

# THE CORD WEEKLY

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## HAWK JOCK JAM

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SPECIAL ISSUE

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**CAS OFF PARADE** - CAS members are finally stepping back into class.

RYAN STEWART

## CAS strike over

Nearly three weeks after CAS members walked off the job, a settlement was finally ratified yesterday by part-time faculty members to return to work

**REBECCA VASLUIANU**  
STAFF WRITER

At yesterday's Senate meeting, Laurier President Max Blouw and Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA) President Judy Bates announced the conclusion of Laurier's contract academic staff (CAS) strike, with the ratification of a new collective agreement ending nearly three weeks of disruption.

The voting process for CAS members to pass the agreement ended at 3 pm on Monday and resulted with a vote in favour of the tentative settlement and back-to-work protocol, which was reached Saturday at 2:30 am.

While the exact numbers of the vote are not being released, Bates explains that the CAS was greatly in favour of the agreement's ratification.

"It was a fairly strong vote in favour of the collective agreement," stated Bates.

Herbert Pimlott, WLUFA Media Relations officer, states that the new collective agreement calls for significant increases in salary, resulting in a salary of \$6701 per course by September 1, 2009.

He went on to explain that CAS members with seniority will receive a bonus of \$120 per course, regardless of whether the courses they teach are those in which they have seniority.

During the Senate meeting, Blouw thanked the negotiating teams for their hard work in achieving the settlement, explaining that he realizes how difficult the strike has been for everyone involved.

"I would like to thank the negotiating teams. I think this was a great deal of work so I admire and thank

them," stated Blouw.

Despite the achievements of the negotiating teams, Joyce Lorimer, WLUFA's Grievance Coordinator, stated that while the bonus amount of \$120 is the beginning of a step-system, in which part-time faculty are awarded an increased salary dependent on the amount of experience they have, there are still major problems with the agreement.

"We did establish the beginnings of movement towards a grid, in terms of faculty that do have seniority get an extra payment per course ... but the administration is still not willing to put that [in] language-wise," explains Lorimer.

"We have found that this administration still prefers to pay money rather than grant rights to part-time faculty," she adds.

- SEE **STRIKE**, PAGE 2

## Motions regarding strike approved

Semester extended two days; assignment due dates extended until April 14

**LAURA CARLSON**  
NEWS EDITOR

During a regularly scheduled meeting yesterday afternoon, the WLU Senate approved two motions pertinent to those been affected by the nearly three week contract academic staff (CAS) strike.

The first motion approved by Senate was to extend the semester by two days, so that students will have a final chance to meet with CAS instructors to sort out any outstanding work and discuss what will be covered on final exams.

"I appreciate [that] whatever is done in the situation that someone is not going to be happy with it, but this seemed to be the least disruptive thing we could do," said VP: Academic Sue Horton.

During this two-day extension, the university has scheduled make-up classes, which began Monday at 4 pm, and will continue throughout Tuesday and Wednesday, until the examination period begins on Thursday.

After addressing concerns from Senate and gallery members - most notably in regards to the conflicting class times, the fact that some CAS

members are unable to attend these make-up lectures and that there is now little time for students to prepare for their finals - the motion was approved with overwhelming support.

Another motion, which was unanimously approved, addressed the need to possibly adjust the curriculum as a result of the labour disruption.

This gives professors the ability to change the course outline due to the lost class time, and make changes to the grading systems for each course.

"This motion, given the situation, is to suggest guidelines for behaviour for both instructors and students," said Horton.

The motion also states that any changes need to be efficiently communicated to students, flexible and open to petition, which includes exam deferral (especially for the courses which have final exams on Thursday, Friday and Saturday), late withdrawal and grade reassessment.

Shortly after the motion was put forward, an amendment was made on behalf of student Senator Josh Smyth to state that no course work,

which was originally supposed to be submitted during the labour dispute, would not be due until April 14, at the earliest, with no late penalty.

Though it was initially met with some skepticism, after senators and professors in the gallery vocalized support for the amendment, it was passed unanimously.

"It was the least they could do," said Smyth. "We had some input to offer and it was taken in and accepted as reasonable and it was great that that amendment went through and I think that it will make a big difference for a lot of students who were really put in a bad place," he added.

Another issue of concern, which was addressed by Senate, was the need to put in place specific policies about how to communicate with students if labour disputes occur in the future, especially in light of the fact that both full-time faculty and staff association contracts expire this summer.

"Strikes aren't new to this campus and the fact that the only policy we have in regards to academic disruptions specifically negates those that occur on our campus is embar-

assing," said student Senator Bryn Ossington.

"We need to address it soon and we need to address it, not from a level of the administration is going to bring some policies, but ... that the students need to be engaged and the students need to be informed as to what's going on and what the policies are going to be," he added.

Having previously vocalized concern in regards to students being overlooked throughout the course of the strike, as well as during last Tuesday's emergency Senate meet-

ing, Ossington expressed how impressed he was in regards to how this week's meeting went forth.

"Compared to last week it was quite successful. It was productive as far as recognizing the needs of students," said Ossington.

"I think the dialogue was the most important thing that happened. It established a new sense of what dialogue [has] got to be between students, administration and Senate."

See **PAGE 6** for editorial reaction to this story



SYDNEY HELLAND

**ALL IN FAVOUR?** - (From left) Student Senators Rachael Baker, Bryn Ossington and Josh Smyth approve motions during Monday's meeting.







## VOCAL CORD

"Do you feel prepared to go back to class after the strike?"



"I think it's ridiculous to pretend students can be ready after three weeks of not engaging with their prof."

- Alex Hundert  
Fourth-year Global Studies and Religion & Culture



"Hopefully, the class time we have in the next two days will help us prepare."

- Martin Fallon  
Fourth-year English



"We don't have enough time to study after meeting with our professors."

- Vicki Doidge  
Fourth-year Communication Studies and Sociology



"The only CAS course I had was distance education so I could prepare outside of the classroom."

- Nicole Verbraeken  
Fourth-year French and Mediterranean Studies



"You should always study. You should always be preparing given any circumstances."

- Tim Egan  
Second-year Economics & Accounting

Compiled by Laura Carlson  
Photographs by Rebecca Vasluianu



GREG MCKENZIE

**LAST CALL** - Students at Willison Hall are disappointed with Residence Life's decision to remove their don, Geoff Reiner, so late in the term.

## Don fired from Willison residence

Geoff Reiner has been removed from his position after he was caught drinking while on duty

**LAURA CARLSON**  
NEWS EDITOR

After a situation involving the breaking of Residence Life rules, Geoff Reiner has been released from his position as a don in Willison Hall.

"The situation was Geoff had a couple of friends over when he was on duty and they got belligerently drunk; he couldn't because he was on duty that night, and it's against rules, so socially he had one beer with them," explained James Spence, a student on Reiner's floor.

Though this incident arose months ago, Residence Life staff

only became aware of the situation last week, and Reiner's students were informed on Friday that their don would not be permitted to stay for the remainder of the school year.

Chris Dodd, Manager of Housing Services and Residence Life, would not comment on any the specifics of the situation, citing HR reasons, but he did confirm that Reiner is no longer employed by Residence Life.

Though he was not personally involved with the case specifically, Director of Residential Services Mike Belanger explained that Dodd had met with the Residence

Life Area Coordinator (RLAC) and the don to discuss the situation before he left for vacation.

"We have certain core rules that you just don't break and once you break them, it's pretty much a done deal," explained Belanger.

"[Dodd] met with the RLAC and they discussed the circumstances surrounding this and they certainly wouldn't move if there was any question, if there was any doubt that this happened," said Belanger.

"At this late date, they would not have removed him from his position. They would have to be absolutely certain that this was some-

thing that they needed to do," he added.

Despite this fact, Reiner's students are still unhappy with the situation - especially that it was so late in the semester.

"I don't get why, if the rest of his job is going to consist of sitting and studying for his exams and making sure we study for our exams, why do you need to kick him out for drinking one beer?" said Dave Reeve, another one of Reiner's students.

"I'd just like to see him be able to finish out the end of the year ... just let the guy do his job," added Spence.

## WLUSU Day of Action held

A small gathering yesterday aimed to inform students about the consequences of the CAS strike

**REBECCA VASLUIANU**  
STAFF WRITER

**LAURA CARLSON**  
NEWS EDITOR

The Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) held a Student Day of Action yesterday afternoon outside the Fred Nichols Campus Centre to garner student interest in regards to the consequences of the striking contract academic staff (CAS).

Though the event was originally scheduled to begin at 11 am, set-up was delayed by close to an hour. As a whole, attendance was extremely minimal.

WLUSU President Dan Allison attributed the low attendance to the fact that a settlement was so close to being ratified that many students thought it was no longer a potential threat, as it has been in the last couple of weeks.

"Talks have ended and it looks like things have gotten back to normal ... I'm not surprised there aren't many people here right now," said Allison.

He went on to explain that the purpose behind the event was "communication to students and information."

"Students are, I think - as a whole - aware of all the kinds of

options they have," said Allison. "Right now, we're just hoping that any students who have concerns will come out to voice them publicly."

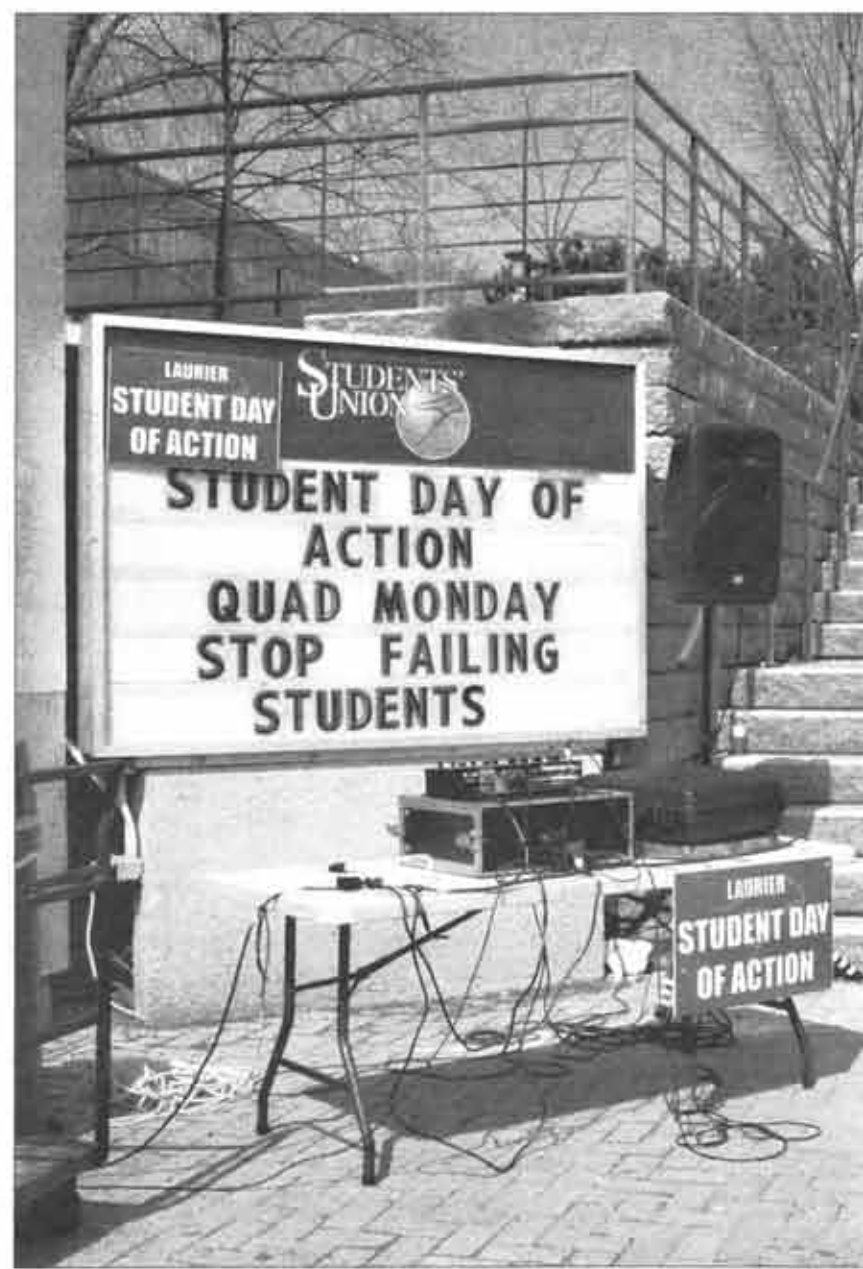
WLUSU VP: Marketing Ross Fraser explained that the Students' Union has achieved its primary goal, which was to get the two sides back to the bargaining table and reach a settlement.

"We've accomplished what we wanted to accomplish which was getting the strike resolved, seeing that it's almost over, and now the focus has to be on making sure, on both sides, [they] treat the students fair," said Fraser.

One of the few people in attendance, Anatoly Venovcev, one of the organizers of the Student Solidarity group in support of the fair treatment of CAS and the students, expressed his frustration in the fact that it took the Students' Union this long to act.

"Personally, I would say that I'm glad that WLUSU stepped in, but I'm extremely disappointed that it didn't happen a month ago," said Venovcev.

"Basically, as far as it goes, they are representative of the student body ... they really should take a much more active role in speaking for the students' voice and educating the students."



GREG MCKENZIE

**DAY OF IN-ACTION** - Few students showed up to WLUSU's Student Day of Action event held in the campus quad on Monday afternoon.



# Maggiacomo, Barch top awards

Golden Hawk varsity athletes were honoured for another season of success and hard work last night at the athletic banquet



**OUTSTANDING ATHLETES** - Top: Lauren Barch and Anthony Maggiacomo take home Most Valuable Player. Bottom: Alyssa Lagonia, Kale Harrison and Craig Voakes accept their awards as top rookies.

**LAUREN MILLET**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Last night, on an evening for first times, in a room filled with all of Wilfrid Laurier's varsity athletes, the best of the best were honoured in front of their peers.

With many awards on the table, fifth-year linebacker Anthony Maggiacomo (men's football) and third-year forward Lauren Barch (women's hockey) walked away with the President's Award, naming them MVPs for the year.

The night began in the Athletic Complex, which was turned into a banquet hall for the evening's ceremonies, with an address by Master of Ceremonies David Grossman, writer for the *Toronto Star*.

The rookies and Most Valuable Players (MVP) for each varsity team were then called on stage to receive their individual recognition.

After dinner was served, the much anticipated team of the year, rookies of the year and MVPs were ready to be announced, along with the rest of the night's awards.

The Glenn Carroll team of 2007-08 went to the men's and women's curling teams. Both teams were successful at claiming OUA gold, followed by an unprecedented double gold at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) national championships. This was the first time in Laurier Athletics history that two teams were awarded.

"For curling to get some level of recognition is pretty great," said women's coach John Nicol. "They're always fighting to be recognized as a sport, and not just a game, so it means a lot."

"It's tremendous to the student athletes, and to a team that has been together and just kept going strong," commented men's coach Ken McCormack. "It's just an unbelievable story, a quest for gold that has been reached."

For the Rich Newbrough Rookie of the Year, this season saw two outstanding individual male athletes. There was a tie for the first time

in WLU awards history, for distinguishing one individual over the other was impossible.

Kale Harrison, of the men's basketball team, and Craig Voakes, for men's hockey, both took OUA and CIS rookie of the year earlier in the season and were further honoured last night by Laurier Athletics.

Concluding the night were the two awards everyone was waiting for: the President's Award for the most valuable male and female athletes at Laurier over the past year.

Barch led the women's hockey team with 31 points and 15 regular season goals, landed a first-team OUA all-star nod and got a spot as a second-team CIS all-Canadian.

"I was shocked and surprised," said a beaming Barch after the ceremony. "If you have a team around you that is supportive and works hard, it makes you a better player."

The team finished the season with a fifth consecutive OUA championship banner and a silver medal at the national championships.

Maggiacomo was awarded the male MVP for the season. Earlier in the season, he picked up the OUA's top defensive player for his work on the field, as well as first-team OUA all-star and a second-team CIS all-Canadian honours. He led the team in tackles, setting a new record of 60.5 for the regular season.

"It's the kind of thing you hope for, but I was really taken by surprise. I'm really happy," said Maggiacomo, whose team was knocked out of Yates contention early in the playoffs by the Guelph Gryphons.

"We didn't finish the year out how we wanted, but on an individual note, it's pretty cool."

As he proceeded to the stage, cheers from his teammates filled the Athletic Complex.

"It's nice to see how the 'one team' mentality really develops. When you're a rookie you don't really see it, but as you get more involved, it really means a lot," added Maggiacomo.

The Athletic Banquet concluded with a slide show that looked back

## Award Winners

**Earle C. Shelley Unsung Hero Award**  
Roly Webster

**Tuffy Knight Award**  
Peter Izzio

**Golden Hawk Awards of Excellence**  
Carolyn Shier, Jess Bouchard & Andrea Elliot

**Dean Esther Brandon Female Contributing Most to Athletics**  
Frances Minnema

**Bill Haggstrom Male Contributing Most to Athletics**  
Steve Williams

**Matty Wamsley Student Trainer of the Year**  
Heather Tugnett

**Glenn Carroll Hawk Team of the Year Award**  
Men's & Women's Curling

**Luke Fusco Male and Female Academic Athletic Achievement Award**  
Chris Mamo & Vanessa Bennett

**Rich Newbrough Male and Female Rookie of the Year Award**  
Craig Voakes, Kale Harrison & Alyssa Lagonia

**Male and Female President's Award**  
Anthony Maggiacomo & Lauren Barch

on all of Laurier Athletics' success over the past season and commemorated all that it means to wear the purple and gold.

## After nine years, Coach Julius moves on

Women's basketball coach says goodbye to Wilfrid Laurier after twice leading his team to the national stage, between 2002 and 2004

**ANDREA MILLET**  
STAFF WRITER

After almost a decade as a Golden Hawk, women's basketball head coach Stu Julius will retire his purple and gold and bid farewell to Wilfrid Laurier.

In his first three years with the Hawks, Julius worked on rebuilding the team and his efforts paid off with two trips to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) national championships and an OUA Coach

of the Year award after an impressive season in 2002-03.

"Going to back-to-back national championships was pretty exciting," commented Julius. In the 2002-03 season, he led the Hawks to a bronze medal in the OUA division, securing them a place in the national CIS competition.

The following season, Julius again led the Hawks to provincial success with silver at OUAs, once again allowing them to compete nationally in the CIS championships.

Julius has a long history in coaching, having come to Laurier after 18 years leading the Lakehead Thunderwolves. He came to the Hawks with valuable experience and has used his knowledge and wisdom to help develop and build the women's basketball program.

He has since added to his resume his experience working with the Junior National Team in Turkey in 2005.

"It is a good time to go; I was here for nine years and have been coach-

ing for almost 30," explained Julius of his decision to move on to something new. "It is time for someone else to step in and bring some new ideas."

While his Hawks did not make it past the first round of the OUA playoffs this year, the squad added some new players and worked on their experience level, improving from last year's record.

"Our goal was to make it to the playoffs and do better than we did last season, and we were able to," Julius explained. These signs of improvement point the women in a positive direction for the next few years under new coaching leadership.

As well as his efforts towards the team, Julius has also been involved with the inaugural Breast Cancer Foundation fundraiser in which the Hawks faced-off against the York Lions in an effort to raise funds and awareness to fight this disease.

Julius credits the entire coaching family at Laurier for making his years here good ones, citing the close relationships between the staff members.

He has left his mark on Laurier's basketball program and, while he is ready to hand off the reins and move on to new endeavours, which he would not specifically comment on, Julius will be missed by the Hawks both on and off the court.



# Meschino simply outstanding

Lauren Meschino recognized for dedication to hockey and volunteer work

DAN POLISCHUK  
NEWS EDITOR

While she owns an extensive collection of awards for her work on the ice, Lauren Meschino will cherish her most recent award for her work off it just as much – if not more.

Recognized as this year's Outstanding Woman of Laurier (OWL), Meschino noted in her speech how "completely floored" she was to win the third annual award – which was hosted by WLU alumni and Helen Stoumbos, former Canadian women's national soccer team member.

Also sharing the stage at the event was keynote speaker Catriona Le May Doan, a former Olympic gold medalist in speed skating.

Meschino credited her passion for the sport of women's hockey, both at WLU and in the surrounding Waterloo community, which allowed for her to "follow her dream."

"As long as you ... do what you want to do, everything will fall into place," said the reminiscent hockey player, speaking of her involvement with girls minor hockey in the region.

Having captained the women's squad to OUA gold and a silver medal in the national competition this past year, Meschino is hands-

down the most decorated athlete to graduate from Laurier. Aside from this past season's success, she holds four additional provincial titles, a national gold and a second national silver to top it off.

**"AN AWARD LIKE THIS ... IS VERY MEANINGFUL TO ME BECAUSE, AS MUCH AS I HAVE A PASSION FOR SPORTS, I ALSO HAVE A PASSION FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT."**

**- Lauren Meschino, hockey captain**

In her five years at the school, the team amassed 117 victories.

Speaking to *The Cord* after accepting her award, Meschino reiterated how much of an honour being recognized as the OWL really was to her.

"It's definitely up there in being one of the things I [will] remember the most about Laurier," said Meschino.

"[A]n award like this, which takes into account other aspects of my life, is very meaningful to me because, as much as I have a passion for athletics, I also have a passion for community involvement," she added.

Speaking to the initiative taken by the school to place an emphasis on recognizing its female athletes, Meschino commented how she thought "it was great" when the event was started in 2006.

"It's great to see [WLU] advocate women's athletic involvement because I believe that it's an important part of a female's life," she said of the school.

The event also recognized three other nominees:

Carolyn McEwen, captain of the figure skating team; Danielle Walker, captain of the volleyball team; and Frances Minnema, president of the Women's Athletic Association.

With 390 people filling the ballroom at the Waterloo Inn last Thursday, Meschino was even more impressed with the support that the award has received from the rest of the city.

"Being able to develop as a person, through the avenue of athletics, is a great opportunity."

"To make that known to the community and to see that there is that support from the community ... it's great to see," Meschino noted.



SYDNEY HELLAND

**"FLOORED"** - Women's hockey captain Meschino makes her speech.

## THE CORD WEEKLY

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# Strike's lessons

As of 6 pm yesterday, contract academic staff (CAS) represented by the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA) are back to work.

The Senate approved two motions during a meeting yesterday evening. One of these allows, amongst other things, instructors to change their exams and course outlines as well as change mark weights and remove material that wasn't covered. The other extends the semester into today and tomorrow to allow students to meet once more with their CAS instructors.

One of the most positive developments in this situation is the fact that an amendment that was proposed by a student Senator was accepted. As a result of the amendment, April 14 is the earliest deadline that CAS instructors can have for work that was due over the strike.

The acceptance of this amendment seems like the first time that the Senate – or any administrative body of the university – took the voice of students seriously.

While the strike's end and the news that exams will proceed as normal come as a relief, there are still a number of issues that need to be examined.

CAS members gained little from the strike that wasn't offered to them by the administration during earlier talks. And terms of the back-to-work protocol that include a \$500 "claw-back" are sure to create resentment amongst union members.

If the university felt it was necessary to take money back from CAS members, where is the students' money? Just as CAS did not fulfil their obligation to the university because of the strike, the university did not provide students with the entire education they paid for.

Adding to difficulties regarding the settlement are full-time faculty members' upset feelings. This is particularly bad news, as full-time faculty and staff association members both have contracts that expire June 30 of this year.

With two strikes in the past decade and the potential for another in the coming months, it's time that Laurier looks into creating strike policies, another issue raised by student Senators.

These policies need to specifically outline a number of things, including how the university communicates with students and how in-progress courses will be affected.

It should be formalized that administration should have to meet weekly with a representative group of students – such as student Senators, members of the Board of Governors and the WLUFA president.

This year, both the administration and WLUFA constantly said they couldn't speak of the situation because to do so would mean they were bargaining in bad faith.

These politics need to end. Students are not interested in speculation about the bargaining or in details of the talks. We are concerned most with practical information surrounding our education.

There should be nothing to prevent administration from telling students what to do with assignments, what options are available to obtain credits and what avenues the university may take to change normal procedure for students.

Similarly, WLUFA should have a policy regarding their members communicating with students. During the strike, WLUFA left it up to individual instructors whether or not they would communicate with their students.

A formal policy should be put into place which either prepares a uniform response to students with one standard policy for all classes, or all instructors should be asked to inform students of their individual policy before the strike begins.

University policies should also contain information about how the university should communicate with students, and place emphasis on students' need to have their questions answered in real-time.

Two strikes within six months would be utterly absurd. Hopefully both parties have learned from this strike and can avoid a labour disruption when the full-time contract ends this summer.

However, if there is a strike, the student voice needs to be addressed far sooner than the end of the strike.

*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 WLUFA.*

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DAVE SHORE  
FEATURES EDITOR

First of all, with less than a month left until the end of the semester, congratulations are in order to all those who are finally about to earn their degrees.

You have worked hard for years now, and soon you will have the satisfying feeling of no longer having to worry about due dates, midterms and petty university politics.

As for everybody else, we'll still be getting the same reprieve from the stress of school; it just won't be as permanent.

Still, whether you're graduating or coming back to Laurier's classrooms next September, this school year has been stressful for everyone, and we're all very deserving of the summer to come. Finally, we'll be able to throw caution to the wind for a little while, play in the sun all day, and spend our nights relaxing with good friends and cold drinks.

Sounds great, doesn't it? And it will be, except for one little detail. That cranky old man we call full-time work. Just like every summer, he'll be there to call the cops on this kegger.

Unfortunately, working full-time throughout the summer months is an unavoidable reality for university students. The costs of education are already sky-high and continue to rise, and for most, the only way ensure that they can

return when summer's done is to save up as much money as possible during the time we have off.

Not only is it necessary to save up money, but it's also extremely beneficial for us students to be working as much as possible during the summer.

While university will eventually provide us with a degree, working throughout the summer provides us with invaluable work experience and connections that will be at least as important, if not more important, when it comes to finding post-graduate employment.

The tragedy in all this is that often the jobs we hold make our summers even more stressful than our school months.

**THE TRAGEDY IS THAT OFTEN THE JOBS WE HOLD MAKE OUR SUMMERS EVEN MORE STRESSFUL THAN OUR SCHOOL MONTHS.**

When we return to Waterloo in September and drag our couches onto our front lawns to drink to our reunions, we are often not just celebrating seeing our friends and the warm weather, but we're also celebrating the ends of our summers.

It's quite unfortunate to have to celebrate the end of our longest break of the year. However, it is something that students will likely continue to do for a long time, as summertime has become a stressful time of the year for people our age.

Most students work upwards of 40 hours per week – which is more

time than pretty much every student spends in class in an average week. Granted, we don't have papers and tests to worry about while working, but a full-time work week can be equally exhausting.

On top of that, students' lifestyles have to change completely over the summer. No longer is staying up until 5 am and then waking up the next day at 2 pm a viable sleep regimen.

Furthermore, summer for many means going back home and living with parents. There's absolutely no need to explain why that can be stressful.

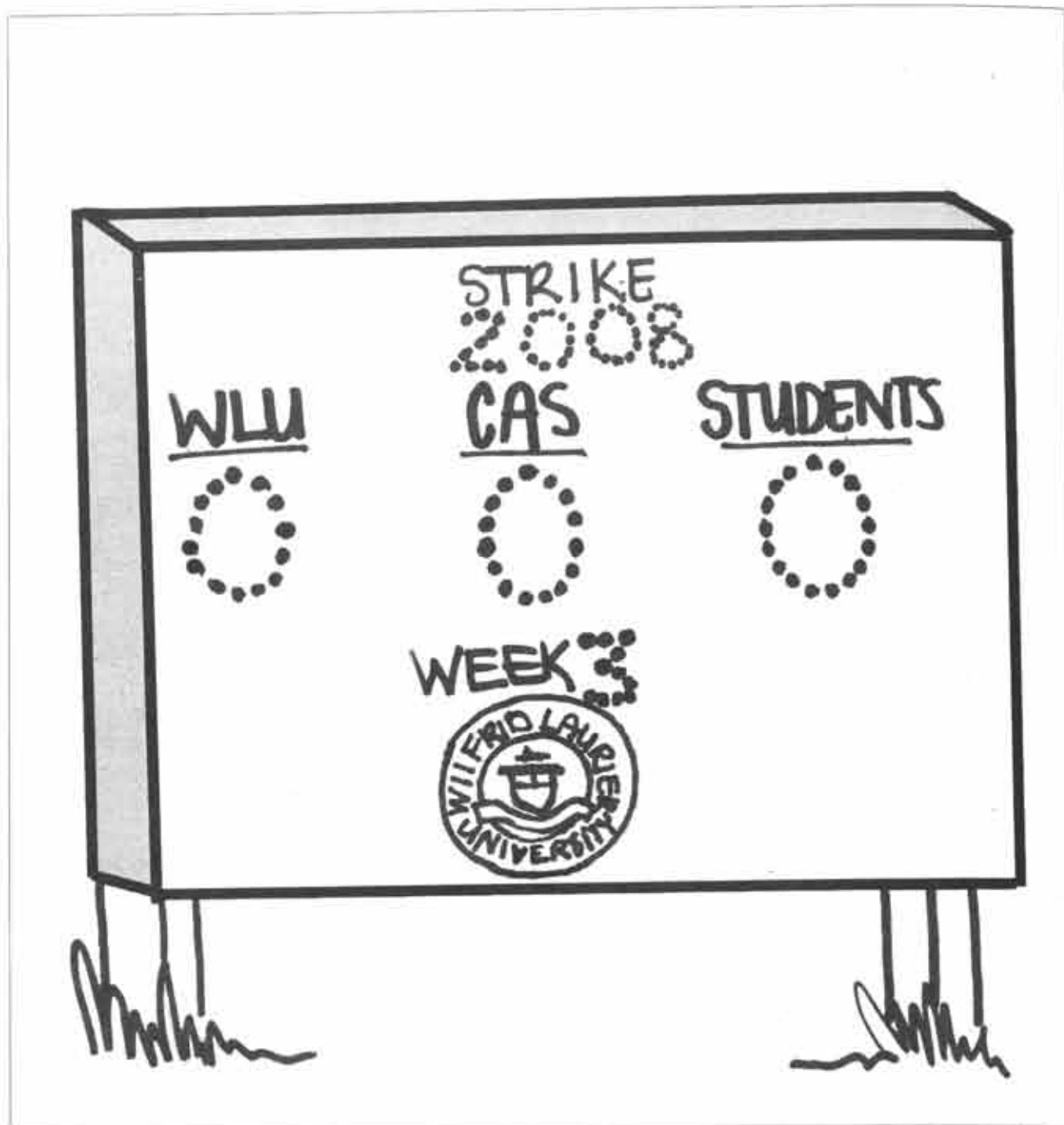
So, with summer fast approaching, we all need to make a conscious effort to acknowledge what summer is really for: relaxation.

This doesn't mean that we shouldn't work this summer and save money. That's simply not an option for most, and even if it is, it's

hardly a good idea.

The important thing is just to have relaxation on the mind. Whether you're graduating or returning to school, there's lots of time to get out into the world, find a job and deal with all the stresses of a career.

But for the upcoming summer, make a point of ridding yourself of all the stress that school has built up. You may have to work, but don't work yourself too hard. Let's treat summer the way it was meant to be treated – as a break.



JULIE MARION

# Summer is for relaxation

Students need to use their time away from class as a break from stress



# Evaluations need adjustment



JEREMY TREMBLAY  
OPINION EDITOR

As university students, our education and our futures may be the main reasons why we're here, but along the way we all seem to become trapped by the vehicle that gets us our degree: grading.

While the extent to which we dedicate ourselves to obtaining our marks varies student by student, for a brief period at the end of each semester, the tables are turned. It's the time of year for student evaluations of faculty.

Unfortunately, the evaluation forms we fill out at Laurier are a joke at best. The evaluation forms are generic Scantron sheets with seven questions, and there isn't even room for comments.

It is true that some comments can range from inane to downright offensive and inappropriate. However, choosing to completely do without comments because of the cons completely disregards the

positive outcomes that can result.

First, though, let's think of the value of objective data that can be obtained from the surveys. If 150 students are registered in a class, yet only 50 of them are present to fill in an evaluation, something's wrong with either the material presented in the course or the instructor.

Second, there are countless useful comments that could come from evaluations.

**IF 150 STUDENTS ARE REGISTERED IN A CLASS, YET ONLY 50 OF THEM ARE PRESENT TO FILL IN AN EVALUATION, SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH EITHER THE MATERIAL PRESENTED IN THE COURSE OR THE INSTRUCTOR.**

Things as simple as "I can't hear you from the back" and "your Powerpoint slides are hard to read" to "please interrupt students who are talking instead of ignoring them" are valuable.

Currently, though, there is no forum for students to provide such feedback to most instructors.

Evaluations also provide information about the quality of the course itself to the department.

Most importantly, more meaningful evaluations would serve to help bring a focus back to teaching. While professors' research does benefit students, there is a huge difference between research and teaching.

Thankfully, teaching seems to be gaining attention in universities both provincially and within WLU.

This past year, TVO aired "Ontario's Best Lecturer," which recognized academics for their lecturing abilities.

Laurier also chose to recognize its professors who have won teaching awards by installing their pictures in the hallway of the first floor of Bricker Academic Building – a good start towards creating a focus on the classroom portion of professors' work.

Another meaningful step to take would be to make the results of evaluations public, such as in the

form of an "anti-calendar" or an evaluation report.

These publications, which are currently published at the University of Toronto and Simon Fraser University, for example, contain information obtained from course evaluations.

Particularly because of WLU's growth, this is valuable information.

While it was simple to find out how useful, enjoyable or interesting a course was when WLU was small, the increased size of the university makes it harder to find someone who has already taken a particular class than in years gone by.

Perhaps one day administration will realize that the evaluations we currently fill out are far from perfect and need to be modified in order to become meaningful tools that both students and faculty can take seriously.

Until then, remember the most important part of the current evaluations: pencil only, and make sure you fill in the circle completely.

letters@cordweekly.com

## EMPLOYMENT

### SUPPORT PERSON

Support person needed for 14 year old boy with autism. Support for summer camps, and weekend outings in the community and supervision within the home during the school year. Must be creative with activity planning, altruistic in your desire to work with a special needs child, and must have own vehicle. Laurlewood subdivision. \$12-13/hr depending on experience plus \$0.37/km. Call Deborah 519-746-1584.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Dutch not Wilders fans

Greg Sacks mentions Geert Wilders and his anti Qu'ran movie (as he calls it, not anti-Islam) are receiving a lot of opposition in the Netherlands itself. Next to this, the government has looked into possibilities to stop him from distributing his movie. The problem was that the government was not able to take legal actions and could not stop the movie from being distributed. The website that originally was supposed to host the film *Fitna* ended up refusing to and another website took over. This last website has now removed the movie too. In Greg Sacks' article, I feel as if he portrays most of the Netherlands and its government as supporting Geert Wilders and *Fitna*, while this is not the case.

- Mya Wijbenga

### Milton bad deal

On March 31, 2008, Laurier signed a letter of understanding with the Town of Milton to build another satellite campus. Though a good deal for Milton, this will not only cost us our reputation, but also a lot of money. As a small university, we already have three satellite campuses scattered across different municipalities including Brantford, Kitchener and Toronto. That's more than any other university in Ontario, including the University of Toronto, which is over seven times our size.

Laurier was once a satellite campus of Western. We separated! Similar situations are revealed by Nipissing's separation from Lau-

rentian and Windsor's separation from Western. If Brantford and Milton separate from us, are we just investing money to build-up other universities?

Our admissions viewbook has proven that students do not choose to study at satellite campuses. Admission cutoffs for Brantford are in the mid-70s, while the Waterloo campus averages are upwards of mid-to-high 80s. Similar trends can be found in other universities with satellite campuses. Not only are students not enjoying their university experiences, but it hurts us all in terms of our reputation as we accept and graduate lower quality students.

Milton may offer low-cost land, as we develop their economy, but operating costs for WLU will skyrocket. Additional annual fixed costs will have to be spent on administration, transportation/courier between the campuses, security and other costs to maintain facilities and services. Student services on all campuses will suffer. At present, Brantford doesn't have a university library, registrar's office, Scantron machine and other facilities necessary in a university.

Rather than opening so many satellite campuses, an expansion around the Waterloo campus would be much more desirable and cost-effective. STM and Northfield still need to be developed. Purchasing additional land may be expensive, but the long-term savings are well worth it. Students will enjoy more and better facilities and services. Since we still haven't committed financially to Milton, this is the best time to back out, to save our reputation for quality education, university experience and graduates, as well as our money. Laurier

Milton is a bad deal for WLU!

- Edward Choi

*Editor's note: Though affiliated with Western, Laurier was never a satellite campus.*

### Not the time for expansion

I suppose that as a student body we are supposed to swell with pride because of the news this week about the brand new Laurier campus planned to open in Milton. Our small little school is getting bigger, our student body will grow, WLUSU will have more subjects to reign over.... The university will probably even have to hire more part-time staff!

Which is where we hit the flaw in the university's plan to promote school spirit and get some positive promotion rolling, in what can only be called a time of educational crisis. Personally, whether or not Laurier opens a new campus is not as important to me as knowing what is happening to my grades this semester.

The administration seems to think that giving us information about how well the school is doing at this time is going to make us forget the sticky situation we students find ourselves in. Unfortunately, they have missed the mark, and have remained tight-lipped about what matters to us most. Perhaps the school should focus on getting us back in the classroom before blowing huge sums of money on a campus that, frankly, will be very hard to staff.

- Laura Malone

### Recording lectures a serious offense

I am writing to respond to Michelle Caldaroni's article entitled "Laptop use in WLU classrooms," in particular to address the issue of recording lectures with laptop microphones. Without the permission of the professor who is lecturing, recording the lecture contravenes the Canadian Copyright Act. It is illegal. I take the issue very seriously and would never grant a student the opportunity to record my lectures, unless he or she were disabled in some way and cannot write. What I say in the classroom is meant for the class, especially for students who are actually in class (physically and intellectually). While there are genuine reasons for a student not to be in class, I prefer students to take notes when they are there. It is an exercise to help them develop independence and good study skills. And if "their mind inevitably wanders to other things, their eyes close and the lecture becomes unbearably long," I would suggest that the student(s) in question find a course that is more "entertaining."

- Martin R. Dowding, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Communication Studies

### Thanks for nothing, WLU

Dear Wilfrid Laurier,  
Thank you for making me realize that I spend far too much money to be in this institution. Thank you for the general disregard during this entire ordeal. Thank you for abso-

lutely nothing. This has made me realize, yet again, this institution is full of pride for nothing. Makes me wish I was graduating this semester instead of next.

- Sara Vahey

### The Cord's progress

My husband, a faculty member on sabbatical, picked up a copy of *The Cord Weekly* this week and brought it home for me. I was very pleasantly surprised by the quality of your newspaper.

I graduated from Laurier in the mid-nineties and, at that time, *The Cord* was a "rag" if ever there was one. Every article was written in a sadly juvenile tone and style and lame humour took the place of coverage of both serious events and responsible reporting of the social life on campus. Your paper now covers all the local WLU news as well as editorials on world and national issues. Clearly, your staff understands what journalism has to be these days. Congratulations to you all.

- Shannon Purves-Smith

### Letters Policy:

All letters to the editor must be signed and submitted with the author's name, student identification number, and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00 pm (noon) Monday via email to [letters@cordweekly.com](mailto:letters@cordweekly.com) or through our website at [www.cordweekly.com](http://www.cordweekly.com). Letters must not exceed 350 words.

The Cord reserves the right to edit any letter for brevity and clarity. The Cord reserves the right to reject any letter, in whole or in part. The Cord reserves the right to not publish material that is deemed to be libelous or in contravention with the Cord's Code of Ethics or journalistic standards.



# YEAR END

## CELEBRATION

### APRIL 26TH 2008

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