

## WLU'S DOUBT

The university hits budget season amidst economic turmoil ... **PAGE 5**

## LAURIER LIT

A profile of six Laurier-based poets and authors ... **PAGES 14-15**

## RELATIONSHIP TIPS

*The Cord's* very own Valentine's expert Cordelia dishes out advice ... **PAGE 16**



RYAN STEWART

**GOOD NEWS** - Laura Sheridan reacts to the news that she will be the union's 2009-2010 president.

## Sheridan's success

Following a delay in elections results, Laura Sheridan learned she was the next students' union president hours before starting next year's VP hiring

**REBECCA VASLUIANU**  
NEWS EDITOR

What candidates and elections officials have called the cleanest students' union presidential race in recent years came to an anticlimactic finish Friday morning at 6:30 a.m. in the 24 Lounge.

With only President-elect Laura Sheridan and several members of her campaign team present, Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Jayne Thompson and her elections team emerged from the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) boardroom to reveal the results that had been delayed for nearly six hours due to a ballot-printing error.

Helped to her feet by a member of her campaign team, Sheridan, clearly exhausted, composed herself to hear the results. To a near-empty room, Thompson announced that Sheridan had won with a landslide victory amounting to nearly 50 percent of student votes.

"I feel extremely honoured. I think that's probably the best way to describe it," she told *The Cord* minutes after hearing the news.

"Starting 15 minutes ago, I really want to ensure that students know that I'm here for them regardless of their year, regardless of their faculty, regardless of their previous experience with the students' union," she continued.

Sheridan explained that she would have to begin VP hiring for the union at 8:30 a.m. - two hours after results were announced.

What started off as a regular election night at Wilf's turned into hours of waiting in the 24 Lounge after the bar's operating hours ended and results had not been tabulated.

While the other three candidates each left shortly after Wilf's closed, having been promised a phone call from Thompson as soon the results were known, Sheridan and her team decided to camp out and watch *Knocked Up* in the 24 Lounge while they waited to hear who would be the next WLUSU president.

SEE **SHERIDAN**, PAGE 6

## Tentative agreement reached

Full-time faculty and the university reached an agreement early Monday morning; it will be ratified by a vote ending Friday

**JEREMY TREMBLAY**  
NEWS EDITOR

As of 3:15 a.m. Monday morning, the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association's bargaining unit for full-time faculty reached a tentative agreement with the university.

The bargaining unit will present the document to union members at a meeting this evening, at which point a ratification vote will begin. Voting continues Thursday and ends at 4 p.m. Friday.

The university's board of governors will also have to see the details of the collective agreement before it is released.

"Hopefully that will be this week," said university spokesman Kevin Crowley.

The full-time faculty's previous collective agreement expired June 30 of last year. The two sides began negotiating on August 27 with the exchange of proposals.

The agreement was reached as part of a bargaining session that began with a conciliator at 9 a.m. Sunday. Negotiators had previously met with the conciliator on Monday and Tuesday of last week.

Yesterday, WLUFU president Judy Bates said, "The two teams are currently working on the text of the agreement," ensuring that there were no wording disagreements.

Details of the collective agree-

ment won't be released until after the ratification vote.

"It usually takes a little while to make sure that all the 'i's are dotted and the 't's are crossed," explained Bates, adding that any references to sections of the agreement from within the document itself will have to be checked before its release to ensure there are no errors.

Crowley expressed the university's pleasure in having reached a tentative agreement.

"It's fair to say, given the state of the economy and the financial challenges that are facing the university," he said, "reaching an agreement with full-time faculty provides at least one element of certainty that will benefit the whole Laurier community, including students."

Last week, WLUFU issued a statement on its website announcing that "parties [were] engaged in negotiating the terms and conditions of a four-course faculty workload, and a salary settlement for the next three years."

The announcement also contained the results of a vote by union members declaring their "support for and solidarity with the position of [the] Negotiating Team and [directing] the WLUFU Executive, in the event that no settlement is reached in Conciliation on Sunday, to organize a strike vote as quickly as possible."

## Kitchener matches Waterloo's pool donation

Following months of uncertainty, the Laurier pool's future is now secure in the short term; long-term plans to be developed in near future

**LAUREN MILLET**  
SPORTS EDITOR

This Monday at the City of Kitchener council meeting, a unanimous vote passed a motion stating that Kitchener will donate \$250,000 in

\$50,000 installments over the next five years to community groups in support of their fundraising efforts to save the WLU pool.

The city is matching the sum previously granted by the City of Waterloo last week.

"They understand that there's no water for [their community groups], so they saw the importance of contributing to the solution," said Director of Laurier Athletics Peter Baxter.

"They also wanted us to move

forward on a long-term plan, so that's where we're going to go."

Chicopee Grand River Ward 2 councillor Berry Vrbanovic noted that this donation is strictly contingent on the pool's repair projects actually going forward as planned.

"We're also suggesting a committee be made up of the two universities, the two cities and the region to look at the future of a 50-metre pool

in the region," said Vrbanovic.

Baxter explained that the next step is to meet with the different groups to confirm the donations.

"The tenders are ready to go. The repairs will start right after the Region of Waterloo swim club meet in the middle of May," said Baxter.

SEE **POOL**, PAGE 13

**THE CORD WEEKLY**

- The tie that binds since 1926 -

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**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"Thanks for the hot tip. Get it? Hot tip?"

- Arts and Entertainment Editor Daniel Joseph thanking someone for passing on the news that there was a fire in the Science Building.

**WORD OF THE WEEK**

**Evolution** - the process by which different living organisms are thought to have diversified from earlier life

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**COLOPHON**

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

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

The staff of *The Cord* shall uphold all 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.



RYAN STEWART

**FIRE** - The Science Building was evacuated around 6:40 last night.

# Paper fire clears Science Building

**JEREMY TREMBLAY**  
NEWS EDITOR

At about 6:40 p.m. last night, the Science Building was evacuated due to a fire in the men's wash-room across from N1001. A portion of Bricker Avenue between King and Albert Streets was closed as a result.

minutes before people would be allowed to re-enter the building.

He also told the students present that the fire was a result of someone lighting the toilet paper on fire.

"Until we can get it ventilated, we can't let you back in," he said.

Students outside of the building were unsure of what to do because

several of them had been scheduled to write a midterm that evening.

"I know I'm not willing to write an exam [inside right now]," said Palvetzian, explaining that she was supposed to write

"HE WENT TO OPEN THE DOOR, THEN THIS BIG [CLOUD OF SMOKE] CAME OUT."

- Claire Palvetzian, first-year kinesiology student

According to Claire Palvetzian, a first-year kinesiology student, shortly after the fire alarm went off a special constable was going around informing students that the alarm was not a drill.

"He went to open the door, then this big [cloud of smoke] came out," she said.

Just after 7 p.m., a special constable told students who were congregated on the north side of the building that it would be 20 to 30

a Distance Education exam in geography shortly after the building was evacuated.

Just after 7:30 p.m., a Waterloo Regional Police Service vehicle marked "Forensic Identification" arrived at the scene. By 7:45 p.m., students still hadn't been allowed back into the building.

Neither police, special constable services nor the fire department were available for comment at press time.

## VP: development and alumni relations named

**MORGAN ALAN**  
STAFF WRITER

Last Friday, Laurier administration announced that Robert Donelson will assume the role of vice president: development and alumni relations on March 30.

The position, formerly known as vice president: university advancement, has lacked a permanent staffer since April 2008, when Scott Hayter left for a private-sector position.

In his role, Donelson will coordinate fundraising activities for the university as well as its alumni programs.

Donelson has over 25 years of experience in charitable organizations, having previously led fundraising campaigns for St. Joseph's Healthcare and St. Mary's General Hospital. Prior to this, he was the high school and alumni liaison for the University of Waterloo.

During his term, Donelson will place integration of Laurier's alumni in university affairs as a top priority.

"There are lots of creative ways to engage alumni. I think alumni look for ways to stay in touch with the university ... the value of lifelong education is a value I want to pursue," he said.

Donelson also expressed interest in mentorship programs between alumni and current Laurier students, as well as with young

alumni entering the workforce.

"We're limited only by our own creativity. There's deep commitment on the part of our alumni; we want to engage them in ways that are relevant to them," said Donelson.

Dr. Max Blouw, president of WLU, sees Donelson's appointment as an opportunity to reach out to Laurier's alumni.

"Our pool of alumni are people in all walks of life, many of whom are very talented and love to contribute that to the university," said Blouw.

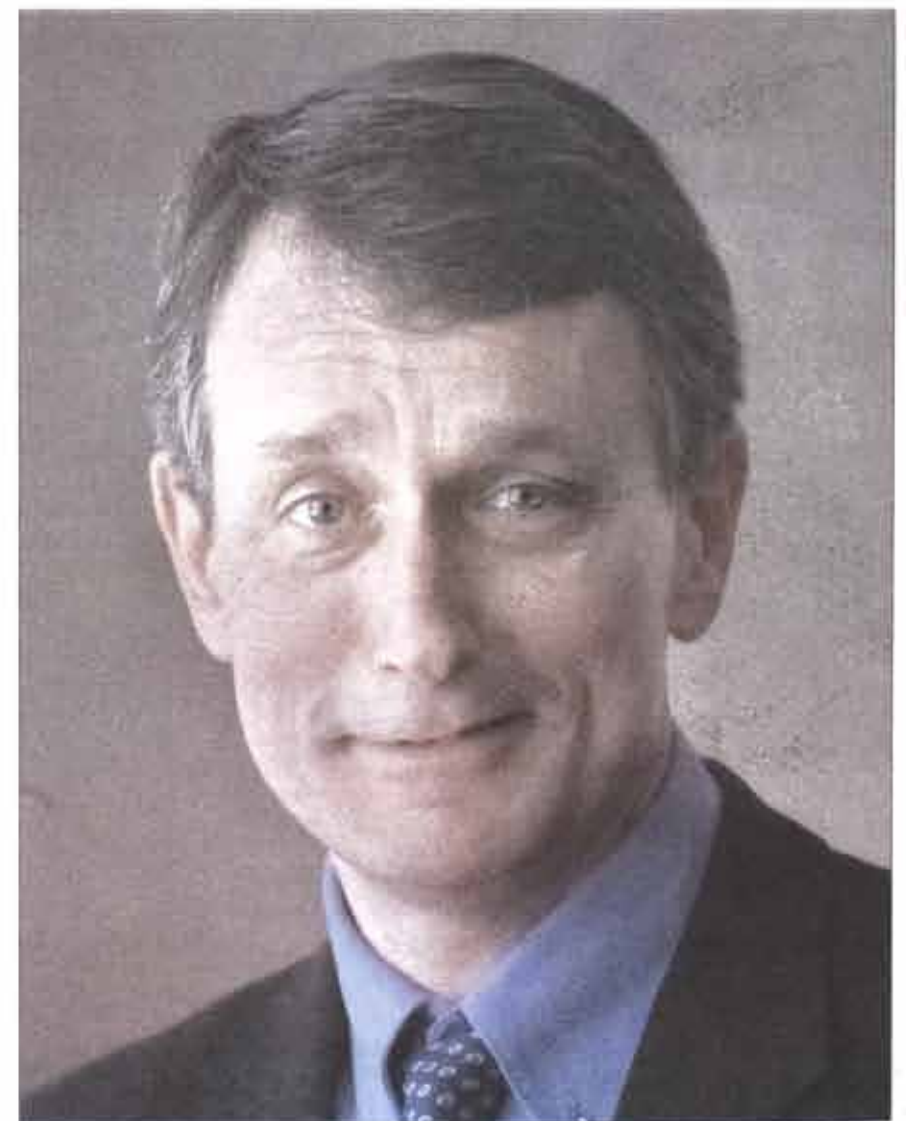
As WLU faces a period of economic downturn, both Donelson and Blouw understand the importance of philanthropy and fundraising.

"We want to make sure that we're communicating well with our alumni, that we're sharing the experiences of the university during this economic downturn," said Donelson.

"Let's be open and honest with alumni about the impact of the economic downturn and what effect it's having on students and the operations of the university," he added.

"In a declining economy, it is more difficult to raise funds on a charitable basis ... but [Donelson] will be instrumental in assisting the university to raise funds for its various purposes," said Blouw.

According to Blouw, the ben-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**VP APPOINTED** - Robert Donelson begins at Laurier March 30.

efits of good alumni relations are not purely financial.

"It's not just about fundraising, it's about a lifelong engagement with the institution that [the alumni] experienced as students," said Blouw.

"People still need that sense of community during economic uncertainty, and that's something Laurier can provide. The same sense of community that alumni felt when they were students can

still be relevant today," added Donelson.

Until he assumes his position on March 30, Donelson plans to wrap up his philanthropic work and establish connections with Laurier's faculty and student organizations.

"I see immense potential for the university ... there seems to be a sense of teamwork and desire to maintain a feeling of community as the university grows," said Donelson.

**VOCAL CORD**

How do you feel about paying \$10 per semester to repair the pool?



"Two of my roommates are varsity swimmers, so I am very much in support of it."

— Jodi Jahnke  
Fourth-year business



"It's kind of ridiculous for repairing the pool. We already pay for so many random [things]."

— Emily Tan  
Third-year communications



"I'm fine with it. I like using it, so it's not that bad."

— Matthew Tamul  
Second-year political science



"I don't use the pool, but if it's for our swim team I don't mind."

— Brandon Wiggins  
First-year communications



"So shitty. I'm not happy in the slightest bit."

— Estelle Lombardi  
Third-year communications

Compiled by Jeremy Tremblay,  
Photos by Laura Tomkins

# Three of four referenda pass

Proposal for two-year BOD terms fails while all other questions at the Waterloo campus pass

**MORGAN ALAN**  
STAFF WRITER

This Sunday, the results of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) referendum questions were announced. Of the four proposals, all but one was successful.

A proposal to increase director terms on the union's board from one year to two years was not passed, with 1,801 votes opposed and 908 in favour. This marks the first time in recent years that a WLUSU referendum at the Laurier Waterloo campus failed.

Sunny Chan, a current and returning director who proposed the referendum, initially raised the motion due to low numbers for directors running for re-election.

"We could have a situation in the future where all fifteen directors are new ... from the view of policy governance, that's a bad

area to start from," said Chan.

Asif Bacchus, current chair of the board of directors and chief governance officer, felt the referendum was unsuccessful due to a lack of information on the issue.

"[WLUSU has] become complacent in referendum questions, in the sense that we put them out there and they usually pass ... it's a point for us to improve on in the future," said Bacchus.

According to Bacchus, two-term board members on a rotating basis would allow for greater experience in making policy decisions.

"In my second term, I've gotten a lot more done," said Bacchus. "It makes sense to train [directors] in their first year, let them get their feet wet ... and have them come back the next year understanding what to do."

The first of the successful referenda was the approval of the "Pool Improvement Fee," with 1,539

votes in support and 828 opposed. Students will now pay \$10 per semester in order to fund maintenance work for Laurier's pool.

Dave Hughes, one of two students who raised the referendum question, believes the existence of the pool is an investment in the school and community.

"It's an asset to the university ... it's maybe not something that everybody uses, but everyone can see the use of it," said Hughes.

To individuals who still oppose the fee, Hughes appealed to the utility of the pool itself.

"Look at the dining hall or stadium. These are things that I don't use that are on my tuition ... but I wouldn't let them go to waste," he said.

The proposal to replace the \$0.50 "Green Fee" for a \$5 "Eco Fee" was approved by a margin of 1847 votes to 908.

The fee will finance an Ecologi-

cal Sustainability Office that will promote environmentally sound policy on campus.

"[Sustainability] is an issue that affects everybody, everyone can see benefits from it," said Jacob Pries, the chair of the Campus Environmental Coalition who raised the proposal.

"[The referendum's approval] shows that Laurier is ready to take the initiative with this issue ... which is something we haven't been able to do in the past. It's good to see the administration and the students coming together," he added.

Finally, a series of WLUSU by-law amendments were passed with 2,007 votes in support and 576 votes opposed.

The amendment will necessitate a 2010 referendum, as the BOD investigates the re-organization of its size and structure.

## Radio Laurier is guaranteed space: Dean McMurray

**REBECCA VASLUIANU**  
NEWS EDITOR

After a motion raised to the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) Board of Directors (BOD) regarding space for Radio Laurier failed, the topic was dismissed.

The motion, brought to the table at last Friday's meeting by Director Laura Sedgwick, was intended to mandate the students' union to lobby WLU administration for space on campus.

WLUSU President Colin Le Fevre, however, informed all in attendance, including several Radio Laurier volunteers, that lobbying efforts were already happening through numerous weekly meetings with Laurier President Max Blouw and Dean of Students David McMurray.

Several directors, including Jon Champagne and Jackie Dobson, were immediately against the motion. Champagne noted that it intended to mandate lobbying efforts that were already occurring.

Director Griffin Carpenter, however, made an amendment to the motion for the lobbying to occur jointly by representatives from WLUSU, student publications and the Radio Laurier executive team.

Ultimately, Chair of the BOD Asif Bacchus called to question whether Director Sedgwick's involvement as a Radio Laurier volunteer was a "conflict of interest." This was after Dobson referred directly to Sedgwick as a member of Radio Laurier rather than as a director, using the phrase "you guys."

The BOD decided that Sedgwick's involvement was not a conflict of interest.

After a cumbersome discussion, several directors made the comment that the discussion was a "waste of time."

"It is not a waste of time," said Dobson. "But we're moving in that direction."

Bacchus, however, was visibly upset with the nature of the board's discussion, stating, "I'm actually sick that the BOD has taken this long on the motion."

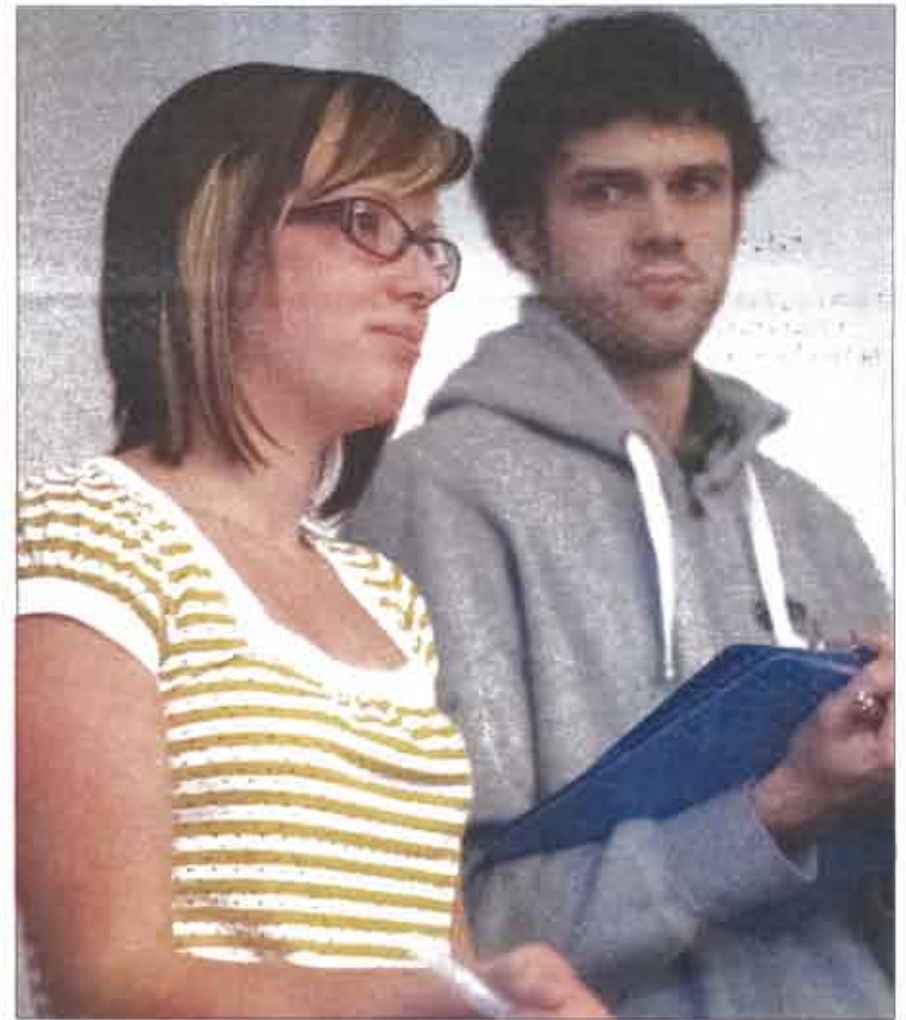
When asked about it afterwards, Bacchus explained that the board displayed one of its weaknesses at the meeting, which is its lack of preparation outside the boardroom.

"Something that's plagued this board through the entire year is coming into the room and talking out opinions instead of coming into the room with opinions," he said.

After both Carpenter's amendment and Sedgwick's motion were called to question, both failed and the Radio Laurier portion of the meeting came to an end.

When asked afterwards, Radio Laurier Sponsorship Executive Tom Howse, who was present at the meeting, explained that he believes many of the directors had a strong intention of helping Radio Laurier but policy technicalities were getting in the way of that process.

"I feel that although in some respects it could have gone better, it did at least highlight that communication is a really key issue



YUSUF KIDWAI

**DEMANDING ACTION** - Radio Laurier dominated board time on Friday.

in the upcoming few months between the management and Radio Laurier," he stated. Throughout the board meeting, Radio Laurier members often commented that the information President Le Fevre provided in the meeting had not been communicated to them previously.

Howse stated that a meeting has been scheduled between the Radio Laurier executive team, WLUSU and student publications to improve communications between the groups.

"I'm optimistic about the process," he stated, adding, "I think that over the last few months there've been so many miscommunications from the different parts of the process and I think it's being cleared up that everybody wants the same thing."

While Le Fevre reaffirmed at the BOD meeting that Radio Laurier would not be able to use the Con-

course space as of May 1, Dean McMurray told *The Cord* that he is certain space will be made for the club.

"We have operating procedures agreements between all the student associations and the university which makes a formal commitment to services, collection of fees and space so we'll do that," he said. "I can't tell you exactly where that's going to be today but my preference is that it's somewhere central."

He noted that there are several options in discussion including the expansion of student publications' current office onto the first floor of MacDonald House, as well as the purchase of a house close to campus out of which all facets of student publications would operate.

See PAGE 20 for editorial reaction to this story

# Environmental humanities series published by WLU

Series is about "opening up new ways of thinking" says editor Lousley

TARYN ORWEN-PARRISH  
STAFF WRITER

Wilfrid Laurier University Press is scheduled to release two more books this spring as part of its ongoing Environmental Humanities Series.

The books in the series are comprised of selected essays, dissertations and scholarly works pertaining to issues of environmental cultural studies that examine the different relationships between humans, animals and technologies within the natural world.

The series will analyze the ways in which different forms of media, literature and visual artistry interact and engage with the environment to determine how humans situate themselves within ecology. The series is the first of its kind in Canada, and will dedicate itself to environmental criticism in the humanities.

Laurier English and Film Studies Professor Dr. Cheryl Lousley is editor of the series and envisaged the idea partly to draw attention to the study of the environment through a humanities perspective.

"Often as a student you think 'Oh, I'm interested in the environment, I have to take courses in the sciences, biological sciences,

climatology, maybe geography, not realizing that there's also work done on the environment from a humanities perspective."

Lousley explains that while the series' mandate is broad – focusing on many different aspects of the humanities, such as philosophy, film and poetry – each area of study explores common questions.

"The kinds of questions that we're working on, the scholarly and theoretical questions behind our work, [are] often quite similar, so we might be working in different sorts of objects of study but the questions we're asking are common across the humanities.

"And what humanities scholarship generally is, whether it's focused on the environment or not, is asking questions about value and meaning."

Laurier Press Acquisitions Editor Lisa Quinn states that the series' unique focus on the environment through humanities research is "not so much from a scientific perspective, but through artistic forms, and the way that those forms are used to explore questions of humanity's relationship to the environment in which we live."

Quinn further states that, in part, the series aims to present "a more symbiotic relationship with our world, [one that is] less exploitative."

The first book of the series,

*Animal Subjects*, was launched last year. Its content is structured around ethics and explores the differences between animals and humans, such as through the study of animal cruelty, factory farming and animals in captivity.

This spring, two more books will be published. The first, *Open Wild a Wilderness*, is a collection of Canadian nature poems that reflect on the authors' experiences and encounters with nature.

The second, *Techmonatures*, is a collection of scholarly essays from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds that examines the relationship between the environment, space and technology.

Quinn further explains that the series draws attention to the connection between humans, animals and the environment, eliciting an understanding that "all of our actions have consequences, and that we exist within systems of relationships, both within the material and the non-material world."

As Lousley continues to search for interesting topics to be featured in the series, upcoming books include an environmental analysis of film, as well as an exploration of whale culture.

Lousley explains that the series differs from traditional textbook formats and is about "opening up possibilities and ways of thinking.... This is different research, and we're going to see where that takes us."

Fraydie Bonani: 469

Dalali Hattsonyame: 471

Phillip Kuperhaus: 475

Kyle Gerow: 683

Jordan Hyde: 684

Stephanie Franco: 696

Peter Hanna: 708

Chris Oberle: 763

Kyle Hocking: 802

Justin Glover: 812

Greg Evans: 884

Emily Marston: 885

Michael Onabolu: 942

Sunny Y.H. Chan: 949

Andrew Fryer: 961

Kayla Smith: 973

Saad Aslam: 1182

Jackie Dobson: 1213

Laura Allen: 1293

INFOGRAPH BY SYDNEY HELLAND

NOT ELECTED

ELECTED

## Director results late

LINDA GIVETASH  
STAFF WRITER

After a two-day delay, results for the incoming Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) Board of Directors (BOD) were announced at roughly 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Jayne Thompson gathered the candidates, who were waiting in the 24 Lounge, into a conference room in the Fred Nichols Campus Centre to reveal the results in confidence due to the fact that not all candidates were present.

Board candidates were asked not to share the results publicly until after 8 p.m. that day because of the elections team's desire to inform those not present personally via phone. Chief Governance Officer Asif Bacchus commented that the situation was "not ideal," as results are normally announced at a public event on campus.

The BOD-elect will have its first meeting at 10 p.m. tonight to elect a new board chair. New directors have already begun planning their transitions onto the board and are already considering issues for their term, which begins May 1.

Laura Allen, a first-time director, received the most votes of all candidates, a total of 1,293. Over the next few months, Allen will be putting her efforts into learning as much as she can about her role.

"There's going to be a lot of training and I'm really looking forward to that," she explained, adding that she looks forward to defining her role as a director.

"I want to show people that I can stand on my own two feet and I'm not just campaigning on the basis that I share a name with a business prof."

Elections policy review committee member and re-elected director Jackie Dobson came in second place with 1,213 votes.

Dobson felt that, "In terms of policy ... [the election] went really well." Having also participated in President-elect Laura Sheridan's internal campaign, Dobson feels that she will be able to have further input into the creation of new elections policies.

In hopes of ensuring the BOD is well-prepared for the new year, Dobson expressed her desire to conduct director training soon. And as a director who hopes to run for the position of BOD secretary, Dobson would like to see the position decided upon immediately af-

ter Reading Week.

Elected as returning directors, Saad Aslam and Andrew Fryer have expressed interest in the position of board chair, which will be elected at today's board meeting.

Aslam, who came in third place with 1,182 votes, is excited about the composition of this year's board, commenting, "It's got a nice cross-section of different people, different programs [and] different years."

"[The BOD] has great potential and hopefully we can live up to it," he added, explaining that the board will have a variety of issues to tackle next year and changes to see through with WLUSU's restructuring process.

Fryer, current board secretary, explained that he looks forward to his two possibilities: "One which I'm the chair and I have a lot of work of organizing the rest of the year for the board and one where I'm a regular director and try to educate and mentor the [new] directors."

He came in fifth place, after Brantford student Kayla Smith, with 961 votes.

Michael Onabolu, a first-year student elected to the board, is excited for the possibilities that await him as a director.

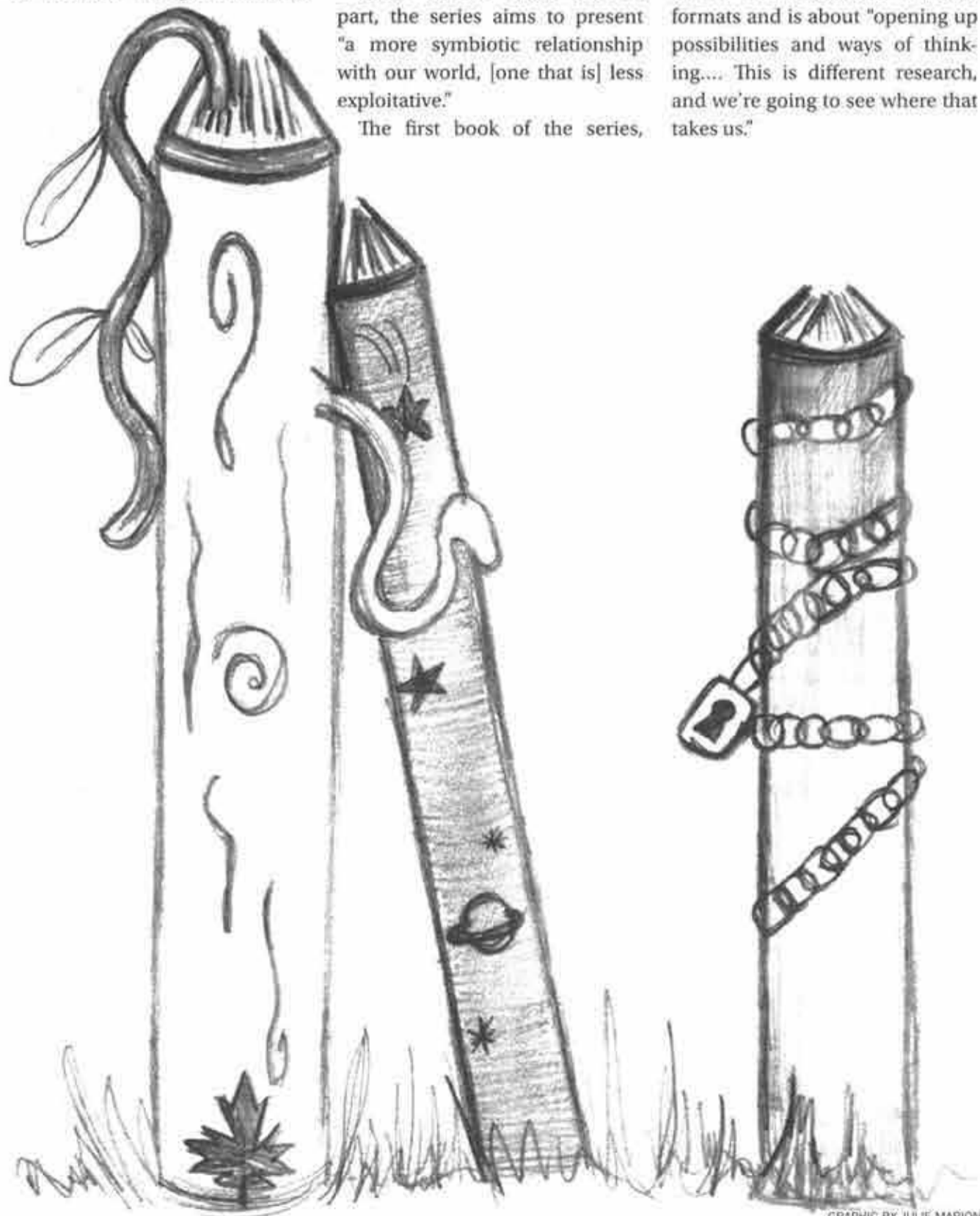
"I'm of the belief that nothing is ever out of your hands.... We are the students and we maintain this school being here and I think that whatever we care about should be at least [considered]."

Onabolu, as several other candidates, addressed the importance of WLUSU's transparency. "I want to have open forums for students to express what they're feeling, what they're concerned about so that we can take it in directly," he explained. He also named the current economic crisis as one of his main concerns.

Greg Evans, also elected as a first-time director, echoed Onabolu's worries about the economic situation at Laurier, stating that he is concerned for the upcoming budget cuts and the possibility of a faculty strike.

Board of governors and senate results were announced on Sunday. Justin Glover with 26.57 percent and Christopher Oberle 24.26 percent of the student vote were both elected to the Senate.

Elected to the board of governors with 40.71 percent of the vote was current and re-elected BOD member Aslam.



GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION

## Uncertainty fuels concern for WLU's future

**JEREMY TREMBLAY**  
NEWS EDITOR

Despite Laurier's uncertain future financial situation, budget managers at the university will be handing in budget proposals this week.

Dean of Arts David Docherty explained that there is no "magic date" at which the university's finances will be certain. Because of instabilities such as provincial funding, budget proposals are being submitted based on assumptions set by VP: Finance Jim Butler's office.

Butler has stated on numerous occasions that the university is making plans based on the "worst-case" scenario with the hopes that circumstances will change.

Much of the reason for Laurier's potential financial strain comes from the fact that the university will have to file a pension evaluation at the end of 2009 which, under current regulations, will result in its deficit being amortized over the next five years.

To be able to balance its budget while making payments on the pension plan, the university is projecting cuts of \$31 million over the next three years.

### Undergraduate teaching assistants

Many students have heard rumours of teaching assistants (TAs) within the faculty of arts being replaced entirely with fourth-year students.

However, no such proposal has appeared before the university senate so far, says faculty association President Judy Bates, adding that such a curriculum change would have to receive approval before it took place.

"If we go down this road, and I believe we shall, it's a different model," explained Dean of Arts David Docherty.

He explained that graduate students as well as fourth-year students would be required to act as discussion leaders in a model different from what is currently expected from tutorial leaders, who

mark assignments as well as teach tutorials.

### Fewer part-time faculty

According to Bates, a number of contract instructors have contacted her within the last week and have expressed concerns that they may not receive contracts in the coming academic year.

"Certainly in the Faculty of Arts, the drive has been to reduce the number of stipends and reduce costs in that way," explained Bates, "and of course it is the members of our CAS bargaining unit who are most badly affected by that."

"It's simply the way that academics has been working now," commented Bates. "With this contingent labour force ... when they're needed they're called upon, but when they're not needed they're not called upon."

Docherty explained that final decisions have not been made; however, all spending is being examined.

In several presentations on the university's financial state, WLU President Max Blouw has emphasized that salaries and benefits currently make up about three-quarters of the university's operating budget, and that if the projected cuts become reality, budgets and salaries would likely feel the pinch.

### Stopping discretionary spending

A memo to budget managers dated January 29 from Butler asked that all discretionary spending be examined.

It reads: "The university is currently facing significant financial challenges and the potential of job loss should these challenges not be mitigated through central strategies such as a reduction in discretionary spending."

It outlines spending on items such as conferences, professional and consulting expenses and department social expenses among other things and "encourages" department managers to reduce and, if possible, eliminate such spending.

## NEWSINBRIEF

### GRT strike deadline set Flood risk in Waterloo

**WATERLOO** - Grand River Transit drivers, who have been without a contract since December 31, will stop driving buses on February 22 at 12:01 a.m. if a new deal cannot be reached.

Speaking to local radio station AM 570 News, Canadian Auto Workers representative Bill Gibson noted that the workers voted 98 percent for strike action.

Only GRT managers would remain on the job, and buses would remain parked in the lot.

Neither side has released details about what has been agreed upon and what remains to be negotiated.

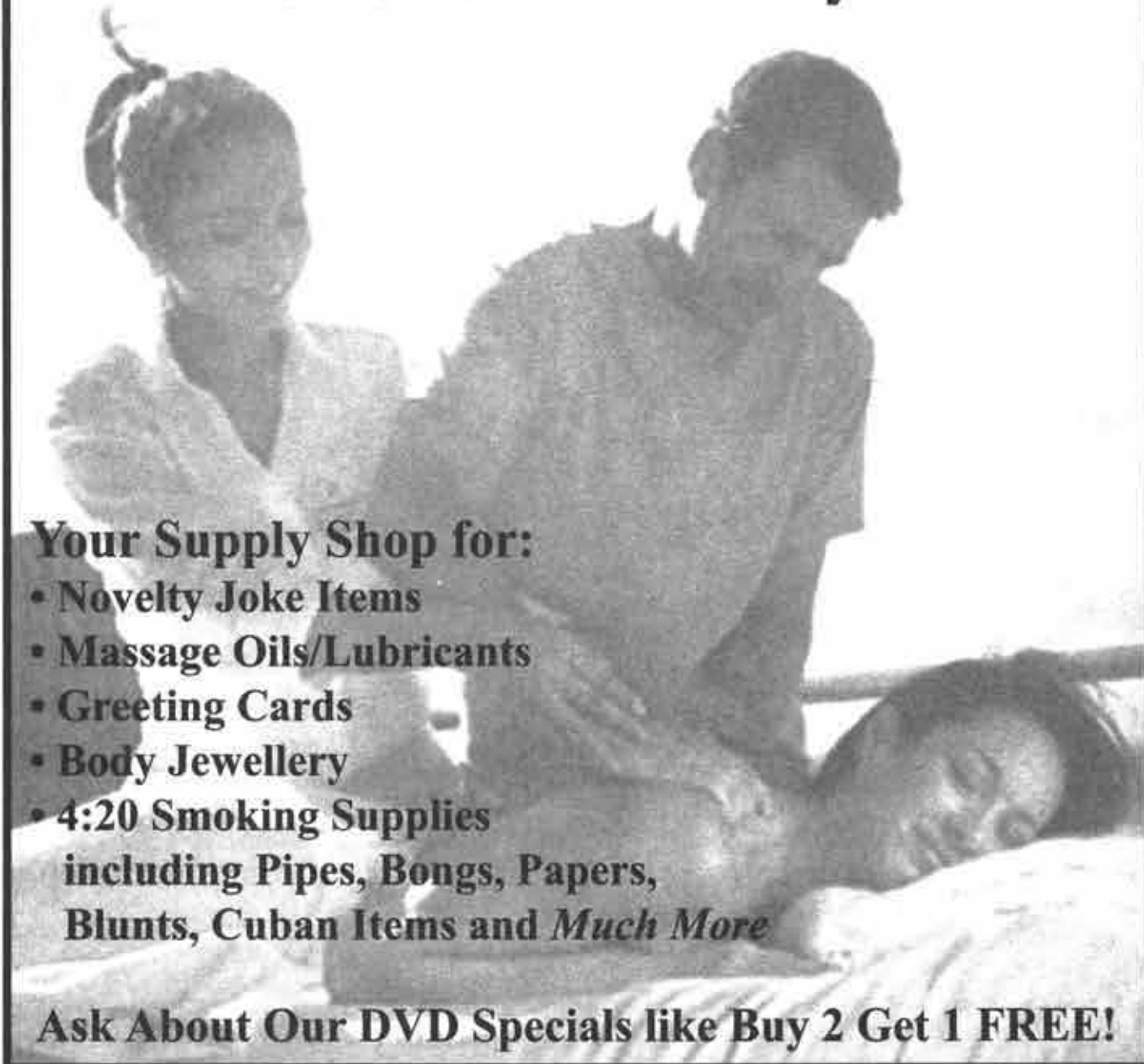
**WATERLOO** - The Grand River Conservation Authority has issued an advisory due to an unexpected rise in temperatures over the last few days.

Today is expected to see temperatures as high as 11 degrees celsius. As well, yesterday and today may see a collective 15 millimetres of rain.

The high temperatures are expected to melt approximately six weeks of snow, which will all melt into the streets and sewers.

-Compiled by Dan Polischuk and Rebecca Vasluianu

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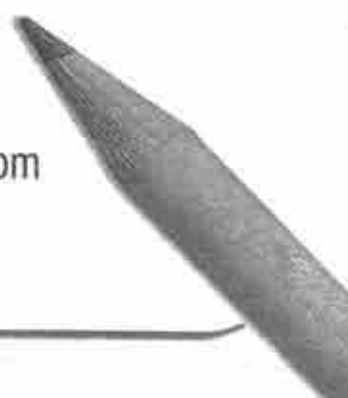
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Interviews will be held between March 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

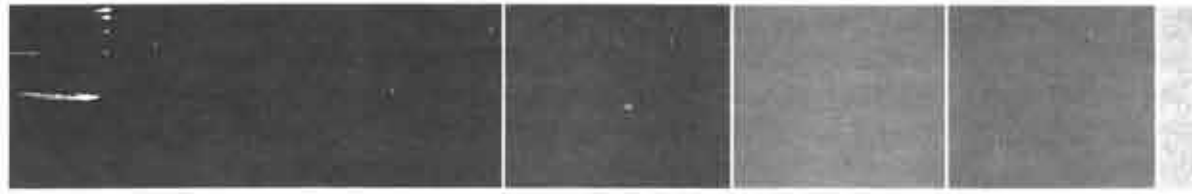
Any questions should be directed to:  
Bryn Ossington at [bryn.ossington@wlusp.com](mailto:bryn.ossington@wlusp.com)



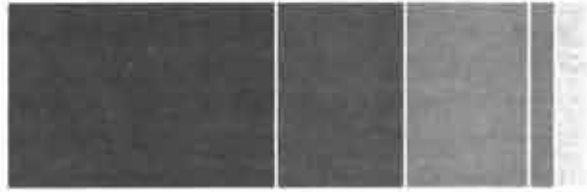
Election results breakdown

WLUSU President votes (by faculty)

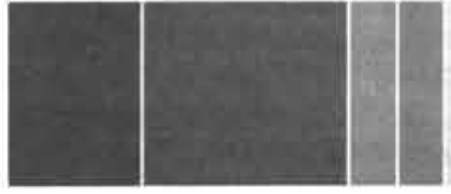
Laura Sheridan - 1,396 (50%)



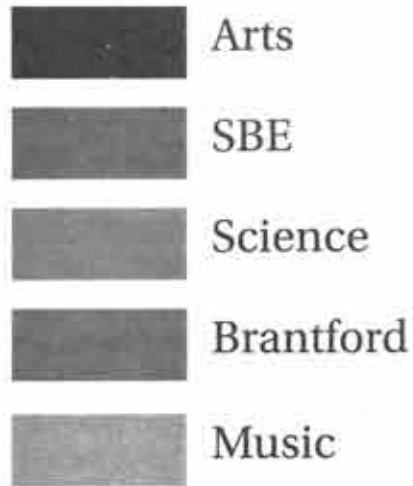
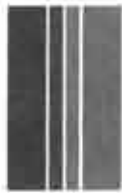
Vadim Levin - 674 (24%)



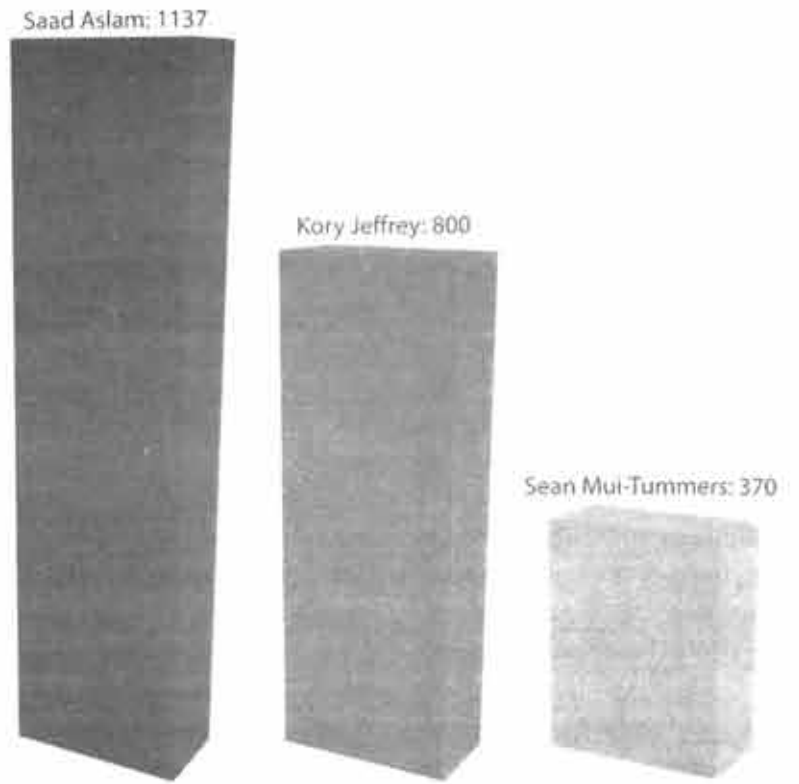
Jon Champagne - 518 (18%)



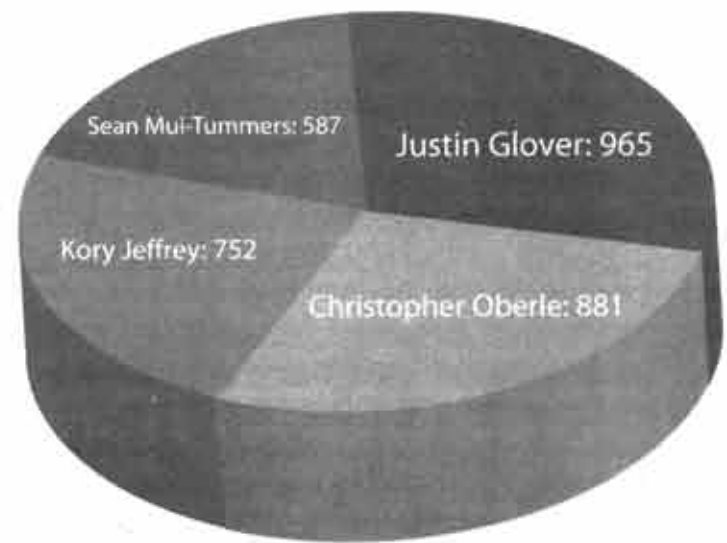
Christopher Johnston - 127 (5%)



Senate (1 elected)



Board of Governors (2 elected)



GRAPHS BY SYDNEY HELLAND

# Sheridan waits six hours for results

FROM SHERIDAN, COVER

"We all wanted to stick together," she explained. "We've come this far, we've waited a long time for this day, so a couple more hours wasn't going to hurt us."

Runner-up Vadim Levin, who got about 24 percent of the vote, declined to speak to *The Cord* after the results were known. However, in an interview conducted on Thursday night before the announcement, he commented on his plans in the event of a loss.

"AS CANDIDATES, WE SET A STANDARD FOR HOW CAMPAIGNS SHOULD OPERATE. SOME SAY IT WAS TOO FRIENDLY BUT I THINK THAT'S HOW STUDENT POLITICS SHOULD BE RUN."

- Jon Champagne, presidential candidate

"Life goes on," he said. "I'll just catch up with school, catch up with life and go on from there."

A fourth-year student, Levin does not plan to pursue any positions within the union, commenting "I'm in my last year, so I'm really not seeing a lot of opportunities with WLUSU right now."

Third-place candidate Jon Champagne described his reaction when he received the 6:30 a.m. call informing him that he had lost with about 18 percent of student votes.

"Obviously I was disappointed," said Champagne. "I could go and cry about it but I know that I gave it my all.... It was a fairly decisive victory for Laura, so, as they say, the people have spoken. The students have chosen their WLUSU

president and I have to respect that decision."

He explained that he plans to graduate in April, but he may look into whether or not he is allowed to keep his position on the board of governors.

Pleased with the calm of elections season, Champagne explained that he believes elections ran just as they should, even though some might call them uneventful.

"As candidates, we set a standard for how campaigns should operate. Some say it was too friendly but I

think that's how student politics should be run," said Champagne.

"Hopefully it's something we can see for years to come," he added.

With slightly less than 5 percent of the votes, Chris Johnston explained that the results did

not surprise him.

"I kind of expected it the way that they had gone," he said. "I wasn't too surprised.... I think people saw my lack of experience as a bit of a downfall, so I believe that was probably the biggest factor."

Johnston commented that on election night, he had negative feelings about how the results would turn out, stating, "I felt off, it just didn't feel like I wasn't going to be successful."

Despite the low number of votes Johnston received, he still plans on being involved with WLUSU in the future, mentioning some of the new assistant VP positions as a possibility for him.

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**BAG O' CRIME**

**INJURED/SICK PERSON**

Reported: Feb 1 @ 01:40

An intoxicated male student fell in the stairwell of MacDonald House and struck his head. EMS arrived at the scene to check his injury; he recovered and received no hospital attention.

**PHONE CALLS**

Reported: Feb 2 @ 16:52

A student in residence at Brantford had been receiving phone messages of a disturbing nature. It was discovered that the calls had been made by a friend as a prank. The caller was penalized according to the student code of conduct.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**

Reported: Feb 3 @ 04:20

A duty don at Little House discovered a fire hose that had been turned on and pulled out of its case. The incident caused a minor flood and Physical Plant and Planning was called in to assist. There are no suspects at this time.

**LIQUOR OFFENCE**

Reported: Feb 4 @ 00:50

A student was found walking around campus in possession of a bottle of vodka and orange juice in the Hall of Fame of the FNCC. He is an employee at Wilf's and is being dealt with by his manager.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**

Reported: Feb 4 @ 02:10

A custodian reported seeing a group of males between the Schlegel building and the Library with a fire extinguisher. The area was checked, but the group was not located.

**FRAUD**

Reported: Feb 4 @ 14:30

A student had her OneCard stolen and used on four occasions. A significant amount was spent from her account. The investigating officer utilized video surveillance to obtain a suspect, who was later identified as a close friend of the victim. The suspect was interviewed and she gave a complete confession.

**CRIMINAL HARRASSMENT**

Reported: Feb 4 @ 23:51

Officers provided assistance to a student in Clara Conrad Hall residence who was being harrassed by two former friends over an extended period of time. One suspect was banned from entering Laurier property and the other suspect was banned from entering the residence. Both suspects were warned that if they continue to contact the complainant they may be criminally charged

**ALARM**

Reported: Feb 5 @ 15:31

Officers responded after receiving a panic alarm from the first-floor offices of the Schlegel building. It was determined that it was caused by a system malfunction.

**SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE**

Reported: Feb 6 @ 16:15

A female student reported being bothered by two males in a vehicle outside of the Athletic Complex. They asked her where she lived and if she wanted a ride. The licence plate number was not obtained. The area was checked with no result.

**MISSING ADULT LOCATED**

Reported: Feb 7 @ 10:24

Residence Life reported that a Brantford student had not returned since prior to the winter break. It was discovered that the student was safe but residing in Welland.

**FOUND PROPERTY**

Reported: Feb 7 @ 10:48

While on patrol, an officer found a fire extinguisher in a snow bank on University Avenue. It was returned to Physical Plant and Planning.

**DRUGS**

Reported: Feb 7 @ 23:26

Three non-students were observed near the loading dock at 202 Regina Street. When approached, they admitted they had just finished smoking a joint. Identification was obtained and the group was told to stay off of Laurier property.

**UNWANTED PERSON**

Reported: Feb 8 @ 01:58

A duty don reported three non-students hanging around in the parking garage at King Street Residence. The students told the responding officers they had been at Phil's night club, apologized, and left the property without incident. It is suspected they were smoking marijuana.

**FIRE**

Reported: Feb 8 @ 02:45

A duty don found some tissue paper on fire in a stairwell of Waterloo College Hall. It was put out with a fire extinguisher. No damage was caused and there are no suspects.

**IMPAIRED DRIVER**

Reported: Feb 8 @ 07:07

An intoxicated male was found in his vehicle in Lot 14 sleeping with the engine running. He stated he had had too much to drink and was "sleeping it off." The Waterloo Regional Police attended the scene and issued him a 12-hour suspension of his driver's licence.

*If you have any information regarding these or any other incidents please call Community Safety & Security at 519-885-3333 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. You can also report a crime electronically through the Community Safety & Security website. The Bag O' Crime is submitted by Community Safety and Security.*

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# Benefit show a success

Future of Africa volunteers raised money for their ten-week trip to Uganda and Rwanda this summer. The team will be working with Ugandan locals

ALISON SCHOFIELD  
STAFF WRITER

On Friday night Laurier students came together to witness the Performance for Change, a fundraising event hosted by the campus club Future of Africa. It was an evening that host Reyn O'Born described as full of energy and hope, displaying Laurier's artistic talent and the club's commitment to global citizenship.

The event brought together an eclectic mix of spoken-word poetry, a skit from the Otesha Group that showcased ways to make a positive change in a person's daily life and acoustic and a capella musical performances, including one such act featuring a student from Kenya who sang songs in English and Swahili. The evening also boasted a silent auction with paintings, scarves and one "sexy coffee table," as well as door prizes and a 50/50 draw.

The performance was held at Wilf's to raise money for the club's upcoming 10-week "Journey for Change" to Uganda and Rwanda where a group of eight Laurier students will be working closely with the non-governmental organization (NGO), Peace For All International, which was founded by former Laurier student Ayiko Solomon.

Solomon was one of the biggest inspirations to Future of Africa founder Tk Mawuli Azaglo, who also counts Stephen Lewis and Romeo Dallaire as his humanitarian role models. Azaglo had the opportunity to hear both Lewis and Dallaire speak at the Global Citizenship Conferences hosted at Laurier over the past few years.

Being from the east African country of Ghana, Azaglo always felt that there were many negative connotations about Africa when he talked to Canadians. This misconception has formed the basis for the club's upcoming trip, as participants hope to learn from African culture and raise awareness about what Africa is really like.

The concept of the organization first began when Azaglo struck up a conversation about developing countries with a classmate, John Tsirimbis, during one of his global studies classes. With the help of what Azaglo calls "an amazing team" of volunteers, Future of Africa was founded on the principles of passion, vision and ambition and has established the slogan, "We are the future of Africa and we stand for change."

"We have the vision to make a change," explained Azaglo. "Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Man-

delas have done it, why can't we do it, too? We see that change is possible so we're going to do something about it."

Tsirimbis, who was the chief organizer for the Performance for Change fundraiser, said, "I hope to inspire myself even more on our trip to Uganda." Both Azaglo and Tsirimbis said that they hope to educate the Laurier community about Africa when they return at the end of the summer.

Both Azaglo and Tsirimbis said that following the completion of their education at Laurier, they would like to take Future of Africa from campus club to NGO. "Hopefully we can open branches in universities across Canada and around the world," Azaglo said. "Life isn't about money; life is about humanity." Added Tsirimbis, "We want to do this for the rest of our lives."

Future of Africa currently has many other projects under way, including a program that focuses on after-school academic support for African-Canadian students ages through 16 at local schools in Waterloo and Kitchener. They are also always welcoming new volunteers to their club to help with a variety of committees.

Both Azaglo and Tsirimbis were very pleased with the support for



SHEENA ARCHIE

**FUN FUNDS** - Foyo Juma was among the many performers on Friday.

the fundraiser on Friday, with all the proceeds going towards the cost of airplane tickets and buying supplies for their upcoming trip. The Performance for Change was just one of many fundraisers Future of Africa is looking forward to putting

on this semester.

\* *Disclaimer: International Editor Heather MacDonald is a member of Future of Africa and is taking part in the upcoming trip to Uganda and Rwanda.*

# Political engagement leads to activism

JENNIFER RAE  
STAFF WRITER

Communities banded together to harbour thousands of Jews during the height of the Holocaust. Bus-

loads of students trekked south to take a stand for Freedom Summer and the Civil Rights Movement. Barack Obama made history by uniting voters across America in a bid for presidency. Each of these acts

established themselves as monumental, as historical, as altering the course of the eras in which they existed.

They were each subject to discussion this past Friday afternoon, cited by Dr. James Youniss as part of the speech he delivered for the sixth annual Bruce Hunsberger Memorial Lecture, hosted by the Science and Technology Endowment Program and the department of psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Youniss is a well-known scholar within the field of psychology, having alternately authored and edited a total of nine books and close to 200 different articles over the course of his career. He earned his PhD from the Catholic University of America, and is also the founder and former director of the Life Cycle Institute.

This year's talk, entitled "Youth Political Engagement: Forging Healthy Identities," detailed Youniss's groundbreaking research pertaining to the critical roles that community service and activism play in the development of young people.

Youniss identified that youth activism produces the kinds of adults that society deems "ideal citizens." The youth that had "fire in their bellies" during their younger days of political involvement grew up to be the people that now consistently vote in elections, belong to volun-

teer organizations and participate in local movements.

Youniss is adamant that political engagement accomplishes that outcome because it allows an arena for the advancement of ideas that is simply not possible through any other means and especially not through mere independent, solitary reflection. "You can't just imagine yourself to be political in your own head," Youniss said. "You need to confront someone politically in public to hear the opposing point of view."

This process of adopting a stance on an issue and putting it forward for public debate is one that Youniss also sees as being essential to personal growth, providing "an entry point into life that changes who you are and puts you into a relationship with society that you would not otherwise have had."

The process produces stronger ideas, ones with conviction, and ones that have been sharpened and enriched through honest, open discussion. "Joining in a perspective or ideology much larger than you, one that you did not create but that articulates the ideals you stand for, gives you a sense of who you are and what you're doing."

Youniss regards mobilization and the organization of resources as the keys toward eliciting this kind of collective activism. He stated that it is the obligation of the older gener-

ation to provide youth with systems of meaning in the form of organizations that address social issues. "It is then the duty of the youth to try these systems on, to transform them, to make them real for their own world."

Throughout the lecture, Youniss spoke with fervour about the importance of political engagement. He ended his talk with a statement: "I hope that I have given you some spark here today, to get you engaged in something that has a history, that has a future and that allows your acts to have a meaning that transcends beyond the moment of which you are a part."

The namesake for the annual lecture, Bruce Hunsberger, is described by Youniss as being one of a select few trailblazers in the psychology field. Hunsberger was a long-standing professor at WLU, having arrived in 1974 after completing the graduate social psychology program at the University of Manitoba. He was the recipient of the Gordon Allport Prize, awarded to him by the American Psychological Association in recognition of his research on the psychology of religion.

Hunsberger died of leukemia in October, 2003, leaving a "hole in the hearts of all of his colleagues and students," as described by Dr. Mark Pancer, the Laurier chair of the department of psychology.



GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION

**IDEAL CITIZENS** - Youth are being engaged in political activism among ideologies that are "much larger" in order to gain a new perspective.



# Open dialogue on Gaza

ALANNA WALLACE  
STAFF WRITER

Last Friday afternoon, a forum was held for the open and honest discussion of a topic that has overwhelmed dialogue at Laurier over the last month. A group mostly comprised of over a dozen professors and students gathered in the Schlegel Centre to discuss last month's conflict over the situation in Gaza.

Dialogue did not revolve predominantly around the issue of Gaza, but rather around the events that transpired at the university and the handling of the public conversations that occurred on

campus.

Last month, a series of impromptu open forums occurred in the Laurier Concourse in discussion of Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip. During the last event, on January 16, a heated argument took place between sociology professor Dr. Peter Eglin and members of the Jewish Students' Association.

The majority in attendance during last Friday's forum condemned the Israeli state's occupation of Gaza. As a result, discussion turned to the common interest of facilitating a university environment void of prejudice and judgement where students could openly discuss all opinions of world events, no mat-

ter how controversial they may be.

Concern regarding the comfort of students to express their opinions was felt by all involved. Dr. Laura Stovel, a sociology professor at Laurier, explained that she is "very concerned about the kind of enemy thinking and dehumanization going on, on both sides" of the dialogue that often takes place in global studies classes.

Discussion regarding prejudice in the classroom and the struggles professors encounter to facilitate open and honest discussion were a highlight of the roundtable.

It was not only the students that expressed insecurities regarding the handling of touchy events,

such as the ongoing strife between Israel and the Palestinian territories. The same opinions were echoed by global studies professors such as Alex Latta, Laura Stovel and Tim Donais, among others in attendance.

Laurier student Heather Lamm said the lack of enthusiasm demonstrated by professors has been inherent in her time at Laurier. "I hardly ever see a professor show a passion," she said. "It's always thrust against the students."

Although not everyone agreed with Lamm, Global Studies Professor Dr. Alex Latta did admit that professor involvement in open discussions on campus is lacking.

Facilitated by Dr. Edmund Pries – also from the department of global studies – the members at the roundtable attempted to come up with ways that open dialogue could be exercised on campus without a repeat of last month's confrontational public discussion.

Pries warned that university dialogue can be stifled because it often descends into a conversation devoid of listening.

Looking at the weeks that followed the Laurier rallies, the group expressed their concern over the dislocation between groups who take different opinions on certain events and the lack of compassion and understanding between opposing views.

The group decided that more moderated discussions such as the one they were participating in would be a good forum for dialogue, if they were regular and saw participation from both students and professors.



NATASHA DILKIE

**ROUNDTABLE** - Professors and students joined together to discuss how to handle controversial issues.

# MSF founder visits Waterloo

Dr. Richard Heinzl of Doctors Without Borders Canada inspires humanitarian aid through his work

MARA SILVESTRI  
STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday saw a lecture hosted at the University of Waterloo on the topic of "Believing in a Borderless World." The keynote speaker, Dr. Richard Heinzl, is the founder of Doctors Without Borders Canada, the humanitarian organization known for working with civilians in need of medical assistance.

Heinzl inspired listeners to take action and get involved in the myriad of humanitarian opportunities that our world contains.

A physician and entrepreneur who began his studies at McMaster University before moving on to Harvard and Oxford, Heinzl worked at the front lines of humanitarian aid.

By starting with his own experiences, Heinzl set out to inspire the audience on options following graduation. For him, it took a

trip to Uganda and the common mindset of a group of coworkers to begin a Canadian chapter of Doctors Without Borders, more widely known by its French name – Médecins Sans Frontières.

Heinzl has since visited over 75 countries and made Canada's 2000 list of "Top 40 Under 40" by Caldwell Partners. He shared lessons he couldn't help but learn in his endeavours; lessons that he claimed are valuable to everyone. "The world is borderless; our ideas can diffuse effortlessly worldwide," said Heinzl.

Heinzl also talked about connecting with what he described as "that faraway world," saying "you don't have to be a doctor to make a difference in these places." He believes that the best strategy we have here to inspire others is to "educate ourselves about how you are connected to faraway concepts."

In the spring of 1991, Heinzl worked in Iraq. His experience in-

involved co-ordinating four men in the care of 250,000 sick refugees; Heinzl was unsure what to do when faced with such a daunting challenge. The lesson that he took out of that experience and wants to spread to today's youth is that he adhered to the only thing he had: passion. Furthermore, he shared that "if what we do is coming to us smoothly, we're not risking enough."

Though Heinzl explained that helping others can't always be done in such dramatic ways, he stressed his faith in today's youth. Half of the world's population is less than 20 years old and capable of doing anything – the future truly lies in the hands of today's youth, argued Heinzl.

His advice to youth is to "take risks, be non-conventional. Do what you love, not what others expect you to do."

With the rapid pace at which our world is changing, Heinzl says that

"change is the new constant and no matter where we are and what we're doing we have to be aware otherwise opportunities may pass us by."

Ultimately, Heinzl's challenge for youth today is to be aware of the potential they have to make a difference in this world, as he believes that youth have the ability to dream up what they want their careers to be. Most importantly, Heinzl paradoxically warned that "success can be a poor teacher" and youth need to be wary of it.

Heinzl also lived in Sisophon, Cambodia for a year. Speaking on the virtues involved, Heinzl said that, "people respond to encouragement."

As it is unrealistic to believe that everyone who wants to make a difference can do so by travelling overseas, Heinzl suggested that we should be able to "make statements through our decisions, such as voting."

# Tamil Tigers seized

MELISSA CUPOVIC  
CORD INTERNATIONAL

A war between the Sri Lankan military and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which has lasted for over a quarter of a century, appears to be approaching its end. The ongoing conflict has caused many countries to view the LTTE as a terrorist organization.

The LTTE, also known as the Tamil Tigers, initiated conflict in the 1970s in hopes of gaining a separate state for Tamils in the north and east of Sri Lanka. The conflict has resulted in approximately 70,000 deaths, displaced tens of thousands of people and hindered the country's growth and economic development.

The Sri Lankan military is now in a commanding position, as it has captured the last of the remaining Tamil Tiger strongholds including Mullativu, Kilinochchi and Jaffna. The military claims that it has surrounded the group and confined it within an area of approximately 200 square kilometres.

On February 5, the Sri Lankan military reported that their troops had seized the Tamil Tigers' last naval base and secured a large quantity of weaponry including automatic rifles, detonators and hand grenades from three of their camps in Mullativu.

The United Nations World Food Program has estimated that 250,000 people are in dire need of food aid, as the organization has been unable to get aid to the affected areas since the middle of January. According to the BBC, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation has also reported that more than 2,500 civilians have fled the area still under the control of the Tamil Tigers and that an additional 3,000 were "waiting to come over."

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has reported that hundreds of civilians have been killed as a result of the fighting in the north-east. The ICRC is facing immense criticism in Colombo after a spokesperson for the Sri Lankan government claimed that the aid organization ordered 35,000 body bags in an attempt to incite panic within the international community.

According to the BBC, ICRC spokeswoman Sophie Romanens responded by saying, "We help in the transfer of bodies of combatants across the front lines and for this we need body bags, but the number we have ordered is far, far less than 35,000."

The exact number of casualties in Sri Lanka is unknown, as officials and reporters from the international community have been prevented by the government from entering war-torn areas.

- With files from the BBC

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## The Spotlight



YUSUF KIDWAI

**ICE HAWK** - Captain of the figure skating team, Haley will compete with her teammates in the OUA championships next week.

**DAN POLISCHUK**  
WEB EDITOR

Kicking off her shoes for a sit-down with *The Cord*, varsity figure skater Haley Tyers exudes a laid back personality. It's kind of ironic, though, for a person passionate about staying fit.

As a self-proclaimed gym rat, Tyers spends a good portion of her time working out, even after she's done putting in her time every week with the Golden Hawks varsity skating team. Scheduled for three to four practices and another three to four sessions at the gym per week, skating has had a solid grip on her time for each of her four years at Laurier.

She hasn't let that hinder her passion for sports, though, having also played on the women's soccer team in her first and second years as well as participating on the cross-country team this past term.

It is on the ice, though, that the Mississauga native finds she can

# Haley Tyers

"just go out there and do your own thing."

"I just love being on the ice - I can't even really explain it," said Tyers.

Having started her career at the age of nine, she was a competitive free skater through high school (picture skating with jumps and spins) but converted to ice dancing once she landed on the WLU squad.

**"I JUST LOVE BEING ON THE ICE - I CAN'T EVEN REALLY EXPLAIN IT."**

**- Haley Tyers, captain; figure skating**

"Now, it's so much more team-oriented - and I love that," she said, adding, "I also really love my teammates. That's a huge part of why I like varsity skating so much, because it's so different from skating growing up because that was

so individual, like 'I'm the best.'"

With the team of 17 females and one male skating to a third-place finish in the Fall Invitational in Kingston and the Winter Invitational in Aylmer just a couple of weekends ago, Tyers has no doubt "that we can bring home the gold" at provincials in Toronto, which are next Wednesday and Thursday.

Aside from collecting five medals this year for her on-ice performance, Tyers has already started looking at some lofty future goals - which include working at either the 2010 Olympic Games or the 2010 Youth Winter Olympic Games.

And being sure that her skating career will be over soon, she is adamant about keeping her interests in mind for future endeavours.

"Sports are my passion - absolutely. I need to do something with that."

## Men defeat Lakehead

Winning two crucial games, the Hawks secured first place in the OUA West

**JAMIE NEUGEBAUER**  
STAFF WRITER

The Golden Hawks men's hockey team asserted themselves as a team to watch this past Friday and Saturday as they took two straight wins from their Far West Division rivals the Lakehead Thunderwolves.

With the wins - both by a score of 3-1 - the Hawks clinched first overall in the OUA's Western Conference with only two regular-season games remaining.

Former Minnesota Wild draft-pick Jean-Michel Rizk showed why he is one of the most lethal snipers in Canada, scoring four goals and adding an assist for five points over the two weekend matches - including a hat trick on Friday evening.

These two performances bring Rizk to second overall in Canada in points with 51 and first overall in goals with 23.

In the first leg of the Lakehead double-header on Friday, the typically talented and tenacious Thunderwolves came out hard and put the Hawks on their heels.

Laurier emerged from the opening period down 15-7 in shots with 1-0 on the scoreboard after Lakehead's big, robust Brock McPherson potted a scrappy power-play goal at 17:54.

"We didn't think that we did a good job of getting pucks to the net and establishing our fore-

check in the first period," said Head Coach Kelly Nobes. "I think we did a much better job of that in the second and third."

The Hawks came out a lot harder in the second, and began to dictate terms in the Thunderwolves end. Lakehead's wing-lock trapping system began to break down as Laurier forwards were successfully chipping the puck behind the defencemen, and using the body to establish the cycle.

The result of this voracity was a natural hat-trick from Hawk scorer Rizk, and two assists from Canada's fourth leading point producer Mark Voakes.

"It feels great," commented Rizk. "Coach told us to get more pucks to the net, and see what happens, and it all worked out."

In the second game, the Thunderwolves came out hard again, and yet again the Hawks forced many of their chances to come from the outside. What Laurier's defence lose in size, they make up for in intelligence and positional play.

With nine minutes gone in the first period, the Hawks demonstrated the type of quick-strike offence that has terrorized OUA opposition all season long.

Against the run of play, rookies Clinton Pettapiece and Ryan Bernardi each scored within four minutes of each other to give the Hawks a 2-0 lead.

The Laurier defence and the

superb talent of fourth-year goaltender Jeff MacDougald held the Wolves at bay almost nine minutes into the third period when once again McPherson whacked home a power-play goal to give the visitors from Thunder Bay life.

However, indiscipline did the Thunderwolves in and Rizk made them pay on a long Hawks two-man advantage.

The 3-1 deficit was too much for Lakehead as the Hawks took the win, taking first overall in the OUA's Western Conference.

"It's real big to win this game," said Nobes. "These games put them for sure on top of [Lakehead] in terms of points advantage and I thought we showed a lot of character. We had to battle and we certainly had to play real well to win."

Sitting in first, the Hawks are now assured home-ice advantage throughout the playoffs.

Laurier remains one point behind the OUA East leaders Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières Patriotes with two games remaining.

The Patriotes have only one remaining, and with two wins and/or some help from Concordia, the Hawks can make sure that should they get to the OUA finals, it will be at the Waterloo Recreational Complex.

The Hawks' next game is at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday at the Columbia Ice Fields against the Waterloo Warriors.



YUSUF KIDWAI

**FINAL BLOCK** - The Hawks won their last game of the season.

## Hawks finish season strong; don't make playoffs

**LAUREN MILLET**  
SPORTS EDITOR

In their final weekend of regular-season action, the Laurier Golden Hawks women's volleyball team went out with a bang.

While they did not qualify for the post-season, finishing with a record of 8 wins and 11 losses, they picked up two wins in their final

two games.

On Friday night, the ladies defeated the Western Mustangs 3-1. The loss cost the Mustangs first place and would eventually finish second overall in the OUA West division standings.

On Saturday night, the Hawks acquired another 3-1 victory, this time over the last-place Windsor Lancers.

# Women's hockey win last home games

The Golden Hawks picked up two wins last weekend; 2-0 over the Guelph Gryphons and 3-1 over the Brock Badgers to remain undefeated

**LAUREN MILLET**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks are two road games away from a perfect season, and after a convincing 3-1 victory over the Brock Badgers on Sunday afternoon, the likelihood of this became much closer to reality.

The second nationally ranked women's hockey team also picked up their 14<sup>th</sup> shutout of the regular season on Thursday night, as they defeated the sixth-ranked Guelph Gryphons.

"Strangely enough, in the first ten minutes against Guelph, we were not ourselves," commented Head Coach Rick Osborne.

"It was nerves about the [undefeated] streak."

"There's isn't anyone on this team, including me, who wouldn't love to be a part of an undefeated season, but it's not going to get in the way of our long-term goals."

It took the Hawks just over three and-a-half minutes to score against the Badgers, as Daniela Di Felice was the first to penetrate goalie Beth Clause.

Veteran forward Andrea Ironside made it 2-0 with a hard shot top-left before the first break.

Ironside, along with team cap-

tain Andrea Bevan, will be leaving the team to represent Canada in Harbin, China at the Winter Universiade.

She had no concerns about leaving her team at a critical point in the season.

"It's not something anyone should be worried about. Our team is so deep, someone will step up and get the job done," said Ironside.

In the second period, the Badgers came a step closer to the Hawks, with a goal eight minutes in.

Fourth-year forward Lauren Barch, however, sealed the victory for the Hawks six minutes later with a powerful shot top-shelf, making the score 3-1.

"It was not exactly what I was hoping for in the second, but having said that we have a few players with a sore throat," said Osborne.

"There are a few of them clearly not feeling too well. We're not taking any risks with our players, but they are still going as hard as they can."

Osborne displayed no concerns for the condition of the players heading into the playoffs.

"We're in a really good place right now," he said. "They're happy, they're having fun. I'm having a lot of fun."

Third-year goalie Liz Knox, sit-



RYAN STEWART

**BOARD BATTLE** - Hawk's third-year defender Stephanie Craey battles Badger's left wing Shannon McLeod.

ting on her best season yet, says while there are pressures regarding the undefeated record, it's not too much of a concern.

"I really think we got over the biggest hump. Once you hit 20 [games], that's the part of the season that's most stressful; you're trying to get ready for playoffs and come together as a team," said Knox.

"I think we're past the whole undefeated thing, and we're just going to take the game plan one game in, one game out."

She continued that at this point in the season, a loss is better now than in the playoffs.

"It's not going to be easy, [playing without Ironside and Bevan], but York will be missing some players

too, including their coach, so hopefully our depth will be able to show off what they've got," said Knox.

The Hawks will travel to Kingston to face the Queen's Gaels on Friday, before taking on the York Lions to conclude their regular season on February 21.

The Hawks will receive a bye in the first round of the playoffs.

## Hawks qualify for playoffs

For the first time in ten years, men's volleyball will play in the post-season

**CHRIS BALUSCHAK**  
STAFF WRITER

After a disappointing season last year, the Wilfrid Laurier University Golden Hawks find themselves in the thick of the playoff hunt this year.

After a devastating loss to the Western Mustangs on Friday night, the men's volleyball team were looking to regroup and solidify their position in the playoffs.

"We had a big let-down after yesterday, losing in five, the guys were a bit distraught," commented Head Coach Shayne White.

Their final game of the season, and arguably their most important, saw the Windsor Lancers visit them at the AC on Saturday night.

The Hawks entered the game with a 10-9 record, in a tight race with Waterloo, Ryerson and Guelph for the final playoff spots.

The importance of a victory was well-understood amongst the Laurier squad and they came out of the locker room strong.

The first set saw the Hawks and

the Lancers exchange some hard-earned points; however, Laurier gained momentum midway through the set and that allowed them to run away with it 25-18.

The Hawks could credit fourth-year setter Robert Vitullo for his accurate and consistent play.

On many occasions he was able to set up power-hitters Derek Lapp and Cameron Wheelan.

The Hawks' smooth communication skills and their ability to really spike the ball carried through into the second set.

The second set should have seen the continued dominating power game the Hawks displayed in the first set; however, they appeared a little less intense.

A frequent exchange of points and some great rallies saw the teams tied 11-11 about halfway through.

Second-year Wheelan provided some spark with several crushing serves and punishing kills from the right side.

Several miscommunications and a few questionable calls on behalf

of the officiating team, however, seemed to discourage the Hawks. Momentum had shifted in from the Lancers' direction despite the team's struggle to put much of an offence together.

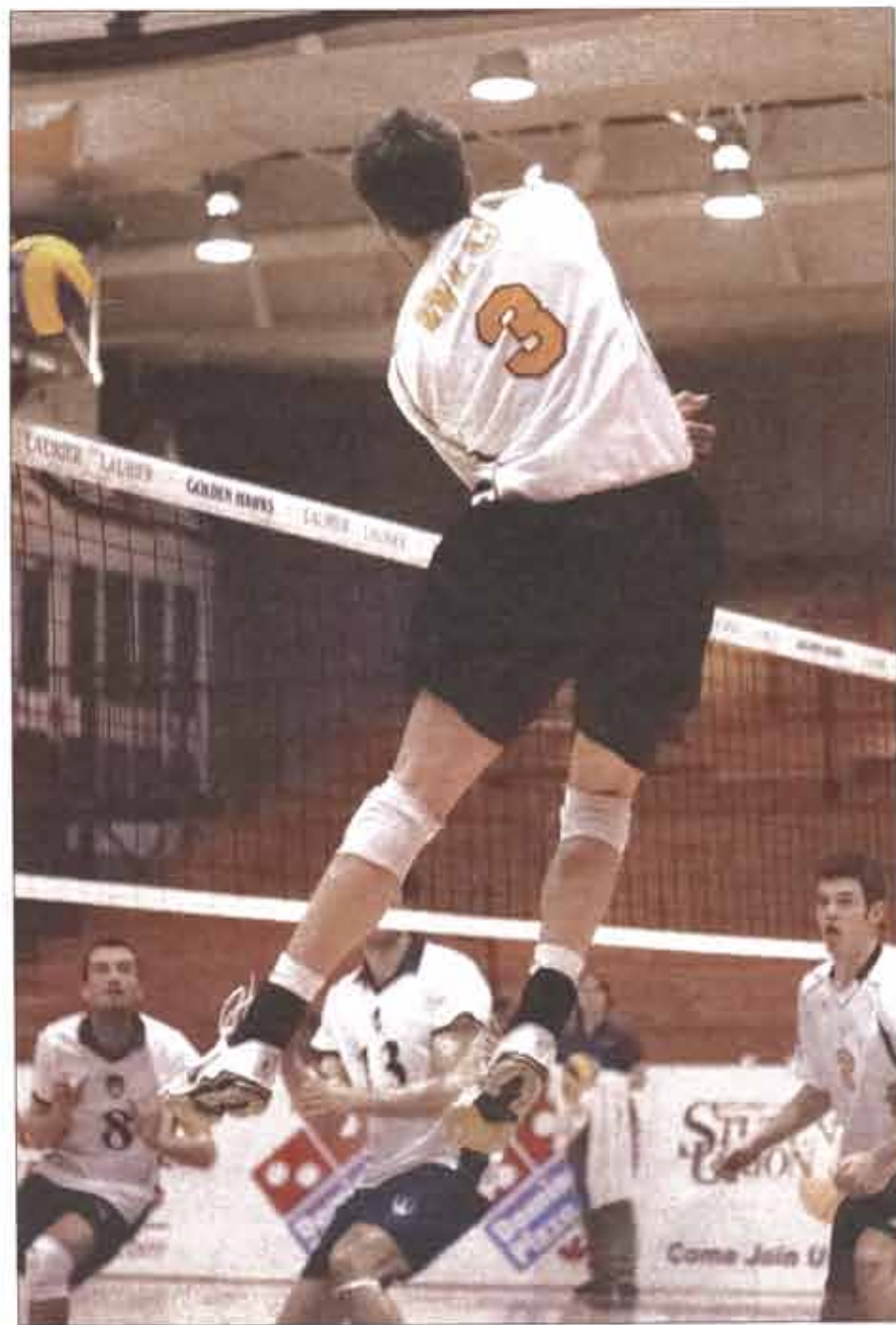
Windsor pulled away toward the end and took the set 25-21.

The emergence of second-year hitter Greg Houston and rookie John Wilson, who came off the bench, proved to be the difference in the final two sets. The Hawks won by scores of 25-18 and 25-23.

Lapp praised his team for sticking together, saying, "John Wilson came off the bench, he did a great job and he came up with a couple great blocks."

Lapp and Wheelan dealt several kills on the court, to the point where the Lancers appeared to not even attempt to block their hits.

"We felt pretty good," said White. With the win, the Hawks secured a fifth overall seed which will see them take on the number-four Guelph Gryphons in the first round of the playoffs later this week.



YUSUF KIDWAI

**HIGH JUMP** - Left-side Derek Lapp spikes the ball on the Lancers.



SYDNEY HELLAND

# Referendum and Cities keep pool open

- FROM POOL, COVER

Baxter continued, saying that closing the pool over the summer would have the least amount of impact on the students, and that community members would have access to the various outdoor pools in the area during this time.

The Kitchener City Council originally indicated that it's not typical for them to support pools at educational institutions in other municipalities, but that they were willing to work with the community groups

to help find a solution.

"What we do is support community groups in their initiatives," said Vrbanovic, adding that the money will go through community groups to WLU because municipalities typically don't fund other governing bodies, such as a university.

"At that point it wasn't clear that we were prepared to fund it," said Vrbanovic. "A lot of dialogue [with the City of Waterloo] has gone on in the meantime and as a result the decision was made to come forward with a similar investment."

With Laurier students' passing of the Pool Improvement Fee referendum last Thursday, there is no question that short-term repairs can be made, and preparations for a long-term plan can begin to formulate.

"It was obvious that students want an aquatic component to their recreation program," said Baxter.

Had the referendum failed, Baxter says it would have been very difficult to ensure the repairs would still take place.

"We would have had to make a

decision whether to close the pool or not because we didn't have the funds, or else hope that another partner came through," noted Baxter.

Baxter continued, saying that talks are still in place between other levels of government, including the Regional Council and the federal government for more funding.

"The students have stepped up with the referendum and a lot of the partners who aren't involved might want to come to the table. If so, the funds collected from the students

will go to the long-term repairs of the pool," he said.

Baxter quickly commended students on their outstanding response to maintaining operating costs of the pool and the commitment they were willing to put forward.

"The two cities have come through and the students have shown that they have community spirit that rallies around certain prices," said Baxter. "For a lot of students that use this pool, they understand its role in the community as well."

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## GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of February 10-15, 2009

### RECENT SCORES

02.08.09

W Hockey 3 - Brock 1  
W Curling 8 - Trent 2  
M Curling 4 - Western 6  
W Curling 3 - Laurentian 6

02.07.09

M Basketball 96 - McMaster 88  
W Basketball 49 - McMaster 75  
W Volleyball 3 - Windsor 1  
M Volleyball 3 - Windsor 1  
M Curling 5 - Western 3  
W Curling 7 - Laurentian 4  
M Hockey 3 - Lakehead 1  
W Curling 5 - Western 9  
W Curling 4 - Trent 6  
M Curling 6 - Brock 3  
M Curling 5 - Queen's 3

02.06.09

W Volleyball 3 - Western 1  
M Volleyball 2 - Western 3  
M Hockey 3 - Lakehead 1

02.05.09

W Hockey 2 - Guelph 0

02.04.09

M Basketball 67 - Guelph 57  
W Basketball 62 - Guelph 75

### UPCOMING HOME GAMES

02.11.09

W Basketball vs Waterloo Athletic Complex, 6:00 p.m.  
M Basketball vs Waterloo Athletic Complex, 8:00 p.m.

02.12.09

Playoff Game  
M Volleyball vs Guelph Athletic Complex, 6:00 p.m.

### LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Jeff MacDougald  
Men's Hockey  
Whitney Rich  
Swimming

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# Calling all read-aholics

## KARI PRITCHARD FEATURES EDITOR

With Reading Week in mind, *The Cord* sought out six writers and authors within Laurier to find out what professors do outside of teaching.

### Dr. Ute Lischke

Currently, Dr. Ute Lischke is an associate professor in the department of English and film studies, head of the women's studies program at Laurier and a series editor with WLU Press.

Lischke's work lies in the field of academic articles, with a special interest in Aboriginal studies.

"It's an interest of mine that I've had for about fifteen years," said Lischke of Aboriginal studies.

As a Laurier professor, Lischke has taught courses dealing with Aboriginal literature and writings as well as with filmmaking.

Under WLU Press, Lischke has had the opportunity to co-edit several books on the topic of film and media studies as well as on Aboriginal studies like *The Long Journey of Canada's Forgotten People*, *Walking a Tightrope* and *Blockades and Resistance*.

"[I] really enjoyed [co-editing] because not only can you publish your own chapter in the book," said Lischke, "but it involves writing an introduction to the books, and then you're also editing the work of all the other contributing authors to these volumes."

Lischke encourages those interested in writing to follow their hearts' desires, but admits that "it's a hard process and it requires a lot of work and perseverance."

### Dr. Darren Wershler

Having written ten books on topics spanning from the Internet to poetry, Dr. Darren Wershler is currently an assistant professor of communication studies at Laurier.

"Probably the thing I've done that most people have paid attention to is *The Iron Whim*, which is a book about type-writing," said Wershler of his best-reviewed and circulated book.

When it comes to his books of poetry, "The idea of writing anything that resembled a traditional kind of poem just seemed sort of irrelevant to me," said Wershler. "If poetry can't talk to the conditions of the world that you live in, then it's a nice hobby but probably no more relevant than making doilies and selling them at the church rummage sale."

Wershler's second book of poetry is entitled *The Tapeworm Foundry* and is basically "a sixty-four-page-long run-on sentence that's nothing but ideas for art," described Wershler.

Recently, a group of students at the University of Pennsylvania took *The Tapeworm Foundry* and built an art show out of it, creating works of art, a staged gallery show and a catalogue.

If you're interested in finding out more about this project or any of Wershler's works, check out his website, [www.alienated.net](http://www.alienated.net).

### Dr. Tanis MacDonald

Working as an assistant professor and graduate officer in the department of English at Laurier, Dr. Tanis MacDonald has written three books of poetry with a Canadian-feminist theme,  *Holding*

*Ground, Fortune and Rue the Day*.

"I don't want to say that all of them are engaging in feminist theory over and above anything else," said MacDonald of her works, "but all three of them are concerned with contemporary womanhood, contemporary femininity in Canadian culture."

MacDonald believes that when it comes to practicing a solitary art like poetry, most people are "looking for something to do with our thoughts and our energy and our daily living that doesn't necessarily come out in daily activity."

MacDonald has personally chosen to work in the field of poetry because of her interest in words. "There's something about the musicality of words and the strangeness of language that puts pressure on and says 'isn't language bizarre?'"

"I wanted to have a way to think differently about what I was engaging with in everyday life," said MacDonald on practicing poetry.

If you want to learn more about the Bliss Carman and Acorn-Rukeyser Poetry award-winning poet, check out MacDonald's webpage at [www.tanismacdonald.com](http://www.tanismacdonald.com).

### Brian Henderson

Working as WLU Press director, Brian Henderson has published nine books of poetry since 1978, ranging in topics from philosopher-chemist Paracelsus (*Paracelsus, Porcupine*), to the Aztecs (*Smoking Mirror*), to science-fiction.

Although Henderson "always scribbled" before becoming a full-fledged poet, he attributes his interest in becoming a writer to music.

"I listened to Beethoven and all that when I was young and

just loved it, so I wanted to write music," said Henderson. "But I knew squat about music so I had to do something else so it ended up being poetry."

Not only has Henderson authored written poetry, but his work *Alphamiricon* deals with visual poetry.

Using a letter transferring system called "letraset," Henderson created various new shapes and designs.

"When I couldn't write, I did those," said Henderson of his unique form of dealing with writer's block.

Looking back and asking himself about the shapes he had created, Henderson decided that, "They could be magic letters from a different alphabet that we don't know, that we haven't discovered," ultimately becoming the inspiration for *Alphamiricon*.

To find out more about Brian Henderson, check out his webpage at [www.brianhenderson.net](http://www.brianhenderson.net).

### Dr. Jonathan Finn

Associate Professor and Chair of communication studies at Laurier Dr. Jonathan Finn has contributed academic articles to *Surveillance and Society* and has a piece coming out in *Visual Communication* as well.

Currently, Finn is working on a book called *Capturing the Criminal Image: From Mug Shot to Surveillance Society*, a series of case studies focusing on the use of photography by police since its inception in the 1800s, to photography reliance in information databases today.

Although part of Finn's job description is being a writer, he doesn't always find it easy.

"One of the things that I write about when I write about images is the difficulty of working with images when you do it through a primarily textual form," said Finn of some of the frustrations he faces as a writer.

Finn finds mediation with his frustrations through his writing. "One of the challenges and one of the things that I try and address in writing that I do is that too few people pay attention to the role of images and design in their forms of communication."

"People now tell me that I'm a pretty decent writer and I still feel like I'm a poor writer, so that makes me happy," he said. Whether Finn is frustrated or not, his hard work appears to be paying off.

### Dr. Eleanor Ty

Professor and Chair of the department of English and Film Studies, Dr. Eleanor Ty's writing interests began with women writers of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, producing two books, *Empowering the Feminine: The Narratives of Mary Robinson, Jane West, and Amelia Opie* and *Unsex'd Revolutionaries: Five Women Novelists of the 1790s*.

"In the last eight years I've

With reading week quickly approaching, *The Cord* talks to writers and authors at Laurier to prepare students for seven days dedicated to hittin' the books

## Want to be a writer?

So maybe reading isn't your thing, but you wouldn't mind taking a stab at being the next J.K. Rowling or T.S. Eliot. You might want to rethink that.

All of the authors who spoke to *The Cord* voiced one opinion across the board: if you want to be a writer, you've got to read.

"Read your face off, read, read, read," said Brian Henderson, expressing a sentiment similar to Jonathan Finn's advice: "One of the ways to become a better writer is to read, a lot."

Even if you want to have your own unique voice amongst established authors, Henderson advises that you've got to work at it.

"A lot of young writers say 'I don't want my voice to be sullied.' It's almost never the case that you have a strong poetic voice right out of the box."

Professor Eleanor Ty advises that, "It takes a lot of both learning and life experience to be able to be mature enough to write something of good quality," adding that acquiring many perspectives, ideas and beliefs will make the writing more interesting as a whole.

"What I can tell you about being an author is that it's not about sitting in your basement, working away all by yourself under the misapprehension that one day the world will recognize your genius," said Professor Darren Wershler. "It's about going out and finding a community of other writers."

Professor Ute Lischke agrees with Wershler, encouraging students to "seek out those professors and instructors who are interested and who have published and to sit and have a coffee with them and chat and get some ideas."

Professor Tanis MacDonald puts a more personal twist on writing: "Please yourself and push yourself beyond how you usually do it, and if anybody gives you an opportunity to write in a completely different fashion from what you're doing, you should take it."

But don't get ahead of yourself too quickly. Professor Jonathan Finn advises budding authors to take writing seriously.

"Recognize from the get-go that [writing is] not a finite field; you don't suddenly get good at it and stop working on it. It's terribly painful, it's very rewarding but it takes continuous work, it never ends," said Finn.

Although becoming a writer may sound a bit daunting, Finn advised that it's not always that way, and MacDonald agreed.

"I think why most people keep [writing] is because they're kind of jazzed by it. It's kind of fun; they get energy from it," said MacDonald.

Although you may not become a world-famous writer overnight, you now have some valuable knowledge on how to start off down the road to success. The ride may not be smooth but, as MacDonald reminds us, "Part of creating art is figuring out a few things for yourself."

been working on Asian minority writers living out of Canada or the United States who have written memoirs ... or stories about settling in Canada or the US," said Ty about her recent research interests.

Ty contributes part of her interest in becoming a writer as a job requirement but she also finds "it very rewarding to be able to research and synthesize and work on a topic that no one else has looked at."

By researching novels from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Ty was able to find "novels that no one had read for two hundred years."

In the 1980s Ty was actually able to persuade Broadview publishers to re-print Mary Hays' *The Victim of Prejudice*, leading Ty to the exciting "rescue [of] a work that was previously lost for about 150 to 200 years."

Ty has effectively made *The Victim of Prejudice* available for students and currently includes the book in her fourth-year seminar.

## Reading recommendations

### Darren Wershler:

*Blood Meridian* by Cormac McCarthy  
*The Alphabet Game* by Barrie Phillip Nichol

### Tanis MacDonald:

*The Sentinel* by AF Moritz  
*Coventry* by Helen Humphries

### Brian Henderson:

*All Our Wonder Unavenged* by Don Domanski  
*Beautiful Losers* by Leonard Cohen

### Jonathan Finn:

*Hammer of the Gods* by Stephen Davis  
*Visual Literacy* by James Elkins

### Eleanor Ty:

*The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri

# Dear Cordelia...

Relationship expert Cordelia is back in time for a special Valentine's edition of her advice column, dishing out her opinion on what to do in sticky relationship situations. Sloppy roommates, sexual frustrations and valentines all make an appearance this week

## Q. Dear Cordelia,

A friend of mine broke up with her boyfriend recently and I must admit that I'm falling for him. We both would like to date each other, but I'm not sure where to go with the relationship or if I should have one with him at all. Is it appropriate to date your friend's ex and, if yes, then when is it okay? Does closeness with the friend or length of the friendship matter?

Sincerely, *Admiring from a Distance*

## A. Dear Admiring from a Distance,

This is quite a tricky situation you're in. As far as I'm concerned, there is no easy way out of your predicament without losing a relationship - whether it be the original friendship or the new love interest. It's important that you decide which is dearer to you: the friendship or the boyfriend. If you are determined to be with the ex-boyfriend, then you have to be prepared to sacrifice your original friendship. If you are feeling brave, you could talk to your friend about your feelings for her ex - if you're lucky she will be ambivalent about you dating him. Depending on how long ago they dated or how intense the relationship was, she might not care if you date her ex. However, I predict the outcome will not be so rosy.

## Q. Dear Cordelia,

My roommate is so bad at cleaning that he thinks the bathroom can be cleaned solely with Lysol wipes. What is the best way to approach a roommate about their lack of cleaning skills?

Sincerely, *Living in Filth*

## A. Dear Living in Filth,

If you feel close enough with your messy roommate, be open with your opinion but deliver it gently. Communication is always key. However, if you're not so fortunate to have a close or open relationship, subtlety is a necessity. Buy some products and show them to your Lysol-loving roommate. Perhaps you can convince him of the new product's superiority because they're environmentally friendly or are less expensive than the wipes. That alone may encourage him to use them. Or, suggest that you split up the cleaning tasks and make sure he sees how you do the job. Even better yet, flat-out suggest he use a different product because you like the way it makes the sink shine. Try one or all of these approaches, and I'm sure your roommate will learn.

## Q. Dear Cordelia,

My boyfriend has a problem with premature ejaculation. Intercourse has never lasted longer than two minutes and I feel that my needs are not satisfied. Anytime I try to bring it up he shuts me out, but I don't know if I can continue dating a guy that only lasts minutes in bed. Should I break up with him?

Sincerely, *Confused and Frustrated*

## A. Dear Confused and Frustrated,

If you're not attached to this minuteman, then dump him. His unwillingness to discuss the issue and his sexual selfishness probably translate to the kind of person he is outside the bedroom, too. Unless you want to endure a life *sans plaisir*, then move on to a man who can satisfy you! You obviously satisfy this guy, and the least he can do is reciprocate. BUT if you're determined to make it work, try to slow things down when you think he's close to climax. This will postpone the orgasm, but will take time to build his resistance. It won't be an easy task, but it's the only option you've got other than getting a new man.

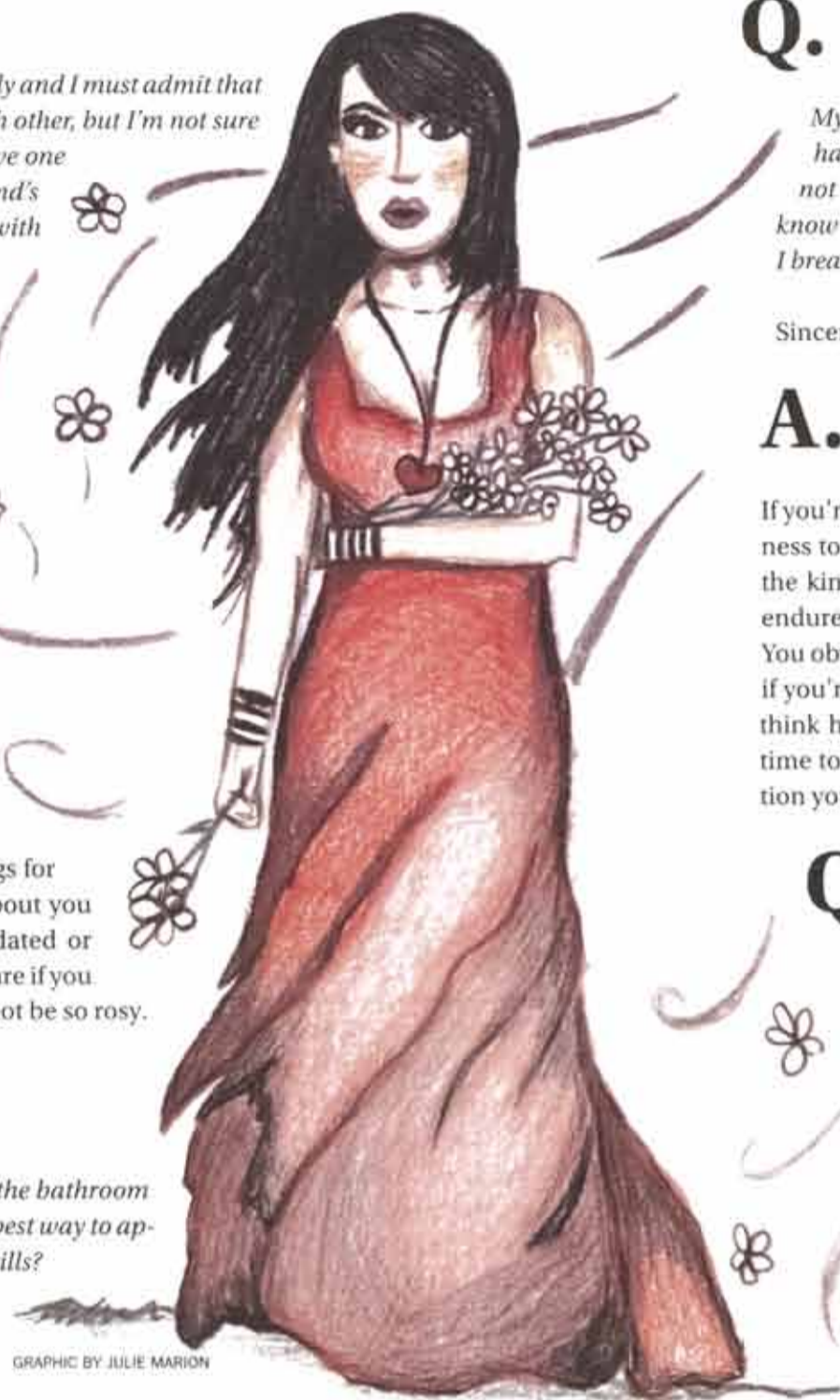
## Q. Dear Cordelia,

I'm dating someone right now - it's not serious yet and neither of us wants a commitment. What are your thoughts on a Valentine's Day gift?

Sincerely, *Curious Cupid*

## A. Dear Curious Cupid,

Does the person you're dating even celebrate Valentine's Day? This may be a topic you wish to casually bring up. For example, try something like: "Valentine's Day is this week, isn't it? Are you big into it?" When you find out, gauge your gift accordingly. If your sweetie loves the tradition, cook them a nice meal with flowers, candles and a present - the whole nine yards. If they are not down with being mushy, maybe a simple card or handmade sentiment would be appropriate. Nonetheless, a framed photo of the two of you from a recent outing, a batch of homemade cookies or a night out with your new partner should suffice no matter their expectations for the big day.



GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION

Do you have a question for Cordelia?

E-mail her at: [cordelia@cordweekly.com](mailto:cordelia@cordweekly.com)

## Riddle me this, Laurier...

The Cord Quiz is looking for answers!

- Who is the best looking prof?
- Which lecture hall is your favourite?
- What's the best nightclub or pub for students?
- Where is the place you'd most like to have (or have had) sex at on campus?
- Where is the best spot study?

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# Be mine, Valentine

A great Valentine's Day present can be hard to come by on a budget, but with these personalized gifts you'll be sure to impress your sweetheart

**LINDA GIVETASH**  
STAFF WRITER

With a tight budget, buying presents can be difficult, especially for your significant other on Valentine's Day.

Keeping the cost of a Valentine's Day present for your love within your student budget can prove challenging. If a budget isn't one of your concerns, perhaps finding an individualized or unique gift is.

There are plenty of things you can do that will be meaningful and won't cramp your style or put a hole in your wallet.

Nothing says "I love you" more than spelling it out in icing. You can buy cake mix (\$2-\$3) in whatever flavour your heart desires. Some festive pink icing and red gel icing (\$3-\$4) to write your message will be much appreciated by your special someone. Whether you go with cupcakes or heart-shaped cookies, your sweet gesture is sure to make your darling swoon. Not to mention it's a delicious gift you can both share.

If you're feeling creative or want to share something more sentimental, photos are a great and easy way to make a gift. You can either frame a nice picture of the two of you or make a collage of a variety of pictures from all your times together.

You can upload pictures from your computer to the Shoppers Drug Mart website and pick up your prints at either of the Waterloo Town Square or Conestoga Mall locations from \$0.29 per photo.

For added effect, try using a photo editing tool like [www.picnik.com](http://www.picnik.com)

to alter the photos into sepia or rose tones.

Renting your special someone their favourite movie or a movie they've been dying to see will show how well you know them and give you some one-on-one time.

Blockbuster offers new releases for \$6.32/two nights and for older movies \$4.51/week. Hit up the local Bulk Barn for some Valentine's Day candy and you'll be set for a fun night in.

For those who plan on doing more than cuddling on Saturday, massage oils will definitely help establish the mood. The Stag Shop offers a variety of products under the \$10 mark, including the warming body oil WET Fun Flavours (\$6.95) and Liquid Love (\$7.95).

If you're feeling more adventurous or just have a sweet tooth, there are edible lotions that should spice things up.

The Chocoholics line includes Body Frosting (\$6.95) and a chocolate shower bar (\$8.95), putting an interesting twist on the traditional box of chocolates.

If you want items that you can use on multiple occasions, there are tongue vibrators and some underwear available under the \$10 mark. On special at the moment are the one-time use Candy Panties (\$8) that will definitely make your night memorable.

Regardless of what you'd like to do on Valentine's Day, you won't have to curse Cupid while draining your bank account. Remember, a little effort goes a long way and it's spending the time together that really counts.



SYDNEY HELLAND (TOP) ELLI GARLIN (BOTTOM)

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# Laurier prof finds balance

WLU professor splits her time between three yoga studios and teaching

JACLYN STIEF  
CORD STUDENT LIFE

Denise Davis-Gains decided to become a yoga teacher when she was actually taking part in a yoga class. She was doing a shoulder circle stretch: placing her arm over her head and bending sideways, wondering why the muscle was so tight.

According to Davis-Gains, "This was the moment that made me realize this was the way my body was supposed to move. Dance, gymnastics and aerobics met on the yoga mat. When I did it, I knew it was the right thing for me; it brought things together in one package."

Although she did not realize it at the time, Davis-Gains' Laurier career of teaching yoga as a part of the kinesiology and physical education program began when she tripped coming out of a yoga class. She then had a vision in her mind of yoga at the university level.

Davis-Gains realized yoga at university would not only involve physically taking part in it but learning about it through concepts such as stress management and body control. She sent out letters to universities such as McMaster and Western, with no response. Then, in a yoga class, she met a Laurier professor and eventually met with

the dean, who offered her a position at the first meeting. What she said could have taken a year or two to organize took a week, making Laurier an "effortless perfect fit."

She has been a professor in the kinesiology and physical education program teaching yoga since 2000.

She teaches KP108, a first-year quarter-credit for kinesiology students who are interested in yoga. This past fall, a new course was added to her schedule, KP308, which looks at the theories of yoga.

Davis-Gains started her own company, Atlas Yoga Studio, in 1999. Now, ten years later, she has three yoga studios and is opening a fourth on March 2. When questioned how these studios differ, Davis-Gains was eager to explain.

In Waterloo, she has a studio at the Dearborn Performance & Wellness Centre & Iron Heart Fitness, which gives off a clinical and athletic feel.

For a smaller and more intimate environment, Cambridge has a studio at the Fernandes Family Natural Health Clinic. Customers can also experience yoga as a holistic experience at Affinity for Women in Kitchener - although according to Davis-Gains, men are welcome as well.

This studio is moving from its previous location in Kitchener, so it

will be re-opening on March 2 in its new location on Belmont Ave W.

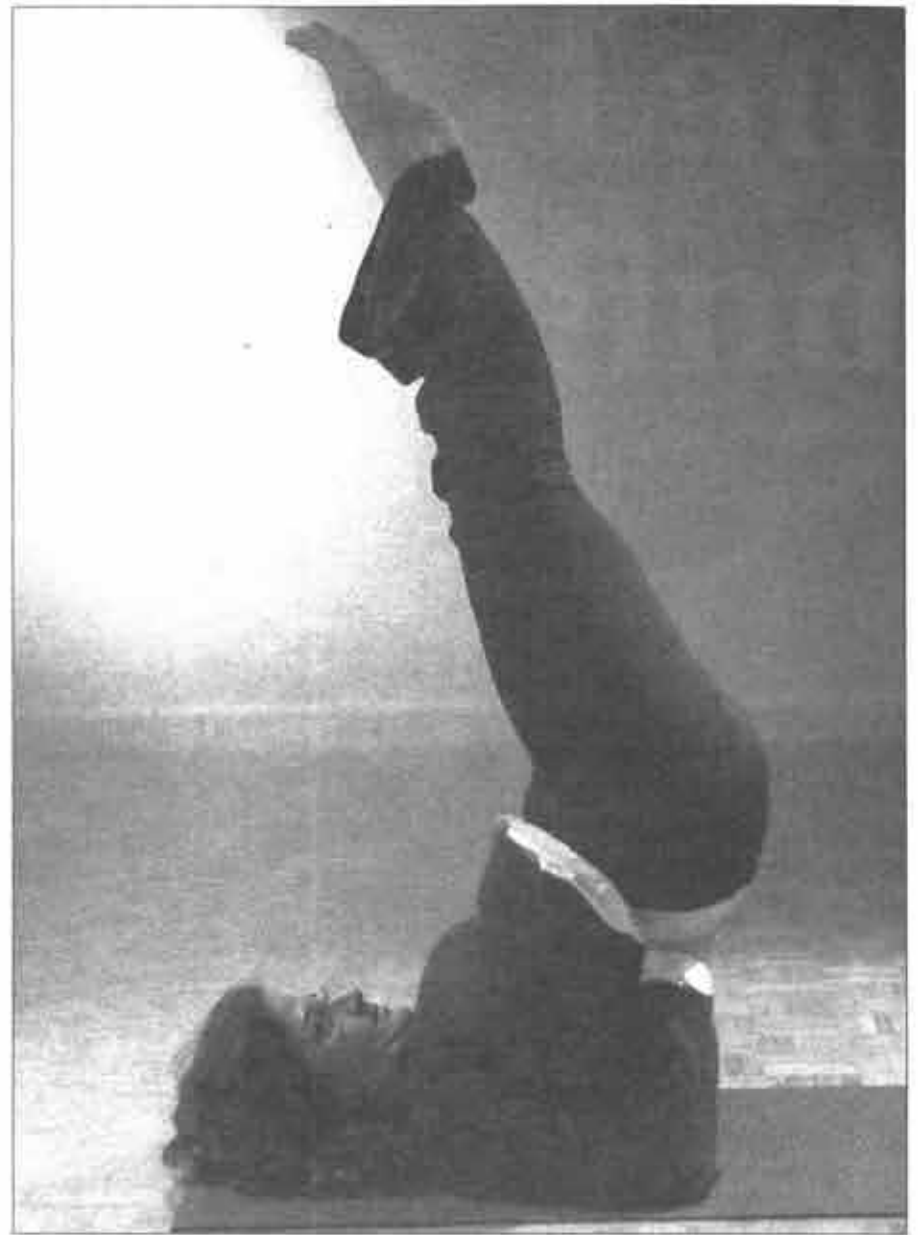
Davis-Gains is excited about the grand opening of her new yoga studio at Cambridge Spine & Sport also on March 2, which will provide a more therapeutic setting. With a variety of classes and locations, it's clear that there is something for everyone.

There are many opportunities for those who are interested to volunteer at one of her studios, according to Davis-Gains. Roma Fitzgerald, a first-year kinesiology student, decided to volunteer after taking her yoga class last semester. Fitzgerald stated, "I felt comfortable. I felt stress relief, it was refreshing. She's really helpful in correcting your body but in a good way and she brings a lot to the classroom from her past experiences."

Davis-Gains' success is not limited to either Laurier or her yoga studios; she also loves to volunteer.

She feels that, "It's important for me to volunteer, to create an organization that gives back to the community," enriching her teaching in the process. Davis-Gains also ensures that her yoga studios offer a variety of charitable functions.

For those who are going to Davis-Gains' studio for the first time, the class is free with a food bank donation, which she finds is in constant



YUSUF KIDWAL

**YEP IT'S YOGA** - Yoga is beneficial to the mind, body and spirit.

need of non-perishable items. Studio space is always made available for those who want to teach people who have schizophrenia and mood disorders.

A current teacher-in-training who has Down's syndrome is set to receive additional yoga training at no extra cost. This past year, Davis-Gains donated over 500 free classes to sell at a silent auction to raise money for a humanitarian project in Haiti.

Davis-Gains is also in the process of creating an NGO program, Atlas Children's Workshop, with the mis-

sion of "bringing children into the world consciously." This program will be for women who are trying to get pregnant, who are currently pregnant and postpartum mothers so that they can make sure they are going to have a safe and healthy pregnancy, delivery and maternity leave.

"Yoga is more than sitting on your butt chanting 'om' or lying on your back on a blanket," stressed Davis-Gains. "It's really an exercise of body and breath. Yoga can [be done] anytime, anywhere; you learn it and have it as a lifetime tool."

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## Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group

### What is a Working Group?

Groups of volunteers that come together where they see a need for raising awareness or research to promote issues or causes that they feel passionate about and that are not already being addressed on campus or in the local community.

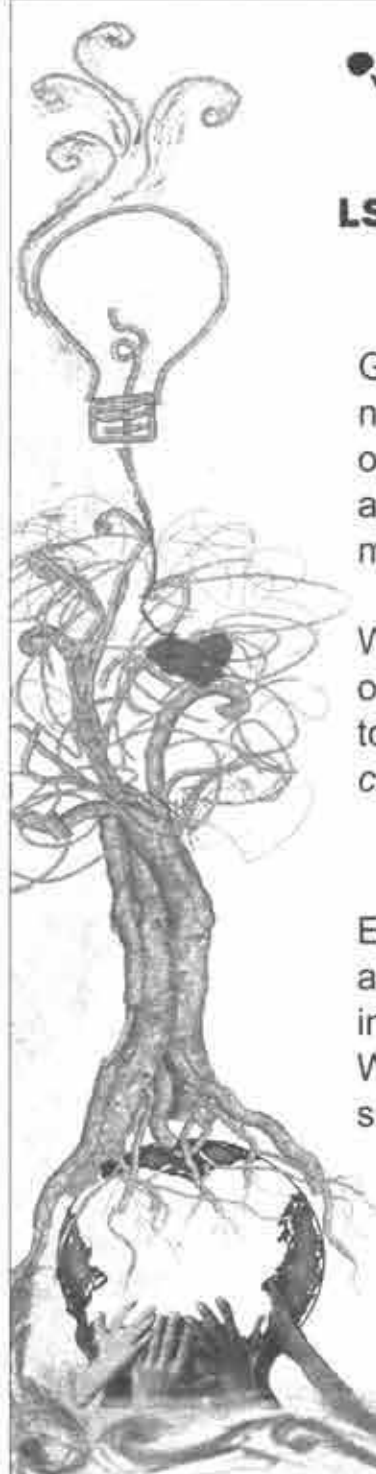
Working Groups can be big or small, single event-oriented, long or short term and cover a wide range of topics. *LSPIRG welcomes and encourages diversity and creativity.*

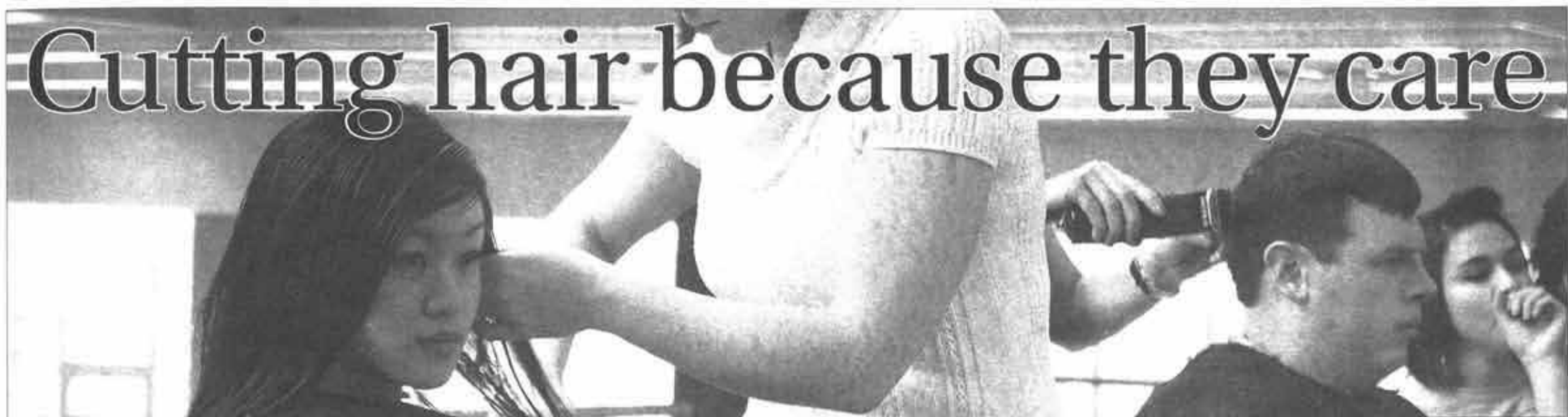
### How to Start a Working Group?

Easy! If you have an idea, come and talk to us or send us an email. We'll guide you on the next steps to take, including finding members, registration, planning and budgeting. We'll also tell you about training, resources and other support available to Working Groups.

For more information, please visit  
[www.lspirg.ca](http://www.lspirg.ca) or email [nikki@lspirg.ca](mailto:nikki@lspirg.ca).

Engaging in social change





LAURA TOMKINS

## Cutting hair because they care

### Stylists from the Kitchener-Waterloo area come to cut hair in the Concourse at Laurier for charity

JACLYN STIEF  
CORD STUDENT LIFE

Hair For Hope, an event organized by the Charity Ball committee, saw the Concourse host a budget hair-styling extravaganza on Monday.

According to Daliah Hijazi, the co-ordinator of Charity Ball, "It's one of our most successful events. We set a goal last term and doubled it." This is the second year it's taken place, with the idea first inspired by a cancer-support centre that Charity Ball supported last year.

Hijazi says that the event is quite straightforward: "You just tell them what you want and they will do it for five dollars." This past October, Hijazi provided some entertainment for those in the Concourse because she had 11.7 inches cut off.

Hijazi said it was fairly easy to find stylists because two of the

stylists returned to Laurier from last year's Hair For Hope in February. She said that both salons, Hair Connection and Volum, are eager to help both the students and the charity.

Sonia, a stylist from Hair Connection, explained, "We have a great time doing it." One of Volum's stylists, Feryarl, got involved because she enjoys helping charities: "I love to volunteer."

This year, Charity Ball chose to help KidsAbility: Centre for Child Development. KidsAbility works with kids who have physical, developmental and communication disabilities.

At noon, two-year-old Philip came to visit Laurier as KidsAbility's ambassador for the Kitchener-Waterloo region. Philip and his parents got into the spirit, receiving a haircut after speaking about

their experience with KidsAbility. Hijazi was pleased they could come because she feels it was great for people to see where and to whom their money was going.

This semester, Hijazi wanted to decrease the length of the lines, which she solved by adding more stylists. In terms of goals, she wanted to either match what they managed to achieve in October, which

was over 100 haircuts, or surpass it. By the end of the event, she believed from the turnout that they had achieved that number.

Alix Fursey, a fourth-year history major, felt it made sense to come out because "I figured I would pay 60 [dollars] over Reading Week or 5 [dollars] now."

"It's a good relief to relax and get my hair cut," explained third-year

history and philosophy major Trevor Pinsonneault.

Hijazi assures that the event provides great value because students who received hair cuts were not only able to keep more money in their bank account; at the same time, they were able to help a great local charity that doesn't get the government attention it needs.



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## WLU should embrace its creative culture

Last September, after Stephen Harper announced cuts to arts funding in Canada, author and national icon Margaret Atwood responded in an essay to the *Globe and Mail*.

Normal people, said Atwood, are not opposed to the artistic community. Normal people create, consume and appreciate art.

One need not look beyond the walls of Wilfrid Laurier University to find truth in Atwood's claim.

While WLU is not typically known for its creative side – beyond its acclaimed music program, that is – there is a robust artistic culture operating under its surface.

Our academics do more than publish journal articles and critiques – many of them have published books of fiction and poetry and some have even received national awards for their works. Some students have also published literature over the years.

Laurier's annual Fringe festival showcases the number of playwrights, actors and directors on campus. While Fringe has been successful over the past few years, it still generally goes unnoticed by the majority of Laurier students.

Musical creativity on campus is also underrepresented on campus, going far beyond the students that participate in Last Band Standing.

Artists such as Shad K, Will Currie and the Country French and now JD Era have gone on to national and international recognition.

The entire Laurier community should begin to recognize WLU not just as a place of academia and volunteerism, but also as a space where talented, creative individuals gather.

After all, artistic creativity is a quality valued at all institutions of higher education, and such efforts ought to be celebrated at Laurier.

Beginning to think of our university as a creative space will be especially important in the coming months. While budget cuts will no doubt affect academic programming and possibly affect extra-curricular activities, the arts still have the opportunity to flourish.

Embracing an artistic culture at Laurier is a positive way to enrich the student experience despite impending financial cutbacks.

Hopefully this mentality will also lead to people citing famous Laurier alumni other than Matte Babel.

## Radio Laurier outlook good

The ongoing controversy surrounding the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union's (WLUSU) cutting of Radio Laurier from its services continued on Friday, as the board of directors (BOD) failed to pass any motions regarding the station after two hours of discussion.

While this meeting left many people frustrated, it is now becoming clear that the controversy over Radio Laurier may be coming to a close.

Dean of Students David McMurray commented to *The Cord* that finding a space for the station is a near-certainty, showing that WLUSU President Colin Le Fevre has indeed been working with university administration and Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications (WLUSP) to find a suitable solution to this problem.

A meeting has been scheduled between WLUSU, WLUSP and Radio Laurier executives, showing that the lines of communication have now opened between the organizations.

And, while the BOD failed accomplish anything significant during its meeting, the simple act of discussing the problem showed that our student representatives at least attempted to address the needs of the group.

Overall, much of this controversy could have been avoided with greater communication on the part of the union. The BOD could have communicated more outside the board room to discuss which motions would be reasonable ahead of time.

And Le Fevre could have communicated his actions with Radio Laurier throughout the past months to assure them of their continued existence.

Despite what has happened, Radio Laurier's situation is appearing to be hopeful.

*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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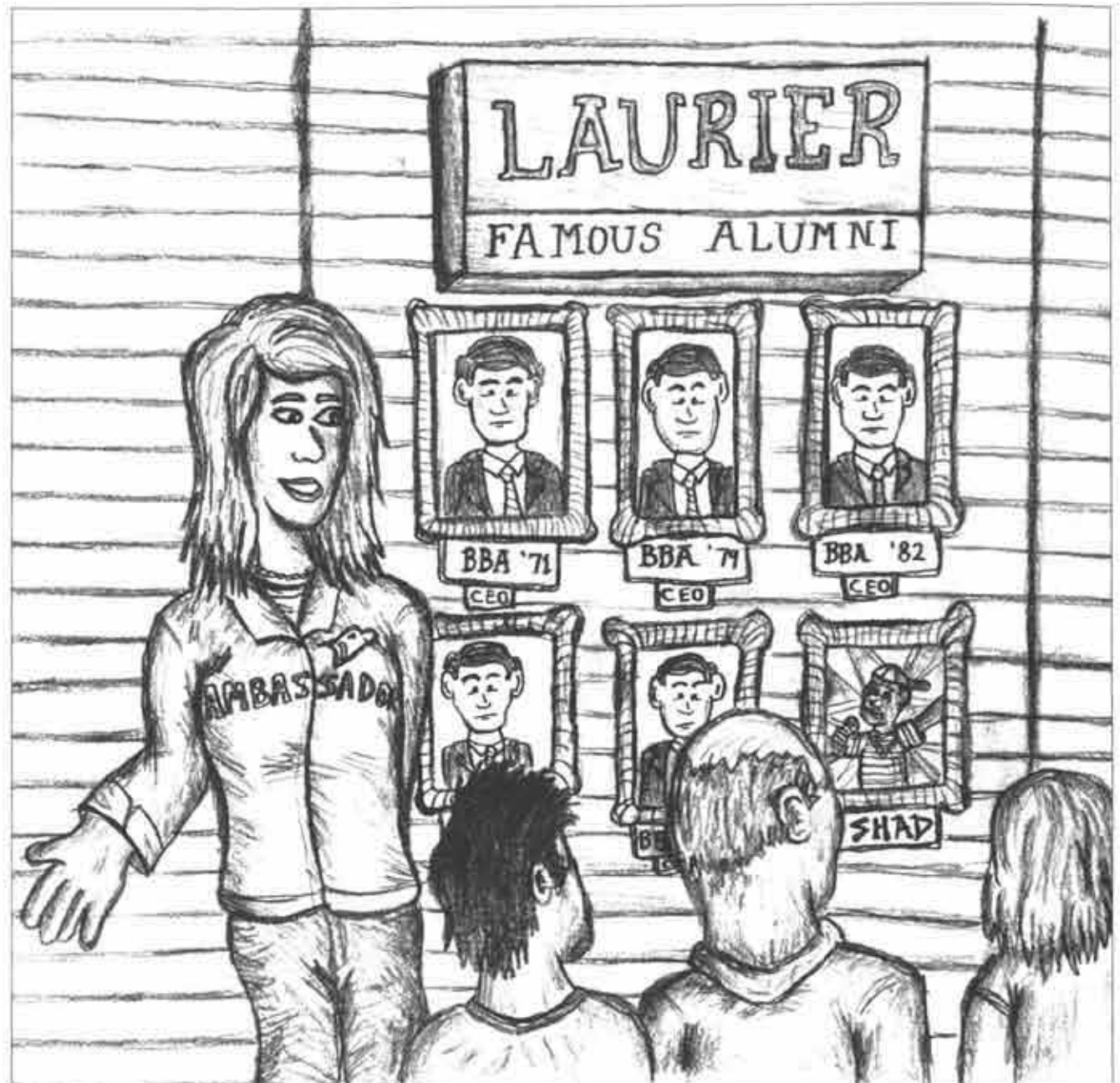
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GRAPHIC BY MATT ENGLISH

## Listening to music can't solve your problems

Songs only simulate real life; they don't capture all of life's complexities



ALEX HAYTER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Music can be perfect. But life cannot be.

Something that Loudon Wainwright III said in the Dutch documentary *One Man Guy* brought this message into my head as I watched the film the other day.

When asked to explain if his music – songs based around family strife like "Your Mother and I" and "Hitting You" – is written as a way of "fixing" life's problems, Wainwright had an interesting response.

Though his songs refer to his life, they aren't "real" life, he says.

Rather, his music is written in order to make sense of the confusion that his real life presents, and to diffuse that confusion into something that can be enjoyed by a listener.

Something that can be understood and communicated – by both himself and by us.

"You have to wrap it up in three minutes," he says.

"The song makes it sound like it fixed everything... We haven't. It's an ongoing battle."

What Wainwright notes about his own songs is surely true of the music of many musicians – and in some ways, true of much art in general.

Social theorist Jean Baudrillard argued that people are in a con-

stant search for true meaning, a total understanding of the world.

We are easily seduced by a "hyper-real" version of reality – a simulated version that presents only the sides of life that can be comprehended. We're tricked, then, into seeing this simulation as reality.

Likewise, many songs present a reality that makes sense to the listener – and we feel that the cloudy complexities of life can be made clear by the therapeutic act of listening to music.

The act of song-writing itself tends to be an attempt to distill a head full of limitless, floating, fluid thoughts into something concrete, finite and ultimately comprehensible. This very act is contrary to itself.

Perhaps some of the "best" songs, though, are ones that simply don't make any sense to the listener.

I've certainly encountered some music that doesn't try to simulate life, that simply explores emotion without any resolution or presumption of concreteness.

Wainwright refers to Bob Dylan as a "cryptic" writer – someone whose lyrics are mysterious; you never know quite *what* he means.

Listening to artists like Dylan becomes an activity beyond searching for truth; there's an awareness there that perhaps the truth just won't ever be found.

I think it's possible, though, to take this philosophy from such cryptic songsters as Dylan and apply it to all music we listen to.

Understand that when we're meditating to Jeff Buckley's "Last Goodbye", we don't gain an instant, complete understanding of what heartbreak is. Know that Bruce Springsteen's "Thunder Road" isn't the ultimate portrait of escapism.

Recognize that the song isn't some kind of final truth, but listening to it and searching for that elusive truth is where the only real value is.

The real point I'm getting to is this: our appreciation of art, of music, is based on the idea that we perceive truth in it.

But art is often just a manufactured version of what cannot be adequately communicated.

Hell, this article is guilty of the same flaw. I've structured it in a way that tries to make an impact on the reader; that draws some kind of equilateral conclusion.

The truth is, life just isn't that simple, or that easy to understand.

So the next time you listen to your favourite song, don't kid yourself into thinking that it's going to sort out whatever personal trauma you're living through, or enlighten your troubled conscience with a final answer.

Yes, there's certainly some connection there. And the mere act of listening to music presents the effort of connecting those dots.

But believing that a three-minute song can fix the problems of a lifetime is a troubling assertion.

letters@cordweekly.com

# Modern notions of love are false

James Popkie laments that most conceptions of love in the media are tied to sex and materialism



**JAMES POPKIE**  
REBEL WITH A CAUSE

Valentine's Day is a shallow holiday created to exploit love and romance to sell cards and candy for materialist gain.

Unfortunately, it seems that today, more often than not, relationships themselves are based in shallowness.

I would define reciprocal love in the context of a romantic relationship as two people completely sharing themselves with each other and finding that they share a common bond that draws them completely toward each other, on an emotional and intellectual level even more so than on a physical one.

Romantic love is an innate part of the human spirit, and is perhaps one of the major characteristics that set us apart from the animals.

In pursuing relationships or sex, people often play games, take an almost predatory stance, mislead or lie about their intentions and hide their true personalities for the sake of seeming cool and charming.

Some people say this kind of deception is necessary, if only for the courtship stage, but I very much disagree.

Sure, it's great to be flirty and confident, but one should never take an angle that results in not being oneself.

Refraining from wearing a mask and hiding your true self under a veil of suave charm may get you fewer relationships, but taking such an approach is likely to filter out the potentially fake and meaningless relationships and produce better and more real ones – even though they may seem comparatively few and far between.

The media portrays this type of deceptive behaviour as rewarding – which it can be, if one does not allow guilt and morality to enter into the equation.

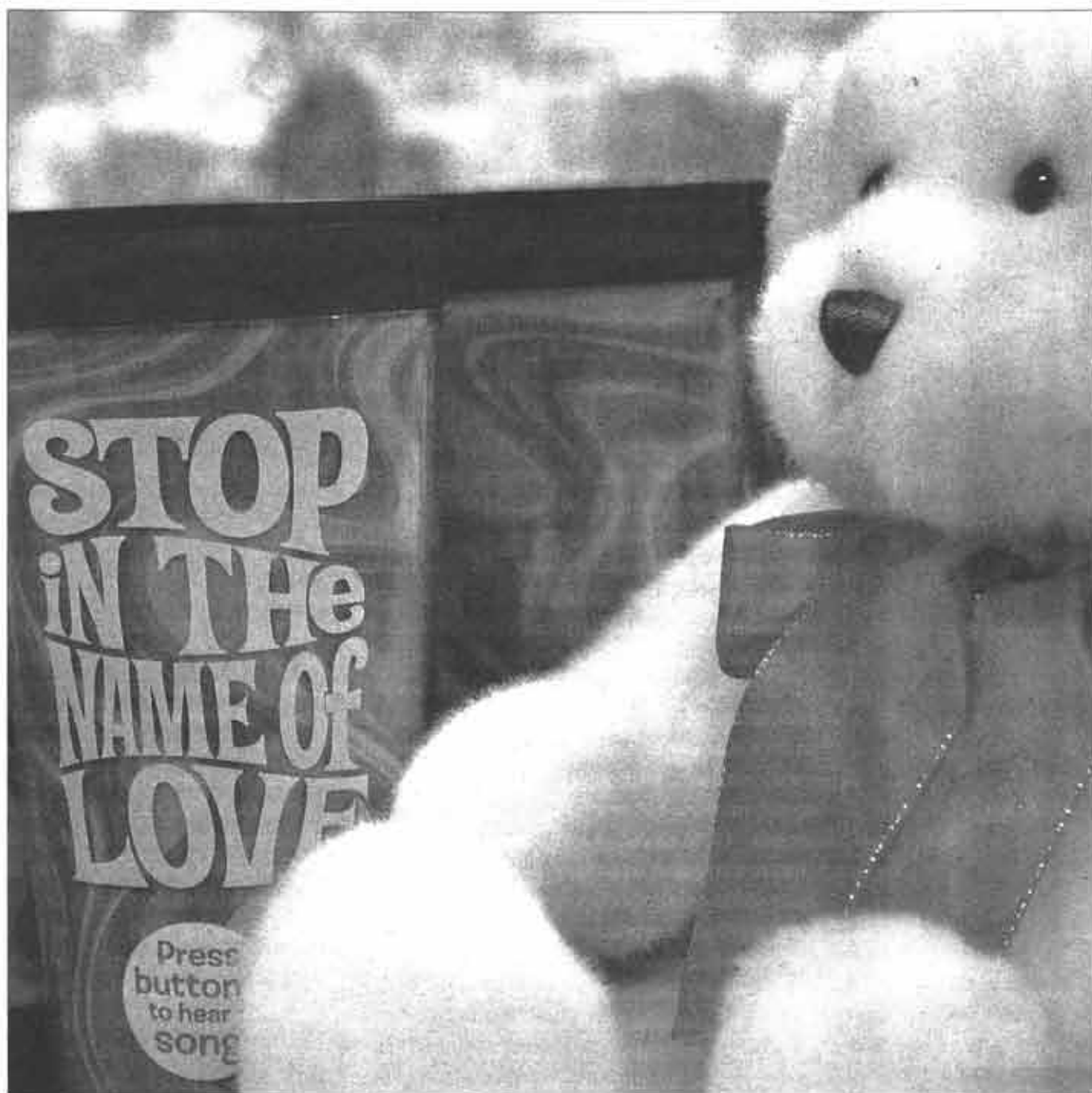
Romantic comedies often portray guys who take this deceptive and manipulative approach to romantic dynamics as good people at heart, despite their shallow and egotistical nature.

However, in real life, these diamonds in the rough are few and far between, and if someone seems like a manipulative asshole on the outside, that's probably exactly what they are. Society may reward their actions, but that doesn't make them any less reprehensible.

There was a rap music video I recently saw which portrayed the feelings of the rapper towards the woman of his desire.

Throughout the video, he elaborated on all the extravagant riches he could buy for her and the expensive destinations he could whisk her away to, as if those things in and of themselves could constitute the basis of a loving relationship.

The reasons for his attraction didn't seem to go far beyond mere



NICK LACHANCE

**SHOP IN THE NAME OF LOVE** - Cute Valentine's Day gifts are nice, but they don't buy true love.

lust.

Sadly, the majority of depictions of "love" and relationships in the media are a lot like this – shallowness, lust and materialism seem to be more of a basis than any kind of genuine personal connection.

Relationships that may appear to simmer with passion are often the least emotionally passionate ones.

That being said, there's nothing wrong with a physically based relationship so long as the people involved recognize it for what it is.

Lustful and shallow relationships can be fun and relatively harmless if they take place without any

deceitful or false intentions, but should not be confused with genuine romance.

An ad for a sexual dating service I saw on an Internet sidebar advertised the words "get laid" and "tonight" in two separate hearts, a symbol traditionally associated with love.

Is this how much the idea of love has been bastardized in our culture?

Now, I'm not going to play the part of the total cynic here and say that "love is dead." Because, truth be told, it's very much alive.

In an ironic way, perhaps all

this perversion of "love" makes real love seem all the more true in comparison. Its seemingly fleeting existence makes genuine instances of true love far more precious.

So, if you have found true love, let your significant other know how thankful you are to have them – and not just on some cheesy holiday like Valentine's Day that was apparently made for that express purpose – but all the time.

And, if you haven't found true love, then don't fret. Chances are, neither have most people.

[letters@cordweekly.com](mailto:letters@cordweekly.com)

# Wikipedia can be an academic resource



**JONATHAN RIVARD**  
FROM THE SOAPBOX

Busy, exhausted Laurier students aren't always able to attend class or keep their attention focused during three-hour lectures.

Occasionally, we need further elaboration on a difficult concept, and the Internet is often where we turn for aid. I'm the first to admit that an unclear passage from a textbook often has me hopping on Wikipedia to try and wrap my head around it.

Wikipedia has received a lot of negative press for being an unscholarly and unreliable resource, yet you'd be hard-pressed to find a student or professor who could claim to have avoided its use in research, elaboration or teaching.

If Wikipedia is used by Laurier's academic community in an academic context, can we really consider it a resource lacking academic value?

Wikipedia is often renounced as unstable and non-academic. Not only can anyone al-

ter the site's content, Wikipedia also lacks a full-time, professional editorial staff to construct and edit its entries.

In a 2001 interview, Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales agreed that a publicly edited reference site sounded ridiculous – with edits and contributions made by the public, quality control seems impossible.

However, the use of public consensus as a means of affirming content legitimacy has yielded fantastically accurate results.

In addition, Wikipedia utilizes thousands of volunteer editors to confirm the validity of all contributions. With over 150,000 viable edits made to the site per day, Wikipedia is sharpening its accuracy while greatly expanding its content.

With such enormous user involvement, Wikipedia offers something that many general reference sources are unable to: depth.

While online competitor Encyclopedia Britannica maintains a modest editorial staff, Wikipedia has millions of meticulous, educated contributors resulting in a website with the breadth of a general reference work, and the specificity of an academic journal.

Still considered a "general" reference work, Wikipedia has become the most thorough of

its kind.

This "citizens' encyclopedia" has become so effective in its abilities to provide reliable, in-depth information that last month Encyclopedia Britannica president Jorge Caus revealed plans to emulate Wikipedia and allow user-created and user-edited content on its website.

Encyclopedia Britannica is the world's oldest English-language encyclopedia, and their adoption of this public contribution and consensus model is a huge affirmation to the value of Wikipedia's methods.

And Britannica's users certainly include university students and professors alike.

So what keeps bringing us back, night after night, to that delicious smorgasbord of non-academic knowledge?

First and foremost, Wikipedia is accessible and entertaining. It allows learning to take its own natural progression, guided by interest.

As noted by satirical cartoonist Randall Monroe, one can start to read about suspension bridges and three hours of fascinated clicking later they're learning everything there is to know about William Howard Taft.

It's unexpected and unguided, but always educational and compelling. It's certainly no

stretch to claim that our education system has made the learning process inflexible; as a result, learning has become a chore.

It reminds me of strict parents forcing their child through viola lessons. Sterilized by forced practice, learning to play the viola is no longer an exploration, it's tedious.

Other parents take the unbridled approach and leave their child to their own whims. These are the children that seem to stick steadfastly to an interest, allowing education to take place on their own terms.

Learning, regardless of at what stage of the life cycle, can be something that self-perpetuates if interest is stimulated. Wikipedia provides the interest, the depth and the effortlessness, certainly earning it more than a shred of credibility.

Is Wikipedia an academic source? Yes and no. Although its articles lack peer-reviewed credentials, it possesses a surprising comprehensiveness that has students and educators turning to it for answers.

Although Wikipedia shouldn't replace our textbooks, our education certainly won't suffer if we use it to supplement and reinforce our studies.

[letters@cordweekly.com](mailto:letters@cordweekly.com)

# Hollywood hurts students' reputations

Real students aren't like the constant partiers portrayed in mainstream movies; it isn't fair for people to hold this conception



**ANDREA MILLET**  
THE BRIGHTER  
SIDE OF LIFE

No parents, no rules, co-ed dorms and parties every night. It's this idea that incites most students to head off to university with excitement every fall, and most parents to drop them off in fear.

But is this really how the university experience plays out, or is this just a fantasy that Hollywood has created and we are all buying into?

Yes there are co-ed dorms, but not every girl in them is a size two and walks around in her underwear, ready to sleep with the first (and second) guy who asks.

And not all of the guys are tall, fit, play lots of sports and party all the time instead of attending class.

Movies like *Van Wilder*, *Animal House* and *Road Trip* paint a picture of students that is most often untrue. We are expected by the general public to be wild and reckless, slackers and partiers, cheaters and vandals.

However, instead of partying all semester and then renting a beach house to party all summer, we work on classes and papers all school year and work at our jobs all summer.

Instead of running a party business or plotting to steal the answers to our final exams, students become engaged in politics and start activist groups. We volunteer in our school and in the community.

Not every student is unmotivated, immature and unreliable like those portrayed in Hollywood.

Yes, there are some students who only want to party. And there are some girls who are ready and willing to jump between the sheets and some guys who are football players.

There are also some who go to class everyday, study for exams, take on serious committed relationships and stick to their morals.

And no, these do not have to be typical Hollywood nerds, with pants that are too high in the waist and too short in the legs and glasses that look like the ones your grandmother wore in the fifties.

The truth about university life is that we are paying several thousand dollars to be here, and for the most part we are trying to pass our courses, pay the bills and get some sleep.

While partying is always fun, it's not usually a daily activity and, while cheating on exams like the *Slackers* group may seem like the easy way out, it's really not that common.

So is it unfair that Hollywood paints this picture of 24-hour drinking, lots of sex, a student body comprised of underwear models-in-training and no need to open a book or attend a class?

In a word, yes. We are heading off to school lost in this idea, misled by the Hollywood ideal, and so we are left even more unprepared for the biggest change in our young lives.

Showing up at university with an unrealistic expectation of what school entails and how much time and work is required makes the already present pressures of school and the difficulty balancing work and fun that much more difficult.

As those being targeted by Hollywood we need to be more aware of the illusory college life that only exists in the film world in order to be properly prepared for the demands of the real world.

The Hollywood image also affects how we are seen in the public eye. Employers look at students as irresponsible and lazy.

They expect us to show up to work late and hungover every day and they assume that we care more about our hair and nails, or our cars and sports teams, than we do about our jobs.

The community expects noisy parties and unshovelled driveways. We are targeted as the members least likely to contribute to the community and most likely to deface or disrupt it.

We students deserve a fair chance to not be judged based on a Hollywood stereotype before we have even had an opportunity to act.

This can only happen if we have a proper awareness of Hollywood's misleading image of our demographic.

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**SILVER SCREEN SLOBS** - The cast of *Animal House* acted nothing like the way real students behave.

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# Letters to the Editor

## Fees ridiculous

It has been another disappointing election for Laurier students. History has shown that students rarely vote down referendum questions. Once again we found ourselves rolled over by special interest groups. We were guilted into forking over an additional 300 000 dollars per year for their pet projects.

Let's begin with the so-called "Sustainability Office". The "Yes" side launched a very effective campaign that blurred the lines between supporting the idea of sustainability and support for yet another layer of wasteful bureaucracy. What exactly is this sustainability office you may ask? Well, they don't even know; as the "Yes" campaign mentioned on their Facebook group: "The money will be kept in a trust until negotiations with administration have been completed and the structure of the office is firmly established." Wonderful isn't it? That's code for "we're taking your money without a plan to spend it". In the real world, the budget comes before the money is raised. It's called fiscal responsibility. All the "Yes" side had was vague rhetoric and a cheap looking cardboard bus. The wool was pulled over the eyes of Laurier students and we were robbed.

Secondly, we now have a whopping \$20 a year fee to cover renovations for the pool. As the Cord mentioned in its rejection of this fee, Laurier students do not use the pool enough to warrant it. Instead of saddling all those that don't use the pool with yet another fee, perhaps we should charge those that actually use the facilities to raise additional money? What a novel idea.

Ultimately, ridiculous fees are nothing new to our school. Students and parents alike look at the fee statement in confusion and amazement. Most don't ask questions about where the money is going. For example, over \$100 000 goes towards the Laurier Students Public Interest Research Group or LSPiRG, to promote an ideologically extreme, left-wing agenda on campus. Regardless of political affiliation, they are taking money from students to promote causes they don't necessarily support.

Next election, I urge all of us to ask questions. It's your money!

-Eric Merkley  
President, Laurier Campus  
Conservatives

## Global warming is not questionable

We are writing in response to an article published in last week's Cord from a writer that "refuses to believe that global warming is a direct result of the CO2 we have put in the atmosphere", and dismisses Al Gore's Nobel-winning lecture as "ramblings set to a pretty slideshow."

We find these statements incredibly ironic, coming as they do in the same week as the student body overwhelmingly voted in favour of financially supporting an ecological sustainability office on campus.

In the article, the author quotes two notable climate change skeptics and spews weak criticisms of the IPCC report that has been endorsed by all

but one major 'scientific group': the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

The fact is that climate change science isn't religion - you can't choose to "believe" or "not believe". Science is not a body of facts that "we should continue to question." It's a process. A process that, in this case, has led to and continues to support an absolutely overwhelming consensus that climate change is real, and that it is man-made.

The truth is that most of the global warming skepticism that we hear about is either financially motivated or about politics. And as long as those with a vested interest in resisting change to de-carbonize our economy continue to have writers like Ms. Wallace profess that a "debate" still exists, they're successful in their task.

As two recent alumni who were both actively involved in the environmental movement in our time at Laurier, we're incredibly disheartened to read such poorly researched nonsense from a student that should know better than to latch onto the musings of a couple of climate change skeptics.

-Mike Morrice and Jody Miller  
WLU '08

## Impacts of global warming certain

In her article, Alanna Wallace referred to studies of some sceptics of global warming and quotes from scientists involved in writing the latest IPCC report. While she defines her self as "a very green person", she refuses to believe that global warming is a direct result of CO2 emitted by human activities. I agree with Wallace that global climate science doesn't claim to be certain, because it is after all based on measurements, experiments, and computer modelling studies that inherently have uncertainties associated with them. With that in mind, scientists who believe that global warming is happening acknowledge the following facts: (1) CO2 leads green houses gases (that contain CH4, O3, CFCs and N2O) in terms of the extra warming they have produced, (2) while CO2 releases from human activities are only 4% of that produced by nature, CO2 concentrations are increasing indicating a net buildup of this gas in the atmosphere, (3) according to the 2007 IPCC report, global warming observed in the past 100 years is very likely (80-90%) due to CO2 releases by human activities because natural global warming as large as 0.5 degree Celsius appear once or twice a millennium, (4) The uncertainty in the predictions of global circulation models used to predict future climate stems mainly from their mathematical treatment of clouds and aerosols. As a result, scientists need funding to be able to improve the predictive power of models. Our responsibility as scientifically-literate citizens of a country that is a major producer of CO2 is to assess the urgency of this situation based on the existing body of evidence, having in mind that our "green" actions might not produce results that we'll witness in our life times. However, future generations will witness results and will hold us accountable for decisions we make today. I'd like to refer the reader to an

article entitled "How urgent is climate change?" published in Science (v.318, p.1230), which says that our actions are needed now, and they will lead to "slowing down" the impacts of global warming within the next 50-100 years, but not eliminate the problem.

-Dr. Hind Al-Abadleh  
Assistant Professor  
Chemistry Department

## Dining Hall services are high quality

I was both surprised and disappointed at the "Dining Hall Continues to Disappoint Students". Are we talking about the same place? Being a first year, I visit the Dining Hall on a daily basis. If any of the criticisms in the article were true, I would have noticed them. I am under no obligation to buy food at the Dining Hall but I continue to do so for one reason: I find the food fresh and the service more than satisfactory.

Being a vegetarian, I am always at the salad bar or at Miso. The food has always been fresh. Always. In addition to this, they offer a variety of vegetarian dishes every day. It is never boring. The following "stalls" serve vegetarian options: soup, make-your-own-pasta, pizza, salad bar and Miso. I can have a different meal each day of the week. I am very pleased with the options available.

Secondly, the staff at the Dining Hall are some of the nicest people I have met at Laurier. They are always very pleasant (especially during peak times). The staff is willing to help you out whenever necessary and they are very approachable.

In response to the limited cash registers comment, during peak times, I have seen three registers. Some people may not be able to use the third register because it only accepts the One Card. Nevertheless, three registers are available.

I agree that the Dining Hall has room for improvement but not in the areas that were listed in the article. The prices could be reduced and the hours could be extended but the quality of the food and the demeanor of the staff is most definitely more than we could ask for.

According to me, the dining hall deserves at least a 4 out of 5. Bravo!

-Bhavya Iyengar

## Be skeptical of environmental lobby

I am writing in response to the feature "We need to be wary of global warming". It is very brave of the writer and the cord to publish such a piece. As a skeptic of both sides of the argument, both politically and scientifically, I am glad that someone is willing to break through the almost cult-like atmosphere surrounding the issue. It is a fact that humans are affecting the environment, but I am scared at what is proposed by reputable authorities, and most of all what is NOT proposed to help the issue. Often I read about scientists and politicians proposing that we dump iron into the ocean to promote algae growth to absorb CO2, or spray aluminum crystals in the atmosphere to increase the Earth's albedo, and I am overcome with

fear and disappointment. Is devastating fish stocks and potentially choking the oceans worth lowering the earth's temperature by one degree? Is intentionally polluting the air worth the good feeling of having done something? Is the idea of replacing coal-fired power plants (which dump an enormous amount of uncontrolled radioactive matter into the atmosphere) with clean and safe nuclear reactors a taboo? And what about the more apparent and urgent issues of air and water pollution with allergens and carcinogens? These are the more significant issues that should be addressed. We must strive to make the earth a clean and livable place, while at the same time ensuring energy security and a high standard of living. The global warming lobby is risking of doing the exact opposite, justified by "consensus" and alarmist research.

-Kirill Stepanchuk

## Women don't need help to be elected

I would just like to correct Laura Carlson that a woman, Kristi Edwards, ran for Students' Union president in 2003 (as opposed to her poorly researched claim that the last time a female ran was in the early 90's). Considering that many women have also held down high profile positions on the WLUSU management committee in recent years, including Ms Edwards who was a VP: University Affairs herself, Carlson's plea to cast your vote according to gender is particularly condescending to women on campus who clearly don't need the extra 'help' to obtain positions of power.

-Florence Kwasa  
Laurier Alumna

## Campus clubs needs better organization

My experiences of the Laurier community have generally been fairly positive, but as of late-- I am beginning to change my mind. I am president of the Global Studies Club on campus. Haven't heard about us much this year? Well, there is a reason. We created a plan to do many events this year, submitted our budget to Campus Clubs starting in September and began the year with a few smaller, no-cost events. We received almost ZERO support from Campus Clubs, no direction, very little assistance and NO budget. We are now 3/4 of the way through the school year, and after submitting three budgets, several complaints and many tiring emails and phone calls to staff and volunteers here - we STILL do not have a budget for the year. We have NO funding from Campus Clubs. In fact, they have just today emailed me to say they haven't received a budget from us yet. This despite the several emails in my account confirming otherwise. Did anyone from Campus Clubs contact us BEFORE this time to say they didn't have a budget. No. From my emails and their confirmations of my emails, it would appear they very much did have our budget. If you want a thriving community- you have to give us resources. If you don't want to give us resources - don't have a Campus Clubs centre. This is ridicu-

lous, and I personally, will never be a part of Campus Clubs again.

-Rebecca Sargent  
GSC President 08-09

## Wallace wrong about climate crisis

I am writing in response to Alanna Wallace's article about propaganda surrounding global warming. Much of the information in her article stems from the movie The Great Global Warming Swindle, which is nothing more than scientifically inaccurate propaganda.

Last semester I took CH 233 (Atmospheric Chemistry). We studied this movie in depth, and compared it to An Inconvenient Truth. Ms. Wallace's article is a gross misrepresentation of the current climate crisis.]

1. The film states recent centuries have been drastically warmer than our current one - the studies the film cites are back from 1966 and are misinterpreted.

2. The majority of warming appeared to happen before 1940. This is because there was a cooling between 1945-1975 due to increased emissions of sulphate aerosols. These aerosols promoted cloud formation (which reflects the sun's energy). The production of these aerosols was drastically reduced by 1975, at which point temperatures began to rise again.

3. The Earth's climate will indeed change over time, but the cycle lasts roughly 22,000 years, not a few centuries.

In my physical chemistry lecture the other day, Dr. Al-Abadleh (an environmental chemist) said studies have just been published stating global warming is not only happening due to emissions, but is now irreversible. This means that if all emissions were suddenly eliminated, the temperature would continue to rise.

This is due to numerous feedback cycles. One such cycle occurs when oceans get warmer. Warm water holds less CO2, and currently the oceans hold 50 times more CO2 than the air. When temperatures rise, the oceans will effectively begin to emit CO2, which causes temperatures to rise further. This vicious cycle continues indefinitely.

Don't spend a few hours on websites trying to piece global warming together yourself - talk to a professional. Leave determining the causes of global warming to the scientists, and not your own judgement.

Dr. Hamilton taught CH 233 last semester, and if you contact him I'm sure he'll be happy to better inform you.

-Greg Wentworth

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

### Last issue's solution:

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

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Spent a summer in Kuanming China, helping people living with HIV/AIDS.  
Africa next.  
I volunteer, teaching kids SCIENCE.  
Science is creativity. That's what I try to get kids to see.  
Some roll a tennis ball down a hill. I ask them to think what if it was a bowling ball?  
Protecting the environment is good. Living in harmony with it is BETTER.  
Helped build my college's spiritual centre.  
HONORED DEGREE in Biochemistry with a minor in social studies or medicine.  
I love to hike.  
I've done Fundraising for Kosovo refugees.  
Born and raised in Bois-Grenier, PA.  
I've studied at Montreal!  
Ideal job: philosopher in Ancient Greece.  
My nickname is Jump. Never without my Average basketball player. Better Biochemist.

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# Prince of the North

Laurier student and rising Canadian hip-hop star JD Era chats with *The Cord* about making it big

DANIEL JOSEPH  
A&E EDITOR

JD Era is a Canadian man on a mission. An international mission. While it might not involve the *Mission: Impossible* theme song or generic terrorists, it's no less interesting.

Era is on a mission to conquer the world with his mic talents. This sometime Laurier student has the sense to see the big picture in a land noted for its geographic size, but amazingly small hip-hop scene.

Joseph "JD Era" Dako was born in 1985 and grew up in Mississauga – and since then he certainly hasn't wasted any time. He has been busy travelling around the globe and building a reputation as one of the go-to men in the Canadian hip-hop sphere. At 14 he started rapping, and at 16 he won his first competition.

Era hasn't just stayed in Canada, though – he only just returned from England several days prior to a recent interview with *The Cord*. When asked about his experiences in England, Era noted that he was just there to record some radio promos and finish up some business deals. When doing that much, the word "just" seems like a bit of a misnomer.

Era elaborated on why he is hitting up Europe, saying, "We obviously wish there was a bigger hip-hop scene here in Canada." While America is a good starting place to go out and test the waters for somebody like Era, it might be better to

go to Europe where there isn't excess baggage related to geography.

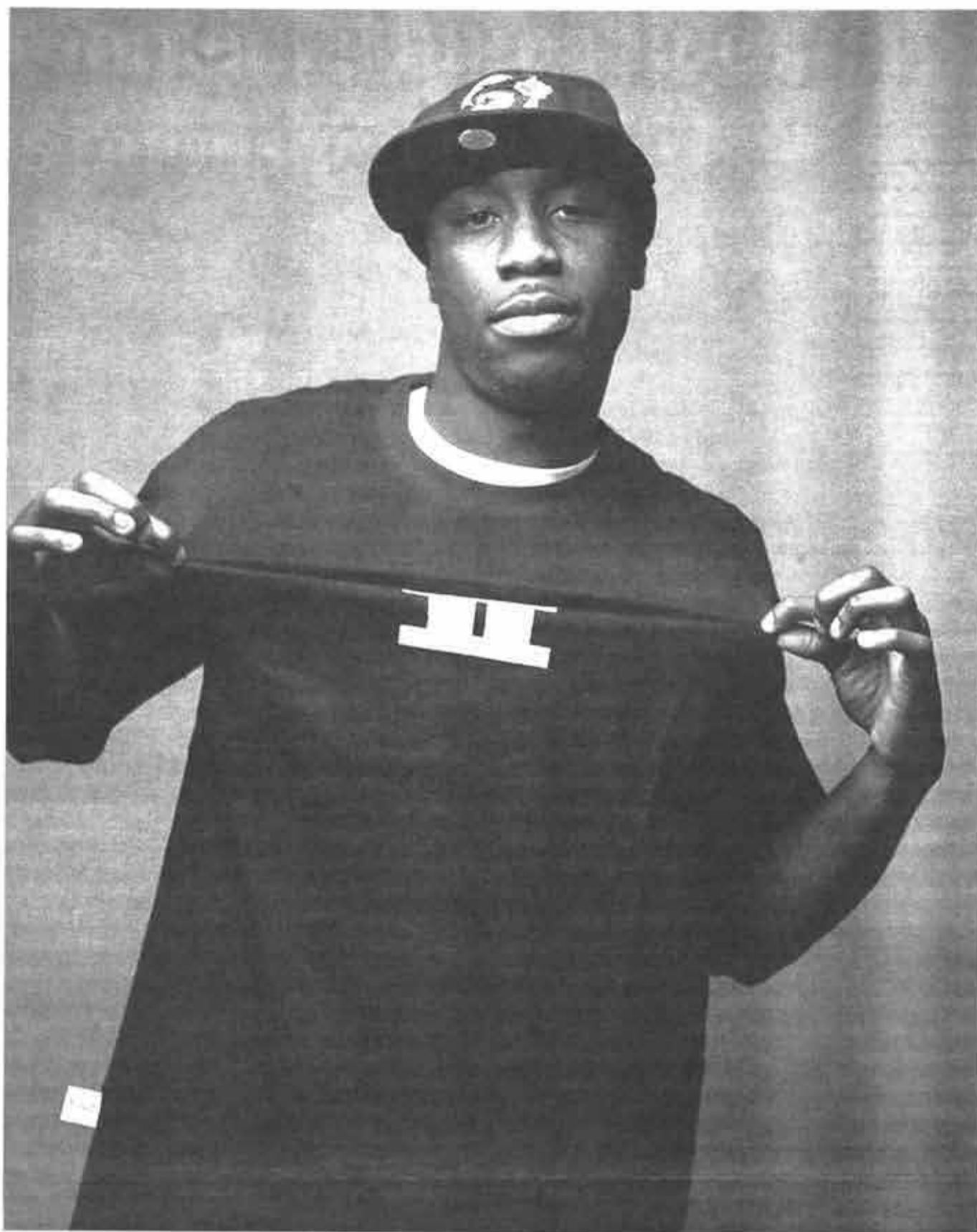
"People always forget that overseas there's a large buying population when it comes to music. They love hip-hop as much as the US," said Era. "Where in the States they ask you 'where are you from?' in the UK they ask 'who is this guy?' That's their mentality. I've taken advantage of that."

Era made waves in the hip-hop world with his various mixtapes, like the *Black Market Mixtape Vol 1* (available on [myspace.com/jdera](http://myspace.com/jdera) for free), which opened doors to collaborations with local and international talent.

"I have friends all over the place," said Era. "I do work with a couple artists in the US like a friend of mine, Drew Price, in Vegas. I do some work with Freeway – we have a new tape coming out. He was signed to Rockafella. I'm working with Freeway who was signed to [Lil] Wayne's old label. I'm just trying to stay busy."

Era is doing just that and plans on releasing his new record, *Take-off*, sometime in May. To accompany the release, he is getting ready to shoot the music video for the title track and first single of the same name soon. "I can't say what the video will look like, but it will be official [laughs]."

Era also has been very attentive to the state that hip-hop currently finds itself in. He thinks that "it's good to see people experimenting a bit because hip-hop in the past has been very rigid and very structured.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

**MAMMORIES** - Rapper JD Era was born and raised in Mississauga and attended university at Laurier.

... You see Kanye with *808s and Heartbreak*. While it's not necessarily a rap album, it's still hip-hop. The origin of it is still hip-hop. It's still inspired by hip-hop. You can still rap on the beats, but he decided to sing, and that's his thing."

Laurier played a large part in Era's life, and will continue to do so. While he hasn't graduated yet and isn't currently attending classes, he plans to one day return and get his

BA in communications. "Laurier was a great time and I learned a lot of stuff there. It was more about the discipline – I now apply that to the music business. I've definitely taken what I learned there and applied it in my life."

So everything continues for Era, using what he learned at our own institution to move forward in the music business, showing that Laurier continues to be quite the cul-

tural force not only in Canada, but in the world.

Era ended the conversation saying that, "I will say what I always say: support good music. Don't support music because it's local or because it's Canadian. Support it 'cause it's good. Also, go Golden Hawks basketball and football. Add me on Facebook. Add me on Twitter. Also, zoot zoot zoot."

Zoot zoot zoot, indeed!



RYAN STEWART

**WAKE STOCK** - Keyboardist and singer Matt Peters returned to the Starlight last Wednesday.

## Wake up Waterloo

- FROM **WAKING**, PAGE 28

For Peters, the new album is about "bringing as many of our sounds and ideas onto the record as we could and still making it cohesive, not thinking too much about 'is this going to make sense later?'"

"In the end, we knew that if we used our instincts it was all going to work out." Changing their sound was a bold move, but in the end The Waking Eyes have done what all great bands need to do in order to stay great: they've evolved.

The unique sounds offered up by both Hamilton's The Arkells and Winnipeg's The Waking Eyes combined for an amazing concert experience – which is a good thing considering they are scheduled to play

a further 22 shows together.

The combination of the two bands' sounds makes a lot of sense and offers a fantastic example of what Canadians can produce. So get out there and get your hands on their albums; and for God's sake get to one of their shows before seeing them live means that you won't be able to afford groceries for a week.

### CORD/ONLINE

> [cordweekly.com](http://cordweekly.com)

> Arts & Entertainment

### Oscars Roundtable

The staff of *The Cord* get together to discuss and choose who they think is set to win at this year's Oscars.

# Neufeld's Canada on our walls

*The Cord* takes a look at Waterloo's artistic history with a glance at Woldemar Neufeld's work on display at the Robert Langen Gallery

KATIE FLOOD  
CORD A&E

A tribute exhibition to Russian-born Canadian artist Woldemar Neufeld opened at Laurier's Langen Art Gallery in the John Aird Centre on February 4 and will run until this Saturday, February 14.

The Laurier Art Collection cares for approximately 400 Neufeld works and a special selection is currently on display in the gallery.

Neufeld, who passed away in 2002, holds a special place in the history of Waterloo, and more specifically, Laurier. Born in Russia to a German-speaking Mennonite family, he moved to Waterloo at the age of 15 in 1924. He enrolled at Waterloo Lutheran University (Wilfrid Laurier before the name change) and graduated in 1930. Neufeld continued his artistic career at the Art Institute in Cleveland, Ohio, and finally found himself in New York City, documenting the visual landscape of his day.

Exhibition creator Suzanne Luke had some tough decisions to make to narrow down the choices for the show and, at first glance, the purpose for the choice of various watercolour, block print and oil paintings is a mystery.

Luke explained that like Neufeld's art, this exhibition tells a story. Set up as a timeline, viewers are invited to explore the progression of

Neufeld's work and how the different artists that he was in contact with shaped it. "Every time over the course of Neufeld's career, you can see how different people influenced certain bodies of work and time periods," said Luke.

The other artists featured in this exhibition are Canadian ones: Fred Varley (Group of Seven), Carl Ahrens, Homer Watson, and Rolph Scarlett. The first influence for Neufeld in this show is the Group of Seven.

"He did a period of work that related to going up north ... following the tradition of the Group of Seven," said Neufeld.

In this part of the gallery, a variety of scenery from Sudbury, Georgian Bay and Parry Sound is shown. Alongside these pieces of Neufeld's work is a watercolour by Varley to highlight his influence on Neufeld. The next major guide for inspiration in Neufeld's life was Carl Ahrens. Still at an early point in his career, "going weekly to studio classes with Carl Ahrens developed in Neufeld's work," explained Luke.

Continuing to grow artistically, Neufeld explored different styles. Discovering works by Kitchener-born artist Homer Watson was an important moment in Neufeld's career. Luke chose two of Neufeld's works to compare with an oil canvas of Watson's. "I pulled two of Neufeld's watercolours because I



NATASHA DILKE

**COMPARE AND CONTRAST** - Neufeld's works stand beside his influences at Laurier until this Saturday.

saw a correlation between the naivety of these delicate lovely landscapes ... the influence of Homer Watson stayed with him forever" she explained.

The final artistic influence for Neufeld featured in this exhibition is Rolph Scarlett. Originally from Guelph, Ontario, "Scarlett was an abstract painter: he was into deconstructing line and playing with shapes, and forms and colours," explained Neufeld.

When they met, Scarlett was really venturing into this period of abstraction that Neufeld had not yet embraced. Luke explained, "He's [Neufeld] seen the influence from Rolph Scarlett, and started to think

of things in lines, and planes, and how shapes can be abstracted."

Luke includes two examples of Neufeld's work, along with one from Scarlett, all three with obvious abstract components. "He's trying to break away from the real representational work he's done before. So he's playing with lines, and beginning to become a little bit more abstracted."

Remaining true to his own personal style, Neufeld continued to learn and acquire new skills throughout his career as these Canadian greats influenced his artistic growth.

This comprehensive showcase was assisted through collaboration

by other institutions like Conrad Grebel University College, Homer Watson House and Gallery and the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre. All of them provided the works that complement Neufeld's. "To have an original work to compare with Neufeld's progression was really important.... I'm really thankful that they allowed us to do it" said Luke.

While many of the previous showings at the galleries focused on more abstract work of artists from around the world, Woldemar Neufeld's work offers an opportunity to get a sense of the talent of local Canadian artists.

## The Blahscars

Where's *Revolutionary Road*? Where's *The Dark Knight*? Why did the Oscars completely miss the boat this year asks movie buff **Wade Thompson**



WADE THOMPSON  
FILM AFFICIONADO

There is a sad fact about myself that not too many people realize, and it is this: the Academy Awards are without a doubt one of the most anticipated times of year for me.

I base my movie-watching strictly on the "Oscar Schedule," keeping track through the year of what may be contenders and what look to be huge disappointments. It's a really riveting (and kind of pathetic) way for me to occupy the year.

So you can imagine my pure excitement when the nominations finally come around. Of course when they do, they are immediately followed by the expected disdain of hundreds upon hundreds of Oscar enthusiasts, including myself, because of the inevitable number of omissions that the Academy chooses to make.

This year, probably more than any other time in recent memory,

they chose to increase that number of snubs by an unheard of amount.

I, for one, am just fed up.

First of all, I need to stress how bad a year I felt it was for cinema. I would estimate right now that very few, if any, films from 2008 will be deemed essential "classics" ten years from now.

That being said, however, it should have been a very easy task for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) to recognize the small number of deserving films for this year's Oscar ceremony. Well, apparently it wasn't that simple.

This year AMPAS chose to overlook a number of key films in specific categories while giving away nomination spots to truly undeserving pictures. Without going into the details about the full list of which movies are nominated in each category I will indeed present my rant on where the Oscars went astray, once again, this year.

The biggest snub, in my eyes, is the blatant absence of *The Dark Knight* in all but one of the main competition categories. Going

completely against Trevor Loughborough's *Cord* article from two weeks ago, Christopher Nolan and his tour de force did not get what it deserved.

The *Batman* film was a landmark achievement in cinema and even though you may not personally have liked the film, or didn't "get" it, it cannot be ignored that it was absolutely one of the top five films of the year! I am not saying that they should have given it a Picture, Director and Screenplay nod, but at an absolute minimum it deserved one of the three.

This point could also be made, in my opinion, for the absolutely brilliant animated feature *Wall-E*. It was arguably Pixar's greatest film to date, but never really got the recognition it whole-heartedly deserved because of the inclusion of the Best Animated Film category.

Since they initialized this category, Academy members have copped out of nominating worthy animated films with the live-action ones simply because they can now win in their own category. I attest that had the Best Animated Film

never existed, we would have seen *Wall-E* take one of the five Best Picture spots this year.

Darren Aronofsky's *The Wrestler* was completely shafted this year as well. Mickey Rourke and Marisa Tomei were deservedly nominated, but the mild *Frost/Nixon* apparently had something better to offer than this wonderful character study. I mean, don't get me wrong, Frank Langella definitely earned his nomination, but as for Picture and Director? It probably wouldn't even make my top ten of the year.

Bruce Springsteen's wonderful ballad that accompanied *The Wrestler*'s soundtrack went completely unnoticed as well, despite taking home the Golden Globe for Best Original Song. In a year that the Academy could and should have been looking to gain back an audience, they sure were doing a hell of a lot to make sure that didn't happen. Did *Slumdog Millionaire* really deserve two Best Original Song nominations? I loved the score, yes, but I didn't even notice the songs.

The Kate Winslet/Leonardo DiCaprio period vehicle *Revolution-*

*ary Road* went almost entirely past voters' perceptions. I personally don't feel that it deserved a Best Picture seat, but there is no question in my mind that it should have earned Best Director and Best Cinematography nods. The oft-snubbed Roger Deakins' photography is probably the best of the year, certainly better than *Changeling* or *Slumdog Millionaire* (and I quite liked Mantle's cinematography in that one).

I could go on and on about the Academy's poor decisions this year (a complete shut-out of the phenomenal *Synecdoche, New York*, the nominating of a very mediocre Angelina Jolie performance, not recognizing Cate Blanchett even though she had the best performance in *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, etc.) but it would take up too much column space. So, I will strictly put my thoughts on hiatus for now, and ask that if you are still interested, check back online at [cordweekly.com](http://cordweekly.com) as an in-depth rant of the pros and cons from the 81st Academy Award nominations should be appearing on there any day now.

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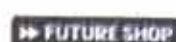


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# Kathleen Edwards plays Starlight



RYAN STEWART

**ASKING FOR FLOWERS** - The Canadian alternative country singer-songwriter Kathleen Edwards put on a captivating performance in Waterloo last night, performing songs from her latest album.

**LAURA CARLSON**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

When a live performance is done right, there's almost nothing better.

And for one-and-a-half hours last night, alternative country singer-songwriter Kathleen Edwards commanded the crowd at Starlight, reminding everyone in the audience what is so inspiring about live music.

Accompanied by her band of two and equipped with an acoustic guitar and harmonica, the Ottawa-born musician took to the stage and opened the performance with "Buffalo" the first song on her latest album, *Asking For Flowers*.

The 2008 release has earned her a Juno nomination in the Adult Alternative Album of the Year category and was also shortlisted for the Canadian music Polaris Prize.

Though currently on tour in the US and Canada promoting her latest album, the show was a mixture of new songs - including "Asking for Flowers," "Run" and the album's first single "I Make the Dough, You Get the Glory" - interspersed with tracks from her previous recordings.

Describing her initial sound as "ass" after the first number - she suggested that her guitar was

"threatening a major mutiny" due to temperature change between the dressing room and the stage - the audience was not fazed.

Edwards continued her set with her first single "Six O' Clock News" from her 2003 debut album *Failer*, laughing off the technical problems her guitar was giving her, suggesting that perhaps it was misbehaving because it was "premenstrual."

With a variety of slower-paced, passionate numbers mixed with faster-tempo tap-your-foot-along tunes, Edwards captivated her crowd from beginning to end.

The set featured two new songs that have yet to be released, which Edwards said she was testing out to gauge audience reaction.

"This feels like a good safe place to play possible turds for the first time," Edwards said before starting the soulful ballad "House Full of Empty Rooms."

"It's a real happy one," she said sarcastically as she began.

The enthusiastic response she received from the crowd for this number suggests that the new recordings Edwards puts out will sit well with her strong fan base.

Though her music dominated the show, it was also interspersed with comedic anecdotes, which Edwards shared with the Waterloo concert-goers.

Edwards told the story of her most recent trip across the American border in which her tour van was inspected by border patrol personnel, who questioned her authenticity as an artist - he had never heard of her; after all, she had never been on American Idol.

"I'm more talented," Edwards offered, when questioned as to why.

Oh, and "look at the fuckin passport, douche," she says she thought to herself.

Getting out of the situation by noting that she had opened for the legendary Willie Nelson, she dedicated her next song "Are The Good Times Really Over" by legendary country artist Merle Haggard to the man who had caused her so much angst crossing into the States.

"This is for that country-loving, border-crossing mother fucker."

Following this, Edwards continued the country-infused vibe, and a then went electric to perform her latest single "Cheapest Key."

In this number, Edwards showed her sheer skill as she dominated the guitar, harmonica and vocals.

After initially closing with the title track of her 2003 album *Back To Me*, Edwards returned for a four-song encore, which included an invited request from the audience, "Goodnight California."

The night almost ended with the Outfields cover "Your Love" - she shared that she typically ends her performances on an upbeat note - but last night it was not so.

"Since it's Tuesday we'll do a little quieter end of the evening," said Edwards, closing with "Scared At Night," an emotional number she wrote about being with her grandmother as she passed away.

Whether rocking out with her bandmates or sitting alone with her acoustic, last night Edwards was able to captivate the crowd, soliciting her credibility as one of Canada's most talented musicians.

## No tired eyes in the 'loo

Winnipeg's The Waking Eyes rocked Starlight last Thursday night and talked to **The Cord** about their new album *Holding On To Whatever It Is*

**SHANNON BUSTA**  
CORD A&E

The Waking Eyes rocked the Starlight Lounge for the first time in three years last Wednesday night when the four (plus one) boys from Winnipeg kicked off their three-and-a-half-week tour to an energetic and appreciative audience.

The prepping of the crowd was left to the stage-busting Arkells of Dine Alone Records (home to Bedouin Soundclash, City and Colour and Attack in Black), who brought their unique brand of rock to an intrigued audience.

These five Hamilton natives jammed to songs from their debut album, not letting the limits of the stage pose a threat to their creative energy.

The Arkells, who have experienced mild success since the release of *Jackson Square* in October 2008, incorporate high-energy rock with interesting jazz and blues style to achieve their unique sound.

Catchy tracks like "Oh, The Boss

is Coming!" and "Pullin' Punches" offered a mind-blowing start to the night.

The audience soaked it up, dancing, clapping, jumping and even finger-snapping in unison at points.

After The Arkells successfully got the blood pumping in the audience at the ice-cold Starlight Lounge (temperatures dropped to -20 C last Wednesday and it seemed that the managers at Starlight failed to notice), the stars of the night walked on stage to cheers and applause; apparently they were missed during their hiatus.

It was immediately made clear that the three years were not wasted, however.

The Waking Eyes started off their hour-and-a-half set with "Get me the Doctor", demonstrating that the complexity of sound of their new album shines through even on stage.

The band recently picked up a temporary fifth wheel (dubbed "Bucky") for the sake of commu-

nicating the complex sounds from *Holding On To Whatever It Is*.

The boys from Winnipeg provided a praiseworthy performance, showcasing a bold nature and broad expanse of sound.

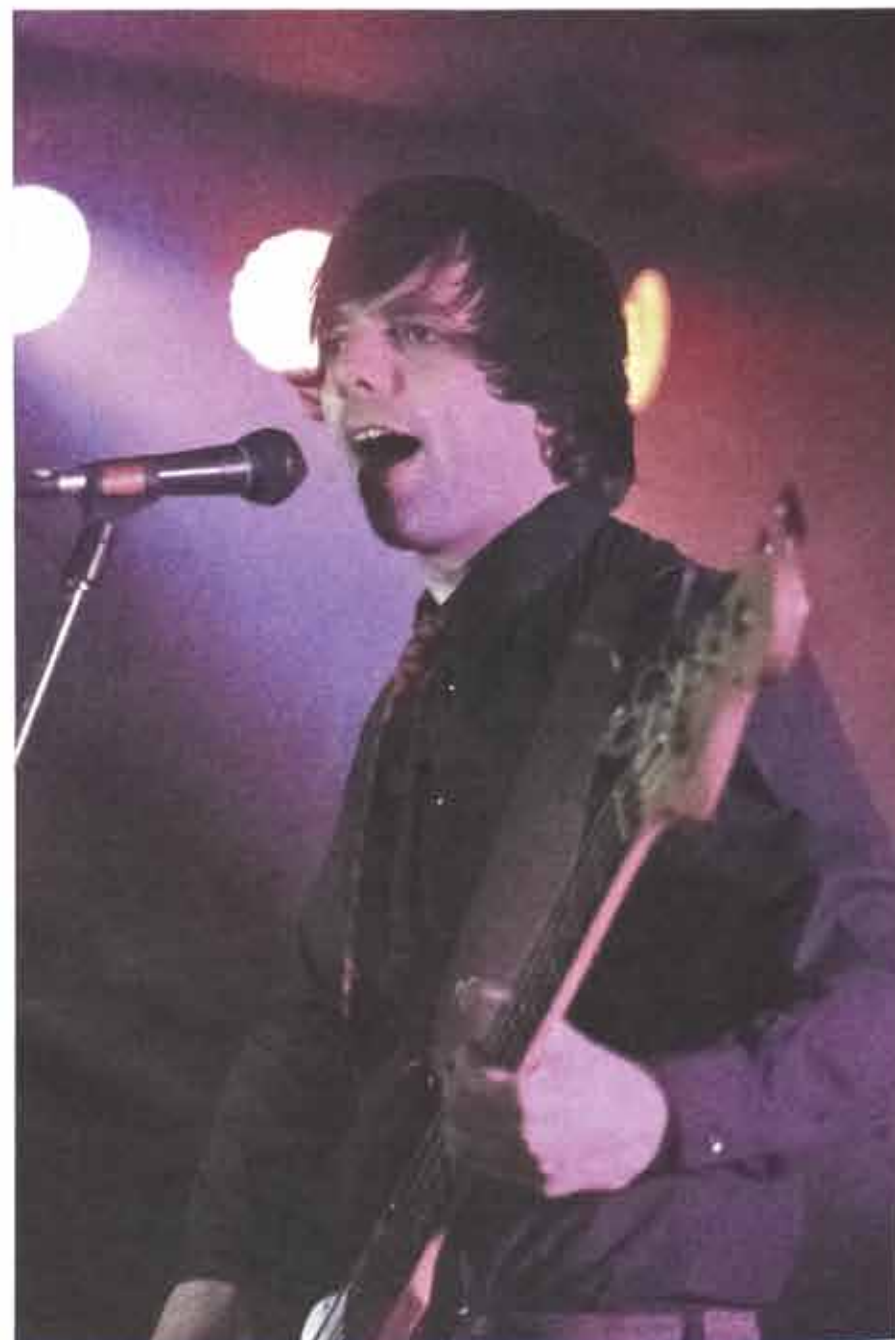
Listening to them live puts into one's mind the experience of looking through a kaleidoscope.

You have no idea what is coming up next, but it is beautiful every time because of its uniqueness.

*Holding On To Whatever It Is*, The Waking Eyes' third record, was released to iTunes in July of 2008, and their CD hit the shelves in November.

Over three years in the making, their much-anticipated album presents a totally evolved, new and complex sound for the band.

When asked how he felt about the new album, Matt Peters, the band's red-headed keyboardist and vocalist, couldn't contain his excitement and pride.



RYAN STEWART

**HOLDING ON** - The Waking Eyes' stage presence was spot-on.

- SEE WAKING, PAGE 25