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FRANK STEWART

## Warhol in Waterloo Region

The Children's Museum in Kitchener hosts an exclusive exhibition of work by the celebrated pop art practitioner as well as imitations of his style ... **PAGE 27**

## Dean of science takes VP role

Deborah MacLatchy will take on the position of Vice President: Academic as of March 1

**JEREMY TREMBLAY**  
NEWS EDITOR

On December 11 the university named Dr. Deborah MacLatchy, currently the dean of the faculty of science, Laurier's new VP: Academic.

MacLatchy will begin her five-year term as VP: Academic and vice-provost on March 1. She takes over the position of acting VP: Academic Leo Groarke, who has been in the position since August 2008.

MacLatchy explains that she was excited to learn she had been named VP: Academic, particularly because the selection and screening process for the position take over a month.

"I'm currently the dean of science, so the big focus of my next couple of months will be to wrap

up some projects to the point where they can be passed on to the acting dean that will be succeeding me in science," she explained.

The faculty of science's budget preparation and a course that she is teaching will also fill MacLatchy's time until March, she added.

"There will be a two-phase transition, one for me into the VP's office and then one for the acting dean coming into science.

"As dean you're very focused on your own faculty, and so part of the transition will be to learn more about the other faculties."

Meeting with other deans and learning about other faculties through Senate and other committees has helped with this preparation, MacLatchy said.

She added that her focus now will be on learning more specif-



LAURA TOMKINS

**VP APPOINTED** – Dr. Deborah MacLatchy begins her five-year term as VP: academic and vice-provost of Laurier later this year.

ics and learning about areas of the university that report to the VP: Academic such as the registrar's office and information technology services.

MacLatchy's academic background is in zoology. She has focused on the effects of chemicals and pollutants on the health of

fish and has an interest in international development. She had previously worked on projects in Cuba and South America.

MacLatchy has been dean of the faculty of science since July of 2007.

- SEE VP, PAGE 4

## WLU prof outraged at Israel

**DAVE SHORE**  
OPINION EDITOR

At roughly 2:35 p.m. yesterday, WLU sociology professor Peter Eglin wheeled a microphone and speakers into the concourse to publicly speak out against Israel's current actions in the Gaza strip.

Having heard the news that at least 30 people, including children, were killed at a UN school in Gaza during the latest Israeli bombings, an incensed Eglin decided at noon yesterday that he would call the university to action.

"The question is, what are you going to do about it?" he said repeatedly throughout his speech, insisting that university students and faculty have an obligation to act under these circumstances.

"This is a battle that affects us directly insofar as we profess the values that are written in the mission statement of this university, that were just revised, and speak of, and use the word, justice," he stated.

Eglin, whose academic interests

- SEE EGLIN, PAGE 5

## University pool may stay open

**LAUREN MILLET**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Laurier's pool, the topic of much scrutiny and the cause of stress for athletes and community groups alike this year, looks as though it may have found a way to remain open.

WLU originally announced in July that the pool was to close on August 31.

This date was then extended until December 31 to allow groups more time to raise money for needed repairs. The pool will now remain open on a day-to-day basis while funds continue to be raised.

Waterloo city councillor Scott Witmer noted that on the December 15 meeting there were between 8 and 12 delegates who spoke in favour of the city supporting some funding to keep the pool open.

- SEE POOL, PAGE 16

**THE CORD WEEKLY**

- The tie that binds since 1926 -

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**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"Ok, Dave, I think I'm going to try your salami. Oh, that is good! It's got a lot of flavour to it."

Graphics Editor Julie Marion, sampling salami-topped pizza.

**WORD OF THE WEEK**

Shank - A Knife. Mostly made at home. Mostly

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**Preamble to The Cord Constitution**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



HOLLY GIBSON - THE SPUTNIK

**ON HOLD** - Administration has appealed to the provincial government for additional funding to complete Brantford campus's student centre.

# New student centre delayed

Construction of Brantford campus centre to be put on hold as project faces \$4 million shortfall

**MORGAN ALAN**  
STAFF WRITER

The planned university centre at Laurier's Brantford campus has been put on hold due to insufficient funding.

The \$24 million construction project, slated for completion in September 2010, requires an additional \$4 million if it is to be finished in its current form.

The centre was originally planned to include a bookstore, offices, classrooms, a dining hall and residence space.

Laurier administration has appealed to the provincial government to provide the funds needed to complete the project. If funding does not come through, the build-

ing will be downsized and the planned dining hall and residence space will be eliminated.

The bookstore, having been funded in part by a private donor, will go ahead as planned.

The centre faced a similar situation in April 2008, when the project went \$4 million dollars over budget in the design phase.

However, Laurier's Board of Governors granted additional funds to increase the construction budget.

Acting Vice President: Academic Leo Groarke says that a second bailout by the Board of Governors is not being considered as a solution.

"We've already increased the budget by \$4 million," said Groarke.

"It just isn't feasible to increase it by another \$4 million."

To make up for these losses, Brantford administration is currently investigating the possibility of new residence spaces that could incorporate a dining hall. These plans are, however, only in preliminary stages.

Services like *The Sputnik*, Laurier Brantford's on-campus newspaper, had planned to move into the new centre upon its completion. Given these delays, it is now unclear when this move will occur.

"We just have a giant hole outside of [our office's] window right now," said *Sputnik* Editor-in-Chief Emily Sadler. "We're not moving for a while."

Laurier's budget woes, with respect to both the Brantford centre and in general, have been exacerbated by the university's pension liabilities and the international economic climate.

"These are very difficult times, there's no getting around it," said Groarke. "The market crisis has a significant effect on our endowments."

Laurier's administration is confident that the centre will still serve Brantford's students, staff and community members, even if its size and scope need to be reduced.

"However this goes," said Groarke, "we're going to have a building that Brantford campus can be very proud of."

# Four face drug- and weapon-related charges following Regina Towers raid

**LAURA CARLSON**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

Just two days before Christmas, the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) raided an apartment building on Regina Street and seized cocaine, marijuana, drug-related property - including 21 cell phones, scales and packaging equipment - a loaded 40-calibre handgun and ammunition.

The raid at the Regina Street towers - just around the corner from Laurier - took place without any complications around 9 p.m. on December 23.

Four individuals were arrested at the scene and are now facing drug-related and firearm charges.

James Agyeaman, 23, of Brampton and Andre Peart, 23, of Waterloo will remain in custody until their respective January 7 and 9 court dates.

Aldain Beckford, 23, of Milton and Keralea Walker, 20, of Kitchener have been released and will appear in court on January 20.

Olaf Heinzl, Public Affairs co-ordinator for the WRPS, was unaware if any of the accused are students at either of the Waterloo universities.

The new Strategic and Tactical Services division of WRPS, which has been developed to specifically address crimes dealing with drug dealers, gangs and extremists, had previously cultivated information and obtained a search warrant for the residence.

According to Supt. Gary Askin, commander of the new division, this amalgamation of intelligence, drug enforcement and the special response unit is designed to take a more co-ordinated approach to disrupting and dismantling organized crime and drug trafficking.

"It's a much more efficient and effective way," said Askin, noting that it is especially important because there is a lot of overlap between drug-related charges and high-level crimes.

"The communication process is enhanced, so basically we've got to target these groups, a much more fluid type of partnerships."

The new unit consists of 84 members - who are being extensively trained for their high-risk positions - and has been in operation since the beginning of December.

Askin noted that, in the past month, "there's been a considerable number of arrests" made by the division - including those at the Regina Street towers.

"December was a pretty good month for taking a lot of drugs and weapons off the street," he said.

Askin noted that the areas

of the region which tend to be hot spots for such activities are typically those where drug users congregate.

Though the area surrounding Laurier is not a specific concern, Askin said that there are rooming homes within a proximity to the university.

"It is a community problem that can creep up anywhere," said Askin.

With the creation of the Strategic and Tactical Services division of WRPS, Askin is confident that community safety is being enhanced and those in the region will benefit from this initiative.

"I think the public's really going to see over the next year that we have a much more co-ordinated approach to really target and tackle these gangs and drugs."

**VOCAL CORD**

"What was your New Year's resolution?"



"To start a business."

- Vishal Handa  
Third-year business



"To hit up the Laurier gym and scope out the scene."

- Grace McClure  
First-year communication studies



"To lose weight."

- Emily Banks  
First-year sociology



"To go to the gym."

- Adel Hijazi  
Second-year communication studies



"I didn't have one."

- Phil Mendes  
Third-year psychology

Compiled by Rebecca Vasluianu,  
photos by Jeremy Tremblay

# International exchange program introduces new fees

Laurier students will now have to pay \$25 to apply to study abroad as part of an exchange

**JEREMY TREMBLAY**  
NEWS EDITOR

Students applying to the student exchange program run by Laurier International will have to pay a \$25 fee with their application and another \$100 if they are accepted and given a placement as a result of a December vote by the university's Board of Governors.

As a result, Laurier International will generate about \$15,000 a year in revenue. Previously, there had been no fee.

The number of spaces available in the exchange program is not an issue, though, as about 50 to 80 exchange spaces remain vacant every year.

"We're not oversubscribed," explained Director of Laurier International Peter Donahue.

"Application fees are not new to universities, most of the other schools have them," he noted.

Allison Dunn, a fourth-year global studies student who was on exchange in Ireland last semester and now works with Laurier's Exchange Assistance Program, explained that the new fee wouldn't have stopped her from applying.

"\$25 or \$100 doesn't really make that much of a difference," she said, pointing out the fee is a small sum compared with the other expenses of going on exchange.

However, Keren Gottfried, an undergraduate student who sits on the Board of Governors, disagreed

with the fee.

"My personal opinion is that there are enough financial obstacles going abroad that adding another fee is not going to help anybody," she explained.

In an e-mail to the Board of Governors, Gottfried commented that Laurier's Century Plan set the goal to have 10 percent of students gain an international academic experience during their degree.

She pointed out that a program that already has vacancies would not likely become more popular with the addition of new expenses.

Within Laurier International, Donahue hopes to use part of the new funds to better promote the international exchange program. He said that a new booklet outlining all the opportunities for international exchange would be created.

He added that students going on exchange are often eligible for funding through bursaries and scholarships, particularly if they are in financial need.

Gottfried, who is currently on exchange in Hong Kong, acknowledged that Laurier International staff made good efforts to remind students of scholarship opportunities. However, many scholarships have very specific criteria.

"I didn't actually qualify for most of them," Gottfried explained, adding that she had received an Ontario International Education Op-

portunity Scholarship - one of the few scholarships without specific criteria.

Katherine Skidmore, a fourth-year global studies student who went on exchange to Sweden, also commented that she didn't qualify for any of the specific scholarships.

The new fee has been split up into a \$25 dollar application fee and a \$100 placement fee partially to encourage students to make a commitment when they apply, explained Donahue.

According to the proposal given to the Board of Governors, over 10 percent of students who have applied to go on exchange withdraw from the program after being given a placement.

Donahue explained that a large amount of administrative work - including contact with partner institutions - has often been done at this point, causing a loss to Laurier International. He pointed out that this also causes more work as withdrawal from competitive exchange locations may result in several students being shuffled around.

Both Gottfried and Skidmore felt that students who applied were taking the process seriously, but may have found reasons to leave the program after.

"I took [applying] seriously. Maybe they dropped out because they realized it's so expensive and takes months to do. I think they take it seriously, they just don't

know what they're in for," explained Skidmore.

Gottfried pointed out that the time between accepting a placement and leaving may be six months or more if the student departs in January, adding that reasons why an exchange is no longer feasible can easily emerge during such a long period of time.

"We had to weigh ... between how do we make this the experience for students that we want for them [and] what's involved with improving the service," Donahue explained.

He added the department is "trying to give [students] what we feel is one of the best ... in Canada for exchange programs."

Aside from promotions, the increased funding will allow Laurier International to expand programming for incoming exchange students and develop a new and flexible pre-departure education for outgoing students.

It will also help cover the cost of sending documentation such as transcripts and student records to institutions where students will be studying on exchange.

The amount of funding Laurier International receives from the university is expected to remain relatively constant, and will account for about two-thirds of the department's budget.

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story

# Arson destroys Hazel St. house

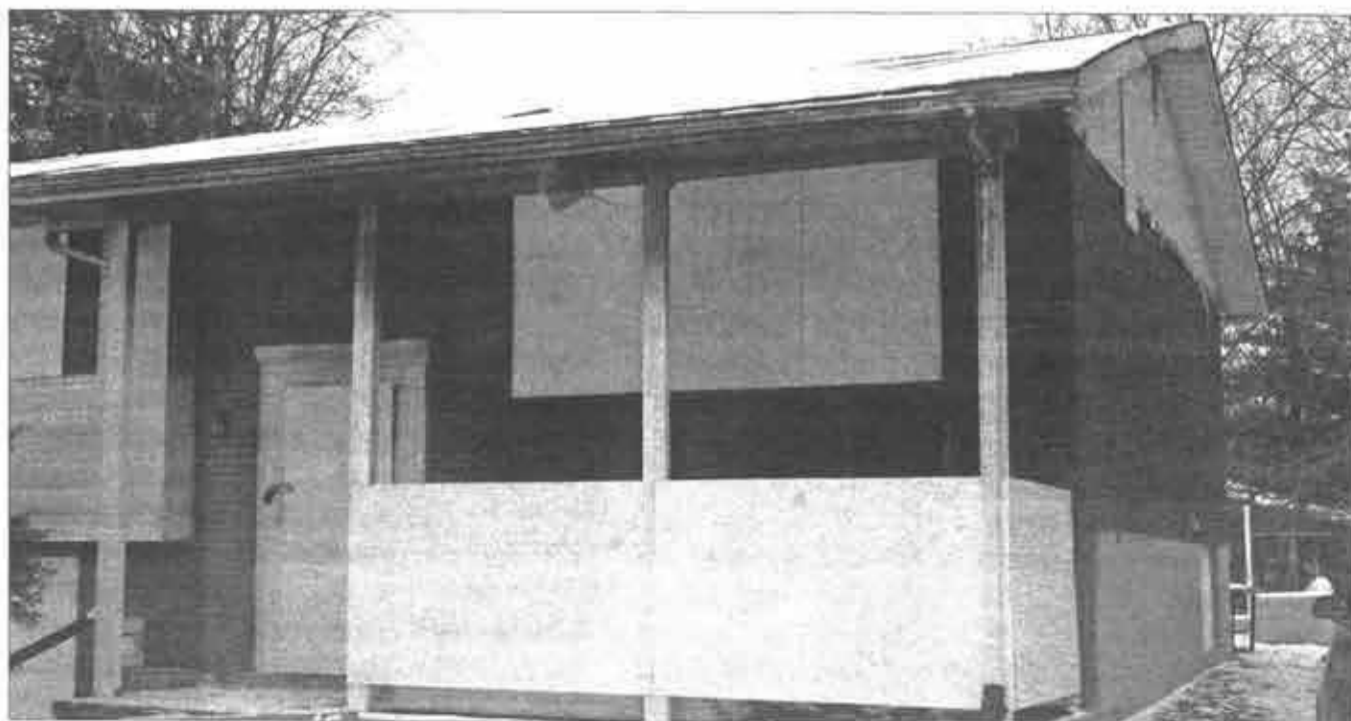
**KARI PRITCHARD**  
FEATURES EDITOR

On Friday, December 26, a house rented to seven university students on Hazel Street near Austin Drive caught fire. Suspicion of arson as well as a break-and-enter followed the incident.

The Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) and Waterloo Fire responded to the report of the fire observed by a passerby who saw smoke coming from the basement of the house according to WRPS Public Affairs Co-ordinator Olaf Heinzl.

The fire started in the basement of the empty house and moved up the walls into the attic. The Waterloo fire marshal determined the fire was caused by arson, and the incident is now suspected to be related to a break-and-enter at the property, said Heinzl.

The fire did an estimated \$300,000 in damage and is being further investigated by the WRPS break-and-enter enforcement team, as there were several other



**BOARDED UP** - The burnt-up house near Hazel and Austin Streets was licensed to house seven people.

RYAN STEWART

break-and-enters in the same area in late December.

Although there are still no suspects, Waterloo Police are appealing to the community for any witnesses or people with information to come forward.

To help prevent further break-

ins in the university area, Heinzl encourages students to always make sure doors are locked when nobody is home, especially students living in buildings with multiple units.

Heinzl also suggested proactive planning such as "ensuring

serial numbers for all computers or other electronic devices to have additional information to help police identify stolen property."

If your house is broken into, contact police immediately so that investigations can start as soon as possible to find perpetrators.

## Incoming VP: academic

*Cord News* Editor **Jeremy Tremblay** recently sat down with incoming VP: Academic Deborah MacLatchey to learn about her vision for Laurier's future.

### Growth at Laurier

"Certainly with Brantford there are lots of opportunities to expand," explained MacLatchey. "Faculty at Brantford are looking at particular programs that are exciting and for which there are lots of good opportunities."

"Whether or not there are additional campuses beyond that will mean a number of things coming together ... government funding being the key one," she added.

MacLatchey is also interested in forging links between faculties and departments. "For example, what are the opportunities for the school of business to partner with arts or to partner with music or to partner with science to develop some new programs that would be exciting for students and exciting for faculty to teach in?"

### The effect of economic uncertainty

"Certainly every single university in the country has got economic challenges going forward, just like every company has economic challenges," MacLatchey explained. "But I also think it provides an opportunity to really have in-depth discussion about what the priorities are and how do you continue to offer high-quality academic programs in the face of economic shortfalls."

"I'm very optimistic that because of the strong community that we have at Laurier that we'll be able to work our way through the challenges over the next few years. I also think that a lot of the challenges are hopefully ... short-term."

"Once the markets turn around, which they eventually will, we need to be in place ... to take the opportunities that are available."

### Channeling student interest

"One area that directly involves students that I'm very interested in is students have strong involvement in community."

MacLatchey explained she is interested in "finding a way to focus that level of interest and level of activity in different ways."

"I think that some thought could be given to some kind of service-learning credits that could be given to students," she said, adding that service-learning could recognize involvement such as volunteer positions and co-op placements.

"I think there are some different models out there from other universities that we could adapt to make Laurier models and I'd like to have discussions around some of those."



SYDNEY HELLAND

**SPEAKING OUT** - Sociology professor Peter Eglin chose to speak out against Israel's actions in Gaza yesterday shortly after 2:30 p.m.

## Professor's words draw criticism

- FROM EGLIN, COVER

Eglin, whose academic interests include the sociology of human rights and crime, insists that Israeli bombings in Gaza constitute a violation of human rights.

"Your government is quite happy to support a country that is committing war crimes; that makes it complicit in those war crimes."

The goal of Eglin's unannounced speech was to encourage students and faculty to create a proposed new club that he would call Laurier for Palestine.

He promised that he would be back in the concourse at 10 a.m. today to meet with anybody interested in forming such a club.

"I will make no pretense of talking about some sort of balance here between crimes committed by Israel and crimes committed by Palestinian organizations, by Hamas," said Eglin.

"Yes, there are crimes. I have no time for suicide bombs, no time for rockets. Not only are they immoral and inhuman, but they are remarkably inefficient [at ending violence] ... but that's not the point."

Eglin plans for Laurier for Palestine to do two things; the first is to "pressure the Canadian government into making a statement opposing US policy, which of course we never do."

"And secondly, to come up with

practical means of trying to alleviate the suffering that is going on in Palestine," he said.

Eglin, however, is not the only one insisting on academics mobilizing against Israeli action.

*The Globe and Mail* reported yesterday that the Ontario branch of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), which represents around 20,000 employees of Ontario universities, has proposed to ban Israeli academics from working at or visiting universities in Ontario.

This proposed resolution has been met with harsh criticism and opposition from the Jewish community.

It is unclear so far how the WLU

community will respond to Eglin's public outcry. He later received one email from the Dean of Students asking him not to hold an informal rally the next day.

The e-mail also stated that students had complained that Eglin's display made them feel they are "no longer in a safe and respectful academic environment."

While only a handful of people stopped in the concourse to listen to his words, Eglin was not fazed.

"I never think about that, I never measure that," Eglin said, referring to the quantity of people listening to his speech.

"I'm happy with what I do."

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story

## Committee examines union hiring practices

**REBECCA VASLUIANU**  
NEWS EDITOR

At a Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) board meeting held on November 28, the Hiring Practices Review Committee presented a series of executive limitations on how the union's president conducts future hiring for unpaid positions.

Approved by the Board of Directors (BOD), the committee's changes address areas such as the creation of clear guidelines, discerning positions that should be hired using the STARR system and those that should not, as well as better informing applicants

and volunteers regarding their performance.

Chaired by Director Griffin Carpenter, the committee also consisted of BOD Chair Asif Bacchus, VP: Human Resources Dan Preston and Directors Natasha Dupuis and Brian Atcheson.

A major restriction placed on hiring is a regulation stating that certain positions which do not require specific skill sets will be assessed to determine whether or not they merit the use of STARR.

For some committees Carpenter explains that "there's really no reason why there should be such a strenuous hiring process when volunteers should be welcomed."

He brings up specific examples such as the EcoHawks and BACCHUS (Boosting Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students) which will no longer be hired using STARR.

Another restriction placed on hiring is that written hiring procedures must be created to ensure guidelines exist in advance, outlining situations in which a candidate would and would not be considered for a position.

"There were some grey areas so we're trying to tighten these up a little bit," he explained.

An executive limitation was also added to provide applicants who are not accepted with feedback,

which Carpenter states introduce a "self-improvement aspect to the system" where candidates are able to take constructive comments into account and apply again.

All applicants will also need to be informed of these policies and provided an avenue to express any discontent if their rights have not been met.

As well, public signups will no longer be used as they do not respect the privacy of applicants and they allow candidates to see the names of those they are competing with which can be conducive to foul play.

## Union files for conciliator

REBECCA VASLUIANU  
NEWS EDITOR

As full-time faculty negotiations enter their fifth month, the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA) has made the decision to file to the provincial government for conciliation.

Negotiations continued until December 19, ceasing for the holidays, and two sessions were added on January 2 and 3. On Monday, the WLUFA bargaining team requested a conciliator, which is a neutral third party appointed to help with the negotiation of remaining items.

Despite this step, neither WLUFA nor the university believes there is any reason for people to worry.

"Sometimes you reach a point where it's time to bring in an independent third party who can help move the process along and help both sides finalize a deal," said Kevin Crowley, associate director of news and editorial services at WLU.

As well, WLUFA Media Relations Officer Herbert Pimlott explains that filing for a conciliator "is not an unusual part of the process," adding that the most recent sets of full-time faculty negotiations all involved the use of conciliation.

"Obviously we were hoping to have them completed in December but we haven't and we're hoping the conciliation will help us reach an agreement that will work for all of us, including students," he continued.

It will take several weeks for a conciliator to be appointed, and until then negotiations will continue as normal, starting next week.

Arranging bargaining dates, however, may be more difficult this semester, as the faculty association's negotiators were only provided time off for bargaining during first semester because it was expected an agreement would be reached by the end of the term. Pimlott is hopeful, however, that the conciliator will help make the occasions on which both parties meet more efficient.

Still left to be negotiated are the comprehensive areas of workload and compensation. However, both parties are optimistic that a deal will be reached.

In light of the continuation of negotiations, the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) released a statement on their website on December 3, 2008 entitled "Talks not walks: Laurier students urge administration and faculty association to avoid labour

dispute."

The statement calls for both parties to "reach an agreement that ensures students can complete the academic year without disruption" and "begin discussions on more contentious items immediately."

According to Students' Union President Colin Le Fevre, WLUSU plans to be much more prepared than they were in the past if a labour dispute were to occur.

"Last year, I'm not sure why or how but it kind of caught the Students' Union not really looking and that was bad for the students," said Le Fevre.

"The press release was really a heads-up to students that the Students' Union is on it," he continued.

Le Fevre explains that in the event of a strike there will be a website posted from which students can receive up-to-date information.

As well, he plans to put together an "ad hoc student caucus" of various students sitting on groups such as the Senate where new information regarding negotiations will be discussed and passed on to other students.

"We're not worried, but we're prepared," said Le Fevre.

## History professor wins book award

JEREMY TREMBLAY  
NEWS EDITOR

WLU history professor Cynthia Comacchio's 2006 book *The Dominion of Youth: Adolescence and the Making of Modern Canada, 1920 to 1950*, published by Laurier Press, recently won the Canadian History of Education Association (CHEA) 2006-2008 Founders' Prize for English-language book/anthology.

It also received honourable mention from the Canadian Historical Association's Sir John A. Macdonald prize for the year's best book in 2008.

Comacchio's book examines what it meant to be a Canadian adolescent between 1920 and 1950, and how adolescents' experiences echoed what Canada went through at the time.

"More than ever before, experts on psychology and medical care and that kind of thing were focused on adolescence as a really important developmental stage," explained Comacchio.

"Because Canada itself was, in effect, an adolescent nation ... in the 1920s, which is when I start my study, there are a lot of similarities, basically metaphoric similarities, between the way that the nation was being described as having to forge its own identity, related to but

different from great Britain and the US in particular."

"That was the kind of language that was being used to describe teenagers. Where they intersected was in the acknowledgement that the young are the future, that adolescence is the process of making adults," she added.

Comacchio explained that she hoped to dispel the myth that the notion of the modern teenager was created in the 1950s.

"My argument is that no, they were actually very much on the scene socially and culturally in the 1920s and that was really the first generation of modern teenagers.

That's when they became significantly more generationally conscious, conscious of themselves not only as young Canadians but what they had in common with other Canadians of their own age group, which were things that extended across class and race - and those are the usual dividing lines."

A project on families in the great depression is currently in the works for Comacchio.

"I'm trying to look at it as a family crisis, because in so many ways it was. Most people didn't live it on Wall Street or in government. Most people lived it on the level of regular, everyday, day-to-day scrounging to get by."

## WLU professor to sit on higher education teaching association board

JEREMY TREMBLAY  
NEWS EDITOR

Mercedes Rowinsky-Geurts, a professor in the department of languages and literatures, has been elected as a member of the board of directors of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE).

The STLHE is a national organization comprised of Canadian and international academics dedicated to advancing teaching and learning in higher education.

"The fact that I'm going to be

part of the board is going to give me insight on how we can improve teaching and learning in Canada and abroad. This is going to be a new experience for me," explained Rowinsky-Geurts.

"Professors have three areas where we have to perform: teaching, research and service. Regarding promotion and tenure, usually research is very, very important," she said, "more than teaching."

Rowinsky-Geurts explained that her four-year role as a director will require several meetings a year, some in person and some by

phone, and that she would be taking the position "step-by-step" as she gets familiar with it.

"There are huge changes coming down the pipes right now regarding teaching.... The university is in a troublesome economic situation, the world is in a troublesome economic situation and our teaching has to evolve and has to change. If I can be helpful in any way to improve the quality of teaching and learning at Laurier I'll be happy."

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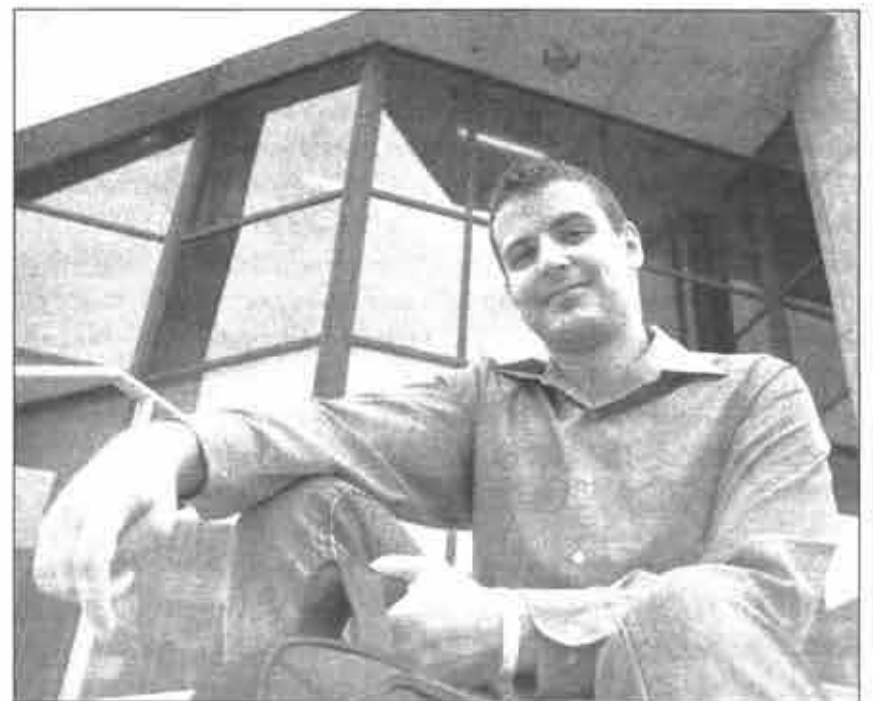
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## CANADA IN

### York strike ongoing, first semester incomplete

**TORONTO** — Talks between York University and the union representing striking contract faculty, teaching assistants and graduate student assistants resumed this Monday.

The striking instructors walked off the job on November 6, 2008. Monday's talks mark the third time the two groups will enter negotiations with an arbitrator.

Should the two parties reach an agreement, York's reading week will be cancelled and the two semesters - fall 2008 and winter 2009 - will be compressed. An additional 13 days of class would have to be added to make up for the days lost.

Points still being debated are job security, benefits, wages and the length and expiry date of the contract.

-Jeremy Tremblay

### University of Windsor faces financial woes

**WINDSOR, ON** — The board of governors at the University of Windsor have decided to enact a three-year budget plan with the goal of seeing a balanced budget by 2011-2012.

The board's decision is its response to a budget deficit close to \$5.2 million at the university.

Since a substantive 43.8 percent of the university's operating budget comes from tuition and student fees, tuition is expected to rise by 6 percent to approximately 50 percent, approximately 10 percent more than the provincial average, which could prove a huge upset to students of the university.

The university's financial woes come as the institution is in the process of paying a hefty \$3 million per year over three years as a result of its faculty association strike in September.

The administration at the University of Windsor intends to lobby the government to increase funding; as well, they are exploring options to cut spending without affecting the value of the university's degree.

-Rebecca Vasluianu

### Residence president quits in hazing controversy

**ANTIGONISH, NS** — At the beginning of December, Tyler Cameron, president of St. Francis Xavier University's MacPherson House residence, resigned from his position and moved out of MacPherson House.

Cameron says threats, break-ins and people pounding on his door forced him to leave.

An unknown number of students are being investigated for violations of the St. FX Community Code, the exact cause for which has not been announced.

A month before Cameron's resignation, allegations of hazing rituals involving MacPherson House residents began to surface.

University officials did not confirm whether or not students were being investigated in connection to allegations of hazing.

A motion was passed by the Students' Union suspending MacPherson House residents from activities and planned events until the entire house had participated in programming with the aim of reunifying "a divided house."

-Jeremy Tremblay, with files from CUP

### York law student caught with phony degree

**TORONTO** — A third-year law student at York University's Osgoode Law School was caught with a fake diploma she used to gain entry into the prestigious school.

The student, Quami Frederick, used a fake BA from St. George University in Grenada in business administration that was created in a diploma-mill in the United States.

Frederick spent \$1,109 on the diploma and she is currently under investigation for a charge of fraud. While she has insisted she actually attended the university for her undergraduate, St. George's University has verified that she was never a student at the school.

The case is the second case of degree fraud revealed over the past week, the first being that of a York graduate named Peng Sun who was selling fake degrees and other documents.

-Rebecca Vasluianu

### Grant helps two professors purchase microscopes

**REBECCA VASLUIANU**  
NEWS EDITOR

With the help of two Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) awards, two Laurier professors are purchasing specialized microscopes they plan to use for research.

Professor Mihai Costea has been given \$77,521 towards a \$193,000 microscope he will use for his study of plant biodiversity.

As well, Psychology Professor Diano Marrone received \$130,999 towards a \$351,000 microscope to study cellular activity in neural networks regarding age-related memory loss.

For Costea, the grant is great news for his research of parasitic plants.

"We are in a strange situation where in the next 50 or 100 years nearly half the species in the planet are going to disappear and we don't know them yet," he explained.

"This microscope is going to help us get a closer look at them."

One of Costea's main focuses is a plant genus called Dodders, which can have drastic effects on the growth of crops and can also have significant medicinal use.

## Record snowfall

**REBECCA VASLUIANU**  
NEWS EDITOR

In the Waterloo region, record amounts of snow in 2008 have put the city over its budget for snow removal.

"This fall turned out to be the snowiest fall back until when these records began in 1915," states Frank Seglenieks, University of Waterloo weather station co-ordinator.

This year saw 326.5 cm of snow, nearly 100 cm more than the previous record of 257 cm from 1924 and twice as much as the yearly average for the region of 134 cm.

The city of Waterloo usually allocates \$1.2 million for snow removal with this year's snowfall costing the city \$1.85 million.

While Waterloo has a winter reserve of \$500,000, the remaining money must be found elsewhere.

In Kitchener the situation is more severe, with the city \$1.4 million over budget with no winter reserve

to help the situation.

"They've had to do a lot of work to shovel that snow," said Seglenieks.

"You can imagine if you were a city planning your budget ... and then mother nature comes along and gives you twice as much snow that's just going to cost more money," he added.

Seglenieks explains that the situation may not only affect the city's current snow removal budget, it may also take its toll financially in the future through detrimental effects to the region's roads.

"We have these snow resets where it rains a bit, it gets warm, we get water into the cracks of the pavement and then it freezes again ... you have these cycles where it goes up and down past zero," he stated.

"And when you have more snow you have to put more salt on the roads and plow the roads more which can cause potholes."



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


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# Made any New Years resolutions yet? Make writing for the *Cord* one of them.



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# WLUSU representatives under review

*The Cord* weighs in on how the Students' Union Board of Directors and President have performed so far in their term

Dedication and passion have become characteristic of this year's Board of Directors (BOD). Although only two directors had previous experience, significant training has allowed the board to be aware of its role as a representational body.

However, the board tends to operate inefficiently. It often spends too much time discussing issues in the boardroom when they could be discussed in an informal setting prior to meetings. The board also tends to get caught up on details that are minor or outside of its mandate.

This leads to the board meetings frequently running in excess of four hours. Despite being comprised of

intelligent and dedicated individuals, the board has so far failed at having efficient discussions in the boardroom.

As a result, directors are often left frustrated and unable to effectively engage with the matter at hand.

For instance, the issue of allowing special constables to carry pepper spray – which many directors viewed as the most contentious board issue – consumed hours of the board's time. It was addressed as a representational matter, yet the board issued a neutral statement meaning much of the board's time in discussion was wasted.

The board often gets distracted by

small details, to the detriment of the bigger picture.

This comes at the cost of important issues. Discussion of WLUSU electoral reforms – one of the biggest issues directors faced this year – was delayed because of the time spent discussing the BOD pepper spray statement.

The board needs to make sure it doesn't make decisions hastily, which often occurs after meetings have gone on too long.

The question of moving to ranked balloting was decided upon and then changed twice.

Aside from affecting directors the length of meetings is also a source of frustration for the WLUSU manage-

ment group, which has been asked to attend all meetings. It is not an efficient use of salaried employees' time and, as a result, management isn't respectful of the meetings. Because of this, a number of directors feel belittled by management.

The change to the structure of meetings this year hasn't helped; the president's update occurs after the majority of agenda items, as it was previously a smaller commitment for the management group to only be present for issues directly concerning them.

Generally, the board has been effective. However, it needs to address its current lack of efficiency.

Individually, directors are strong. They must learn when their discussions should take place outside of the boardroom so they can remain as engaged with issues as they have been so far.

Because the board is privy to more information than the average student receives, it is in the position to make important decisions.

While the board has performed well under the given operating structure, directors should focus their efforts on issues that are of utmost importance to the students they represent.

It must realize that in attempting not to offend any student, it is not serving its representational role.



**Colin Le Fevre - President and CEO**

Coming into his role as WLUSU president, Colin Le Fevre – a two-time director – had a strong understanding of policy governance and what the role of the president should be therein.

Le Fevre has acted in compliance with this. He sees himself as a manager overseeing operations while letting the board deal with issues of representation.

In doing this Le Fevre has made several decisions unpopular with the student body, which include making the Turret 19-plus, cutting Radio Laurier, putting forward a very expensive website in the budget and allowing changes to the first-year meal plan.

Despite the criticism he has received for such actions, Le Fevre feels that he is acting in the best interests of the corporation, which under policy governance he is technically required to do.

However, the board is concerned that Le Fevre seems to base most of his decisions on consultation with

staff, as he rarely brings issues to the board or asks for director input.

While Le Fevre feels that it is not the board's role to micro-manage, many directors perceive his actions as indicative of his overlooking the role and value the BOD offers.

Directors feel that Le Fevre responds negatively in the boardroom when they ask questions or offer criticism.

Le Fevre has also failed to accomplish many of his platform goals: some because they turned out to be unfeasible – such as creating a WLUSU charitable foundation and a OneCard program in Brantford – and others due to time constraints.

He has delayed the creation of a sustainability plan until after his term ends, which is something many directors – as well as Le Fevre himself – are disappointed about.

Overall Le Fevre has made significant accomplishments this semester which include presenting monitor-

ing reports in compliance with policy governance, making changes to O-Week and completing an overhaul to the structure of the Students' Union – a project Le Fevre undertook to address what he saw as inherent problems with WLUSU.

Outside of failed platform promises, his major accomplishments thus far will likely have a long-lasting positive effect on WLUSU.

However, Le Fevre needs to have greater consideration for the interests of current students and not just the corporation.

While this is what he has chosen to do, many directors feel this does a disservice to students.

Despite the managerial role outlined in policy governance, Le Fevre needs to remember that he still holds the figurehead role of a students' union president. This will be necessary if Le Fevre wants to avoid succumbing to the management style of which he has always been critical.



**Asif Bacchus - Chair of the Board**

Asif Bacchus has brought an unprecedented level of training to this year's board, which is his greatest achievement. He has taught the board what it means to be a director – a lack of this knowledge has plagued student politics at WLU in recent years.

He is well-versed in policy governance and, as he approaches a decade at Laurier, he has a vast amount of knowledge about student politics.

However, there is a significant problem with the board for which the Chair is ultimately responsible: the length of discussions.

The role of the Chair is to moderate meetings and though Bacchus is acting in compliance with the governance model of the union, he needs to do a better job of ensuring the agenda is followed.

The Chair's impartiality is fundamental to the role, as it is important that he leads discussion objectively and without bias. Too often Bacchus steps out of his role as Chair, offering his opinion. This is inappropriate, as it can sway discussion and opinions.

Some directors feel belittled by Bacchus's behaviour. It's apparent that Bacchus uses his authority as Chair to be selective and control the direction meetings take.

Communication between Bacchus and President Colin Le Fevre both inside and outside of the boardroom has also become an issue. A personal friendship between the two has led to unprofessional conduct which is often interpreted as dislike.

As the only link between management and the Board, both Bacchus and Le Fevre need to ensure that information flows freely. A more defined professional relationship would contribute to this.

In terms of communicating with the Board, the majority of directors find him easily accessible and a useful resource, but there is concern that he is selective in who he meets with.

Bacchus has missed or come late to meetings with several directors while meeting regularly with others. As Chair this is unacceptable; he needs to show all directors the same

amount of respect.

Bacchus has shaped the role of Chair to include a large amount of work. He keeps long hours and works hard while acknowledging that he created this workload himself.

The Chair's compensation is the highest it has ever been, which the board does not feel the role deserves. The workload could be spread among all directors to help foster the board's representational nature.

The honorarium was presented with the WLUSU interim budget at the beginning of the board's term, which directors now regret passing. They feel that the role should never be compensated at its current level.

Though passionate about seeing his board succeed, Bacchus has created a role which many directors are unhappy with.

Bacchus needs to remember that his performance shapes the board as a whole, and thus he must take more precautions to remain neutral and facilitate more efficient discussion in the boardroom.



**Saad Aslam**



Saad Aslam has shown interest in and dedication to the board and its issues so far in his term.

His constructive comments and hard work collecting student input outside of the boardroom have earned the respect of his fellow directors.

He is one of the few directors who has succeeded in accomplishing campaign goals so far, and as the Union's Canadian Alliance of Student Associations representative, he is strongly involved in lobbying separately from the board.

A strong director, Aslam bases his decisions in the boardroom on fact and obviously stands up for what he believes in.

**Bryan Atcheson**



With vast experience from various groups within WLUSU, Bryan Atcheson has a valuable perspective to bring forward as a director.

Atcheson also has an understanding of the role of a director and possesses a strong ability to separate his personal interests from the interests of students on the whole.

While many directors vouch for his personal commitment and valuable ideas, his contribution during board meetings is infrequent. It often seems like he holds back his thoughts.

In the coming semester, Atcheson plans to create a committee that will evaluate board and management communications, hopefully giving him the chance to leave a mark on this year's board.

**Griffin Carpenter**



Showing what his peers say is the strongest director performance so far this year, Griffin Carpenter has worked to address his own goals as well as student concerns.

He has shown initiative by creating a committee to examine the union's hiring practices and has been willing to scrutinize matters presented by management.

Despite his strengths, Carpenter needs to consider the value of playing "devil's advocate," particularly in board meetings. Often, his comments distract fellow directors from the matter being discussed to the detriment of productivity.

Despite this tendency, Carpenter is a strong asset to the board and should strongly consider running again.

**Jon Champagne**



As a three-time director and previous chair, Jon Champagne is the most experienced director on this year's board. He is knowledgeable, has a firm grasp of policy governance and his experience allows him to operate effectively in the boardroom.

Champagne serves as a voice of reason and often reminds the board of its role in an attempt to put an end to meaningless debate.

Despite these credentials, Champagne seems to have lost the enthusiasm and drive he has shown in previous terms. While he is still a strong director, it is disappointing that he hasn't used his seniority to take on more of a leadership role.

**Sunny Chan**



While Sunny Chan has put forth a large amount of dedication and passion into his work outside of the boardroom, many of his fellow directors feel his efforts fade into the background in the boardroom due to his poor communication skills.

At meetings, Chan fails to express his ideas with clarity. He also brings up points that are irrelevant and confusing to fellow directors. Because of this, many of his peers find it difficult to take him seriously.

Since his commitment and enthusiasm make him valuable to the board, Chan is urged to work on his public speaking to contribute more meaningfully during board meetings.

**Jacqueline Dobson**



Learning her role as a director and making an effort to understand policy governance have paid off for Jackie Dobson; she has excellent potential as a director this term.

Dobson has already been a strong contributor both in and out of the boardroom through her contribution to the elections committee and her willingness to ask meaningful questions.

She carries herself with tremendous poise in discussions and has not let her position as a WLUSU student activities executive hinder or conflict with her commitment to the board.

As a second-year student who is very passionate about governance, she also has a great deal of potential for future involvement within WLUSU.

**Natasha Dupuis**



Anyone who attends board meetings regularly cannot doubt that Natasha Dupuis is opinionated on some student issues. However, the energy she brings to the boardroom is often directed only towards her personal interests.

Dupuis is never afraid to offer her insights, but she often neglects to approach things with the entire student population in mind.

At times, she also has difficulty keeping her emotions under control, making pointed comments towards fellow directors.

If Dupuis finds an effective way to transfer some of the energy she brings to select topics towards all board issues, she could use her critical nature to help the board as a whole.

**Andrew Fryer**



Having been elected board secretary, Andrew Fryer holds a position with added responsibility. He has proven himself as passionate and knowledgeable in this role and speaks regularly in board discussion.

However, his peers feel he often belittles them in the boardroom and displays unacceptable behaviour for someone in a leadership position; he often lets his emotions and temper take hold of him.

Some are concerned his new position has detached him from the role of a director, which has resulted in him aligning with the perspective of the current chair.

Fryer should make a conscious effort to regain the esteem of his peers and reconnect with students.

**Michael Lockhart**



Recognized by his peers as the hardest-working director, Michael Lockhart has displayed a great commitment to this year's board.

He dedicates extensive amounts of time and effort to the work he does. Fellow directors identify this as being extremely valuable.

The amount of effort he put into the WLUSU elections committee which he chaired is commendable.

Lockhart has earned the respect of his peers as they take his research and discussion points very seriously.

If he improves his communication skills in the boardroom he will become an even more effective director this term.

**Taylor McGuire**



Coming into his term Taylor McGuire displayed a lot of promise as a director, as he has a general concern for student issues. He brings good points to the table in discussions, yet he rarely has the chance to do so due to his chronic absence at meetings.

He needs to improve his attendance drastically, and demonstrate a constant interest in the board beyond keeping up with background work.

With a plethora of other co-curricular activities – most notably his work within the SBE students' society – McGuire has simply spread himself too thin to be an effective director.

However, with his SBE commitments ending in January, McGuire feels he can take more initiative this term and has expressed a desire to start a committee to create policy support for gender issues.

**Jacquelyn Morton**



Jacquelyn Morton's lack of enjoyment in her role as a director has become apparent. She admittedly dislikes her position and complains of long meetings.

She appears disengaged in the boardroom, as she rarely speaks and often doesn't seem to be paying close attention to discussion.

Though Morton attended nearly every board meeting last year due to her position with First-Year Council, she says that the role of a director is not what she expected and she will not be seeking re-election.

Currently, Morton is working behind the scenes to develop a more structured role for the FYC representative. Since she has failed to meet any of her other platform goals, this may be her only opportunity to salvage her term as a director.

**Michael Oberle**



Providing a pointed and practical voice in the boardroom, Michael Oberle has displayed himself to be a very calm and thoughtful director. Though he is generally quiet, when he does speak his points are excellent and articulated well.

He appears to weigh issues while never letting his own bias influence his decisions. Unfortunately, this often leads to him abstaining from voting.

Oberle's lack of involvement outside of the boardroom has also been disappointing, though this semester he will sit on the Appeals Review Committee for elections. Oberle should take this opportunity, as well as any others that arise, to become more engaged in small groups if it is his personality style that prevents him from being vocal in meetings.

**Laura Sedgwick**



In the early meetings of the term, Laura Sedgwick was not afraid to offer her point of view and bring forward issues to the board. However, because of the nature of her comments her contributions tend to be unproductive.

The direction her points take are not often prudent to the board.

Her comments are typically broad and philosophical, frequently straying from the practical nature the boardroom demands.

Though she feels she has brought up important issues, Sedgwick should take more time to evaluate how she seeks to represent students.

Rather than restrain herself in discussion – which she has done as of late – Sedgwick should make efforts to include structure and purpose with her insights.

**Chris Underwood**



Attendance has been a major issue to date for Chris Underwood.

His outside commitments to residence life and the recruitment office mean that Underwood would have a valuable point of view to contribute if he were to attend more meetings.

If the boardroom isn't the kind of commitment Underwood expected, involvement in committees and work outside of the boardroom could allow him the opportunity to provide input and contribute to the board in a meaningful way, something that Underwood has so far failed to accomplish.

These reviews were written collaboratively by News Editors Jeremy Tremblay and Rebecca Vasluianu, Special Projects Editor Laura Carlson and Editor-in-Chief Alex Hayter.

They are based on collective observations from attending the Board's bi-weekly public meetings and conducting more than 20 hours of interviews with all elected student representatives.

These interviews were specifically designed to evaluate the elected representatives' performances based on both self and peer evaluations.

Photos by Alex Hayter, Sydney Helland and Ryan Stewart.

# Dear Cordelia...

A sassy new relationship expert on campus is ready to answer your most anonymous and pressing questions about life, love and relationships



GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION

## Do you have a question for Cordelia?

E-mail her at:  
cordelia@cordweekly.com

### Q. Dear Cordelia,

Recently, my girlfriend of six months admitted that she has cheated on boyfriends in the past. She assured me that those relationships were different and she would never do that to me. Should I trust her, or is the old adage "once a cheater, always a cheater" true?

Sincerely, Baffled Boyfriend

### A. Dear Baffled Boyfriend,

This all boils down to how much trust you have in your girlfriend. If you had cheated in the past, I'm sure you wouldn't want the rest of your relationships spoiled by one bad decision. Perhaps her past decision-making skills weren't the best, but now she's matured and is ready for commitment. However, beware. It has taken your girlfriend six months to admit this truth to you and it is obvious that you do not feel comfortable with this admission. Decide if the relationship is worth putting stock into, and how much you can trust your girlfriend. If you still feel uneasy about her past indiscretions, maybe it's time to seriously think about moving on.

### Q. Dear Cordelia,

I've been seeing "Kevin" for about two months. We've had sex enough times for me to get sick of his favourite position... he always wants me on top. At first I thought it was sexy and different, but now I realize he is just plain lazy. I am bored and a little offended. How should I bring up my dissatisfaction with him?

Sincerely, Positionally Challenged

### A. Dear Positionally Challenged,

Assuming that you're otherwise interested in "Kevin," you have a few options. If the lines of communication

are open in your relationship, I would suggest confronting the issue head-on. Talk to Kevin about wanting to try different positions. Let him know that you want to make it work and that changing it up in the bedroom is important to you and therefore important to keeping the relationship going. If this is too forward for your liking, try suggesting switching positions during sex. Tell him how sexy it would be for you both to try a new position. By giving verbal and nonverbal cues during sex, he should get the message that his participation in the event is satisfying for you.

### Q. Dear Cordelia,

As a first-year student, I am away from home for the first time. I like being on my own but still feel smothered by my mother. She calls at least once a day! In addition, she sends e-mail, text messages and care packages. Luckily, I've been able to keep her visits to a minimum by saying I had a lot of school work to do, but I don't want to lie to her anymore. I want to tell her the truth, but I don't want to hurt her feelings.

Sincerely, Smothered Daughter

### A. Dear Smothered Daughter,

It can be tough for a mother to overcome the feeling of having an empty nest. However, this does not mean that you should feel responsible for your mother's overbearing attitude. Moving out to pursue a university education is respectable and is indeed a learning experience beyond the classroom. It should also be a learning experience for your mother. By smothering you, she is not allowing you to learn to be independent. It is time to have a talk with your mother. Explain to her that you are doing well on your own and do not need daily communication. Limit her to just text messages or just e-mails and set up a weekly time when she can call you. If this is too strict, put a limit on the number of calls per week or what time of day she can contact you. Your mother will let go and you will have some room for breathing. The times you do talk to one another will be more rewarding for both of you this way.

## Keep your 2009 resolution

The Cord investigates three of the top New Year's resolutions that students make, and the best way to stay on track in 2009

### KARI PRITCHARD FEATURES EDITOR

Almost everybody makes New Year's resolutions; many of us never stick to them. Don't worry, you're not alone.

With a few helpful hints in regards to quitting smoking, losing weight and saving money, you'll be more confident in following through with your New Year's resolutions.

#### It's time to quit smoking

Health Promotion and Education Facilitator Marilyn Nieboer knows the difficulties of trying to quit smoking and is full of suggestions, "A lot of times it's just when you have that craving you have to think of something else to do - pre-occupy yourself, chew gum or drink

water."

Even though it may seem obvious, "One of the best things to do is think about the benefits of quitting and really concentrate on those," suggested Nieboer.

Not smelling like a chimney, saving money and being healthier; how could you go wrong?

If you're looking for more motivation to quit, check out the "Let's Make a Deal" contest put on by Leave the Pack Behind.

Full-fledged smokers, social smokers, and even non-smokers are eligible to enter the contest.

You can sign up for the eight-week challenge between January 19 and 23 to help you stick with your resolution to stop smoking.

Stopping smoking can also save you cash and keep you in good shape - which leads to our next tip.

#### Losing those extra pounds

When it comes to losing weight, the bottom line is to stick with your exercise routine and don't overdo it.

Athletic therapist Jamie Carlson suggests giving yourself time to work out and watching what you eat while trying to lose weight.

"If you're eating more calories than you're putting out then it's not going to make a difference," said Carlson, also advising to eat enough calories to keep your energy up while working out.

Another key suggestion from Carlson is not to go over board, since even taking a few days off to rest your sore body could be the end of your resolution.

Programs co-ordinator Jennifer O'Neill suggests taking up an intra-

mural sport or trying other physical activities like rock climbing or yoga to help watch your weight.

Laurier's personal trainers are also promoted as a good source to help you lose weight. Along with new diet consultants, both of these resources are excellent ways to stick to your weight-loss resolution.

#### Saving your precious dollars

Saving money is a top goal for university students any day, but is also a popular resolution for students in the new year.

There are several ways to save money as a student. On a day-to-day basis, recognize places where you spend cash when you don't necessarily have to.

If you can't live without coffee, invest in a travel mug and start

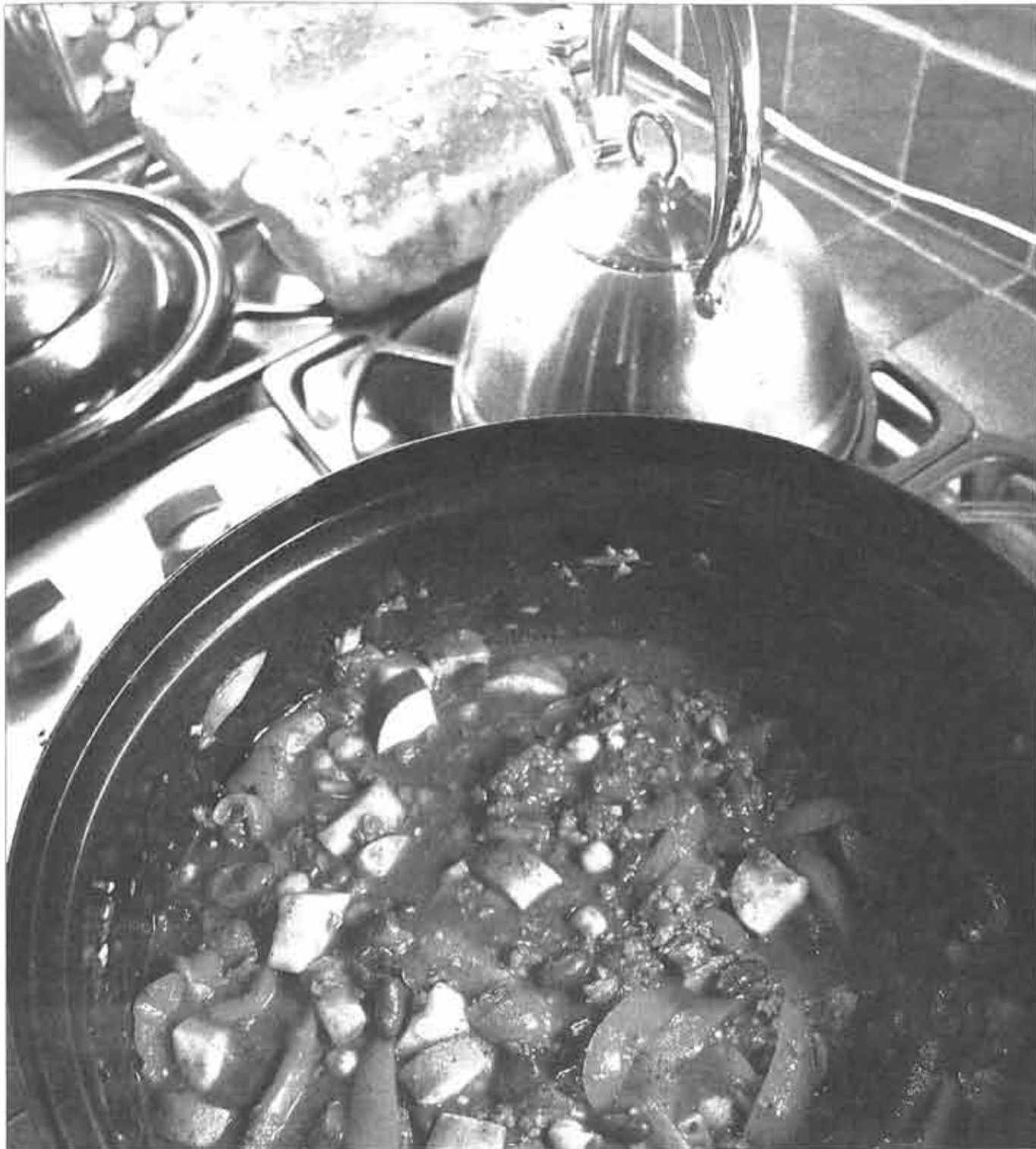
making your own. Eating out may be easy, but if you bring your own meals or snacks to campus you can save those food dollars that tend to add up.

Going out can also be a costly endeavour. Try going out less; when you do go out, don't be afraid to pre-drink to save yourself money at the bar.

If you keep dipping into your savings fund, consider opening up a new account that you can't access through your debit card to keep some money safe.

Next school year may seem a long way away, but consider looking at bursaries or scholarships that you can apply for. You can find some student awards on the Laurier website, but don't be afraid to check out other websites as well.

Campus Club Profile #3:



FILE PHOTO BY SYDNEY HELLAND

**CHUNKY CHILI** - Cooking is the Culinary Arts Club's passion, whether it's mac and cheese or cordon bleu.

# Culinary Arts Club returns to the kitchen

The Laurier-based Culinary Arts Club, revived after a short hiatus period, is aiming to increase its presence on campus through making delicious cuisine

**JODIE MACE**  
CORD STUDENT LIFE

Wilfrid Laurier University has quite a few campus clubs, but here's one that should satisfy your appetite for extra-curricular involvement. The Culinary Arts Club is a great way for gourmands and foodies of all kinds to connect while sharing their love of cooking.

Whether you're an aspiring chef (in which case you came to the wrong post-secondary institution) or just enjoy making a mess in the kitchen, the Culinary Arts club may be worth checking out.

The original club was founded several years ago but eventually became inactive. Just reinstated last January, the club is now undergoing a "big transition period," according to Head Chef and Events Co-ordinator Annieta Nournim.

Last year, activities were more geared towards "casual cooking and getting to know each other," whereas this year the club will focus on bigger events. The major event of the year will be the Iron

Chef competition taking place next semester.

Nournim is quick to point out that this is a "casual" club whose primary goal is that its members should have fun. More low-key events in which members can choose to participate include pot-

**WHETHER YOU'RE AN ASPIRING CHEF ... OR JUST ENJOY MAKING A MESS IN THE KITCHEN, THE CULINARY ARTS CLUB MAY BE WORTH CHECKING OUT.**

lucks, trips, cooking get-togethers and "anything fun and exciting that involves food," says Nournim.

The club does not hold regular meetings, but members are informed through e-mail about upcoming events and get-togethers.

One difficulty that the club has to deal with is finding a place to do all that cooking. Since there is

no kitchen on the Laurier campus that members can use for club purposes, they are often forced to use the facilities at Conestoga College. Getting publicity has also been a bit of a challenge, as the club mostly relies on word-of-mouth to make itself known to the Laurier community.

You don't have to be a prize-winning chef to be a member. Nournim says that anyone who has an "open attitude towards food" or wants to learn about different foods should consider becoming a "Kitchen Hawk" (as members affectionately refer to each other).

These members can be anyone from "extreme cooks" to those who "don't know how to make mac and cheese," as Nournim puts it.

If you're interested in becoming a Kitchen Hawk, you'll want a taste of the Laurier Culinary Arts Club.

# CORD-O-SCOPES

To celebrate the new year, this month's Cordoscopes will predict your New Year's resolutions and their inevitable results.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19



Chaos consumed your life in 2008, so this year you have decided to get organized. Writing everything down in an organizer will help you at first, but once it's stolen by a cat burglar, you'll break down into an incompetent stupor. The lesson here: don't buy diamond-studded organizer booklets.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18



2009 will be a time for you to learn something new. While you've decided to take up crocheting, may I suggest learning scavenging and foraging skills? When global warming causes a comet to hit the earth during a nuclear war, you'll be glad you did.

**Pisces**  
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20



Your goal for the New Year is to spend more time with your friends and family. When those close to you start to say you're smothering them, you can always resort to hiding in your friends' bedrooms at night. Nobody said a person has to know you're there for you to spend time with them.

**Aries**  
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19



When you say that you resolve to stop saying everything that's on your mind, what you really mean is that you want to stop being such an asshole. You have the strength and patience to do this, but be cautious; all that pent-up rage has to go somewhere. And where does it go? Straight to your hips.

**Taurus**  
Apr. 20 - May 20



2008 may have been tumultuous in the financial sector, but for you it was bland. You've resolved to take up a new hobby to fill the time. But after a botched ship-in-a-bottle attempt proves to be near-fatal, you'll realize that you're just not meant to be good at anything.

**Gemini**  
May 21 - June 20



Your New Year's resolution is to start going to the gym, which you'll do for a month before quitting. Just like half the goddamn population. Here's your resolution for 2010: be original for once.

**Cancer**  
June 21 - July 22



With Venus passing through Cancer last year, your academics have suffered. 2009 will be a time to turn over a new leaf. Your resolution to "actually try hard this semester" will fall short when you discover a new-found passion for square dancing.

**Leo**  
July 23 - Aug. 22



After a brief scare where what you thought was syphilis turned out to be a head cold, you've resolved to calm down and stop sleeping with so many people. While self-restraint is new to you, you'll quickly find your solution: eat more fast food.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22



You've resolved to make 2009 a year to see new things. When travelling doesn't show you the new sights you wanted, you'll inevitably resort to a new strategy: acid tripping.

**Libra**  
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22



2009 will bring with it a horrible accident in your life, in which you will injure your body in horrific ways. But it's not all bad. Your newly acquired ability to bend your left knee backwards will fulfill your New Year's resolution of being more interesting at parties.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21



After 2008's financial meltdown, you've resolved to be smarter with your money. That's all well and good, except that you're in university and you have no money. But that's okay, because you'd be too dumb to be smart with it anyways.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

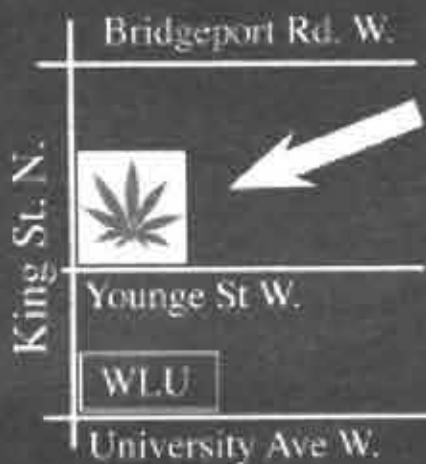


You've resolved to improve the world this year, but you know what they say: charity begins at home. If you really want to help people, go buy the most expensive stuff you can find. How does this help, you say? Don't ask me; I didn't write the proverb.

After a traumatic head injury, Dave Shore discovered he had gained the uncanny power of looking up into the clear night sky and making predictions on the future, some of which have even come close to not being total fabrications.

# Different Strokes

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# Mugabe continues to fail Zimbabwe

Alanna Wallace expresses her concern for Zimbabweans as they face a deadly cholera pandemic with an apathetic leader



ALANNA WALLACE  
STAFF WRITER

Footage of Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe emerged last month that displayed his inadequacy as a leader. "Zimbabwe is mine," he stated, after he blatantly explained that there was no cholera in the country. He blamed the recent cholera pandemic on colonialism and mainly Britain, even going as far as to say allies of colonialism had started the pandemic as an excuse to overthrow his government.

Mugabe's failure is at the heart of the pandemic, and each individual that perishes is the victim of his heartless, thoughtless reign. His ruthless reign over Zimbabwe, his backwards thinking and his egotistical methods have had detrimental results for the country he claims to love, and those surrounding it.

Dictatorship and anarchy in Zimbabwe have been a lethal combination thanks to Mugabe's neglect. Mugabe is more intent on pushing cholera under the rug

while he fights opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai for more power. He neglects the fact that countless engineers and healthcare workers have gone on strike and are not responding to his nation's collapse.

The BBC, which has been banned from reporting in Zimbabwe, calls the pandemic the result of a "cocktail of failed services." As sewage systems fail, access to clean water plummets and sanitation services remain nonexistent for an overwhelming number of Zimbabweans, cholera spreads like wildfire.

Zimbabwe's failed economy has led to drastic measures. While in the region last year, I came across a 50,000 Zim dollar note: a bill worth mere pennies. In Zimbabwe, currency exchange is done on the black market. A friend of mine working outside Harare says he immediately buys beer with his Zim dollars because beer will not depreciate in value. He then sells the beers to his co-workers for American dollars or the Euro. Drastic times call for drastic measures.

Drastic times, indeed. There has not been an outbreak of cholera since 1961, and it is widely seen as

an ancient disease with a reputation and symptoms much like the bubonic plague. Cholera pandemics have occurred only seven times since 1816.

Zimbabwe's open wound of economic collapse has been infected by cholera.

Still, Zimbabwe is no stranger to the disease. Cholera has been contained in Zimbabwe with few outbreaks in the past decade.

However, Zimbabwe's decrease in leadership by Mugabe after failed elections and the creation of a power-sharing government have left the nation's infrastructure in ruins.

Many would blame outside intervention in Zimbabwe's history of riches to ruins. Some may argue that Mugabe's hands are tied in the power-sharing mess that has been created by opposition parties not prevalent until this past year's election.

However, the nation's struggle with cholera is purely the result of a leader's inability to act in a crisis situation. I refuse to believe that there is an outside power that is at fault for Mugabe's blatant neglect for not only his nation's economy

but also for the people that relied on him to create a new Zimbabwe in the era after colonialism.

Contacts that I have in Africa say they are not afraid of the pandemic. However, many of them have water treatment available to stifle any bacteria.

So perhaps the cholera pandemic is a question of where one stands economically. Though Mugabe

built his dictatorship on returning Zimbabwe to its roots and turning away from Rhodesia's colonialist past, cholera now infects those the dictator promised to empower. Instead, those with colonial heritage remain healthy.

Mugabe's vision of a prosperous Zimbabwe has become a failure, and he has no one to blame but himself.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**LACKADAISICAL LEADER** - Mugabe's disinterest in the humanitarian needs of his country has led many to accuse him of dictatorship.

## WORLD IN

### Crisis in the Gaza Strip

After months of a relatively calm Gaza Strip, violence erupted once again in late December, 2008. Hamas, the Palestinian militant group that rules Gaza, resumed rocket attacks into Israeli territory injuring and killing civilians as well as damaging Israeli property and infrastructure. Mounting pressure on the Israeli government to commence an "all-out war" against Hamas reached its breaking point on January 3 as an Israeli ground assault on Gaza became a reality.

Saturday morning, CNN reported that leaflets were dropped warning Gazans to "leave the area immediately." The Gaza Strip is one of the most densely populated areas in the world, making the probability of civilian casualties inevitable. On Friday,

an exiled Hamas leader warned of severe bloodshed to those who attempted any sort of ground offensive into Gaza, telling Arabic television network Al Jazeera that the Israeli Defence Forces "need to know that doom will await [them] and [they] will be killed, injured and captured." US President George W. Bush has publicly blamed Hamas for the crisis, which has led to more than 595 dead since December 27, according to the Associated Press. Among the dead are 40 Palestinians that were victims to an attack on a UN-run school.

### A slaughtered Christmas

On Christmas Eve, a disguised and dangerously armed Santa Claus ended the lives of nine people "at a two-storey home on a cul-de-sac in Covina, about 22 miles east of Los

Angeles," said the Associated Press. Bruce Jeffrey Pardo, who was dressed as Santa Claus, had previously lost both his job at ITT Electronic Systems (a military supplier) and a divorce battle to his ex-wife. During the investigation, these reasons were believed to be Pardo's motivations. Pardo shot and set his in-laws' property on fire before taking his own life with a single gunshot at his brother's house in Sylmar, 40 miles away from the killing scene. Neighbours were in shock. Jeffrey Barrientos told officials that "this neighbourhood is really quiet," and Jan Detanna, who ushers at Pardo's church, knew him as a decent man.

### Peaceful elections in Ghana

Opposition leader John Atta Mills of the National Democratic Congress has been elect-

ed the newest president of Ghana. On December 7, polling stations saw a high voter turnout despite the extreme heat that day. Many international news sources anticipated Ghanaians to cause a violent uproar, as seen throughout many African nations during elections, but the only known disputes were among the candidates themselves.

After days of delayed results, the electoral commission called a runoff for December 28 between leading contenders John Atta Mills and Nana Akufo-Addo. Atta Mills won 50.23 percent of the votes while the remaining 49.77 percent went to his opponent from the New Patriotic Party, giving Ghanaians a new president by means of a democratic and non-violent election.

Compiled by Heather MacDonald, Henji Milius and Paula Millar.

**Will Scarlett**  
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# Poisoning lives

Banana companies Del Monte, Dole and Chiquita used the lethal chemical Nemagon to protect their crops in Nicaragua. Workers now live with a poison that is decimating their community

**REBEKAH LUDOLPH**  
INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM  
GRANT RECIPIENT

For two years, 800 Nicaraguans have lived in an encampment outside of the National Assembly in Managua, Nicaragua.

They represent a portion of the over 80,000 Nicaraguans who have been affected by the pesticide Nemagon, used on banana plantations until 1985, but illegal in the United States since 1979. This community calls themselves the Nemagon Workers, and they are suffering from sterility, birth defects, miscarriages, gastritis, vision loss, kidney failure, mental illness and cancers of the pancreas, skin, lungs and stomach.

Nemagon was used by Del Monte, Standard Fruit Company (Dole) and the United Fruit Company (Chiquita) to ensure that we get brilliantly yellow bananas in our grocery stores. The Nemagon Workers have left their children and their homes; they have nothing left to lose. They will remain encamped in the capital until the transnational companies responsible for the manufacturing and use of Nemagon come to Nicaragua to negotiate or, according to Vice President of the Nemagon Workers Guillermo Armando Vivas, "until they all die."

Nemagon, also known as DBCP (dibromo-chloropropane) was used to control microscopic nematode worms that live in the roots of banana trees, affecting the plants and discolouring the fruit. While organic bananas have better fla-

vor, they are not as appealing to look at. The intense yellow colour of bananas is what makes them marketable.

There are two methods of applying the chemical, both of which risk contact with the worker. One option is for a worker to inject the chemical into the soil with a syringe. Syringes commonly jam and spurt DBCP all over the minimally clad worker. The other method, as described by Nemagon Directive member Alberto Cecilio Delgado Milion, involves Nemagon being added to irrigation water by the use of asoeration towers. These are moved manually and spray a mist about one foot above the banana leaves. With wind, this allows chemical particles to travel 11 kilometres.

The next morning, a full staff of barefoot workers enters the plantation, the sun rises, and with it comes venomous vapour from the soil. The chemical penetrates the skin and the respiratory tract and, according to Milion, "It feels like your insides are on fire."

Repeatedly, the members of the Nemagon directive said that no preventative measures were taken or training given to inform workers of the toxic effects of DBCP.

The health effects of DBCP - first noted in 1990 in Chinandega - are wide-ranging and drastic. "We began to notice strange deaths ourselves; it did not make sense that we were all getting sick," explained Vivas, "children born with birth defects, women having miscarriages, couples that inexplicably couldn't conceive, men's bodies encrusted with sores that never healed and

more and more people afflicted with a strange itchy rash and uncontrollable sweating." In 1997, out of the 154 women who gave birth, 99 percent of their breast milk contained ten times the acceptable amount of DDT and DDE. By 2005, 2,000 Nicaraguans had died from exposure to Nemagon.

All 800 people currently living in the tent city that is the Nemagon Encampment have been affected by the pesticide and live in the cruel conditions of crude tent homes and dirt floors. As mother and former banana-packer Rosaura Zyartina Pérez explained, they "are people of the *campo*, used to simple but clean living." On top of health problems, the workers are surrounded by rush-hour traffic and the smog of the inner city. It has also been proven that the chemicals in the scraps of plastic used to make their homes are compounding health problems.

Pérez left her home in Chinandega, along with 1,200 other former Nemagon Workers on May 20, 2007. She left her house and her children in the care of relatives, and began the 140-kilometre walk to Managua. Since 2007, her home and land have been disappropriated. Having worked for ten years packing bananas on a *finca*, Pérez now suffers from gastritis, skin infections and vision loss. But she has given up everything, and will stay until she wins her fight.

It is not a new fight. The Nemagon Directive, headed by female president Altagarcia del Socorro Solis Navas, is well-informed of the history of their struggle. In

the 1960s, the fruit transnationals Standard Fruit (Dole), Del Monte and United Fruit (today Chiquita Brands) began to use Nemagon massively on Cen-

tral American, Caribbean and Philippine banana plantations. This was despite an international Dow Chemical report in 1958 that stated Nemagon causes serious illnesses and has carcinogenic effects, as well as creating contaminated air, soil and water for generations.

The chemical was manufactured by the Occidental Corporation, Dow Chemical Company and Shell. Shell and Dow exported 24 million pounds of Nemagon each year during the 1970s until 1977.

In 1977, the trade union at an Occidental Factory in California identified the first case of male sterility due to exposure to DBCP. Consequently, in 1979, Nemagon was banned in the US and taken off the market due to its proven toxic effects on human chromosomes. Similar-

ly, Costa Rica prohibited use in 1978; however, in Nicaragua, use continued until 1985. By 1993, over 16,000 people affected by Nemagon around the world had already been identified, but in Nicaragua that number was only 165.

Nemagon had been a public international issue since the 1980s, but the legal history of Nemagon in Nicaragua does not begin until 1992. In September 1992, Álvaro Ramírez, president of the Nicaraguan Association of Democratic Attorneys, went to the First Seminar on Grassroots Legal Services, Human Rights and the Administration of Justice in Costa Rica. There he first learned of the lawsuit of Nicaraguan banana workers against the Standard Fruit Company. Contacts were also made with several US law firms to sue Shell for its irregularities related to the production, transport, sale and use of Nemagon after it had been banned in the US.

In April 1995, the first lawsuit was issued by 16,000 banana plantation workers in Asia, Africa and Latin America against Shell, Dow and Occidental for production and distribution of Nemagon for irreversible damage to their health, demanding indemnification. In Nicaragua, Dow Chemical reportedly paid \$22 million to US attorneys contacted by Marcelino García - today a legislative representative for the reigning political party - as compensation for 812 former Nicaraguan banana workers affected by Nemagon. Only \$143,300 was distributed to these workers; the rest remained in the firm's hands. Members of the current Nemagon Directive argue that none of this money reached the people involved.

There have been continual legal ploys to undermine the demands of the Nemagon Workers. In January 2001, thanks to the ongoing struggle, Nicaragua's national assembly passed Law 364, which backed the lawsuits being brought before Dole, Dow and Shell in US courts of law. In December 2002, all three companies were ordered to pay



PHOTO BY RYAN



GETTY IMAGES

**MARCH TO MANAGUA** - In 2007, 1,200 former Nemagon workers made the 140 km trek to fight for their right to work in a safe environment.

\$490 million to these 583 workers, but refused to comply. The Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) also threatened to nullify these lawsuits. In 1997, thousands of affected workers were induced by politicians and lawyers to accept \$100 in exchange for renouncing all present and future lawsuits. In November 2007, Dole and Dow claimed to have paid six workers \$3.3 million indemnification. Directive member Jose Ali Rueda claims that two of these workers live in the Managua encampment. Neither have seen any money come from their trip to testify in the United States. One of the plaintiffs told a story of being forcibly given a vasectomy so that he could not be tested and proven to be sterile.

Despite these difficulties, the Nemagon Workers have been consistently and peacefully struggling to have their voices heard. The first march took place in 1999, when 3,000 men, women, children and elderly citizens walked the 150 kilometres from Chinandega to the capital city of Managua. Their goal was to give a letter to US Ambassador Oliver Garza requesting support in the lawsuits against the companies from his country.

In 2000, they marched and organized hunger strikes to successfully pass Law 364. In August 2003 the former banana workers from different plantations in Chinandega organized the association ASOTRAEXDAN. They also held

protests and accused the Ojeda, Gutiérrez, Espinoza and Associates Law Firm of attempting to defraud the workers by boycotting their legal case. And from January to March 21, 2004 they marched from Chinandega to set up a vast encampment in front of the national assembly until President Enrique Bolaños agreed to meet with them.

Out of this meeting came the "El Raizón Agreements," which promised to provide victims with legal support in the US via the Nicaraguan embassy in Washington, to allow Benjamín Pérez to formally present Nicaragua's Nemagon case to the International Human Rights Commission in Geneva. If the protestors would abandon their encampment, Bolaños promised to refrain from reforming Law 364. In 2005, they marched again to demand \$17 billion in indemnification and backing from their government to counteract the legal manoeuvres employed by Shell, Dole and Dow to avoid responsibility.

Though the Nemagon workers have been permanently encamped in front of the National Assembly since May 2007, it is no longer the government they are directly targeting. Under current President Daniel Ortega, the Nemagon workers have free medical care and "priority care status," which means the Ministry of Health will seek national and international resources to cover treatments. The ministry delivered 3,883 identification cards to the victims that allow them to obtain aid through health care units across the country. The government also agreed to cover the costs of 300



REBEKAH LUDOLPH

**TENT CITY** - 800 Nicaraguans affected by the pesticide sleep on the dirt floors of an encampment.

coffins and funerals annually and to provide some rations and clothing to the workers. This explains the Sandinista colour and Ortega propaganda covering the Nemagon encampment.

This does not mean the Nemagon struggle has become easier. Only this spring the leader of the Nemagon struggle, Victorino Espinales, was found to be embezzling the funds of the community and was also accused of exploiting the story of the Nemagon workers for his own political campaign. When he left the struggle, one-third of the encampment's population left

with him. The remaining protesters are still struggling to get back on their feet with a new directive that democratically manages the camp.

The current demands of the Nemagon Workers are simple. First, that Dole, Dow and Shell come to Nicaragua to meet directly with the Nemagon Directive. The workers cannot afford to travel to the United States, let alone get visas. Second, that \$200 a month should be provided per terminally ill worker, and other affected workers should receive some sort of health support in the future. The Nemagon Directive's current situation is primarily

dependent on the involvement of international consumers, but their case lacks mass publicity. The directive was clear, however, in its plea that consumers should buy bananas from companies other than Dole, Chiquita or Del Monte.

The Vice President Vivas of the Nemagon Workers pleads that consumers boycott Del Monte, Dole and Chiquita products as well as write letters to the companies' representatives. There has to be a continued effort to keep this issue a priority, says Vivas - who is fairly sure that the transnationals are "simply waiting for [the workers] to die off."

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SYDNEY HELLAND

**WATERWORKS** - Swimmers take what may not be their last swim in the Laurier pool, as the financial situation is looking much more optimistic after a December council meeting.

# Pool open on daily basis

The Wilfrid Laurier pool, previously doomed to be closed, now appears to have the funding necessary for the short-term repairs

- FROM POOL, COVER

"We expressed interest in doing our part of bringing other municipalities to the table as well," said Witmer. "I encouraged user groups to bring us some options that we could possibly fund.

"When we heard that [the Region of Waterloo swim club] ROW had already raised over \$700,000 towards bringing the pool to a usable level, council recognized that there is certainly support in the community, and we need to look and see if there are ways we can chip in and help keep the pool open."

Witmer explained that he has also been in contact with some federal officials to discuss the possibility of getting some funding from the Canadian government.

"My hopes are that there might be something there down the road,"

said Witmer.

Director of Laurier Athletics Peter Baxter noted that the city was quite impressed with the amount of money ROW had come up with in such a short time.

This made them realize how important the issue was.

"Once the aquatics groups came forward with money, and the cities agreed to think about contributing, we were able to try and work to keep the pool open on a day-to-day basis," said Baxter.

ROW president Tracy Bennett felt that there were a lot of missed opportunities earlier in the pool's survival campaign, saying there wasn't enough advertising directed at alumni or forums available in which they could donate.

Bennett stated that the city would have been unable to support ROW's programs.

The swim club has been with

Laurier for the past 32 years.

"If the Laurier pool had closed, we wouldn't have been able to run a full program," said Bennett.

She continued to say that the group felt that if they didn't step up at the council meeting and do something, funding for a solution wouldn't be available.

"When we went to council, [the city] really started to realize the importance of keeping the pool open and they really started to listen. They began to realize that this is no longer just a university problem, but it's a city problem, too."

Facilitating collaboration between the high schools, universities and cities in the region seems to be the way to a successful future.

"Let's get some collaboration going and we can get a much better facility ... the whole region is going to benefit."

Bennett feels that a band-aid

solution is needed right away, but plans for a long-term solution shouldn't be far behind.

Baxter noted that the plan was always to see what the University of Waterloo was going to do before formulating a plan for a new facility.

UW has discontinued plans for building an Olympic-sized pool as a result of the withdrawal of their donor.

Baxter noted that future talks for gathering funding for a long-term plan will be directed towards the community and surrounding regions instead of exclusively on Laurier.

"It's not fair to load the costs onto student fees when a large part of the usage goes to community groups," said Baxter.

The short-term solution includes a long list of repairs which were estimated in August.

These include the replacement of the air-handling unit (\$450,000), replacing the ventilation roof (\$225,000) and repairing a leak in the filtration system.

While estimates for repairs remain high, Baxter remains hopeful that these prices may drop.

"Because of the economic downturn, many of the tenders are coming in less than originally expected," he said.

Bennett is also optimistic that a solution will be found to save the pool.

"Nobody wanted to think about it as their responsibility because it was a university," said Bennett.

"Without the involvement of the outside user groups, the university wouldn't have been able to do it.

"They are getting the community support because they are a community pool. It's a great partnership."

# Women are standing up for their sports

**TIEJA MACLAUGHLIN**  
STAFF WRITER

Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympics, once noted "the applause of women as recompense" in the male-dominated world of sport. Having been merely spectators, it hadn't been until within the last decade that women even came close to equalling men in the Games.

Overall, female athletes account for approximately 1/3 of the total athletes that compete in the Olympics, and the 2004 Athens games were actually the first and only games to which Canada sent more female athletes than male - granted, it was only a one-athlete difference. Also, implemented recently was a rule stating that any new sport introduced into the games must accommodate both men's and women's disciplines.

However, with the elimination of women's ski jumping as an official sport, the spotlight was again placed on the gender and equality issues the world of sport faces. "It shows that the work's not finished," commented Karin

Lofstrom, a member of the Canadian Inter-university Sport (CIS) Gender and Equity board. "We've made some great strides but we're still not on a level playing field."

Lofstrom works for the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity (CAAWS). As a former member of Basketball Canada as well as Figure Skating Canada, and current executive director of CAAWS, she strives to create more opportunities for females to become involved in sports, and ultimately promotes healthy living and being active.

"Initially a lot of the work was revolved around participation. I think we've made some good strides there," said Lofstrom. "There is still work to be done in getting women in decision-making positions: leadership, coaching, boards, etc."

Discrimination against female athletes used to be blatantly displayed - women weren't allowed to play hockey, for example. Now that women can participate in sport, prejudice has simply become more subtle.

"When you have boards of all men, but half

the athletes are women, that doesn't make sense," Lofstrom says.

Another problem faced by women's teams, varsity especially, is funding. "The women's programs have a harder time," says Lofstrom. "There never seems to be enough resources going around for girls' sports." A team's success is usually the basis for funding allotment, but with the continued domination of most Laurier women's athletic programs, this doesn't seem to be the case.

Wilfrid Laurier has a long-standing history of excellence in women's sports. The women's hockey team has won the last five OUA championships in a row, and the women's lacrosse team went undefeated this season, winning their sixth championship.

On an international level - with all of the hype surrounding the men's team at the World Junior hockey tournament - many people may not have realized the women's tournament began this week. Our very own Golden Hawk goaltender Liz Knox was even chosen to be a part of the team to represent Canada.

"Canada, I'd say, is actually ahead of the world on these kinds of issues. But until other countries that don't have the same philosophies change, it will be hard-pressed," adds Lofstrom. "We are making progress; you see the changes in new generations." Men in power are having daughters and wanting them to be involved in sports, seeing the opportunities their sons get. "I think attitudes change that way."

Equality in sports isn't about depreciating men, nor about co-ed and mixed-gendered sports, says Lofstrom. Though an athlete such as Hayley Wickenheiser might be able to keep up with more aggressive players, "Physically in most cases this would be dangerous," she added.

The idea is simply about females of all ages being given the opportunity to play and compete; to coach and officiate; to be healthy and active and to enjoy the basis of sport philosophy. "Sport is part of every man and woman's heritage and its absence can never be compensated for." Pierre de Coubertin said it best himself.



# Hawks ready for rest of season

The women's hockey team return from a successful holiday season of games ready to face any obstacles in hopes of reaching the national championships

**LAURA CARLSON**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

This past weekend the Laurier Golden Hawks women's hockey team travelled to Winnipeg to take part in an annual invitational tournament, where they came away with a silver medal. After winning their first three games, the Hawks lost the gold-medal game 3-2 in a shootout to hosts the Manitoba Bisons.

They previously defeated the Bisons 2-1, however, earlier in the tournament and also topped Minnesota and Lethbridge.

Head Coach Rick Osborne said he was pleased with the outcome of the tournament, noting that speed, strength and skill characterized the Hawks' style of play.

"If you take a look at all those things, going to two overtime games and splitting a shootout, it has to be encouraging," said Osborne.

Osborne was particularly impressed with the rookies who, for the first time, were given a chance to experience the "pressure and gru-

elling schedule" of the weekend.

Particularly, forward Caitlin Muirhead netted three important goals along with a vital assist.

"Not only were [the rookies] focused and physically ready, they played an intelligent game," said Osborne. He noted that the rookie line worked together stronger than many of their veteran teammates.

Aside from preparing the rookies for the upcoming challenges they will face over the rest of the season, Osborne said that the tournament also allowed the team as a whole to prepare for the future if they win the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) title.

"We certainly are respectful of the fact that we'll have a tough road ahead of us getting out of Ontario, but if we do go to the nationals it will be a flying trip....

"This was designed to at least let us experience air travel and a tough schedule."

Osborne noted that at nationals the team could play three or four games in a period of four days, which is fewer than they played at

the tournament.

The team was also able to get a taste of the stiff competition they would face at Nationals from the American team - whose top three of four players will likely go on to play Division I hockey - as well as Western Canadian teams who tend to have a different style of play than those teams Laurier typically faces.

"The [Western teams] are tough," said Osborne. "And I thought we were tougher."

"We're well-equipped and ready for the second half of the OUA season and I'm looking for a pretty big win this weekend against Western and Windsor," said Osborne.

He also noted that the Hawks have added Cindy Eadie - who was part of their 2005 National Championship gold-medal team - to their roster.

"We certainly have depth in all positions now," said Osborne.

"We finished 15 and 0 [in the first half of the season] and we're looking to get better every game in the second half... I see this as the start to the charge down the stretch."



LAURA TOMKINS

**WINNING WAYS** - The Hawks are ready to conclude their season.

## Oh Canada! Proud to be a Canadian

The young boys in red and white proved why Canadian hockey is no joke as they brought home their fifth consecutive world title



**TIEJIA  
MACLAUGHLIN**  
STAFF WRITER

Even if you don't follow the IIHF World Juniors, or hockey in general, and whether or not you're an avid sports fan, it would've been pretty hard to miss our under-20 men's team take home Canada's 15<sup>th</sup> - and fifth consecutive - world title on Monday night.

Each year, the holiday season serves as a time to follow an initiation of future NHL stars, and revive old rivalries in a tournament for the ages.

Coast to coast, Canadians have been patriotically wearing their maple leaves, and proudly waving their flags in support of our country's greatest and most respected pastime.

Sure enough, our junior boys gave the rest of the world a pleasant reminder of why we're the number one hockey nation, and a force to be reckoned with.

Canada entered the tournament with three easy wins: over Czech Republic 8-1, dominating Kazakhstan 15-0, and finally defeating Germany 5-1 leading them to face longtime rivals, the USA.

The puck dropped on New Year's Eve, and the US quickly maintained a three-goal lead. But, as skill would have it, the Canadians came back to win it 7-3.

This sent Team Canada to the semi-finals against an even larger archenemy - the Russians, in a rivalry that dates back to the '72

Summit Series.

With their raw skill and speed, many feared this would be the end for the Canadians. But yet again Canada pulled through, barely, in arguably one of the best games in IIHF history.

Flirting with disaster, it wasn't until 5.4 seconds remaining in the game that Jordan Eberle scored the tying goal. After ten minutes of overtime play, the game went to a shootout.

Goal-scoring phenomenon and overall MVP of the tournament John Tavares, and the hero himself Eberle, scored on the Russians. Canadian netminder Dustin Tokarski maintained his posts and ensured a 6-5 Canadian victory.

The drive to five remained alive and well, with an underrated veteran coach like Pat Quinn (the oldest in IIHF history), wild personalities like that of PK Subban and pure determination and hunger as seen in Angelo Esposito, having finally made the team after his fourth year of trying out.

Then you have Tyler Myers and Keith Aulie maintaining a strong defence, each towering over 6'6", as well as a slew of top-notch power forwards like Zach Boychuk and Cody Hodgson.

Canadians should be particularly pleased with the team's success against the Swedes, who had quite the theatrical performance in the gold-medal game.

Diving goaltenders, choke holds and finger-biting made for an entertaining game.

This would be the second year Canada beat out Sweden in the final, winning last year 3-2 in overtime, and this year 5-1.

Overcoming the adversity, especially on

home soil in the nation's capital in front of a sold out, record-breaking crowd, made the success that much sweeter.

An arena transformed into a sea of red and white, fans old and young cheering, chant-

ing and breathing hockey spirit and a team - rather a brotherhood - sharing blood, sweat and tears for the glory of all Canadians.

Really, who wouldn't want to be a Canuck on a night like this?



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**CANADIAN CROWN** - The Candian Juniors proved why our hockey is the best in the world.

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## Take a stance on Gaza

Israel's bombings of the Gaza strip are unjust and immoral. While it is granted that their attacks are not unprovoked and that the Hamas organization has also committed crimes against Israeli citizens, aggression of this extremity is unacceptable.

Especially troubling is the targeting of community institutions such as a mosque, a school and a university, killing many innocent people in an attempt to kill Hamas leaders. A death toll of approximately 595 people over 11 days is horrific.

In recent years, Laurier has not been a place where pressing political issues have been brought up in the ad hoc manner demonstrated by sociology professor Peter Eglin yesterday, when he brought a microphone into the concourse and demanded that students and faculty take action against Israel's recent attacks in Gaza.

Eglin is right. University students are obligated to take a stance on this issue, and he aptly pointed out that Laurier's newly revised mission statement professes our dedication to justice.

Considering this, it is important that the university, and everyone who is part of it, take a stance on the issue in the Middle East.

There is good reason to take a stance. Universities are spaces for thought and change. If all universi-

ties speak together on this matter and important issues like it, together they become a very powerful force.

While university administration has asked Eglin to stop meeting in the concourse without booking it, such impromptu gatherings are a natural means of change, and should be encouraged.

The collective body of academics in this country does have the power to influence government, but this must start with the movement of faculty and students alike.

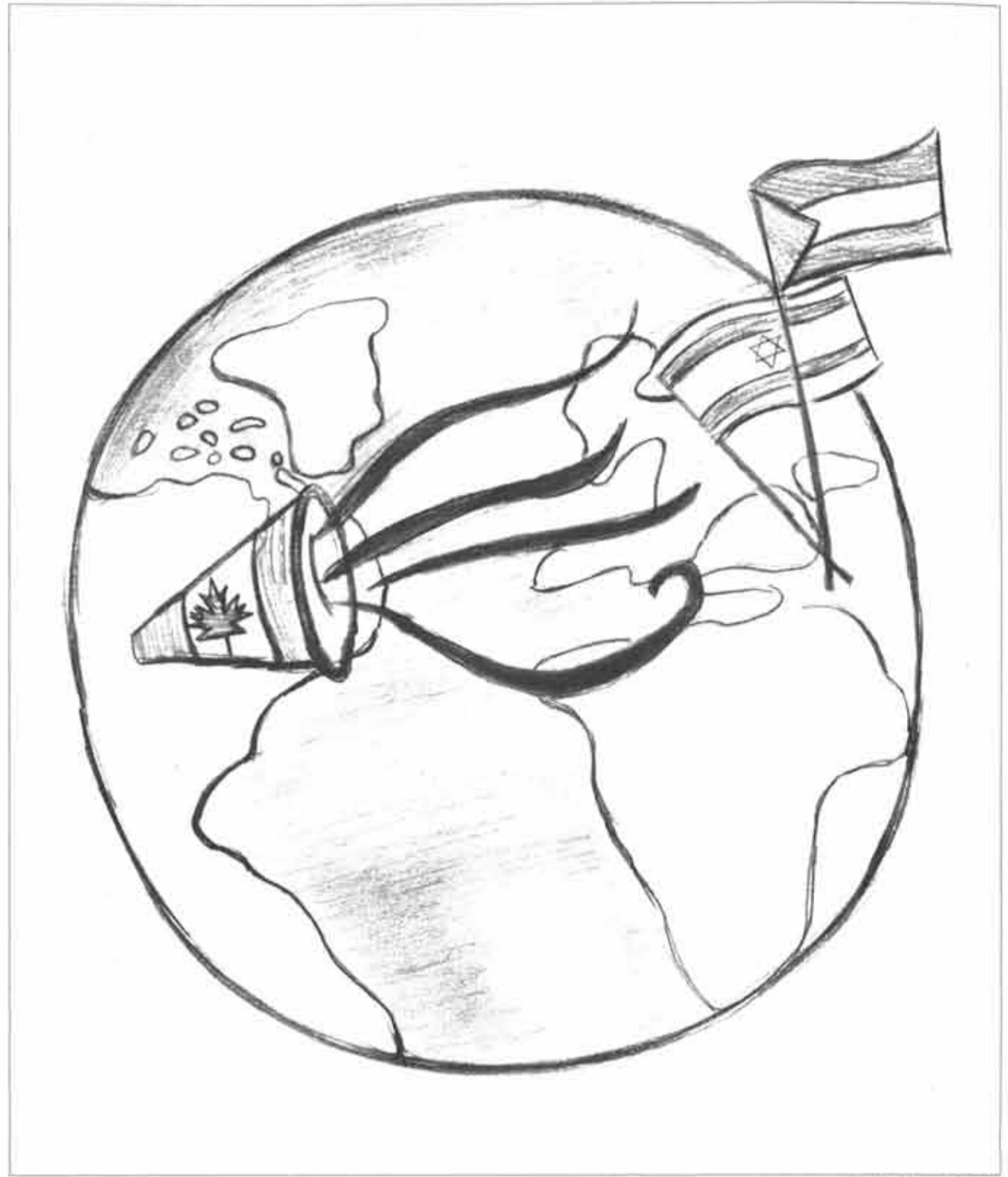
When issues such as the Vietnam war emerged in the '60s, students were able to come together as a united voice, and this must happen again.

As part of this movement, it is appropriate for the Students' Union to take a stand on this issue on behalf of the student body.

However, we must be careful how we mobilize. The Canadian Union of Public Employees' (CUPE) proposal to ban Israeli academics in Ontario universities is short-sighted and dangerous.

Universities are institutions that search for truth. The full truth won't be found by barring certain academics from expressing their views.

If Laurier really is a school dedicated to justice, now is our chance to prove it.



GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION

## Small fees add up fast

It's becoming a trend at Laurier that new fees are introduced frequently.

The newest fees are for applying to Laurier International's exchange program – an initial \$25 fee with the application and a \$100 placement fee once accepted. The application process used to be free to students.

It's understandable that the economic crisis is placing financial constraints on the university and all of its functions. However, the university must understand that this recession affects the everyday student as well.

On top of paying for tuition and books, students are already charged with numerous small fees including faculty fees, bus fees, etc; that add up quickly.

These registration fees are particularly frustrating. With surplus exchange spots already existing every year, an increased cost is going to discourage students from participating in international education.

Considering that the school acknowledges the boost in reputation it receives from a strong exchange program, placing further costs on the students is perplexing.

Administrators say that similar fees exist at other universities as well. This is hardly a strong argument for why they should be accepted.

In the future, the Board of Governors should take students into account when deciding to introduce new costs.

Alone, these fees aren't much, but they are indicative of a greater trend to charge students for every detail of university life.

*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 WLUSP.*

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## 2009: a year of expectations

Whether you're cynical or optimistic, make sure it's for your own reasons



DAVE SHORE  
OPINION EDITOR

Attitude is a funny thing.

More often than not, our outlook on life, the future and the present, is determined far more by what people tell us to think than what we actually feel for ourselves.

In an accelerated information age, we are accosted by opinions constantly. Art reviews often shape the way we consume entertainment. Reading a bad review before seeing a movie will likely make us enjoy it less.

Advertising campaigns try to shape our attitude towards products by crafting brand identities.

News sources incessantly try to predict the outcome of events long before they occur, forming the way people feel about public figures and events.

Of course, it's not just the media that constitutes our attitudes. The sentiments of professors, friends, family and strangers we converse with rub off remarkably easily.

And it is no secret how significant attitudes can be. Approaching a situation with a positive outlook, for example, will greatly impact the outcome of said situation.

Everyone knows the importance of harnessing the power of positive thinking.

In other words, the way we be-

have is affected a great deal by the attitudes that other people tell us to hold.

It's important to remember this as we embark upon a new year – a year that will likely be defined by attitudes and expectations.

2009 is, at first, a year of optimism. Later this month, George Bush's eight-year-long bad joke will finally be over, and a new president will move into the White House. Barack Obama's campaign was fought and won over one word: change.

Exactly what that change will entail is not entirely clear yet. But the important thing is that Obama has brought optimism to the international community for the first time in a long while.

With his upcoming inauguration, we are told automatically that we should hold an optimistic attitude towards the future.

Yet, as this is occurring, we're provided with plenty of reasons to be cynical coming into the new year.

The current financial crisis is throwing the world into a freefall of economic pessimism. We're told that jobs will be hard to find, that wealth is diminishing and, depending on which analyst you ask, that the sky will fall and the apocalypse will be upon us.

In Canada, political turmoil and the latest in a saga of national unity issues have provided us with even more reason to be pessimistic.

Even at Laurier, 2009 is begin-

ning with expectations. WLU's own financial problems provide no reason to be hopeful, and worst of all there looms the possibility of a faculty strike.

Indeed, the way 2009 will play out will have much to do with the way each of us approaches it and, with myriad events and expectations trying to tell us how to feel, deciding how to approach the year will be very difficult.

The point in all of this is not for me to give you my own opinion of how to formulate your attitudes heading into the future.

To do that would be hypocritical to the highest degree.

Rather, the point is that coming into a new year, especially a year like 2009, requires each of us to re-evaluate our own attitudes.

New Year's is always seen as a time of rebirth and renewal; a chance to make resolutions, to alter your habits and change things for the better.

So, as 2009 begins, the important thing is to make sure that, whatever your expectations are, they have nothing to do with an incoming Barack Obama, a staggering economy or any other sort of hype.

If you have any New Year's resolution this year, make it this one: that 2009 be your year, for your own reasons.

# Christmas takes consumerism too far



DEVON BUTLER  
HYDE PARK CORNER

Christmas is the ultimate poster holiday for consumerism at its best. A perfect poster persuading the masses to freely buy and consume for their loved ones, but also for themselves.

Charlie Brown's wise message of the true meaning of Christmas has long since disappeared into an

endless deluge of commercials and overcrowded shopping malls. The traditions of this consumer culture are growing increasingly greedier as a childish mentality takes precedence; a mentality of never being satisfied with what you have, and always wanting more.

Though you open a stack of presents on Christmas morning, you still can't wait to hit up Future Shop the next morning to buy what you didn't get. The explosion of Boxing Day sales exemplifies our constant desire for more.

It is no longer the "thought that

counts" but the price tag. Children and teenagers expect the latest gadgets and proper brand-name clothing from Santa.

Non-Christians can no longer be exempt from a capitalist society as our consumer culture extends far beyond the twelve days of Christmas. People of all religious practices participate in seasonal cheer via post-Christmas sales, but continue to consume throughout the year.

Exchanging gifts on various holidays is an ancient accepted practice, one that I can't argue against. However, it is the newer generations and increase in a materialist culture that places more value on the act of gift-giving. Christmas consumption has simply been taken too far.

Which generation is at fault? Though it would seem younger generations are far more materialistic than previous ones, children are only a product of their environment.

People raised under particular circumstances are undoubtedly impacted by their surroundings. These could be factors such as climate, proximity to nature or human interactions and situations.

Just as these factors have the ability to drastically alter a young person's mind and thought patterns, those who grow up in con-

stant consumer cultures are bound to feel consequences.

Likewise, younger generations are accepting the constant bombardment of advertisements, which fuel consumerism and materialism, as natural.

This preoccupation with material objects often leads to an overall disinterest in or rejection of spiritual, intellectual and other cultural values. The biggest concern is that our materialistic values are not only being cultivated in our youth but are mirrored in people of all ages.

We see in older generations the importance surrounding job titles, positions in society and yearly pay. These are then reflected in the size of the house one owns, type of car and even through one's children.

Our generation, however, has taken materialism to an unprecedented extreme. In a recent survey, 73 percent of females questioned admitted to being materialistic or buying items only for the brand name label. The most frequented material labels were Coach, Abercrombie & Fitch, Hollister, Lululemon and TNA.

Most students at Laurier can testify to seeing these brand names paraded throughout campus. I often wonder what possesses people to so freely label themselves by becoming just another HCO T-shirt in

the masses.

Once you slip that shirt over your head, you are branded. You are now a product of a corporation, a marketer's dream. Not only are you now a representative of a product, but you are also representing a particular lifestyle.

The effects of materialism are universal. They negatively impact the environment, human rights and the economy. On a private level, they impact a person emotionally and psychologically.

This holiday season has served as a catalyst for an ongoing widespread epidemic in our generation. We face this issue each year, but each year it problematically increases.

The reality is that we are lucky to live in Canada, to be given opportunities half the world is not. The happiness one finds through owning pieces of material goods and consuming to display wealth or popularity will be short-lived.

The pursuit of happiness in a materialistic world is challenging. However, we all need to look a little closer at ourselves and the world around us to fully appreciate not just the things in our lives, but the opportunities.

letters@cordweekly.com



GRAPHIC BY GEETHA THURAIRAJHA

# Ontario universities are too left-wing



JAMES POPKIE  
REBEL WITH A CAUSE

When I signed up to receive a "liberal arts" education, I had no idea the term was meant to be taken so literally.

To form a truly well-rounded belief in a particular area, I believe one must educate oneself to all sides of a particular issue and decide from there.

Although I like to hold a high enough opinion of the average university student to assume that they would form their own opinions, to some extent we're all products of our environment.

Some people simply absorb indoctrination like a sponge, while others actually put a greater effort into forming their own beliefs, whether or not they may be in line with those that university provides.

I wouldn't go so far as to call university education propaganda – there have been some courses that seem very balanced, even veering a bit to the right at times – but for the most part, I've noticed that university has presented me with a more extreme continuation of the overly left-wing education I experienced in high school.

In university culture here in Ontario, the pendulum has swung beyond the point of reason in a leftward direction. This doesn't imply that radical leftism is the

norm, but often that positive movements started by the moderate left have been allowed to go beyond their logical conclusion to illogical extremes.

A prime example of this is Carleton University's move to cancel their cystic fibrosis fund as some students viewed it as a "white man's disease," and providing funding toward a disease that primarily affects white males was not "inclusive" enough.

We are taught to believe that conservatism inherently promotes an "us versus them" mentality, but we are exposed to that very mentality in regards to anything right-wing.

A textbook of mine dictates that the Conservative Party of Canada "endorses the major tenets of social conservatism, such as upholding and valuing traditional, intolerant views about the nation" while simultaneously mentioning Mao Zedong in a positive context as a champion of women's rights in an earlier chapter.

Regardless of whether or not Zedong did anything to advance women's rights – never mind the millions of women killed during his rule – mentioning any right-wing murderous dictator in a similarly positive context would not be tolerated.

We are taught to pinpoint and be immune to the conservative bias that exists in news outlets such as FOX News, but are never warned to be wary of the liberal bias that exists in front of our faces.

Conservative bias is seen as a

dangerous form of propaganda, upholding the tenets of oppression and intolerance, but liberal bias is seldom seen as a threat, or even a bias at all.

Regardless of what ideology one may align with, blindly binding oneself to any place in the traditional party spectrum is wrong.

While I strongly agree with the left on many issues, such as the environment, gay rights, and drug policy, I don't want to take any stance that involves toeing the party line and automatically accepting a certain viewpoint because it comes from the same end of the political spectrum that I supposedly adhere to.

That is exactly the type of thinking I see too much of among students, and there is not enough done to promote thinking otherwise.

Terms like "open-minded" and "free-thinking" are often ironically and contradictorily used to promote specific viewpoints and ideologies, with the term "open-minded" and "liberal" often viewed as interchangeable, and conservatives automatically labelled as "close-minded".

The purpose of education shouldn't be an indoctrination to support a particular agenda, but rather a presentation of both sides of the story and letting people make their own choice.

I do not place the blame for this on individual professors, and I believe they should have every right to openly express their own views to their classes, regardless of what

side of the spectrum they come from.

However, in many cases, it is the university culture itself that contributes to making this bias institutional.

While radical conservatism brought us many blunders and injustices in the past and today, us-

ing those pitfalls as justification for blindly following the left is just as dangerous. University should be a haven for genuine open-mindedness and free thought, not indoctrination.

letters@cordweekly.com

## Letters to the Editor

### Flu Season Follies

It's that time of year again – cold and flu season. Although the Government of Ontario has spent millions on flu shots, thousands are still sick each day. The problem? People who are sick do not stay home and rest. Not only does this prolong the illness for them, but it potentially spreads the virus to others around them; at school, at work or on the bus. Why don't people stay home and rest? Many schools' and employers' policies discourage this. For example, I once took a course where participation marks were deducted as long as students were absent, despite having a doctor's note. Many employers do not pay employees when they are sick, and some even discourage absenteeism. The result is that not only the ill workers show up, but far too often, the virus spreads throughout the office and everyone is sick over the course of weeks. These policies should be

reviewed. Encouraging employees and students to stay home and rest not only helps the person recover more quickly, but also helps prevent the spread of colds and flu which ultimately spreads around the office, costing much more to the institution and the healthcare system. Let's attack the problem from the root and start a campaign to encouraging patients to stay home and rest so we can all save money and improve the quality of life in Ontario.

-Edward Choi

### Letters Policy:

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

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

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**DIRTY DOWNTOWN** - Kitchener's downtown core doesn't have the same visual flair that Waterloo's uptown does, but there's plenty of culture and colour on its streets.

## Kitchener is a great place to live and play

Though most Laurier students cringe at the thought of heading to our sister city, there are a lot of reasons to go explore Kitchener



**JOSH SMYTH**  
THE EXAMINED LIFE

I sometimes wish I carried a camera more often, if only to record the different expressions that the word "Kitchener" brings out in Laurier students.

There's the head-scratching confusion, the mild distaste or, my very favorite, the quaking fear of crackheads. Some people clearly believe that Kitchener's city motto reads "abandon all hope, ye who enter here."

There are, of course, many Laurier students who cross that fateful border.

Social work students take classes downtown; some of them make the trip down to the farmers' market on weekends, some just happen to like it down there.

Many of them have discovered what passes most Laurier students by: that "downtown" Kitchener is a far better place to be, patronizing branding aside, than "uptown" Waterloo.

*The Cord* has been a bit slower to figure this out; it's pretty rare for any business south of William Street to get a mention, even in features about cafés and alternative shopping spots.

So, let's take a quick walk (or ride on the #7). Get on at Laurier, and ride it south. Resist the temptation to get off in uptown Waterloo unless you have a desperate need for obscenely expensive pet products. Stay on the bus for the five minutes it takes to drop you downtown.

Once you hop off the bus, or finish your 30-minute walk, have a look around. You'll find a commu-

nity. Strangely enough, you'll find a community much better suited to the student life.

Need books? There are three huge used bookstores (K-W Books, Casablanca, and A Second Look). Need coffee? There are five great independent cafes (A Matter of Taste, Exhibit, Muses, Morning Glory, and the Queen Street Commons).

There's also a lot more cheap, good, interesting food available in downtown Kitchener.

Ethiopian for \$5 a person? Check. Piles of Vietnamese? Check. Local produce at the Farmers' Market? Double check.

Special mention to the Queen Street Commons, where you can fill up on delicious vegetarian food for \$3, with all of the money going to support the Working Centre, which does an incredible amount for the community here.

If it's entertainment you're after, there's always the KW Art Gallery, the Symphony, the Children's Museum, The Registry Theatre, plus some great nights out.

While the winter chill is still going, there's also free skating at city hall.

But enough with the sales pitch. I don't just shop in downtown Kitchener. I live there, and it's not for the shopping.

I spent two years in uptown Waterloo, and I'm glad I made the switch. The nightly drunk student parade was ten times more disruptive than anything Kitchener's cast of characters can come up with.

More to the point, living in Kitchener breaks you out of the bubble. My neighbours are families, a group home, students and working people.

The people I meet every day have something invested in the place they live. This makes the at-

mosphere palpably and positively different.

Kitchener's diversity also helps it beat out white-bread Waterloo. Within 15 minutes' walk from my apartment, I can find stores with goods from Poland, Portugal, Vietnam, Germany, India, China, Ethiopia, the Middle East, Hungary and many others. Living in Kitchener will make you a far more interesting cook.

Waterloo, on the other hand, has all the benefits that its incredibly high income brings. Fancy restaurants. Pricey clothes. Overpriced drinks.

It is also an incredibly transient place, with thousands of students passing in and out every year, and legions of well-paid high-tech workers grabbing up condos or places in the suburbs. None of these do a strong sense of community make.

The local stereotypes, of course,

are not completely misplaced. They rarely are. Kitchener carries way more than its share of the burden in social welfare services. Why? Because all the other cities in the region work hard to export their "problems." Out of sight is out of mind, after all.

The result? You will certainly see more homeless and otherwise troubled people on the streets in Kitchener than you will in Water-

loo. Maybe that will serve as a reminder that there are lots of places that could use your help.

In any case, if the choice is between crackheads and people carrying poodles in purses, I'd rather spend my time around the crackheads. At least there is a chance that they'll get some help.

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# Balancing knowledge and imagination

Human advancement owes much to imagination as a source of discovery



**DON MORGENSON**  
ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

During a recent celebration at Waterloo's Perimeter Institute, someone said to me, "If Einstein were alive today he would be here."

Yes, perhaps. But those physicists must also remember what Dennis Overbye of the *New York Times* wrote, "We celebrate the man who had gone from being the human face of mystery and science to being the human face of humanity."

In 1929, a young journalist coaxing an interview out of the famous physicist asked him, "How do you account for your many discoveries - through intuition or inspiration?"

Einstein paused, then replied, "Both. I sometimes feel I am right but do not know it. I am enough of an artist to draw freely on my imagination, which I think is much more important than knowledge.

Knowledge is limited, imagination encircles the world."

Knowledge is thought to be analytical, sequentially linear, favouring deductive reasoning. Imagination is described as holistic, insight-oriented and favouring inductive reasoning.

Obviously, imagination has to be grounded in accumulated knowledge just as creativity depends more on perspiration than on a "Eureka" type of inspiration.

And while knowledge is often seen as elitist, the imagination is thoroughly democratic. In this sense, imagination has contributed significantly to the survival of our species. Think for a moment how much older dance, music and cave drawings are than our language or any other ratiocinative process.

Prof. Kathleen Taylor (Oxford University) argues that without imagination our ancestors would not have survived the unforgiving times through which they lived.

Without imaginative decisions they could not have outwitted more

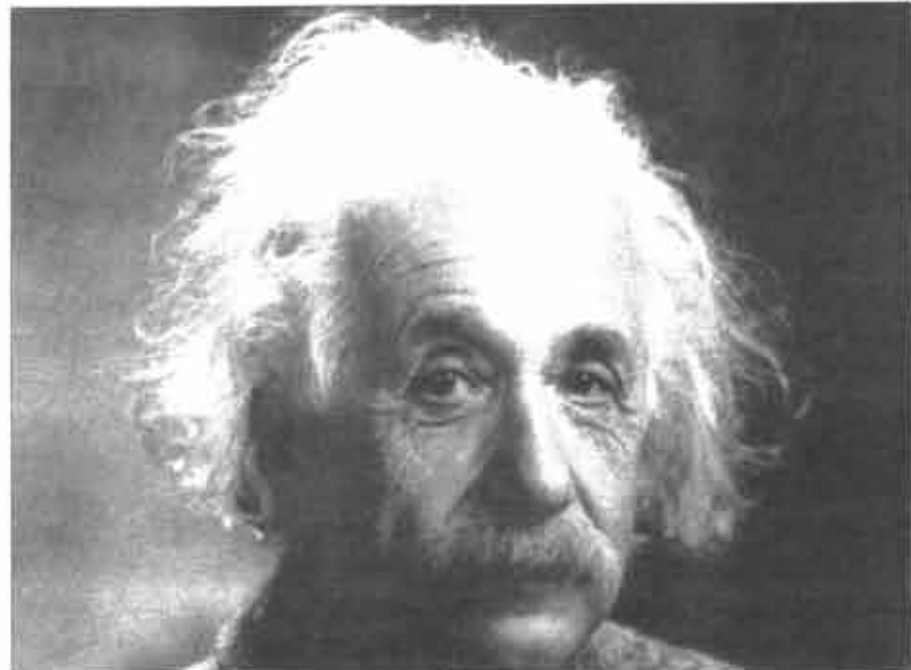
powerful predators or survived such natural threats as meteor showers or the melting of the ice age, or learned how to build fires and store meat.

Imagination led to the earliest forms of organized pre-verbal intelligence.

Knowledge facilitates community and continuity, whereas imagination facilitates change and encourages progress. Einstein was the first to acknowledge his debts to past scientists. He wrote, "I stand on the shoulders of giants."

Imagination may be a more private thing - often it emerges fully formed from a single mind. Knowledge, too, may bind us to an oppressive existence, whereas imagination may help us escape it. Imagination typically challenges rules, rites and regulations.

Great acts of the imagination - Bach's cello suites, Chopin's Etudes, a Virginia Woolf novel, a van Gogh canvas - all require not only creative imagination but admiration and veneration. They depend on



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**BRAINIAC** - Einstein believed in the importance of human imagination.

being heard, seen and experienced: touching millions.

Perhaps Einstein was right. Given our insatiable appetite for glitter, glamour and the entertainment glut, people today seem to prefer products of the imagination.

History, however, teaches us that when a people feels under great threat, the imagination may be valued somewhat less and people retreat into what is more consoling: knowledge - that technical "know-how" which protects us from a capricious nature and "evil forces."

As our society changes, so do our structures and priorities. At the time Einstein made his prophetic statement, society was stifled by an orthodoxy, a dark dogma willingly accepted by its many "true

believers."

Perhaps there is a natural balance between knowledge and imagination; the two vacillating in relative importance, driving society through different eras, some eras more urgently requiring the use of the imagination as opposed to the knowledge of science.

It is a truism - both are needed and it may be fitting that while the emphasis is currently on the acquisition of knowledge, tomorrow the pendulum may swing back to Einstein's observation regarding imagination.

Knowledge and imagination will each in turn fulfill the needs of the people.

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- Ashley Doodnauth follows the lead up to Barack Obama's Presidential inauguration in Obama-Blog.
- Print Production Manager Sydney Helland shares recipes and reflections from the world of food in Food for Thought.
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CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

**LOOK AT THAT SMILE!** - Sean Penn makes a strong bid for an Oscar this year with his stunning performance in *Milk* as Harvey Milk: a magnificent orator and a firebrand politician.

The story of the United States' first openly gay politician elected to public office is an uplifting film

**LAURA CARLSON**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

With a release date just over a month after the passing of Proposition 8, which banned gay marriage in the state of California, *Milk* reminds us of the fight that was necessary for the gay community to get where they are today only to have important rights stripped of them with the passing of such a law.

Chronicling the life and assassination of Harvey Milk – the first openly gay man elected to public office in the United States – *Milk* tells a story of passion, activism and change in 1970s San Francisco.

Frustrated with the discrimination the gay community was facing based on sexual orientation, Harvey ran for public office and was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977.

It was during this time that American singer Anita Bryant launched a campaign where she publicly condemned the immorality of homosexuality and California voted on Proposition 6, which, if passed, would have given the state the right to ban any individual from teaching at public schools if they were (or even supportive of being) gay.

Harvey, played by Sean Penn in his best role to date (challenging Heath Ledger's brilliant portrayal of the Joker in *The Dark Knight* for the Oscar), captures the audience through a combination of emotional depth and mesmerizing physical performance.

The similarity between Penn and the real footage of Milk shown at the end of the film are eerily similar, as with the rest of the characters.

With solid performances, especially from Penn and Emile Hirsh

in the role of Cleve Jones (Harvey's personal friend and political activist) the film recreates an important moment in history.

James Franco also delivers a noteworthy performance as Scott, Harvey's long-time boyfriend and live-in partner.

The relationship between the two is so believable and passionate that it is as compelling a love story as any normative heterosexual relationship that comes out of Hollywood.

By mixing real footage of the 1970s movement – complete with news reports after the assassinations of both Harvey and George Moscone (the then-mayor of San Francisco) – this film creates a unique visual experience by blending documentary and narrative film techniques.

This helps us to always remem-

ber that what we are watching is based on a true story, which raises the emotional impact of what unfolds on the screen.

Though the film runs over two hours, the compelling story – told as a flashback from the perspective of Harvey speaking into a tape recorder, which was only to be played in the case of his assassination – captures us right from the film's opening moments.

As we are privy to the facts relating to how the story ends, it makes the entire film all the more tragic.

Regardless of one's sexual orientation, the famous line repeated by the film's protagonist at the beginning of the multiple political rallies showcased in the film speaks to us all: "My name is Harvey Milk, and I want to recruit you."



*Milk*

Director: Gus Van Sant

Starring: Sean Penn, Emile Hirsch, James Franco

Release Date: 26/11/2008

Rating: A-

# Slumdog Millionaire sells us

Danny Boyle's beautiful tale of an unlikely game show contestant is a welcome twist on the old rags-to-riches narrative

**REBECCA VASLUIANU**  
NEWS EDITOR

Since initial screenings of the film at the Toronto International Film Festival in September, *Slumdog Millionaire* has been constantly named as one of the best films of 2008. While the film not only lives up to its praise, it also brings something entirely unique to the art of filmmaking.

Innovative and progressive, *Slumdog Millionaire* manages to

fuse together two cultures seamlessly. And the movie's timing could not be more appropriate as the West and the East become more and more connected through the global market.

*Slumdog Millionaire* combines a genuine image of Indian culture with Western story-telling and production styles in a way that leaves cultural differences virtually unnoticeable. The film achieves something important by allowing the audience to connect with a foreign

world and identify with the characters who live in vastly different circumstances, much like the 2006 Oscar-winner *Babel*.

Although director Danny Boyle has never failed to impress with his ability to make films that stand apart from the rest like *28 Days Later* and *Trainspotting*, *Slumdog Millionaire* is a triumph even for him. It is a film that will likely leave a significant mark on even the most cynical moviegoer.

The film, set in India, tells the tale of Jamal (Dev Patel), a slum-dweller who finds his way onto the country's version of *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* poised to win 20 million rupees. Officials, however, accuse him of cheating and bring him in for violent interrogation, finding it impossible to believe that a boy borne out of the slums of Mumbai would be able to answer all the questions that even educated professionals would have trouble with.

Forced to explain himself, Jamal tells the story of his journey from the streets of Mumbai to the game show, in which he reveals that the answer to each question was gained through his experiences.

Jamal's journey begins when he

and his brother Salim (Madhur Mittal) are orphaned during an anti-Muslim attack on the slums they live in, and are left on the streets to fend for themselves. Eventually they are joined by Latika (Freida Pinto), a fellow orphan with whom Jamal instantly forms a bond of companionship, and as the group is constantly separated through various events, Jamal devotes his life to finding her again.

The love story between the two is completely believable, and the two do not overact it. But most impressive of all is the performance of the child actors at the beginning of the movie, who seem so genuine that you forget you are just watching a movie.

One of the strongest parts of the movie, however, is its strong soundtrack, featuring M.I.A.'s "Paper Planes", which seems to blend in perfectly. Visually, the film is an absolute treat with its bright colours and striking imagery, especially notable in a scene where the two brothers are running from the police through a mosaic of brightly coloured shacks and narrow streets.

While the film's plot at times is

unbelievable and can seem too much like a fairy-tale, *Slumdog Millionaire* is utterly ambitious and it pays off, providing a refreshing break from the lacklustre movies in theatres this winter.



*Slumdog Millionaire*

Director: Danny Boyle

Starring: Dev Patel, Freida Pinto

Release Date: 07/09/2008

Rating: A



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

**ROMANCE! SUSPENSE!** - *Slumdog Millionaire* will pay your tuition.

# Warhol-lelujah

Famed pop artist Andy Warhol's original work comes to Kitchener-Waterloo in full force with *Andy Warhol's Factory 2009* at the Waterloo Children's Museum this week, and while the man is long gone, his work carries on his massive ego and fame with ease

DANIEL JOSEPH  
A&E EDITOR

During the winter university semester, Kitchener will continue to buck any stereotypes or trends that postulate a lack of culture on its behalf.

This Thursday, *Andy Warhol's Factory 2009*, a travelling exhibit that goes around the world showcasing Warhol's famous and not-so-famous works, will preview to members and VIPs at the Children's Museum of Waterloo in downtown Kitchener.

The three-month exhibit opens to the general public on Saturday and will display artistic elements as well as a historical backdrop to Warhol's career.

The exhibit, which features 60 original works by Andy Warhol, also includes many other works that were created by artists who were inspired by Warhol's distinct style – appropriating his work in the way that he often encouraged of others. Many of them imitate the famous four-colour print, while others reinterpret his photographs.

Upon walking into the museum, visitors are greeted by various works emulating Warhol's style, including works made out of Rubik's Cubes mimicking the famous Marilyn Monroe silkscreen, as well as a kite inspired by a Chairman Mao silkscreen. The effect is immediate – the Museum has completely embraced this amazing icon of contemporary art.

The centre of the exhibit is on the upper floor – featuring a gallery of work that Warhol was commissioned to do for children. These were described by Angela Olano, marketing manager of the Chil-



RYAN STEWART

**FOR MORE THAN JUST CHILDREN** - Displayed are a number of original works that Warhol made for children based on his own toy collection.

dren's Museum, as being less-well-known, but "still very appealing for children and adults alike."

While it might appeal to children because of the bright colours that pop-art often incorporates, it's clear that this exhibit will be popular with anybody interested in the art and life of Andy Warhol. The upper floor, in addition to the screen prints, includes an entire wall of photographs by Stephen Shore taken during the heyday of Warhol's studio, The Factory. These photos add a historical context to Warhol's life while he worked with the

experimental rock band The Velvet Underground. Lou Reed and Nico appear in these photos, as well as other celebrities who found themselves in the presence of the pop mastermind.

While it's pretty apparent that children of all ages will find themselves enraptured by the colour, other visitors may get caught up in the nostalgia of a lost time in Manhattan. Adding to the multimedia feast are screens hanging from the roof playing several of the over four thousand four-minute screen tests that Warhol created throughout his

life, and I'm almost positive I saw Salvador Dali staring awkwardly out from one.

For a children's museum this is definitely territory that many wouldn't expect – it's distinctly relevant in the conversation of contemporary art, and it engages both the young and the old. Olano explained that this was a very deliberate decision, noting that "under recent new leadership in the last couple of years we have really started to expand our demographic, like with our *Jane Goodall's Discovering Chimpanzees* exhibit last year.

That was continuing the expansion of our demographic and audience and interest levels."

*Andy Warhol's Factory 2009* will be open to the public from January 10 to April 19. You might not be a kid, but you will definitely get a kick out of the amazing work on display.

Tickets may be a little bit steep at \$16.75, but for an exhibit of this calibre so close to home, it more than makes up for it. Money-conscious students can head to the exhibit on Tuesdays for free parking and half-price entry.

# B

**NEW FORMAT  
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# Visual poetry

UW graduate and artist Sohelia Esfahani's *The Seeker & The Search* comes to the Langen Gallery

**KARI PRITCHARD**  
FEATURES EDITOR

As the winter semester at Laurier begins, a new artist's work is being exhibited at the Robert Langen Art Gallery.

Local artist and University of Waterloo fine arts graduate Sohelia Esfahani's work *The Seeker & The Search* is currently on display in the John Aird Centre.

A walk through the cozy gallery showcases Esfahani's work on the walls and windows, which was inspired by the works of the Persian poet Rumi.

Originally from Iran, Esfahani has always been interested in the poetry of her cultural background.

"When I came to Canada, I hadn't been reading in my first language for about ten years. When I stumbled across a Rumi poem ... it sparked that love of poetry and that idea of going back to my origins."

The piece in question starts in traditional Persian script and gradually moves into abstraction, an inspiration found in Rumi's work. "His poetry is very universal, so with the abstraction I find it to become a universal language," described Esfahani.

As Esfahani's work gradually moves toward abstraction, she uses only fragments of words to create a language that is no longer legible. Through this process the art

becomes something that can be enjoyed by anybody – regardless of nationality.

"You can come and enjoy the rhythm of the lines and the movement," said Esfahani. "It is more of a visual experience, and the abstraction moves it away from trying to read the text because it is an artwork; it is something you need to enjoy by looking at it."

*The Seeker and The Search* is a piece by Esfahani in which she is searching for the unattainable. The transparency of some of the materials used by Esfahani – like clear mylar, glass and clear acrylic medium, as well as lines cut out of the script – also add to the theme of the unattainable.

Shapes resembling the maps of islands are also incorporated to represent the maps to be used by the Seeker on her search. Although Esfahani admits that she did not discover the unattainable, this may be a good thing.

"As an artist, that's what we do, we're always searching for something that we're not quite sure what it is or we may not quite find it," said Esfahani.

"I can still make art and search for something to look for even if it's not attainable yet. That's the unattainable, the drive behind the work."

And drive is what you need to study the fine arts, advised Esfahani.



LAIIRA TOMKINS

**EPIC POEM** - *The Seeker & The Search* visually recreates the work of Persian poet Rumi.

ani. "It's not an easy field to study, but if you have the passion, it's definitely something you need to work at."

She is also very pleased to be able to display at Laurier – a place very

close to home. "I've been living in Waterloo for about sixteen years, and it's always nice to exhibit in place where you're from, locally."

As Esfahani is working on her Master's of Fine Arts, this may be a

rare opportunity to check out this work by a local artist. *The Seeker and The Search* will be on display at the Robert Langen Art Gallery from January 7 until January 31.

## Anticipating 2009's best releases

A&E Editor **Daniel Joseph** lets you know what new albums you should keep your eyes peeled for in the coming year



**DANIEL JOSEPH**  
A&E EDITOR

Another calendar year, and another set of "Best of 2008s" pass in front of our eyelids.

Holding with an ancient human tradition, the entertainment press gave us all manner of such lists, tackling various forms of media.

Name your format! Best YouTube clips of 2008. Best songs of 2008. Best video out-takes of 2008. Best comedy sketches about Sarah Palin of 2008.

Dear Lord, make it stop! And so finally it has. Sort of. It's a new year now! It's 2009! And so here, the tradition inevitably continues. Here are some of the upcoming (at least announced) albums of 2009 that will likely turn heads in the ongoing conversation of music.

Some of them have promise, but no guarantees, though.

**Animal Collective** - *Merryweather Post-Pavillion*

I'm not even Animal Collective's biggest fan by a long shot. In the past I have enjoyed them in different ways – but never to the extent that *Merryweather Post-Pavillion* allows me. It's just amazing. Oh, sorry, this album is out now. Like, it came out yesterday. Go grab it if you want to hear something that sounds like the best kind of folk music added to the sunny days and disposition of The Beach Boys with a touch of synth.

**Dan Deacon** - *Bromst*

Dan Deacon is an interesting fellow that made some crazy electronic music in the past. His last release, *Spiderman of the Rings*, looped Woody Woodpecker around a musically minimalist landscape that crescendos into thumping bass madness. He has the staying power that fresh genres like blog-house and French touch may lack. Various synths and 8-bit noise allow him to paint his very own musi-

cal masterpieces, which continue to inspire huge crowds of sweaty people to collectively shake their asses. Releasing first in the US on January 27, it will come to Canada (for those of you without Amazon.com accounts) in March.

**Black Lips** - *200 Million Thousand*

These guys, at least last time I heard, couldn't cross into Canada because their driver or roadie or something had a criminal record. Despite this, lo-fi rockers The Black Lips will at least return to Canada in spirit with an album at the end of February. Judging by the latest track to come out of the group, "Starting Over", it will be distinct from their last (and very catchy) release *Good Bad Not Evil*, and still pretty awesome.

**Thunderheist** - *Thunderheist*

This Toronto/Montreal collaboration between Isis and Grahm Zilla is making waves in the underground hip-hop and electronic scenes here in Canada. The clever

mix of pop-culture and raunchy lyrics made their first two EPs a fun breath of fresh air in the blog-house explosion of 2007-08. On March 31 they will be ready with the full-length self-titled album to bring the beats and irreverence to the masses.

**TMDP** - TBA

Hailing from Toronto, TMDP could very well be the next big thing in electronic music north of the border. It's a bit disco, a bit techno, a bit house and a bit something special. Buzz surrounds them – so it's only a matter of time before they sort of go nuclear. It also doesn't hurt that they are being produced by AI-P of MSTRKRFT fame.

**MSTRKRFT** - *Fist of God*

It's hard to believe that *The Looks* came out back in 2006 with a really laid back and traditional electronic sound. Then, electro-bangers exploded, and we are still dealing with that mess. I think *Fist of God* will definitely be different – but

hopefully it will explore the same sonic space and incorporate some of the more fun and exciting trends of contemporary dance music. Look for this sometime in March.

**U2** - *No Line on the Horizon*

Can you believe that for all the press that U2 has had (or maybe that's just Bono) for the last 4 years they have released absolutely nothing? Well, in 2009 you will get to hear something new, and hopefully it isn't a lot of "Yeah yeah yeah." I wasn't very impressed with *How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb* but there is maybe, just maybe, enough creativity left inside U2 to make another gem. On March 3 we will find out.

**And the rest...**

Eminem, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Kanye West and even Laurier natives Will Currie and the Country French will all be creating something this year too. And always remember, a gloomy economy means great art. Viva la recesión!