



## Cushion sparks rez fire

Fire officials say King Street Residence suffered \$150,000 in damage, after unknown culprit stuffed sofa cushion in lounge fridge



Sydney Holland

**WAITING IN THE COLD** - First-year students and third-floor residents Carly Barron and Christina DaSilva overlook their King Street Residence after Saturday morning's fire.

**APRIL ROBINSON**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A couch cushion jammed into a fridge caused a fire on the sixth floor of Laurier's King Street Residence Saturday morning - and was enough to cause \$150,000 of damage.

At 9:00 am, Waterloo firefighters responded to a call while the residence evacuated about 120 students.

"Nobody knew what was going on," said Katelyn Black, first-year political science student and sixth-floor resident. Once the students got outside, Black said, they saw smoke coming out of the sixth-floor lounge window. Students waited on

a city bus to keep warm, then went to the Science Building to wait. Many called local friends and relatives to pick them up.

Earlier Saturday morning, someone had put a cushion in the fridge in the sixth-floor lounge. The fridge door remained open and an inside light bulb ignited the cushion.

"It was jammed in so tight that it was pressing up against the light bulb," said Marc Desjardins, chief investigator for the Waterloo Fire Department.

Desjardins said the flame was mostly contained within the refrigerator and some smoke damage occurred in the common room where the fire took place.

"The smoke damage actually

wasn't that bad in the hallways," he said. The lounge's fire protective door was closed, which was a "really good thing," he said.

**"We rarely get cushions in refrigerators."**

**- Marc Desjardins, chief inspector for the Waterloo Fire Department**

The bulk of the damage was due to the building's sprinkler system. It released thousands of gallons of water in a short period of time, running through hallways, into students' rooms and through two floors below, said Mike Belanger, director of residence services.

Students began returning to their rooms around noon. Many had to wait until mid-afternoon.

The university has moved 12 students and 2 dons - whose rooms suffered significant damage - to the nearby Comfort Inn until their rooms are repaired.

The investigation has been passed on to the Waterloo Regional Police.

"The goal is to establish who might have been involved," said Olaf Heinzel, public affairs coordinator for the police.

He said it has not yet been con-

firmed whether the person who put the cushion in the fridge was a student or not.

"We're convinced because of the nature of the fire, and what the investigation has turned up, that this was not arson or certainly not anything intentional," said Belanger.

"This is just some stupid activity that's gone woefully wrong."

He says that furniture in the affected boys' lounge was found turned over.

Katelyn Black said that people

- SEE FIRE, PAGE 2

See PAGE 4 for editorial reaction to the fire

## Stolen beer leads to campus brawl

Wilf's bouncer resigns as a result of physical dispute with patron; patron admits to stealing

**ASHLEY JANG**  
INCOMING STUDENT LIFE EDITOR  
**LAURA CARLSON**  
INCOMING NEWS EDITOR

Last Tuesday night, just before midnight, a theft from Wilf's by a Laurier student resulted in a physical confrontation between the student and a Wilf's bouncer. After stealing a bottle of beer, the student was chased out of Wilf's by the bouncer

to parking lot six between Little House and Bouckaert residences. The bouncer caught the student and violence ensued.

"The student that was alleged to have been assaulted first and foremost stole from us and admits to doing so," said Michael McMahon, general manager of WLUSU.

After the two individuals left the Fred Nichols Campus Centre, there were no witnesses to provide

information about the events that followed.

Dan Dawson, director of student services, stated: "There is a fairly significant discrepancy with the events that took place when the two of them met each other in the parking lot."

Ryan Moon, the bouncer involved in the situation, claims that he didn't want to resort to violence and only when he feared for his safety did he use self-defence. "I was pretty scared," he said.

After asking for the beer back, the two got into a verbal dispute and were holding each other by

their shirts. "Once I let go of his shirt, he punched me in the face," said Moon.

Physical force was used, but both parties claimed to have acted in self-defence. After the confrontation, the bouncer walked away, asked Foot Patrol to contact Campus Safety and Security and returned to the bar. Upon security's arrival, however, the student had fled the scene.

According to WLUSU policy, Moon did not have just cause to pursue matters after the student left the Fred Nichols Campus Centre, outside of their jurisdiction.

"On the standpoint of Wilf's what I can verify is that the staff member, when he left the building to pursue [the student], he had violated the policy within Wilf's," said Dawson.

Moon claimed that he was unaware of these policies. "I was 100 percent unaware of [the policy]." The day after the incident occurred, Moon informally declared his resignation in an e-mail. "I told them I was uncomfortable with the position that I was put in [last Tuesday], that I didn't want to work there for the rest of the year, and that I

- SEE WILF'S, PAGE 3



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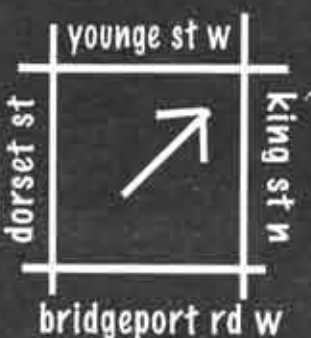
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# Bouncer feels targeted

- FROM WILF'S, COVER

didn't want to work there for the rest of the year, and that I didn't want to come back to a security position."

Moon was later called into Wilf's to officially resign. After his resignation, he made it clear to Wilf's staff that "I'm not resigning because I feel I did anything wrong, I'm resigning because I realized you're under pressure from people to get rid of me."

Had the staff member not stepped down from his position, WLUSU has zero tolerance for violating policy.

"In this case we would be looking at the most aggressive disci-

pline forms, so you're looking at a suspension or a termination," said McMahon.

After Tuesday night's events, the student placed complaints to representatives from Wilf's as well as WLUSU. The investigation is still open, due to a newly arising incident that occurred after the initial confrontation.

"There's a secondary issue that happened after with [the student's] behaviour on campus that had nothing to do with the Wilf's staff member that is actively being looked into," said Dawson.

There is concern regarding the student's previous behaviour on campus, which has officials questioning his alleged assault claim.

"He's been involved in different situations in the past that have made his reputation a little bit clouded," said Dawson.

He added "I'm not quite sure [the student] is as innocent as he has portrayed himself to be because of some actions that happened after the confrontation."

Moon feels that the accusations launched against him are not reflective of the actual events. "Regardless of whether I was wearing a security shirt or not, what he did was so wrong," he said.

Ongoing discussions between the student and the university are currently taking place to sort out the incident.

# Laurier student to run Green

STEVE NILES  
STAFF WRITER

He's never once voted, but now he's running for a seat in Ottawa. First-year Laurier student Greg Evans has been named a Green Party candidate and will run in the next federal election.

The 18-year-old global studies major, a resident of Blind River, Ontario, says his interest in politics and the environment made joining the Green Party an obvious choice.

"I joined the party because I'm concerned about the environment,

not because I wanted to get elected, because in that case, I'd be a Liberal or Conservative," he said.

"[The environment] is something I've been interested in for a long time, and I think the Green Party meets my needs and my views the best."

Despite his young age and lack of political experience, Evans feels that he will be an asset to his fellow Greens.

"Having a young candidate helps the Green party ... to get the youth vote out. Politics isn't just a bunch of old white guys in suits; it's partly

young white guys in suits too."

As a resident of a rural area, Evans feels that many in his riding will welcome his environmentally sound platform.

"We're all country folk," he said. "A lot of people up here are environmentalists and are worried about the environment."

"Northern Ontario especially, specifically sees the global warming threat as a threat to us. For many of the elderly that live here, they're seeing the world changing from what they remember when they were my age."

While many were expecting to see a springtime election, Evans feels that one in the fall is more likely. He also added that campaigning might force him to miss at least one semester.

"It's not like it's an area such as Kitchener-Waterloo where you can spend your whole time in the two cities. The riding is huge."

Although optimistic about his future as a politician, Evans is realistic about his chances of winning.

"I'm not saying we're definitely going to be elected ... but somewhere in Canada we'll see a riding vote Green and we'll get our first MP."

Evans will run in the Algoma—Manitoulin—Kapusksing riding currently held by Liberal Brent St. Denis, who has represented the riding since 1993.

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# Stalker attacks student

Girl fends off unknown man late Sunday night

**DAN POLISCHUK**  
INCOMING NEWS EDITOR

With Laurier students in full celebration mode this past weekend, as classes essentially came to an end, it was a not-so-fun one for a particular student.

According to Waterloo Regional Police, a 20 year-old female who attends WLU was walking home Monday when she was approached by a intoxicated male near King and James Streets at 2:30 am.

Walking alongside her, the male asked her to go home with him. Refusing to do so, the individual grabbed the student's wrist and tried to kiss her - at which point she punched him in the face.

Having broken free, the woman was chased home, but got there in time to call the police. Upon their arrival, the assailant had fled the area.

Olaf Heinzl, public affairs coordinator for the Waterloo police force, provided a description of the man they are now searching for.

Of a pale complexion, he is between 20-25 years of age, five feet seven inches tall with a heavy build and a chubby face. He was wearing a white baseball cap along with a beige jacket and a red collared shirt at the time of the incident.

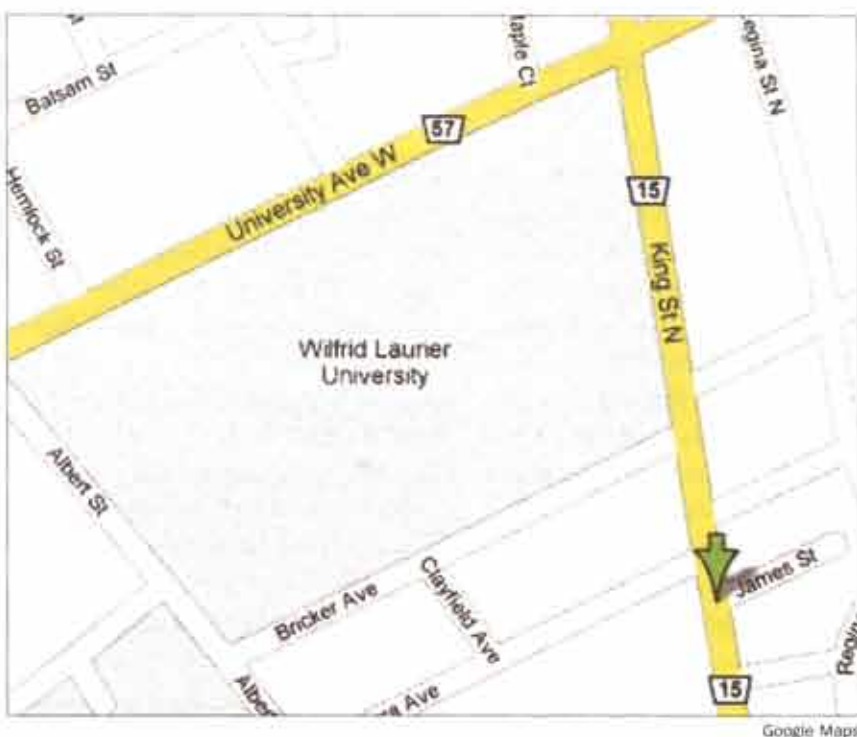
"We'll keep looking into this. Obviously this is inappropriate behaviour. It's something we want to resolve as soon as possible," said Heinzl of the situation.

"In the mean time we'd like to remind people to take precautions when they are walking alone, and preferably ... walk at least with one other person," he added.

Having been reached by the *Cord*, the victim asked that her name not be released for fear of her own personal safety.

While obviously shaken from the experience, she has received tremendous support from her friends, who "are definitely making sure I'm ok."

"I never would've thought walking two blocks that something like that was going to happen," she explained.



**TAKE FOOT** - The student was approached at James and King Street.

Trying to move on, she has spoken with her women's studies professor to try and develop a self-defence class to be made available to Laurier students.

"I feel because of what happened ... if some girl didn't know how to do what I did, they could be really screwed over," she said.

Reflecting on a night of her life

she would rather forget, she was very reflective.

"I used to make fun of people who used to take Foot Patrol ... I won't go anywhere now without walking with someone or getting a cab or taking Foot Patrol."

# Fire moves 14 to local motel

- FROM FIRE, COVER

seem to be a party going on. She couldn't think of anyone who would do such a thing.

"It's probably the stupidest reason to start a fire," said Black.

Belanger said that when and if the person is identified, they will likely be reprimanded by the dean of students or the president's office - meaning some form of suspension.

Brier Pennanen, a first-year global studies student who lives on the residence's fourth floor, said there was some confusion when fire alarms went off.

As students started to evacuate, the alarm turned off. "We were all standing in the stairwell saying, 'Do we go back to bed?'"

Kristen Horner, a first-year business student who lives on the eighth floor, said the alarm turned on and off three times before stu-

dents realized they had to leave.

She said it took firefighters a little longer to get to the scene due to the alarm confusion.

According to Belanger, a fire pull station had been damaged. Early Saturday morning, a security guard had been examining it, causing the abrupt false alarms.

Then Rob Holliday, sixth floor don, told security that there really was a problem.

"It was a bit of an issue," said Belanger.

After many students had returned to their rooms, alarms went off again on Saturday afternoon due to water in the elevator shaft.

Belanger said the residence has had more false alarms than he would have liked this year.

While the university works on repairing structural damage, students are responsible for contents insurance.

However, Belanger says that he has not heard of any student computer damage.

Black says some of her floor mates had damage to the things they had on the ground. A pair of pants was covered in "black water," she said.

"And the sixth floor don, his papers were all over the floor for his exam," said Horner.

King Street Residence holds 324 people, but only 120 students were there Saturday morning.

The last time a fire occurred in a Laurier residence was five years ago, caused by a student's cigarette butts in a garbage can.



**SMOKED OUT** - Top: The light bulb from a residence fridge ignited a sofa cushion. Bottom: Smoke damage from the fridge fire.

Belanger said that he has heard from a lot of angry parents. "They're all concerned - as you'd expect."

Horner said her parents were "just in shock that it could happen."

And a fridge would be the last

place anyone would think a fire could start. Just ask fire inspector Desjardins.

"People assume a refrigerator's cold," he said with a laugh. "We rarely get cushions in refrigerators."

## > VOCAL CORD

What are your thoughts on the fire at King Street Residence?



"The fire was dealt with pretty well. The dons were organized."

- **Carly Barron**  
First-year Biology



"It's hilarious that someone shoved a couch cushion into a fridge... like who does that?"

- **Jen Poetker**  
Second-year English/History



"They handled the situation as best as they could."

- **Nariman Neirami**  
First-year Business



"Coming from an all-girls residence, it is always a surprise when stupid things like that happen."

- **Erin Moore**  
Fourth-year Kinesiology



"What would make anyone put a couch cushion in the fridge?"

- **Tory Armstrong**  
Fourth-year Communication

By Riley Taylor

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**One last hurrah**  
'Pril thanks all who ripped the lid off this issue: Danny Boy, Syd, Brandon, Steve, Riley, Laura, Jangstar, Shore, Blair for the pics, Tony & Mike for worrying, Caitlin & Ariel, Angela, Fraser. The end. For real this time!



# King St. prank no big surprise

From false alarms to noisy quiet hours, living in residence can be frustrating



DAVID SHORE  
NO RELATION TO PAULY

After hearing about the King Street Residence fire, you're probably all asking the same question that I am. Why the hell was there a pillow in the fridge? Understanding someone's motive for putting a couch cushion inside a refrigerator is mind-boggling. While everyone is asking these questions, I find it surprising that nobody wants to ask how this happened. How was somebody able to get away with this?

Perhaps the worst part is that I'm not really that surprised. Anybody who's lived in residence at Laurier can imagine how easy it would be to do something like this. As a first year living in Waterloo College Hall (WCH) for the past seven months, I can certainly say that while the fire in King Street Rez may be the most significant security issue to have happened in any Laurier rez all year, it is far from the first. My entire year of residence life has been fraught with poor security.

We've had no fires this year at WCH, but we've certainly had our fair share of fire alarms. Four of

them, to the best of my memory. Nothing is worse than having to get up at four in the morning to blaring sirens and then having to wait outside in the snow wearing pajamas while the fire trucks come to scour the building for a fire that everyone knows isn't there. Especially when you know it was just some drunk jerk who pulled the thing.

Fire alarms aren't even the worst part of residence, however. As bad as they are, the overall noise level is much worse. I could count the number of times I've been woken by the fire alarm, but the number of times I've been kept awake by people yelling in the halls is impossible to count. So-called "Quiet Hours" in residence are a joke. Getting an uninterrupted sleep on a pub night is not a right, but an unexpected gift.

The whole time I've been in residence, I've had to ask myself the same question countless times. Where are the dons? Loud drunken conversations in the hallways after quiet hours have sometimes gone on for upwards of half an hour before any duty dons come to break up the situation. I've found that the duty don system has rarely been capable of keeping residence safe and enjoyable for everyone. I've seen floors vandalized numerous times. I've seen fights start that had to be

broken up by other students. But rarely have I seen duty dons solving a problem before it happens.

The problem is that most dons are great at showing their first-years a great time, and not so great at policing them. This would be ideal, if only Laurier's student body wouldn't provide constant reminders that they need policing. Either Residence Life staff need to incorporate some sort of security guards to keep order in residence, or the dons need to become a lot stricter.

The poor security in residence has been by far the biggest blemish on my otherwise fantastic first-year experience.

The poor enforcement of residence rules, and students' ability to get away with nearly whatever they want, has made living in residence very frustrating.

The constant unwanted wake-up calls alone have been enough to make me relieved to be leaving residence in a month. I sympathize with the residents of King Street who were locked out of their rooms because somebody put a cushion in the fridge.

I sympathize with them because it could have happened on my floor.

It could have happened on any floor in any residence at Laurier. The fire was hardly a freak occurrence.

It was simply another act of unmonitored stupidity that happened to get out of control. It wouldn't have happened if students were more respectful of their neighbours in residence, and if residence security had any measure of control over what goes on. This incident puts the spotlight on how ineffective security is in residences at Laurier.



**> Campus Pictorial**  
GIVE'R 2 UR LIVER - Alright, who let the first-years watch "FUBAR" and order Dial-a-Bottle? Stuffing a pillow in a fridge and nearly burning down a residence is one thing, but please, have a little more Canadian Excellence.



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