

LOVE AT FIRST CLICK

Is online dating a worthwhile pursuit for Laurier students? ... **PAGES 14-15**

LOVESTRUCK

Student Life gets all romantic for Valentine's Day ... **PAGES 16-17**

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NEWSPAPER

Volume 48 Issue 22

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2008

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Election disaster



FILE PHOTO - SYDNEY HELLAND



JOE TURCOTTE



PAUL ALVIZ

BAD PUN - Ross Fraser (centre) and Colin LeFevre (right) remain in the race for WLUSU presidency.

Brian Punambolam removed from race

A surplus of campaign-related fines has led to the disqualification of presidential candidate Brian Punambolam, current VP: Student Activities

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

After accumulating \$95 worth of campaign related fines, \$20 over the permitted amount, presidential hopeful Brian Punambolam has been officially disqualified from the race for Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) president.

The decision to fine him out of the election came at 8:30 a.m. yesterday morning from the Appellate Committee, after they made

a decision to overturn an appeal filed by Punambolam regarding his disqualification.

"[It was] very difficult. It was a hard decision," explained Allison, president of WLUSU, who was on the committee that decided to disqualify Punambolam.

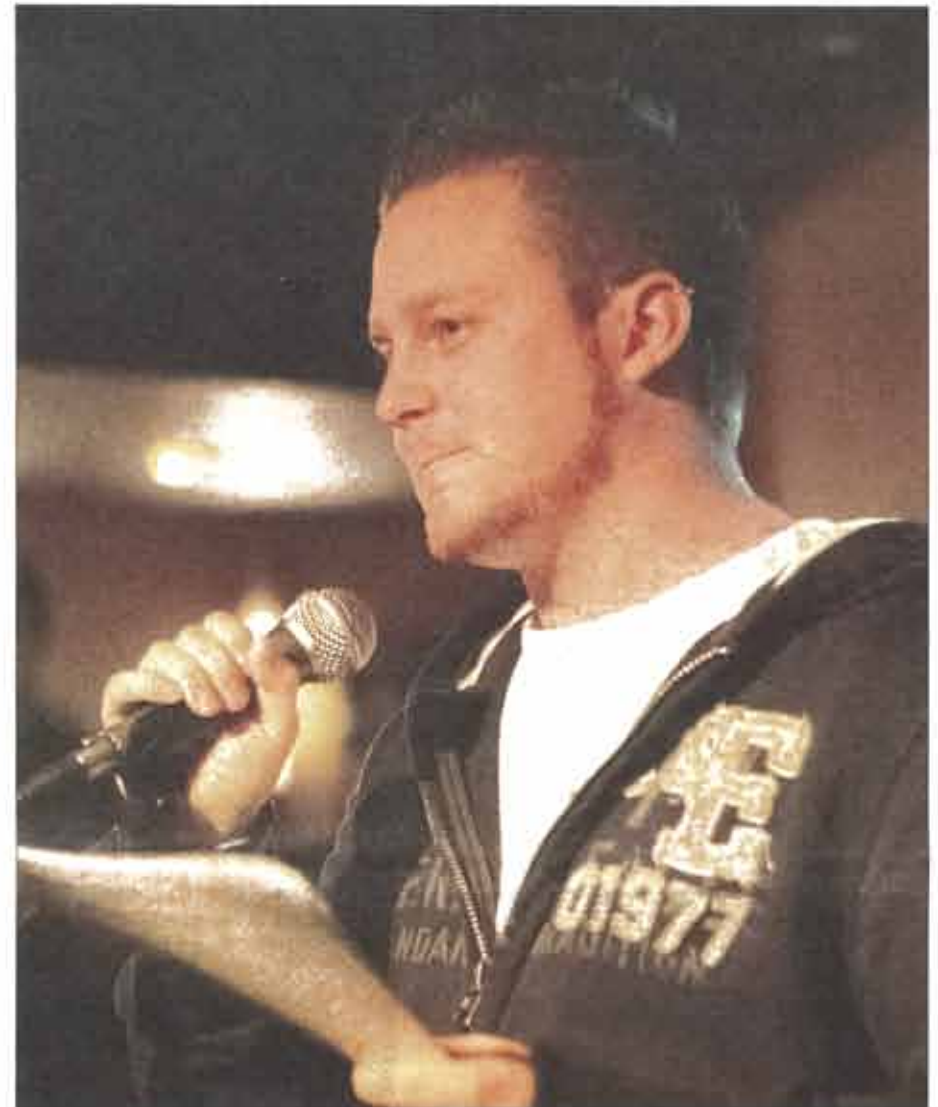
Punambolam accumulated his fines for various reasons, including: \$50 for slander during the Open Forum, in which a member of his campaign team accused presidential hopeful Colin LeFevre's team of making racist

comments during the campaign process, \$30 for using a WLUSU database to send out e-mails promoting him as a candidate and \$15 for a member of his team for campaigning in the Terrace.

Punambolam feels that he should not have been fined for slander or members of his campaign team using the e-mail lists to send to students, because of "vagueness" in the WLUSU election policies, though after seeking legal counsel he has decided not to seek any further action.

"It's disappointing," said Punambolam. "I'm not going to complain about the process, it's done," he added.

Punambolam received his notice of disqualification verbally from elections Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Craig Stover and WLUSU president Dan Allison on Thursday afternoon, half an hour before the polls closed.



SYDNEY HELLAND

NOT DONE YET - Chief Returning Officer Craig Stover announces the WLUSU Board of Directors' decision to hold a re-election for president.

Re-election to be held February 28

Remaining presidential hopefuls will enter re-election following Punambolam leaving the race

LAURA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

A decision by the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) Board of Directors (BOD) ruled in favour of a re-election to determine which of the two remaining candidates will be the next WLUSU president, following Brian Punambolam's disqualification yesterday morning.

"The Board decided to hold a run-off ballot between Colin [LeFevre] and Ross [Fraser] to take place, the tentative date, barring any major problems, Thursday the 28 [of February]," said Jon Champagne, current chair of the BOD.

The deliberation of the Board was made difficult due to the fact that WLUSU has no official election policy regarding what to do in a situation such as this one.

"I've only been Chair for a few weeks ... I don't know why there was

no policy," said Champagne.

The decision to hold a run-off election met mixed reviews from the remaining candidates.

"I was glad, that's what I was kind of hoping for just in terms of making sure that the students got their voice," said Fraser.

"But at the same time, I understand the other side's opposition to it, but I'm glad the Board made the decision," he added.

Having been vocal about not wanting the Union to stage a re-election, LeFevre was extremely disappointed with the outcome, which is why he decided to resign from his current position as a director.

LeFevre's role as both a director and candidate resulted in him declaring a conflict of interest, which removed him from any discussions on the board level.

- SEE RE-ELECTION, PAGE 4

WLUSU ELECTION EMERGENCY

An emergency BOD Meeting was held last night.
SEE MEETING,
PAGE 3

For Board of Directors and Board of Governors results,
SEE BOARD,
PAGE 2

For results from the referendum,
SEE REFERENDUM,
PAGE 3

Want to know **The Cord's** opinion on this whole mess?
SEE ELECTION,
PAGE 20

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WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2008
VOLUME 48 ISSUE 21

Next Issue: February 27

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I have a huge thing about balls going towards my head."

- Graphics Editor Julie Marion on her regular Monday night activities.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Deadline - the time by which something must be finished or submitted, as in something not met The Cord this week in order to have the most up to date information.

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COLOPHON

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

Started in 1926 as the *College Cord*, *The Cord Weekly* 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.



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The Cord is created using Macintosh computers running OS X.2 using Adobe Creative Suite 2 (InDesign, Photoshop, Acrobat, Illustrator) and Canon Rebel XT 8.0 megapixel digital cameras are used for principal photography.

The Cord Weekly is a proud member of the Ontario Press Council since 2006. Any unsatisfied complaints can be sent to the Council at info@ontpress.com.



The Cord's circulation for a normal Wednesday issue is 7,000 copies and enjoys a readership of over 10,000.

Cord subscription rates are \$20.00 per term for addresses within Canada.

The Cord Weekly is a proud member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), since 2004.



Campus Plus is *The Cord's* national advertising agency.

Preamble to The Cord Constitution

The Cord will keep faith with its readers by presenting news and expressions of opinions comprehensively, accurately and fairly.

The Cord believes in a balanced and impartial presentation of all relevant facts in a news report, and of all substantial opinions in a matter of controversy.

The staff of *The Cord* shall uphold all commonly held ethical conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or of commission has occurred, that error shall be acknowledged promptly.

When statements are made that are critical of an individual, or an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity to reply at the earliest time possible.

Ethical journalism requires impartiality, and consequently conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest will be avoided by all staff.

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

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

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

Board of Directors positions announced

Fifteen positions within the WLUSU Board of Directors have been filled with 2008's total vote count

JEREMY TREMBLAY
OPINION EDITOR

While presidential candidates learned they had to return to the campaign trail, candidates for the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) Board of Directors (BOD) and candidates for Laurier's Board of Governors (BOG) learned the results of last Thursday's election in Wilf's at about 10:30 pm last night.

A small crowd of candidates and their supporters were present to see Chief Returning Officer Craig Stover deliver partial results of the 2008 election - five days later than originally expected.

In the race for seats on the Board of Directors, Laura Sedgwick received the most votes of all candidates, picking up 820.

Sedgwick was followed by returning director Jon Champagne, who picked up 750 votes. Champagne was also elected to the sole open seat on the WLU Board of Governors with 42.3 percent of the votes.

"Right now, I'm very run down. I'm exhausted and I'm happy," stated Champagne.

It was also announced that 72.4% of votes cast approved of acclaiming Saad Aslam, Clark Chami, Dan Komesch, Janice Lee and Paul Laanemets to the Senate.

During the event, Kory Preston, a current director seeking reelection, was named as the final director for next year's BOD.

However, when *The Cord* re-

ceived an e-mail with the official results from Stover, it was noted that Preston was the sixteenth candidate, 38 votes behind Mike Oberle, the actual fifteenth candidate.

Calls made to Stover and President Dan Allison around 2 am when the confusion was noted were not returned by press time.

When Preston was contacted regarding the announcement, it was the first he had heard of the incident.

Although acclaimed to the Senate, current Director Paul Laanemets learned his time in the boardroom would not be extended, as he had received only 354 votes.

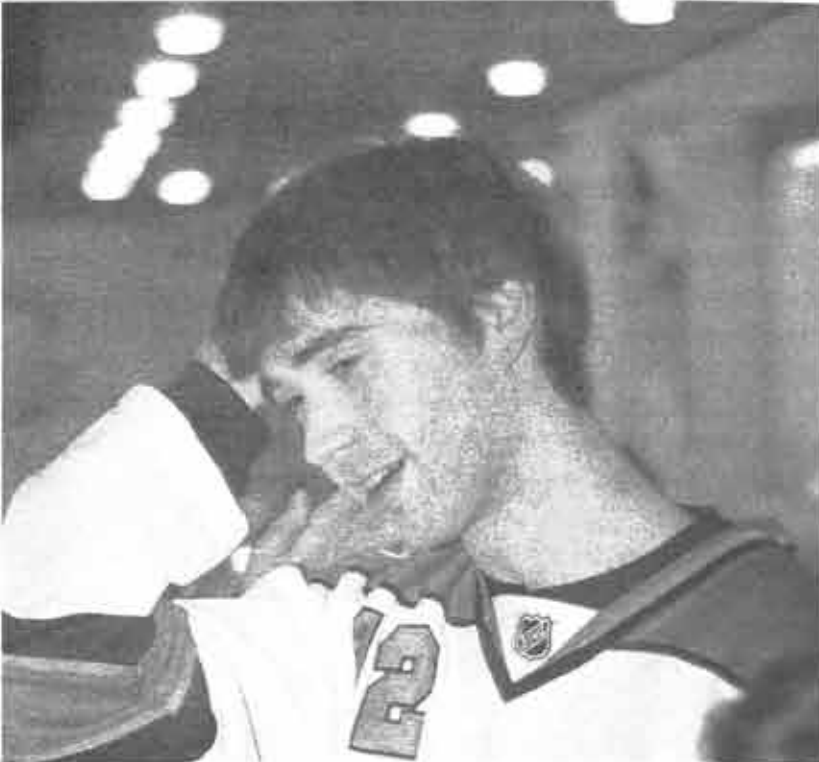
Laanemets described his disappointment with the situation and outlined that he felt he had run a strong campaign.

Due to the counting of the ballots being delayed multiple times, numerous candidates present voiced their displeasure in how they were left without knowledge of either the results or even when the results would be made public.

"The thing that disappointed me the most is the way that candidates were held in the dark," said successful BOD candidate Asif Bacchus.

"It was excruciating," said Andrew Fryer of waiting. "I had a bunch of midterms I had a hard time studying for."

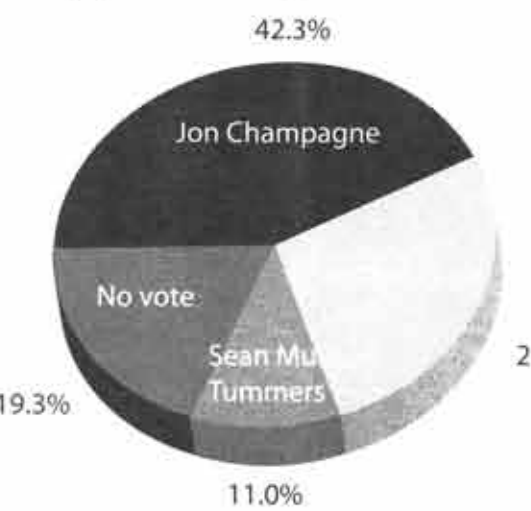
"All I can say is I'll continue to serve the students that elected me," said returning director Champagne. "And I'm excited to do so."



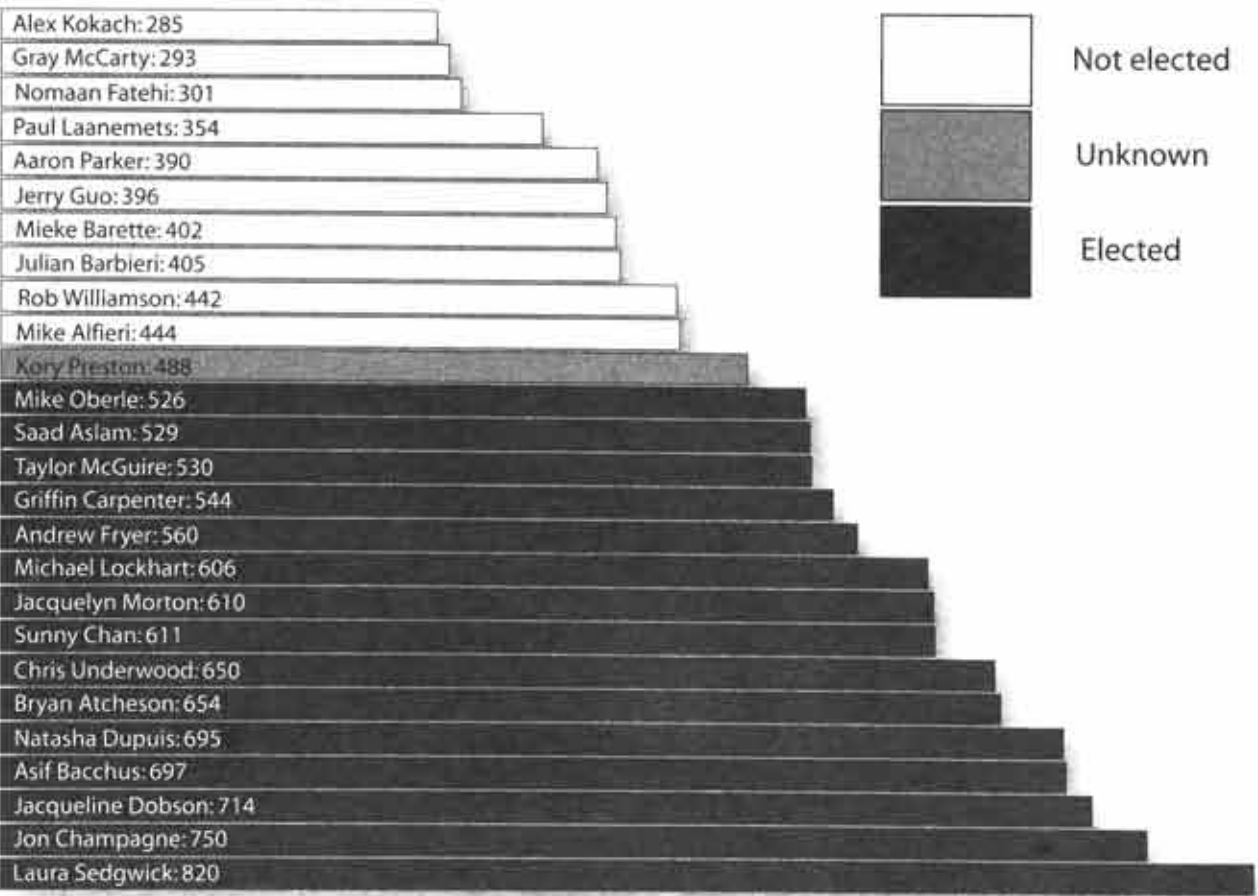
SYDNEY HELLAND

RELIEF - With 544 votes, Griffin Carpenter narrowly made this year's Board of Directors. See below for the complete list of vote numbers.

Board of Governors results by percentage of votes



Board of Directors results by voting numbers



VOCAL CORD

"How do you feel about Brian Punambolam being disqualified from the election?"



"I thought it wasn't really fair.... They shouldn't have been that harsh on him."

- Ankur Agarwal
Third-year Business



"The people that did vote for him should have a say now."

- Daniel Fattore
First-year Political Science



"He should have been disqualified."

- Michelle Carlson
Second-year English



"If you break the rules you gotta pay the consequences."

- Scott Cherry
Second-year PPE



"Apathetic."

- Steve Donogue
First-year Philosophy

Referendum passes in overwhelming majority

Despite support, contentious issues still surround questions posed

DAN POLISCHUK
NEWS EDITOR

With no official campaign devoted to challenging this year's referendum questions, the three questions posed to student voters in last Thursday's election were supported in great numbers.

Whether the results, such as the 74.5 per cent in favour of instituting a new Undergraduate Faculty Student Association Fee, are truly representative remains to be a subject of debate.

Chief Returning Officer Craig Stover conveyed how "happy" he was with how the procedure went.

While recognizing the fact that there was not an official "no" campaign to lobby against the approval of the questions, Stover was quick to say that, "There was always an opportunity for a 'no' campaign."

Matt Park, recently installed as a WLUSU staff member after his resignation from the Board, also conveyed his belief that "students had the opportunity to request a

'no' campaign."

"It's all about student interest. I can't exactly report on what students are thinking - yes or no," answered Park, when asked if enough time was allotted for a no campaign to be developed.

Asif Bacchus, who was voted in as a member for next year's Board of Directors (BOD), did not share the same perspective.

Having past experience on the BOD, Bacchus explained how, under previous policy, any referendum question had to be approved by the BOD at least 30 days in advance. He went further in stating that no such policy currently exists.

"I think it was a legitimate oversight. That wouldn't have happened if they had stuck with our original policies," said Bacchus, explaining why no opposition groups could be organized.

Also up for debate with Bacchus is the fact that "the board approved a version almost identical to the one that was presented,

except that it said, 'Do you want to replace ... these fees?'"

"When the question was presented on the ballot, it said, 'Do you want to replace the now-defunct ... fees?' he said.

With the addition of the word "defunct" in the wording, the incoming Director felt that it was a "very backhanded way of saying 'vote yes.'"

"My big problem with it is the Board approved one version. What gives anyone the right, after that point, especially somebody subordinate to the Board, to reword the question?" he asked. "To have the body that's supposed to reflect the opinion [of the students] give an opinion is not correct."

Bacchus was also steadfast in his belief that the 75.5 per cent in favour of removing the word "undergraduate" from the Letters Patent and By-Laws of WLUSU has put an unfair onus on the incoming Board to get graduate students under their umbrella.

"We now have an obligation to

try and merge with grad students," he said. "What if they don't want that?"

In regards to the Brantford-specific question, 83.5 per cent voted to implement a new \$15.00 per term fee that will support the construction of a new dining facility. It is scheduled to be applicable for all full-time and part-time students until September 1, 2018.

Ballot question results

Removal of the statement "undergraduate" from the Letters Patent and By-Laws of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union
75.5% YES

Undergraduate Faculty Student Association Fee of \$15.00
74.5% YES

Acclaimed positions of Senate were accepted
72.4% YES

Emergency board meeting for election

The WLUSU Board of Directors held deliberations last night to discuss the 2008 election results

DAVE SHORE
FEATURES EDITOR

JOE TURCOTTE
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

Last night, the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) Board of Directors (BOD) held an emergency meeting to discuss the 2008 election results - after a week of delaying the release of the results.

The meeting, which started around 7 pm, saw a group of students forming the year's largest gallery, consisting of 29 individuals.

Board Chair Jon Champagne addressed the crowd and set out the parameters for the meeting. "I ask that you please let the Board go in camera and discuss the issues pertaining to the day. Then I recommend that we come out of camera, we'll listen to everyone, record their input and we'll continue from there," said Champagne.

Board members, including Kory Preston and Greg Sacks, asked for clarification as to why the meeting needed to proceed in camera.

"Basically, you'd like to go in camera and then you can plead the case as to why it needs to stay in camera and then if we're satisfied with whether or not it should stay in camera, then we can decide whether or not to take it out of camera?" Sacks probed.

An initial motion to go in camera



SYDNEY HELLAND

BOARD BUSINESS - Jon Champagne chairs an emergency meeting of the WLUSU Board of Directors.

failed to receive the required support of the Board, but upon further clarification from Champagne, a second motion to move in camera was quickly passed.

"Explaining why we need to proceed in camera puts WLUSU in a position where it can be sued," said Champagne.

Champagne defended the position, citing that information that was to be discussed was of a sensitive nature and could lead to legal challenges if handled improperly. "Legal council has been contacted by one or more candidates on this matter. The information in the discussion that the Board will be having can be potentially harmful to

the corporation," he explained.

Having listened to appeals from the gallery, a motion was passed that the meeting would proceed in camera, and then come out of camera to hear more comments from the students in attendance. After nearly an hour of in camera discussions, the Board allowed members of the gallery to return to the board room to voice their opinions.

Following this, Champagne's decision to begin the meeting in camera was immediately challenged by the gallery members, who wished to know why they were asked to leave the room while the Board carried forth their

discussion.

Josh Smyth, a former Board member, demanded a reason for the Board's decision. "If you're discussing things like what's going to happen with the election itself, that cannot be in camera. There's no way ... it's a matter of policy."

Dan Hocking, former Vice-President: Marketing and vice-chair of the board, echoed Smyth's comments, saying, "for the Board that always preaches transparency ... for something like this to be discussed in camera doesn't seem very transparent, or very democratic or very representative."

- SEE MEETING, PAGE 4

Run-off election

- FROM RE-ELECTION, COVER

"You sit in the board meeting and they're talking about you, but you can say nothing," said LeFevre.

LeFevre is also concerned that the results of a re-election may now be skewed. "There is a significant group of people who are against me that feel I am to blame for Brian's removal from ... the candidacy. The results will come out biased when they never were before.

"I ran my campaign because I see changes that I think need to be done. This election has become so dirty and so ridiculous, from other campaigns, to the Board of Directors, that I'm getting incredibly discouraged," said LeFevre.

Despite the Board's decision as a whole to proceed with elections in this way, three of the 11 voting board members present, including Jocelyn Butler, were asked to abstain from their vote because of a conflict of interest.

"It was the three members of Colin's campaign team. However, the members of Pun's campaign team were not included," she said.

Aside from a few directors, all of the board members present had affiliations with a campaign team. Champagne would not respond to why certain directors were deemed to be in conflict of interest because it is in camera.

"You have to look at the issue presented to the Board and decide if ... someone's ability is jeopardized to make an unobstructed decision," said Champagne.

Other than the 11 directors present for the meeting, WLUSU President Dan Allison, Chief Returning Officer Craig Stover, and Appellate Committee and WLUSU staff member Matt Park were also present.

"They were there to provide information to the Board and be a resource ... to give their side," said Champagne.

Dan Hocking, former vice-chair of the BOD and former VP: Marketing for WLUSU, expressed his concern with this.

"As a staff member, Matt Park should not be permitted to argue in that room. The argument should have been Dan Allison's and Dan Allison's alone. He's the linkage between the Board and the staff," said Hocking.

Champagne says that Park was only present in the room to provide the board with information.

"He was an election official and the Board made a decision to allow him to be there," said Champagne.

Former board member Bryn Ossington feels that there were individuals present during the deliberations that should not have been in the room, which he feels influenced the Board's decision.

"When we were leaving the in camera session the first person to speak up was Matt Park. Not the chair of the board, not the President, not a director - an ex-director who has recently resigned."



SYDNEY HELLAND

RE-VOTE - A group of students gather outside of the WLUSU boardroom last night, expressing their desire for another presidential election.

Student protesters interrupt deliberations over elections

- FROM MEETING, PAGE 3

Multiple gallery members appealed to the Board to reconsider their decision, asking that the Board debate the matters in question solely as policy issues in order to avoid the possibility of liability.

Keren Gottfried, a former Board member and current President of Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications (WLUSP), complained that, since election day, the general students have not been adequately informed regarding the situation surrounding the election.

"There is information in here that's not in camera, on a principle

level," Gottfried said. "And we are going on so little. We're going on hearsay and gossip and rumours."

The members of the gallery continued their insistence that the Board debate the matter with the students in attendance. Jocelyn Butler, a current Board member, commented that she felt that a decision ought to have been made.

"In all honesty, this decision has been going on for a long time," said Butler. "Most states don't even have a longer decision than we've got going on right now. Let's just get this over with."

Despite requests from multiple members of the gallery to hold discussion based solely on policy, the Board passed a motion to return to

in camera discussion on the fate of the election, where they remained until a decision was reached.

A short time later, another group of students gathered outside the board room and voiced their opinions about this year's election.

"We're calling for a re-vote," explained Trevor Mayoh, a fourth-year political science student. "We understand that Brian [Punambolam]'s out but we just want an opportunity to actually vote for the candidates running in the election and have a voice about who's going to be our President. So that's what we're calling for and I think that's totally reasonable."

Laurel Tubman, a fourth-year music student and a campaign

manager for Punambolam, further expanded upon the group's reason for protesting the meeting. "We did kind of know about [the meeting] in advance, but we only knew that it was getting a little intense," she explained.

"We heard that Colin [LeFevre]'s supporters were here and we thought we should show up as well ... just to make sure that things are fair and just to make sure that student voices are heard," she explained.

After a lengthy in camera discussion, the Board determined that the best course of action was to hold a run-off election between LeFevre and Fraser.

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A history of elections at Laurier

This year's WLUSU election has had its share of problems, so here's a look at other controversial elections in our Union's past

1972: Elections nearly annulled

Elections were close to annulment after an appeal was filed relating to a number of concerns, including things such as over-postering on the behalf of the winning president and VP: University Affairs, that several ballots went missing, that the ballot box was not in public view during voting at the beginning of polling and that candidates were not allowed to be interviewed on Radio Lutheran.

Most notably there were significant concerns about the Chief Electoral Officer, specifically relating to his impartiality, concerns that he didn't follow election procedures, and that he overrode a decision to disqualify the candidates who were found to be over-postering.

Due to the biases of many of the Students' Administrative Council's (SAC) members the decision was placed in the hands of the Dean's Advisory Council (DAC) who decided that the appeal following the election did not qualify as sufficient reasoning to annul the '72 election.

1992: Policy and Endorsements brought under scrutiny

A ruling by the Elections Council permitted a part-time student to run for president, which was

against the Student Union bylaws at the time. After an appeal was filed, the DAC agreed to let the candidate stay in the running, yet he was unsuccessful as the presidential candidate.

More appeals followed after the elected candidate was announced, relating to an editorial published in *The Cord*, which endorsed the winning candidate.

1995: Elections delayed

Elections were postponed two weeks as a result of a significant delay in regards to the mail-out ballots for co-op students.

The Open Forum this year also received much criticism as candidates were attacked on personal issues from their pasts, including the conduct of one presidential candidate who was questioned about spending a night in jail with the president of Ryerson's Students' Union while attending a conference in Halifax and streaking at another one.

1998: Two candidates disqualified

Two candidates, one running for president and the other for VP: University Affairs, were disqualified from the election for receiving

more than the maximum number of three fines.

Though both candidates appealed the disqualification to the DAC, they were removed from the ballot prior to the election.

Specifically a total of five infractions were submitted to the Elections Committee regarding the presidential candidate, which included hanging unstamped posters, campaigning in Wilf's, distributing campaign material to TA's and distributing campaign buttons which were not authorized.

The concerns regarding the presidential candidate Mike Keriakos were mainly due to his association with VP: UA candidate Renée Pelletier. Pelletier was thought to possibly be violating policy after addressing students at a communication studies information night and being endorsed by her program director.

The Chief Returning Officer speaks out about the need to revise and clarify election policies.

2003: Information leaked

Confidential voting information was left on the hard drive on a PRISM laptop, which included spreadsheets with a break down of votes by faculty and polling station and information on spoiled ballots.

Students at the polls

1999

An acclaimed president took over the union, with just over 16 percent voter turnout, the lowest in the decade.

2000

One vote made the difference between presidential candidates, with 545 votes putting the winner into the WLUSU office.

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NEWSIN BRIEF

OneCard audit report writing to start soon

Four months after undertaking an extensive audit at the OneCard office, it looks like there may soon be an end in sight.

"It's starting to come to a close," said Jim Butler, VP: Finance at Laurier. "They say this is it, we're done, and they've just got to write it up," he added.

Butler says that, although the process of investigation has nearly ended, he still has no official word as to when he will receive the final report.

"I've been given no date, they're just finalizing some of the elements they're looking into and they're going to write it up," he said.

Though Butler is looking forward to having the audit wrapped up soon, he in no way wants to rush the process.

"I would have preferred it been done much quicker, but I would prefer they do a thorough job rather than a quick job."

WLU opens new community policing office on campus

Yesterday, the new Community Policing Office at 232 King Street

North was officially opened on campus.

The Special Constable Service was previously known as Community Safety and Security. The new office will house administrative offices, a work area, interview rooms, lockers, a shower and a bicycle storage room.

Research from a professor at Laurier helps prevent seniors from falling

A new shoe insole called the *Sole Sensor* has been co-invented by Dr. Stephen Perry, a professor in Laurier's Kinesiology and Physical Education Department.

The *Sole Sensor* is designed to prevent seniors from falling and improve their balance. It has been developed with research that has been funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research.

Dr. Perry performed his research at Laurier where he created prototypes and carried out clinical trials. A group of seniors aged between 65 and 75 wore the sole sensors for 12 weeks and, as a result, had half the number of falls in comparison to a second group who did not wear them.

At the moment, Laurier's Move-

ment Disorders Research and Rehabilitation Centre is testing the new shoe insole on Parkinson's patients. The *Sole Sensor* is in its final phase of product development. It is expected to be out on the market and available for purchase sometime later this year.

GRT strike still possible

According to a press release issued by the Region of Waterloo, the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Union Local 4304 – which represents Grand River Transit drivers, mechanics, dispatchers, etc. – will legally be able to go on strike as of 12:01 am tomorrow.

While discussions are ongoing between the Region of Waterloo and the CAW, some of the key issues under contention remain unknown due to a media blackout being enforced by both sides.

Mike McMahon, general manager of Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union, offered further insight in that, if the strike extends past seven days, students will start to receive daily compensation based on the \$40 per-term fee that is paid for the bus pass – which would work out to \$0.47 per day for the rest of the term.

- Compiled by Laura Carlson, Madhavi Ganju and Dan Polischuk

Punambolam disqualified from race

- FROM PUN, COVER

After an emergency Board of Directors (BOD) meeting was called on Thursday night, the BOD decided to allow the Appellate Committee to delay counting the ballots until Tuesday morning, once a result regarding the disqualification was made.

Though disappointed about losing a candidate in the race, presidential hopeful Ross Fraser felt that the right decision was made.

"Practice was followed the right way. Procedure was followed. So if that's the decision that they made then I stand by it," said Fraser.

The other candidate running, Colin LeFevre, also expressed his disappointment in losing a candidate, but again felt that the right decision was made regarding the circumstances.

"No one wants to win in a way that the person who won was disqualified. No one really does," said LeFevre.

"But the fact of the matter is, when you break the rules – and they're very clearly outlined – you

have to accept the consequences," he added.

Kelly Guest, a fifth-year student who has been involved in various presidential campaigns over the last four years, was one of the concerned individuals who approached Mike McMahon, General Manager of WLUSU, last week with specific concerns she had relating to policy and particularly how Punambolam and his team had been acting during the campaign period.

"There has been a lot of dirty play in elections this year," said Guest.

While LeFevre and Guest feel that the policies in place regarding the election fines are clear, Punambolam does not feel that they have sufficient grounds on which to base his disqualification.

"A lot of communication errors were displayed throughout the process and in terms of the vagueness of the policies those need to be tweaked," said Punambolam.

"I question the democratic process and the election process, but I know it'll be changed next year," he added.

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Laurier recipient of government grant

Laurier to receive over \$3 million dollars from Ontario government

MARA SILVESTRI
STAFF WRITER

Recently, it was announced that the Ontario government is investing almost \$15 million in Kitchener-Waterloo region's post-secondary schools.

Laurier will be receiving \$3,383,500 and the news of this investment gave Laurier's President, Dr. Max Blouw, "great pleasure."

As far as the changes we can expect to see and the allocation of the money, Dr. Blouw notes that the areas which the school is looking at investing the money are part of "a long list", which specifically includes new stadium lighting as well as more general areas.

"There are three target areas for the funds," explained Blouw, noting Campus Safety and Security, campus renewal and energy projects.

Blouw added that, "We are meeting to discuss the appropriate targets for these monies, but they will be spent on these three areas."

Jim Butler, the Vice President: Finance and Administration, noted that the upkeep of physical infrastructure for the university is an important area for the school to invest in.

"We could spend that ten times

over; that's how big of a back-log of maintenance issues we've got," said Butler, adding that "we've had a number of leaking roofs that we've had to fix, a number of things that had to be repaired."

"These things have to be replaced

"WE COULD SPEND THAT TEN TIMES OVER; THAT'S HOW BIG OF A BACK-LOG OF MAINTENANCE ISSUES WE'VE GOT."

- **Jim Butler, VP: Finance and Administration**

periodically and they're expensive," Butler added.

Laurier, Conestoga College and the University of Waterloo were only three of the post-secondary institutions province-wide to receive a bulk of the \$200 million investment from the Ontario government.

Upon hearing the news that some of the money would be allocated to campus security, Rod Curran, Director of Community Safety and Security said, "We are very pleased to see some of this money earmarked for that."

Curran is also president of the Ontario Association of College and University Security Administra-

tors, so he and his associates were already working towards security enhancements at Ontario colleges and universities.

As far as Curran's hopes for the distribution of money within campus security, he noted that, "It's going to be decided at

the senior management level, but I have made recommendations in regards to emergency measures, to notifying systems on campus, to more video surveillance

and emergency poles around campus." Curran also said that he has asked for five new staff members.

With new money invested in the local institutes, Dr. Blouw is optimistic about the future of the community.

"The attraction of the Kitchener-Waterloo region to students is the overall quality and there is an excitement here in the region about growth and exciting opportunities for work and so on, so these monies will assist in improving our environment," Blouw said.

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Campus club gets group status

In compliance with Campus Clubs, the Laurier Freethought Alliance granted official status after re-wording constitution

MICHELLE CALDARONI
STAFF WRITER

A year has passed since the Laurier Freethought Alliance (LFA) originally applied for official Laurier club status on campus. Having dealt with its fair share of media attention, a club constitution was negotiated and the group was officially granted its desired status.

Campus Clubs had initially rejected the LFA's application on the basis that it was not inclusive of all students at Wilfrid Laurier University and asked that its constitution be amended to provide a more all-encompassing charter.

"What they wanted was, in the end we're going to get campus club money, and every single student pays money into the Students' Union. They want for every student to theoretically be included," explained LFA Vice President Anatoly Venovcev.

After adding three additional sentences to the improved constitution, Campus Clubs was satisfied with the wording and connotation. While the club was granted official status, LFA President Tyler Handley was not satisfied with the way the application was handled.

"The reason for denying us club status did not seem like a legitimate denial. It seemed intolerant of our belief systems. We said [in our constitution] 'to live a happy and fulfilling ethical and moral life without religion or superstition'."

"I don't know how they took that to mean we would be intolerant to other groups on campus," he added.

When asked why the LFA decided to comply with the Campus Clubs request, Venovcev replied, "We did it to accommodate potential members, because some people don't feel comfortable calling themselves atheists. It's to accommodate everyone who is a non-believer. Agnostics, atheists, humanists. It was

like that from the beginning to be inclusive to non-believers."

"We called ourselves the Freethought Alliance for a reason, because 'freethought' is a very inclusive umbrella term; it can mean anyone from the most radical extremist anti-theist ... to somebody who is a liberal moderate Christian," he said.

The improved constitution now includes two new phrases: "... we are open to anyone of all faiths and belief systems so long as they remain civil in discussion with fellow group members" and "the Laurier Freethought Alliance doesn't promote anti-religion or disrespect of religion, but it does value the right to be critical of any and all belief systems, even those of its own members."



FREE THINKERS - Newly approved campus club, the Laurier Freethought Alliance, holds a discussion.

SYDNEY HELLAND

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Special Constables were contacted by a RLAC to report that sometime last evening a female student was hit in the face with a paintball shot from a moving vehicle. The student was not seriously injured in the incident. Waterloo Regional Police have been notified and will be investigating.

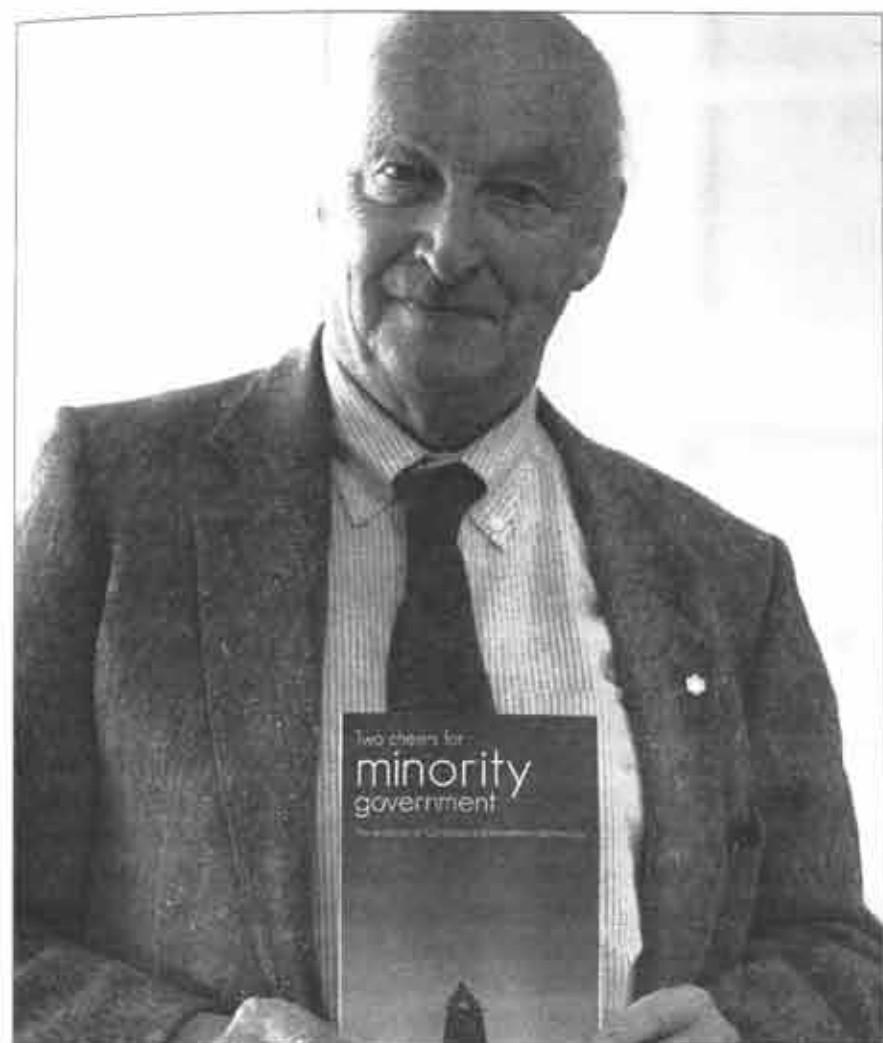
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SYDNEY HELLAND

MINORITY REPORT - U of T Professor Emeritus Dr. Peter H. Russell poses with his new book, exploring Canada's minority government.

Political minds collaborate at panel discussion

ALARIC DENNIS
STAFF WRITER

Last Friday, several influential Canadian political scientists gathered at Wilfrid Laurier for a day of discussion entitled: *Minority Report: The Effects of Minority Government in Canada since 2004*.

The activities of the day included morning and afternoon panel discussions, which touched on a number of issues including public and foreign policy as well as the environment.

The event concluded with a celebration for the release of the book *Two Cheers for Minority Government* by University of Toronto Professor Emeritus, Dr. Peter H. Russell.

Dr. Russell is a prominent Canadian political scientist and author whose previous books and essays have touched on a wide range of topics from aboriginal land rights in Australia to judicial independence.

"Parliamentary government ... is government by discussion and debate," commented Dr. Russell, who

was an enthusiastic speaker in both panel discussions.

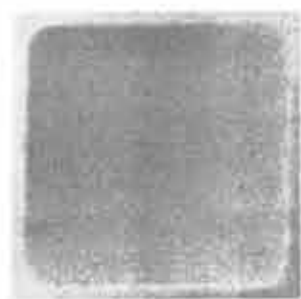
"It means the big issues of the day, whether they're Afghanistan or climate change, are really hashed out in parliament," he added.

Members of the panels and audience explored both the positive and negative aspects of minority rule and frequently referenced the current minority Conservative government and the actions of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, a government that Dr. Russell characterizes as a "grumpy minority."

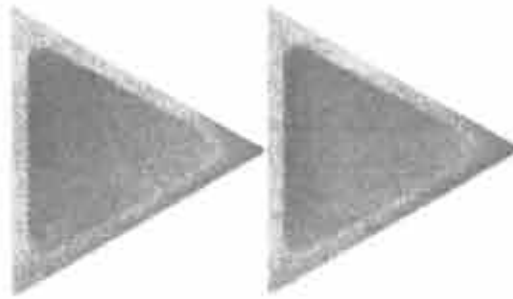
Several times, panelists commented on the cumbersome nature of minority government rule in reference to the ability to pass legislation and the need to co-operate with opposition parties.

Dr. Russell was quick to respond by pointing out that "parliament is virtually irrelevant during the four years or five years a single party government governs."

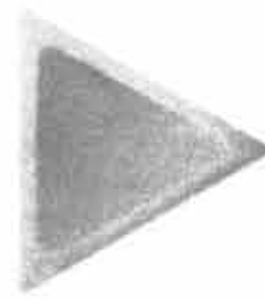
The final chapter of Dr. Russell's book, which was referenced during the discussions, challenges Canadians to "be prepared to enjoy the cut and thrust of politics, to enjoy ... the blessings of minority government."



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Scientology protest in Kitchener

Local members of Internet-based group protest the controversial Church of Scientology in Kitchener, writes **Alaric Dennis**.

Laurier professor wins teaching award

Dr. Mercedes Rowinsky-Geurts becomes recipient of 3M National teaching Fellowship, writes **Madhavi Ganju**.

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PNP to include visa students

Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Michael Chan announced the inclusion of international students under the Provincial Nominee Program, a step that would "fast-track" their residency if they have a job offer relating to their area of study

WALEED HAFEEZ
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

The University of Waterloo welcomed Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Michael Chan yesterday, as he spoke to the community regarding the addition of international students under the Ontario Pilot Provincial Nominee Program.

International students who are offered jobs relevant to their area of study will have their application for permanent residency "fast-tracked" by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, as explained in a news release accompanying the minister's address.

Minister Chan explained that Ontario's universities attract some of the world's best and brightest and that many of them want to stay on after they graduate. He added that the Ontario government "wanted them to stay."

Previously, only graduates of Ontario colleges and universities were allowed to nominate themselves for the program, but the current change would allow international students from across Canada to apply to become permanent residents of Ontario. With more than 35,000 international students in Ontario alone, this initiative aims to tap into the skills and experiences international students present.

Minister Chan added that "they are hard-working, talented and

bright ... these are the skilled individuals Ontario's employers need."

Furthermore, since international students eligible for the nomination program must have completed their degree at a Canadian post-secondary institution, they "are familiar with Canadian life and will enhance multiculturalism in Ontario. In a rapidly globalizing world, international students will be the bridges between Ontario and the world."

In addition, Minister Chan spoke of Ontario's reputation across the world as a melting pot of cultures, adding that international students have the opportunity to strengthen the province's social and economic foundations. That is why, he added, "attracting and retaining international students makes sense," and giving them another option after graduation would be another reason for them to choose Ontario for their education.

Minister Chan was joined by Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities John Milloy, and Kitchener-Conestoga Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Leanna Pendergast, in making the announcement.

MPP Pendergast said that adding international students under the Pilot Provincial Nominee Program would have a "positive impact on the Kitchener-Waterloo region and on the province of Ontario." She added that the K-W region has be-

come a hotspot for new Canadians and that over the past six years it has welcomed over 15,000 newcomers. She says, "It is expected that the population of Waterloo region will increase by over 200,000 in the course of the next 25 years."

"The Pilot Provincial Nominee Program is helping to spread the benefits of immigration in this region and across the province," said Pendergast.

UW VP: Academic and Provost Dr. Amit Chakma, previously an international student, explained that when he was at university in Vancouver, he "made every attempt to stay in this country and make this country my home, but all those attempts were met with numerous obstacles." He added that this program is welcome news and will serve the province very well.

Dr. Chakma also said that with "so many jobs unfilled in the province, expanding the Pilot PNP to include international students will help fill all these vacant positions, which would benefit the larger community."

Also present at the press conference was Iain Klugman, president of Communitech, Waterloo region's technology association, who represented the technological corporations housed in K-W region.

He said that the announcement was "welcome news to the technology sector of the region." The new approach to the Pilot PNP will "al-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UPDATED PNP - Minister Chan at UW's International Resource Room.

low businesses to find the talent they need."

The student perspective was presented by UW graduate student Eman Al-Abadleh, a management sciences student from the United

Arab Emirates. Al-Abadleh said that "a new day has come" and that this proves that the Ontario government has a viable vision to attract international students and help them stay in Canada.

Detainment and torture under US law

The CIA admits to using waterboarding as a technique for obtaining information despite international uproar against the practice

YOUSUF SAJJAD
CORD INTERNATIONAL

Current Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) General Michael Hayden admitted to Congress on Tuesday, February 5, that the US used torture to attempt to extract information from prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay.

As described in a 2005 ABC News report, the torture tactic used is known internationally as waterboarding, and is considered torture by a majority of Western governments and human rights groups.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OH EAU - Proof obtained through torture is inadmissible in court.

Prisoners are strapped by their limbs onto a gurney, sometimes in stressful positions, and have water poured onto their faces. The water enters their windpipe, triggering a gag reflex which also makes the prisoners fear for their lives. This fear of drowning to death is what is supposed to make prisoners talk.

The main man on whom General Hayden admitted using waterboarding was Khalid Sheikh Mohammad, the mastermind behind September 11. The infamous waterboarding technique was used on him, along with tactics reverse-

engineered from manuals on how to survive Soviet torture.

In Sheikh Mohammad's case, a twist was the bait of his children under US custody. After Sheikh Mohammad's March 2003 capture, Australian newspaper *The Age* reported on the threat of mentally torturing his sons.

Sheikh Mohammad had escaped at the time, but his sons were captured in Karachi in September 2002. Pakistani authorities handed over the (then) seven- and nine-year-old boys to the US. Their present locations are unknown.

The confession of the CIA to using interrogation techniques widely considered as torture must be seen in the light of the announcements of a full trial for the proclaimed September 11 plotter.

The announcement of military alternatives to the constitutional justice system was accompanied by the Pentagon pushing for the death penalty. As a military affair, these tribunals will be under the authority of the Pentagon, the US military headquarters.

Military tribunal is not part of the average American's vocabulary, but

might soon be common parlance. These tribunals are being authorized by the Military Commissions Act of 2006, which was passed by the Senate and Congress, with little press coverage.

The wording of these tribunals states that "any person ... in breach of an allegiance or duty to the United States, knowingly and intentionally aids an enemy of the United States ... shall be punished as a military commission," as noted in an online release of the act.

The wording must be repeated because lawyers have contended that the phrase "any person" is too vague and that "breach of allegiance or duty to the United States" is possibly worse. Khalid Sheikh Muhammad was never under allegiance or duty to the United States. The only people who could be so are either individual foreign allies of the US, or Americans themselves, they argue.

Trial under the Military Commissions Act strips one of the right to face one's accusers in a court of constitutional law, known as habeas corpus, dating to King John.

Denying habeas corpus and tor-

turing people is illegal under the United States Constitution. The Military Commissions Act aims to permit the former. But whilst the famous McCain Anti-Torture Bill of 2005 explicitly outlawed the former, a signed statement by President Bush has negated the anti-torture bill. Presidential candidate John McCain has yet to comment on President Bush's overruling of the McCain Anti-Torture Bill.

A lack of spirited opposition has allowed this administration to use the tool of vaguely phrased Presidential Signing Statements. Accessible on the White House website, these signing statements have aided kidnapping and torture, whilst also opening the door to the confiscation of assets belonging to anybody who opposes US efforts at "stabilizing" Iraq, as per a *Washington Post* report.

The practical effect, though, has been to bog down processes of oversight whilst extending detentions unauthorised by any court. Senators Patrick Leahy and Arlen Specter have currently tabled a Habeas Corpus Restoration Act, which is still under debate.



DR. HORROR - Kumar pled innocence on all charges against him.

STEPHANIE MCENERY
STAFF WRITER

The doctor allegedly responsible for leading an illegal kidney transplant hospital in the New Delhi suburb of Gurgaon, India was arrested in Nepal by officials on Thursday, February 7.

Forty-year-old Dr. Amit Kumar, or "Dr. Horror" as he has now been dubbed, has reportedly been purchasing kidneys from impoverished citizens from various villages in India. Reports from several individu-

als who sold their kidneys to Kumar have confirmed that they were paid less than the agreed-upon price for their vital organs.

The *Hindustan Times* has reported that in the last three years, at least one person from each family in the Jyamdi village in Nepal has sold a kidney.

One man in the village told reporters that he was offered 150,000 Nepalese rupees (\$2360CAD) for one of his kidneys, but he only received 54,000 Nepalese rupees (\$850CAD) as payment.

Kidney kingpin captured

"Dr. Horror" was arrested in Nepal after running an illegal transplant hospital

The kidneys removed by Kumar were then transplanted into high-paying recipients from countries around the world, including Canada.

After the Gurgaon transplant hospital was uncovered by Indian police officials last month, dozens of Kumar's accomplices were captured and prosecuted. Kumar, however, managed to evade police for some time.

Red Notices were then issued by Interpol for both Kumar and one of his accomplices, 36-year-old Jeevan Rawat, who is still at large. The charges cited by Interpol against these men were under the section of "crimes against life and health, organized crime, and transnational crime."

On February 7, Kumar was apprehended in the lobby of the Hotel Wildlife Camp in Chitwan, Nepal. The staff at the hotel became concerned about Kumar when they saw him removing articles about the kidney transplant operation from newspapers.

When the Nepalese police arrived at the resort, they arrested the doctor for carrying more than the legally allowed amount of foreign currency. Approximately US\$18,000, 150,000 Euros (\$217,514CAD), and

a Canadian chequebook were in the doctor's possession at the time of his capture.

While in custody, Kumar was questioned at great length by Nepalese police officials about his suspected kidney racketeering, and the police have since reported that Kumar confessed to performing at least 300, and possibly up to 500, kidney transplant operations in India.

ONE MAN IN THE VILLAGE TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE WAS OFFERED 150,000 NEPALESE RUPEES (\$2360CAD) FOR ONE OF HIS KIDNEYS, BUT HE ONLY RECEIVED 54,000 NEPALESE RUPEES (\$850CAD) AS PAYMENT.

It has also been alleged that Kumar attempted to bribe Nepalese officials to release him.

Kumar told officials he was trying to purchase a guest house in Nepal so he could open another transplant hospital and shift home base to Kathmandu. Kidney transplants are currently illegal in Nepal.

The Indian Central Bureau of In-

vestigation, which has been tracking this operation for over ten years, registered a case against Kumar on Friday, charging him with "criminal conspiracy, cheating and illegal transplanting of kidneys."

They also requested that the Nepalese government order his deportation as soon as possible. On Saturday, Kumar was placed under arrest by the Indian police and brought to Delhi.

All charges have been denied by Kumar, who claimed during a police press conference in Kathmandu that he is innocent and is being framed. He has also spoken on his own behalf saying, "I am just a doctor, not a kidney dealer. I will reveal

all the truth by organizing a press conference after my release."

This case has found its way to Canada, as Kumar is known to have ties around the Toronto area. The RCMP and the Toronto Police Department have also been involved in the investigations, as Kumar has been said to own a home in a Brampton suburb.

Too many hands at play in Lebanon



Growing up in the Middle East, I constantly asked my father about politics and his response was always the same: "Yusuf, you can study politics for the rest of your life, but you can never understand Middle Eastern politics." I always wanted to prove him wrong, but at times, especially when I look at the current situation in Lebanon, I find that his words ring true.

The once majestic and beautiful nation of Lebanon now faces its biggest crisis since the end of the civil war, which lasted from 1975 until 1989.

Although ravaged during the conflict, Lebanon had made a remarkable comeback by the late nineties, when the infrastructure was strong once again. Some would argue that the country is on the brink of yet another civil war, but I won't make that claim because I believe the people of Lebanon are smarter than that.

The Lebanese presidency – a post usually allocated to a Maronite Christian – has been vacant since the end of November 2007, when Emile Lahoud left the post. However, factions within the parliament have failed to agree upon a candidate.

One of these factions is the "March 14 coalition" led by Saad Hariri and Lebanese Prime Minis-

ter Fouad Siniora. The other faction is led by Hezbollah, the Islamic political organization, in alliance with Michel Aoun, who is a Maronite Christian.

As per the Taif agreement of 1989 that ended the civil war, the Lebanese government is to be constructed so that the president is a Maronite Christian, the prime minister is a Sunni Muslim and the parliament speaker is Shi'a.

Sheikh Hasan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, is seen as one of the most popular leaders in the Arab and Islamic World.

I have some deep reservations about what Hezbollah represents and how it goes about its tactics, but I will not deny facts: the people in Lebanon want to be heard.

Many people in Lebanon want the current government system changed to make it reflect the demographics.

However, with so many outside political interests vested in Lebanon, the situation gets complex. The irony is that all major external parties involved in this situation – the United States (through France), Iran (through Hezbollah), Syria and Saudi Arabia – preach the idea that the Lebanese should be able to decide their own fate without foreign interference.

They would like to make us believe that they are preserving the rights of the people of Lebanon. However, such statements are so bogus that not even an idiot could believe them.

Let us start with Washington. We are in the dying days of one of the

most disastrous American presidencies since Richard Nixon. And then we have Iran and President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad, who brought shame and disgrace to millions of Persians with his ridiculous comments.

Yet these same countries, in their efforts to exert control over the region, continue to undermine the political process in Lebanon.

At the same time, however, I do not want to oversimplify the crisis. But geopolitics is one of many factors that concern Lebanon today. The crisis goes beyond the borders of Beirut.

Iran's role in Lebanon is more complicated than many realize, with its most important decisions being made by the Guardian Council, which is controlled by the Supreme Commander Ayatollah Khamenei. Syria does Iran's dirty work in Lebanon by increasing tensions amongst certain groups.

The most disturbing thing of all is that we are discussing the situation in Lebanon without really mentioning the nation of Lebanon or the Lebanese people.

Indeed, the current crisis has profound similarities to 1975, but I will continue to place my faith in the better judgement of Lebanese people.

Throughout their tumultuous history, the people of Lebanon have proven to be resilient – this situation is no different.

I will, however, say with extreme caution that if Washington and Tehran seek conflict badly enough, they will have a Lebanese Civil War.



CO-COALITION - Fouad Siniora, co-leader of the March 14 coalition, one of the factions seeking control of the Lebanese government.

CORD/ONLINE

> cordweekly.com
> *International*

US Senate passes economic boost bill

Cord International writer **Shagun Randhawa** discusses a White House-backed bill to boost the economy by \$146 billion and promote consumer spending in the country.

Powderpuff fights breast cancer

After much preparation, Lettermen run a successful football tournament and donate all the proceeds to cancer research

JORDAN VAN HORN
CORD SPORTS

This weekend marked the end to another successful Powderpuff season. The tournament ran from February 7-9, ending in dramatic fashion Saturday afternoon with an exciting 14-7 win for Queens over the Shockers from the University of Waterloo.

The games were played on both Alumni Field and Knight-Newbrough at University Stadium, accommodating over 600 girls from 24 teams, some teams coming from as close as Waterloo, while others made the trek from as far away as Sault Ste. Marie.

The Wilfrid Laurier Varsity Letterman Club ran the tournament that girls from all over the province have come to love. In the midst of battling on the football field and enjoying a fun-filled weekend, the Letterman Club was able to align itself with the Breast Cancer Society of Canada (BCSC).

On Saturday afternoon, Letterman Club President Steve Williams presented a check to the BCSC for \$7101.18. Williams deemed this a huge success considering the fact that last week he never dreamed they could raise so much.

"We had lofty expectations, but

this amount is well over what I thought we were going to raise last week," said Williams. "We really had a big push in the past week."

The girls were given pledge sheets to take home with them over the holidays and bring back as much as they could. Pink toques were also sold in the Concourse and at the two tournaments this year. The money raised will go directly to the BCSC to aid in the funding of cancer research.

"THERE ARE TOO MANY HOURS TO COUNT THAT WE HAVE PUT INTO THIS TOURNAMENT, BUT IN THE END IT'S JUST SO WORTH IT."

- Steve Williams, Letterman President

The aligning of Powderpuff and the Breast Cancer society was especially meaningful for one specific participant in the tournament this year.

Mal Kohlmeier, a third-year biology student and participant in Powderpuff, lost her mother to breast cancer 16 years ago. Before she passed away, Pamela Kohlmeier and her friends and family

founded the Breast Cancer Society of Canada.

The foundation continues to run strongly, a testament to the Kohlmeiers' and other volunteers' hard work and dedication in pursuit of a cure.

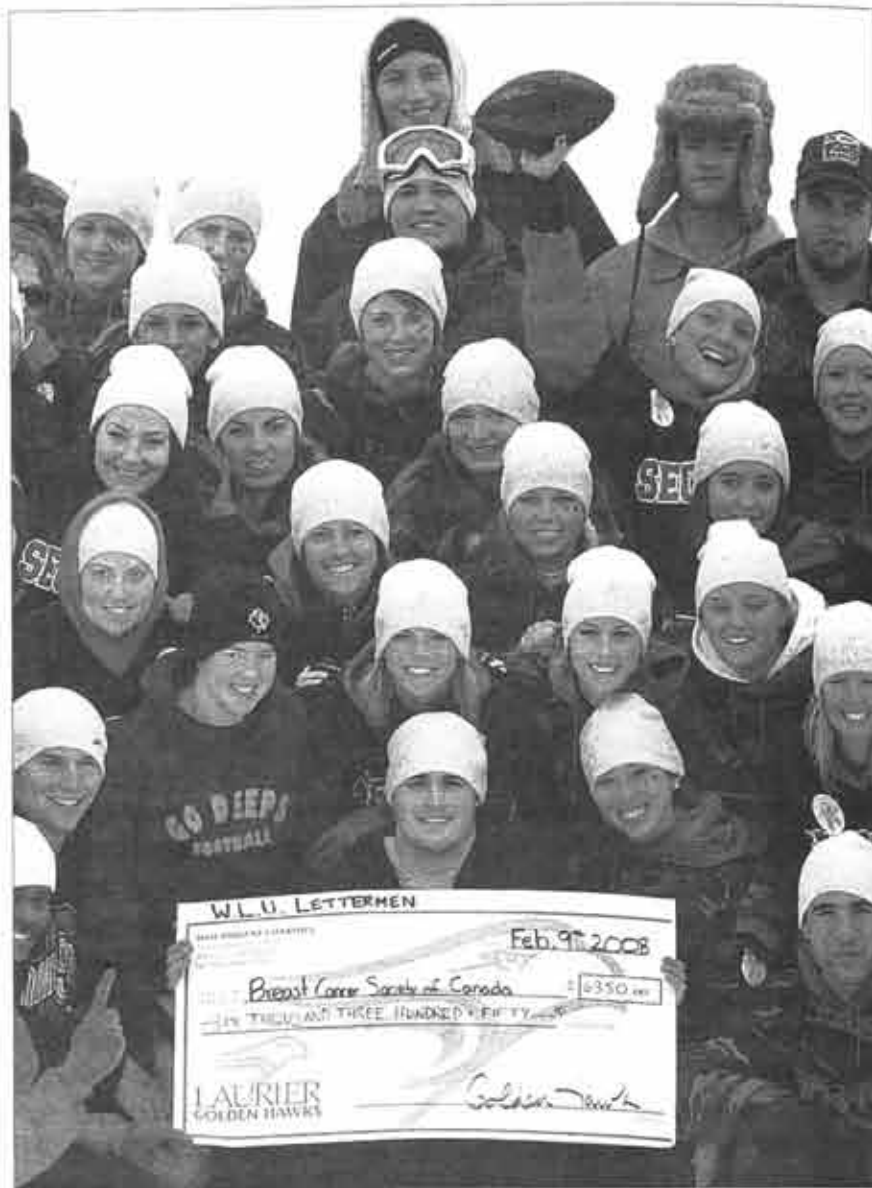
"I feel privileged to take part in this tournament," said Kohlmeier. "It's good that people our age are becoming more aware of the disease. Thank you to everyone that participated in the tournament and [the] Letterman [Club] and volunteers that made the weekend possible."

"Letterman Executives, members and their friends put much time and effort into this tournament to ensure the fun, safety and impact of the event," added

Williams.

"There are too many hours to count that we have put into this tournament, but in the end it's just so worth it."

And so the Powderpuff season has come and gone once again, but the girls can be happy that they were able to share a fun, exciting weekend together and, in the process, support a great cause.



TIM MCKENNA - TORONTO STAR

FOOTBALL FOR THE FUTURE - Steve Williams, along with two Powderpuff teams and coaches, present the cheque for cancer research.

Ladies to meet Lancers in playoffs

Hawks lose 87-44 to Windsor this time, will meet again in the first round of the playoffs for revenge

LUKE DOTTO
STAFF WRITER

It was senior's day on Saturday, as the Wilfrid Laurier women's basketball team looked to win one for the veterans against the high-powered Windsor Lancers.

Coming into the game from a lengthy losing streak, the Golden Hawks (9-12) looked to salvage what has become a disappointing season and soar into the playoffs with momentum.

In order to do so, they would have to negate their opponent's quick-strike offense and 1-2 duo of Iva Peklova and Dranadia Roc.

The Hawks took to the court with determination in their eyes; after all, the most dangerous team is the one with nothing to lose.

Sadly, though, no cliché could save the women from their fate.

The Lancers pounced on the Hawks early, taking advantage of their inability to set up in the offensive zone and failure to get good open looks and high-percentage shots.

"It's not necessarily the young kids that are missing the shots. Some of our veterans are missing shots. We just miss shots at key times and we miss assignments at key times," commented Head Coach Stu Julius.

Peklova dominated down low with a game-high 15 rebounds and

the Lancers were able to effectively set up their counter-attack with Roc dictating play from that point on.

Roc was the veritable thorn in the Hawks' side, as she led the Lancer charge with a game-high 32 points and six assists. The Hawks simply had no answer.

"She was outstanding," said Julius. "Sometimes you actually get caught watching her. I think she's the best in the province and probably one of the top guards in the country."

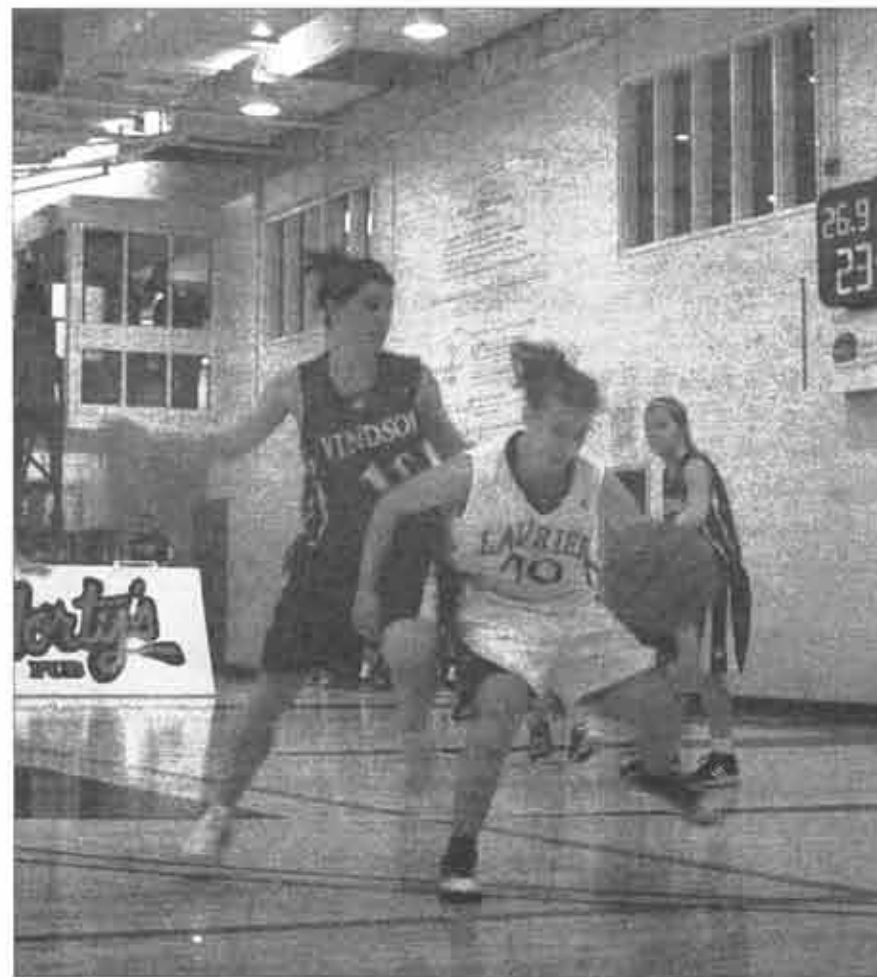
During halftime, there was a service held by Julius to honour the Hawks' two outgoing seniors. Christine Gibson and Jillian Ritsma were given framed Hawks jerseys bearing the numbers they proudly donned, as their families joined them on the court for pictures.

When asked for comment on their contributions to Hawks basketball, Julius was quick with praise. "Jillian has certainly won some big games for us with her shooting ... and Christine is such a hard worker," he said. "It's been a pleasure to coach them both."

Entering the second half, the pace markedly improved. The Hawks defense was stingier and the counter-attack was quicker, but it was too little too late.

Dealing with the shot clock and an inability to set up their attack cursed the team in the second half.

"Windsor was doing some really



GREG MCKENZIE

DOUBLE DRIBBLE - Rhonda Kennedy attempts to beat her check.

good things defensively, and our kids weren't adjusting to it, and we weren't hitting shots," Julius remarked. "I was really disappointed with our effort."

Windsor took this one with ease, 87-44, but it is the next match-up between these two teams that matters, as they square off again on

Saturday in the opening game of the playoffs.

If the Hawks want to reverse their fortunes, the game plan is simple: hit shots, remain clam and slow the pace down.

And shut down Roc.

"She's a key; we have to hold her," concluded Julius.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
February 14 - 20, 2008

RECENT SCORES

02.10.08

W Hockey 4 - Windsor 1
W Volleyball 3 - Waterloo 0

02.09.08

W Hockey 2 - Toronto 2
M Hockey 4 - Windsor 5
M Basketball 67 - Windsor 61
W Basketball 44 - Windsor 87
M Volleyball 3 - Ryerson 0

02.07.08

M Hockey 4 - Waterloo 1

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

02.16.08

M Basketball vs Brock
Athletic Complex, 2:00 pm

BATTLES OF WATERLOO:

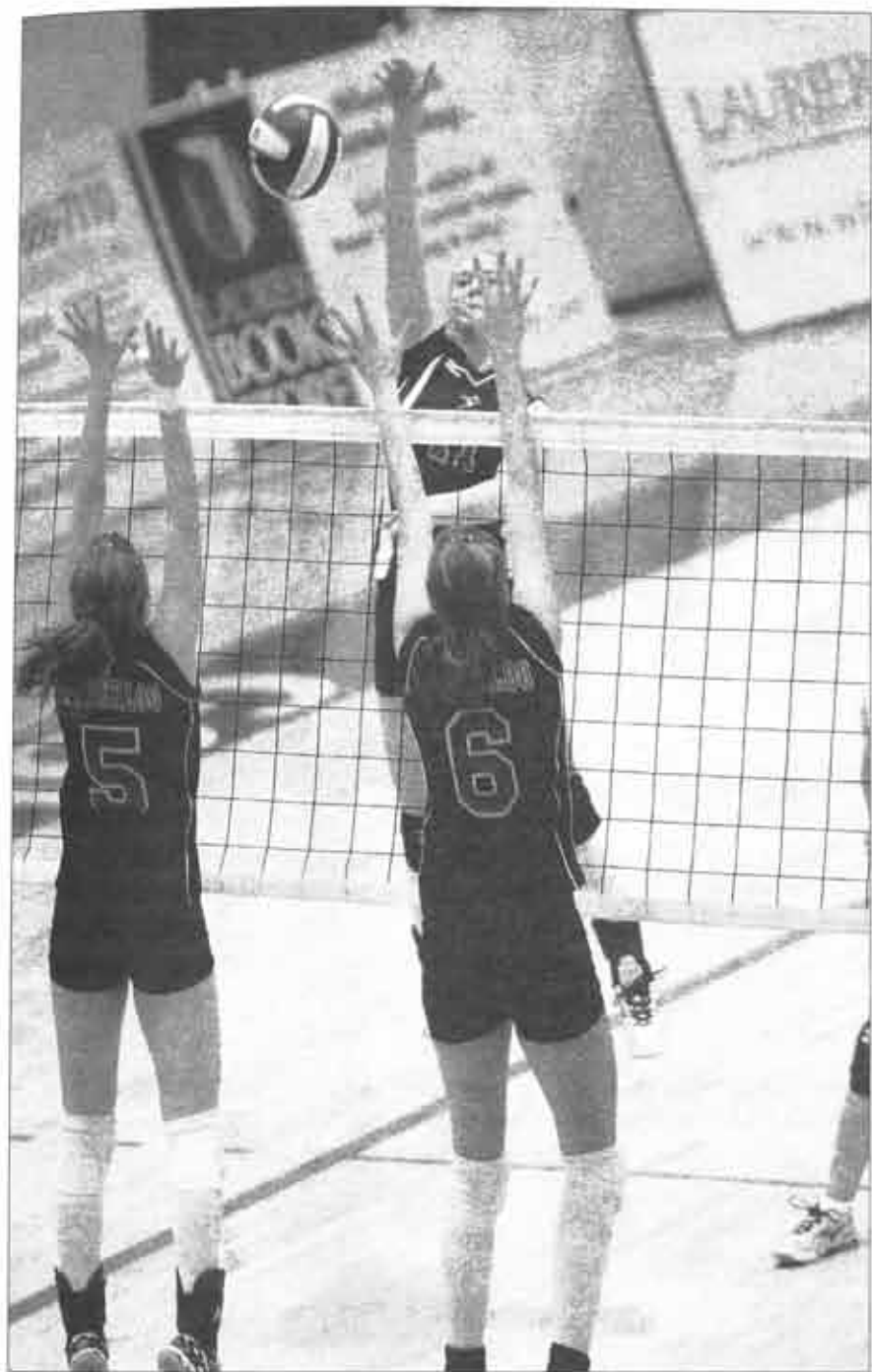
This week, both the men's Hockey and women's Volleyball teams face the University of Waterloo in hopes of OUA success.

COME SUPPORT THE HAWKS!

LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Jean-Paul Wikerd
Men's Volleyball
Whitney Rich
Swimming

www.laurierathletics.com



MIKE WHITEHOUSE • LAURIER ATHLETICS

SPIKE! - Teresa Wick spikes the ball past two Waterloo opponents.

Hawks beat Warriors

Laurier overpowers Waterloo in straight sets to secure playoff position

CHRIS BALUSCHAK
STAFF WRITER

In a fairly crowded Athletic Complex on Sunday afternoon, the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women's volleyball team defeated the University of Waterloo Warriors in three straight sets, 25-23, 25-15 and 28-26, to round out their regular season.

To open the first set, the 11-7 Hawks jumped out to an early 5-1 lead before the concerned Warriors (14-4) called a timeout. The Hawks were able to put together some great rallies, play well as a team and capitalize on Warrior mistakes.

Fourth-year left side player Kaitlin Sauder was very active, pounding the ball from both the front and back rows for points.

The Warriors, however, established themselves with several key plays at the net to keep the set close. After several exciting rallies, an exchange of kills and blocks, the Hawks won the first set 25-23.

In the second frame, the Hawks continued to remain confident and stick to their game plan. Early on, great rallies and even better fin-

ishes highlighted a solid team effort. Teresa Wick, an outside hitter from Moorefield, ON, found herself caught up in the action by making some outstanding digs and helping out on the offensive front as well.

The great team play by the squad was too much to handle for the Waterloo team as they were misplaying the ball and committing several unforced errors, adding to the WLU lead. Laurier was dominant for the majority of the set and came out on top, 25-15.

The Hawks were now leading two sets to none; a victory and an upset were in the making. The third set saw much of the same back and forth action as the first two sets, but the Hawks found themselves down 12-9 very quickly.

Like the team had been doing all game, they regained their composure and stormed back to a 17-15 lead. On the attack once again was Sauder, with some enormous kills down the stretch.

With the score 27-26 in favour of the Hawks, head coach Luke Snider called on his service specialist, second-year Victoria Cowley. She delivered with an ace and sealed the

victory for the Hawks.

"I think we played really well; we practiced really hard all week," said Sauder.

Although thrilled with the win, Snider feels that there is still room for improvement. "I think we have much more that we can do out there. This was a game that meant more to us than it did Waterloo. It was very important to us that we win this match and we did," he said.

The women now turn their attention to the quarter finals, where they will once again battle the Waterloo Warriors. The game takes place this Friday at 7:00 pm at the University of Waterloo.

CORD/ONLINE

> cordweekly.com

> Sports

Men's Hockey: Watch next Tuesday evening for results from this weekend's playoff action.

Men put up valiant effort, fall to Lancers

With a loss to Windsor, the Hawks fall to 8-11 and cling to last playoff spot

JAMIE NEUGEBAUER
STAFF WRITER

It was a very cold Saturday evening when the Golden Hawks men's basketball team hosted the nation's ninth-ranked University of Windsor Lancers. Though the Hawks played with great effort and enthusiasm, the Lancers - the first-place team in the OUA West - were just too much for them to handle.

Lancers fourth-year forward Greg Surmacz was dominant, scoring a game-high 26 points, while Hawks point guard Jesse MacDonald netted a team-high 13. In the end, the Lancers escaped with a 67-61 victory.

The game started very evenly with the Lancers showing their impressive high-energy defense from the tip-off. As the quarter went on, the young Hawks squad looked over-matched on the offensive side of the ball.

The Lancers' up-tempo defense was forcing them deep into the shot clock and making them take the low-percentage jumpers that this team isn't very comfortable with. When the first quarter was in the books, the Hawks were down 25-13.

Whatever Laurier Head Coach Peter Campbell said during the break seemed to work, as the Hawks began to throw their weight around, crashing the boards and giving Windsor a taste of their own defensive medicine.

The Hawks closed the gap with impressive three-point shooting late in the quarter from MacDonald, Dominique Brown and Kale Harrison. When the buzzer for the half went, an entertaining second quarter yielded a 32-32 tie.

If the second frame was interesting, the third was riveting. The Lancers struggled off the bat on both sides of the ball and the Hawks went on a 10-0 run to start off the half.

The turning point came with four minutes left in the half; the Hawks had opened up a seven-point lead when back-up point guard Austin Walsh gave up the ball at the point, tried to catch up with a Lancer guard in transition and accidentally slammed him hard onto the ground.

The play yielded a technical foul, giving the Lancers two foul shots and the ball. From then on, the Hawks' offense looked sluggish and struggled against a rejuvenated Lancers team. Windsor then went on a 9-0 run to end the third, giving them a 49-47 lead going into the last quarter.

"We had at least two opportunities in that run to make a basket," commented Campbell of the third quarter. "The problem is, when you're playing a team that has more parts than you've got, you've got to capitalize on those opportunities and we didn't do that."

In the fourth quarter, the Lancers finally engaged their strong post

game, forcing the smaller Hawks to focus on the inside. Throughout most of the fourth quarter, the Hawks' defense continued looking lethargic.

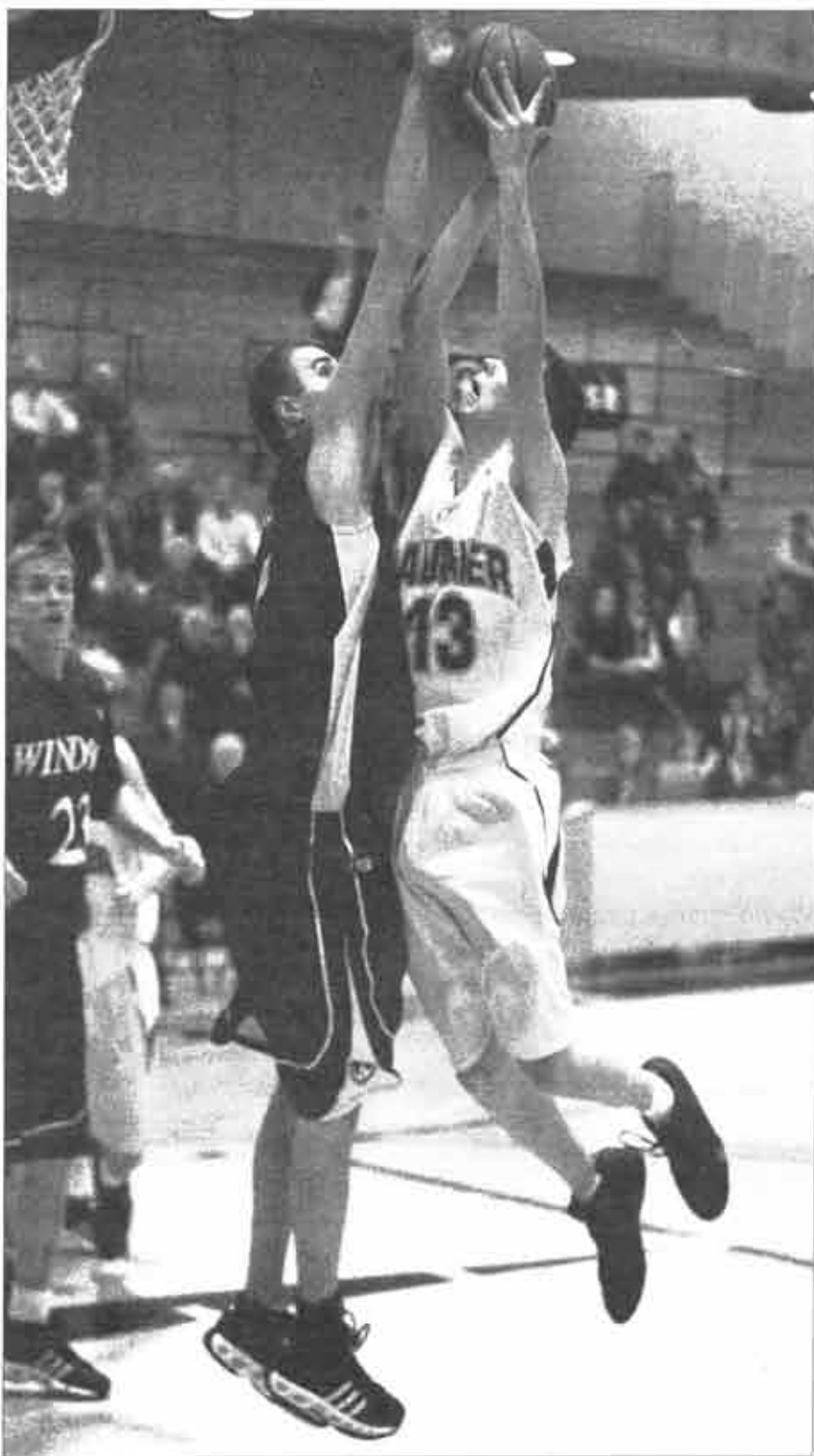
With the score 59-51, however, Laurier's star freshman Harrison decided to take matters into his own hands, hitting a basket while being fouled hard. Nailing his shot from the stripe, the Hawks seemed to come alive with two minutes to go. MacDonald then hit two free throws, pushing the game within three points.

The Hawks remained resilient as MacDonald hit another clutch three-pointer with 23 seconds to go to make the score 65-61. The drama mounted as the Lancers point guard stepped out of bounds with 16 seconds to go, giving the Hawks the ball back.

The comeback was snuffed out, however, when the Hawks turned the ball over and the Lancers sealed it with two more free throws, giving themselves a 67-61 win and extending their unbeaten streak to 10 games.

"I was really happy with the effort," said Campbell. "I think technically we broke down with a couple of things we were trying to do. The effort was there, the opportunity was there to win it and we missed some shots we've been making."

With the loss, the Hawks fall to 8-11 and are still clinging to the last playoff spot in the conference with three games left.



RYAN STEWART

SHUTDOWN - Matthew Walker's basket attempt is blocked by Windsor.

Digital Dating: can we really **click** online?

With Valentine's Day looming, **Features Editor Dave Shore** puts online dating to the test in order to determine whether or not this booming service is worthwhile to the student population

DAVE SHORE
FEATURES EDITOR

Each month, 20 percent of Canadians will visit an online dating website. According to the CBC, online dating sites in Canada get approximately seven million unique hits every month; that's just over one-fifth of the population.

While that number may initially seem a bit shocking, upon some reflection there's really nothing surprising about it. Online dating has been growing rapidly throughout the 2000s, to the point that it is one of the cultural markers of our generation. If you haven't tried it, it's likely that somebody close to you has.

Drs. Robert J. Brym and Rhonda L. Lenton published a report in 2001 analyzing the increasing trend of dating electronically. Their report, *Love Online: A Report on Digital Dating in Canada*, provides reasons why online dating is becoming increasingly popular.

Some of the reasons include a decline in workplace romances caused by increased sensitivity to sexual harassment, and the ever-increasing demands from careers and jobs.

While these trends are sending more and more people online, they take a backseat to the most plainly evident reason for the phenomenon: there are more people online to begin with.

This is especially true of our generation, which has more people logged on the web than any before it. All evidence suggests that as our generation ages, the amount of people turning to the web for intimacy will rise.

Yet despite this, there seems to be an almost unanimous skepticism from students regarding its legitimacy.

"To put it gently, I wouldn't do it," said first-year music student Josh Manuel when asked about dating digitally.

Greg Casey, a first-year chemistry student, felt the same way. "It seems like the equivalent of a used car salesman. You never know what you're getting until you get it."

I, too, was very skeptical of the entire process of online dating. However, more and

more often I hear stories of people meeting online and having long-term, successful romances. So, while it seems all too easy for just about everybody online to be completely lying about themselves in a sad attempt at garnering human interaction, there also must be something about it that's desirable.

Of course, there was only one good way of finding out whether electronic dating is all one big hoax or a viable way to meet other singles: I had to try it myself.

After reading a few pointers and how-to guides for writing online profiles, it became apparent to me that the way to be most effective on these sites is to make yourself seem far more appealing than you are. Basically, the best liars seem to get the most dates.

Thus, my alter ego was born. I decided that I wanted to determine first-hand the better method of presenting oneself for online matchmaking – should I be honest, or should I lie through my teeth?

My experiment involved creating four profiles in all, creating one for both myself and my fabricated stud on two popular dating sites, Lavalife.com and Date.ca.

For my own profiles I tried to be as straightforward and honest as possible, answering the question about my weight with "a few extra pounds" and admitted that I'm "not very active." (Alright, I don't go to the gym, so sue me.)

My alter ego, on the other hand, was created without so much as a hint of honesty. His name, Craig Delasko, was created by a random name generator online. His profile picture was nabbed from Facebook. As for his personality, he's a hockey-playing, animal-loving environmentalist who enjoys going out dancing. He's cute, smart and compassionate. He's a made-up masterpiece.

Both Craig and myself were allowed only five days to linger on the dating sites to see if we piqued anyone's interest. I didn't think it was fair to anybody to engage in chats with them, only for them to later find out that my online hunk isn't real, so I left the experiment solely to see how many singles contacted me.

Both Lavalife and Date.ca are sites that anyone can join for free, but then must up-

grade to a paid membership in order to use all of their functions. The ability to enter chat rooms, e-mail others online and interact in a number of different ways costs a whopping \$29.99 a month, the same for both sites.

The only thing I could do on either site without dishing out the big bucks was to send tiny, impersonal messages to other members. Date.ca called them "flirts," Lavalife called them "smiles."

After five days, these smiles/flirts were the only way others contacted me. The final results? I tied with my alter ego on Date.ca: neither of us received any flirts. Lavalife was slightly more successful; while my personal account didn't receive any smiles, Craig Delasko got two.

While it is difficult to make absolute conclusions with such small results, there are still a few things to be learned from them. If nothing else, it seems that it pays to lie.

Craig's experiment certainly reinforces the notion that the best way to attract suitors online is to portray yourself in a way that you think is most attractive, not necessarily the way you are.

"It's not about lying," Celine Petsche, a first-year BBA student, offered. "It's about omitting." One of the biggest attractions to online dating is that you can portray yourself in any light you choose, removing most of your negative qualities if you so desire. That reason, however, is also one of Internet dating's biggest drawbacks.

But simply being able to lie successfully wasn't the only reason I was disappointed with my experience of online dating. After all, when dealing with the Internet, one has to go in expecting a certain level of deceit. What really turned me off of the whole affair was that, at least without having to empty your wallet, the entire process was remarkably impersonal.

On Lavalife, the smiles I received were simple cookie-cutter messages. People sending smiles are not allowed to send anything in their own words; they are restricted to choosing messages from a list of options. The choices were inane and meaningless, such as "ask me why Homer Simpson is my hero" or "ask me about my hidden talent."

These smiles were effective in that they

brought me to the profiles of those that sent them. Unfortunately, had I actually wanted to get in contact with them, the \$29.99 fee would be necessary to send back anything more than a cookie-cutter response.

I found Date.ca to be even worse. While I didn't receive any flirts from other members, I did get messages from the site providing me with matches of other singles on the site.

The matches I received for my own profile were the exact same as those I received for Craig. They were clearly based entirely on age and location, and had nothing to do with how I filled out my two profiles. While both Craig and I had profiles saying we were 19 years old, half of the matches we received were of women that were 28 and 29 years old.

Finding people on the site that live in the same region and are the same age is something I could have done with a simple search. Their matching system is totally pointless.

Ultimately, I found online dating to be a disappointing process, and one in which it is nearly impossible to distinguish the sincere from the sleazy. But while I don't plan to use the service again, I can certainly understand why people do.

Drs. Brym and Lenton pointed out the alarming trend that workplace romances are decreasing, yet people are dedicating more and more time to their workplaces. For those out in the workforce, it is becoming harder to meet singles, and if you're willing to dish out the 30 bucks a month, online dating presents an easy way to get in contact with a large pool of other singles.

But those that do search for dates on the 'net have to contend with risk of embellishment from those they meet, and the looming possibility that a successful relationship might mean having to pack up and move to another part of the world.

While there are success stories of online dating, it's no surprise that few of those stories come from students. Our lives are very social and we are constantly surrounded by other singles of the same age and with similar interests. For most students, online dating simply isn't the best option.

MY ALTER EGO WAS CREATED WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A HINT OF HONESTY. HE'S A HOCKEY-PLAYING, ANIMAL-LOVING ENVIRONMENTALIST WHO ENJOYS GOING OUT DANCING. HE'S CUTE, SMART AND COMPASSIONATE. HE'S A MADE-UP MASTERPIECE.

ULTIMATELY, I FOUND ONLINE DATING TO BE A DISAPPOINTING PROCESS, AND ONE IN WHICH IT IS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO DISTINGUISH THE SINCERE FROM THE SLEAZY.



Romantic and creative gift ideas

If you've been too busy to think of anything original, here are some last-minute gift ideas

ASHLEY JANG
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

The big day is upon us and there is no doubt that some hopeful romantics have it planned out in extreme detail. For those of you who have been caught up with midterms or just plain forgot Valentine's Day is tomorrow, it's not too late to get your significant other a great gift that he or she will love.

Here are a few romantic ideas to make this a Valentine's Day to remember.

1. Stay in.

Baby, it's cold outside, and what is more romantic than cuddling up on the couch with a good movie? Make a romantic dinner or get a chocolate fondue set with your fruit of choice to dip.

Put on a romantic movie and enjoy each other's company while sipping on some wine. Being romantic, after all, doesn't always require you to spend a lot of money.

2. Hit the road.

If you have a car, take your sweetheart out of town to a restaurant that you've never been to before. You'll get to escape reality for a few hours and you'll get to spend extra time together on the trips there and back.

3. Take a spa day.

It may be too late to book an extravagant day at the spa, but you can recreate your own version at home. Take a bubble bath together and take turns giving each other massages.

4. Skip the Valentine's Day section.

Walking through the mall, you can see pink and red gifts left, right and centre.

Skip the typical gift aisles and search for little gifts that are more thoughtful and are meant just for your significant other. They will appreciate it more than a box of chocolates and it will show them



MALLORY O'BRIEN

WHAT'S IN THE BOX? - Surprise your significant other with a special night or gift that shows how you feel.

that you really listen to them.

5. Make a scrapbook.

Making a little scrapbook can be quick, easy and cheap. Document some of the fun things you've done together by putting photos, re-

ceipts and other sentimental things you've kept over the years into a book, commenting on what you enjoyed about each event.

Whatever you decide to do for Valentine's Day, make sure that you

try to be creative so your partner knows you planned it just for him or her.

If all else fails, pick up some flowers and chocolate and hope that your last-minute gift attempt will still be appreciated!

A single student's guide to Valentine's

If you're not a fan of the big day, spend it with family and friends or celebrate for a different reason that makes you happy



TRISH STOTT

ATTENTION SINGLES - Celebrate Single's Awareness Day or the date of the naming of the Maple Leafs.

NICOLE WRAY
STAFF WRITER

Whether you are young, in love and excited for a day of affection or are dreading coping with your single status for Valentine's Day tomorrow, chances are you're not going to be able to avoid the day.

There are many alternative ways, equally optimistic and pessimistic, to spend the day we either love or love to hate.

Single's Awareness Day (SAD) is also upon us. This day is sometimes celebrated on February 13 or 15, to avoid the commercialism of Valentine's Day.

While the initials of this day, SAD, suggest the unloved, angry or depressed feelings that singles sometimes experience on this day, some people celebrate the day by showing their friends and family that they can be very happy enjoying their single life.

Use the day to make people aware you are single and happy, a much more attractive alternative to being single, needy and bitter.

Instead of dwelling on your single status, a positive alternative to

Valentine's Day is to reflect on the people you do have in your life.

Call, e-mail or make a trip to visit friends or family to remind them that you care about them. They may be feeling that same way you are about Valentine's Day and will be happy to hear a cheerful voice.

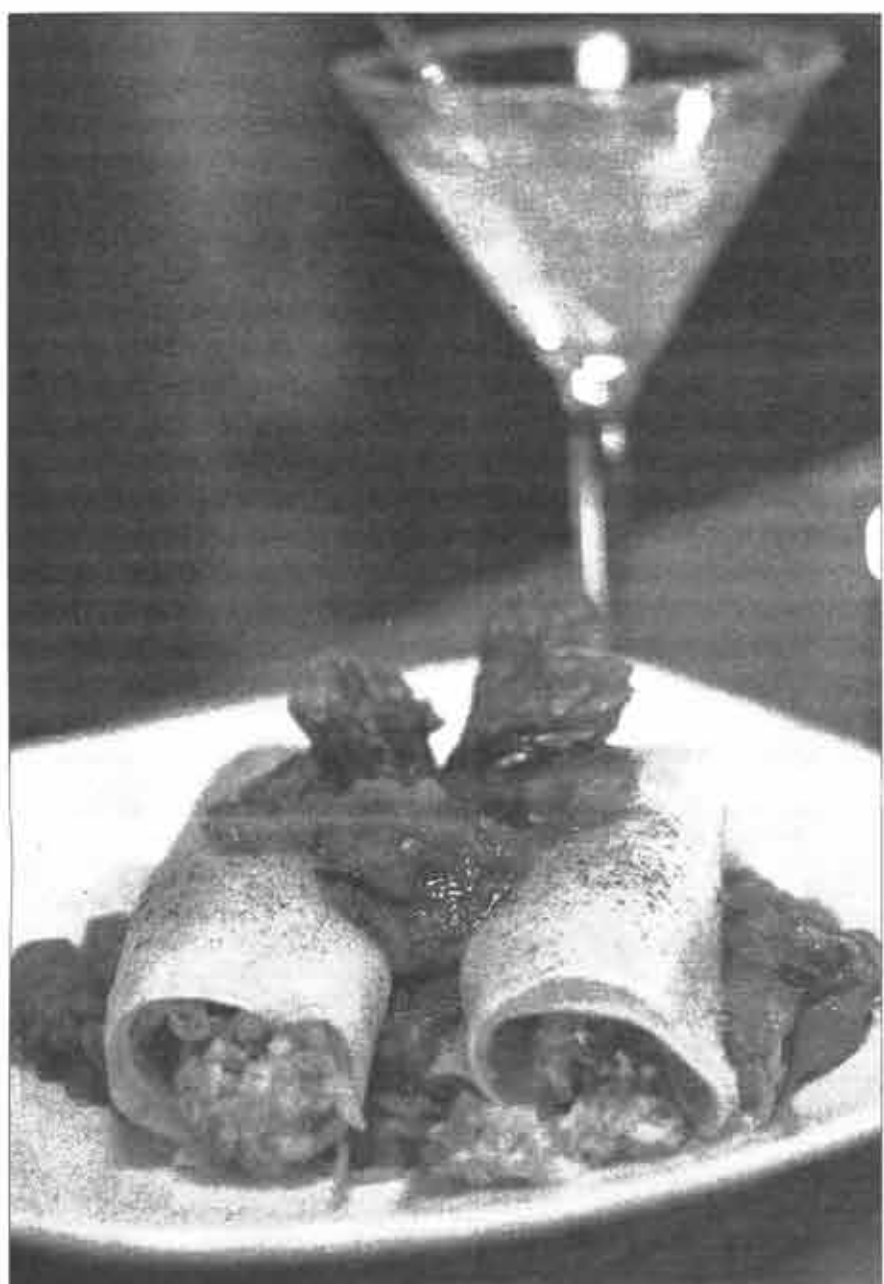
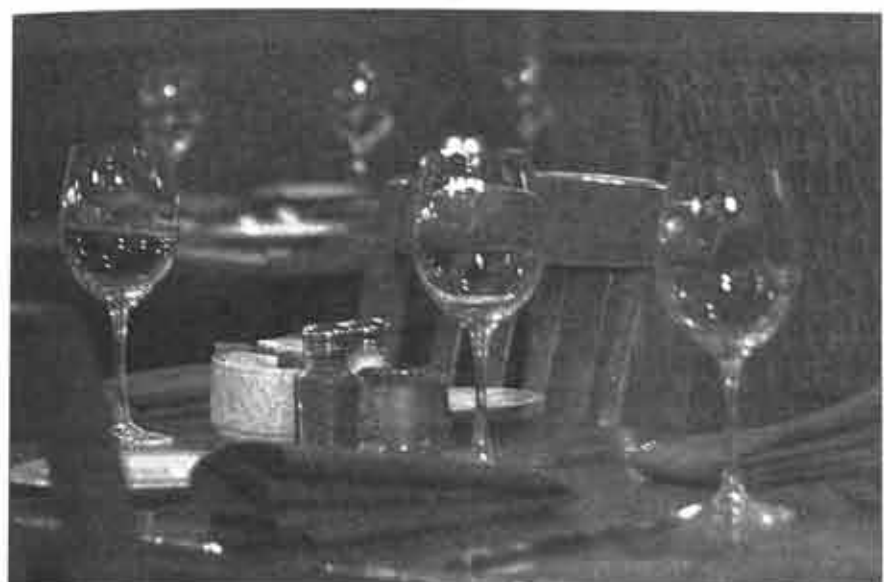
Or, celebrate the day for an entirely different reason. Did you know that it was on February 14, 1927 that the Toronto St. Patricks officially became the Toronto Maple Leafs? Well, now you do, and you can watch the Leafs game tomorrow night and fully enjoy the history of the sport.

If those who truly dread the day aren't up for putting on a positive face, you probably learned by Halloween in your first year at Laurier, each and every holiday is a good enough reason to go out and drink with friends.

Dress in black and taunt couples if that is what makes you feel better.

Regardless, every calendar is going to tell you it is Valentine's Day. But if you so desire, it can be like any other day, so celebrate in whichever way will make you smile.

Valentine's restaurant review series: Solé



DINNER AND DRINKS - A martini went perfectly with the cannelloni.

PHOTOS BY SYDNEY HELLAND

Just in time for Valentine's Day, *The Cord's* review series comes to a close on a high note with Solé, a romantic restaurant with great food and service

FOODREVIEW

Solé: 9.1/10

ASHLEY JANG
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

With great food and attentive service, there isn't much that Solé does wrong. The restaurant offers a sophisticated yet comfortable atmosphere that contributed to a great dining experience.

Located at 83 Erb Street West, the restaurant was initially a bit difficult to find because it doesn't sit right on Erb, but directly off of Father David Bauer Drive.

As our photographer and I stepped into the restaurant, I immediately noticed that the lighting was much brighter than the other restaurants I have reviewed thus far. The extra light made the restaurant seem friendlier and I was able to see the food better.

The atmosphere inside had a diner feel with plenty of booth seating. The restaurant offered an easy-going atmosphere while still seeming classy.

The walls were decorated with interesting paintings that added to the mood and the artists were listed in the menu, where it stated that the paintings were available for purchase to customers.

After being seated very quickly, we were served sliced bread with an oil-based dip almost immediately.

After ordering a couple of martinis, the photographer and I took a look at the menu, which consisted of appetizers, salads, soups, pizzas, entrées and vegetarian options

in prices that ranged from \$5.95 to \$33.95.

To start, we had the trio of bruschetta (\$8.95), which came in three different varieties: wild mushroom and blue cheese, classic tomato and basil and artichoke. The appetizer tasted great and offered a unique twist on traditional tomato bruschetta.

After finishing, our waiter promptly returned to our table to clear our plates, bring us water and ensure that everything was okay. He was very attentive and made our dining experience that much more pleasant.

For the main course, I went with the sirloin cannelloni (\$16.95), while our photographer opted for one of the specials of the day, a steak served with potatoes and veggies (\$32.95).

The cannelloni was served a little differently than I've ever tasted it, stuffed with ricotta cheese, black olives and toasted pine nuts, and served with an eggplant, tomato ragout with baby spinach.

The combination of all the flavours went together perfectly and the pasta was cooked just enough.

The steak was also cooked to perfection and was so tender that a knife was hardly needed to cut a piece off. The presentation was great and the potatoes tasted excellent, with a hint of blue cheese.

Very stuffed after our main courses, we decided to go ahead and order a dessert. It is, after all, part of the job.

After hearing the dessert specials, we chose to split the chocolate orange pecan brownie, served with vanilla gelato.

The dessert came out relatively

quickly and was the perfect temperature - just warm enough that it tasted freshly baked, but not so hot as to melt the gelato.

Solé offered everything you can expect from a classy restaurant, but was still casual enough that the average student wouldn't feel uncomfortable. In total, we spent just over \$80 on the food, and I think it was well worth it.

The restaurant would make a great date venue, and they have their Valentine's Day exclusive menu available online as well as in the restaurant.

RESTAURANT RECAP:

Marbles - 6.5/10

A cozy little tucked-away restaurant but the food was a bit undercooked.

Saluté - 8.9/10

An intimate environment combined with visually pleasing dishes created a complete dining experience.

King Street Trio - 8.6/10

Live jazz entertainment six nights a week and different levels of seating made for a great date restaurant.

Charbries - 5.8/10

The food was great but not quite warm enough, and the service definitely could have been better.

Check out www.CordWeekly.com for the full Valentine's restaurant review series.

Simple, romantic recipes

Win your partner's heart with these easy-to-make Valentine's recipes

SARAH TOPPLE
STAFFWRITER

Nothing says lovin' like a fabulous meal. Show your culinary talents off this Valentine's Day with a meal that is so delicious you won't even need to worry about that pile of aphrodisiac-infused oysters sitting in your freezer (ew).

Here's a hit from my best recipe book that is sure to delight and spark the appetite of any sweetie, platonic friend, life-mate or "it's complicated" out there.

Steak Tips

Ingredients:

- 1 package of stir-fry beef (thinly sliced steak). You may also buy a small steak and cut it yourself.
- garlic (fresh or powdered)

- onion powder
- oregano
- thyme
- basil
- Soya sauce and/or Worcestershire sauce
- olive oil
- sliced mushrooms

Directions:

Place steak into a casserole dish or bowl and coat with 1-2 tbsp. of olive oil. Add the spices until it smells good to you, and add no more than 1 tsp. of the sauces.

Stir with a fork until all the meat is coated and cover. Let the meat marinate for anywhere from one hour to all day.

Place the meat in a frying pan and turn the pieces just until all sides of the meat are brown. You are not trying to cook the meat; you

are only browning the surface.

Put the browned meat into a casserole dish (or other oven-proof dish) when all of it has been browned.

Fry the mushrooms until they begin to soften. Place them in with the meat. Pour a bit of hot water in the pan to loosen any bits of meat and spice from the pan and pour into the casserole dish. Cover and cook in the oven (325°) for 1 - 1 1/2 hours. Serve with salad and potatoes (baked are easiest!)

New York Cheesecake

Ingredients:

For the crust

- 1 c. graham cracker crumbs
- 3 tbsp. butter (melted)
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla



SYDNEY HELLAND

A CHEESY DESSERT - Cheesecake is easy to make and tastes great.

For the filling

- 3 (8oz.) blocks of cream cheese (softened)
- 3/4 cups of sugar

Directions:

Mix the graham crumbs and melted butter. Press with your hands into the bottom of a 9-inch springform pan (you can pick them up cheap, they have sides that spring out from

the base, which the cake sits on) or a 9-inch deep-dish pie plate. Bake at 325 degrees for 10 minutes.

Beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Add eggs one at a time, beating until just blended. Stir in vanilla and pour batter onto the crust.

Bake at 350° for 45-50 minutes. Cool completely before serving and top with fruit, pie filling or ice cream sauces and enjoy!

Student business grows on its own

Laurier student unable to work in conjunction with the C-Spot to fill ink

HEATHER GIES
CORD STUDENT LIFE

Since the fall of 2006, second-year business student and entrepreneur Christopher Carmichael has owned and operated his own ink cartridge refilling business, and, over the past year and a half, he has seen considerable success.

Carmichael started his business, Campus Ink, at the beginning of his first year at Laurier, working out of his residence. The business is now located at his house only a short distance from campus, and not only has he expanded his clientele greatly, he is also managing a franchise, with students on other campuses following his business model.

Despite efforts to become better known among the students, Carmichael says he has experienced a lack of support from the university. Carmichael feels that, although Laurier strives to maintain a high-profile business program, the university contradicts itself by failing to be more accommodating to student entrepreneurs like him.

Due to WLUSU policy, Carmi-

chael is unable to advertise his service on campus. He has also approached the Centre Spot with his business, but to no avail.

"Over the past year, I went to the C-Spot," says Carmichael, "and I tried to get them to merge with me so that I would do the refills." Not only would this expand business, it would also allow Carmichael the opportunity for on-campus promotion. However, his proposal was declined.

Sue Dawson, retail sales manager for WLUSU, explains that "we already do have an existing service and an established relationship with an external business and we've had very good success with that particular company ... so at this point in time, we weren't seeking to negotiate with someone else."

The proposal was reviewed with the general manager and last year's student's union president. According to Dawson, concerns regarding turnaround time of the cartridges and the ability to do toner refills also contributed to the final decision.

"Although in his proposal he guaranteed that we would have no problems with service either over

the summer or after his graduation, there was no detail as to how he was going to provide that particular service," states Dawson. "So we did have some concerns with consistent business flow through those particular times."

Unable to work in conjunction with the C-Spot, Carmichael has been forced to settle for being their competition. "My price is \$15 a cartridge, or less if you can find a better price," states Carmichael. "I will beat any price by 10 percent."

Unlike other locations that have a number of overhead costs to account for, Carmichael notes that his only expense is the ink itself, and therefore, he is able to maintain the lowest prices.

The prohibition to advertise on campus is a substantial barrier for Carmichael in expanding his clientele, and although he has a Facebook group and a website for the business, he relies primarily on word of mouth for promotion.

Carmichael's operation has become successful enough for him to start a franchise that students from other universities and colleges are able to buy into. He currently man-



HEATHER GIES

FILL IT UP - Carmichael does his ink filling at home, close to campus.

ages cartridge refill businesses at McGill, Brock, St. Francis Xavier, and other universities.

Furthermore, Carmichael has become involved with kiva.org, a program that facilitates entrepreneurial growth in developing countries by providing loans free of interest. Carmichael explains that for every ink cartridge he fills, he is "lending out one dollar to a business in a developing country." Thus far, he has completed 657 refills.

Carmichael also contributed cartridges to the auction that took place during O-Week, a donation to Shinerama that he estimates at more than \$1000.

He understands that some people may be skeptical about trusting a student with their refills. However, students are also likely to be

encountered at other ink cartridge companies, and Carmichael argues that, as employees, they are less likely to be concerned with complete satisfaction.

"Now that I am running my own business, I make sure that every single [cartridge] is working," says Carmichael. "And if it isn't, then I am always accountable for it." With a private business, his reputation is constantly at stake, as both positive and negative opinions have the potential to spread exponentially.

Carmichael has many plans for the future of his business. He suspects that next year he will be hiring ink cartridge refill employees so he can direct his focus elsewhere in business development.

For further information regarding Carmichael's ink cartridge re-

Last-minute activities for your reading week

If you don't have any plans for Reading Week yet, it's not too late to plan a little getaway with friends or spice things up at home

ASHLEY JANG
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

With reading week just a few days away, campus is abuzz with students excitedly talking about their plans. For those of you who don't have the luxury of going down south, that doesn't mean that your week will suck. Here are a few ideas for enjoying the week without the sand and the sun.

1. Hit the slopes.

Have a mini getaway and stay at a

chalet for a couple of nights at Blue Mountain or Horseshoe Valley. While some resorts can be pricey, you can save a lot of money if you get a group of people together so that you can split the cost.

You can spend the day skiing or snowboarding and come back to the chalet to warm up by the fireplace with friends.

2. Bring the beach to you.

Invite the friends who are still around over to your place for a beach-themed party. Crank up

the heat in your house or apartment and serve piña colodas and Coronas.

You can get everyone to wear their finest beachwear and, if you have a big living room, you can set up a game of "beach" volleyball. This way you can pretend you're far away from all the snow for one night.

3. Take a road trip.

If you have a car, then gather up a few of your closest friends and go on a road trip. Drive to Toronto or

Niagara Falls and spend the day shopping and visiting popular sites. Day trips can be a lot of fun, and you'll still feel as if you got away from reality for a little bit.

4. Take a last-minute trip.

If you have the money to go away, visit www.redtag.ca or www.sell-offvacations.com to find trips that have been reduced substantially in price.

They usually have all-inclusive packages and you can see how many stars the hotels have, so you

can get a better idea of where you would like to go.

5. Just relax.

Take the opportunity to get a little rest and relaxation. Spend some time with your family and friends, catch up on some reading, but mostly just relax and catch up on that sleep you've been missing for the last few weeks of midterms.

By the time you come back for classes, you'll feel much more refreshed and ready to take on the last few weeks of school.

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Board decision irresponsible

An election period full of poor decisions culminated with the announcement of a run-off election last night. Now, this outright debacle may not be over until February 28.

During an in camera Board of Directors meeting in which President Dan Allison, Chief Returning Officer Craig Stover and WLUSU staff member Matt Park were present, the Board made the decision to hold another election between remaining candidates Ross Fraser and Colin LeFevre.

For a number of reasons, this decision is flawed and should seriously call into question the faith that Laurier students have placed in their elected officials.

This decision should never have been made by this Board, as the vast majority of its members were on presidential candidates' campaign teams and, thus, completely biased.

Regardless of what the decision was it should have been made before ballots were counted, particularly because people privy to the results were present in the closed-door meeting.

While students have no reason to suspect that those with knowledge of the results played an influential role in reaching the decision made, we will also never know that they didn't.

It is also extremely problematic that the only people whose conflict of interest was recognized during the in camera meeting was that of the members of LeFevre's campaign team. No members known to support other presidential candidates were forced to abstain from voting.

This catastrophe, for anyone with an ounce of hindsight, was hugely predictable. WLUSU elections have been rife with problems for years and the shift to policy governance has done nothing but compound them.

This year's Board is badly stained by their poor handling of the incident and a lack of competence overall. Directors have often remained quiet during periods of student concern and some have commented that more training would have been useful.

Last night, a director asked a member of the gallery to phrase a motion for him during the brief period of last night's meeting that was open to the public, aptly demonstrating this board's inability to perform its function.

The only good decision made surrounding this election was to disqualify Brian Punambolam - a difficult and unpopular decision, its merit nearly lost because of the run-off election.

While it's unfortunate that students who voted for Punambolam lost their vote because of the disqualification, the decision made almost certainly guarantees that the resulting race will be unfair.

Regardless of who wins the presidential election, he will be viewed as illegitimate.

Furthermore, it was obvious during the original campaign period that there was conflict between LeFevre and Punambolam. Now that Punambolam has been removed from the race, his supporters will no doubt attempt to keep LeFevre out of power.

So far, this election has been disastrous and, no matter the outcome, it will remain that way. There's no saving it.

The silver lining comes as the lesson that something must be done. Policies must be created outlining the need for Board members to remain impartial during the campaign period, for how disqualifications will be handled and to prevent last-minute modification of election-related policy, among countless other issues.

A run-off vote in this case was completely inappropriate - it guarantees an unfair election where past policy did not even require or suggest a re-election ought to take place.

Even more concerning is that the Board of Directors has issued no explanation as to why re-election was necessary. The decision has become another WLUSU decision shrouded in secrecy.

It is a sad day for student democracy at WLU.

These unsigned editorials were agreed upon by at least two-thirds of The Cord's editorial board and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Cord's volunteers, staff or WLUSU.



JULIE MARION

Valentine's Day pointless

Appreciate your friends instead of just another commercialized holiday



LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

Flowers, chocolates, hearts, Cupid. Every year when February rolls around, stores bring in a multitude of these items so suckers like you and I will spend more money.

It's yet another excuse to promote consumerism. As if Christmas isn't enough anymore, we need another day less than two months later to gouge out our pockets and buy useless items that will either die two days later or make us fat.

Altogether, the day is really rather pointless, and simply unnecessary. It has become yet another commercial grab. Lovers do not need a specific day set aside to remind them to say "I love you."

This should come as second nature, or if not, get the hell out of the relationship. If you're not yet at this point, then wait for the opportune moment, not when a calendar tells you it's the "right" day.

This year, NBC predicts consumers in the United States alone are expected to spend about \$13.7 billion, up 22 percent from five years ago. Valentine's Day revenues come in third behind only Christmas and back-to-school seasons.

For restaurants, this day is second only to Mother's Day with 35

percent of Americans expected to dine out with their sweetheart. Please, do not contribute to this madness; I dare you.

Every year when this dreadful day rolls around, those among us who are single loathe their friends who are in relationships and sulk around all day feeling depressed, wishing for Cupid to shoot an arrow in their direction.

Heck, some people might even jump Cupid from behind and steal an arrow just to throw at the next guy they see. Seriously, wake up! You just saved yourself \$50 and the embarrassment of taking part in this ridiculous day.

INSTEAD OF PINING OVER THAT CUTE GUY IN YOUR HISTORY CLASS WHO SMILED AT YOU LAST WEEK, TURN TO YOUR FRIENDS AND TELL THEM HOW MUCH THEY MEAN TO YOU.

Go out and use that money to get drunk with your friends. After all, what else is there to do on a Thursday night?

Friends are often overlooked, and in my opinion, sometimes taken for granted. After all, they are the ones who get pushed aside so you can go hang out with your boyfriend/girlfriend. So instead of pining over that cute guy in your history class who smiled at you last week, turn to your friends, and tell them how much they mean to

you.

Take this day and appreciate all the people you have in your life who are there for you day in and day out, when relationships succeed and fail, and who pick you up when you fall down.

Tell them you love them. This way, everyone is included in the love giving, which is how it should work to begin with.

If you're still bitter about your friend who received flowers, do something for yourself this Valentine's Day. Throw a party, make it singles only, and have a good time making fun of things you can do but your attached friends can't.

Having not been single for many a Valentine's Day I still plan to boycott the stupid, uncalled for "holiday." The day shouldn't even be referred to as a holiday; nobody gets it off work and I still have to go to class.

Until I don't have to hand in a midterm or sit through three-hour lectures on this silly day, I plan to continue my hatred towards February 14. Relationships are fine; I just don't think the world needs to be told when to express feelings. Come on, we're not robots in a Will Smith movie.

But for now, there's a bottle of cold Chardonnay sitting in my fridge, and it's calling my name. And I do love wine.

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THE CORD WEEKLY

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Education needs to focus on needed skills



KIMBERLY
ELWORTHY
UNDER THE RADAR

Especially in Canada it is easy to become frustrated at the state of the world. As one of the most socially and economically prosperous nations in the world, it makes little sense that some children can live in poverty or that adults can be homeless.

Canada is a capitalist society, which means that everyone has the right to pursue business. With that comes the ideology that anyone, no matter what background, can become wealthy. And so it follows in Canada that we believe that each one of us will succeed and those who don't are deprived.

However, with almost two million Canadians currently unemployed and far more underemployed according to Statistics Canada, this is an unfair judgement. How have so many people been left behind in a system that allows for everyone to live comfortably?

A study by The Canadian Council on Social Development found the beginning step for financial understanding is heavily based on one's

childhood and, therefore, the family environment and community.

Many families living in low-income households can easily develop their own children's perception of the world of one that is always financially struggling. They can come to believe this is the standard lifestyle when really they are damaging any security they will have in their own future for their family.

The issue of low-income households is not limited to the deprivation of the most basic shelter and nutrition. Many disorders can result from living with a low income or financially strained environment such as depression, chronic stress and anxiety among other things.

These problems often lead to unemployment, which only continues the cycle of poverty. Such a burden can also contribute to the collapse of marriages and family units, resulting in single family homes furthering the financial load – one typically placed on mothers.

Families with financial burdens, the study also found, give less support to the advancement of the education of their children and don't hold as high standards for the future of their children as parents from more affluent backgrounds.

Since no one has stepped in to stop the cycle of money misman-



SYDNEY HELLAND

BIG BUDGET - Many Canadian students are leaving of university without life-oriented mathematical skills.

agement, all of these social issues that we often look past when understanding poverty continue through generation to generation. However, Canadian society isn't the only component of Canada that is being affected by financial ignorance.

Even the Canadian economy suffers from Canadians who are uninformed about money and especially investing. The majority of Canadians invest in safe, low-risk stocks for their retirement that usually boost government and large Canadian companies as well as foreign and U.S. markets.

If we were all more educated about investing, it would bring more money to the small Canadian companies that require a little bit more effort and risk.

Responsibly investing in these

smaller publicly traded companies will allow the business and your investments to hopefully grow at a faster pace.

Supporting the local economy will bring more jobs and encourage further business, enhancing the Canadian economy.

In a system that allows for economic prosperity, the crucial problem is that the actual education needed for success is not covered in our public education institutions. Habits and ideologies about finances must be taught early on in life to understand the consequences of debt and the advantages of saving or investing money.

We fill a decade learning how to play the clarinet, or solving the square root of i or memorizing what the sections of the brain are

called – all of this totally useless to a drop-out or a person entering the workforce after high school or even a university student who will never study any of these specific fields.

Yet we all will have to deal with money. We will all have to pay bills, understand credit and manage money for our entire lives.

The one thing life is guaranteed to throw at us is something we have no direction or education to assist our future choices in life.

The government needs to install life-oriented mathematical skills into its curriculum as this will be the most effective way to stop poverty in its tracks.

letters@cordweekly.com

Letters to the Editor

Racism isn't a campaign tool

WLUSU's open forum is notorious for exposing the worst in candidates as they try to show why they deserve students showering them with endorsements and ultimately votes. This year, the candidate in question did not accuse his opposing candidate of being racist, simply his campaign team ... that makes it okay, right? In the following days, we heard it was a simple misunderstanding and a historical reference was taken out of context, case closed I suppose. Here's my problem with it: Racism is far from dead in this country and indeed throughout the world. It fuels our current "War on Terror", it imposes a glass ceiling in the corporate world, it labels areas as "bad neighbourhoods" – in fact, it invades and pervades almost every aspect of our society, yet we quietly assume it is a relic from years past. The truly sad part of this particular allegation is that it came from two people that are members of visible minorities. I too am a member of a visible minority, a reality that I've faced my entire life and have learned to deal with. However, when we, the "victims" of racism, start pointing

fingers over trivial matters, "grave misunderstandings" and quotes obviously taken out of context, we belittle the struggles that we ourselves have faced throughout life. We've made monumental strides toward recognizing equality in recent decades but "playing the race card" only sets us back generations. It creates conflict where none should exist and blinds the population to the real occurrences of this most ugly of human prejudice. If, in fact, racism had infected the election then by all means complain, but please be sure that it has happened and is not simply used as a desperate attempt to discredit another candidate. It's time we realize racism isn't a campaign tool but a serious matter that should not be thrown around casually.

- Asif Bacchus

Challenge Afghan occupation

January 30th's featured article ("Armed Scholars: GI Hawks") argued that members of the Canadian reserves are not "the mindlessly obedient stereotypical soldiers that one might expect." Mere paragraphs later appeared an interview with a

Second Lieutenant Mackness, who explained the political position of soldiers by stating, "We're professionals; this is our job. We have to be able to separate our opinions from our work." The adoption of this point of view ensures that the fears expressed in the first statement are one step closer to reality than we might like to admit.

If we wished to use high-minded ideals as the justification for the use of lethal force in the occupation of a foreign country, and if we expected our government to actually uphold these ideals, we would be educating and empowering every member of our active forces in order to prepare them specifically to bring their opinions – moral and otherwise – to their job, every day of the year. Instead, a country which audibly hums at times with the shared myth of the 'peacekeeper' produces soldiers which baldly refuse to question the broader reasonings behind their current military engagement.

The willingness to challenge orders, deny authority and act in accord with a higher personal standard is what should be expected of individuals engaged in active service. The willingness to challenge the immoral occupation of Afghanistan and the mechanisms

which reinforce and propagate its fallacious justifications is what should be expected of our campus newspaper.

- Mark Ciesluk

Helping in Afghanistan?

The notion that our occupation of Afghanistan is being done to help people, as is suggested in the *Cord* feature of Jan 30th, is not only misguided, it is just plain wrong. If this were the case, our invasion would not have occurred with high-powered assault rifles. Rather, it would have been done through dialogue and investments in education, micro-loans and health services. We would be making sure people are not living in extreme poverty and that everyone has clean water. We would be increasing our official development assistance to the 0.7% of our GDP that we promised. Yet we refuse. We do not even try. Rather than trying to build and sustain a culture of peace, we aid oppression on all sides by fostering a culture of war. We seem to have forgotten that bullets do not build schools, that grenades do not create economic

opportunities for anyone other than weapons manufacturers and colonialist sympathizers. Bombs are made to destroy, not build. One might be too optimistic in thinking that those trained at an academic institution would have developed the analytical skills to understand this. It is unfortunate that well meaning people continue to buy the argument that we are there to help. Just like Alexander the Great, the British, and the Soviets, we are there to dominate and exploit the region. They all failed to subjugate the populous. We are on the same track. If we actually want to help people we must change our tactics and invest as much, if not more, in peace as we do in war.

- Jacob Pries
Anti-War @ Laurier

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Yeah, I like country

Don't be ashamed: country music doesn't deserve a taboo reputation



AMELIA
LOCKHART
LEFT TO WRITE

Your musical taste is a matter of personal opinion. With numerous genres of music on the scene it seems musical taste has become more accepting. However, there still remains one genre left far on the outside.

When asked "what type of music do you listen to?" an always-too-typical response is "everything but country." What is it about country that makes it the taboo genre?

There is a common misconception about country music that gives it such a bad reputation: every country song is a sob story about a hillbilly whose girl left him, pickup broke down, dog died, or so the story goes.

Another misconception is that if you listen to country music you automatically become a hick. This is the more covert of the stereotypes. Secretly, I think most people are closet country fans. But, since they've spent a good portion of time ridiculing and resisting the genre, now would be a bad time to come out.

It explains the popularity of country bars. Some of the people that go love country music, and the others pretend to hate it, yet go regardless, making excuses such as "the music is a better reason to get drunk." Sure, that's believable.

Some hate country music just to hate something. I've liked every type of potato chip all my life

except sour cream and onion. Just like with country music, it has been an exception in tastes.

The other day I asked myself why I don't like sour cream and onion chips. Since I couldn't come to a logical answer other than "just because I don't" I gave them a try. Turns out I really like sour cream and onion chips.

It is completely different if a person has a justifiable dislike for a genre such as country music. After all, your taste in music is completely your own and who is to say it's right or wrong? However, falling naively to stereotypes within that makeup of tastes is wrong.

Country music contains more than just the stereotypes it has, though it does have key aspects that set it apart as a genre. These would include the vocal twang, prevalence of the acoustic or steel guitar, a linear story line and – of course – the cowboy hat.

Country music is the target of such discrimination because it is so different and separate from other genres of music. While other genres bleed into mainstream music, country, with the exception of a few artists, has remained its own non-conformist group.

Country music sidesteps the rule that to be a talented vocalist and musician, you must also be beautiful. Take, for example, The Rascal Flatts. Instead, beauty is just an added bonus, as it should be.

This is because most country musicians aren't photographed daily by paparazzi waiting in their bushes. Without the pressures of being in the public eye all the time, it allows the importance of music

to rest on what else but the music itself.

The more different something may be, the more criticism it will face. Country musicians are aware of the stereotypes they face. They even explore them and re-enact them by way of reclaiming the stereotypes.

This can be seen in Gretchen Wilson's hit "Redneck Woman" and Jason Aldean's "Hicktown." Of course, an unknowing, naive listener could hear just one of these songs and think that they are right in the stereotypes they hold.

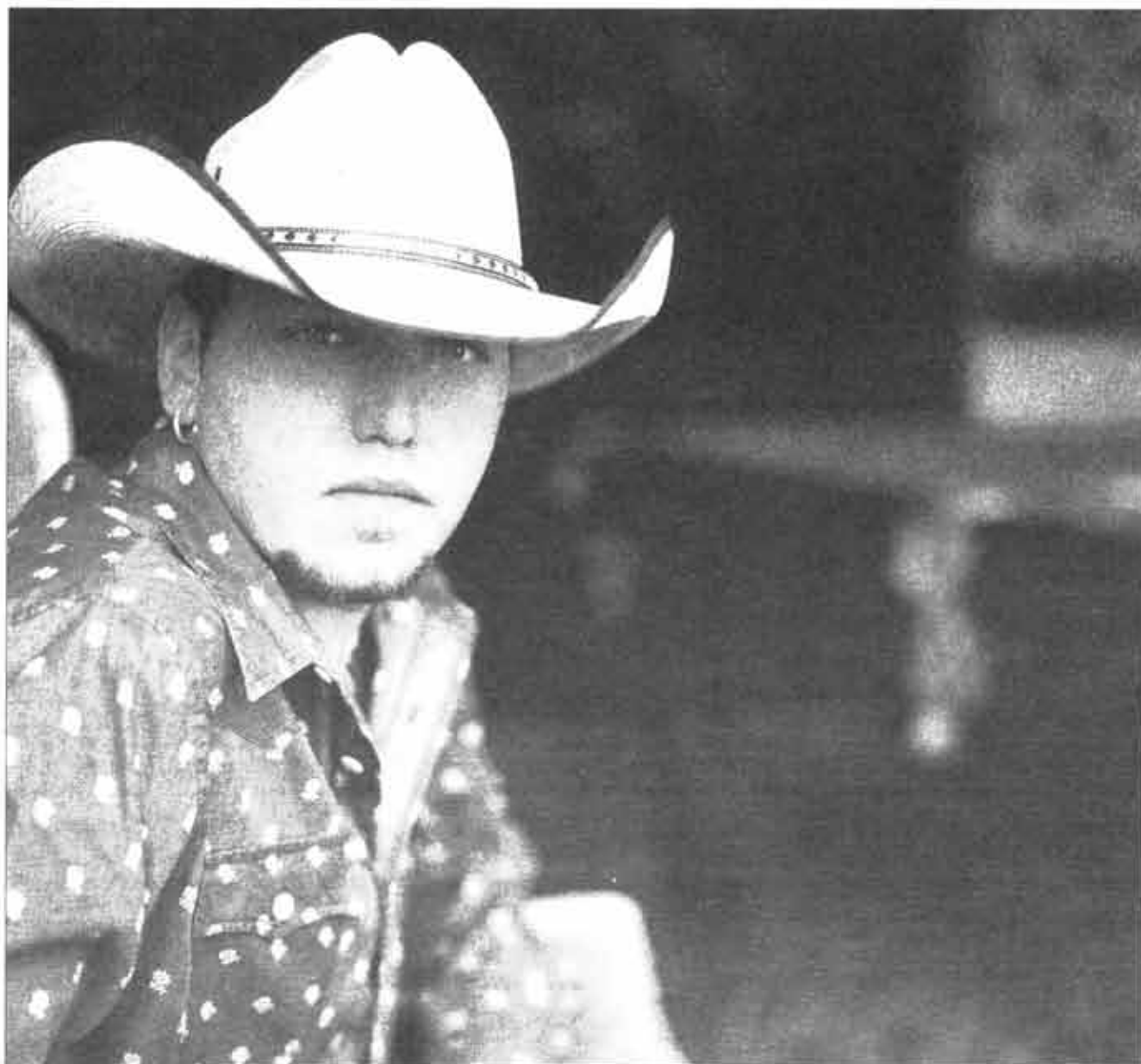
In a way, country music speaks to the listener as through its linear narratives have a story for everyone. From Alan Jackson's "Where were you (when the world stopped turning)," a song about the profound impact of 9/11 to something more light such as Terri Clark's "Dirty Girl," about a girl who isn't afraid to get a little mud on her, country music displays all the admirable traits in mankind.

Instead of computer-enhanced catchy tunes and seductive moves, country music brings back the importance of lyrical works and musical talents.

Since it is so different and has so many negative stereotypes chalked up against it, country music is met with dislike from many. Next time you get ready to head over to a country bar, or even hear a country song playing, instead of automatically hating it, think of why and if you can't think of a real reason, don't feel bad.

It's nothing to be ashamed of.

letters@cordweekly.com



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WILD WILD WEST - Jason Aldean tries his hardest not to look like a stereotypical country singer-songwriter.

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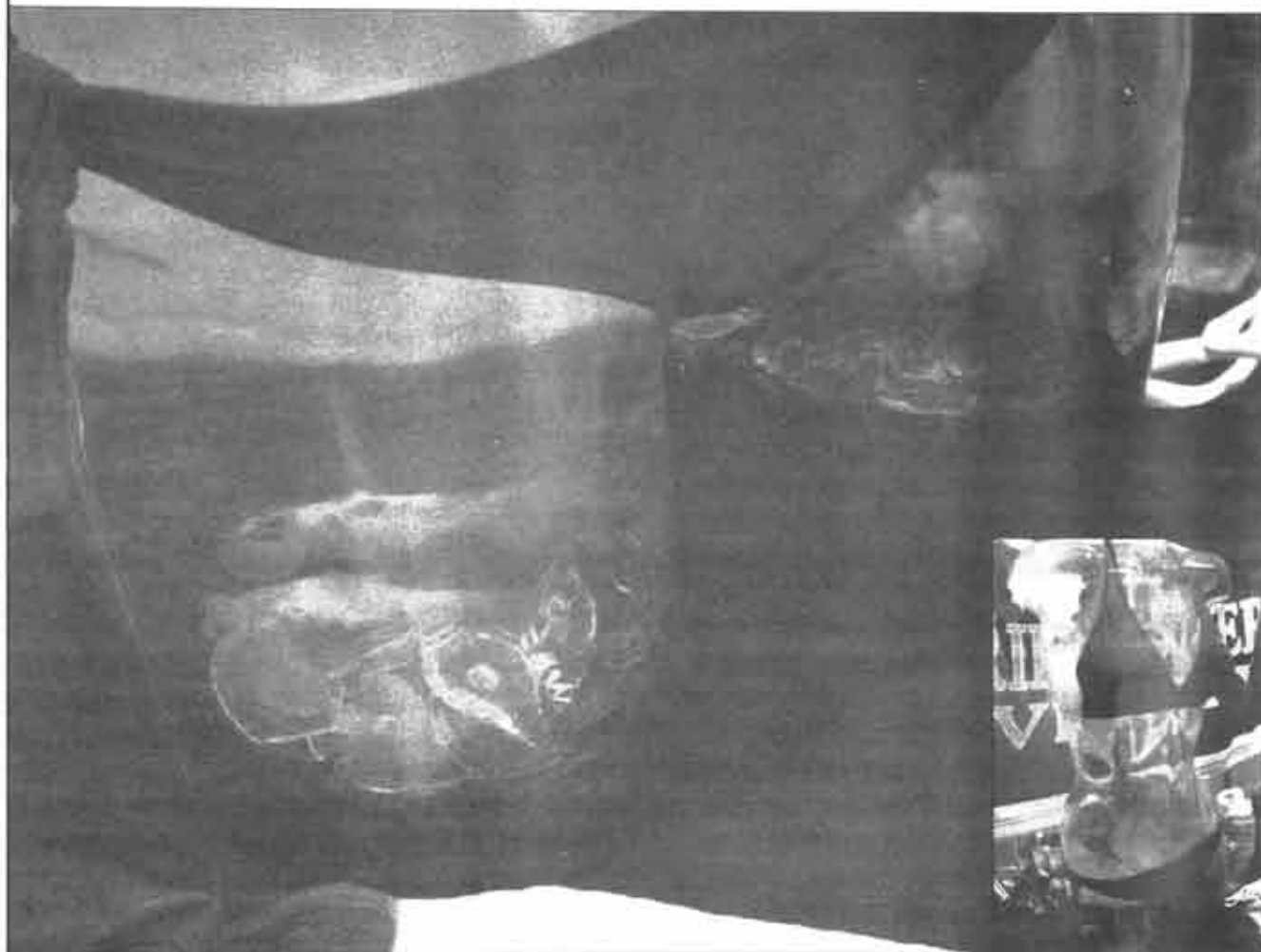
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SYDNEY HELLAND

THEY'RE JUST "SLEEPING" - Fish in a mannequin aquarium in the window of the Bookstore lie lifeless.

History should respect dead

Past generations deserve respect similar to the recent UN declaration that outlines the current population's responsibility to future generations



DON MORGENSON
ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

Demographers estimate that, from the beginning of human time, some 100 billion people have been born and of these 6 billion are alive today and 94 billion are dead. Thankfully, we have the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to protect the lives and sustain the dignity of the six billion yet living.

But to my knowledge, there exists no comparable declaration of rights for those many victims of crimes against humanity. And because there are no codified statements of rights for those victimized dead, whole nations feel little or no obligation toward those dead.

So while we applaud UNESCO's recently released "Declaration on the responsibilities of the present generations towards future generations", perhaps the time has come to draft a new set of proposals outlining our responsibilities to past generations, many of whom have been victims of atrocities.

Anthropologists studying every form of civilization find in all cases a consensus urging respect for the dead allowing them to retain some sense of dignity.

One of the singular motives behind the establishment of the International Criminal Court has been the posthumous restorative status of victims of large scale crimes against humanity, human-rights abuses, and victims of "death squads." The court also hopes to punish those who mutilate the dead, as well as those who deny a decent burial to victims of "outrages

upon the dignity of dead persons." The dead have a dignity all civilized countries must observe.

According to Dr. Antoon De Baets of University of Groningen in the Netherlands, such responsibilities must include such codified actions as preserving the physical integrity of the dead and honoring them with last rites, whatever form their culture/faith may dictate and a decent burial.

Certain duties concerning personality and identity must also be pursued, such as careful identification of their bodies, recording names, addresses and clan or tribal affiliations, while demonstrating sensitivity to privacy issues and disclosure of personal data.

Finally, Prof. De Baets argues most importantly that we must continue to safeguard their heritage, involving for example the right to commemorate victims of human rights abuses as well as continuing the struggle to "know and reveal the truth" about such heinous crimes. South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission spoke to memory and to history regarding these rights, which are codified in the universal declaration of the right to freedom of information and expression.

Such new responsibilities fall heavily on the shoulders of contemporary historians, who must study all the dead of history - the known, the unknown, the "disappeared."

Each nation should ask formal historians to select a thoroughly independent "Historian Laureate" who would study honestly and sensitively information about the country's dead. Assisting them are worldwide laws governing such historical records, provisions for "protection of the memory of the

dead" or "defamation of the dead."

A fine balance must exist between the public's right to know details about such crimes against humanity while preserving the privacy and reputation of the dead - and historians, with their code of professional ethics can do just that.

Such a truth-seeking "Historian Laureate," ostensibly free of political bias or prejudice, can be selected. As we have "poet laureates," so we have historians who can tell the whole story, with tact and grace. In one of his fine science fiction novels, Robert Heinlein develops what he calls "True Witnesses": scribes who are incapable of speaking anything but the truth. "Historian Laureates" would be similar to Heinlein's "True Witnesses."

Professor Ernest May of Harvard University wrote in response to the published "9/11 Commission Report": "... this report was dedicated to the idea that a genuine concern for communicating an accurate picture of our reality to future generations may allow us to transcend the passions of the moment.... In these perilous times, there will surely be other events that will require the principles of historiography allied to the resources of government, so that urgency will sometimes become the friend of truth."

With Historian Laureates or "friends of truth," the dead can continue to have a voice and call us to courage, from the misty terrains of the past, often a horrific past. Only in these ways can we assure the living that the dead, some of whom have died under tortuous circumstances, are not required to die twice.

Consumerism misplaced



LEN BALL
THE UPSIDE OF DOWN

For a student attending an institution of higher learning, there are particular prerequisites that come with that territory, specifically concerning space.

It can be presumed that campus spaces will be used to create comfortable work areas, multiple on-campus restaurant choices, and clean and attractive campus grounds. Aside from this, it can be acknowledged that as an educational facility, the university is also a source of capital, both in the intellectual and monetary sense.

IN KEEPING WITH THE TRADITION OF AN ACADEMIC INSTITUTION, THAT OF A LOCUS OF EXCLUSIVE INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM, SUCH SPACE SHOULD NOT BE RESERVED FOR THE CONTINUATION OF PUNCTUATED CAPITALIST PRODUCTION.

As a reflection of late capitalism, the university is not free from the influences of culture as an industry, and subsequently must provide excellent standards of education while also turning a profit.

The irony with such a space is that conflicting models of theory and application are taught in tandem to one another. The faculty of business and faculty of arts do not generally subscribe to the same political or business models, and as such, can have contrasting views on administrative policy and litigation.

Both must exist, however, in the same environment and work congruously in facilitating space to produce industrious student-citizens equipped to adapt and integrate into the cultural nexus of Canadian commerce.

The Concourse represents the centre of Laurier's university environment. It is the nadir point from which all other areas can be reached, and, as such, boasts arguably the busiest pedestrian traffic.

From an economic standpoint, this would be the ideal place to install or rent kiosks to independent vendors in order to generate additional revenue, as more people equal potential for more spending. A business arrangement would be necessary, as these vendors would have to pay the university in some form – for example, in future advertising or a fee set by the administration.

In keeping with the tradition of an academic institution, that of a locus of exclusive intellectual freedom, such space should not be reserved for the continuation of punctuated capitalist production.

Students should have the opportunity to walk unimpeded through

this space and not be bombarded or ushered into a zone of commercial spending. There are many legitimate (in this sense, progressive or culturally related) kiosks that serve to better educate students and staff about university, local and global matters. But many of these are obscured through the proliferation of mall-like vendors attempting to relieve students of their disposable income.

None of this is possible without official sanctioning from the university, demonstrating that administrative mediation is an essential component to all officially recognized activities occurring within the university environment.

These vendors no doubt provide an influx of capital into the university, but at the cost of compromising

what some might consider a space uniquely free from standard commercial practices.

Academic institutions were not formed under the same premises as commercial malls, and therefore should not represent them. This

transformation of free space into commercial space, however, is not the only issue.

The products, services or information available at these kiosks needs to be examined. Providing a wide range of possible vendors and promoters at first strongly suggests an attempt to offer varied representation, yet observation of the Concourse reveals that these choices are not always symbolically neutral.

University education in business, arts or any other major focus is organized directly against the notion of "following." It is an environment designed with the individual development of the student in mind and should provide a space that proudly boasts a significant reduction in the dogmas of particular religious or social practices.

Multicultural, multiracial and multidisciplinary are just a few of the words that should be envisioned when considering the constitution of a university education; consumerist, coercive, reductive and exploitative are not.

The Concourse can be used in far more progressive and useful ways than simply to sell typical products. In order to ensure that the Laurier (or any other institution) environment remains a space that holds student interests in mind, students themselves must be aware of how particular administrative practices work, and actively adjudicate such practices.

Regardless of what discipline a student is in, the availability of useful space should be a concern if used for purposes that do not reflect an academic position.

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4	5	1	9	8	7	2	3	6
6	8	9	3	4	2	7	5	1
9	1	6	2	5	8	4	7	3
7	4	5	1	3	9	6	8	2
3	2	8	4	7	6	1	9	5
1	9	4	7	2	5	3	6	8
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The National Survey of Student Engagement (or "NSSE")

During the week of February 4, first-year and upper-year Laurier students were sent an email invitation to participate in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).

This is the second time Laurier, as well as all other Ontario universities, will be participating in this important survey initiative. The survey provides university administration with valuable information about what you think of your experience here in such areas as curriculum and campus life. It also plays a role in government's accountability measures for improving post-secondary education in the province.

If you've already completed the survey, thank you! If you received an email about the survey, but haven't yet completed it, there's still time. And if you've deleted the invitation, reminders will be going out, so you can still take advantage of the opportunity to share your opinion! The survey emails are being sent to your Laurier email account - if you don't check this account regularly, please do so to see if you've received the invitation.



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Applications due **Feb 29th** at noon in the WLUSP office.

Interviews dates **to be announced.**

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Hot Chip makes not as hot album

Electronic performers and music mixers Hot Chip return with a record that isn't as strong as their last, but is still worth a listen

GEETHA THURAIRAJAH
STAFF WRITER

Mainstream electro-pop experimentation is at its fullest with Hot Chip's new album, *Made in the Dark*. While the album is a huge step forward creatively, it stands to discredit the group's talent by offering listeners a mash of sounds unwilling to collide. *The Warning*, one of the most talked-about albums of

2006, placed the group at the forefront of the electronic revival. Songs like "The Warning" and "So Glad to See You" were fresh, thoughtful and infused with emotion – attributes which were explored less by fellow electro-pop delegates – while "Careful" and "Over and Over" remained sincere to the more authentic electronic roots.

The album offered listeners softer sounds along with well-con-

structed beats suited for the clubs.

With *The Warning*, Hot Chip succeeded at sampling an array of sounds by limiting their impact on the music and using them to specifically vivificate their electro sound. The jazz/R&B undertone of "Look After Me" was natural and effortlessly integrated, with no over-exaggeration of genre experimentation. What *The Warning* succeeded at doing – keeping

the group's wandering interests with R&B contained – *Made in the Dark* failed to do. With *Made in the Dark*, the mix of dance, disco, R&B, dancehall and rock are thrown into their classic electronic sound, overpowering the music and creating a disarrayed arrangement of sounds disengaging to the listener.

While these new sounds added to the mix, songs like "Bendable Poseable" and "Don't Dance" seemed to both suffer these attributes, failing to hold attention by sounding overly repetitive and over-saturated with repetitive tonalities.

Made in the Dark may have lost sight of what *The Warning* did so well by over-contrasting a variation of sounds, but songs like "Ready for the Floor" and "One Pure Thought" manage to come through with the classic Hot Chip touch that fans have come to love – strong electronic technique met by catchy hooks. They have also successfully upheld a standard in lyricism that is often lost in electronic music.

Upon first listening to *Made in the Dark*, I was disappointed with the mix of songs, but this was mostly in part due to the fact that I was expecting a rejuvenated version of *The Warning*. Having listened to the album several times, I have since warmed up with the exception of a few songs.

Made in the Dark has an amaz-

ingly strong introduction, pushing the boundaries of their experimentation and remaining true to the ways of electronic pop-rock.

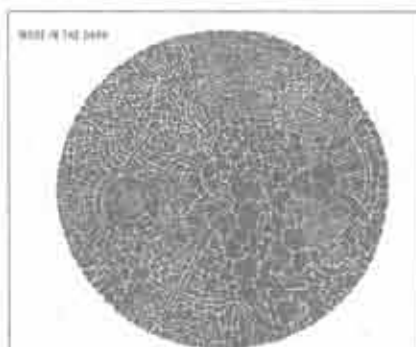
In essence, this uncoordinated mix of genres has consequently led to an album with a water-and-oil lack of consistency. But the group does deserve attention for a handful of songs that have managed to successfully integrate sounds of the past and the future.

It is fair to say that Hot Chip was unable to find direction with *Made in the Dark*, but have succeeded at setting an experimental standard in pop music.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THESE GLASSES ARE SO HOT RIGHT NOW - The 80s have come and gone but the bastard children remain.



Hot Chip
Made in the Dark
Release Date: 05/02/2008
Rating: 7.3/10.0
Check Out: "Shake a Fist";
"Ready for the Floor"; "One"

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Where did the battle go?

After a not-so-competitive third round of Last Band Standing, bands in future competitions could strive for better things



DANIEL JOSEPH
STAFF WRITER

So, last Thursday night a magical thing happened. A completely mediocre band won Laurier's third round of Last Band Standing.

Wait a second. Okay, well, it's not so magical and in reality this isn't a very rare occurrence here. I'll tell you how it went down.

Wilf's was pleasantly full to the brim with people happy to bear witness to the two acts, Audio To Mute and The Unibrows. Audio To Mute took the stage first, to a following of obviously enthusiastic friends. They played their set, and then The Unibrows went on stage to finish off the night.

The crowd was a bit thicker by this time, and the tone of the evening was pretty typical Wilf's fare. They got off the stage and the judging was finished quickly. The crowd collectively cheered on The Unibrows, and it seemed to all those attending that they were the clear victor.

And the winner was ... Audio To Mute! Wait ... what?

Yes, the entire room was a bit shocked too. It seemed as if everybody, including the very champions just announced, were collectively having a "what the fuck?" moment. Listen, Audio To Mute is

an Incubus clone. If anybody has heard this band and doesn't make this distinction in the first five seconds, they are deaf, or have never heard Incubus.

Both of these are valid excuses, but I imagine that neither apply to the band, so I therefore blame them for such a terrible transgression against those with functional ears.

Hell, I even like Incubus, and I'm a pretentious, arty douche-bag. Never mind that I listened to them in the ninth grade when I still thought the '90s hadn't ended.

Anyway, Incubus never really improved on the album *S.C.I.E.N.C.E.* and Audio To Mute sounds like all their albums after *Morning View*.

But when I'm describing a band, should I really be talking about the band they blatantly ripped off anyway? I mean, it's okay if you have influences! I like it when a band reminds me of a comparable act, as long as they bring something special to the table.

To their credit, Audio To Mute are clearly a tight act, having practiced and written a number of songs that are coherent and thought out. What does this mean? They could sit down and say, "Let's do something new." I don't know, pop in some Dylan, mix it with some KRS-One and Joy Division and see what you come up with? Mix up vocal styles, as it's clear that the singer can stay in tune. Why not? If you can play instruments, get crazy.

So what about The Unibrows? This band is just so damn intent on all of us having a good time. While kinda wacky, I find it somewhat endearing at times.

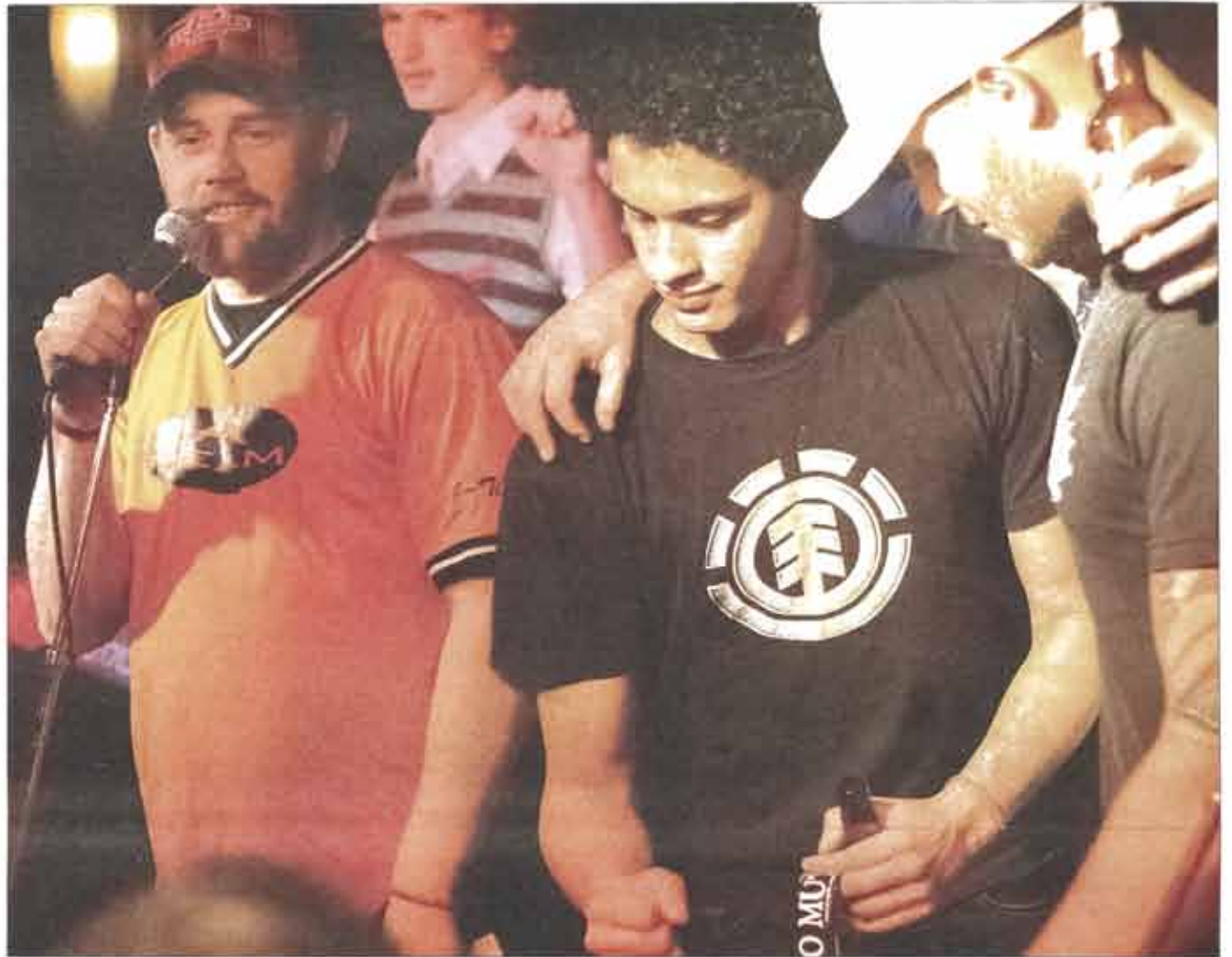
They made it to the finals last year, and while it was clear that they weren't going to win, they still had a good time.

On Thursday, it was no different, yet they should have won, if only because I was witness to one of the highest vest-to-band ratios in the history of Laurier. I counted three. I'm okay with that.

Anyway, they put on a good show, even if it's music that I'm not terribly in love with. All in all, I

found the music lacklustre, but the performances were decent enough last Thursday.

I criticize because I want those who put their art out there to improve. Laurier needs to keep its musical artists on their toes if they ever hope to expand beyond a small battle of the bands.



SYDNEY HELLAND

LAST BAND STANDING - Audio To Mute were declared the victors in round three last Thursday at Wilf's.

Fool's film, *Gold* nowhere to be found

Fool's Gold hits rock bottom as a poorly orchestrated high seas adventure just in time to make you yearn for a warm reading week

PRIYAM BHARGAVA
STAFF WRITER

In attempts to capitalize on the success of *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*, the golden haired duo of Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson is back for a romantic comedy adventure in *Fool's Gold*.

While their on-screen chemistry sizzled in their previous movie, this time, much like their marriage in this movie, it sank. Between her serious tone and his southern twang, they never complement

each other enough to make us believe they were ever actually in love or that they're worth staying awake to watch. In fact, the two gay chefs on board had more chemistry than them.

Beach bum Ben "Finn" Finnegan (McConaughey) is a treasure hunter who rises in the morning solely to feed his obsession of diving around in pursuit of the 18th-century Queen's Dowry, which reportedly includes forty chests of gold.

Fed up with his obsessive behaviour and reckless lifestyle, his wife

Tess (Hudson) files for divorce. Minutes after it has been finalized, Finn informs Tess of his recent discovery that will lead him to the treasure and attempts to persuade her to come with him.

His efforts are shot as she quickly returns to her job, working aboard a mega-yacht owned by billionaire Nigel Honeycutt (Donald Sutherland), who is seeking to reconnect with his tabloid magnet daughter, Gemma (Alexis Dziena).

Much to Tess' consternation, Finn manoeuvres himself aboard Nigel's yacht and, using his roguish charm, convinces the tycoon and Gemma to join him in the quest for the Spanish treasure. Running serious interference are Bigg Bunny (Kevin Hart), a rapper to whom Finn owes money, and Ben's mentor Moe Fitch (Ray Winstone), who are also after the treasure. The cherry on top is definitely the scene in which Bigg Bunny is sitting in his chair, actually petting a bunny.

The movie turns into a chaotic pursuit of sunken treasure, with doses of comic relief in the form of bimbo Gemma and Alfonz (Ewen Bremner), Finn's diving partner, whose main purpose is to distract

from the ever-so-soggy storyline.

At first, Gemma comes off as a younger Paris Hilton; however, as the movie proceeds, she started to grow on me and I found myself looking to her for a chuckle.

You would think an affluent rapper like Bigg Bunny would hire professionally trained goons to kill Finn, and although his criminal minions have more than enough opportunities to kill him, they fail to do so.

The violence is quite light-hearted until the end, when it is taken up a notch ... or three. Slightly more gory than one would expect from a romantic comedy.

Shot in Australia and the Bahamas, the cinematography is breathtaking and colourful, helping the audience envision the utopian atmosphere. Complementing the movie, the soundtrack sets the mood with mellow tunes from Bob Marley and other reggae beats.

The end result is a semi-entertaining film with an overabundance of subplots delving for narrative resuscitation and enough pseudo-historical explanation to supplement the next episode in the *National Treasure* franchise.

Ultimately, there are three reasons to watch *Fool's Gold* - One: a topless, tanned McConaughey; two: if you have to review the movie; and three: if you're not going anywhere for reading week, this is the cheapest ticket to the Bahamas.



Fool's Gold
Director: Andy Tennant
Starring: Kate Hudson,
Matthew McConaughey
Release Date: 08/02/2008
Rating: 4.5/10.0



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CAN I TAKE MY SHIRT OFF NOW? - McConaughey flexes and struts.