



HOT LACROSSE

Hawks score victories over McGill and McMaster ... **PAGE 10**

HAWK-BLOCKED

Why some of Laurier's sports teams are funded, but others are not ... **PAGES 14-15**

STUDY SPOTS

It's midterm season, and **The Cord** knows where to revise ... **PAGE 15**

Volume 49 Issue 11

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22, 2008

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Security may get pepper spray

Audit and Compliance Committee to review proposal during its November 3 meeting

JEREMY TREMBLAY
NEWS EDITOR

This Friday, the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) Board of Directors (BOD) will be given a presentation by Chris Hancocks, operations manager of Special Constable Services (SCS), about special constables carrying pepper spray.

The service hopes that the move will get the Students' Union to endorse the plan.

"As of right now there is no official statement from the board," said BOD Chair Asif Bacchus.

"The decision is scheduled to be made this Friday. The board has, as always, three options: endorse it, not endorse it or issue a neutral statement."

The motions to bring pepper spray to special constables are already going through administrative channels, thus the WLUSU board's decision has no binding power.

The idea was okayed on October 15 by the President's Group, which has sent it to the university's Board of Governors' Audit and Compliance committee.

Should the committee find the proposal acceptable when it meets on November 3, a motion will be put forward to the Board of Governors whose subsequent meeting takes place on November 20.

Following approval by university governance, an application will have to be made to the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) Board to add pepper spray as an acceptable level of force to the agreement between SCS and the WRPS.

Following approval at that level, the change must go on to the provincial ministry responsible for police services.

- SEE **SECURITY**, PAGE 4



RYAN STEWART

KNOCKOUT - Laurier's favourite adult hypnotist Tony Lee wants to take up cage-fighting as a career.

Tony the 'trancer

Cage-fighting hypnotist Tony Lee brought his debaucherous madness to the Turret last Thursday and put Laurier under his XXX trance once again

DANIEL JOSEPH
A&E EDITOR

Last Thursday night saw the return of a Laurier favourite – and an A-Team tradition.

Tony Lee, the XXX Hypnotist who has been travelling around the world for nearly a quarter of a decade with his uniquely adult brand of hypnotism, hit the Turret Nightclub for an evening of sexy mind tricks.

Lee began his journey – one that has resulted in over 5,000 shows and 160 Universities visited – 22 years ago.

Back then, Lee thought – much like the rest of us – that hypnotism was a "a crock of shit."

That being said, as he always notes in his shows, he discovered his talent while mocking it with his girlfriend at the time.

When she fell over he was very shocked, "but then I made her do some things ... and I knew it was

real." Lee takes special care to note, "it wasn't anything too bad!"

After this discovery, Lee began to host local shows at the restaurant he managed – a Hard Rock Café – and decided to do a show that would make him laugh.

In the process it seems, Lee has produced a show that encourages anybody – regardless of their background – to join in the fun.

"I like making people laugh. It doesn't matter what age you are. You will see multicultures. Every type of individual that has alternative sexual preferences. You name it. Everybody enjoying one kind of entertainment for an hour or two. It's great," said Lee.

In addition to being the go-to guy for XXX hypnotism, Lee also manages to find time for many other pursuits. He manages actors, has a love for photography and now plans on getting into cage fighting.

After hitting a self-described

mid-life crisis, Lee decided to do something about his growing waistline and extra time.

Lee started drinking – maybe a bit too much sometimes. "I was consuming from like 12 to 18 ounces of tequila a night," he said.

"And then when you're hammered you wanna go eat. Then I got a thirty-six-inch waist and I was doughy. People who were onstage when hypnotized were always commenting on how I'm getting fat and everything."

Lee met some members of the cage-fighting circuit while working with an Olympic wrestling coach, and decided to maybe dabble in it a bit himself.

Now, after training for the past year and losing 40 pounds, Lee thinks he's ready to fight at the newly constructed arena at the Six Nations reserve in Brantford.

- SEE **LEE**, BACK COVER



RYAN STEWART

LIBERAL LOSS - Liberal candidate Andrew Telegdi lost to Conservative Peter Braid last week.

Election recount for KW

Telegdi lost to Braid by just 48 votes, meaning a recount is mandatory

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

A vote validation performed on Friday morning confirmed that there will be a mandatory recount in the Kitchener-Waterloo riding.

Election results last Tuesday left winner Peter Braid from the Conservative party 73 votes ahead of contender Andrew Telegdi from the Liberal party; however, after the vote validation, Braid now leads by 48, a difference attributed to two data-entry errors.

The Elections Canada website states that "a judicial recount must take place if the difference between the number of votes cast for the candidate with the most votes and the number of votes cast for any other candidate is less than one one-thousandth (1/1000) of the votes cast."

In the Kitchener-Waterloo region, 60,558 valid votes were cast, making the 48-vote difference small enough to merit an obligatory recount.

- SEE **RECOUNT**, PAGE 3

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK
"I think it was him. Or an ugly girl."
— News Editor Rebecca Vasluianu, upon
seeing a strange-looking acquaintance

WORD OF THE WEEK
Peripatetic - A person who walks from place to place.

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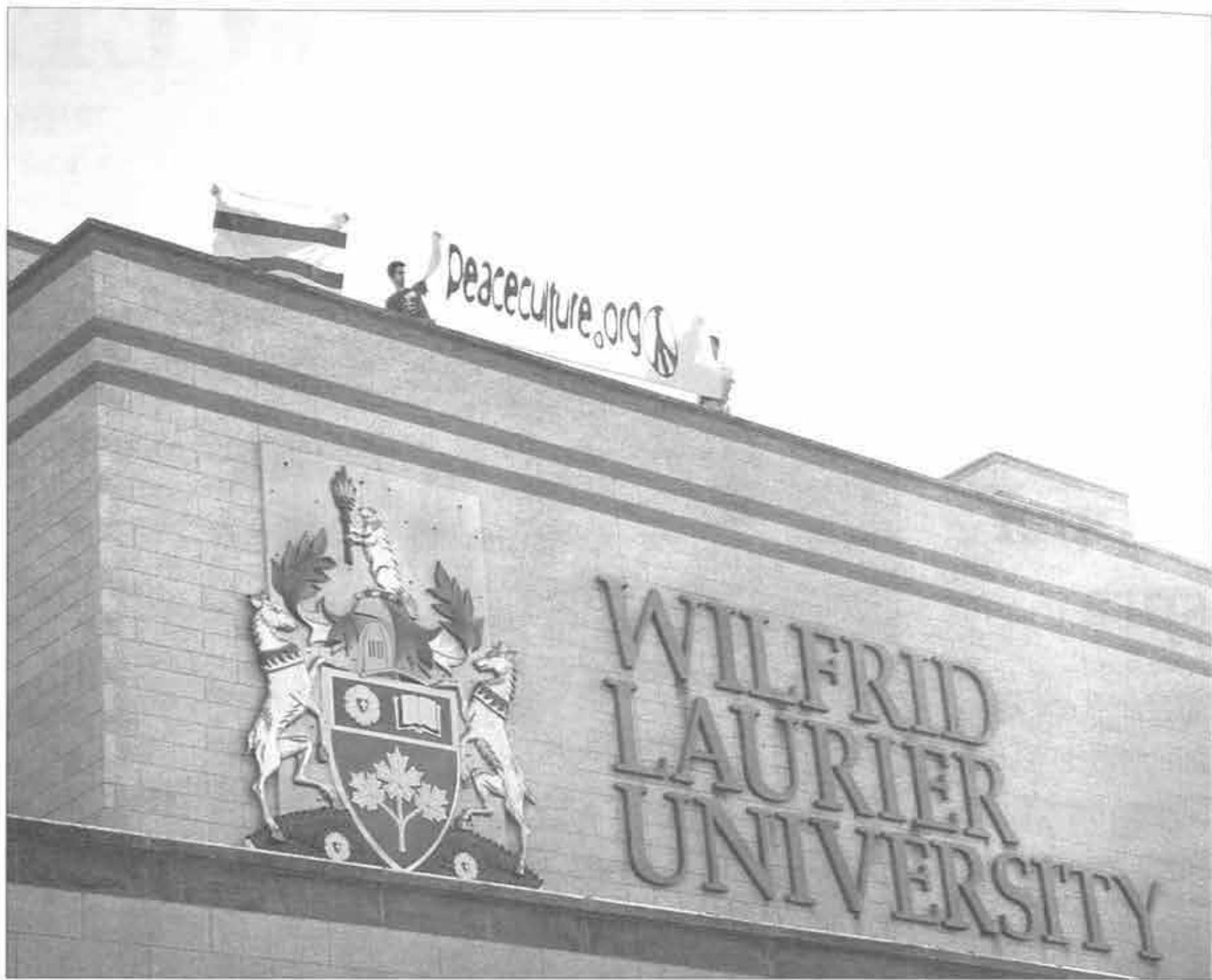
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The Cord will keep faith with its readers by presenting news and
expressions of opinions comprehensively, accurately and fairly.
The Cord believes in a balanced and impartial presentation of all
relevant facts in a news report, and of all substantial opinions in
a matter of controversy.
The staff of The Cord shall uphold all community held ethical
commitments 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.
Editorial journalism requires impartiality, and consequently
conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest
will be avoided by all staff.
The staff 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 honor 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.



ALEX HAYTER

PEACEFUL REBELLION - Campus group Anti-War at Laurier protest the war in Afghanistan by displaying website banner on the Aird Centre.

AW@L protest on rooftop

As part of the Pan-Canadian Day of Action, Anti-war at Laurier activists put up banners across Kitchener-Waterloo to encourage peace and a withdrawal of Canadian troops from Afghanistan

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

Anti-War at Laurier (AW@L) showed their disapproval of the war in Afghanistan on Saturday, October 18 by displaying banners around Kitchener-Waterloo; the last sign was raised on the roof of the John Aird Centre on campus around 3:15 p.m.

The poster, which read "peaceculture.org" (AW@L's website), was one of many various signs displayed throughout the city.

Alex Hundert, AW@L's spokesperson, explained that the event was in response to the Pan-Canadian Day of Action against the war in Afghanistan held by the Canadian Peace Alliance.

"We figured KW should be represented in the national efforts as well and secondly is just to create some high visibility around the fact that there is high resistance to the war, reminding people that they should be thinking about it," said Hundert.

Whereas last year the group held a rally at Veterans' Green, the group decided to do something more "creative" locally, says Hundert.

"What we've done is that we've had two teams rolling around

town sort of doing hit-and-run banner jobs, staying 15 minutes, half an hour, an hour in a bunch of different locations," he added.

AW@L visited a variety of places, including several Oktoberfest celebrations, the Kitchener market, a police station, local weapons manufacturers and a University of Waterloo football game.

Locations with specific significance to their cause were chosen, explained Hundert.

"WE'VE HAD TWO TEAMS ROLLING AROUND TOWN SORT OF DOING HIT-AND-RUN BANNER JOBS..."

- Alex Hundert, AW@L spokesperson

"All of our targets were designed to be good public places that are parts of the military and that war machine we have in Canada right now," stated Dan Kellar, an AW@L activist helping throughout the day.

While the group generally received positive feedback, a few minor incidents occurred throughout the day.

At the Kitchener Farmers' Market, the group was asked to take their sign down, according to Ja-

cob Pries, another AW@L activist.

"The police came over and asked us to take it down and they said the marketplace is no place for politics ... they have a right to ask anyone to leave if they want to and we figured, we weren't there to cause a problem, we were just there to sort of talk to people and engage with people. So we happily left," he explained.

Pries added that a group who visited a local police station was also asked to take their sign down in a friendly way; the group readily complied.

Kellar described an encounter with a Canadian soldier who was upset

with AW@L's anti-war banners.

"At the football game actually a soldier came over and was pretty aggressive with us, talking about respect for his job and what he's doing, but it's killing people and actually, somebody today put it best: 'If war were the answer we would have had peace a long time ago,'" he explained.

For Erik Lankin, a non-student AW@L volunteer, the day was an important step towards promoting education about the war.

"There is this messaging that has Canadians complacent against war ... so I think it is important that people understand why we're there, what we're doing and then make the decision whether to support it or not," said Lankin.

AW@L demonstrated at the Laurier campus just after 3:00 p.m., Hundert explaining that because there was construction going on in the Aird Building, they were able to get onto the roof through an open window.

Breanna Grein, a third-year communications student who was passing by, commented that the group could have used a tactic that would have a greater impact.

"I think it's good to spread awareness but I barely even noticed it, so they could definitely do more," she suggested.

According to Hundert, the group made Laurier its last stop to stress the potential students have to create change.

"Students need to be more engaged in this," stated Hundert.

"If you look historically at the way movements push governments to respond to the demands of the majority of the citizens, student movements have played a very large part in that and we're trying to encourage people to kind of fulfill that responsibility."

> VOCAL CORD

"Is Laurier doing enough to help the environment?"



"I know that during O-Week there was a presentation on what people are doing to help."

- Shannon Vassallo
First-year economics



"We have garbage outlets everywhere, and plenty of places to put debris."

- James Kuepher
Second-year arts



"I'm not aware of it."

- Nicole Grbic
First-year business



"Yes, we have the EcoHawks and lots of recycling."

- Katie Reeves
Second-year geography



"Today I noticed we have biodegradable containers in the cafeteria."

- Mike Lakusika
First-year English

Environmental sustainability open forum held on campus

For first time, conscious Laurier groups are cooperating; a panel discussion took place last Thursday

MADHAVI GANJU
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday October 16, the Campus Environmental Coalition (CEC) gathered for its first Open Forum, where those interested in environmental sustainability were free to join a discussion taking place in the Senate and Board Chambers at approximately 12:30 p.m.; the event later moved to the Grad Pub.

The CEC is a collective of different groups at Laurier, including the EcoHawks, Laurier Students Public Interest Research Group (LSPIRG), Anti War at Laurier (AW@L), the GeoHawks, Social Inc., the WLU Farm Market and Laurier Campus Greens.

Representatives from these groups were present at the Forum and were later joined by Michael Imort, associate professor in the department of geography and environmental studies.

The meeting began with a discussion of the positive and negative environmental practices at Laurier.

While those in attendance commended Laurier for some of its environmentally friendly policies, such as the presence of recycling bins, the lack of pro-environment policies was also stressed.

Methods through which the campus could become more green were then brainstormed. One such solution discussed was the introduction of organic food in the dining hall.

Later, group members went around in a circle presenting their own ideas for sustainability.

There were many opinions on the subject, but most felt that a more sustainable environment would be one in which car usage by faculty and students would be reduced, along with lower levels of consumer goods and better waste management.

Specific ideas were also raised,

including a mandatory course enforced to educate students on sustainability and implementing a consumption-awareness and change campaign. Afterwards, participants spoke about sustainability as a beneficial goal for the university's future success.

"A university recycles students so much, we have thousands of people going through, you start at a university, you put these people into a community afterwards so we should be the ones to take the first step as it just keeps on happening," said Jenny Snider, the executive of external communications for EcoHawks.

"The overall idea is that we all feel and we're getting a sense that most students feel that the university should be a more environmentally progressive place than the community around ... We should be trying to lead the community in a forward-looking way, that is good for everybody."

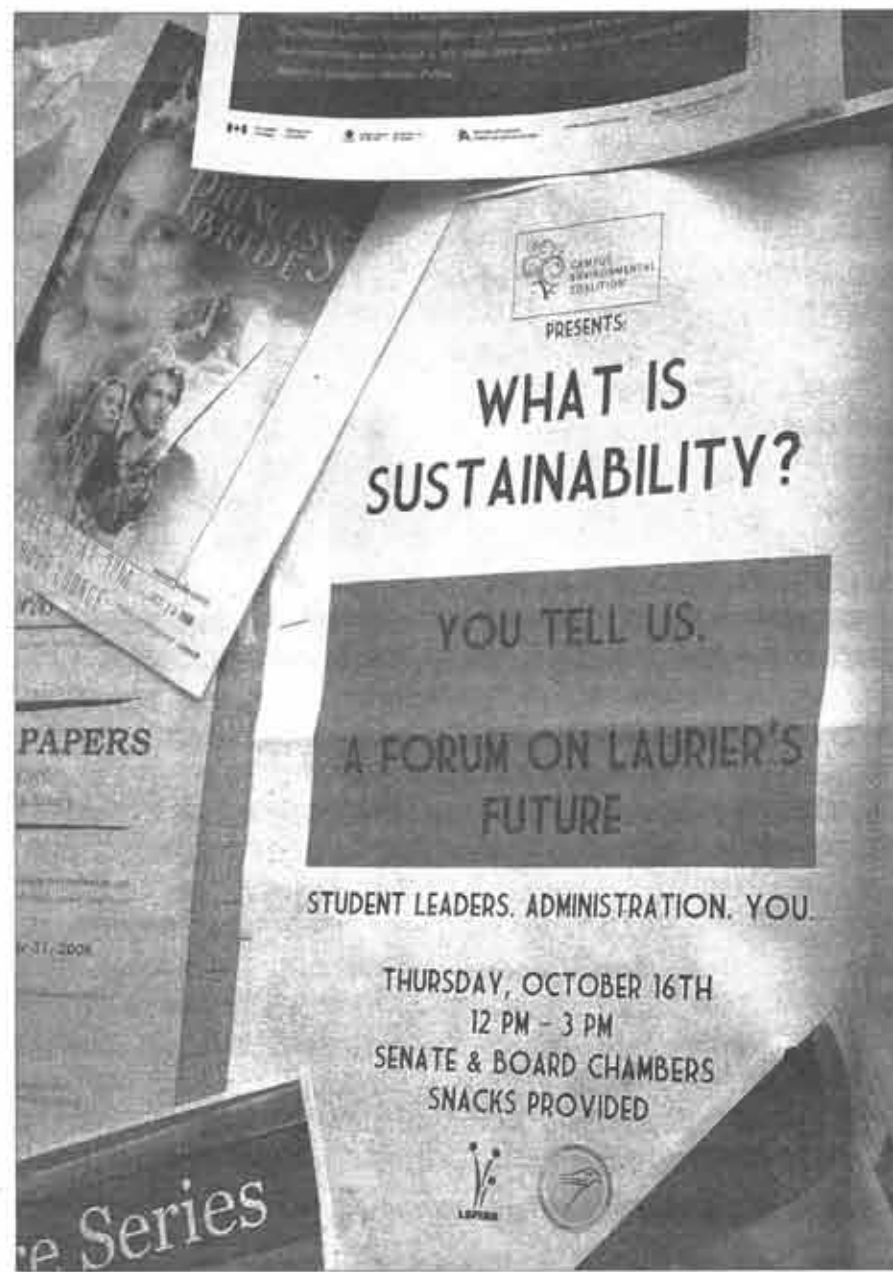
"It's good for students because we have a better on-campus environment, good for the planet, good for the university for both PR reasons and just as an institution and it's good for the city, so everyone wins from being a bit more forward-looking," said Josh Smyth, a director of the LSPIRG board.

Many suggested that being sustainable would attract more students and would be much more economically efficient. The CEC also suggested that the green fee be increased for each individual.

Although the amount would mean a small cost increase for students, it would provide more resources for various environmental campus groups.

A major topic of concern at the event was that Laurier is already behind in its environmental efforts compared to other schools.

Smyth explained that "the basic idea is to have both some stringent and binding policy at the university level, to make sure that our



LAURA TOMKINS

ALLIES IN ACTION - Campus Environmental Coalition (CEC) of like-minded groups will meet with President Blouw to present its ideas

environmental goals are enforced and to hopefully have a sustainability office."

Luke Stewart, a Master's student and member of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) representing students at large explained the priorities the CEC has at the moment: energy use; waste management; green space; carbon emissions; administration and policy; budget; students and consumption; faculty and staff; WLUSU and their food services; consumer products and transportation.

The CEC is also meeting with WLU president Max Blouw on Oc-

tober 29 to discuss issues that were raised at the Forum.

Although this was the first event of its kind held by the CEC, the coalition expects more of this sort to occur in the near future.

"We are collectively hoping to take all the information gathered throughout the year and formulate it into some sort of report that we can provide the students as well as faculty and the administration to capitulate what we think environmental sustainability means on Laurier's campus so it's on record," said Stewart.

See PAGE 18 for editorial reaction to this story

CRO to apply for judicial recount

- FROM RECOUNT, COVER

While nothing has been publicly announced yet, according to Elections Canada the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) of the region Henry Schmidt is obligated to call for a judicial recount within four business days of the vote validation which occurred on Friday, meaning the deadline was reached today.

Schmidt, in an interview with *The Record* on Monday, confirmed that an application to the judge would be sent forward "early this week."

Once the application is filed, the judge at the Superior Court of

Justice in the region has four days to start the recount; as a result, the count should begin before next Tuesday.

Representatives from the Superior Court of Justice in Kitchener and Elections Canada told *The Cord*, however, that they have received no notification that the CRO has put forth an application for a recount.

"I don't have a date yet, but I can tell you that it is a judicial recount that is going to be happening because the spread of the votes between the candidates was 48 votes... [the recount will be] conducted by a judge from the Superi-

or Court of Justice," said John Einright, spokesperson for Elections Canada.

Peter Hughes, a member of Telegdi's campaign team, commented on the promise of a recount.

"We're unhappy that we have to be involved in a recount because we were kind of hoping for a win, but no, we're pleased that there's a recount," he explained.

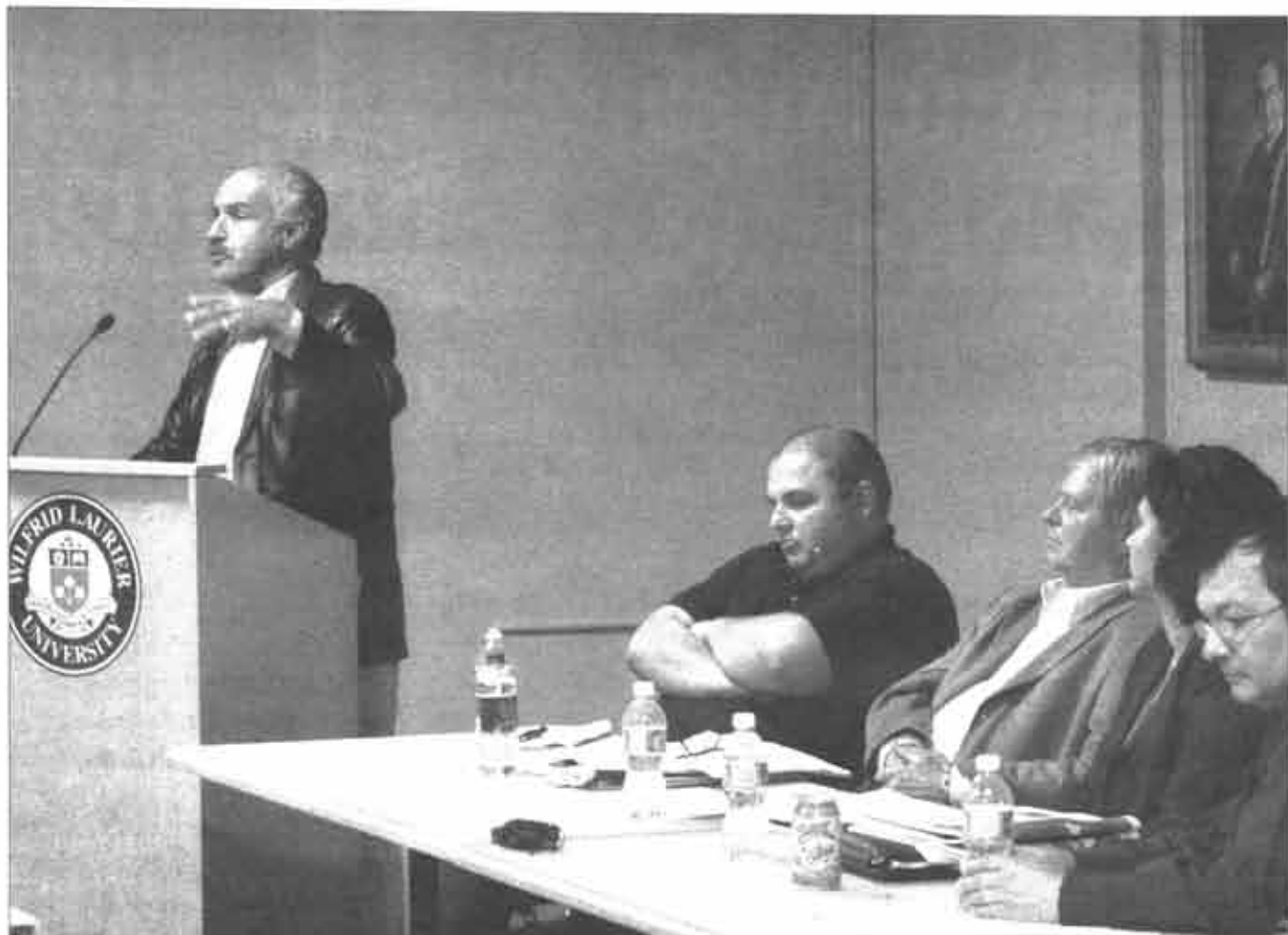
While Hughes did not specifically name any factors that may have contributed to Telegdi's upset, he noted that there was a significant amount of confusion at the polls this year due to a change in proto-

col where officials asked for photo identification before individuals were allowed to vote.

"This is the very first election in which they changed the identification rules," said Hughes.

"The enforcement of these rules are all pretty new to people and it was a pretty rushed election, so we knew there were some issues. How did that affect the outcome? I have no idea," he added.

Kitchener-Waterloo is one of two regions in Canada where a mandatory recount will take place, the other being Vancouver South where the two leading candidates are separated by 33 votes.



RYAN STEWART

ELECTION DISSECTION - Political Science profs reflect on Conservative minority and Dion's performance.

Experts discuss federal election

Laurier professors analyze how Conservatives attained another consecutive minority government, and what the Liberals need to do to regain power

DAN POLISCHUCK
WEB EDITOR

Laurier's political experts gathered to provide post-election insight on Wednesday, October 15, the day after Stephen Harper and the Conservatives were elected as Canada's minority government.

A five-person panel consisting of Laurier political science professors Andrea Perella, Barry Kay, Geoffrey Stevens and Rob Leoni as well as Laura Stevenson from the University of Western Ontario discussed results of the election at the Paul Martin Centre.

Starting off the presentation entitled "The Good the Bad and the Ugly: A Panel on the 2008 Canadian Federal Election," Perella shed light on some preliminary data from local results.

Perella then discussed the preferential ballot voting system, which was heavily favoured by Kitchener-Waterloo Liberal candidate Andrew Telegdi.

A preferential ballot system, explained Perella, would have voters rank the political parties in their order of preference and then have the ability to vote for a local candidate from any party they wish.

Taking local and federal data from the 2006 election and applying preferential voting information, Perella was able to show that the results would have been a Liberal majority.

Following was Leoni, who highlighted three main factors leading to the election's results.

First was the focus of the campaign period on the economy rather

than other important issues such as the environment.

Leoni then went on to discuss his second point: the fact that the Conservatives chose not to release or discuss their specific policies in regards to the economy and other crucial issues, which he believes caused their numbers to move further away from a majority government.

"IF STEPHEN HARPER COULDN'T WIN A MAJORITY AGAINST THIS KIND OF ALTERNATIVE CANDIDATE THEN STEPHEN HARPER IS NEVER GOING TO WIN A MAJORITY."

- Barry Kay, political science professor

He pointed out that the Conservatives "started to lose momentum at precisely the time they started talking about policy," which inevitably led to their admission of a delayed platform announcement.

Last, he pointed out how campaign slogans shifted for all the parties to reflect the current financial crisis, obviously benefitting the Conservatives most with their promise of a "Time for Certainty."

Then Kay went on to give a detailed commentary explaining he "wasn't sure the character of Stéphane Dion [made] him the best candidate to be the leader of Canada."

While he was quick to applaud Dion's work as a professor and his federalist views while teaching at

the University of Montreal during the strongest periods of support for Quebec separatism, Kay thought "it was evident ... that Dion somewhat lives in a bubble" when it comes to knowing what issues really mattered to voters.

"This election was more about Stéphane Dion losing than the Conservatives winning," said Kay, adding that "the Liberals made such a bad misjudgement in selecting Stéphane Dion for this position. He is truly an inappropriate person for political leadership."

Kay then went on to state that the victory proved little of the strength for the Conservatives.

"If Stephen Harper couldn't win a majority against this kind of alternative candidate then Stephen Harper is never going to win a majority," he remarked.

While he contended that Dion "came off very much like a goof in this campaign," Kay pointed out that public support for Dion was surprisingly less in Quebec than it was throughout the rest of Canada.

A poignant conclusion came from the words of professor Stevenson, who stated that "the Liberals still have the potential to take the role of being the 'national governing party [of Canada]'" because, sitting in the middle-left of the political spectrum, they appeal to enough people that their once-strong voting base will return.

WLUSU asked for endorsement

Decision belongs to WLU's Board of Governors

- FROM SECURITY, COVER

If final approval is given, special constables would need training on the use of pepper spray before being allowed to carry it.

"It's been a consideration for a number of years," explained VP: Finance Jim Butler, adding that serious attention was given to allowing special constables to carry pepper spray following an incident in which two special constables were assaulted.

At about 5:20 in the morning on September 22, 2006, Clayton Vokey and Jennifer Laurie responded to a call for help from a custodian at 232 King Street North, which was the Co-Op and Career Services building at the time.

A violent struggle resulted. Vokey was choked and lost consciousness, and both constables were repeatedly punched.

Two men, one aged 27 and the other 28, were charged with assault, assaulting police and forcible entry after WRPS officers responded to a call for backup. One of the men faced an additional charge for choking.

According to Rod Curran, director of SCS, at the time of that inci-

dent security made the decision to monitor other universities who had just been approved the use of pepper spray.

This July, the office of the VP: Finance requested that a consultant be hired to prepare a report examining situations dealt with by SCS.

It also addressed questions examining the safety of pepper spray and other locations where it is in use.

"In my mind right now, the issue of whether or not it will happen had already been settled. It's being taken through administrative channels, as it should be," said Bacchus, adding that he hopes student concern will address when SCS would deem it appropriate to use pepper spray.

"Obviously they're not going to be able to give a definitive answer, but I think that's the level of communication they need with students. Not simply 'Hey, do you support us pepper-spraying you?'"

Campus police at the University of Windsor, Western, Brock and the University of Guelph are among those allowed to carry pepper spray. The University of Waterloo's campus police were recently approved to carry it as well.

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BOD takes steps to review hiring and environmental sustainability

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

At the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) Board of Directors (BOD) meeting on October 10, two motions raised by director Griffin Carpenter were passed; the decisions concerned issues of WLUSU hiring practices and environmental sustainability.

Carpenter's first motion was to create a Hiring Practices Review Committee to address student concerns with WLUSU's current system of volunteer appointment.

The committee will render its first report on November 28, which will include several executive limitations dealing specifically with

hiring practices.

While Carpenter raised the motion and will serve as committee chair, he explains that his involvement in the matter is strictly due to student concerns.

"I volunteered to start the hiring committee basically through conversations with students who expressed concerns to me about general hiring practices," explained Carpenter.

"I felt that the board is the representative voice for students so if this is their legitimate concern even if it's not mine I feel I have an obligation to speak their voice and review management practices."

The other motion passed during the board meeting dealt with

executive limitations on environmental sustainability, mainly how the board will hold the president accountable to specific goals rather than one broad one.

The old policy dictated that the president was responsible for ensuring that WLUSU "minimizes its environmental impact."

Now, however, as a result of Carpenter's motion, the environmental impact will include the following spheres: consumer products with a focus on paper, food, drink and clothing, recycling and waste management, energy use, water use, travel and investments.

According to Carpenter, the change will help "highlight areas" to the board where WLUSU is not

doing enough.

"[Before], the executive limitation on [President Colin Le Fevre] was that he shall not operate without an environmental sustainability plan," said Carpenter.

"It leaves all the interpretation to Colin so he can say 'my environmental sustainability plan is I recycle my coffee cups' and so when we get a monitoring report saying that we basically have to accept that it's reasonable because he set that broad criteria," explained Carpenter.

Now, however, the criteria are more specific, holding both Le Fevre and all of WLUSU more accountable.

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CANADA IN BRIEF

Brandon strike ends

BRANDON, MB — The Brandon University Faculty Association (BUFA) signed an agreement with the university administration on Wednesday, October 15 after a 16-day strike.

Although faculty members and the board of governors have not yet ratified the agreement, classes will resume on Friday.

At an open forum, faculty suggested to students that the fall term would end on the same date as the other universities, as if the strike never happened.

Students have been told that assignments that were due during the strike are to be handed in for evaluation and tests will be made up during regular class time.

Stephen Montague, president of the Students' Union at Brandon, acknowledged that students might find themselves stuck with a heavier-than-expected workload.

"We have to make the transition for students as smooth as possible. Two-and-a-half weeks later, there's going to be some bumps on the road."

Dion resigns as leader

OTTAWA — This past Monday, Stéphane Dion announced his resignation as Liberal Party leader.

It was the worst result in terms of popular vote for the party in more than 100 years. The Liberal party took 76 seats in the election. Going in, the Liberals held 95.

Dion's campaign included a carbon tax designed to curb greenhouse gas emissions. His platform was not well received.

"It has been a mistake to go ahead with the Green Shift because we are not equipped to explain what it was," Dion explained in an interview with *The Globe and Mail*.

Dion's leadership officially ends in May, when the Liberal Party will hold its leadership convention.

Bob Rae, who was a rival for Dion's leadership, said that it is important that the party move forward and better the party rather than dwell on its losses.

— Compiled by Genevieve Rushton-Givens and Amanda Steiner with files from CUP




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NEWS IN

Laurier's first graduating class of social workers returns to campus for reunion

This Saturday, the very first graduating class of social workers is returning to Laurier for a special reunion. Joining the 21 alumni will be former Dean of Social Work Frank Turner.

The group of alumni will commemorate the 40-year history of Laurier's Master's of Social Work program.

They will meet at the new building for the Faculty of Social Work on 120 Duke St. West in Kitchener, which used to be St. Jerome's High School.

This event begins this Saturday at 2 p.m. with a tree-planting ceremony and a reception.

It will last until Monday, when two alumni from the original class of 1968 – Airdrie Thompson-Guppy and Joan Gilmore – will talk to a current social work class about the many changes in the program.

LISPOP election tracker website successful

Four days prior to the Canadian federal election, the Laurier Institute for the Study of Public Opinion and Policy (LISPOP) had already received over 90,000 hits on its Federal Election Tracker website.

The website hosted a map interpreting how popular opinion polls would translate into seats in parliament across the country.

It also had articles from a study examining voting trends amongst specific populations. These profiled gay and lesbian voters, Green Party voters and gun owners. Articles on this research were featured in the National Post.

Last week, LISPOP Director Dr. Steven Brown explained, "We have been seeing well over 5,000 hits a day for the past week and that should climb substantially as election day nears. The website has attracted the interest of election watchers from all over the country and from observers in 76 countries worldwide."

LISPOP's Federal Election Tracker is still available online at www.wlu.ca/lispop/fedblog.

Compiled by Amanda Steiner and Lesley McEwan.

*With files from wlu.ca

CORD/ONLINE

> cordweekly.com
> News

Olympic protest

AW@L members included in a group that gained national attention after blocking the CP Rail Olympic Spirit Train. A Laurier student locked herself to the track near Vaughan.

Write for Cord News. E-mail: rvasluianu@cordweekly.com
and jtremlay@cordweekly.com

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Solving world hunger with ACUNS

Dr. Horton took the opportunity to describe her solution for malnutrition to WLU students last Thursday, on World Food Day

CURTIS MATLOCK
CORD INTERNATIONAL

Dr. Sue Horton's solution to malnutrition could provide 80 percent of malnourished children with life-saving vitamins and minerals for just 600 million dollars a year.

Laurier economics professor and former VP: Academic Horton detailed her renowned micronutrient solution to world hunger and malnutrition on World Food Day, last Thursday.

In May, the Copenhagen Consensus, a centre in Denmark which prioritizes economic solutions to global problems ranked Dr. Horton's solution to hunger and malnutrition, first amongst solutions to nine other world challenges such as global warming and disease.

Horton's solution "has immediate and important consequences for improving the well-being of poor people around the world – that's why it should be our number one priority," said Nobel Laureate Douglas C. North, a member of the expert panel that ranked Horton's solution as first. The panel is comprised of seven other economists, four of whom are also Nobel Laureates.

The solution recognizes 140 million malnourished children worldwide and proposes Vitamin A, zinc, iron and iodine supplements/fortifications as the most cost-effective response in two focus areas: sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. During Wednesday's lecture, Horton structured her solution in five categories:

First, micronutrient supplements allot 20 cents per child per year for Vitamin A capsules and one dollar

for zinc therapeutic supplements – reducing mortalities due to afflictions such as diarrhea.

Second, micronutrient fortifications counter iron and iodine deficiency with methods such as the iodization of salt.

Third, biofortification endorses the breeding of plants rich in Vitamin A such as sweet potato and the enrichment of rice with zinc and iron.

Fourth, deworming is directed at school children. The medication and treatment for this common infection is 50 cents per year per child.

Fifth, nutrition education promotes proper breastfeeding and home gardens.

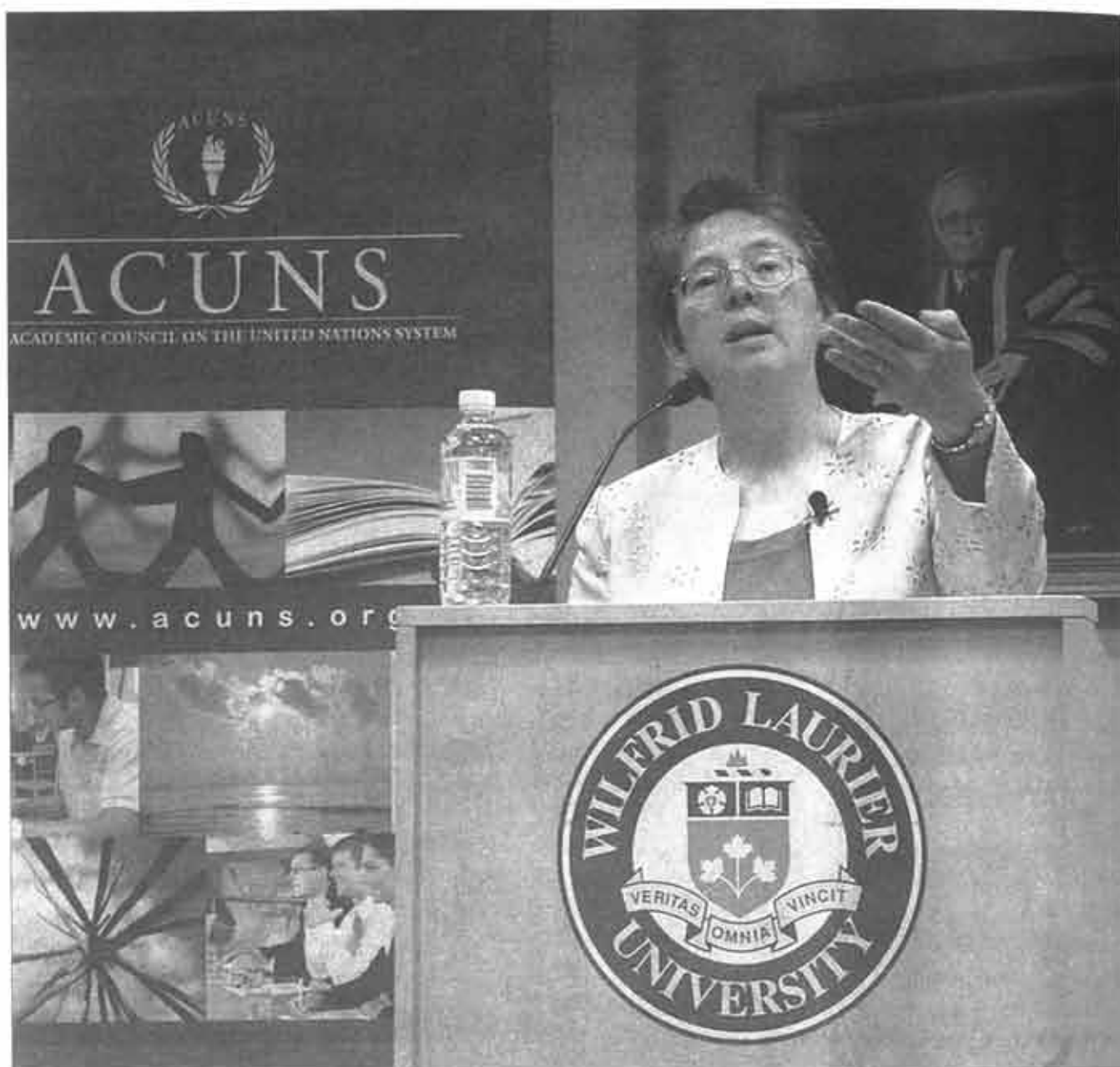
These measures strengthen immunity, prevent disease and assist government agencies and NGO efforts. However, most appealing to economists is the cost-benefit.

"The value of the benefits is large, both in economic terms and human terms. Hundreds of thousands of children's lives would be saved by these low-cost interventions," said Horton.

Providing Vitamin A capsules and a course of zinc supplements to 80 percent of the 140 million undernourished children would cost 600 million dollars per year – with a benefit of one billion dollars per year.

According to the Copenhagen Consensus, "In effect this means that each dollar spent on this program creates benefits (in the form of better health, fewer deaths, increased future earnings, etc) worth more than 17 dollars."

Horton's solution has received massive media coverage from 28



NICK LACHANCE

HORTON HELPS - The five-part solution is mainly directed towards sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia.

newspapers in 26 countries, as well as television networks such as CNN, and is especially well-regarded as a foremost step toward the United Nations' first Millennium Goal – to end poverty and hunger by 2015.

Horton expressed the tension she felt over making economic assumptions about human life, but feels that these decisions are ultimately made for the people's good.

"I swallowed my initial distaste because I felt the outcome would draw important media attention to these issues," said Horton to the crowd.

When questioned about her initiation into the Copenhagen Consensus process, Dr. Horton responded humbly from the po-

dium, "I was in the right place at the right time... academics tend to specialize in small areas and I happen to deal with the economics of micronutrients."

- With files from *Exchange Morning Post*.

Preventing Chile's dams

Activist expresses the need to preserve the beauty of his home country

SHAGUN RANDHAWA
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, October 15, Juan Pablo Orrego opened the eyes of everyone in the room as he spoke quiet but passionate words about his home country, Chile: a nation in crisis, yet also a country heralded to soon to join the ranks of the developed world. The environmental activist spoke volumes about the beauty of Chile's Patagonia region, which is now threatened by hydroelectric projects.

Orrego had been working as an environmental activist since 1990, starting his trek for change when he was invited on an expedition to Chile by an ESPN TV rafting crew. He quickly realized that the mega-dams being built there would flood the lands of more than 100 indigenous families. Since then, Orrego

decided to become actively involved with Grupo de Acción por el Biobío (GABB), an activist group that aims to protect Chile's natural beauty.

From 1973 to 1990, Chile was under dictatorship and, within this time frame, a constitution was formed to privatize natural resources. Orrego calls this the "checkmate to democracy," and says that this 1980 constitution "empowers corporations and disempowers people," as natural resource rights are handed over to corporate companies.

Orrego spoke fervently about how profit investors proposed to dam most of the major rivers in Patagonia, Chile for the purpose of using electricity to provide power for new gold, copper and aluminum mines, therefore accelerating the global economy.

There had been plans to build six mega hydro dams on the Biobío River itself, without any consideration to environmental concerns. The proposal had belonged to Endesa-Chile, who sold their water rights to Endesa-Spain in 1997. In spite of the campaign set up by GABB, Endesa-Spain was able to build the first dam, Pangue, in 1997 and the second, Ralco, in 2004. However, due to the GABB campaign, Pangue and Ralco were the only two of the projected six dams to be built.

Orrego insists that instead of using up the natural resources Patagonia has to offer, Chile must increase growth through ecotourism. The Biobío River, for example, is a popular river for rafting and kayaking but, by damming it up, Chile risks losing the millions of tourists this river attracts.

"We must save the tourism potential and force the system to change course in terms of energy development," Orrego stated. "Canada is seen as an environmentally conscious country. Why are Canadian companies involved with such environmentally destructive plans? People must realize what is at stake here."

Currently, a consortium named HidroAysen, owned by Chile's two biggest wood and pulp producers, the Matte Group and the Angelini group, and also by two of Europe's biggest utility companies, Enel from Italy and Acciona from Spain, is hoping to put two dams on the Pascua and Baker rivers. The companies hope that these dam-created reservoirs will generate electricity for Chile's largest cities and growing mining industry.

However, these dams require 1,500 miles of transmission lines, which would prompt one of the world's longest clear cuts through ancient temperate forests. These dams will be displacing families, destroying forests and spoiling tourism as well as critically endangering many animal species, says

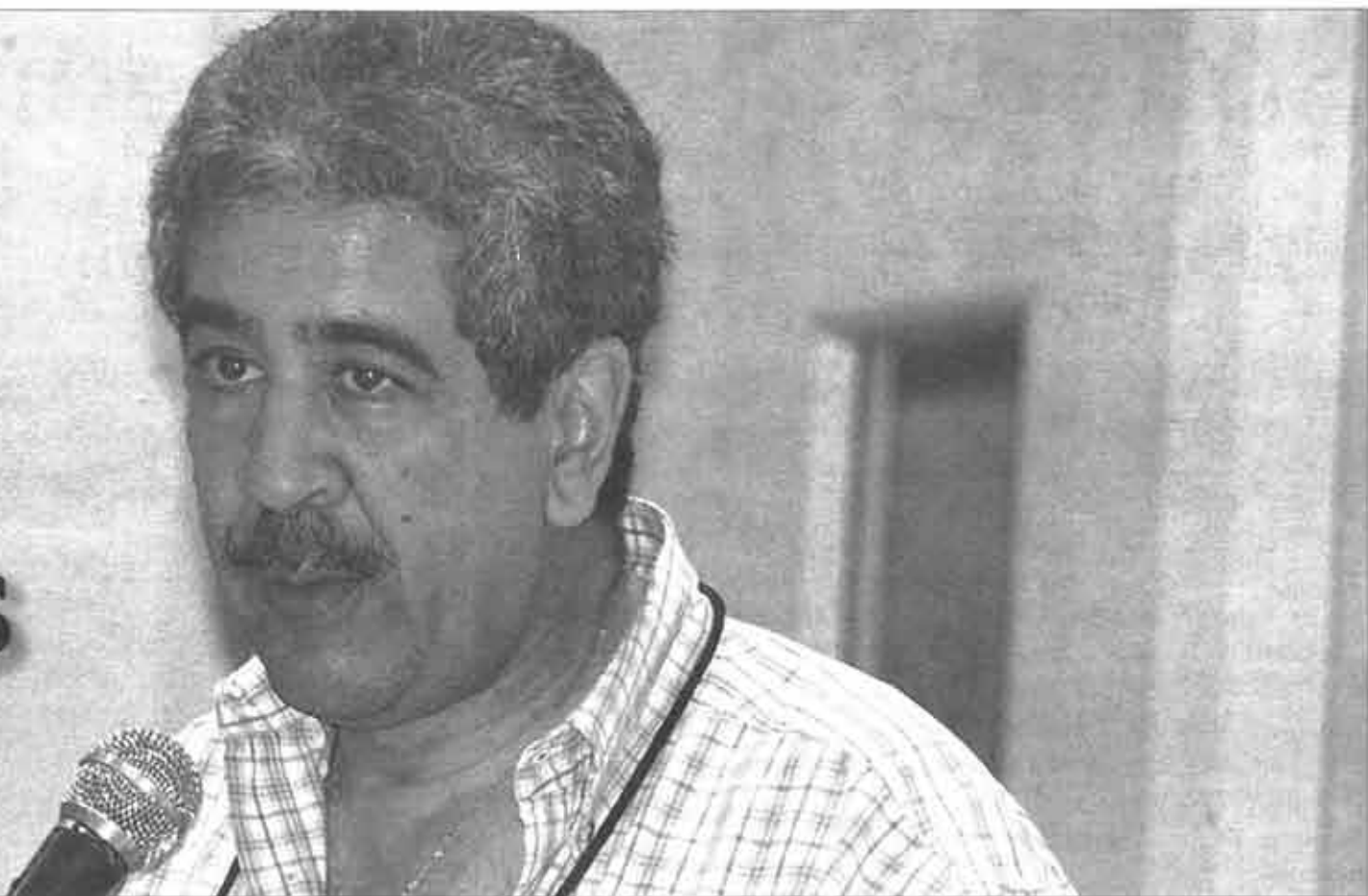
Orrego.

Canadian companies such as Brookfield Asset Management, along with the support of the Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board, are involved in building the destructive transmission lines.

Alex Latta, a global studies professor who organized the visit for Orrego, said, "I think that this issue struck a chord with Canadian environmentalists, knowing that our future pension dollars are being invested in a company that is opening up the Patagonia region to hydroelectric exploitation."

Orrego is making movements towards achieving environmental peace for Patagonia, with more than 45 organizations supporting his activist group. A CD is also in production with ten musical groups supporting the cause, who composed and sang songs about the fight to save Patagonia. If individuals want to help in the fight to save Patagonia, Orrego urges everyone to write letters to their political parties and to companies who are stakeholders in the building of the transmission lines and mega-dams.

Iraqi issues surface



MICHELLE ATTARD

LAMANI AT LAURIER - The special representative hoped to understand Iraqis on a more personal level by living in the Red Zone. He lectured on politics, religion and terrorism in Iraq.

ALISON SCHOFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Last Wednesday, Iraq was described as a "very rich country" by Dr. Mokhtar Lamani, in terms of its culture and investment potential. However, the deep-rooted security problems within the country were the subject of the evening from the mouth of someone who has seen the devastation first-hand.

The Global Studies Club kicked off their lecture series on global justice Wednesday evening, with a lecture from Lamani, who has been a passionate agent for peace in Iraq.

Lamani was able to provide insights from his first-hand experience trying to work through the security issues of the conflict-ridden

country.

Lamani spoke primarily about his time spent living in the Red Zone in Iraq.

His objective was to listen to the Iraqi people to better understand the problem from all sides.

"I wanted all Iraqis to have access to me," Lamani stated, regarding his choice to live outside the Green ("Safe") Zone. "My references are not the Head of State or any minister; my references are the people there."

Lamani was approached by former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan to spearhead a mission in Iraq.

"Unfortunately the UN went there without a mandate," Lamani explained. "Everything is in the

hands of the army. Ask the Security Council to give you a strong mandate with an objective to help the Iraqi people."

This was something that was missing from Annan's offer. "Sometimes you need to have the courage to resign."

Lamani describes the people he spoke to as divided into four groups: politicians, religious leaders, political leaders and civil society.

"You cannot talk to warlords - they are not tired of making war," Lamani stated. "The chaos is already there, this is a fact... if we would like to build a better world we should negotiate with all parties."

Lamani expressed great concern for the religious minorities in Iraq. He pointed out that the Shiites, Sun-

nis and Kurds all have militias, but that the 14 ethnic minorities in the country have none. "Churches cannot be mixed with politics; when it mixes with politics it creates problems," Lamani explained. "They believe they have the absolute truth even though they are talking about tolerance."

"All actors have their own agendas. America had their own agenda and it was a failure," Lamani stated, commenting on the evolving objectives of the US involvement from "fighting terrorism" to "promoting morality" to "spreading democracy." "Democracy," he said, "is based on justice and education, which was not the case."

Lamani spoke of US politics, saying, "The easiest way to win an elec-

tion is to scare people and tell them 'I am going to be the one to protect you.'"

In his last remarks, Lamani quoted Sir Winston Churchill, saying, "Before doing the right thing, I learned that Americans have to do all the wrong things first," to which Lamani added in his own words, "I am afraid that this is the case with Iraq."

Lamani has several credits to his name, including special representative to Iraq from the Organization of the Islamic Conference, former director of the Arab League of States and ambassador and permanent observer to the United Nations.

He is now a senior fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation in Waterloo.

LAURIER INTERNATIONAL EVENTS & SERVICES

October 31: 1-2 p.m.

Canadian Experience Class Program

November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: 7 p.m.

Movie Night

November 6: 1-2 p.m.

How to apply for an off-campus work permit

November 18: 1-2 p.m.

Working on-campus: an information session for international students

November 28:

Toronto Raptors vs. Atlanta Hawks

December 1: 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Temporary Resident Visa

December 2: 6:30 p.m.

Year-end party

For more information and events, contact Bojena Kelmendi at bkelmendi@wlu.ca or stop by the LINT office.

Action remedies feelings of inability

Prof. Davidson-Harden tries to motivate students to address global violence instead of feeling helpless

ALANNA WALLACE
STAFF WRITER

The Global Studies Club invited former Laurier professor Adam Davidson-Harden to address a classroom of students last Friday night regarding global conflict, a subject he spent his years at Wilfrid Laurier teaching. He is now a professor at Queen's University, and a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) post-doctoral fellow.

The subject of Davidson-Harden's speech was global violence, helplessness and engagement, which is the premise of a composition he wrote while working at Laurier.

Speaking in the Bricker Academic Building, he titled his discussion on Friday night as "Between citizen paralysis and praxis: Toward a critical pedagogy for confronting global violence," which is also the title of a journal article he is publishing this year.

He addressed the negative nature of many global issue classes and how they have the capacity to

leave students feeling helpless.

"I owe my interest in this topic to my time here [at Laurier]," said Davidson-Harden. He added, however, "education goes beyond the classroom and informs all of our experience."

He spoke of how many global studies students feel uninspired by the curriculum they face in the classroom, and how dejected university students can feel regarding the magnitude of global issues.

"I CHALLENGE YOU TO CONCEIVE OF WAYS TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE, BECAUSE IT CAN BE DONE."

- Adam Davidson-Harden, former WLU professor

"Often, people feel overwhelmed by the subject matter itself," he stated. "Disturbing trends make us feel uncomfortable about our place in the world."

The lecture was relaxed and informal, as Davidson-Harden in-

cluded a healthy interaction with the thirty-some students attending.

Participants seemed to echo his concerns, as some expressed a feeling of helplessness regarding diverse global issues for which they wanted remedies, including the commodification of water, child soldiering, malnutrition and the proliferation of arms.

"Dealing with reactions of helplessness and feeling overwhelmed is a serious priority for higher education and, by extension, for citizenship," he said.

However, this helplessness was addressed by Davidson-Harden as he gave action as a remedy for such feelings. Davidson-Harden says as an educator he feels responsible for motivating his students.

He discussed the psychology of feeling helpless regarding global violence, saying each individual copes in a multitude of ways, normally distributed into problem-

focused strategies or emotion-focused strategies.

The former is a more positive action-based method as well as a catalyst for change, and the latter detrimental to the progression and resolution of global issues of conflict.

He continuously expressed the idea that enlightenment can happen through action, and not just in the classroom. "Will [we] be paralyzed, or will [we] engage in praxis?" he asked his audience.

Davidson-Harden addressed the current time of global economic struggle by saying "it is time to re-analyze and change." He advocated strongly for education outside a formal setting, encouraging involvement not only internationally but also locally.

To finalize his arguments and inspire his audience, Davidson-Harden finished by saying "I challenge you to conceive of ways to make the world a better place, because it can be done."

Laurier lacrosse remains undefeated

The team finishes season with a perfect 12-0 record for second year in a row

RAYMOND GIU
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women's lacrosse team completed yet another great regular season last weekend with victories over McGill and McMaster by a combined score of 37-2.

The two victories finished off the second consecutive unbeaten season for the Hawks. They finished with a 12-0 perfect record, culminating in 199 goals for and only 56 goals against defeating opponents by an average of 11.8 goals and allowing only 4.8 goals per game.

"Our defence has been important all season," said Head Coach Lynn Orth.

"We would like to keep working on our defence. I think it is important to keep our defence strong in order to be successful."

On Saturday, the Hawks hosted the McGill Martlets, and dominated from start to finish.

With characteristically tough defence and efficient offensive execution, they continued to build on a strong start by taking the game 18-1. Ten different Hawks scored in the game, with veteran attack Heather McHardy leading the way with four goals, winger Megan Fox with three, while second-year Braedyn O'Rahilly led the team in points with seven.

The Hawks continued their solid play the next day as they picked apart the McMaster Marauders by an overwhelming score of 19-1.

At the start, Laurier was able to take advantage of the holes in the Marauder defence as they weaved their way to a couple of early scores. The strong defensive play led to a very balanced scoring attack, keep-

ing the pressure on the McMaster defence all game long.

The pressure led to some great playmaking by the Hawks, as thirteen Hawks benefitted by scoring a goal.

Fourth-year attack Kirsten Gerrie had three goals on the game, while Fox, Laura Juha, Amy Fincham and Emma Pink all chipped in with two. The strong weekend looks to be a precedent for the team to continue to perform while they go into next weekend's championship.

The Hawks will head into the playoffs as host of the championship games and the number-one seed, while striving to achieve their sixth consecutive OUA championship.

The team will begin playoff action on Saturday evening as they take on the Toronto Varsity Blues for the opportunity to play in the OUA finals on Saturday.



LAURA TOMKINS

HOT SHOT - Kirsten Gerrie attempts to beat a McGill Martlet opponent.

Knox shuts out Lancers for victory



YUSUF KIDWAI

STICK WORK - Second-year forward Kaley Powers prepares for a shot during the Hawks' 5-0 victory over the Lancers on Sunday afternoon.

TIEJA MACLAUGHLIN
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier women's hockey team hosted the Windsor Lancers this past Sunday at Pillars Ice in RIM Park. The defending OUA champions dominated the Lancers with a total of 41 shots on goal, while Golden Hawks netminder Liz Knox faced merely six shots, completing a shutout. The win brings the lady Hawks to a perfect 4-0 season so far.

"Between yesterday and today

we scored ten consecutive goals. But we gave up three goals early in yesterday's game, which is very out of character for us. So today's challenge was to make sure we played a 60-minute game," explained Head Coach Rick Osborne.

And that's exactly what the Hawks did.

Laurier went 2 for 9 on the power-play, scoring their first two goals with a one-man advantage. Second-year forward Heather Fortuna claimed some open net space off a cross-ice pass that veteran defend-

er Kate Psota sent from the corner. Just over a minute later, second-year forward Candace Kellough fired another shot from Psota, with team captain Andrea Bevan also picking up an assist.

In the second period of play, scrambling out front of the net, second-year Kaley Powers snuck one in past Lancers goaltender Jamie Tessier. Sophomore forward Katherine Shirriff, and rookie Abby Rainsberry were credited with assists.

Poor defensive effort from the

Lancers led to another Hawks goal, with Shirriff going top-shelf off assists from Rainsberry and Powers.

"We have a lot of outside speed... I think we just skated a lot better than they did today," said Osborne.

The final goal of the game was the result of a beautiful play, coming again from the Psota/Fortuna duo. Fortuna now leads her team in scoring, with a total of six goals in four games.

The Hawks travel to Kingston this Saturday, October 25, to face the 2-1 Queen's Gaels.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
October 20 - 26, 2008
RECENT SCORES

10.19.08

M Rugby 14 - Windsor 0
M Soccer 2 - Western 1
W Soccer 4 - Western 0
W Lacrosse 19 - McMaster 1
W Hockey 5 - Windsor 0
W Basketball 43 - UOAM 66
M Volleyball 1 - UNB 3

10.18.08

M Football 50 - York 12
M Soccer 4 - Windsor 1
W Volleyball 0 - Brock 3
W Lacrosse 18 - McGill 1
W Hockey 5 - Western 3
M Hockey 3 - Western 4
W Basketball 61 - Waterloo 56
M Volleyball 3 - York 0
M Basketball 70 - Dalhousie 75
M Volleyball 5 - Queen's 2

10.17.08

M Basketball 74 - Windsor 5
W Volleyball 74 - York 60
M Volleyball 4 - Ryerson 3
M Volleyball 3 - UNB 2
M Basketball 72 - Cambrian College 60

10.16.08

M Basketball 78 - Laurentian 96

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

10.22.08

W Soccer vs Waterloo
Alumni Field, 3:00 pm

10.24.08

M Basketball vs Bishop's
Athletic Complex, 6:00 pm

10.25.08

M Football vs McMaster
Quarter Final
Knight-Newbrough Field, 6:00 pm
M Soccer Quarterfinals vs TBA
Alumni Field, 1:00 pm
M Basketball vs Concordia
Athletic Complex, 7:00 pm

10.16.08

W Basketball vs Laurentian
Athletic Complex, 12:00 pm
W Lacrosse Championships
Knight-Newbrough Field

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Jean-Michael Rizk Men's Hockey
Heather Malizia Women's Soccer
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RYAN STEWART

STONEWALLED - Lions' running back Ryan Rowe runs right into defensive back Peter McDougall as the Hawks' defence held York to a mere 13 points while putting up 50 of their own.

Hawks enter playoffs after win

Laurier moves up to eighth in the CIS national rankings after a 50-13 pounding of the York Lions; they finish the season 6-2

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

It wasn't exactly the performance they were aiming for, but the Golden Hawks football team concluded their regular-season play with a 50-13 win over the York Lions on Saturday.

"You have to take into consideration the number of new people that played. We got a lot of people in the line who got a lot of experience today," said Manager of Football Operations and Head Coach Gary Jeffries. "Can we play better? Of course we can. And we're going to have to for sure."

The game was filled with penalties, culminating in 115 yards from 14 calls for the Hawks. The Lions collected 105 yards in nine calls.

The Hawks put their first seven

points on the board just 3:40 into the first quarter when second-year quarterback Luke Thompson completed a 45-yard pass to receiver B.J. Malott for the touchdown.

Thompson went 10 for 17, passing for 185 yards. He had three interceptions and three touchdowns.

"Turnovers and penalties were pretty much the story," commented Thompson. "I'll take the blame for them, but it's nothing we can't clean up going into the playoffs."

Penalties caused two consecutive touchdowns by the Hawks to be called back before the first quarter was even finished. Taking a gamble on third and short, Thompson ended the quarter with a seven-yard pass to rookie receiver Shamawd Chambers in the endzone.

The second quarter saw York score their first touchdown since

week three, and only their third of the season. The Lions picked up two records on the day, the first being least points scored in a season and the second being the most points scored against a team in one season in the history of the OUA.

Third-year receiver Josh Bishop closed out the half with a 32-yard touchdown catch putting the Hawks up 23-7. Bishop led the receiving corps with 100 yards in five catches and the touchdown.

"Coach told us to come out firing, but it's hard to get up for a game when they have an 0-7 record. I don't think we did a good job of it," said Thompson, who watched the rest of the game from the bench.

"I could have done a better job of getting the offence together to play the way that we should have played. We will just clean it up and

look forward to the playoffs. The real season starts now."

Fourth-year quarterback Ian Noble led the Hawks through a slightly better second half, yet still the Hawks' play remained sloppy. The lone score in the third quarter was a blocked punt, caught in the air by rookie linebacker Daniel Bishop, who returned the ball 40 yards to the endzone.

Rounding out the action in the fourth were two more Laurier touchdowns, two Chris Mamo field goals and a multitude of penalties on both sides of the ball.

"Those are going to kill us in the playoffs for sure, against a team that's on our level. We can't take that kind of stuff," said Pinder. "We know how to play better, we can play better; it's just a matter of doing it."

"I'm not overly thrilled with the officiating crew," commented Jeffries about some of the calls. "A lot of the stuff that I saw was not an issue, but we do have to clean up some stuff that we won't get away with in the playoffs."

The Hawks will host another meeting with the McMaster Marauders next Saturday in the first round of OUA playoff action.

"They're a good football team, they put up a lot of yardage on us during the season, so we're going to have to do a better job defensively against the pass," said Jeffries. "Offensively we proved we can move the ball against them - it's going to be one hell of a game."

"Our defence struggled, so it will be a good game for [us] to prove that we are one of the best around," said Pinder.

Women's volleyball open season with loss

ANDREA MILLET
STAFF WRITER

It was an uninspiring beginning for the Golden Hawks women's volleyball team last Saturday when they hosted the Brock Badgers in their first game of the 2008-09 season.

The Hawks had to settle for defeat after losing the first three sets of the best-of-five game.

"There was no sign of the team that we've been training with," commented Head Coach Luke Snider. "We looked scared and weren't able to do the things that we normally would."

The Hawks hit the court in the first set but

couldn't keep up with their opponents, and they trailed the Badgers throughout. The teams held long rallies, keeping the ball up, but in the end the Badgers took the win 25-21.

Coming back for the second set the Hawks seemed to pick up their play, matching the Badgers point-for-point. They moved the ball well and continued to rally, but they fell just short with a 27-25 loss.

"I thought our ball control was at least satisfactory," said Snider. "There were some times where there was a miscommunication that directly cost us a point and that's something that we obviously need to work on. There should never be a point that you lose

on miscommunication."

Returning for the third set, the Hawks needed a win to stay in contention but they stepped onto the court looking nervous and disheartened.

The Badgers took control and pulled away, stretching their lead over the Hawks to 8 points during the set. In the end they were unable to come back enough and lost the third set in a row 25-21.

"I think composure and handling our nerves are the biggest secret to our success. There's no team that wins a game that can't handle the pressure," said Snider.

"I think this team is very different from last year's team. We graduated five players

and our strengths are very different and it's yet to be determined whether those different strengths and different weaknesses will be a benefit or hindrance this year."

With four rookies and a much different squad, the Hawks look to do better than their first-round playoff elimination last year.

"We've got four new girls who have a lot to learn and are improving everyday," said Snider. "I'm looking forward to giving them, more of them, a good shot on the courts in matches."

The Hawks will look to come back from their season opener disappointment this weekend, when they travel to Thunder Bay on Saturday to face the Lakehead Thunderwolves.

Becoming a Laur

With well-established teams such as men's lacrosse and women's fastpitch,
The Cord takes an in-depth look at the current system

LAURA CARLSON
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

Each year, Laurier Athletics spends approximately \$2.5 million dollars supporting Golden Hawks varsity teams in hopes of achieving athletic success and maintaining WLU's reputation as an elite sport establishment.

This budget, which contains money from student fees, the university operating budget, corporate sponsorship, fundraisers and alumni donations, is distributed amongst Laurier's 20 varsity teams, with the level of funding determined by each team's financial needs. This includes travel, equipment, facility usage, meals, recruiting and coaching staff.

"We really have a one-tier system," explained Laurier's Director of Athletics and Recreation Peter Baxter. "It's the same for everybody," he said regarding the distribution of funds.

Teams such as football and men and women's hockey are allocated the highest amount of funding, receiving \$301,666, \$179,153 and \$133,220 respectively; Baxter notes that this is because they incur the highest expenses.

However, there are WLU teams, such as men's lacrosse and women's fastpitch, that receive no money from Laurier Athletics,

and are required to independently raise their own.

"We do have a policy as to what constitutes funding," said Baxter. "For teams to come under the athletic department they have to be an OUA [Ontario University Athletics] sanctioned sport."

The OUA is the governing body under which all university varsity sports in the province compete.

"We have pretty strict criteria of entering new sports," explained Executive Director of the OUA, Ward Dilse.

"If a new sport provides an application they have to have signatures of eight athletics directors ... [and] you have to commit to that sport for at least two years," he added.

"WE'RE NOT EVEN ON THE WEBSITE; PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WE'RE EVEN A TEAM."

- Glen Bryan, men's lacrosse player

One team in particular which has attempted to get OUA sanctioning is men's lacrosse. Though they came close in 2000 when they had the support of six schools, just two shy of the needed eight, since then they have not met the requirements to obtain OUA status.

"There were a lot of schools that, simply

put, didn't want to recognize [lacrosse] because they would have to give funding," said Baxter of the situation in 2000.

This is because some universities have policies, which would require them to do so if lacrosse were to become an OUA sport.

While men's university lacrosse teams don't play in the OUA like the women do, they do compete in the Canadian University Field Lacrosse Association (CUFLA), which has been in existence since 1985.

CUFLA is the premier field lacrosse league in the country and consists of 12 teams from Ontario and Quebec.

Recently, a league has also developed in the Maritimes, with which CUFLA hopes to merge in the not-too-distant future.

"The hope is that in the next four years that we would merge and establish a viable schedule both with travel and level of competition," said Director of Communications for CUFLA John Chidley-Hill.

Since they play in CUFLA, as opposed to the OUA, the men's lacrosse team is denied funding and recognition from Laurier.

"It sucks, obviously," said Glen Bryan, a second-year player. "We're not even on the website; people don't know we're even a team."

They raise money through fundraisers such as t-shirt sales, and barbecues, and the team is also planning a year-end alumni

banquet. Players themselves have to cover their equipment and uniform costs, as well as pay a participation fee.

"All the kids paid \$250 to play, and there's no guarantee that they're even going to get onto the field," explained Lacrosse Coach Grant Phillips.

Phillips' involvement with the team is completely voluntary, and he commutes to Waterloo from St. Catharine's several times a week.

"The schools just don't have the resources," said Phillips in regards to funding for teams such as men's lacrosse.

"Are we behind ... compared to other schools? Absolutely."

"Does our school have the funds right now to allocate? ... No, they don't."

Different schools within CUFLA are drastically different in the way they fund their teams, explained Chidley-Hill.

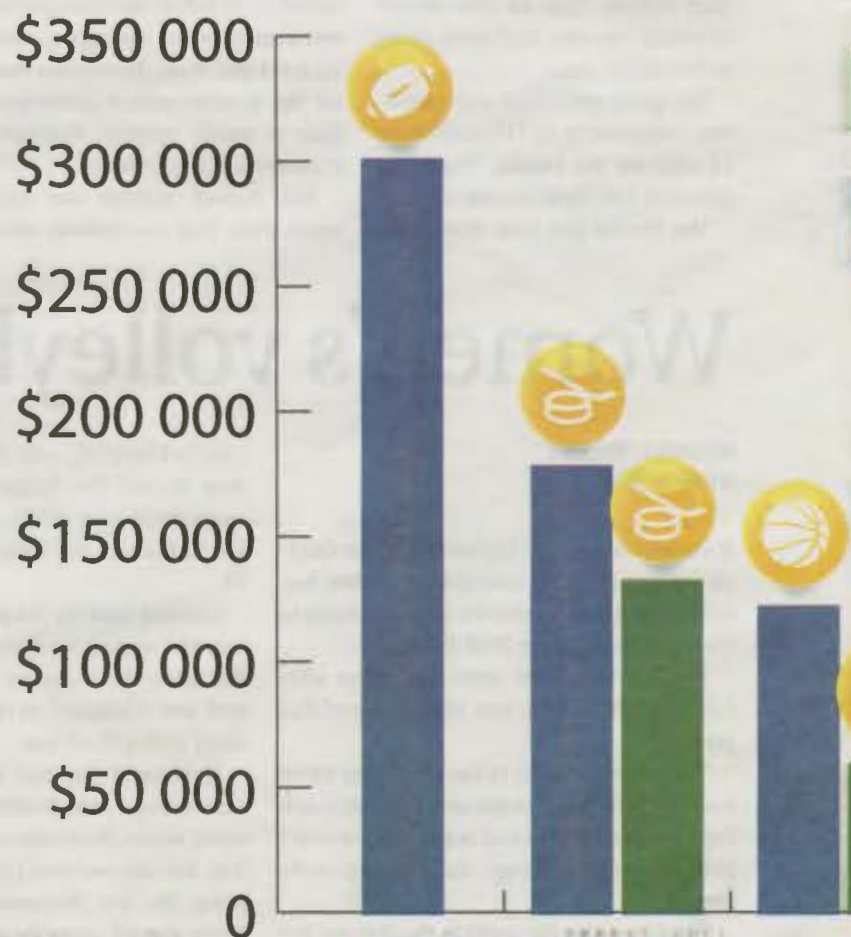
"There's a wide variety," he said, noting that while some teams such as Laurier's get no funding from their school, others do receive money or at least university recognition.

One school which does fund their men's lacrosse team is Brock University, though. Director of Athletics Lorne Adams notes that this is for historical reasons, since the team has been receiving university funding and recognition for the past 20 years.

"We don't have any other teams that receive funding from the department of athletic



Laurier Athletics funding



ier Golden Hawk

stpitch being denied funding and varsity status from Laurier Athletics, that keeps them on the outside of WLU's official sports

ics unless they are an OUA or CIS [Canadian Interuniversity Sports] team," said Adams.

Policies such as this, which exist at Brock, Laurier and several other universities across the province, are what prompt many teams to seek out OUA sanctioning.

In 2002, men's baseball was successful in doing this.

Scott Ballantyne, current coach of Laurier baseball, began playing for the team in 1999 when they were not yet considered a varsity sport.

"It was good that we got to play baseball at university, but it really wasn't the full student-athlete experience," said Ballantyne as to what prompted them to begin the process of joining the OUA.

"A lot of schools realized that we needed to do something more, so we started lobbying to the athletics departments," he said.

"Once we became a varsity sport, [the players] all had the same uniforms, we travelled on busses," said Allantyne.

"Each year it has just continued to get better and better."

Another sport at Laurier which remains on the outside of the OUA is women's fastpitch.

Dilse of the OUA notes that even though teams such as fastpitch and men's lacrosse may have a better chance getting sanctioned because they compete in already established leagues, they must go through the necessary process.

"Lacrosse and women's fastpitch are two sports that have very successful leagues outside of OUA," said Dilse.

“EVENTUALLY IT DOES COME DOWN TO MONEY ... EVERYONE WANTS TO WEAR THE GOLDEN HAWK.”

-Peter Baxter, director of Laurier Athletics

"You hear rumblings that they want to come forward and enter, but they've never got to that point that baseball did and made that application."

Fastpitch, which was established as a campus club at Laurier in 2002, has recently proved they can compete with the best in the country, placing second in the national tournament in Calgary over Thanksgiving, and third in the Ontario Intercollegiate Women's Fastpitch Association (OIWFA) championships this past weekend.

"We have met with Peter Baxter twice to discuss where we are as a team, and he has basically told us where Laurier is in terms of funding," said fastpitch Coach Kevin Fagg. "At this time there is not the funding for women's fastpitch."

Fagg notes that in speaking with coaches from other schools it appears that his team receives "significantly less" money than

others, fewer perks such as storage space on campus, and a general lack of recognition.

“[The players] aren’t allowed to go to the athletic banquet, and they aren’t treated the same as some of the other athletic sports,” said Fagg, noting that it’s exceptionally difficult for the team since some schools grant such privileges.

athletics The University of Ottawa, for instance, allows their fastpitch team to display the Gee Gees logo on their uniforms. They also receive recognition on the athletics website.

The Ottawa fastpitch team falls under the category of a competitive sport, which differentiates from the school's varsity teams.

"We have a very complex recognition system," explained Director of Sport Services at Ottawa Luc Gélneau.

"Every four years, basically, we review the programs and determine which ones are varsity and which ones are a competitive club."

A sport can only be recognized as varsity if it has a CIS championship, full-time coaching staff, available facilities, and a win percentage of 60 among other things.

Gélineau notes that teams recognized as competitive clubs receive significantly less funding than varsity sports, and can have their status revoked if they don't meet certain criteria.

"We cannot offer, I don't think, a positive

experience" to all sports, said Gélinau.

"So we just basically offer the competitive opportunity, but not at the varsity level."

While schools such as Ottawa, Queen's and Western have opted for a tiered program, current policies and financial constraints at WLU prevent Laurier Athletics from adopting such a system.

Representatives from programs such as cricket, triathlon and ultimate frisbee have approached Baxter in hopes of becoming a part of Laurier Athletics, yet at this time these requests are not feasible.

Becoming official Golden Hawks would require the implementation of certain insurances for the team, such as abiding by travel policies, the monitoring of the athlete's health and fitness, and ensuring equipment standards are met.


"Eventually it does come down to money," said Baxter. "Everyone wants to wear the Golden Hawk."

Baxter noted that Laurier Athletics is currently in the primary stages of conducting a program review - the first in over 10 years - which will evaluate money, staff and facilities available in the department.

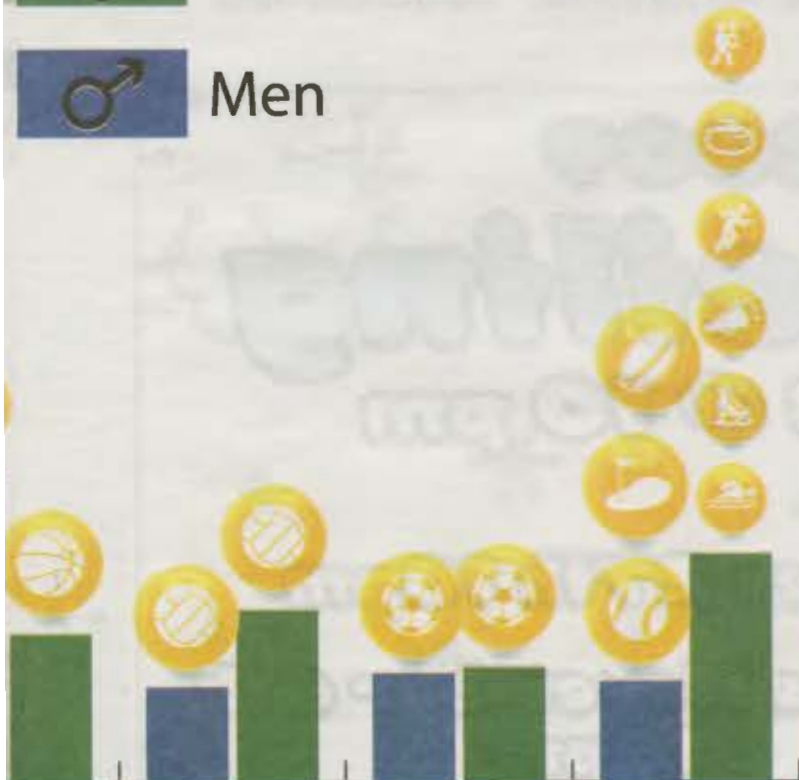
"I think it's time for us to check as a university ... when it comes to student interest, resources, support, facility, all of that, and say 'okay, do we have it right?'"

See **PAGE 18** for editorial reaction to this story

standing distribution



Women


Men

Scandalous roommate drama

If you live in residence or you've graduated to off-campus housing, surely you can relate to these stories of messy rooms and smelly roommates

ANDREA MATHIESON
CORD STUDENT LIFE

University is a place full of firsts; the most significant perhaps is living in residence or a house with people other than your family. This constitutes both positive and negative experiences. There are a few simple things to do to make this transition easier and less painful.

Second-year environmental studies student Lesley Harris* remembers the problems she had with her residence roommate, stemming mainly from a sudden overdose of independence.

Living in such close proximity to members of the opposite sex, along with fewer restrictions on alcohol and rules in general, caused many problems. Her roommate would bring different boys back to the room each night, asking her to leave.

The girl's newfound love for alcohol became apparent, as she even got sick all over the room from time to time. For Harris, this was obviously not pleasant.

Residence is a hard place to adjust to, and dons do not have much information to pair up roommates. The differences in interests become apparent at the beginning, and problems sometimes occur regardless of the precautions you take. Try to bond over something small, like similar tastes in music or movies to open up lines of communication.

Setting up ground rules at the beginning of the year, especially in regards to bringing "guests" over, might solve one problem before it starts. Further, remember that roommate problems go both ways; chances are both roommates have problems with each other. In residence, communication is key to solving any problems. If there is a major issue, your don is a potential resource for advice.

Moving out of residence and into a house for the first time is another necessary transition. Living with friends is awkward territory; confrontation is hard when it can affect a friendship.

Third-year communications student Kaylee Ransdell says of one of her roommates, "He smells bad, he steals food, he doesn't do his dishes or any of his other chores, and he's really messy." Though she has tried many solutions, including leaving notes, speaking with the perpetrator and even communicating with the landlord, nothing has worked. She feels uncomfortable going home or even leaving her room because he might be around.

The kitchen and common area is where many problems with roommates occur. Stealing food is one of the worst problems; some roommates feel entitled to eat whatever is in the kitchen regardless of who bought it. This might seem trivial but when all you want is a bagel and your last one has been eaten, your thoughts will be different.

Establishing specific areas for each roommate to put their food or labelling food so there can be no ownership mistakes can help in the kitchen.

Cleanliness is another issue, and you should ask yourself these questions: whose job is it to clean the bathroom now that your mom is not around to do it? Doesn't a lack of a dishwasher mean dishes won't get done? What do you mean, wipe the counters down? This becomes an issue especially when one roommate is cleaner than the rest and finds themselves doing everything.

Setting up a chore schedule and some sort of punishment for not completing a task might help. Reminder signs above sinks to "do the dishes" or clean the bathroom are also helpful. Remember, this is not home. Things will never be as clean



GRAPHIC BY ALI WILLIAMS

ROOMMATE RUMBLE - It can be tough to live in close quarters when things aren't going smoothly at home.

as they are there. Simple hygiene is enough.

Many people try to solve their problems by being passive-aggressive. This not only avoids confrontation with friends, but there is a small hope that they might get the hint and do their dishes, or stop

stealing food. This will not work in the long run. Sometimes, the only solution is to have that awkward conversation to fix the problem.

Remember: all roommates signed a lease or agreement and have the right to be there, no matter how stinky, weird, dirty or awkward

they might be. The year will go a lot smoother if communication lines run free and people are willing to accept differences amongst each other.

**Name has been changed in the interest of roommate relations.*

Winter Carnival 2009

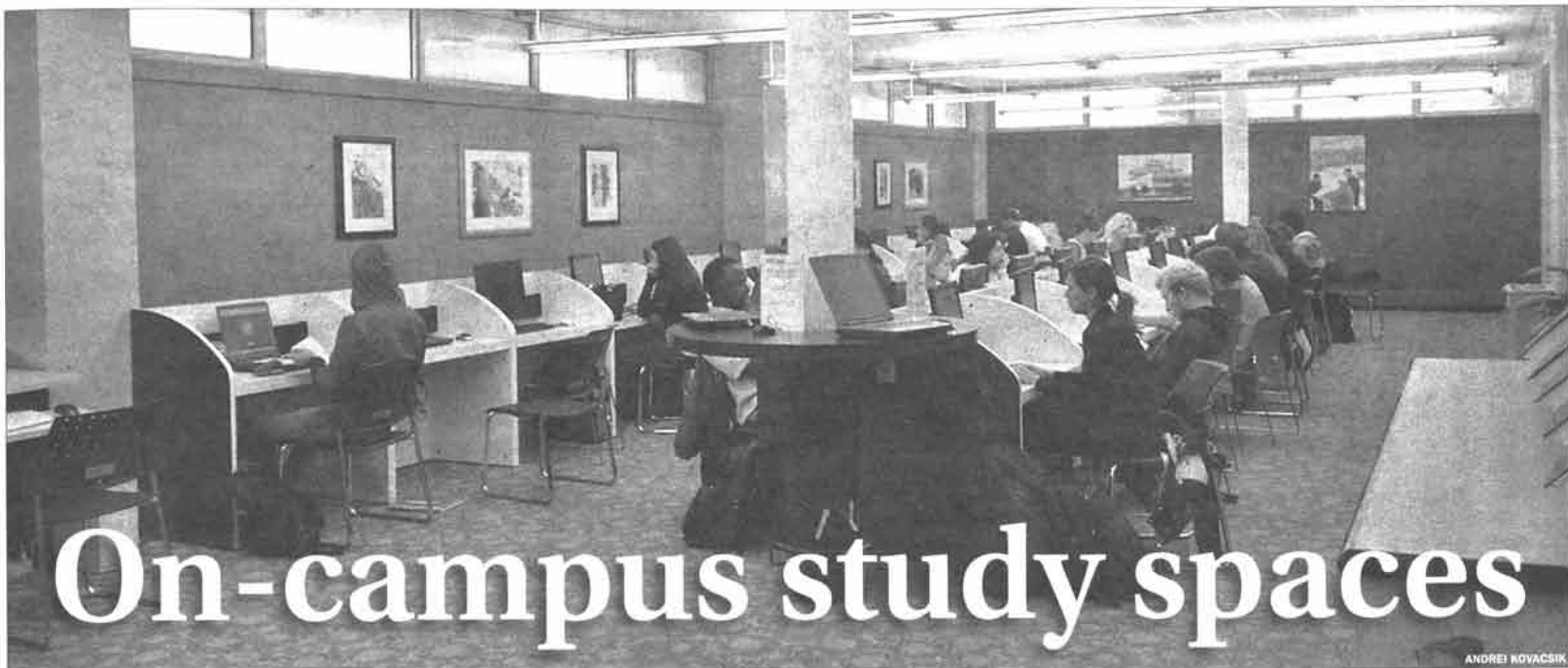
Theme Unveiling

Thursday, October 23 @ 10 pm
Concourse

Info Session Mon October 27th 10pm

Capt'n's Meeting Thurs November 6th
10pm

SU



ANDREI KOVACSIIK

On-campus study spaces

Midterms are well underway at WLU, and **Natalie Dias** has found the best study spaces on campus to get your learning on

NATALIE DIAS
CORD STUDENT LIFE

If you're wondering where to study on campus this semester, have no fear – here's a quick summary of some sure-fire study spots around Laurier.

The Library

An obvious choice, I know. With extended hours during midterms and all-night during the final exam period, the library has been steadily improving over the last few years. There's a myth that the higher the floor, the quieter it is, but students are known to have phones and laptops everywhere they go, so beware.

The best bet is to case each floor until you find one you like, or book

a private study room. Courtney Lavigne, a second-year political science student, enjoys the library "if people aren't on their cell phones."

The Concourse & 24-Hour Lounge

As two of the very few places truly open 24 hours on campus, these are social areas. Known to have students roaming through at all hours, they aren't exactly the places for peace and quiet.

The caretaker staff begins their day around 4-5 a.m. – just when most students have given up for the night. So if you're hitting the Concourse or the 24-Hour Lounge for an all-nighter, be ready to concentrate around distractions. On the plus side, who doesn't love the central location?

The Science Building

This is a nice spot because of its atrium design and the convenience of a well-stocked Tim Horton's. Space is limited and there's a steady hum of noise and traffic thanks to classes and the Tim's.

Attached to Bricker Academic, there are tons of students taking advantage of the study space, so you need to arrive early to stake out a spot. Third-year psychology student Sarah Harmer prefers the Science Building but isn't impressed by its reduced hours.

Schlegel Centre

The business building has limited space but it tends to be a tad quieter than the Science Building. The crowd tends to be primarily

business, economics and finance students but the real draws are the sparkly floors and the Tim Horton's right around the corner.

If you want an indoor location, this isn't a bad choice. The doors do get locked late at night, though, so make sure when you leave for the night, all your stuff goes with you.

Random and Miscellaneous

A fellow student suggested the Dining Hall (post-food-production), Bricker Academic's lounges, and the first three of this list.

Jake Walters, a second-year philosophy student, had this advice: "The Solarium sucks because it's way too hot. It's like a sauna in there."

During my four years of study at Laurier, I've discovered that the

ASAP student lounges scattered throughout the DAWB are great, as is the Co-Op and Career Services Centre (during operating hours).

The Business Office was better when they had the Tim Horton's, but if you bring your own beverage, it's nice. The same goes for the benches throughout the Peters Building.

A lot of students just take over empty classrooms for convenience. Given Laurier's limited campus space, study spots are highly coveted and students have become creative... If you know of a good study spot, I suggest sharing it so future generations don't miss out. In the meantime, good luck!

Blanket drive in full swing

Two Wilfrid Laurier University students become activists for those caught in the cold during the winter months in the Kitchener-Waterloo community

MICHELLE CALDARONI
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

The WLU Blanket Drive campaign is currently up and running in the Laurier community, after a course inspired two students to become activists for a cause.

Roommates Vanessa Zahra and Kristin Schaefer, both fourth-year English majors, came up with the idea of having a blanket drive to keep people in Kitchener-Waterloo out of the cold, after professor Madelaine Hron encouraged students to become activists in their communities.

At first, Zahra and Schaefer ran into road blocks while trying to reach out to the community, and had issues with their original plan. One event was going to be held at which people could come and get free winter-wear and blankets but, as the women were told by other organizations, this was not the way people like to be helped. "Some

people aren't interested in doing things publicly, it's more private the way they do it," said Schaefer.

With that in mind, the pair have improved their campaign to cater to the needs of all people, by donating the collections of their campaign to various organizations in the KW area.

To reach all demographics, the pair decided to send their collected items to groups already established within the community. This way, "even if it was a single mom and she couldn't afford coats or something she could pick that stuff up. It's not necessarily homeless people, just people in need," said Schaefer.

The WLU Blanket Drive will donate much of what they collect to a group called Out of the Cold. Schaefer explained, "We're dealing a lot with Out of the Cold, and the way it works is that they have a meal set up and they have the option for sleeping over. Even if you do have access to a house but don't have

everything, you can go there to pick up prepared meals and supplies if you need them – winter coats and things."

"We're collecting hats, coats and gloves too," added Zahra.

As both women are students at Laurier, getting other students involved with the Blanket Drive was one of their main concerns, so the campaign does not focus on monetary donations – although that is an option. "We know that we're all broke students here, and we want to do something that people can actually feel good about doing and are capable of doing," said Zahra.

If you would like to donate to the WLU Blanket Drive – whether you have a hat, scarf, or blanket you can give – you can drop off your donation in the Concourse on October 27 and October 28, or you can join the Facebook group Operation Christmas Bum.



LAURA TOMKINS

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Last week's solution

5	9	7	3	8	2	4	1	6
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1	7	9	8	2	3	6	5	4
6	2	5	1	9	4	3	7	8
8	4	3	6	5	7	2	9	1
2	3	8	7	6	9	1	4	5
7	5	1	2	4	8	9	6	3
9	6	4	5	3	1	8	2	7

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WLU Athletics needs better funding system

There are some problems with the way Laurier Athletics is organized.

Two teams at Laurier, the men's lacrosse team and women's fastpitch team, do not receive any funding from Laurier Athletics.

The reason for this? These two teams are not sanctioned by Ontario University Athletics (OUA). It is Laurier Athletics' policy that only OUA-sanctioned teams can be part of the organization, which would qualify them to receive the money they need to operate without having to raise funds.

This means both teams must do all of their own fundraising just to be able to play. The men's lacrosse players must pay roughly \$250 each at the start of the season, with no guarantee that they'll ever get to see time on the field.

Belonging to Athletics goes beyond money, however. The lacrosse and fastpitch players don't get any of the perks or any of the recognition afforded to varsity athletes. They are not invited to the year-end banquet, and can't even wear the Golden Hawk logo on their uniforms.

They also don't get any mention on the Laurier Athletics website.

The inequity here is obvious. The members of these teams must de-

vote a great deal of their time and energy to their sports, yet do not receive recognition as athletes, even when they win championships.

It is discouraging for some players to not be included in the student-athlete experience like many of their peers.

Furthermore, how are these teams expected to perform well if they don't have the same support systems in place that varsity teams do?

Many other schools in Ontario have a tiered athletic system, in which non-OUA-sanctioned teams can still be part of the organizations, but with reduced funding opportunities.

Such a system would be far more equitable and fair to all athletes representing WLU.

Even if the money is tight, there's no reason that men's lacrosse and women's fastpitch can't at least get the recognition they deserve. Belonging to Laurier Athletics would be a significant boon.

It would help them fundraise and make them more visible to the rest of the student body. But most importantly, it would end the system that makes some WLU athletes more valued than others.



GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION

Students should know about campus politics

We should care about issues on a local level as much as federal politics



During any federal election, students are constantly called upon to show a greater interest in politics, and vote. While I wholeheartedly agree, there remains a more prominent and topical problem, and one that hits much closer to home – that we don't care about the politics at our own school.

Yes, federal and provincial politics have a much greater scope, but little attention is given to a sphere where students actually have the power to inflict instant and meaningful change.

We say we care about the environment, we say we care about tuition increase, but instead of working with or paying attention to campus groups like Campus Greens or the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) to take steps at our own school, many students merely complain that they are powerless.

The fact is that there are many ways students can make a difference almost immediately that can have a much more relevant impact on their lives than watching the Conservative party get another minority government.

Not to say that I don't encourage voting, but there are so many ways students can empower themselves on a more immediate level. The trick is balancing your involvement on both levels.

Involve yourself on a campus level and educate yourself on a

federal level; if you can involve yourself with both, that's even better, but let's not get ahead of ourselves.

While getting involved can seem like an arduous task, it really involves little more than paying attention.

Scan the bulletin boards on campus when you walk around, instead of just looking at the pretty colours. Check the websites of campus groups, and even walk in on the occasional board meeting.

The gallery in the WLUSU board-room is there for a reason.

Especially when issues affecting the welfare of students arise, students should be the majority of those speaking out when the floor is open to discussion.

Do we really want to give all of our legislative power to a group of 15 students elected by less than 20 percent of the Laurier population?

It's not just about WLUSU though, it's about listening and watching what is happening around us. University should be a time for activism and change.

I'm not suggesting that you give up on your courses and social life, join a campus group and devote your life and soul to it. I'm just asking you to care.

Getting involved can be as easy as reading Laurier's various publications or being curious when you see something interesting happening on campus.

The trick is thinking about things on campus critically when you are exposed to them.

As mature adults, we need to regain the curiosity many of us have lost, in part due to a massive pile

of work and drunken parties.

While students need make an effort, campus groups have a part to play too. Many groups project an air of superiority, whether consciously or unconsciously, either by using complicated language involving policy or even by behaving as intellectual cliques closed to those uninformed about the issues.

If campus groups want to engage students, they need to start making things clearer for them. With a slew of readings and mid-terms, the reality is that many students don't have the motivation to do research about specific groups and the inner workings of the school even if, in an ideal world, they should.

But more importantly, students need to realize it is in their interest to participate, not merely the interest of various student groups to attract volunteers. I think it's safe to say that, as university students, we should be able to accept responsibility for ourselves and take initiative.

What it comes down to is whether we want others speaking for us; do we want to let the university and the few individuals involved make decisions that affect us every day?

In order to rectify the problem, we need merely open our eyes and pay attention to the campus around us. Let that be our first step. Then maybe we can start seriously considering things like federal politics.

letters@cordweekly.com

Eco coalition encouraging

It's hard not to be optimistic about Laurier's new Campus Environmental Coalition (CEC).

The alliance, which joins together already existing campus groups with green interests such as the EcoHawks and LSPRG, is a great idea, and is much needed at WLU.

While each individual campus group in the CEC tackles environmental issues in their own way, together they can create a strong voice for environmentalists.

Their first event, which was held last Thursday, was an open forum for students to give their input on green issues around campus. So far, the CEC has been highly democratic in their operations, and students should use this opportunity to bring forth their opinions on environmental topics.

What is most promising about the newly created CEC is that it may mark a turning point on campus. Perhaps WLU is finally taking green policy seriously.

The large support for the Green Party in our riding during the federal election could be some indication that this has already started to occur. So, too, could be the increased recycling and composting policies that have been enacted this year.

If the administration is finally ready to seriously listen to environmental concerns, the CEC finally presents a strong, consolidated voice to which they can listen.

Being optimistic is the easy part. Now, the CEC, and Laurier's student body in general, need to go the distance to make sustainability a reality.

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.

THE CORD WEEKLY

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High school doesn't prepare for university



DEVON BUTLER
HYDE PARK CORNER

Last week, I had a rather disturbing experience: my high school graduation ceremony. I sported a gold and burgundy gown and walked across the stage at Centre in the Square, all to receive a piece of paper. This piece of paper represented the four years of hard work I had put into high school.

What disturbed me the most about this evening was that I was sharing my hard-earned diploma with my peers; a large portion of them had spent the last four years skipping classes and neglecting to hand in assignments.

This slacking-off mentality was excusable, as the fifth-year "victory lap" was always an option.

The students, however, are only partially to blame, for it is the teachers and ultimately the education system that continuously passed them through. So far in my university career, it's been made crystal clear that neglecting to complete essays and other assignments on time will no doubt land you with the label of "Christmas Graduate."

The concept of having to commit an effort in order to succeed in academics struck me as a completely new notion.

Beginning in grade nine and onwards through twelve, teachers have had the tendency to baby their students. Didn't hand in an assignment on time? Lucky for you, most teachers accepted late assignments without penalty.

For those very negligent students, at the end of each term there was a newly implemented practice called "Credit Rescue." This consisted of a few hours near exam day in which you visit with your teacher in an attempt to finish all your incomplete assignments. In essence, you demonstrate your competence to a teacher and are awarded the course credit.

Though credit rescue can help struggling students to obtain a high school diploma when they originally might not have been able to, the academic streams should be much more challenging.

Instead of challenging or preparing grade twelve students for university, most teachers would lecture on the ignorance of high school students and attempt to scare us from post-secondary.

The teachers also spoke often of a place called "the real world." This place, as they described, was usually university or college; here we would have to persevere and accept personal and academic responsibility.

Essentially, the teachers were telling us that the world would not be as easy and inadequate as most of high school was.



RYAN STEWART

HIGH SCHOOL UP THE STREET - WCI on Hazel St. is one of Laurier's local feeder schools.

Well, after surviving these torturous years, I finally made it into the "real world." Eagerly anticipating the complexity of my university studies, I found myself in lectures devoted to the principles of writing a paper, citing a paper and formulating a thesis.

Though some of these instructions can be helpful, universities should not have to accommodate improperly prepared students.

Most professors find teaching first-years the basics of essay-writing to be tiring. There have been complaints about the quality of freshmen's work and their inability to write proper academic essays.

As a result of this failing education system, whether Catholic, or public, it has consequently diminished the quality of education we receive on a post-secondary level.

An integral part of any university is now academic assistance. Universities end up having to organize and fund resources such as Laurier's Writing Centre and Study Skills Centre to cater to the lack of readiness in

most students.

Why does our secondary education system not properly prepare us? Is it the quality of the teachers or the fundamentals of the administrators? Just because most grade twelve marks are inflated does not mean we have the ability to excel in places of higher learning; giving us these marks only ends up hurting us.

Though we all need help at certain times, university should not lower itself to high school standards.

As for high school, I've tried to repress the four years and graduation ceremony, but I cannot repress the feeling of being insufficiently taught. But I hope my fellow peers at Wilfrid Laurier and across the province can take the proper action to turn the education system around, and help those in future generations.

letters@cordweekly.com

Voting was made difficult for students



ALLIE MAXTED
RESIDENT CYNIC

Some are calling the results of this election the most disappointing in history, with all parties failing to achieve their goals. After witnessing the reality of the voting process this year, particularly for students, the official results of the election feel unimportant by comparison.

For the first time ever, I worked as an election officer. My title was

Information Officer at the Village 1 polling station for the residences of University of Waterloo - essentially, I was the gatekeeper.

I was the one who looked young, first-time voters in the face and informed them they didn't have the right ID to vote. I was also the one who managed the lineup lasting an hour or more the entire day, up to almost two hours as the polls approached closing time.

I was also the one who pleaded with students to overcome all the barriers our system threw at them, and watched as dozens gave up.

Despite all of our best efforts, the

polling station was a bureaucratic mess. We had two polls at our station, and Elections Canada had placed all but one residence at one poll and left the other one nearly empty. Nearly 5,000 students live in those residences.

This was particularly upsetting for young students, since the only residence facing no lineup was Columbia Lake, the one predominantly for older grad students and families.

Young undergrads watched from their lineup as Columbia Lake residents were in and out in minutes, asking us why they couldn't vote at the poll that was completely

empty.

I don't mean to insinuate there were deliberate attempts to stop young people from voting, but it is pretty obvious that little thought goes into the reality students face. Apathy is one problem, but these were students who actually tried to vote.

As students, we have no time guaranteed to go and vote. There is a law that an employer must provide three consecutive hours in which their employees can vote, but this law doesn't apply to classes, due dates or exams.

As one girl at the poll said to me, "they're essentially forcing us to choose between exams and voting."

As a further restraint, new voting rules that require proof of local residence target transient citizens. As students, we move often, and the address on our photo ID rarely matches our current one. Encompassing UW, Laurier and one Conestoga College campus, the Kitchener-Waterloo riding has a non-permanent resident population twice the national average.

Both Laurier and UW did a good service in helping their students in residence to overcome this obstacle by providing them with proof of residency.

At UW, e-mails were sent to students living in residence that they could print off and use. While most got the e-mails, there were still several I had to send away that did not get them, even after checking

again.

In addition, those living off-campus and thousands at other schools have reported problems coming up with proof.

After bi-elections using these new rules, the government conducted a study and concluded that 4 percent of those who did not vote cited lack of identification as their reasoning. This number appears small, but would be much larger for student, poor and aboriginal populations - who are also the most marginalized.

When we are faced with such apathy in our society, turning away even one person who came out to vote was heartbreaking.

This is especially true in a riding where the margin of victory was just 73 votes. The new voting rules were meant to prevent fraud, but the real fraud is an election decided by just over half of eligible voters. That was the true disappointment in this election.

I understand the logistics behind much of the bureaucracy, but there must be some way we can accommodate any Canadian citizen who wishes to vote. What we need in our system is fewer rules and more faith in people.

The obstacles put in place were not impossible to overcome, but posed a serious challenge. In this country, I thought we were past fighting for our right to vote.

letters@cordweekly.com

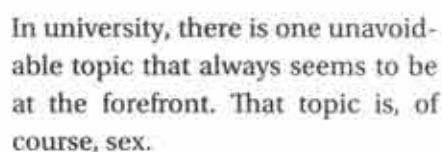
Campus Pictorial



ELLI GARLIN

WAX ON, WAX OFF - Chest hair removal is just part of another ordinary day in the Concourse.

It is taken for granted that university students are, and should be, having sex



Whether you're someone avidly pursuing it, or someone trying to maintain a stellar moral code in spite of the immense pressure around you to do it, there is no avoiding the subject. Each and every one of us is faced with making a clear moral decision about what our personal policies are towards sex.

There seems to be a general culture of promiscuity in university that puts pressure on all of us to have sex. It seems that this viewpoint is reinforced or, at a bare minimum, is hardly ever refuted by the university itself.

This is not to say that sexual education, free access to condoms or making students aware of sexual issues are wrong by any means. In fact, they're great steps that universities should be commended for taking.

However, the attitude given off seems to go beyond making people aware of sex: it actively encourages it. An obvious example of this would be the O-Week package given to first-year students at the beginning of the school year. It contained lube, a condom, and an ad for a local sex shop.

Ever since, I have been constantly bombarded with propaganda about sex and how, when we all inevitably end up having it with each other, condoms should always be a part of the equation. The advice seems to no longer be "if you have sex, use a condom," but "*when* you have sex, use a condom."

Heavily sexualized magazine cut-outs litter the hallways of dorm buildings. Many of the posters that seemed to sell the most copies at the poster sale were the most blatantly sexual ones. Sex is everywhere, and one could argue that people growing up in our culture today are more pressured than ever before to partake in it.

Particularly among guys, there is a general attitude projected that if you're not getting laid, you're a loser. And if you're a girl and not "putting out," chances are there's a whole bunch of guys who feel frustrated and angry at you for it.

There is also the ongoing attitude that it is perfectly acceptable to treat certain girls like mere sex objects if they act frivolous or sexually outgoing in the least. Regardless of how a girl may or may not act, this does not justify an attitude that dictates that it's okay to treat someone like a disposable pleasure and nothing more.

Now, don't get me wrong here; I'm not condemning people who choose to have sex. I am a social libertarian, after all.

If you've thoroughly analyzed your own moral perspective and have concluded that having a lot of casual and consensual sex is hon-

estly what you want to do, rather than something you merely feel pressured to do, then go ahead and keep on fucking!

But for many people here, it's not what they want to do. Some want to have sex only in the setting of a long-term relationship with someone they love, and others want to stay virginal until marriage.

The culture of promiscuity to which we're all exposed in university can often take the form of immense social pressure.

Many people feel heavily encouraged to throw caution and their own personal morality to the wind and dive head-first into a world of casual sex.

In this culture of promiscuity, abstinence itself is viewed as the greatest sin, and is looked upon mockingly and with great disdain.

At its worst, when you hear of sexual assaults on campus and in the surrounding community, it is evident that something is wrong with the very fabric of our society.

People react to such incidents with disgust and revulsion, as they damn well should. However, when trying to analyze the more extreme examples of this problem, one must look at the very roots of the culture that fosters it.

Truth be told, incidents like these are the symptoms of a culture of socially enforced promiscuity that many of us tend to encourage and emulate. People who carry out such atrocious acts are merely taking this culture to its ugliest extreme.

letters@cordweekly.com



HAVE SOME CONDOM SENSE - Rubbers are free for the taking at WLU.

**WLU students voted
more than you think**

There has been much reported on the general apathy of the Canadian voter in this last federal election. However there is one strong segment of our society who deserves our praise and admiration for their determination to exercise their franchise.

I had the opportunity to be a supervisor of seven voting polls at St. Andrew's Church on University Ave. across from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. Two of these polls were lined up for most of the day and one poll had a constant line-up from the moment it opened to half an hour after closing. Almost all of the voters were students from Laurier.

Not only did the Laurier students come out in droves to vote, but they were patient, respectful, and polite. They had to line up to register to vote as most of them live out of town. They wanted their roommates to vote as well so they had to take a verbal oath in order

to vouch for them. This took a lot of time and paperwork. One group of Laurier students was mistakenly sent to another location to vote and then sent back to our location. Most voters would have given up, but these four waited in line in two locations to vote.

Even though it was an extremely busy day with hundreds of people coming to vote, I know I speak for the staff who were working there, the students were, by far, a role model for all of us. They certainly have my vote.

-Brad Robertson
Central Poll Supervisor
St. Andrews Church

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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 or through our website at 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.

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On Special All Day

Is freedom of the press China's Olympic legacy?

Although the loosened censorship laws put in place for the Olympics were recently extended indefinitely, the rest of the world should not be fooled; these laws are barely even a beginning for Chinese freedom of expression



KEREN GOTTFRIED
RESIDENT GADFLY

Last Friday, literally fifteen minutes before they were set to expire, the media freedoms afforded to foreign journalists during the Olympic Games were extended indefinitely.

The special regulations for the Olympics were created in January 2007, allowing foreign reporters to travel freely without special permission from foreign affairs departments.

They no longer had to be accompanied by Chinese assistants (read: watchdogs) when reporting, and were now allowed to interview anyone so long as written consent was acquired. In addition, many Internet firewalls were removed.

Have the 2008 Olympic Games set a precedent for China to respect freedom of the press?

THE CHINESE PEOPLE WANT CHANGE, BUT THEIR DEFINITION OF CHANGE IS THE BABY-STEP APPROACH. THEY HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF REVOLUTION.

Don't think that this relaxation of media control came out of the goodness of the hearts of the governing Communist Party of China. The new rule set was a condition of winning the bid to host the summer games, stipulated by the International Olympic Committee.

Don't think these rules mean meaningful media freedom, either. The laws still ban foreign journalists from sensitive areas, including Tibet and culturally Tibetan communities in the West of China.

Implementation of the new rules is questionable. While urban centres respected them, areas in mainland China often completely ignored them.

As one foreign journalist described to the BBC, it was easy to pull out the rulebook in Beijing if an officer tried to stop you from doing your story. In the countryside, the police stopped reporters regardless, confiscating recording materials and detaining journalists in police stations.

Interviewees remain persecuted in China, where speaking with a journalist can mean losing your job or going to prison for causing unrest in the country.

The "Great Firewall of China" remains. Internet sites considered to be "unlawful, subversive or against

public order" are blocked.

This includes media sites reporting on issues like democracy and Tiananmen Square, sites related to the persecution of the Falun Gong community, "unregulated content" like Livejournal, pornography websites and information promoting the independence of Taiwan.

Perhaps most heinously, the new rules do nothing for local reporters. Though they were permitted to serve as assistants to the foreign media during the Olympics, they were never allowed to do their own reporting unless "appropriately" written.

With all print, TV and radio media run by the Chinese government, you can imagine the sort of investigative reporting that they pursue. There are currently 44 Chinese journalists in prison for inappropriate reporting.

Figuring out why China engages in these practices is no simple task. It is more than an issue of a human rights-hating villain, despite the framing we often see in our media.

In fact, Chinese officials often cite their vilification by foreign media as a reason for controlling reporting freedoms in their country.

They see it as a barrier to peaceful international relations.

The Chinese people want change, but their definition of change is the baby-step approach. They have had enough of revolution. With their tumultuous history, the threat of social disorder and chaos is a serious concern for them.

They worry that an extreme change in media freedom could overturn the calm they have achieved.

That's about where my sympathy ends. This narrative helps us describe why China acts the way it does, but not why it *ought* to act the way it does.

I am not just talking about the right to freedom of the press, though I personally believe it is the bedrock of a thriving society.

I am talking about saving lives. Covering up issues by not allowing reporters to talk about them can kill people.

The milk poisoning fiasco last month killed four children and poisoned over 50,000 infants. Beijing denied releasing statistics and disallowed reporters from telling the story, despite the supposed relaxed media controls instituted in 2007.

How many mothers do you think would have continued to feed their babies the milk if they read about

the disaster in the paper earlier rather than later?

I'd love to say that the Olympic media rules show China is moving in a positive direction, but if they are, they're moving tortoise-slow.

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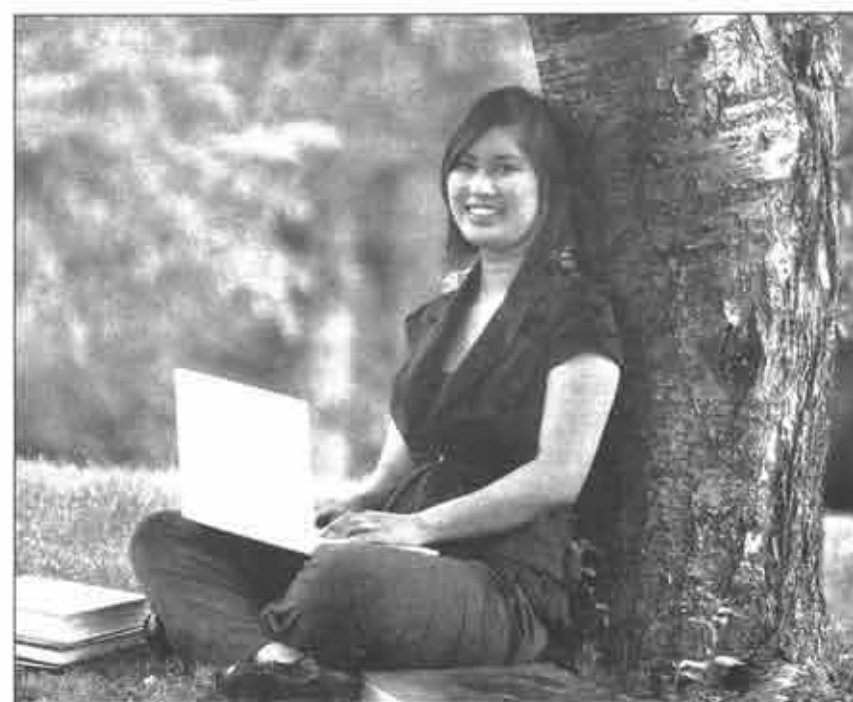
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Canada's Passchen

Laura Carlson is encouraged that Paul Gross's war flick is a milestone in Canadian filmmaking



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

MUD SUCKS - Literally and figuratively. Passchendaele delivers with epic and moving battle scenes.

LAURA CARLSON
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

Garnering much attention and great anticipation after being granted the prestigious opening screening at this year's Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), Paul Gross' *Passchendaele* was poised to be a breakthrough passion project in Canadian film.

With a budget of \$20 million - the largest ever for a home-financed Canadian movie - and over ten years in the making, a great buzz has circulated the release of *Passchendaele*, a rarity in the Canadian industry.

Audiences were to be given the chance to see a Canadian director present the Canadian war story, and avoid the indoctrination of American cinema, which has come to shape the discourse of how we perceive historical wars.

However, even this concentration on "our stories" is not enough to make *Passchendaele* live up to

the hopes that many had set for Canada's biggest commercial film in recent memory.

Passchendaele tells the story of Sergeant Michael Dunne (Gross), who has returned home after succumbing to injuries in the First World War.

The film jumps back and forth between the war and the prairies of Alberta, a setting that offers breathtaking landscapes which serve as a backdrop for some of the most visually stunning scenes of the film.

While struggling with his own personal issues resulting from his involvement in the overseas conflict, Dunne meets Sarah (Caroline Dhavernas), a young nurse who is also dealing with personal problems stemming from the war.

Combating a morphine addiction, coping with the death of her father (who died fighting for the "wrong side" in the war) and trying desperately to hold onto her brother (who wants more than anything to join the effort, despite a health

condition), Sarah soon becomes the object of Dunne's affection and the two quickly fall in love.

Though the complexities in the characters of Dunne and Sarah are present and the performances of Gross and Dhavernas are sufficient, the characters fail to draw in audiences, therefore evoking little emotional sentiment when tragedy ultimately strikes their romance.

The other central characters in the film seem quite shallow, and the subplots - such as the relationship between Sarah's brother and his girlfriend who is a social class above him - offer little to the overall picture.

However, it is the spectacular battle scenes, that both open and close the film, which offer the great iconic moments of the film. Unfortunately, they are few and far between.

Graphic - but not grotesque - these mesmerizing combat scenes are high in entertainment value, and are the most gripping mo-

ments in the film. The large budget becomes evident in these scenes, a payoff for Gross in that it helps change the perception of what so many expect a Canadian film to look like.


With the domination of Great War films in the movie industry, each new project now seems to hold a responsibility to tell a new story that brings something new to the genre, and Gross' film does just that.

Though it may not be visually revolutionary or extremely entertaining in comparison to other big-budget Hollywood films, *Passchendaele* is still a movie every Canadian should see. It offers a fresh outlook by telling the stories of Canadians (based on stories recalled by Gross' grandfather), which is important in itself.

Gross has set a bold standard in Canadian cinema, one that needs to continue if our cultural stories will continue to be told in the public sphere.



Passchendaele
Director: Paul Gross
Starring: Paul Gross, Caroline Dhavernas
Release Date: 17/10/2008
Rating: B+



OUA Quarter-final

Wilfrid Laurier

VS

McMaster

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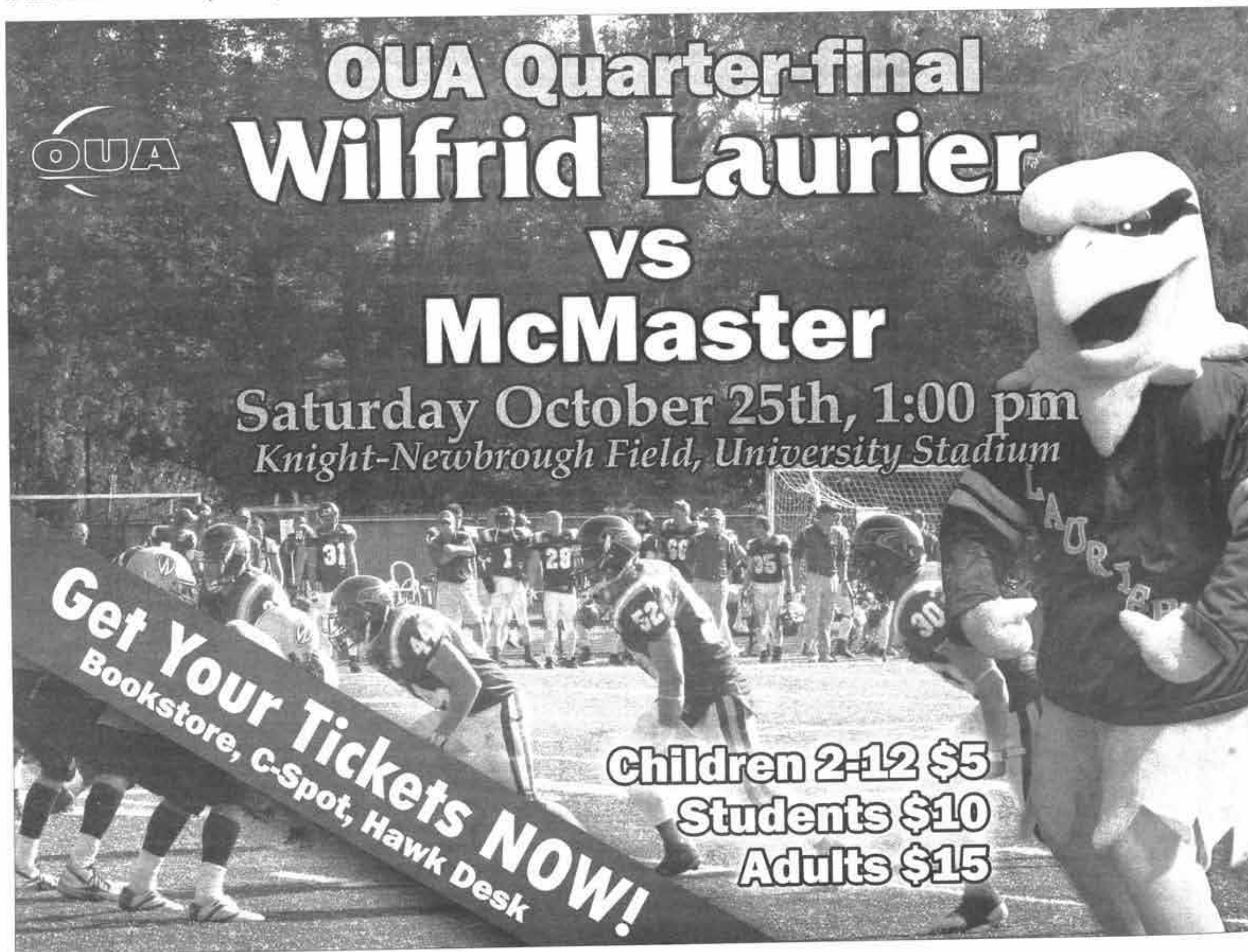

Knight-Newbrough Field, University Stadium

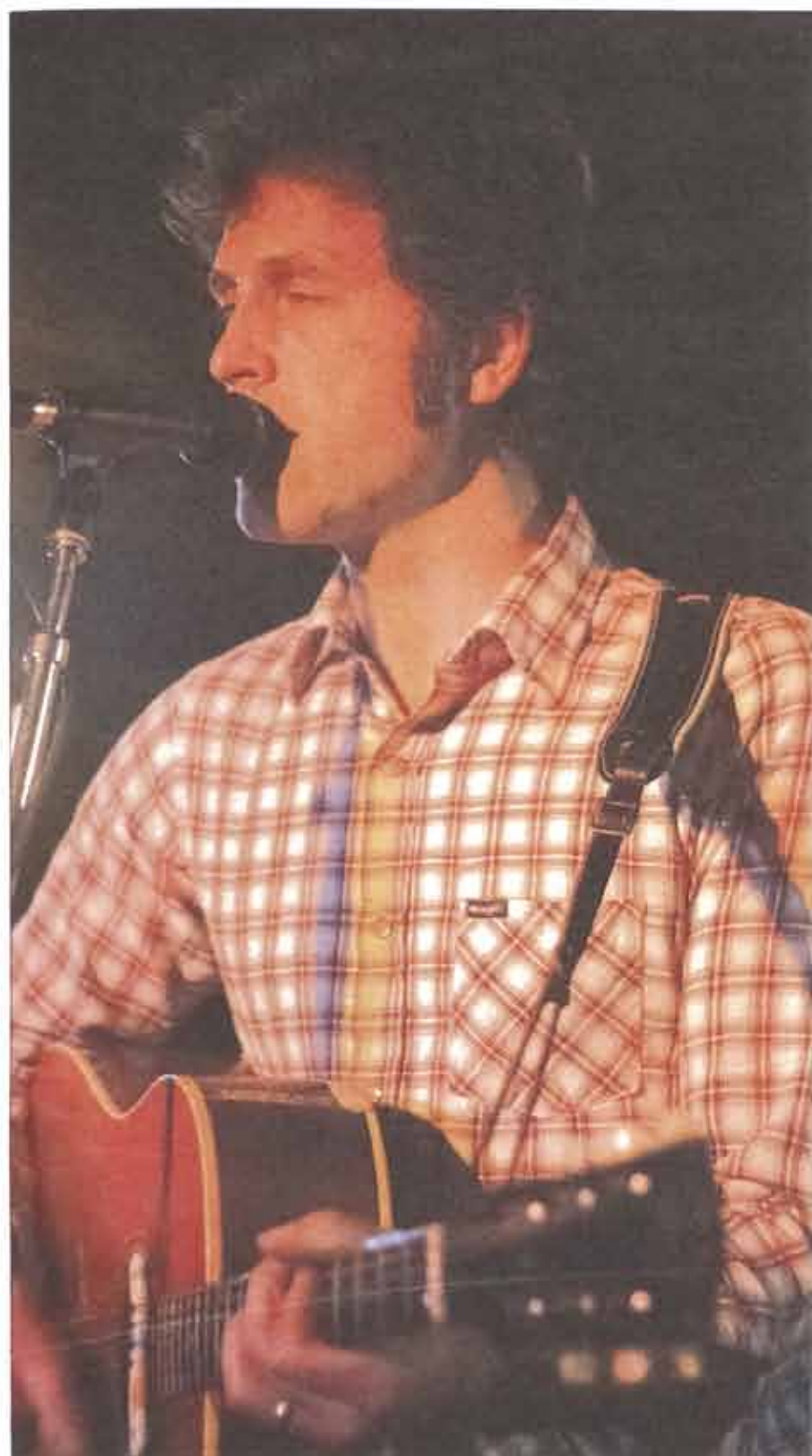
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LAURA TOMPKINS

PLAID - Always a good fashion choice for any road-going musician.

Collett rides with The Dark Horse

The Cord hit up the Starlight to see Jason Collett perform his unique blend of folk, and did his best to warm up Waterloo's mostly unenergetic crowd

CARLY LEWIS
CORD A&E

For a guy who claimed to have nothing up his sleeve, Jason Collett sure put on an impressive show this past Thursday night at The Starlight Lounge, along with his band The Dark Horse, who are essentially a mix of members from his former backing band Pasa Mino, and the night's opening band, Zeus.

Starting the show off with the Dylanesque harmonica of "Waiting For The World" from 2008's *Here's To Being Here*, Collett showed the modest Starlight crowd why small shows contain a kind of magic that stadiums just can't match.

The audience was treated to a vast collection spanning many eras in Collett's catalogue with songs from his two most recent full-length albums *Here's To Being Here* and *Idols of Exile*, as well as the nostalgic "Bring On The Blue Sky" from 2003's *Motor Motel Love Songs*.

This was certainly a high moment in the evening's show, which included a Wurlitzer, a melodica and Collett "giving it all up to the Starlight" after the band's originally scheduled show in Guelph got cancelled the night before because of bad promotion.

Obviously a fan of The Starlight, Collett told the audience he was indulging himself with new songs. "I really dig the way the band's playing them."

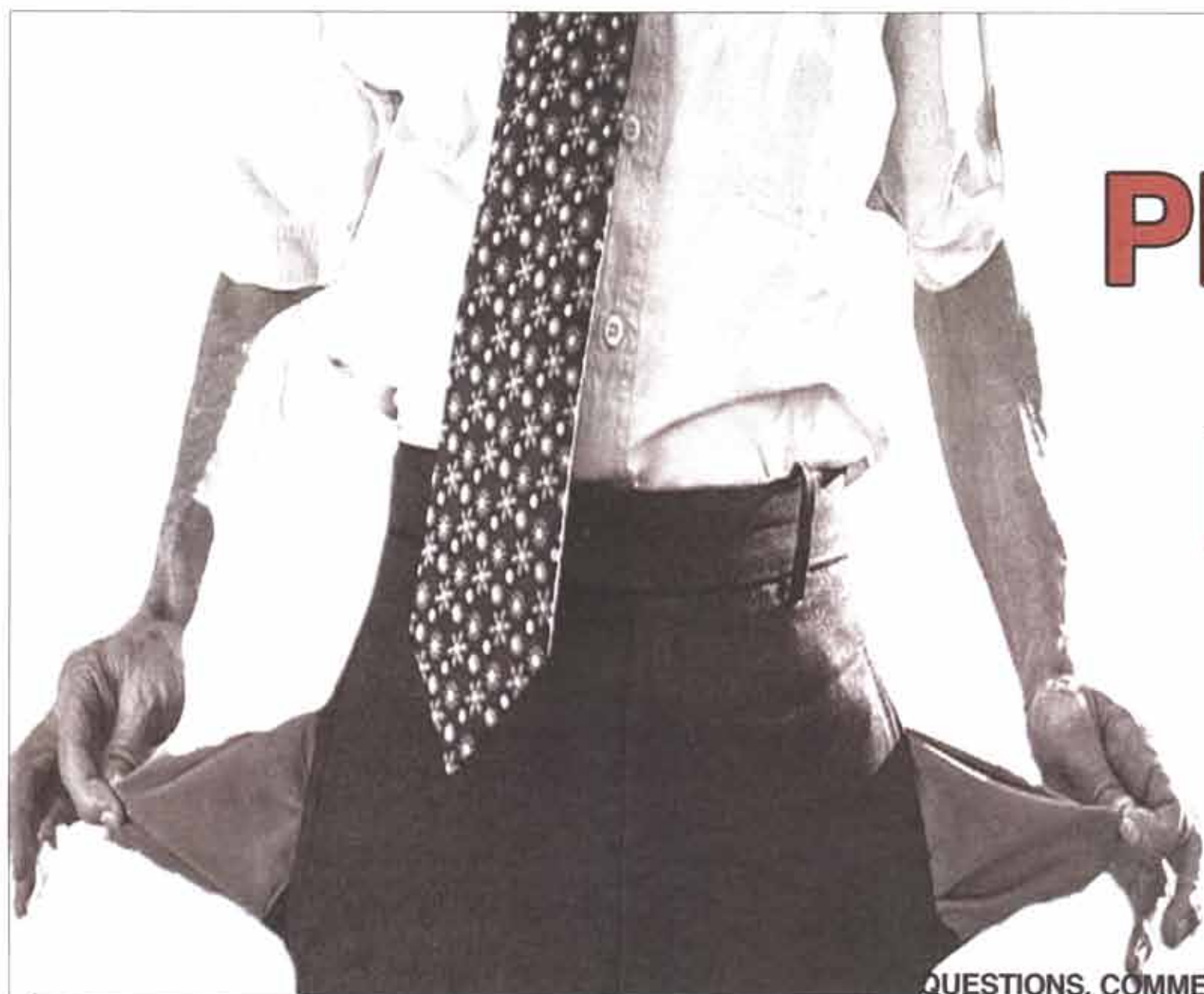
The band, which includes Carlin Nicholson (who bears an uncanny resemblance to 1970s porn star Ron Jeremy) on keys, was musically right on all night long. The set finished with "Love Song To Canada", a ballad that Collett recently performed at a New Democratic Party rally in Toronto with NDP leader Jack Layton.

A high point of the show came when "We All Lose One Another" snuck through its own chords and became John Lennon's "I'm Losin' "

You", as Collett wailed through the chorus as passionately as Lennon himself. The show finished up on the uplifting note of "I'll Bring The Sun", but not before Collett did the first half of the encore solo so that The Dark Horse could relieve themselves backstage. "No bladder control, these under-20s" joked Collett, who let us know how the term "getting laid" came about and then sang a song about skinny-dipping - which he does not recommend.

As always, Collett's performance was genuine and friendly and was not over until he got down on the ground with his guitar. The mild and docile crowd, however, was not reflective of the energy Jason Collett and The Dark Horse put into their show - the occasional head bob and dancing cluster aside.

Perhaps the audience was focusing on the seriously good lyricism of Collett's tunes - or maybe seeing Ron Jeremy play a melodica had everyone just too mystified to move.



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The strange case of Sloan

Esther Wheaton talks to Halifax natives and Canadian rock icons Sloan, who are set to play in Kitchener with Lenny Kravitz

ESTHER WHEATON
STAFF WRITER

Sloan is one of those strange cases: a band signed to a major label – Sony BMG in this case – that still manages to maintain ties to its indie roots and challenge its sound with every new record.

"Our first album was called *Smeared*," said Sloan guitarist Jay Ferguson in an interview with *The Cord*. "That album was what I considered the blueprint for Sloan, influenced especially by a lot of the bands on Creation records in the late '80s and '90s, shoegaze like My Bloody Valentine. I loved those records, and our first record was influenced by that sound: nice melodies, but layers and layers and washes of guitars."

"But our sound changed quite a bit after our first album, more as a reaction to that sound," said Ferguson. "We wanted to make a thinner sound. It wasn't the first album, Part 2." Their new album, *Parallel Play*, certainly demonstrates this innovation. It is a serious departure from their last album, the 30-track avalanche *Never Hear the End of It*.

When asked about inspirations for *Parallel Play*, Ferguson mentioned his diversity of musical taste. "There are different things," he said, "we'll hear a drum track, or something we really like, and rip off little parts of what we like. I'm always influenced by little bits of songs." His varied listening provides motivation, too. "Sometimes I'll hear a song and think, 'Oh, that's good, but I think I can write a better song.' It's good for competition in a way," he laughed.

Sloan is touring across Canada with rock star Lenny Kravitz. They appear at the Kitchener Aud on Thursday. The two bands have similar influences, said Ferguson. "When I hear his records I know what he's going for. I can pinpoint the John Lennon record he was listening to."

Touring has its upsides and downsides, as always. For Ferguson,

son, good things include playing shows, meeting fans, hanging out late and having fun. The bad things are trying to find healthy food, and filling up the 22 hours of the day he's not on stage. Although Sloan are supporting Kravitz on this tour, they recently finished a tour of their own, supported by Laurier's own Will Currie and Country French.

"Usually we bring friends on tour; bands that we like, or that we're friends with," Ferguson explained.

"All the folks in Will's band are awesome, I'm happy to hang out with them." He and a few members of The Country French recorded a song together recently, as a free download, called "Push Pins" (available on both bands' websites). "We played it a lot as an encore," said Ferguson.

He discussed the recent revival of Sloan's label, murderrecords. "We would see bands that we really liked and think, 'Wouldn't it be great to help this band out?'" he said.

"While we were thinking that, our distributor and Sony BMG offered to fund murderrecords a bit if we would put some money into it and start signing some new bands. So we thought, there's some push behind it, and we should go for it. We signed Pony Da Look from Toronto, and Will Currie."

"We decided based strictly on our own taste. Pony Da Look has been around for a while – this was their third album – and Chris was friends with them beforehand. And Will Currie ... I saw them play about a year ago in Toronto. I had met them one other time. They were kind of brats, actually. All, 'Have you seen our band play?' and I hadn't, and they said, 'Why don't you come hear us play?' and I thought they were funny and I got along with them, so I went to see them. And they blew me away."

Since both bands had records ready to go, it was the perfect situation. "It came together almost randomly, and very quickly," he said.

Other than the bands Sloan signed, Ferguson is excited about



CHRIS BUTCHER - RECESS

PERSONALITIES GALORE - If Sloan is anything, it's as much a mix musically as the mix of clothing styles.

the "new wave" going on in Halifax right now, in particular Brent Randall's (and his Pinecones') ornate orchestral pop record, and one-man-show Rich Aucoin, who is working on a new record, and whose last album, Ferguson claims, works with the cartoon version of *The Grinch That Stole Christmas* in the same way Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* works with *The*

Wizard of Oz.

Of course *The Cord* had to ask Jay Ferguson about the election. "I voted," he said, "and the results – I predicted correctly that it would be a Harper minority government again, which basically makes the whole thing a waste of money. We got exactly what we had." Ferguson, who is "not the most political person," was not "totally jazzed" with

all the options, but thinks the Liberals are grooming Justin Trudeau to take over. "He'll probably be elected someday," he said. "He's obviously waiting in the wings, and he'll probably reinvent the Liberal party."

Sloan plays with Lenny Kravitz at The Kitchener Auditorium on October 23.

Tony Lee entrances Turret

— FROM LEE, COVER

"I'm going to donate 100 percent of the tickets we were given to athletes that can't afford to fight full-time. I'm using my status as a 'Tony Lee' show to get people to go 'Well we've seen him make asses out of other people – let's see him in the cage.' On November 22 I'm going to be fighting out there."

Cage fighting aside, last Thursday Laurier students saw the part Lee is best known for, and in terms of entertainment value, they got their money's worth. The evening started off with Lee making small talk with

the easily excited audience about sex and girlfriends, breaking the ice before turning up the heat. After luring some contestants on stage, Lee got down to business by getting the participants to engage in various sexually themed activities.

The crowd was always receptive – yet many of the male participants found themselves overthinking the entire ordeal and losing their "hypnotic state." While this was a bit sad, considering that the entire night is supposed to be all about breaking down barriers and letting loose – it was still quite humorous. The best example

of this was the finale – which involved a can of whipped cream, an almost naked man, a rookie A-Team member and rubbing.

After the finale that was, to say the least, over the top, *The Cord* talked with one contestant who noted that she was definitely under the influence of Lee's hypnotism – but she "wasn't as under as the guy rubbing his ass in the other guy's face."

While this might seem pretty over-the-top, Lee summed up the night pretty well. "It was a great time – but we went pretty easy on them this year."



RYAN STEWART

HAIR HYPNOSIS - Hypnotist Tony Lee on stage with participants.