

# THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

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thecord.ca

## Re-organizing the chaos

New regulations for landlords seeking licences



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

With the City of Waterloo rental housing bylaw now finalized, the Northdale neighbourhood may look different in years to come.

AMANDA STEINER  
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

On Monday, May 9 the city of Waterloo held the final debate over the new rental housing bylaw and the councillors voted the proposal through. Now people wanting to rent in the Waterloo area will have to choose housing based on specific licensing fees — which will vary based on room number, floor space and other specifications.

Though amendments were made to the bylaw based on certain complaints, it was apparent by the reactions in the room on May 9 that not everyone was pleased. Many considered it to be a pointless bylaw, a waste of money and some citizens who spoke up at the city council meetings suggested it might be a way to get rid of students.

Following the decision, The Cord asked Waterloo ward six councillor Jeff Henry to share his thoughts on these ideas and possibly clear up some of the misinterpretations. When Henry was asked about the suggestion that the bylaw is being used as a way to get rid of students, he laughed and said, "It's ludicrous to suppose that the city of Waterloo wants this to happen to get rid of students. Most of our progress, motivation and ideas come from the students who live in this area — they are the life blood of this community, and everyone can contribute."

Local, page 5

## Outside franchise replaces C-Spot

Students' union closes convenience store in favour of leasing out space to International News, new store to be staffed by students this fall

MIKE LAKUSIAK  
IN DEPTH EDITOR

The Centre Spot convenience store operated by the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union since its creation in the early 1990s will close May 29 and be converted to an International News franchise, a company that operates outlets in airports, malls and hotels nationally.

While the changeover means that students should see greater selection, as well as be able to purchase and redeem lottery tickets on campus, the decision has left several students employed for the summer abruptly out of work.

International News will be bound to employ 75 per cent students when the store reopens after a 60-day construction period, consistent with WLUSU's own policies. The current employees will be forced to undergo a renewed hiring process at that point.

Sally Regenstreif, a third-year BBA student, planned on working at the C-Spot over the summer and was only told about a week prior to WLUSU's announcement that she

“It is definitely true that it's been difficult for these employees to learn that they won't be employed all summer.”

—Mike McMahon, WLUSU general manager

would no longer have a summer job.

Asked what she plans to do now, Regenstreif replied, "Nothing. This worked in with my school schedule but it would have paid for groceries and stuff."

"Everyone hopes and plans on [being rehired]. It's not guaranteed."

WLUSU general manager Mike McMahon explained that there are plans in place to accommodate for the students left hanging, though exact details are limited.

"It is definitely true that it's been difficult for these employees to learn that they won't be employed all summer," he said. "However, we have set up a process that those employees have some access to a fair process and aren't left hanging on

the day the store closes."

WLUSU will only be connected to the operation as a landlord, according to McMahon, who said the change will be positive for students as a whole in terms of selection, price and otherwise. "When the Centre Spot started, campus was 3,300 [students]," he said. "Now we have 12,500 — it's just not our expertise — students will benefit from the expertise of a national retailer."

WLUSU was first approached by the company a number of years ago, McMahon explained, however, only over the winter was the idea given serious consideration. "The students' union is able to better focus on its core strategies for student support," he said. "Although

the C-Spot isn't a huge business, the businesses do draw our administrative attention away from the core goals."

International News has franchises operating at George Brown and Centennial College in Toronto. McMahon noted that pricing on items looks to be similar if not slightly improved over the C-Spot. "We had about 350 items that were going to be less expensive under International News operations," he said, adding that while the C-Spot undercut International News on about 50 items, most prices are within 5 cents of the C-Spot.

A lottery terminal should be brought in under the new franchise, he noted, while tobacco will not be stocked due to a campus policy against its sale.

The store, as well as other WLU-SU businesses, also stands to sell Pepsi products as the students' union has not renewed its long-held exclusivity agreement with Coca-Cola.

"They've been our long-time

Campus, page 4

1994 - The C-Spot is opened, replacing the "Info Booth."

Jan. 1996 - C-Spot re-opens after renovations to the FNCC. Outlet is more than three times the size of the former location.

July 2002 - Cigarettes are no longer sold at the C-Spot when a policy in place since 1992 is finally enforced. WLUSU loses \$18,000 in annual revenue.

Sept. 2006 - A \$300,000 renovation updates the C-Spot to its current state and also removes the Hawk from the floor of the Hall of Fame — much to students' chagrin.

Aug. 2009 - The check-out counter of the C-Spot is upgraded at a cost of \$11,500 in order to "provide better customer flow."

—Compiled from The Cord archive by Mike Lakusiak

### Inside

#### Texting WLUSU

Fix My Laurier system aims to give students a more direct means of airing campus grievances

Campus, page 3

#### Rioting with social media

Social media may be a vital component of recent global uprisings, but not the cause

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#### Technology teaches

With the popularity of smartphones and tablets growing, classrooms need to catch up

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### Editor's Online Choices:

*Confessions of a summer shopaholic*

Life Managing Editor Katie Flood shares her bad habit.

thecord.ca



Editor-in-Chief Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca

## This Week in quotes

“Why did they put forth a referendum to add \$5 million in expansion to the athletic complex, but nothing towards the gymnasium?”

—Shayne White, men's head volleyball coach, on the lack of space for the team.



“I didn't even know he applied here!”  
—Robert Herjavec regarding his son coming to Laurier next year.

“This bylaw is a sacrificial orgy of wrong”  
—Representative of the Canadian Tax Payers Alliance for new Waterloo housing by-law.

“You're used to learning in a very mobile, flexible way... well outside of a structured, defined classroom.”  
—Ginny Dybenko, on the changing scheme of education.

## life



now launched at thecord.ca

## From the archives

### 6 years Not just another 'shitty summer' in Waterloo

Major League Summer Baseball or MLSB is a non-competitive softball league that organizes social events for students staying behind over the summer months. The group consists of over 500 people but is made up of mainly SBE students.

The league is sponsored by many different companies and all their proceeds go towards charities in need. Although they are labeled as a baseball league, the group focuses mainly on planning social gatherings, which always include plenty of drinking.

Students refer to it as a unique experience and not something you would expect to do in university. Their events can range anywhere from an “all day summer bash” to a Value Village themed party. The group even heads north to Ottawa in late July for a weekend of live entertainment, rafting and of course, drinking.

Their main goal is to provide students who may not be happy about being in Waterloo over the summer with an opportunity to make it the best one yet.

Printed May 25, 2005

## Vocal Cord

How do you want the city to improve transit?



“They can have a more frequent system later into the night.”

—Danielle Cudmore  
Fourth-year political science



“If they had [busses] on more main city streets instead of around neighbourhoods.”

—Angela Beesley  
Second-year general arts



“Make the busses run later.”

—Valerie Fraser  
Second-year business



“I want them to be more on time.”

—Sheana Correia  
Fourth-year global studies

Compiled by Linda Givetash  
Photos by Nick Lachance

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## THE CORD

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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 or CanWeb Printing Inc.

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The Cord has been a proud member of the Ontario Press Council since 2006 and enjoys a readership of over 10,000. Cord subscription rates are \$20.00 per term for addresses within Canada.

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

CanWeb Print is The Cord's national advertising agency.

### Preamble to The Cord constitution

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

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

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

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

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

Quote of the week:  
“Eppid (sic) makes me giggle.”  
—Lead Reporter Lindsay Purchase, after her coughing was mistaken for laughter.

## NEWS

News Director Justin Fauteux • jfauteux@thecord.ca

## 'Fixing' Laurier through texts

MARCIE FOSTER  
LEAD REPORTER

Soon students will have more than just the 'Dear Life' column to profess campus concerns. The Fix My Laurier (FML) text-to-Wilfrid Laurier University Students Union system is a new initiative launched by the university affairs committee and spearheaded by vice presidents Steve Franchetto and Sean Madden for students to advocate for campus issues.

The concept itself is a legacy project originally conceived by former board members Kory Preston and Griffin Carpenter. The cost of the system has been budgeted at under \$2,000 and the university affairs committee aims to have the system working by September with trial runs beginning in August.

The aim of the project is to empower the university affairs committee, connecting WLUSU with student concerns.

"It's an inexpensive way to get people's direct input as it happens," WLUSU president Nick Gibson said. "If you're in your class, and the Internet sucks—even though it's something that we already know about—we can hear about it."

"If I can say, one that this [feedback is about] an advocacy issue;

two you're not the only one experiencing it and three we hear you and can do something about it, then it allows [students] to self-advocate and allows them to identify issues we can advocate, issues like the Internet on campus," said Madden.

"The overwhelming benefit of such a system outweighs some of the challenges," added Gibson.

Gibson mentioned that the system can handle an unlimited amount of texts and that university affairs is preparing to deal with all kinds of comments, "from food services, to residence life, things that aren't necessarily within the union, the committee would be able to deal with and redirect necessary information."

Gibson acknowledged that some issues are not under WLUSU jurisdiction but that they would still like to know about them.

"[The system] is both a short term and a long term thing: when you have students at the beginning of their academic careers, [FML is] something that will allow students to immediately feel like they're engaged," he noted. "That may seem symbolic but I think it's a very important thing, that notion of input legitimacy. Within our student union it is something that has lacked a lot over the last few years."

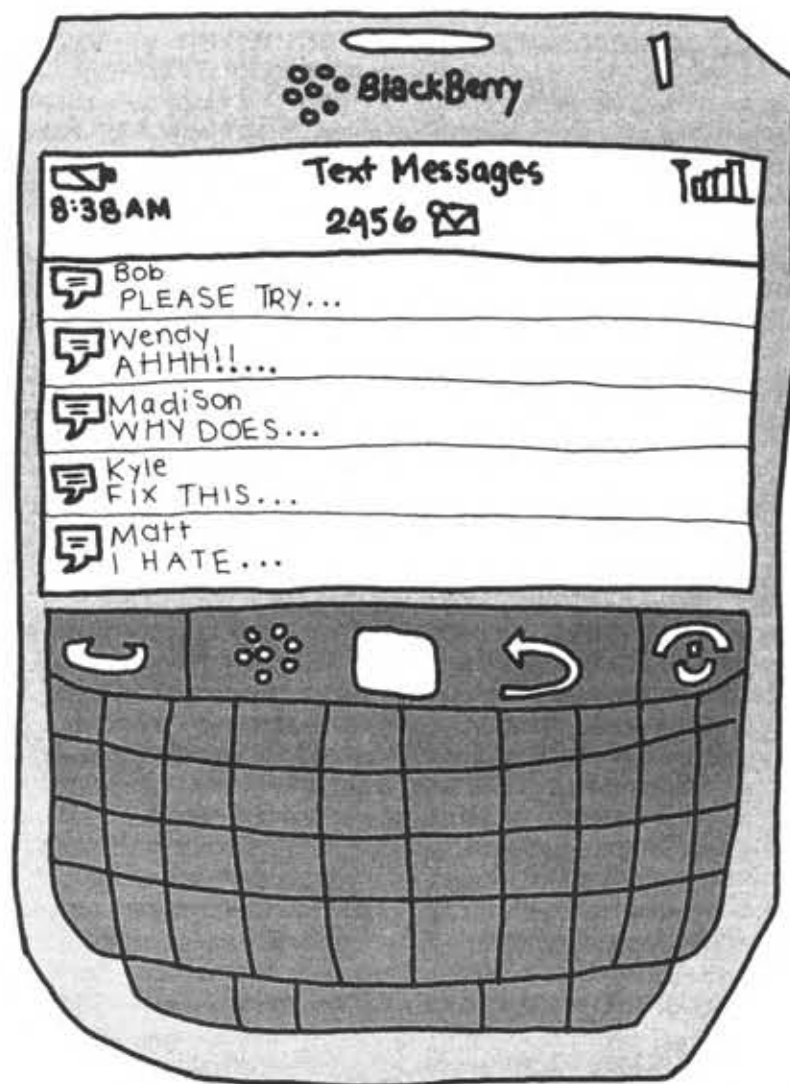
The system itself is a combination of a web applet and an input number which students will be texting to.

The data will be displayed in intervals on the WLUSU website to show students exactly what issues are at the forefront and which ones university affairs is working on.

"All information collected is confidential and anonymous," said Madden. "We have to abide by a code of ethics."

"The cool thing about this program is that it gives us the data in a very easy to manipulate format, we will be able to say, 'here is a snapshot of your concerns.' We will be able to see when Internet concerns peak, when study space concerns peak and that will be really helpful there," Madden added. "We should also be able to respond to concerns in a Twitter-type fashion, including links to relevant research or demonstrations."

Both external and internal affairs volunteers will be working on this system to distribute the information and process incoming data. The system is a project run within WLUSU by university affairs committee's internal and external affairs volunteers, additionally assisted by Phil Champagne, and enabled by the funding of the WLUSU board of directors.



STEPHANIE TRUONG GRAPHICS ARTIST

## Herjavec inspires WLU

Dragons' Den star shares story of success with Laurier alumni

JUSTIN SMIRLIES  
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Telling his story about becoming one of Canada's most successful businessmen, television personality and computer mogul Robert Herjavec spoke to an enthusiastic crowd of Wilfrid Laurier University alumni as the keynote speaker at Laurier Development Day on May 6.

"It's the basic human condition that we want to better our lives," Herjavec told the crowd. "I'm pretty certain that everyone in this room didn't wake up and say, 'I want my life to suck today.'"

To many, Herjavec is one of the venture capitalists on CBC's hit television show *Dragon's Den*, as well as its American counterpart *Sharks' Tank*. But *Dragon's Den* wasn't always the hit show that it is today.

"If it wasn't for CBC, we would have never have come back," Herjavec said, noting that the first season of the show was a complete failure.

But with a peak of about four million views in its subsequent four seasons, Herjavec was proud to announce that *Dragon's Den* was Canada's most successful show ever.

The majority of the talk, however, was the story of his road to success—something that, according to alumni relations, is what people like to hear on Laurier Development Day.

Teresa Smiley, the alumni relations officer, expressed that Herjavec filled that ticket.

"We have achieved success based on requests by previous attendees that they indicated that they like to hear stories of people who have achieved of certain level of success," she said.

Herjavec explained to the audience the things he learned throughout his career as a businessman, first by describing the sale of his Internet security company to AT&T. His mini-lessons included the "gut feeling" that everyone should follow



IAN SPENCE VIDEOGRAPHER

Dragons' Den panelist Robert Herjavec at Laurier on May 6.

and personal branding.

"What I've learned is that you got to put yourself out there. Because if you don't show your abilities, if people don't know who you are, if people don't know what you're capable of, it's hard to get noticed," continued Herjavec.

Also, he stated that "change" is the main attribute of the business world, which consequently creates fear among many entrepreneurs. "In the face of fear, do something. I'd rather you do something wrong than do nothing."

While his talk was humorous and informal, the message he tried to convey was clear: be positive.

Using an example from the *James Bond* film series, Herjavec asked the audience, "Are you the Dr. No or are you James Bond? There are so many Dr. No's out there telling you no."

The Cord asked Herjavec about

what advice he has to offer for the young entrepreneurs and business students at Laurier—the faculty his son will join next year.

"I think it is experience, I think it's knowing the reality of the market. School's great, and it gives you a great foundation," Herjavec explained.

"But the real world is a different place. It's about getting that real world experience."

Herjavec, while wrapping up filming for the sixth season of *Dragon's Den*, mentioned that 30 per cent of the pitches on the show this year were university and college students.

To Herjavec, success means being positive and enjoying your work.

"It's a cliché, but you got to love what you do," concluded Herjavec. "And to compete on a world class level, be great at something."

## News in brief

## Laurier appoints deans for social work, graduate and postdoctoral studies

Wilfrid Laurier University has appointed Nick Coady as the dean of the faculty of social work and re-appointed Joan Norris to her second term as dean of the faculty of graduate and postdoctoral studies.

As a result of Norris' working during her first term, the faculty had a 30 per cent increase in graduate enrolments.

Since joining Laurier in 1994 as an associate professor, Coady has served two terms as an associate dean of the master of social work program and two terms as associate dean for the faculty of graduate and postdoctoral studies.

Coady will begin his five-year term on July 1 and Norris will begin her second term in January 2012 after a research sabbatical.

—Compiled by Justin Smirlies

## Kielburgers, Raffi, Dallaire to get honorary degrees

Thirteen people, including co-founders of Free the Children Craig and Marc Kielburger, will be receiving honorary degrees from Wilfrid Laurier University.

As well, General Romeo Dallaire will be receiving a degree because of his account of the 1994 Rwandan genocide and his activism in the rehabilitation of child soldiers.

Also on the list is children's advocate and musician, Raffi Cavoukian.

Remembered greatly for his songs "Baby Beluga" and "Bananaphone," Raffi will receive a degree because of his education and his advocacy for children's needs.

Nine convocation ceremonies will be held the week of June 6-10 at the Waterloo campus, whereas the other three will take part at the Brantford campus June 21-22.

—Compiled by Justin Smirlies

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# CAMPUS

Campus Editor Justin Smirlies • jsmirlies@thecord.ca

## AIESEC Laurier brings WLU to global stage

Campus organization continues growth

MARCIE FOSTER  
LEAD REPORTER

It was a proud moment in Association Internationale des Étudiants en Sciences Économiques et Commerciales — International Association of Students in Economics and Business — (AIESEC) Laurier history, as 27 delegates returned from the National Leadership Development Conference in Ottawa to debrief over the weekend.

Considered one of the most spirited local committees, and a top committee in attendance, AIESEC Laurier proudly brought home more than just smiles and memories.

AIESEC Laurier has gone from being disbanded from 1995 until 2005, and having only sent 4 delegates last year, to being a top committee with 27 delegates and contributing incredible Laurier Spirit. In a debriefing session on Saturday, AIESEC Laurier demonstrated cheers in both official languages.

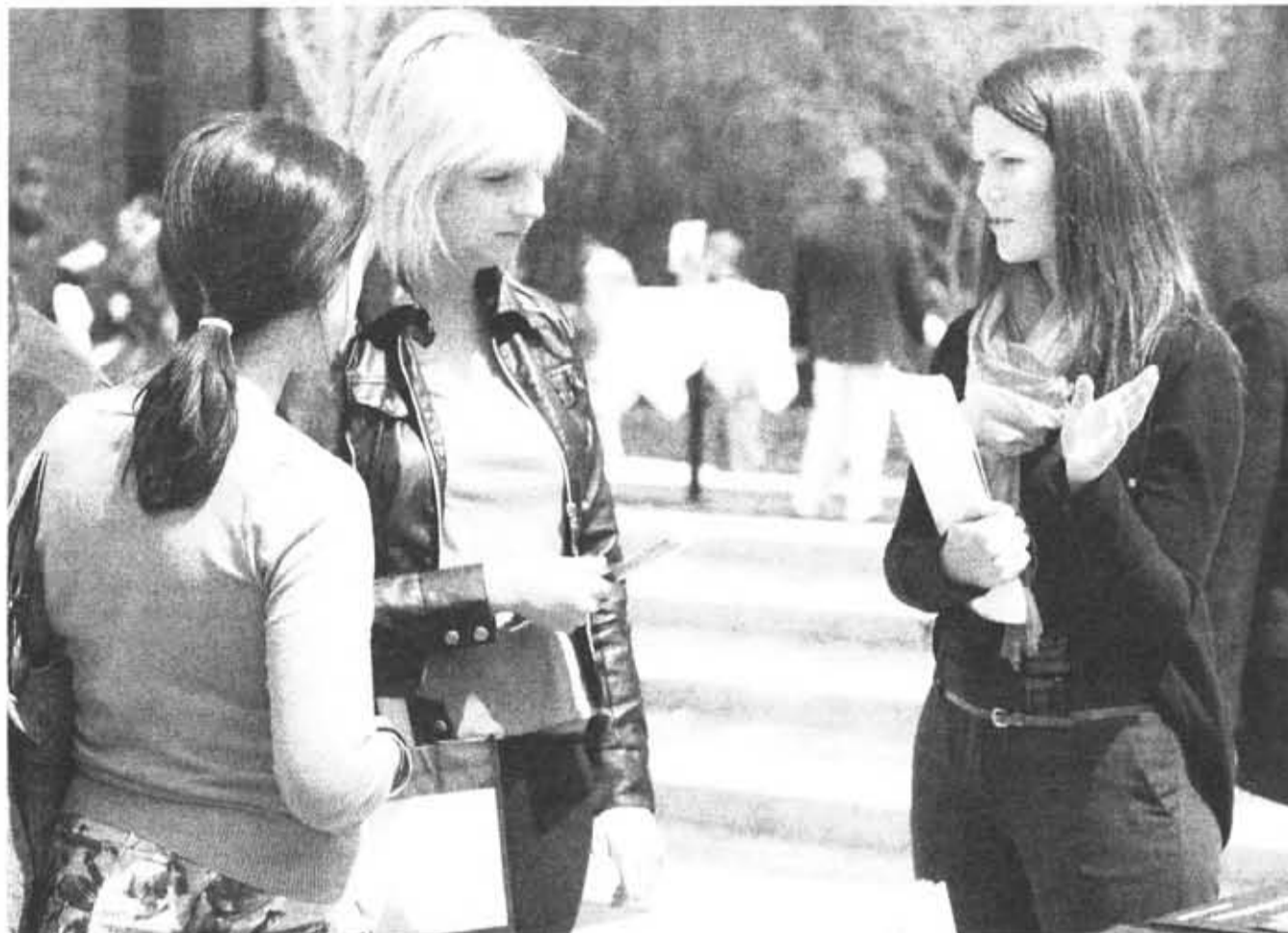
"Companies look to AIESEC as an organisation that builds leadership and leaders. We all go on to do great things," AIESEC member Krista Boniface said, emphasizing that leadership is what ultimately drives success.

AIESEC offers global leadership internships for students of all backgrounds, connecting them with key players in different industries.

"It's not just business students, these are passionate people who share your passion," Boniface said.

In addition to providing over 9,300 leadership positions and delivering over 470 conferences to a membership of over 50,000 students, AIESEC also runs an exchange program that enables over 10,000 students and recent graduates the opportunity to live and work in another country.

AIESEC Laurier is aiming to take away the most improved committee prize at their next conference.



IAN SPENCE VIDEOGRAPHER

Prospective students receive information about Laurier's arts programs in the Ampitheatre on May 7.

## A day to 'Think Arts'

Potential first-years visit Laurier to learn about BA programs

JUSTIN SMIRLIES  
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

For many graduating high school students, their leap into university life is only a few months away. As an opportunity for these potential students to explore the various arts programs offered by Wilfrid Laurier University, the faculty of arts and student recruitment office organized the first ever "Think Arts" event on Saturday, May 7.

The event — which was spearheaded by dean of arts Michael Carroll — invited those who applied to an arts program at Laurier to the Waterloo campus for a day full of info-sessions, mini-lectures and discussions.

"Laurier has always had a fall preview day in October and a winter preview day in March, but we've never had a special day dedicated to arts in this period," said Carroll. "So we decided this would be good to do for us as well."

According to the student recruitment office, approximately 400 guests attended the event, with

more than hundred of those being students.

Carroll noted that this was an effective way to show the academic side of Laurier to students — especially to those who have yet to decide where they want to spend their next four years.

"This is simply to get the message out about the nature of the faculty of arts and what's available to students here," added Carroll.

Glennice Snyder, the manager of student recruitment, felt similarly to Carroll saying that this was a valuable opportunity for students because the last day to accept an offer from a university is June 2nd.

"You can't really pick a place without going to see it," said Snyder. "It's like buying a car, you get in it and you take it for a test drive."

As well, Carroll hopes that the event will help improve the conversion rate of those who receive an offer from Laurier to those who actually accept it.

"One of the things that we've found is that if you can get students to actually visit the campus they

are more likely to come," Carroll explained.

The day began with a talk by Carroll and an enthusiastic presentation made by the O-week team. Following the morning presentation, the students had the time to attend three of a possible twelve mini-lectures made by first-year professors and various information sessions.

"It's an opportunity to come to campus and to see if this is a good fit for them," added Snyder.

Recruitment officer Stephanie D'Lima, recruitment officer, stated that the mini-lectures also aided the students in the registration for classes.

"It's also an opportunity to meet their future classmates," said D'Lima. "It's a pretty unique opportunity I think."

Student recruitment expressed interest in doing similar events in the future for the business, music and science faculties.

"It's something we want to continue to do with every faculty in the coming years," said Snyder. "It was a good little pilot project this year."

## International News to replace Centre Spot

—cover

partners but a cold beverage agreement doesn't work with our strategy," McMahon explained.

"We tried to become more comfortable with it over the last two months but it was just something that didn't fit well and the student executive made it a priority to try and do our budget for the first time in ten years without an exclusivity payment from Coke."

WLUSU board member Jon Pryce explained that directors were informed about two months ago of the plans to replace the C-Spot with an International News location.

"They're projecting way better profit too, so we can't complain," he added. "I think it's much better for students if you think about it. There's greater flexibility with this company to actually give students what they want and at a decent price."

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### Graduating in 2012 Spring or Fall?




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NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

## Laurier hosts CPSA conference

From Monday to Wednesday, Laurier played host to the 83rd annual Canadian Political Science Association conference, read about some of the key discussions at [thecord.ca](http://thecord.ca)

## LOCAL

Local Editor Amanda Steiner • asteiner@thecord.ca

## Youth may be absent in transit talks

LINDSAY PURCHASE  
LEAD REPORTER

The Waterloo Region rapid transit debate, which will come to a close next month, has yet to achieve a consensus from citizens. In an opinion poll conducted in early May by the *Waterloo Region Record*, there was a clear division between the options presented.

Only 38 per cent of people were interested in pursuing light rail transit (LRT) despite its approval in 2009 by the regional council. Light rail led only slightly over solely increasing the amount of buses and improving the existing transit system, or improving road infrastructure.

The implementation of a new transit system has the potential to significantly impact the lives of students, most of whom rely on public transportation on a daily basis.

There currently exists a high level of frustration with infrequent bus schedules and untimely service. Stephanie Poon, a student at Waterloo Collegiate Institute, uses the bus on a regular basis and has found it to be frustrating at times.

"Sometimes the frequency is not

that good," she complained. Another Waterloo resident and student, Angus (he did not disclose his full name), described public transportation as "slow" and "inconvenient," particularly in the spring when there are fewer students using the service.

Advocates for LRT believe that it will alleviate the evident slowness of the current system and will best accommodate the projected growth of the city.

Laura Braga, who currently attends the University of Waterloo, noted the environmental benefit of light rail, as it is "more energy efficient [and] reduces congestion."

Sean Madden, Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union VP of university affairs, sees LRT as a more practical long-term plan. "It really seems the most viable option to us so that we don't have to renew again in twenty years," he commented.

However, there are large concerns circulating around the immediate cost, an issue that is providing much of the opposition. The capital cost is estimated at \$818 million for LRT with some addition to the bus rapid transit (BRT). Others simply feel that light rail is better suited for

a larger city. Scott Finlay, a recent graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University, felt that immediate attention should be focused on increasing the quantity of buses and decreasing the frequency of stops.

"I'd rather more buses and fewer stops," Finlay said, though he admitted that light rail might be a future consideration.

Another problem that may be contributing to the division among regional citizens is a lack of education on what each option means for the city, as there are detailed benefits and detriments to each.

Many students are unaware of the transit debate overall, and have done little to become educated on the issue.

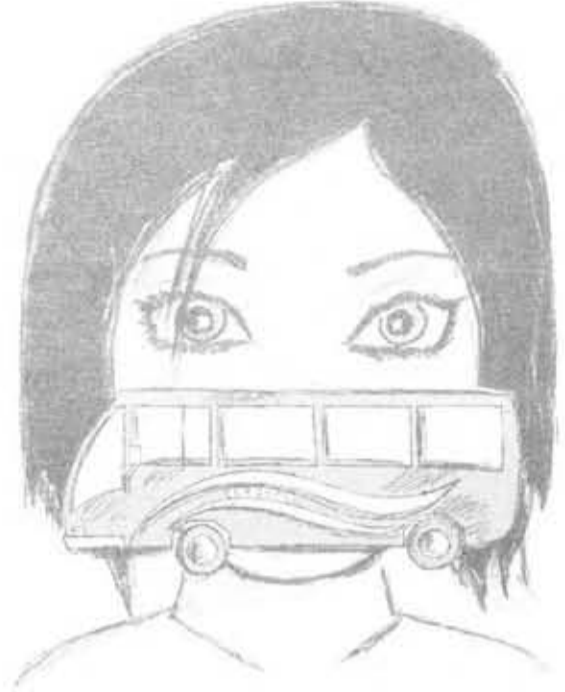
When asked if she thought students were engaged on this particular topic, Braga replied "not at all." This is not necessarily a reflection of a lack of effort by regional councilors. Numerous consultation sessions have been held with the public.

"Student voice is definitely being considered," Madden argued. "I guess it's the same old song in terms of engaging people." He strongly encourages students to contact

him regarding any questions about the transit debate and how to get involved.

Final public input meetings will be held on May 31 and June 1 in Kitchener. How the region will proceed with its decision, provided a high level of contestation continues,

WADE THOMPSON VISUAL DIRECTOR



is an issue that will affect most students, though it currently seems to involve few.

Unless there is a change in participation in the coming weeks, the crucial input of Waterloo's students may be lost in a storm of disengagement and disinterest.

## City council changes terms of rental housing licences

—cover

"This bylaw was passed to increase the health and safety of the community for students and for other residents," Henry said. "25 years ago there was an unfortunate incident where a student was lost due to a fire in a basement and the city said that there had to be something we can do about that."

He emphasized that this bylaw was initially set to make housing safer for students and give them a healthier environment. The updated bylaw will be monitored over a five year time frame to allow for any necessary amendments at that time, preventing the law from becoming outdated.

The new bylaw, first drafted with a three bedroom limit, was passed

with a four bedroom limit. As well, it includes a statute that rental housing must now have their licences posted for tenants to see.

"We did that," Henry said, "because we want bylaw enforcement as well as tenants to see who is responsible for what. It allows us to go in and fix problems and have an accountability regime, who is responsible for what if something happens."

Sean Madden, vice president of university affairs for the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union, commented, "We just ask that the city is diligent in enforcing that. A lot of misinformation is going around so it's important that everything is transparent."

One of the main concerns WLU

and University of Waterloo students brought to the city's attention had to do with the possibility of massive rent increase. Henry said, "We can't predict that clearly but I would guess there will be about a two to four per cent increase in rent."

Madden reassured students that "if they do deliver on health and safety, the two to four per cent increase seems like a fair trade." Translated, two to four per cent should only be about a \$12-\$20 increase. "This way," he continued, "with the licence posted and students informed, they will know that if their rent goes up an astronomical amount, like \$500, they should be asking why by either talking to their landlord or asking the city."

Henry also assured students that

this increase is nothing to panic over. "The students' union reps from both universities brought to council's attention that they want those increases made transparent." In other words, make the increase clear and hopefully as small as possible.

Even realtors around the Waterloo area see possible benefits of this bylaw. Ho Tek, co-owner of DOMUS Realty, said, "We'll have to work a lot with the city on this but it should be a major benefit to students. At least, I hope this isn't just a tax grab or that massive costs will be passed onto them."

Bill Keay, sales representative at Remax Realty agreed that there does need to be a bylaw like this in Waterloo, however he did share some reservations.

"I just think that this bylaw is going micromanage investors. Possible investors might choose not to come to Waterloo because of all the hoops they're going to have to jump through." He admitted that he has already had several clients choose not to rent in Waterloo.

Henry reiterated the views of council in stating, "We recognise all the unique situations in Waterloo. There are big families and small families, students and other renters. What you have to do is make sure that you've got a mix of different housing types."

"This bylaw doesn't limit people it just gives you different housing options. The more rooms you want the higher the health and safety standards," he confirmed.

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## NATIONAL

National Editor Amanda Steiner • asteiner@thecord.ca

## Coal reduction costs consumers

Though environmentally beneficial, new energy initiative may increase bills

LINDSAY PURCHASE  
LEAD REPORTER

An environmental initiative, which began in 2003 under premier Dalton McGuinty to eliminate coal as a source of energy, has displayed significant results. A recent press release indicates that the use of coal-fired power has diminished by 90 per cent in the first months of 2011 in comparison to output levels in 2003.

This places the provincial government in good standing to achieve its goal of eliminating coal use by 2014.

According to Gloria Bacci-Puhl, the media and issues officer for the Ministry of Energy, "Eliminating coal-fired electricity generation is the single largest climate change initiative being undertaken in North America."

The project aims to create greater air purification and a healthier Ontario. Bacci-Puhl explained that so far 19 coal units have been shut down, with an additional two being eliminated in the upcoming year.

Alex Latta, professor of global studies, explained that the coal phase-out "... really puts Ontario in a leadership position in terms of the kinds of incentives they're offering for alternative renewables."

However, advancing green technology does come at a price. Consumer energy bills are expected to increase at a fairly steep rate. In addition, there is the potential for jobs to be lost with the shutdown of many plants.

Bacci-Puhl claims that the

government has been "upfront with Ontarians" regarding increased electricity bills.

Regardless, the early anticipated 3.5% annual rise is a steep cost, and may have a damaging effect on consumer advocacy for a greener Ontario. In regards to job allocation, Bacci-Puhl stated that "Ontario Power Generation (OPG) has been working with staff and unions for some time to ensure a smooth transition." Options for employees range from retirement to reallocation, which is dependent on their length of employment.

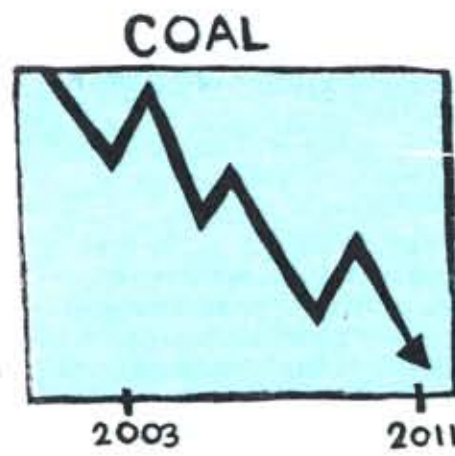
Latta believes that the financial detriments of the coal reduction are indicative of a larger problem. "... Energy bills don't have to be higher if they change their patterns of consumption," he explained.

Environmentally friendly policies can be politically difficult to implement, as voters are resentful of any hits to their wallet and tend to reflect these sentiments at the polls. Latta blames ineffective education and a lack of incentive for people to change their living standards for apparent apathy to environmental issues.

"With gas prices going up, they're going up in the context where public transit systems are not all that good, and even in places where they are reasonably good ... they're overloaded," he critiqued. "The infrastructure is in decline." While coal power is noted under Ontario's Green Energy Act as the greatest air pollutant, and its elimination a significant accomplishment, much change is still

required for a greener future.

This upcoming fall, voters will have the opportunity to elect their provincial government representative and the environmental viewpoints of candidates may become a more influential factor. Whether the personal cost or the environmental benefit of plans, such as the coal-fired power abolition, will resonate more clearly with Ontarians remains an issue of contention that holds the potential to highly impact Ontario's future.



## Canada in brief

## Quebec citizens head home

The people of Quebec are finally making their way home after the worst swell of water levels in recent history in the province's Montérégie region. City inspectors will be on the streets informing citizens how to return home safely.

About 800 residents had to leave the area because of the flooding, and 350 of those will be returning to homes with significant damage. The water levels of the Richelieu River began to rise on April 23; heavy rain and melting snow made the situation worse over the following weeks. Canadian soldiers were dispatched to the flood zone on May 5 to support local emergency officials already on the ground.

## Ignatieff finds new employment

Less than 48 hours after Michael Ignatieff resigned as Canada's liberal leader he found new employment. Ignatieff will become a senior resident at the University of Toronto's Massey College. John Fraser, master of the College, announced last Thursday that Ignatieff will teach classes on international relations, political science and law in his new role — one that has been previously held by other high-profile politicians.

"It has been a tradition for some time to offer the position to political leaders making transitions in their professional lives," he said, "Ignatieff is an internationally-respected academic and author who will be welcomed by the university community in Toronto."

—Compiled by Amanda Steiner

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## FEATURES

Features Editor Bree Rody-Mantha • bmantha@thecord.ca

## Get smart or fall behind

With sales higher than ever, smartphones are no longer an expensive distraction, but an expectation and a useful tool. Features Editor **Bree Rody-Mantha** gathers the opinions of professionals on how businesses and educational institutions can use smartphones and social media to their advantage.

That iPhone you own may be more than just a cool, grown-up toy that you use to confirm your party plans via Facebook and text messaging. iPhones, Blackberries, Android phones and the various other cell phones with multi-tasking platform technology are rapidly becoming standards in the social and professional world.

As the prices of smartphones and data plans lower and retailers shift their focus more towards multi-tasking mobile devices, it is apparent that a phase-out has begun for regular talk-and-text cellular phones. Mobile users may soon be forced to adapt to smartphones or face falling behind.

With so much new technology readily available, especially for students, mobile devices have become a great convenience as well as a great distraction. Though university professors have been attempting to ban cell phone use in class, according to a September 2010 online poll conducted by The Cord, the majority of Laurier students continue to use phones in class.

Additionally, recent technological developments indicate that attempts to bar cell phone use in lectures may not only be fruitless, but counter-productive.

"The students that we are increasingly attracting [...] are used to learning in a different way," said Ginny Dybenko, Laurier's head of strategic initiatives. "It's really important that the university allows for this and really takes advantage of it."

### Connecting students and teachers

Though some teachers still prohibit the use of cellular phones and even laptops in the classroom, developers have come up with ways that those devices can be used to enhance learning rather than take away from it.

Top Hat Monocle is one company

that is attempting to achieve that. The Waterloo-based company markets a system to professors which allows students to answer quiz questions, participate in polls and provide feedback via phones and computers — rendering devices such as the iClicker obsolete.

**“The students we are increasingly attracting [...] are used to learning in a different way.”**

—Ginny Dybenko  
Head of strategic initiatives at WLU

Mohsen Sahini, co-founder of Top Hat Monocle, conceived the idea while working as a teaching assistant at the University of Waterloo.

Sahini said he noticed a lack of engagement and organization among lower-year students, who seemed reluctant to participate. Sahini and his then-roommate Mike Silagadze (co-founder and CEO of Top Hat Monocle) came up with the idea of a system that would incorporate the media students used — laptops, cellular phones and smartphones.

"If you incorporate the technology students are using with what you are hoping to achieve, you can increase student engagement," he said.

In 2010, Laurier's Masters' of Business Administration (MBA) program launched a project where full-time MBA students were given Blackberries.

The intent was for students to

take advantage of the devices' tools such as Blackberry messenger, voice notes and video for the purposes of collaboration and communication with classmates, professors, and employers.

The project was viewed as successful and Laurier hopes to expand on the project in years to come.

Beyond schoolwork, the devices are also becoming essential communication tools for social interactions.

"A lot of schools have their own mobile applications that are interactive space," said Kory Jeffrey, coordinator for Laurier's Digital Media Hub.

Indeed, the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) has released an application in an attempt to catch up with what is apparently becoming a standard. The application, however, has gone through several technical mishaps which delayed its production. It is currently available for the iPhone.

### Reaching outside the classroom

"I can foresee the day when we deploy technology to allow not only for that technology in and of itself to be used within the classroom but really to bust open the walls of the classroom," said Dybenko. "Allow in experts from different geographic locations, [and] opinions from various places that you could find on the Internet."

Jeffrey also feels that the mindset of education is shifting, and that knowledge is no longer closed off and exclusive. "If you look at Laurier," he explained, "It's kind of closed off. It's separated by all these walls... but go to Google, and you can Google almost anything."

Jeffrey gave examples of schools who have embraced the openness of information rather than combated it.

"Big institutions such as [Massachusetts Institute of Technology]

have taken all their coursework and made it public," he explained. "It doesn't even matter if you're part of the institution or not — you can see their coursework. You can go online right now and look it up."

Dybenko feels that increasing technology will help to unite rather than alienate.

"All technology does is allow access to content — and content is absolutely everywhere."

### "It's only going to get more exciting"

As is the way of technology, new developments are constantly arising.

"[Technology] is everywhere," said Dybenko, "And it's only going to get more exciting."

Many agree that the next developments to watch for are those of tablets.

Tablet computers such as the Apple iPad and Research In Motion (RIM)'s Playbook have risen into the market.

Though many questioned the practicality of the iPad upon its initial release in April 2010, it was met with mostly favourable reviews and moderately successful sales.

With The Wall Street Journal's Walt Mossberg praising the iPad as a "pretty close" laptop killer, 2011 has seen an increase in production of competing tablets.

RIM released the Playbook in last month, and several tablets operating Android platforms have entered the market.

"I think tablets are definitely going to take off," Jeffrey predicted. "It's not a substitute for a laptop yet, but it's a convenient addition."

Jeffrey explained that thanks to cloud computing, anyone with a broadband connection can sync their tablet with a home computer.

"You can access all of your data sets at home or wherever, without having an actual hard drive," he said. "With all that together, eventually, you're only going to need a tablet."

31%

Number of North American cell phone users who own smartphones as of December 2010\*.

60%

Number of North American cell phone users predicted to own a smartphone as of December 2011\*.

68%

Number of Laurier students who admit to using their cell phones at least once per class according to an online poll (over 100 surveyed).

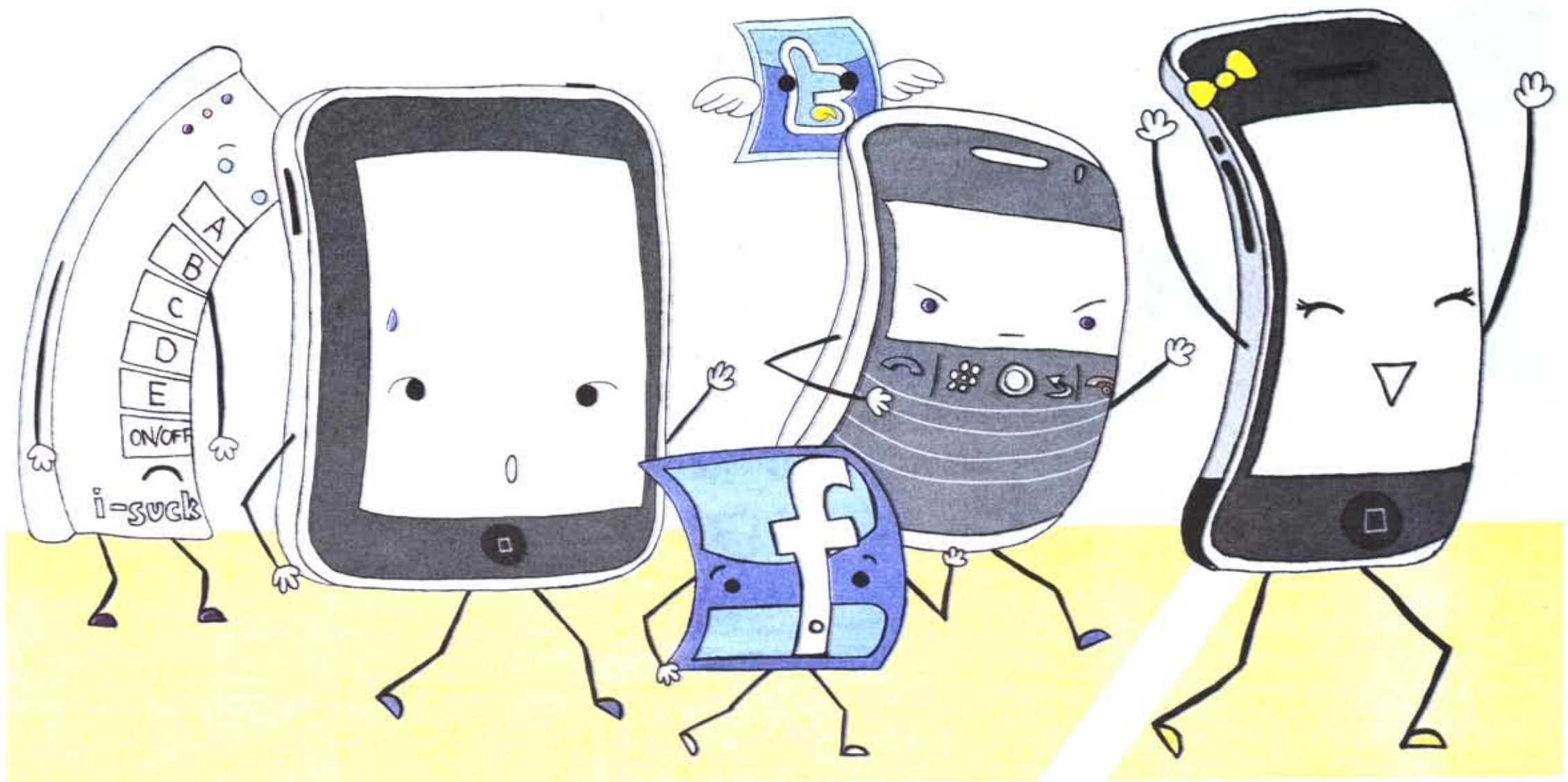
70

Predicted number of different tablet computers available by the end of 2011\*\*.

200+

Predicted number of different tablet computer models available by the end of 2012\*\*.

\* Statistics by Nielsen Ratings.  
\*\* Predictions stated by RIM.



## ARTS

Arts Editor Liz Smith • lsmith@thecord.ca

# Marvel forgoes interesting origin

As standalone films, the studios' latest efforts offer little in way of originality



WADE THOMPSON  
VISUAL DIRECTOR

On May 6, Marvel Studios' *Thor* kicked off the summer movie season. It was big, it was epic and it was pretty much everything a summer blockbuster should be. Including not being very good.

Typically, over the last handful of years, the summer movie season has been full of large spectacle movies that bring success at the box-office, but offer little in way of being decent cinematic experiences.

I will admit, I didn't have the highest of expectations going into the theatre, but knowing that Marvel has had past efforts that turned out better than expected, I was still at least remotely excited to see their latest endeavor.

When I walked out of the movie though, I couldn't shake the feeling that I had wasted the last two hours watching absolutely nothing happen.

Yes, there was some suitable, if not mindless, action involved, but so little seemed to happen narrative wise that I was left feeling a sense of emptiness.

And then I figured out why. As good as *Thor* was as an introduction to the comic book character, it was little more than that. The actual plot was quick and easy. The love story with Natalie Portman's character was a sidebar. In the end, it felt like

nothing but a set-up to *The Avengers* movie that will be released next year. As far as being a stand-alone film, this superhero outing was a complete bust.

Marvel's previous cinematic attempt, *Iron Man 2*, I realized also suffered from similar problems. There seemed to be no real interest in developing an original movie but rather the purpose lay in advancing the character of Tony Stark so we would eventually see him in *The Avengers* movie.

It didn't necessarily suffer the same, inherently pointless outcome as *Thor* did, but it felt lax nonetheless.

Given how highly I am anticipating the comic-book team to make their big-screen debut together, I can't say that I am entirely put-off by the studio's attempt at launching these characters before putting them into their tent-pole picture.

But at the same time, I look to their earlier cinematic efforts of *The Incredible Hulk* and the first *Iron Man*, and not only did they advance the anticipation for the group movie, but they worked exceedingly well as individual films too.

So, on some level, I can't help but shake a finger at the way in which the mega-corporation is handling their most recent franchises. *Thor's* legacy will be nothing more than a pit stop on Marvel's highway to a greater project. Unfortunately, I know it didn't have to be that way.

With these last two missteps then, here's hoping that July's *Captain America: The First Avenger* breaks the pattern of mediocrity and does more than simply make me yearn for next summer.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Laura Hayes delivers lines as Emma during a rehearsal of the Kitchener Waterloo Youth Theatre

## KW youth perform Austen's "Emma"

The classic novel is adapted for an upcoming performance

LIZ SMITH  
ARTS EDITOR

Kitchener-Waterloo Youth Theatre is in the midst of rehearsing their upcoming performance of Jane Austen's "Emma," set to open on June 3 with performances until June 12.

Austen's classic novel has been adapted by Michael Bloom and the production will be directed by Rachel Behling.

The Kaufman Arts Studio, located at 132 Queen Street South, Kitchener, houses both the rehearsals and performance for the company.

The K-W Youth Theatre provides the following synopsis of the play's action, "Pledging never to marry, the mischievous Emma Woodhouse is nevertheless the 'matchmaker of Highbury.' Her newest project, Harriet Smith, has already received a proposal, but Emma insists she marry the eligible vicar Mr. Elton, while, an older family friend, Mr. Knightley, warns her to give up matchmaking. Emma is a fresh, witty and perceptive take on a timeless tale."

The stars of the production include local students Laura Hayes as Emma, Christian Krause as Mr. Knightley and Blake Murry as Mr. Henry Woodward.

The K-W Youth Theatre provides creative outlets of all kinds for its young participants. At a rehearsal of the production, *The Cord* spoke to Rachel Annen, who designs the company's costumes.

For this particular production, Annen explained that she uses "old costumes, and wedding dresses" in order to create an "Edwardian look" which will capture the essence of Austen's time.

Furthermore, local youth Alexander William Reed is composing his own original score for the production.

This job includes writing and distributing the music to the rest of the cast members and musicians involved.

Reed is currently involved with a plethora of musical projects; he has begun work on the upcoming production of the *Canterbury Tales* for the Synchron Youth Theatre

Company, as well as the upcoming production of *Hamlet* with K-W Youth Theatre.

Reed explained that he is also involved in a contest on indabamus.com which urges musicians to remix songs composed by Hans Zimmer and Rodrigo y Gabriela in anticipation of the upcoming installment of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* franchise, for which the famous Zimmer and Rodrigo y Gabriela provide the soundtrack.

The submissions will be judged by Walt Disney Records, with the contest winner receiving a cash prize of \$1,000 as well as having their submission featured on Spinner.

William Alexander Reed may be bringing his musical talents to Wilfrid Laurier University in the near future, as the young composer expressed that he wishes to attend the institution once he graduates from high school.

A partner of the K-W Youth Theatre, Guelph Little Theatre, is presenting a performance of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" June 2nd - June 4th.

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## Laurier music grad honoured

LIZ SMITH  
ARTS EDITOR

Wilfrid Laurier University graduate Nick Storrington has been awarded the Toronto Emerging Composer Award by the Canadian Music Centre.

The award was created to promote the work of Canadian contemporary classical composer and recognize the excellent work of music creators who "exhibit innovation, experimentation and a willingness to take risks in their work."

The prestigious title is accompanied by a \$5,000 dollar prize meant to benefit the artistic development of the winning composer.

Storrington completed an undergraduate degree in music composition at Laurier, with an emphasis on the cello, while also delving into the field of improvisation.

After graduating from the program in 2005, Storrington went on to a master's degree at Toronto's York University, where he continues

to pursue his passion of musical composition.

Prior to determining the contest winner, the Canadian Music Centre requires applicants to pitch a concept to a jury.

Storrington's proposed work was inspired by composer Charles Stepney, who provided the orchestration to the album *Come To My Garden* by Minnie Riperton.

Storrington described the piece which won him the award as "an orchestral piece, using all kinds of instruments you might not see in a normal symphony, layered over computer generated music." The result, said Storrington, is a "fairly organic, yet produced feel."

The Canadian Music Centre will publicly present Storrington with the award on May 15 at Koerner Hall in Toronto. The presentation will be a part of the finale concert in the Esprit Orchestra's New Wave Young Composer's Festival, which will feature Storrington's 2003 composition

"Remember How We Used To ...?"

In terms of his own musical tastes, Storrington is "really diverse, very literally."

He continued, "I stay away from current top 40, that doesn't interest me." Otherwise, the composer does not limit himself to enjoying any particular genre but instead favours all kinds of sounds from pop and 60s soul to Bollywood-inspired beats.

Storrington is involved in a wide variety of musical projects, and his work often accompanies projects in theatre and film.

At 29, Storrington has enjoyed many successes. In 2008, his broken violin based electronic piece "Artifacts (I)" won First Place in the Jeux de Temps/Times Play Competition for Canadian electroacoustic composers. When asked about the future of where this career will take him, Storrington asserts that he hopes only to "be able to sustain myself doing the things I love."



# CLASSIFIEDS

Advertising Manager Angela Taylor • [angela.taylor@wlusp.com](mailto:angela.taylor@wlusp.com)

## Cord-o-scopes

### Gemini May 21 to June 20

Your routines are making life easier for you. You are on the job hunt, seeing old friends and you may even start up a new work out routine. Now if only you could stop napping every few hours, you might actually be productive.

### Cancer June 21 to July 22

Your creative juices are flowing like crazy right now, but that's no excuse to bash every post-election Conservative-celebrating Facebook status. Even if no one can seem to make a legitimate comeback.

### Leo July 23 to Aug. 22

Summer is here and you are ready to bask in the glory of the most colourful season. The sky is blue, the grass is green and alcohol poisoning is a darkened mixture of the rainbow. But seriously, puking black is bad. Take it easy on the porching.

### Virgo Aug. 23 to Sept. 22

Moving back into your family's house for the summer, you take the opportunity to redecorate the basement to remind yourself of Waterloo. While your siblings adore your innovative creation of "bleacher couches," your parents do not.

### Libra Sept. 23 to Oct. 22

The magic tricks you spent all of exam period teaching yourself will finally come to use. Learning from *How I Met Your Mother*, remember that a magician's best friend is a drunk audience. Use your power wisely.

### Scorpio Oct. 23 to Nov. 21

Your impulsive nature leads you to get into a fight with a co-worker at your summer job. Simply knowing that they were the one who broke the coffee machine won't bring it back to life. Try to take it easy.

### Sagittarius Nov. 22 to Dec. 21

Consider listening to your mom this summer and finally take that job as a help line operator with her company. After all, there are no stupid questions, just stupid people ... stupid, stupid people.

### Capricorn Dec. 22 to Jan. 19

Your new co-op job is going splendidly. You've successfully made it a full two weeks waking up before double digits, and your boss seems impressed by your consistent lively attitude. Eventually the cafeteria will sell out of Rockstar energy drinks; don't let this be your downfall.

### Aquarius Jan. 20 to Feb. 18

Good things come to those who wait and if you're lucky, you'll catch a glimpse of your new super-hot neighbour. Trying to keep your mouth closed when doing so will likely keep you on better terms.

### Pisces Feb. 19 to March 20

Taking free condoms from the health clinic where you volunteer begins to seem less cool when you finally realize that your collection has yet to decrease.

### Aries March 21 to April 19

When applying for bursaries online, your ambitious (although sometimes impatient) nature drives you to quickly click as many minority grants as possible. You are now a Black-Chinese exchange student from Russia double majoring in women's and aboriginal studies.

### Taurus April 20 to May 20

Your summer school prof keeps giving you that "I could have eaten Alphabits and crapped out a better essay" look. Note to self: at least try to stay awake in class.

On a hot summer day, Katie Flood strolled through the FNCC without shoes on. Daring to walk across the hawk, she tripped and banged her head. Suddenly able to sense all Laurier students who had roamed the hall before her, Katie can now predict your future.

## Student Housing

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# Get involved! Get Paid!

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# EDITORIAL

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## Volleyball cuts a product of poor management

When times are tough, money is tight and difficult decisions need to be made, university administrators emphasize the nature of their school as inherently businesslike to lessen the blow of bad news.

As any business man worth his salt may tell you, the best way to break bad news to an employee base is on a Friday afternoon at 5 p.m.

Laurier Athletics has taken a staunch, almost religious adherence to this unspoken code of conduct in its handling of the volleyball program discontinuations.

In what was the equivalent of a 5 p.m. Friday announcement, the athletics department sent out an online press release, as well as a mass e-mail to the coaches and players of the men's and women's volleyball teams on the morning of April 29 indicating the termination.

While Baxter stated the evaluation of the department had been ongoing for two years, the timeline of notifying all those involved with volleyball came way too late.

Most students had already finished exams, gone home for the summer and made living arrangements for the upcoming school year in the fall. Had the athletics department already made up its collective mind to axe the volleyball programs earlier in the winter, the department could have handled a much smoother transition for volleyball students and coaching staff.

An earlier notification may have angered the school community much as it has done so already, but the blow could have been lessened by students actually having time to make preparations on where they will be moving next year, should they choose to continue playing volleyball at another school.

The harsh financial reality of the past couple of years, mixed with a medium-sized school like Laurier, means that money needs to be distributed effectively and as the administration has stated, the school can't be all things to all people.

However, this does not excuse the lack of foresight that unfortunately took place within the department and, to a larger extent, the whole university.

—The Cord Editorial Board

## New bylaw is adequate step in right direction

After the passage of a new housing bylaw by the City of Waterloo on May 9, it has become apparent that city councillors are attempting to take concrete steps toward solving longstanding issues with rental homes in Waterloo.

In the long run, the benefits for student safety and security are numerous.

Primarily, landlords will now have to purchase licences and display them prominently on their properties. Cracking down on absentee landlords by holding them more accountable for their rentals is necessary and an important first step. For council to acknowledge the sub-par, sometimes frightening, conditions of student rentals is refreshing.

As well, safety has been a genuine concern for students in some rental homes. Council has also included provisions on this, especially with fire safety.

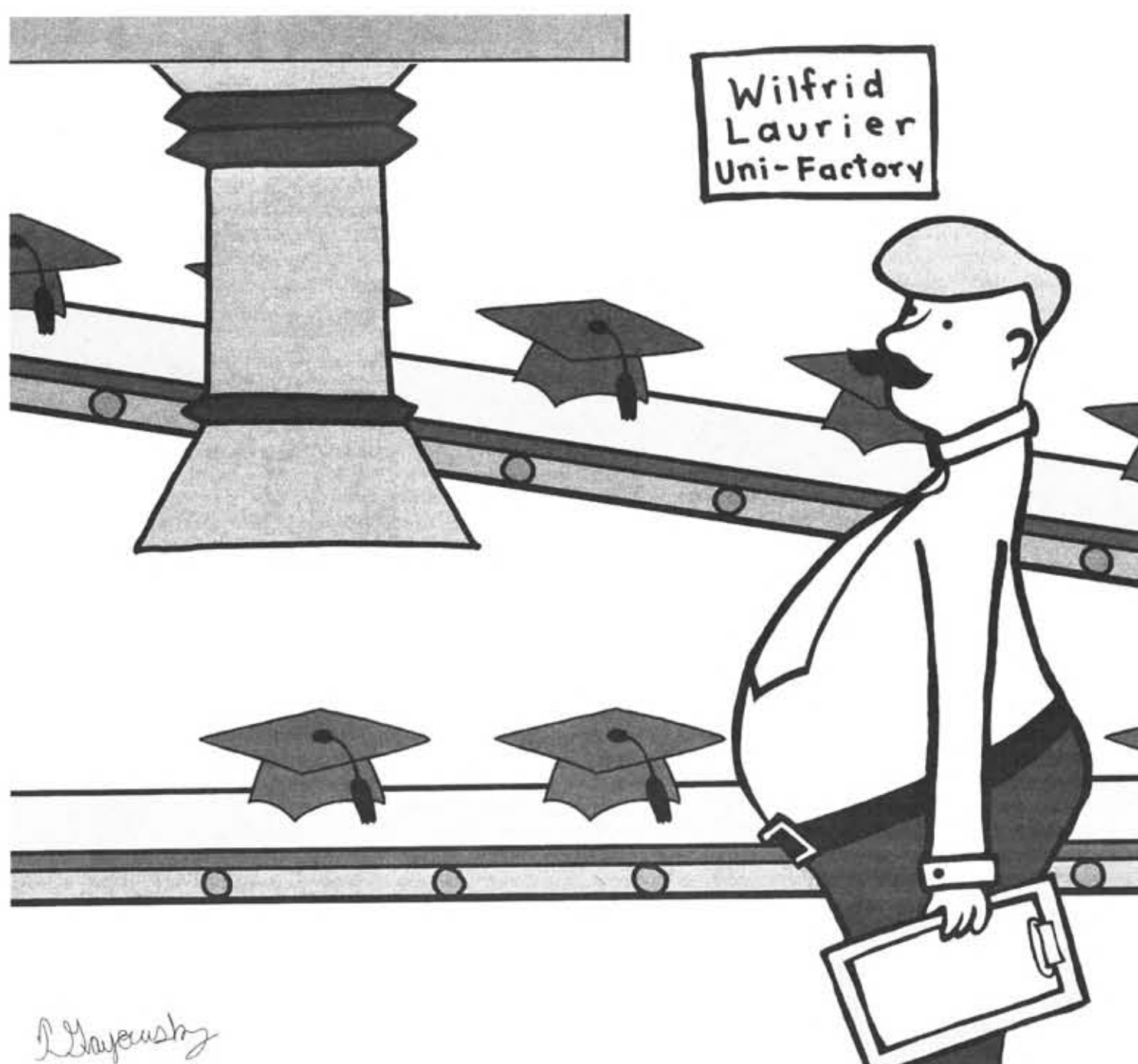
It is also true that this bylaw potentially brings immediate challenges for students. With new restrictions on how many bedrooms a rental house can have, students may face increased rent costs. Landlords may also pass off the costs of licences to their tenants.

The fact remains, however, that rental housing has been a major issue and common concern for students. Council is to be praised for recognizing the need to reform this area of municipal law even if the bylaw is not altogether perfect.

In the coming years, council and city staff should work diligently to ensure these changes are being fully adopted by landlords and be more welcoming to prospective development in student areas in order for the bylaw to reach its full potential.

—The Cord Editorial Board

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



D. Majewski

## University a degree factory?



JOSEPH MCNINCH-PAZZANO  
OPINION EDITOR

Earlier this year, one of my professors ran the class through an exercise to gauge opinion on the quality of post-secondary education. Responses ran the gamut from views that universities were simply "degree factories" to depictions of graduation as the time when students receive "pieces of paper."

To be sure, I knew that there was a fair amount of cynicism about how classes were conducted on a university level, but I did not think it ran that deep. What leads to that perception? Does it speak to a greater issue in Ontario education in general?

To a degree, the assessment process of regurgitating class material via Scantron or some other sort of standard examination tool, is a staple throughout the Ontario curriculum. Students in grade three, six, nine and ten all deal with a government-issued standardized test to "increase accountability and enhance quality within Ontario's education system." The grade ten literacy test is a requirement to receive the high school diploma in Ontario and the grade nine math summative is directly factored into the student's overall grade.

What is truly standardized about these tests? In each year, teachers are dealing with different students in different circumstances. The questions on one test one year are completely different from the questions on the test the next year.

How reliable, then, are the EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office) tests in assessing student

We need to create an environment where students feel they aren't just being taught. They need to feel like they are actually learning.

performance in Ontario schools? I would argue, that at the very most, the standardized tests are an indication of how that group of students — at an aggregate level (i.e. all of Ontario) — has an ability to take a test, not understand concepts. I would propose that the desire of the Ontario government and district school boards to regard the tests as either an improvement or deterioration of student performance seeks to find patterns where few exist.

Beyond aggregate data, standardized tests have little to tell us about individual areas. To propose that these results have any more to say about teaching abilities in a certain board, or even a certain school, is to find excuses for the lack of student performance in some areas.

Given the sentiments of university students — people who have obviously achieved a certain level of academic performance in their elementary and secondary educations — I think that we can presume that there is something much deeper going on here than students' abilities to fill in the correct bubbles on a card.

I offer this sidetrack as an analogy for the feeling of inefficacy among university students: students who have had the privilege of having some undoubtedly

talented teachers along their journey, but have been plagued by the standardization of education for their entire school careers.

Sir Ken Robinson, a British author and international education advisor, has spoken extensively on what he calls the need for a "revolution in education." He has theorized that there is a hierarchy of education where math and English are at the top, the humanities settle in the middle and the arts fall to the bottom. In doing so, he says, the purpose of the public education system is to not to enhance creativity and promote learning, but to produce university professors (ironic since Robinson was a professor for many years).

He further argues that the entire goal of the education process is to facilitate the end goal of being accepted into university. He calls this the fast-food model of education, which he says must change. Schools must not provide a mechanical — read, standardized — education system, but one where students find the conditions under which to grow.

To link this all together, I think part of the reason that some university students become disappointed with the system is because the system has been the same for their entire academic careers and they are realizing they are sick of it.

Robinson is right. Little changes to the education system won't cut it. We need big, unconventional ideas.

It's time to move past the standardized tests in elementary and secondary schools. We don't need to segment students and presuppose academic (and life) success by the scores that a seven year old gets on a multiple choice test. We need to create an environment where students feel like they aren't just being taught. They need to feel like they are actually learning. And maybe if we do that, universities will start to feel less like degree factories and more like theatres for growth and learning.

## OPINION

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## Overhyping the power of social media

SHAGUN RANDHAWA  
OPINION COLUMNIST

It's almost hard to imagine what life would be like if we couldn't click that login button on the Facebook homepage and be instantly connected to our entire world. Its ability to spread information while inspiring growth and involvement made its usages almost limitless.

It was still a surprise that it came as an influential instrument of revolutionary change. As the year 2011 came into full gear, we were confronted with a multitude of uprisings, launched at lightening speed that shook the foundations of 20-, 30- and even 50-year regimes. As the world avidly watched these

countries' citizens spill into the streets, we applauded social media tools as impressive mechanisms that birthed these rebellions into actuality and played a strong hand in their success. Instead of the old-fashioned, stone-throwing citizens, we are instead looking at the new face of mutiny: the ordinary citizen behind a computer screen.

Individuals who wouldn't normally watch the news or care to know what was happening outside their city walls were shouting in support of Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, created a clamoring that brought dictators to their knees.

Facebook played a practical role, with certain pages providing information to demonstrators on the status, location, time and other practical information on rallies and gatherings. YouTube was essential for spreading eyewitness reports while demonstrating the violent responses of government forces.

In an effort organized by Wael Ghonim, a Google marketing

Social media was not the inventor of courage. It has helped — but not led — these revolutions to success.

executive originally from Egypt, hundred of thousands of users accessed information on both the location and time for demonstrations, as well as links to YouTube videos revealing government atrocities against the public.

Although I do agree that social networks have a power of its own in their far reaching scope, I do have to

mention one important thing: these mediums are not creating change. They propel, aid and quicken the speed at which these revolutions occur. It takes much more than a few days of Twitter posts and Facebook fan pages for a country to react against the government they grew up with and, essentially, all they know. Social media isn't what holds these rebellions together, nor the only way a revolution can operate.

It is important to remember the fragility of social media among the praise and rever of these internet-based programs. The fact that social media is open to everyone for usage is the very weakness that lies in its power to mobilize change. It is easy for those in fumbling dictatorships to use these networks for manipulation and influence in their favour.

For instance, on Facebook, hundreds of Ethiopians have changed their profile picture to posters that have the Ahmaric word, "enough" while several groups are calling for nationwide protests on May 28, 20

years after Prime Minister Meles Zenawi came into power. Uganda's Communications Commission has since ordered telecom companies to block access to social networking websites and have since proved they can intercept messages in order to suppress the uprisings.

So although social media is a device against the most powerful weapon of oppression — misinformation — these sites do not substitute content. It is a way to share that anger, frustration and need for change with others while avoiding being a substitute for education.

Social media has been vitally important in organizing these past revolutions, yet it is essential to remember that social media remains a tool and was not the inventor of courage. It has helped — but not led — these revolutions to success. The credit is due to the people of these countries — for speaking up and risking it all for the opportunity to save their own countries from oppression.

## Polygamy should be decriminalized

KEITH MARSHALL  
OPINION COLUMNIST

The British Columbia Supreme Court will rule later this year whether or not Canada's current laws declaring polygamy a criminal offense are constitutionally valid. In doing so, they are to decide how far constitutional rights exist in Canada before they "harm society."

In truth, any law banning polygamy harms society by weakening individual liberty and perpetuating a state-controlled family model, two concepts that should be rejected by Canadians.

The time has come to decriminalize polygamy in Canada.

This law has had a deteriorating effect on individual liberties in this country, even if most of us may not realize it. Section 293 of the Canadian Criminal Code takes away individual freedom of association and allows the government to take on the position of a relationship caregiver.

Government involvement is necessary in cases of abuse but legislating against polygamy is different because it restricts individual liberties.

Current laws restrict adults in how they define their own relationships rather than letting adults engage in their own relationships.

Worse yet is that in modern times it has been made out as a law that uses the sacrifice of these liberties in order to battle spousal abuse, a false assumption that has been used to stretch the law well beyond its original purpose.

The same law declaring polygamy illegal has been on the books for more than 120 years. Championed by our first Prime Minister John A. MacDonald, its sole purpose was to drive out or assimilate Mormons settling in Canada during the late 1800s.

Our laws, however, should neither be based on the bigoted ideas of the 19th century nor on a morally bankrupt prime minister who repeatedly

showed up to parliament drunk. Canadians should no longer accept legal moralism as a reason to control the relationships of consenting adults.

However, there are proponents of this law who oppose change. They argue that it prevents spousal and child abuse.

In reality, the law has not done a single thing to prevent either of these crimes, especially given that one cannot solely attribute a successful conviction to this law in 60 years.

It has not singularly managed to convict anyone in that time, even despite the fact that the second section of the law ignores a fundamental legal principle that states that the prosecutors legal burden of proof be beyond a reasonable doubt.

What proponents of the law fail to accept is the idea that the government not be in the business of forcing adults to submit to its idea of an ideal family.

Past attempts at forcibly assimilating residents of Canada into an idealized model of living led to the numerous abuses and hardships faced by natives in our residential school system. Let otherwise innocent people live as they want to; monogamy should not be considered a basic expectation of those who reside in Canada.

What this law has managed to do is tie up the court system in British Columbia with unnecessary trials, which — while likely to the benefit of many lawyers — is ultimately at the expense of victims of real crimes.

It also likely contributed to the formation and success of isolated polygamist communities like Bountiful in British Columbia, which if anything has only contributed to the difficulties faced by women in polygamist relationships.

Instead of trying to forcibly stop polygamy with ancient laws, the government and charitable organizations should endeavour — through financial and psychological assistance — to make it easier for individuals to leave fundamentalist religious movements. The end of polygamy in Canada should come by the choice of those who practice it, not by the tilted scales of lady justice.

## Was it right to kill bin Laden?

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## SPORTS

Sports Editor Kevin Campbell • kcampbell@thecord.ca

## Volleyball cuts proceed despite backlash

KEVIN CAMPBELL  
SPORTS EDITOR

Amidst a monumental social media and grassroots movement to restore Laurier volleyball to varsity status, athletics director Peter Baxter is holding firm in his decision to cut the men's and women's programs.

A number of students, alumni and former coaches have approached the athletics department within the past few weeks to try and salvage their program but have met with a resolute administration.

What started out as a press release in late April has evolved into a furious debate over the use of athletics funds and gym facilities.

A Facebook group, containing over 2,700 members advocating for the return of volleyball, sits at the core of the backlash movement.

Former coach Trevor Eaton and current Golden Hawk football player Jeremy Brecevic, have met with Baxter and other senior representatives of the school's administration to see if there is a plausible scenario that can work by next year.

So far — nothing.

Men's head coach Shayne White believes funding and facility space aren't the only issues.

"There's something we're not being told," said White.

"The issue seems to be space for intramurals. Well if that's the issue, why did they put forth a referendum to add \$5 million in expansion to the athletic complex, but nothing towards the gymnasium?"

That student-approved motion will see the fitness centre expanded to include new equipment, and a second floor to the AC.

Baxter said the money raised for the expansion was from a capital fee, separate to the department's operating budget.



Men's volleyball coach Shayne White (third from left) celebrates with his team after a win last season.

Brecevic pointed to the university's surplus that could have gone to the volleyball teams.

"If there's a surplus, it's used to address the academic needs and wants of the university first," said Baxter.

"In the minds of myself and the alumni, [the department] should have been extremely grateful and proud of how much success we've had with what little we've been given... [Baxter] should have been bragging to the other universities that for all the teams spending [over \$100,000 on each program], we're beating them Oakland A's style, as opposed to a team like the New York Yankees," said White.

"The volleyball budget was about 3 per cent of the department's budget. Losing \$100,000 would be like you and I dropping a quarter in the store and digging a hole to get it out. Once we lose it, we lose it forever," said White.

Money is just one factor out of many, says Baxter.

The director cites a lack of gym space for intramurals, resources, support staff, a performance review of the volleyball teams and an eroding base of funds for other core sports as crucial factors in the decision.

St. Mary's University experienced a similar program cutback with their women's hockey team, and with the

help of a corporate donation by Canadian Tire, the sport was revived.

Pushback advocates use this as one of many examples to get the teams back at Laurier.

But that's just not enough, said Baxter.

"It doesn't address the demand [for facility space]. If you were to raise the money this year, what about next year?" said the director.

Baxter noted Carleton's missing football team in what he wants to see as a business model.

Carleton hasn't had a gridiron team for more than a decade, and the group pushing for its return has just raised \$5 million. That \$5 million is part of a 10-year plan with

\$500,000 going towards each year, starting in 2013 or so, says Baxter.

This is the kind of long-term, 'money-in-the-bank' business plan that Baxter wants to see, but even that won't be enough due to a lack of facility space.

According to Baxter, a new facility would cost between \$25-30 million.

In the meantime, players like men's team rookie of the year Derek Kuiack are in limbo, waiting to see if a solution can be found.

"I went to Laurier because of the team and the coach. They were a growing team. There were just so many reasons why I chose Laurier, so it's disappointing and frustrating."

Kuiack may have to choose a new school in the coming days.

White says among others, players like Kuiack, Cam Wheelan, Stephen Holmes, Nolan Molyneux, Kevin Rowe and Greg Houston are almost certainly transferring.

"If something happens last minute, then they'll all scramble and come back because they have a love affair with the university, but as we've stated, this is no longer the [student-friendly] university they chose to come to," said White.

"There's no question there's a human cost here and there's some outrage to it. I'm a parent and I would be equally as outraged if it happened with me, but when you talk with some parents and even athletes, they say 'we understand the business side of it,'" said Baxter.

"They've been very professional," said the director of the groups that have come to talk to him.

"But we don't have the facility, and they don't have the money that's sustainable over a long period of time."

## Argonauts flip a coin on Knill



YUSUF KIDWAI FILE PHOTO

Michael Knill was taken 43rd overall by the Toronto Argonauts.

KEVIN CAMPBELL  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Canadian Football League's latest record-breaker is headed for Ontario's capital.

Michael Knill, Wilfrid Laurier University's former offensive lineman and bench-pressing titan, was snatched up by the Toronto Argonauts as their final selection at the CFL's 2011 draft on May 8, going in the sixth round, 43rd overall.

The six-foot-six MBA student made a name for himself at the CFL's evaluation camp in early March, shattering the league's bench-press record of 40 reps (previously held by former Golden Hawk Mike Montoya), and lifted 225 pounds 47 times straight.

The NFL's record is 49 reps.

Listed at 350 pounds, Knill completed his undergrad in Michigan, the American's home state, but transferred to Laurier to complete his graduate degree in 2009.

"He's one of the strongest, if not the strongest kid we've seen in awhile," said Argos director of Canadian scouting, Ted Goveia last week.

"We're hoping he can transfer some of that stuff onto the field for us."

The Ontario University Athletics' (OUA) 2010 second team all-star joins a cast of five offensive players taken by Toronto, including their seventh-overall pick, the University of Tulsa's Tyler Holmes.

But don't let Knill's massive frame fool you — his brain packs as much of a punch as his brawn.

"Well, he's pretty smart," said Goveia.

"He's getting a master's degree — he's a pretty bright kid; he's got good character. From that standpoint, I'm sure he'll be able to pick up our schemes."

Knill was the lone Golden Hawk taken in the draft, but don't think their program is slowing down, says the Argos' top scout.

"They're well-coached. They've always been well-coached for a long time. Gary Jeffries does a great job, [Ryan] Pyear does a great job. They're always competitive. It's a great football program."

Knill is part of a rare breed who has suited up in both the Ontario University Athletics, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (the U.S. counterpart), playing for Laurier, Michigan and Michigan State.

That versatility and knowledge of the game on both sides of the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel opens up options for the juggernaut-like lineman as he pursues a professional career after his tenure with the Hawks ended last year.

He's also the perfect role model for his fellow Laurier teammates, says athletics director Peter Baxter.

"He's the model of a student-athlete — he's got high academic achievement and high excellence... I think it means a lot to our current players... for them to know that one of their own is in the CFL."

"They saw his work ethic and talent, so they know what it took for him to get there and that's where the bar is set... to have him so close to

home is a bonus."

Knill will now suit up for the Argos training camp and try to crack the roster.

"We expect him to be competitive," said Goveia.

"We're excited; we think he's a good addition to a good group already."

Knill could not be reached from his home in Michigan.

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Football all-stars strut their stuff in London  
Laurier sends four Golden Hawks to East-West Bowl

—By Kevin Campbell

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