are to be providing a service to students and not in competition with "for profit" organizations.

—Carolyn Marchand

Student Life Levy benefits everyone

RE: *Yet another fee increase, Feb. 9*

I am disappointed in the simplistic view put forth regarding the referendum to increase the Student Life Levy. A large percentage of students seem to think that they voted specifically for or against an expansion of the athletic complex, this is not the case. They voted for or against the student life levy, of which the expansion is a part of.

The expansion, I estimate, will use a percentage of the fee (maybe one third), the rest of that money will go towards life on campus. An example of what the levy has done in the past is improve facilities that students use like the stadium,

Alumni Field, Dining Hall and the Terrace. This fee gives the campus and students' union money to work with to improve campus life and I am surprised so many are against that.

As university students we are leaders in the world, promoters of new ideas and change; this is a way to do that. By contributing to the growth of the campus we contribute to the quality of life on campus. Based on the reported numbers, more than half of WLU students use the AC on a given week, and they presumably voted in favour of the expansion. Studies have shown that physical activity correlates with higher grades, and based on the article on the front page of the Cord: "First Years Struggling to Make the Grade," I think improving the outlets on campus is imperative.

When it comes down to it, we are not just here to learn, we are here to grow. For many people that involves being healthy and in that case this expansion is a necessity. If you don't use the AC, the money will come back to you eventually anyways; the levy will in some way benefit every student's life while they are here and as a result, I am glad the referendum passed.

—Allister Scorgie

Don't hate me music students

RE: *Music students underappreciated, Feb. 2*

In response to the music students who were upset with my comments in the January 26th edition of The Cord, I apologize for misspeaking.

When I stated that there was (to paraphrase) no academic outlet for singing, acting, and dancing, what I meant was that Laurier no longer offers a Theatre program and that Laurier Musical Theatre provides a theatrical performance opportunity for students. Many of the hardest working members of LMT over the years have been Music students and we really do appreciate all the hard work Music students have put in to our organization – we very well may not exist today if it weren't for them. Please don't stay mad, I want us all to be friends.

—Greg Evans

Letter policy

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

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OPINION

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • emerkeley@thecord.ca

Point • Counter-point: Crisis in Egypt

Cord columnists **Andrew Chai** and **Joseph McNinch-Pazzano** debate the likelihood of democracy being established in the Arab Republic of Egypt after the downfall of dictator Hosni Mubarak



ANDREW CHAI
letters@thecord.ca

As with the Iranian Green Revolution protests that took place in Iran two years before, following a presidential election highly suspected of electoral fraud, many of us in the West have come out in support of the protestors in Egypt.

Among those who enjoy the freedoms and rights of liberal democracies there is often a romantic idea of revolution. The French revolution and other historical revolutions come to mind.

I'm sorry to rain on your parade. It's not that I don't sympathize with those who have suffered under repressive autocratic and dictatorial regimes. As a person who greatly values his freedom I sincerely hope that Egypt goes down the path towards democracy.

But, a look at recent history and the sentiments of the Egyptians themselves suggests that it may be a little too naïve to have faith in this fairy tale story of revolution in this case.

In Iran, what started out as a genuine popular revolution in 1979 based on a broad coalition of all anti-Shah groups rapidly turned into an Islamic fundamentalist takeover. Ayatollah Khomeini, an aging cleric in his mid-70s who had never held public office, had been out of Iran for more than a decade. He expressed no desire to rule and was expected to only act as a spiritual guide.

Nonetheless, he capitalized on



JOSEPH MCNINCH-PAZZANO
letters@thecord.ca

The naysayers have had a lot to say about Egypt. Some have called democracy incompatible with Islam. Others have suggested that the revolution is nothing more than a transition of power from President Mubarak to the Muslim Brotherhood.

In the National Post, Lawrence Solomon argues that "democracy and Islamic fundamentalism cannot coexist — one places sovereignty in the people, the other in Allah." He further asserts that "Westerners who adhere to the separation of Church and State and to the ends of the UN's Declaration of Human Rights — life, liberty and security of person — would be undermining their own goals by enabling a premature democratic rule in Egypt."

First of all, the fear mongering being perpetrated by commentators (including those, not shockingly, on Fox News) about Islamic rule is at least somewhat unfounded. These protests were not uprisings

of religious fundamentalism. They came from the youth of Egypt with secular undertones.

The Muslim Brotherhood did not start the protests nor do they lead them now.

Furthermore, to suggest that democracy is some kind of elitist club that will be damaged if unsavoury members join it reeks of arrogance and ignorance.

There is no perfect democracy. One need look no further to the so-called pinnacle of democracy in America where the separation of church and state is a lofty ideal that is so often undermined by the control of the religious right.

Egypt is on its own trajectory toward democracy — one started by the people and one where no one

Exchanging one dictator for another or even worse, a theocracy, is not progress.

population.

In the 2005 parliamentary elections, the Brotherhood's candidates won 88 seats or 20 per cent of the total vote, to form the largest opposition bloc, while the legally approved opposition parties only won 14 seats or barely three per cent of the total vote.

Even now, Mohamed ElBaradei, former head of International Atomic Energy and Egypt's new opposition leader, has formed an alliance of sorts with the Brotherhood because he knows it is the only opposition group that can mobilize the masses. This presents us with the distinct

possibility that radical forces may take control like in Iran's Islamic revolution. Muslims and Christians may be marching hand in hand now and did succeed in forcing Mubarak to step down, but the institutions of authoritarian rule are still in place with the military now wielding absolute power and the ambitions of the Muslim Brotherhood still unknown. Exchanging one dictator for another or even worse, a theocracy, is not progress.

But, let's forget about politics for one second and look at the opinions of the Egyptians themselves. A recent Pew Poll, which surveyed the attitudes of Muslims in seven countries, may help shed some light on this issue.

Unsurprisingly, 85 per cent of Egyptian Muslims surveyed responded saying that Islam's influence in politics is positive. Only two per cent thought it was negative.

Furthermore, the most striking findings were that over three-quarters of Muslims in Egypt said that they would favour making each of these the law in their country: stoning people who commit adultery (82 per cent), whippings and cutting off of hands for crimes like theft and robbery (77 per cent) and the death penalty for apostasy (84 per cent).

My more romantic counterparts may still point out that a clear majority (59 per cent) of Egyptian Muslims preferred democracy to any other type of government. But I don't know what kind of democracy those kinds of beliefs could fit into. Simple elections do not make a liberal democracy.

My advice to those with a romantic idea of revolution is to not hold your breath for a liberal democratic system of government. Even the liberals and moderates within the movement don't see it coming.

bringing freedom to the Iraqi people. Bush advocated, like so many American presidents before him, for the spread of democracy at the hands of American power.

Yet what is happening in Egypt is not an American "victory" nor does it come through American military power.

It is an uprising of the people; a powerful and passionate call for a new state that respects a true democratic process.

For that, whether one believes it is sustainable or not, the Egyptian people deserve our full and unequivocal support.

The ramifications of this revolution in Egypt could be surprising. There are daily changes now in the situation in the Middle East. Very recently, several thousand protestors marched in the major squares in Iran.

The Egyptian protestors are truly heroic. To fight so determinedly for an ideal that has seen so many obstacles already and will no doubt see many more, is not only admirable but gutsy.

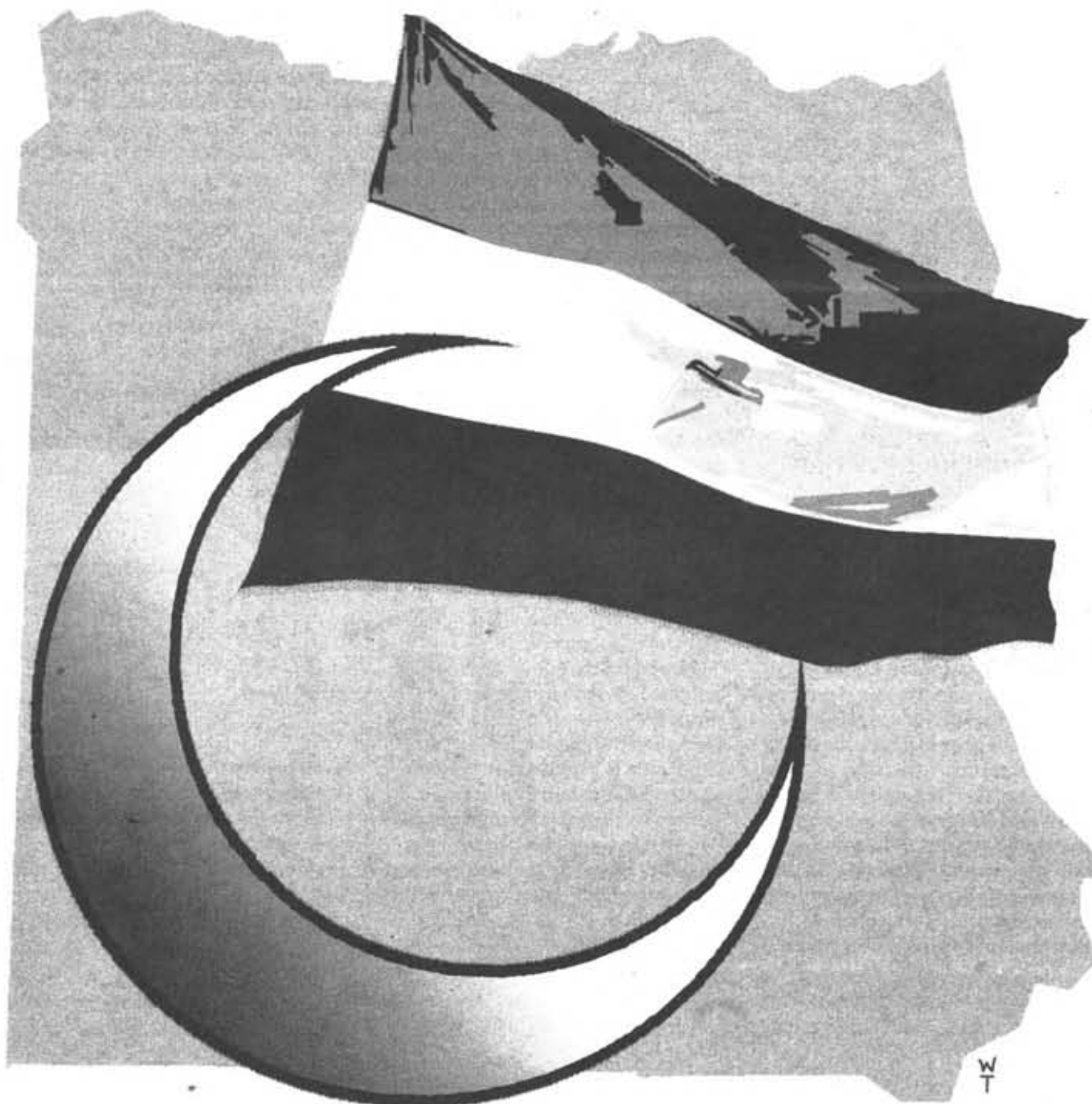
It speaks to the tenacity with which they seek a more just, equitable, and democratic state. Their determination ended the reign of a 30-year dictator and that was just the beginning of what these protestors are going to accomplish.

The West owes it to the Middle East to support these protests and help facilitate democracy if that is what the Egyptian people truly want.

really knows where it is going to end up. But what we do know is that the Egypt of today looks completely different from a month ago, and will probably look quite different from the Egypt that will exist a month from now.

Regardless, the West owes it to the Middle East to support these protests and help facilitate democracy if that is what the Egyptian people truly want. These next few months have the potential to be remarkably historic for the Middle East.

The commentators should stop trying to point out the obstacles as reasons why Egypt should not be supported by the West. When Bush invaded Iraq, the praise was lavished upon American troops



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I fully support the increase of the admittance grades. There are too many dumbasses around here loving Laurier and talking shit.
Sincerely,
Actually Trying To Bring Up My GPA

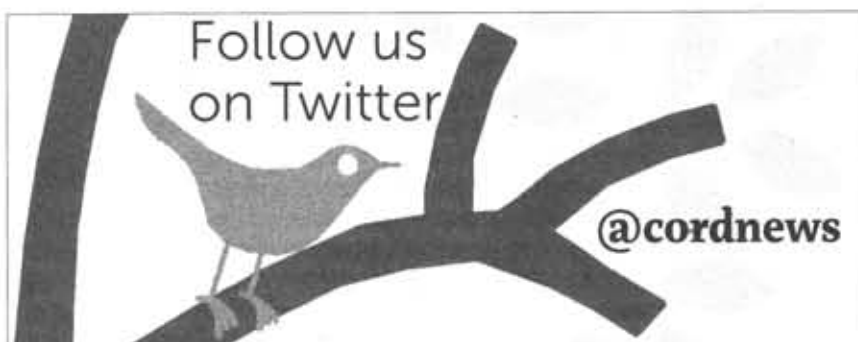
Dear Life,
Last time I checked, watching a music video wasn't supposed to raise your IQ. It's Entertainment! Live a little.
Sincerely,
Thanks for the hit on YouTube.
GOLD and PURPLE!

Dear Life,
Next time I get to class in record time, please make sure it's not cancelled...okay? And while you're at it, tell my landlord to shovel the driveway and dig my car out while he is at it.
Sincerely,
I've Got Soul But I'm Not A Soldier
PS. Stop the snow already mamma nature, it's Canada and winter blah blah I think we get it

Dear Life,
Why do I have to be woken up at 4 a.m. every morning by snowplows followed by the man with a shovel at 7 a.m.
It sounds like a transport followed by 50 trucks backing up. I understand the campus has to be cleared but residence students also need to sleep.
Sincerely,
Don't Ask Why I'm Cranky Today

Dear Life,
Please please PLEASE let karma catch up with my loud and annoying roommates who lack any common courtesy at 3 a.m. during the week. Even something as small as a raging flu or something.
Great. Thanks!
Sincerely,
If Karma Doesn't Show Up Soon, So Help Me!

Dear Life,
I want to take this opportunity to wish one of the greatest guys in the world a happy birthday on Thursday.
No, not you Brett Frydberg! Michael Jordan, Happy 48th Birthday!
Sincerely,
Just kidding Brett, see yah Thursday night bro!!



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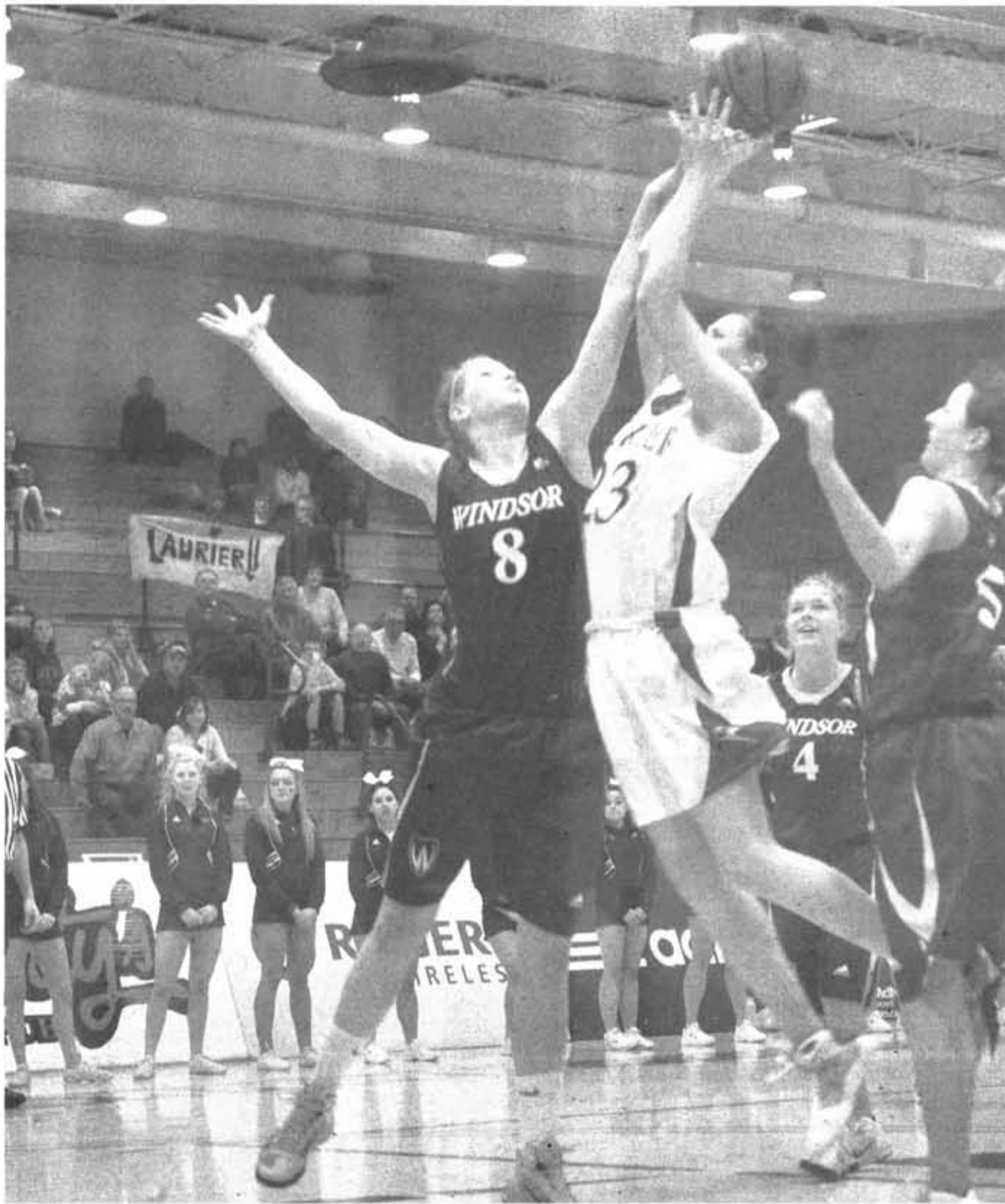
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SPORTS

Sports Editor Justin Fauteux • jfauteux@thecord.ca



Laurier's Christa Mancino (23) tries to shoot over 6'5 Windsor forward Iva Peklova (8).
ELLI GARLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Hawks in for tight finish

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

With just two games left in the regular season the future of Laurier's women's basketball team is very much up in the air. Caught in a tight race for the third-place spot in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) West, the Golden Hawks know they'll be in the playoffs — the question is where they will be playing.

Depending on how things go in their final two games of the season, the Hawks could find themselves hosting a quarterfinal or travelling to St. Catharines or Thunder Bay.

"We really have to get after it this week," said Laurier head coach Paul Falco. "We pretty much control our own destiny but every game's big. If we win the rest of the way we've got a good chance of finishing third and hosting a playoff game."

The Hawks' chances of hosting a quarterfinal seemed to take a blow on Saturday after a 66-60 loss at the hands of the nation's second-ranked team the Windsor Lancers.

However, the purple and gold received a stroke of luck as Lakehead and Brock — the two teams Laurier is tied with for third in the division — played each other with Brock winning 71-55, which meant that the Hawks didn't lose any ground.

Despite the six-point loss to the powerful Lancers, Falco was proud of what his team showed.

"I think Windsor is the favourite to win the national championship and rightly so," he said. "But I loved the way our girls played against

them. You have to play a team like that physically and you have to avoid making mistakes and for the most part we did that."

Hawks veteran Megan Grant echoed her coach's sentiments.

"We just wanted to play them better than we did last time [a 72-39 loss in Windsor]," she said. "We came out with intensity and we really matched them well for most of the game."

On Monday night, the Hawks pulled themselves even with Lakehead and Brock, improving to 13-7 on the season after downing the McMaster Marauders 64-58 in Hamilton. Monday's game was originally scheduled for Feb. 2; however, the match-up had to be postponed due to the school closure.

Still caught in a log-jam in the standings, the Hawks head into their final two games of the season with a lot on the line.

Tonight the purple and gold will visit the University of Waterloo, a team they beat 70-19 in their last meeting, and then on Saturday they will travel to St. Catharines to play Brock in a game that could end up deciding the final standings.

While hosting a playoff game would be nice, according to Grant all the team needs is to be in the post-season.

"I think we'll definitely make some noise," she said of her team's chances in the playoffs. "I don't want to jinx anything but we've set ourselves up well and we're just coming together and peaking at the right time."

Drug tests negative

—cover

However, those UW tests were prompted by former UW football players Nathan Zettler and Brandon Krukowski being charged with intent to traffic steroids.

The tests at Laurier were the first truly random, unannounced large-scale tests in recent years; however, there was speculation that the school's proximity to UW played a role in the decision to test at Laurier.

"Obviously things got magnified with what happened at UW and with us being down the street people may have thought we were connected," said Hawks wide receiver Shamawd Chambers, who was among the 67 Hawks tested. "But we aren't connected at all, we all knew no one in here was on steroids."

While the pressure of the pending test results could very well have weighed on the Hawks' minds, according to Chambers, they were never an issue.

"I can't speak for everyone, but for me I was fine," he said. "I knew that I wasn't on anything and I knew that my friends weren't on anything either. We just wanted to get it over with and move and here we are."

These drug tests marked the latest in what has become a recurring

theme of potential off-field distractions for the Golden Hawks over the past seven months. From the questions surrounding the late transfers of nine UW players in late summer to the eligibility concerns of defensive end David Montoya, which ended up costing the Hawks a win, to the recent news that only one of the nine former UW players will be able to play at Laurier again next year, it has been a rocky time for the purple and gold.

"To be honest, a lot of people probably thought we were really stressed out with everything that's been going on off the field but all we've ever cared about or focused on is football," said Chambers.

"Football is a stress reliever for me and I'm guessing it is for the 73 other guys on this team, so the best thing we could do was just keep going."

The CCES is expected to make an announcement along with Laurier later on today regarding the test results.

In other steroid-related news, the University of Calgary has confirmed that 60 football players were tested at a team training session two weeks ago, marking the first set of "mass tests" outside Waterloo region.

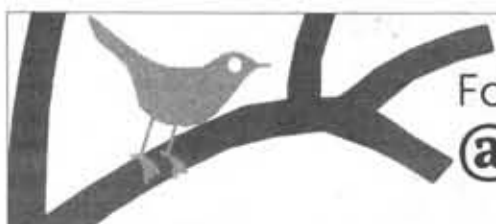
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WLU students 'crash ice'

Last Thursday, first-year student Megan Coady and second-year Mark Harris competed in a qualifier for Red Bull Crashed Ice.



Women's volleyball ends season on a high note

The Hawks finished their regular season with one win over York and another as a result of a Ryerson forfeit.



LYLA WILSON STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After their win over Ryerson, the Hawks barely made the playoffs.

Men's volleyball heads to playoffs

Hawks clinch spot in post-season with win over Ryerson in final game

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

The mission was simple: win and they're in. And that's exactly what the Laurier men's volleyball team did on Saturday afternoon, downing the Ryerson Rams in straight sets to claim the final spot in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) playoffs.

"A big load of expectations has just been lifted off their shoulders," said Laurier head coach Shayne White. "Hopefully this can translate into something good in the playoffs."

After taking the first two sets handily by scores 25-18 and 25-13, the Rams proved to be much stiffer competition in the third. Ryerson led the entire set until the Hawks tied it up at 24. From there the teams traded breaks until Laurier ended up winning 30-28.

"The best thing about what happened in the third is that we were down by quite a bit and had to fight our way back," said White. "We got a little bit excited about having some opportunities to end it earlier but they didn't quit and this is a good time for us moving forward."

With so much riding on this single match, it would have been easy for this Hawks team, which has been inconsistent all season to fold under the pressure. However, according to White, they avoided thinking of anything past Saturday's winner-take-all affair.

"We just tried to stay in the moment and focus on winning each point," he said. "I thought it actually

looked like Ryerson was really aware that if they won they were in and they started off just brutal, it looked like the pressure got them."

Coming into the match the Hawks were in the midst of a six-match losing streak, underscoring a woe-filled second half of the season that saw them win just a single match in 2011. However their second win of the semester proved to be enough to propel the purple and gold into the post-season.

Entering the playoffs as the league's lowest seed, the Hawks will be underdogs no matter who they play. However, that role works just fine for the purple and gold.

"We're feeling great, absolutely ecstatic right now. We had a really slow start to the second half of the season but we really picked it up today when we needed to," said Laurier captain Erik Kroman. "I wouldn't be surprised if you see us in the final four, we're going to do some damage."

For Kroman, Saturday was a bittersweet event. With the Hawks not in a position to host a playoff game the graduating fourth-year played his last game at Laurier.

"It's been an amazing experience," said Kroman of his time at Laurier. "I've loved every second of it, everyone here has been great, it's something I'll never forget."

The Hawks post-season begins this Saturday when they visit the McMaster Marauders, a team whom the Hawks lost both their regular season matches to this season.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of February 14 - 20, 2010

RECENT SCORES

02.12.11
W Basketball 60 - Windsor 66
M Basketball 76 - Windsor 109
M Hockey 3 - Windsor 4
W Volleyball 1 - Ryerson 0
M Volleyball 3 - Ryerson 0

02.11.11
W Hockey 2 - Waterloo 0
W Volleyball 3 - York 2
M Volleyball 1 - York 3

02.10.11
M Hockey 3 - UOIT 2

02.09.11
W Basketball 70 - Guelph 53
M Basketball 72 - Guelph 73

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

02.17.11
M Hockey vs UOIT
Sunlife Financial Arena, 7:30 p.m.

02.18.11
M Hockey vs UOIT
Sunlife Financial Arena, 7:30 p.m.

02.20.11
M Hockey vs UOIT
Sunlife Financial Arena, 7:30 p.m.

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Men's basketball falls in blow-out

CHRIS MANDER
STAFF WRITER

To cap off what Laurier called Super Saturday during which there were four home games at the Athletics Complex, the Golden Hawks men's basketball team played host to the Windsor Lancers in what was a critical game for playoff positioning.

Unfortunately for the large crowd of predominantly Laurier fans, Windsor was the only team to put in a full game's effort, putting a damper on a big day for Laurier athletics.

Despite hanging around for most of the first half, and even tying the game up early in the third quarter, the Golden Hawks were unable to keep pace with the explosive offense of Windsor, allowing the Lancers to shoot an impressive 49.3 per cent from the field.

"Our primetime guys weren't primetime guys tonight and Windsor's primetime guys were," said Laurier coach Peter Campbell, in reference to Kale Harrison, Max Allin, and Patrick Donnelly having less than stellar performances.

Campbell did not hesitate to call out his stars, specifically Allin and Harrison, who both had off nights.

"We have a second-year guy [Allin], and a fourth-year guy [Harrison] that are supposed to be our leaders and they were not."

Five-year veteran Isaac Kuon lead

the way for the Lancers, dropping 24 points despite barely playing in the fourth quarter.

Together with Lien Phillip, who had 20, the second-place Lancers were able to put up an overwhelming 109 points, including 36 in the third quarter. The difference in the third quarter was clear to Campbell.

"We know they are more athletic than us, and we didn't want to get into that battle and tried to avoid it," he said.

"In the third we played that game and they kicked our butts."

Laurier did not have much to show for their poor effort, losing by 33 and at no point during the blow-out did they have the lead.

"I didn't like the way we competed," said Campbell.

However, with a little direction there was one thing that the fiery coach did not mind seeing: "I liked Jamar Forde again tonight, and Pat [Donnelly] was good in the first half."

Leading the way for the Hawks was Patrick Donnelly, who mustered up 14 points despite getting constant repairs on a banged up chin, suffered in the first half.

Up next for the Hawks is Waterloo on Jan. 16 and Brock on Jan. 19, both on the road. Then comes the playoffs, and pending results Laurier could host a game during reading week.

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KATE TURNER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Men's hockey takes second spot

JAMIE NEUGEBAUER
STAFF WRITER

It was not a pretty weekend, but the Laurier Golden Hawks men's hockey team got the job done as they clinched second place in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) Western Conference on Saturday night.

With a win on Thursday evening against the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) Ridgebacks and a shootout loss to the Windsor Lancers on Saturday, the purple and gold finished the regular season with 36 points, one ahead of third-place Lakehead.

Rookie James Marsden's second goal of the year gave the Hawks just enough offence to hold off a Ridgeback third-period comeback and claim a hard-fought 3-2 victory on

Thursday. UOIT's dominance in the third period included two goals a mere seven seconds apart; and an 18-8 advantage in shots. Nevertheless, Golden Hawk netminder Ryan Daniels stood tall again, making 34 saves in the victory.

On Saturday evening the Hawks hosted Windsor with a chance to cement their hold on second place in the conference. The see-saw battle saw Laurier do just enough, earning the point they needed after losing 4-3 in a shootout to make the coveted conference runner-up spot their own.

Third-year winger Jordan Bonnaville opened the scoring 5:41 into the first period, one-timing a beautiful Zack Woolford pass past Team Canada U goaltender Jim Watt on a two-man advantage.

Former Saginaw Spirit Tom Craig responded for the Lancers only 1:27 into the second frame, and then third-year forward Mark Thorburn gave Windsor a lead under a minute and a half later, redirecting a Steve Ferry point-shot past Daniels into the Hawks net.

"We came out strong in the first five minutes of the game, then just kind of let up," said Hawks' captain Jean-Michel Rizk. "We turned the puck over way too many times, and let Windsor back into the game."

Team-leading goal scorer Rizk made a pretty play, deking a Windsor defender before going five-hole on Watt to tie it up 2:25 into the third; and then Mitchell Good scored the second power play goal of the game for the Hawks, re-deflecting a Phil Magistrale pass behind

the Lancer net-minder to give Laurier back the lead.

The lead did not last long, however, as Lancer centre Brett Oliphant beat Daniels on a wrap around to even the game up yet again.

In the second and third periods, Windsor dominated play, and if it were not for the strength and composure of Daniels, the Hawks may not have even got into overtime. After three periods, the visitors had a shot-advantage of 39-28, including a combined 29-15 in the second and third periods.

"Sometimes we get a little bit down on ourselves," said head coach Greg Puhalski. "Sometimes when you have a younger team they get a little panicked, and try to do a little too much. We have to learn to simplify, and at times do less."

Over the course of the season, Laurier only won once in overtime or shootouts and on this night their record did not improve as Mike Lombardi's shootout goal was all Windsor needed to take the two points.

Fortunately for the purple and gold, they only needed a single point to clinch second place.

"The easy part is over," Puhalski continued. "With playoff time the fun starts and it's the best time of year. Everything tastes a little different, and you find out the competitor in you and that will be very important for that team."

The Hawks will now do battle in round one of the playoffs with UOIT. Game one is Feb. 17 at the Waterloo Recreation Complex. Log on to the-cord.ca for a series preview.

Hawks await first round opponent



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

After downing Waterloo on Friday, the Hawks will enjoy a bye through the first round of the playoffs.

CASSANDRA BRUSH
STAFF WRITER

Last Friday, the Laurier women's hockey team dominated on the ice against their neighbours the Waterloo Warriors. Despite somewhat of a slow start in the first period, the Golden Hawks demonstrated their expert passing skills and stole the game at a 2-0 win. The two goals were credited to team captain Abby Rainsberry and third-year veteran Vanessa Schabkar.

With the regular season now finished, the team is looking with excitement to the upcoming playoff games. Because of their impressive 24 wins this season, the Lady Hawks have earned themselves a bye into the playoff semi-final round. Head coach Rick Osborne is confident that if his team continues to do what they are doing, they will do well in both the playoffs and the upcoming nationals in March.

"We are just going to make sure that our practices and our workouts are up-tempo and a pretty high-speed pace," he said. "We have home ice advantage. We have the largest ice surface for two out of three games in each series, and we're going to be playing on the largest ice at nationals. I think everything will be a building stone or stepping stone towards our ultimate goal."

Rookie Laura Brooker, echoed Osborne's confidence in the team. "We're just going to keep rolling and playing our game," she said. "And if we are going to be on our

game we've got everything."

Having such a diverse and talented team, the girls have been able to rely heavily on each other during the games. Now with the regular season behind them, Osborne believes that his team will be prepared for anything that comes their way.

"Our roles are all sorted out now heading into the playoffs. Our team is so deep and it's so strong our depth has carried us all season long," he said.

"We have three of the top scoring 'D' in the league. We have a couple players in the top three or four scorers, Brooker and Shirriff. And if you go to the next twenty, most of our team is right in there. We are the highest scoring team in the league, and we've done it with our jets. Yes, we've got a couple of big scorers but we've got a lot of other pretty big scorers too."

Looking back on their past season and looking forward to their future, the team is eager and enthusiastic about what is to come next.

A reflecting Osborne said, "It's been a long tough season. We clinched first last weekend so I am looking forward to get the playoffs going in a couple weeks."

Brooker revealed her team's excitement and focus for the future games. "We practice these things, and then we come out into the game and that is our main focus. We just practice hard and play hard. Just focus on the next shift. That last shift is history. You just keep going. Next shift is a new one – a new puck."