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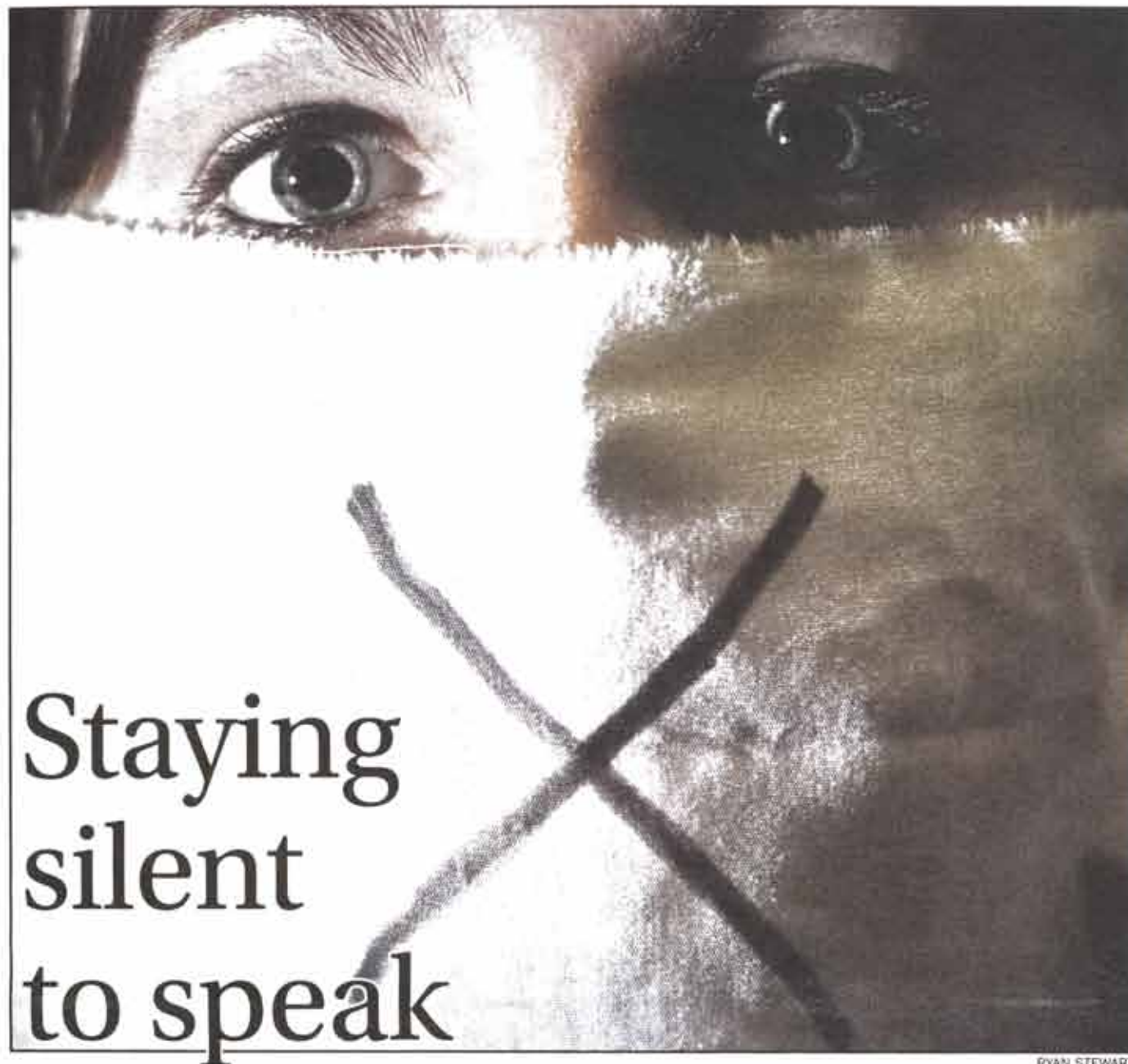
WATCHMEN DIVIDES

A group review of *Watchmen*, the latest comic book movie ... **PAGE 27**

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2009

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Staying silent to speak

RYAN STEWART

DEVON BUTLER
STAFF WRITER

Today, thousands of students across North America will remain silent for the day to actively participate in Oath of Silence Day. On campus, the event co-ordinated by Laurier's Rainbow Centre is designed to raise awareness for those facing oppression and discrimination.

The idea for Oath of Silence Day originated in 1996 in the United States with the focus of creat-

ing safer schools and accepting environments.

Initially, the primary message for the campaign focused on discrimination based on gender orientation and expression.

When the WLU Rainbow Centre adopted the campaign in 2007, they felt the need to expand and include individuals and communities facing prejudice, discrimination or intolerance based on their gender, race, religion, ethnicity or culture.

Similar issues were discussed

last night in the Paul Martin Centre for an event titled "Speak before the Silence: Oath of Silence speaker panel."

The panel included Dr. Helen Ramirez, a WLU Women's Studies Professor; Jacob Pries, a fifth-year Laurier student activist and Will Rowe, currently studying at McMaster who "turned from radical lesbian to transvestite post-structuralist."

The panel discussion ranged in topics from the proper approaches to campaigning for a cause: silent

versus radical methods, the neo-liberalism movement to violence against women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer (LGBTQ) rights.

Engaging in open discussion with the audience, the panel largely discussed the Oath of Silence, what it means to be silent and whether this is the most effective form for raising awareness.

Waleed Hafeez, events and activities co-ordinator for the Rainbow Centre, believes the cause is about

goods – such as military software – into Sri Lanka.

In 2006, the US alleged Sris-kandarajah was associated with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which it considers a terrorist group. At the time, he was completing a degree in electrical engineering at the University of Waterloo.

A joint investigation by the RCMP and FBI led to 12 arrests in the US and Canada.

Included in those arrests are two other former University of Waterloo students who face extradition to the US.

- SEE EXTRADITION, PAGE 6

Area residents concerned by development, by-law enforcement

MORGAN ALAN
STAFF WRITER

Last night at St. Michael's Church, City of Waterloo Ward Six Councillor Jan d'Ailly held a town hall meeting on the topic of community-building and city initiatives.

The meeting was dominated by an hour-long roundtable on the growth of student housing into what was formerly single-family housing.

According to d'Ailly, permanent residents of neighbourhoods around the city's two universities have voiced their concerns over passive by-law enforcement, noise, trash and aesthetically displeasing student housing.

The roundtable included representatives from Laurier, UW, city planning, regional police, by-law

enforcement, community groups, students and permanent residents.

"The city has been very limited in the amount of control it has to make things better. We just don't have the power that we need," said d'Ailly.

In May 2008, Waterloo City Council voted not to re-zone housing surrounding Laurier and UW. The decision was widely opposed by permanent residents of the area, who believed that the expansion of student housing into their neighbourhoods was having a negative impact on their property values and quality of life.

David McMurray, dean of students and member of the roundtable panel, spoke of Laurier's efforts to rectify the housing issue, outlining Laurier's plans to increase on-campus residence space,

"Our focus has been primarily on first-year students. We're currently in discussion with several private developers ... to add approximately 460 beds for first-year and returning students," he said.

Trevor Mayoh, WLUSU's current vice president of student affairs, was the sole student representative on the panel. Mayoh spoke about the role that students play in Waterloo in both a community and economic sense.

"We all recognize that there are challenges in our community ... but we're all partners in solutions to these problems," he said.

In the following question-and-answer period, both long-term residents and students voiced their concerns to the panel.

- SEE CITY, PAGE 7

Alumnus facing terrorism charges

Laurier MBA graduate Suresh Sriskandarajah may face extradition to the US, pending appeals

LINDA GIVETASH
STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday, 28-year-old Suresh Sriskandarajah was ordered to be extradited to the United States. Sriskandarajah holds an MBA from Wilfrid Laurier and was awarded a CIBC Leaders in Entrepreneurship Award in May of last year.

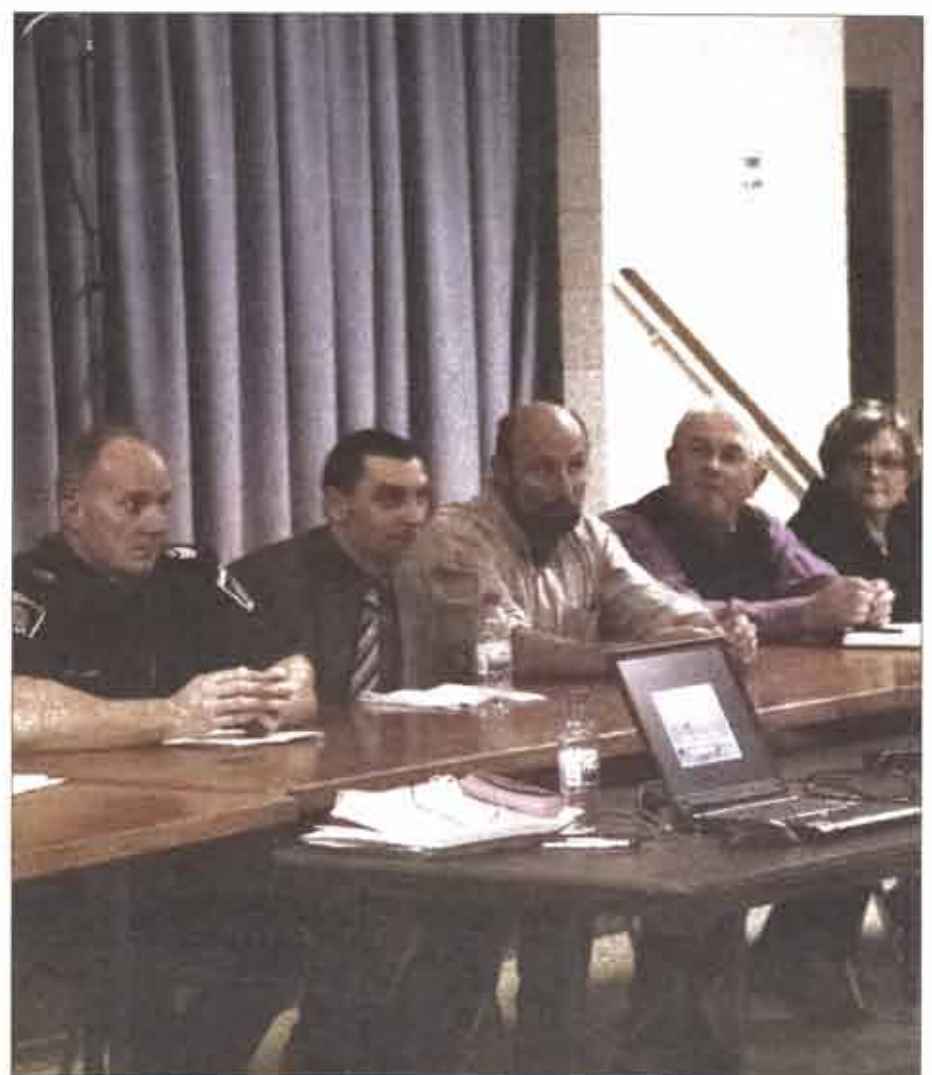
Sriskandarajah had to enter custody following Thursday's ruling. He was released on Friday pending an appeal of the extradition, which could take place in a year or later, after posting \$445,000 bail.

Charges against him include money laundering and smuggling

embracing both sides of issues and not getting too extreme.

"It is about educating and spreading awareness. By taking the oath of silence, you are shedding light on a variety of issues people face everyday. It is not about speaking on behalf of other people." Rather, Hafeez sees the campaign as a medium allowing those who are often silent on a daily basis to express themselves.

- SEE SILENCE, PAGE 6



RYAN STEWART

HOUSING - Panellists discussed student housing at the town hall.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK
"I'm pretty done with the wrath and the plagues ... let's move on!"
— Print Production Manager Sydney Helland as God abandoning the Old Testament.

WORD OF THE WEEK
Gall -Bold, impudent behaviour.

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COLOPHON
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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

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

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

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

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

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

The only limits of any newspaper are those of the world around it, and so The Cord will attempt to cover its world with a special focus on Wilfrid Laurier University, and the community of Kitchener-Waterloo, and with a special eye 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.

“We need to have a better story than the market”: May

On Thursday, Elizabeth May spoke about society, the environment and religion at the seminary

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

Last week, Green Party leader Elizabeth May spoke to a packed crowd of students and community members at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary bringing a religious perspective to the controversial issue of climate change.

May, who is studying to become an Anglican minister, began by clarifying that she was not speaking as a member of the Green Party of Canada.

“I won’t be speaking with that hat on,” she said.

“This is the personal reflection of an environmentalist, a politician and a practicing Christian,” she continued.

Speaking in the silent chapel, May explained that she wanted to begin by clarifying a misconception commonly harboured – that Judeo-Christian tradition rooted in Genesis was the source of humanity’s ideas of exploitation.

Citing the writings of Reverend Thomas Berry, May urged that Genesis encourages the opposite of exploitation; it encourages the respect of all of God’s creatures.

“We know that at each stage of creation God stopped and said, ‘And this is good,’ which in creation terms means it’s good and sacred and worthy of our reverence,” she explained.

May continued, stating that environmental questions are fundamentally those that threaten the “integrity of creation.”

She raised the example of a Catholic bishop from Northern Alberta named Luc Bouchard, who spoke in religious terms against the extraction of oil from the Athabasca oil sands in Alberta, a process that is gaining much criticism due to the large amounts of greenhouse gases it produces.

Bouchard released a statement about the practice, saying: “The integrity of creation is clearly being sacrificed for monetary gain.”

According to May, his actions are an example of the potential a religious approach to environmental awareness has to “awaken [individuals of faith] to something they would not have heard from Greenpeace.”

“It’s something that can happen block by block, town by town and parish by parish.”

The trusting and attentive audience that spiritual centres have in their members is the perfect setting in which awareness can be spread about environmental issues, said May, adding that congregations can also be mobilized collectively to institute environmentally friendly practices within their buildings.

However, May proposed that the most profound impact that re-



KAREEM LARCHER

REFLECTIONS - Elizabeth May spoke at the seminary on Thursday.

ligion can have is to help shift the values of society.

“We have seen a tipping on its head of what we used to consider virtues and vices,” she said, explaining that “the bottom line” and economic advantage have now become what we consider virtuous, disregarding the traditional virtues such as compassion and love.

May stated that while it seems

the market has become the biggest and most important story in the world, there are other more important stories, such as those told through religion.

“To find meaning in life we need to have a better story than the market,” she said.

“These better stories help people remember that we are very recent events in a planet with a huge history.”

Students' union hires four new assistant vice presidents

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

The Students' Union has completed the hiring of Assistant VPs, welcoming four new individuals to the management team.

Two AVPs have been added under the Clubs and Activities department entitled AVP: first-year Experience and AVP: campus clubs and faculty associations.

As well, an AVP: advertising and promotions has been added under the department of public affairs and an AVP: finance will supplement the administration department.

Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) President Laura Sheridan, VP: Human Resources Dan Preston and the VP under which the AVP position falls conducted the hiring on the weekend of February 28 to March 1.

The new AVPs will officially take their positions as of May 1. Over the summer they will work 35 hours per week, transitioning to 20 hours per week from September to May.

AVP: Finance – Naz Abdulla
Department: Administration
Outside involvements: O-Week icebreaker, student recruitment

Abdulla will work directly under VP: Administration Monika Mistry to form budgetary plans for WLUSU.

“This summer will be very busy for him,” explained Sheridan. “He will have to work on the interim budget and the operating budget.”

According to Sheridan, Abdulla will also be in charge of making sure volunteers know how to construct their own budgets.

Abdulla will also oversee day-to-day operations of the finance department, including things like expense requisitions, as well as the preparation of financial snapshots and monitoring reports for the board of directors.

AVP: Advertising and Promotions – Regis Dudley
Department: Public Affairs
Outside involvements: Marketing communications for counselling services, volunteer with City of Waterloo

Because the new public affairs department has changed in structure, incorporating a broad volunteer base rather than committees, Dudley’s main task will be managing the volunteer base of the department and overseeing all advertising and promotions.

“Marketing has probably received the largest overhaul in the restructuring, so Regis will be working with these newly assigned co-ordinators and team-leads in ensuring that the public affairs department can provide clubs and committees and anyone at Laurier with a marketing plan,” said Sheridan.

AVP: First-Year Experience – Burton Lee
Department: Clubs and Activities
Outside involvements: O-Week Icebreaker, hiring committee executive, athletics department

Lee’s biggest job will be to oversee O-Week; however, he will also direct first-year programming throughout the rest of the year.

His position encompasses the former roles of Pit Krüe co-ordina-

tor and O-Week co-ordinator.

“He’s very down-to-earth and understanding, which is perfect for the position,” said Sheridan, stating that his wide array of campus involvements will allow him to connect to all students.

AVP: Clubs and Faculty Associations – Lawrence Maclin
Department: Clubs and Activities
Outside involvements: President of Habitat for Humanity, L.U.C.K. Co-ordinator

Maclin’s role will have two main pillars – overseeing the campus clubs department as well as acting as a resource and liaison to faculty associations.

As both a student activities co-ordinator and president of a campus club, Sheridan is confident Maclin brings forward the experience necessary for the position.

“He’ll be able to amalgamate both of those sides and make sure that clubs finds its home within what was formerly Student Activities.”

VOCAL CORD

Should marijuana be legalized?



"I think it should be because if it were legalized, people would do it less often."

— Ayla Mandel
Third-year communication studies



"I think that it should not be.... You have to consider that it will encourage a form of smoking."

— Geoff Oldfield
First-year business



"It shouldn't be legalized. If it hasn't been for so long, why now?"

— Jay Dhan
First-year political science



"Alcohol is legal, so why not legalize marijuana? Just have certain restrictions."

— Kristy Macklaim
Second-year political science



"I don't believe it leads to subsequent drug use or violence, so I don't see why it shouldn't be legalized."

— Monika Dolenc
Third-year psychology

Compiled by Jennifer Rae,
Photos by Mara Silvestri.



SECRETARY - Board secretary-elect Michael Onabolu.

Onabolu elected secretary

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

Michael Onabolu was elected board secretary at last Thursday's board-elect meeting.

Once the floor was opened for nominations, Onabolu was named, along with directors Jackie Dobson, Sunny Chan and Christopher Oberle; however, only Onabolu and Chan accepted their nominations.

The question period that followed touched on a variety of topics including an honourarium for the position, the relationship between the secretary and chair and between the board and management.

After questions, the board elected Onabolu to the position.

"It's definitely a big honour," he told *The Cord*. "I'm really excited."

Onabolu explained that during his term he wants to do whatever he can to promote awareness of the board's activities. While he is happy with the way this year's secretary Andrew Fryer performed, he says he's confident that he will be able to bring his own skills to the job.

"I think I'll take a bit more of a mentor role with the position," he said.

Onabolu also commented on the idea of an honourarium for the position, stating that he does not agree with it due to the economic climate, but he would be flexible if the amount of work being done merited compensation.

Onabolu will officially take over from current secretary Fryer when the board-elect comes into power on May 1.



HISTORY OR MEMORY - Dr. Jonathan F. Vance, a Canada research chair in conflict and culture at the University of Western Ontario, closed the 2009 Tri-University Undergraduate History Conference with a keynote speech titled "History or Memory?: The Past Isn't What It Used To Be." The conference took place at Laurier this past Saturday.

Staff association and university to begin arbitration

Arbitration will determine whether students employed by Laurier are or are not members of the staff association bargaining unit

JEREMY TREMBLAY
NEWS EDITOR

Like it or not, students employed by WLU may soon be members of the Wilfrid Laurier University Staff Association (WLUSA). The union and the university, as well as legal counsel representing the Graduate Students' Association and the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (who were granted intervenor status during arbitration in May, 2008) will undergo arbitration on March 16, 17, 27 and April 1.

"IT'S GOING TO CHANGE THE WAY TASHIPS ARE AWARDED."

— Melany Banks, GSA treasurer

About 1,300 students are currently employed by the university. WLUSA is looking to include all "office, clerical and technical positions performed by registered graduate and undergraduate students, other than students engaged on a casual basis," in their collective bargaining unit according to a grievance filed with the university on October 1, 2007.

These positions range from students working as teaching assistants to those working as dance instructors, according to students' union President Colin Le Fevre.

The union's association grievance seeks to represent student positions under its current certificate, so students will not be able to vote on whether or not they should be included.

According to WLUSA President Sandra Castellanos, the union has been trying to have the university recognize that students were part of its bargaining unit "for quite some time," and the grievance was filed to force the issue through when the university didn't agree.

A document distributed at a WLUSA- and GSA-run information session that took place last night showed that members of WLUSA's 1995 certification committee have confirmed that students were not considered for unionization at that time.

At last night's meeting, Le Fevre emphasized that the students' union does not approve of either the university's position against unionizing students or the staff association's position to unionize them.

Le Fevre explained that the

union is asking any change take place by way of vote. "We're trying to ensure that all students ... get to say yes or no," he added.

The inclusion of teaching assistant positions concerned many graduate students present at the meeting.

"It's going to change the way Taships are awarded," pointed out Melany Banks, a student in Laurier's philosophy doctorate program and the GSA treasurer, pointing out that incoming graduate students won't have seniority within the union,

which means they wouldn't get the job against another applicant with experience.

She added that many students depend on

the funding they receive through teaching assistant positions, and removing the positions would affect Laurier's ability to compete for graduate students.

Evan Stamp, a student in the MA Ancient Mediterranean Cultures program, was also concerned by the effect on teaching assistant positions.

"I wouldn't be in school if I didn't have my Taship," he said.

During the meeting, both Le Fevre and WLUSA General Manager Mike McMahon informed students that the arbitrator's decision would be binding.

"The arbitrator has the last word," cautioned McMahon. He added that the two groups representing students are "equally cautious of a hallway deal," where the university would agree to move some student positions to WLUSA in exchange for settling the grievance.

Le Fevre explained that if the arbitrator were to decide in favour of the staff association, the only way students could leave the union is through decertification.

Decertifying a union, a process that gets rid of a union which no longer holds the support of its membership, requires the support of 40 percent of a union's bargaining unit.

WLUSA currently represents about 480 positions, which would make up less than 30 percent of the membership if 1,300 jobs currently held by students were added to the union's bargaining unit.

See PAGE 18 for editorial reaction to this story

Discussing marijuana

Former leader of Marijuana Party of Canada speaks to students about resolving prohibition

LINDA GIVETASH
STAFF WRITER

Marc-Boris Saint-Maurice, national executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), conducted a talk titled "Resolving Marijuana Prohibition" last Wednesday at Wilfrid Laurier University.

The talk covered four fundamentals – economic development, health and medicine, social justice and policy implementation – for a national resolution for the legalization of marijuana.

Saint-Maurice has been holding such discussions across the country at universities and community centres to raise awareness of the issues surrounding prohibition and to engage in progressive discussion.

Having founded the Marijuana Party of Canada and acted as director for the Compassion Centre in Montreal, which dispenses medical marijuana, Saint-Maurice has a long history in dealing with government policy.

Considering economic development, Saint-Maurice addressed the issue of the cost of prohibition in policing and the judicial system as well as the potential tax revenue if prohibition is lifted.

He also debunked misconceptions that this will have negative effects on the amount of employment necessary for maintaining police systems. Saint-Maurice believes it will only help contribute allocating manpower to more important and pressing issues.

The importance of marijuana for medicinal purposes, aiding patients with diseases such as cancer, hepatitis and HIV/AIDS, was stressed. Although medicinal marijuana is legal with the proper documentation from a medical practitioner, the ability to access it and even obtain the proper documentation is a long and complicated process that has negative impacts on those who desperately need it.

Surrounding social justice and policy, Saint-Maurice believes that "prohibition is a lack of control." It allows for our government to ban it entirely, eliminating the need to establish controls and restrictions on the use of marijuana.

The ban does not, however, make the issue disappear. Rather, it criminalizes those who use it for recreational purposes and even for medical needs.

Saint-Maurice advocates that we "find issues that will strike a chord with those who don't understand



LAURA TOMKINS

PRO-POT - Saint-Maurice feels that common misconceptions about marijuana give it a negative image.

the medical aspect or the financial aspect ... and not so much on the product and its effect."

Legalizing marijuana will not be a simple, one-step process. "We have to look at what we're doing with alcohol and other drugs ... finding measures to control, to reduce access to youth [and] make it

safer."

Creating such policy is only possible once its legalization is agreed upon. Through NORML and these conferences held nation-wide, Saint-Maurice is creating a list of supporters that will be presented to government officials. He hopes it will create pressure to determine

new laws.

Saint-Maurice hopes to return to WLU again with updates on the progress of his endeavours through NORML. Until then he reminds all supporters for the legalization of marijuana to join NORML and advocate their cause to government officials and other citizens.



ALEX HAYTER

Student struck by vehicle on King Street

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

A Laurier student was hit by a vehicle while jogging last Thursday at the intersection of King Street North and Bricker Avenue in Waterloo.

Waterloo Regional Police Services (WRPS) received report of the incident at 12:44 p.m.

According to WRPS Public Affairs Co-ordinator Olaf Heinzel,

the 26-year-old male MBA student was taken to the hospital for possible bone fractures and a back injury.

However, Heinzel was unable to confirm the exact injuries sustained.

"At this point no charges have been laid," said Heinzel.

"However, there's enough information for me to say that we're not treating it as a hit-and-run."

Campaign targets barriers to post-secondary accessibility

MORGAN ALAN
STAFF WRITER

Last week, the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance held its "Blue Chair Campaign" at universities across Ontario.

The campaign, which is in its second year at Laurier, is meant to raise awareness and funds for individuals who cannot attend post-secondary education due to financial, social, structural and other barriers.

During the week, empty blue chairs were placed at locations across campus to symbolize students who cannot receive higher education because of these barriers.

Trevor Mayoh, current WLUSU vice president of student affairs and OUSA president, spoke about the multifaceted intent of the campaign.

"Blue Chair is not just about money for outreach, but to engage, empower and build awareness in the student body surrounding higher education issues," he said.

"All students are members of

OUSA, even if they don't know it. We want to increase our presence on campus," he added.

According to Mayoh, action at Laurier is required to increase the institution's accessibility.

"I think people in the administration recognize that accessibility is an issue ... but they have priorities to run the university and keep it financially sound," he said.

"BLUE CHAIR IS NOT JUST ABOUT MONEY FOR OUTREACH, BUT TO ENGAGE, EMPOWER AND BUILD AWARENESS IN THE STUDENT BODY SURROUNDING HIGHER EDUCATION ISSUES."

- Trevor Mayoh, OUSA President

Last Thursday, Blue Chair organizers at Laurier held an open roundtable on the accessibility of post-secondary education in general and WLU itself.

The recommendations of the

roundtable will be compiled into a letter that will be sent to Laurier president Dr. Max Blouw.

As Laurier faces economic uncertainty, the feasibility of policy with a focus on accessibility was a central topic of discussion.

Howie Bender, the executive director of OUSA, stressed that there are financial benefits to increased accessibility.

"The benefits of accessibility are incredible. Helping people to succeed is the solution to economic problems," he said.

Kory Preston, Laurier's current OUSA campaign co-ordinator, sees continued success for accessibility and the Blue Chair

Campaign at Laurier.

"The main objective was to bring out a sense of awareness on campus. For a three-day campaign, I've heard a lot of positive feedback," he said.

Success under 40

The second installment in a series profiling individuals affiliated with Laurier who were honoured in *The Record's* "40 under 40" list

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

Wendi Campbell

Occupation: Executive Director at the Waterloo Region Food Bank

Having completed her MBA at Laurier, Campbell was thrown immediately into the field of not-for-profit work, eventually moving on to the food bank.

Campbell devotes much of her time to work with Foodbanks Canada and the Ontario Association of Foodbanks, explaining that she believes providing food to those in need is a crucial and fundamental service.

"It really touches the lives of people we all know. People are losing jobs and we need to make sure everybody stays healthy so that they can be healthy enough to meet the challenges they face in the next year."

Katerina Goros

Occupation: Human Resource Director with the Royal Bank of Canada

Goros describes her life as a constant "balancing act."

As a mother, Human Resources Director and Life Coach, Goros also finds time to volunteer on the board of directors with the not-for-profit organization the Cambridge Kips Gymnastics Club as well as her Greek Orthodox church as a Sunday school teacher.

"It takes constant prioritizing," said Goros, but she adds that "she could not imagine" her life without her volunteer commitments.

The 1998 MBA graduate of Laurier explains that she thinks her recognition on the list is an honour, adding that she's happy that her holistic life choices have been recognized.

Catherine Grant

Occupation: Third-year History student at Laurier

As a former volunteer with the Laurier Association of Black Students, as well as co-organizer of the "Beat the Odds Conference," which aims to help students overcome obstacles they face in completing their education, Grant is someone long-time friend Keshia Johnson-Knight described as an "inspiration."

"Her main goal in life is to educate people and make them aware of different situations that people go through," says Johnson-Knight.

Grant was awarded with a Congress of Black Women of Canada Award of Excellence in 2006; however, Johnson-Knight explains that she has remained humble.

"She was happy to get it but she always feels like there's so much more she could have done."

Yasmine Mohamed

Occupation: Part-time



student at Laurier

Volunteering nearly every day of the week, the part-time French, fine arts and Arabic major has a nature for teaching.

"Teaching gives you that window of opportunity to help someone open their door, open their window," she said.

Mohamed volunteers her teaching assistance at Laurelwood Public School, as well as with Laurier Students for Learning. On Fridays she works with adults who are learning English as a second language and on Saturdays and Sundays she works as a teacher at an Islamic school.

Shawn Sajkowski

Occupation: Employee at Research in Motion

Two years after graduating with a BBA in 1998 from Laurier, Sajkowski was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.

Suffering numerous relapses until he received a stem cell transplant in 2006, Sajkowski is currently on the path to recovery.

"I don't regret going through this experience. It taught me what it's possible to overcome," he explained, adding that at his initial consultation his doctors assured he would not live to 30 years of age.

At 34 years of age, Sajkowski has become a volunteer with numerous cancer centres, aiming to educate those who have also been affected by the disease.

"He didn't choose the illness, but he's doing so well to make meaning out of it," said Reverend John Loughheed of the Spiritual Care

Centre at Grand River Hospital.

Peter Sweeney

Occupation: President of the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation

Graduating in 2006 after completing his MBA part-time at Laurier, Sweeney went on to work with a public relations agency in Toronto before returning to Waterloo to work at St. Mary's Hospital Foundation, fundraising within the community for support.

"It's not about what the hospital needs, it's about what the community needs," he explained.

Sweeney also volunteers with the Rotary Club and his neighbourhood association.

Brooke Young

Occupation: Co-ordinator of OK2BME program

Having completed her masters at the faculty of social work, Young immediately found work at Kitchener-Waterloo Counselling Services doing what she is passionate about - providing counselling and education for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ) youths.

According to Young, while in some ways things have improved for LGBTQ individuals, there are still significant strides to be made.

"Kids are feeling safer to come out at earlier ages and we're one of the only communities that has a support for them, but it's also about moving our whole community to a place where diversity is something considered wonderful, not looked down upon," said Young.



Yasmine Mohamed



Peter Sweeney



Wendi Campbell



Shawn Sajkowski



Katerina Goros



Catherine Grant



Brooke Young

GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION, CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS EXCEPT FOR YASMINE MOHAMED BY LAURA TOMKINS

FREE ADMISSION

CULTURESHOCK

TURRET MARCH 24 7PM

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Appeal may take over a year

FROM EXTRADITION, COVER

Piratheepan Nadarajah was also ordered into custody and extradited last Thursday, and Ramanan Mylvaganam will appeal his extradition order in the Ontario Court of Appeal on May 14.

All three men were members of UW's Tamil Students' Association. The association itself was determined to be uninvolved in any criminal activities in February 2007, after a financial report was released by UW.

Kevin Crowley, associate director of public affairs at WLU, said the university does not intend to revoke the CIBC Leaders in Entrepreneurship award presented to Sriskandarajah in May 2008.

"Mr. Sriskandarajah was awarded that particular award for the work that he did while he was here," said Crowley, adding that Sriskandarajah was not subject to events occurring beyond the conditions in which it was presented.

Thursday's ruling "is one step along the way, but it's not the final decision on whether

he will be extradited," explained Sriskandarajah's lawyer, John Norris.

This ruling was simply to determine "evidence and decide if there is enough evidence to justify a trial," said Norris. The credibility of the evidence and determination of Sriskandarajah's innocence were not issues evaluated in the hearing.

The evidence in question did not include Sriskandarajah's co-op term in Sri Lanka in 2004. Rather, Norris explained, "We are considering our position based on how it can be of assistance to us."

Whether Sriskandarajah will be extradited must still be decided upon and finalized. "The decision is going to be made by the Minister of Justice," said Norris, who anticipates that this will take several months.

In the event that the Minister of Justice rules against Sriskandarajah, Norris explained they "have the right to challenge those decisions in the Court of Appeal."

With months of appeals still to occur, Sriskandarajah will remain in Canada pending further decisions.

Silence not "ineffective"

FROM SILENCE, COVER

The campaign has undergone criticism, as silence is often perceived as an ineffective means for spreading awareness. Maeve Strathy, a co-ordinator for the Oath of Silence Day, says the Rainbow Centre was attracted to the campaign because it was a peaceful method of activism.

"The Rainbow Centre is not an activist organization on campus, but we are active in

the sense that we are here to enhance the university environment for LGBTQ individuals in the Laurier Community through awareness promotion, education, advocacy and support."

"A radical form of activism can be ineffective, but ironically enough, being silent is a way to speak to people," commented Jacob Pries. "Staying visibly silent is more thought-provoking."

CANADA IN BRIEF

Manitoba NDP won't cut education funding

BRANDON, MB — *Globe Campus* reports that Manitoba Premier Gary Doer announced last week that his government will not be cutting funding to education, training or research in the province.

Doer said the NDP government may increase spending at a smaller rate than expected, but such spending is vital for the future.

Manitoba's economic growth is expected to measure 1 percent this year according to the Conference Board of Canada — the second-highest rate of all of Canada's provinces.

Ryerson announces graduate digital media program in partnership with UW and UT

TORONTO — Last Friday, Ryerson University President Sheldon Levy announced a partnership between the University of Toronto, the University of Waterloo and Ryerson to bring a graduate digital media program to downtown Toronto.

In his address, Levy spoke about how Ontario's digital entertainment and culture industry is the third largest in North America after Los Angeles and New York.

Referring to a 2006 speech he gave in which he discussed universities as city-builders, Levy spoke of the importance of attracting new talent to Toronto to catalyze economic growth.

Levy said the project, which *The Globe and Mail* reports has been confirmed by the University of Waterloo, will take a practical approach to create technological solutions to make Toronto a world leader in new media.

"Our goal is to devise made-in-Toronto solutions for i-banking, i-business, i-news, i-industry, i-medicine, and i-everything."

Student fees set to rise in Nova Scotia

HALIFAX — *The Chronicle Herald* reported on Saturday that the Canadian Federation of Students' provincial representative Kaley Kennedy is concerned that about \$10 million of provincial funding will be cut from Nova Scotia's universities, increasing student fees as a result.

Kennedy told the Halifax paper that one students' union reported that universities are considering making up the fees by increasing tuition.

About a year ago, there was a letter of understanding between the province's universities and the ministry of education that placed a three-year freeze on tuition. The province's deputy education minister said that the government has told universities that increasing tuition is not an option.

Kennedy, however, said that if the province cuts its post-secondary funding, it has no way to force universities to hold to their portion of last year's agreement.

- Compiled by Jeremy Tremblay with files from *The Globe and Mail* and *The Chronicle-Herald*

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Students suggest they feel unwelcome

- FROM CITY, COVER

Griffin Carpenter, currently a director of the students' union's board, commented on the role Waterloo residents themselves have had in deteriorating student-resident relations.

"When we look at students as 'temporary residents,' we treat them as an economic unit that can be tapped into," he said.

"It means that [students] aren't welcome here anymore. I had no intention of being a 'temporary resident,' but after being treated like one, I'm afraid I might be," he added.

Colin Le Fevre, current WLUSU president, attended the meeting and echoed Carpenter's concerns.

"It's frustrating that everything always comes down on the students ... and that people don't see what is good about universities," he said.

"We're 25 percent of this city's population, yet we don't have a dedicated voice on city council because our ward is split into four ... how is that fair?" he added.

Though Mayoh agreed with Carpenter and Le Fevre's concerns, he saw the roundtable as a starting point for future dialogue on the issue.

"It's exciting to see students actually start to turn out and be interested in community relations. This is a great first step," he said.

See PAGE 18 for editorial reaction to this story

BAG O' CRIME

HATE CRIME

Reported: March 3 @ 12:21 a.m.

Anti-Semitic remarks were scrawled inside one of the cubicles of a residence. No suspects. Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) Identification Branch attended.

ASSIST CITIZEN

Reported: March 3 @ 6:38 p.m.

Received a call from a concerned spouse having lost contact with her husband (professor who worked on campus in the Schlegel Centre). Husband located on campus and was working late. No cause for concern.

FIRE ALARM

Reported: March 4 @ 4:27 a.m.

Fire alarm was activated in main server room 1-301 in the DAWB. Upon arrival a significant amount of smoke was detected along with an odor of burning rubber. Waterloo Fire Dept. responded. Cause of the fire remains under investigation. No major damage reported. Does not appear to be of a suspicious nature.

THREATENING

Reported: March 5 @ 9:42 p.m.

A verbal dispute erupted between two male students in residence, whereby one was threatened with bodily harm. A small container of urine was also splashed on the victim's door. The dispute was over a girlfriend.

INTOXICATED PERSON

Reported: March 6 @ 11:42 p.m.

Special constables responded to an activated Emergency Pole in parking lot 3 and located an underage extremely intoxicated male student. He was transported to his residence by a don and the on-duty RLAC.

DRUGS

Reported: March 7 @ 2:35 a.m.

Location: Residence


Duty dons on patrol smelled an odor of drug usage emitting from one of the residence rooms. Special Constables and the on-duty R.L.A.C. attended. Five males were found in the room. A metal grinder and two plastic bags of Marijuana (37.6 grams) were seized for destruction.

FIRE ALARM

Reported: March 8 @ 1:01 a.m.

Two fire extinguishers were removed from the lower-level hallway of a residence, activated and contents sprayed into the hallways on the first and second floors. The smoke detectors were activated and all personnel evacuated. Waterloo Fire Dept. attended and aired out the building. PP&P attended for a cleanup. Special constables are investigating.

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.



THE YEARBOOKS ARE IN!?!

Yes, Laurier does have a yearbook.

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18th and 19th**

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Men blamed for sex trade

Victor Malarek comments on human trafficking

MELISSA CUPOVIC
STAFF WRITER

Every year, approximately two million people are bought, sold and illegally moved across and within national borders. They are then forced into a life of degradation and sexual exploitation. These individuals, the overwhelming majority of whom are women and young girls, are the victims of human trafficking.

According to the UN, human trafficking is the third most profitable illegal money-making venture in the world, earning an estimated 12 billion dollars per year. Last Wednesday, The Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo hosted a lecture by Victor Malarek, a Gemini award-winning, investigative journalist and author, on the subject of trafficking women.

Malarek described the trafficking of women and girls as "a monumental human rights disaster," one which "has yet to register as a priority for the vast majority of nations." According to Malarek, there are many reasons for the explosion of the global sex trade, which include government corruption, the involvement of organized crime, the Internet, the ever-increasing demand from men for paid sex and the movement to legalize prostitution. However, "The key ingredi-

ents," he explained, are "extreme poverty, criminal greed and the perverted sex drive of men."

Trafficking is often the result of abduction, use of force, fraud, deception and violence. "Criminals know only too well how to employ weakness, and impoverished, desperate young women are easy prey," said Malarek. Recruiters set up modelling agencies, newspaper ads and job fairs that, from the outside, look legitimate. They promise desperate women employment in foreign countries that will enable them to provide for their families. In hopes of attaining a better life in the West, women are lured into a life of abuse and sexual exploitation.

According to Malarek, recruiters themselves are sometimes trafficked women who are told, "You will be set free if you bring two or three in." In certain cases, family, friends and even orphanages in countries like Romania and Moldova are involved in selling women to traffickers.

Malarek explained that although women have heard horror stories and are aware of the dangers of such agencies, ads and fairs, "They are willing to roll the dice out of sheer desperation."

Once the women are captured, they undergo a process of "seasoning," which ensures that they will be



NICK LACHANCE

PERSISTENCE - Malarek gave a moving lecture last week, describing the effects of the sex trade on women.

obedient to their keepers. They are threatened, beaten and drugged. Malarek said that trafficked women "live in constant fear as their abusers convince them that the authorities are in on the action." From his own experience and investigation, Malarek has learned that often police are directly involved in trafficking, particularly in places like Greece, Israel, England and the United States.

According to Malarek, this problem will persist and grow until men

realize that they are the problem: "It is men that are fuelling the explosion." Malarek argued that ordinary men – fathers, husbands, CEOs, politicians, policemen, etc. – "are at the very root of trafficking." If there is no demand there is no need for supply. Therefore it is men that hold the key to ending the trafficking of women.

Organizations are pushing for the legalization of the sex trade, arguing that it will help victims of trafficking. However, Malarek

argued that legalization is a form of "harm reduction" rather than "harm elimination," which would lead to an end. "Legalizing prostitution is a gift to Johns," Malarek said. It is an invitation to rape and will only exacerbate demand. It will not empower women, as the message that it will convey is "that it is okay to buy and sell the bodies of women." Prostitution according to Malarek "is not a job opportunity or an occupation but a lifelong jail sentence."

International enrollment in Canada

Of Canada's 80,000 international students in 2008, Ontario accepted nearly 27,000 students throughout the economic downturn

HENJI MILIUS
STAFF WRITER

In 2008, up to 80,000 students from countries around the world came to Canadian universities, despite the economic downturn, to broaden their life experiences as individuals and professionals.

The province of Ontario alone took in 26,764 students while British Columbia came second with 25,670, reported Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Among competitive European countries, the US and various other countries overseas, Canada provides a unique experience with its democratic, multicultural and bilingual characteristics, alongside two main factors.

First, tuition fees are relatively cheap here, by up to \$20,000 less per year, compared to international prestigious establishments such as Harvard University, the University of London and the University of Sydney, where tuition is considerably more expensive.

Second, "The drop in the value of

the Canadian dollar has meant that more money could be gained from foreign currencies," said Jennifer Humphries, vice president at the Canadian Bureau for International Education, to *Embassymag*.

However, economics aren't the only reason why many international students choose Canada.

Bendu Kosia, a biology student at Wilfrid Laurier University who comes from Sierra Leone, said that her parents had a lot of great things to say about Canada and encouraged her to live and study here.

Rami Andari from Lebanon heard from his geography teacher that Canada was a safe haven and that his post-secondary studies here would be rewarding and valuable, especially with the co-op program since he wanted to study business here.

It was under Prime Minister John George Diefenbaker that the Canadian Bill of Rights in 1960 made it possible for racial minorities to slowly come to the country.

Pierre Elliot Trudeau's revision of the 1952 Immigration Act, final-

ly enacted in 1978, opened the country to many immigrants from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, creating the legacy of our multiracial and multicultural society, making the educational prospects of many international students possible.

Also, recent immigration laws and regulations have made it easier for international students to study, work in and immigrate to Canada, mentioned international education experts to *Embassymag*.

During a recent conference for a group of 1,600 unemployed or underemployed internationally educated professionals, Immigration Minister Jason Kenney said that a "significant reduction" in foreign students applying to study in Canada could be expected if the trends of the economy continued to go badly, reported *The Toronto Star*.

When asked whether the bad Canadian economy affected his views on his academic future, Fanli Jia, a Chinese student in psychology at Laurier, told *The Cord* that

the best thing to do during a bad economy is to stay in school and become more specialized by pursuing a Master's degree or a Ph.D.

Tony Gelineau, an exchange student from France studying languages, said that he was optimistic that Canada's economy would recover from this recession, and that if it did not, he would have to change his plans and think of other options a year from now, when he hopes to graduate.

Despite the figures from Statistics Canada, with unemployment at 7.2 percent, a low inflation rate of 1.0 percent and a gross domestic product (GDP) of -1.0 percent, one would think most universities would ramp up their efforts to recruit more international students to bring in more revenues.

Lise Pedersen, manager for programs and services at Laurier International, which was established in 1994, explained that "it was too early to see the impact of the economy on international student applications and, given an increase of five percent in applications compared

to last year, [international students are still interested in coming to WLU]," she said.

"Laurier takes its recruitment initiatives seriously and would not, by any means, regress reaching out to as many students as possible – even during an economic downturn – by partnering with the University of Guelph, Conestoga College and using faculty members doing research overseas to promote Laurier," said Glennice Snyder, manager of student recruitment.

The economic downturn's negative effect on Canada's career market is evident, with a record 129,000 job losses in January, as reported by Statistics Canada.

During good or bad times, Tara Orchard, co-ordinator in Career Consulting at Laurier, emphasized that it was imperative for foreign and domestic students to seek help in advance and consult career services to prepare themselves so that their overall experience in the world job market could be worthwhile, enriching and successful.

Photography displays conflict in DRC

MARA SILVESTRI
STAFF WRITER

Shedding light on the conflict-ridden Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) is holding a photo exhibition until March 27, detailing the experience of photographer Eddie Gerald. Entitled *Delivering Hope*, the exhibition was organized with the mandate to bring attention to the underexposed conflict that is taking place in DRC.

Taken on Gerald's trip to DRC in 2007, which was on assignment with the UN World Food Program (WFP), the exhibit holds 14 images of some of DRC's harshest realities. The photos depict daily experiences for the Congolese, such as malnutrition, sexual violence, loss of family and friends and displaced persons.

"At one point we have to identify ourselves with victims because sexual harassment also happens in Western cultures, and what I saw over there with the rape phenomenon was catastrophic. We are talking about more than 300,000 women raped over there. There are also sexual harassments in the Western communities, but we don't always speak about it so loudly," said Gerald, explaining his experience.

With images of malnourished youth, those forced to join armed militias and violated women, a spectrum of emotions was portrayed in the images, including feelings such as sorrow and loss. Many of the images include depictions of the assistance that the WFP is providing in DRC, with images of food distribution and safe hideaways.

Detailing his experience in DRC,

Gerald said that he had to work at not letting his emotions consume him. "I was focused in photographing the crisis and victims and the child soldiers. When I work, I totally focus on my work and I just have to think about things afterwards. I have to work like a robot because otherwise I am too emotionally affected," he said.

One of the poorest countries in the world, DRC is the third-largest geographical space in Africa. According to the CIA's World Factbook, the current conflict in DRC

began in 1998 and has "resulted in the deaths of more than 3.5 million people from violence, famine and disease," which are exactly the issues to which Gerald wants to draw attention.

Funded by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the photo exhibition had a specific focus on the Congolese province of North Kivu. The conditions displayed were meant to evoke feelings of hope in viewers, with taglines on photos such as, "Almost 800,000 people are dis-

placed in North Kivu and unable to return home because of increased fighting."

In fact, Gerald said that his intended message in creating this photo exhibition was that hope can still be delivered: "There is still hope in crisis zones and there are people that are dealing with delivering hope and humanitarian agencies even though they have small resources and are not in the news headlines." Hope is available in any capacity, and Gerald felt that the DRC was particularly ignored in

that aspect.

A message that Gerald wants to send to Canadians is that crisis isn't limited to distant parts of the world and we have to be aware of it. "I also saw such crisis in Europe and in Burma, so it can happen everywhere," he said, "but we shouldn't be so sure that it won't happen in the Western world."

Although he is based in Israel, Gerald has photo exhibitions worldwide, detailing photo stories of a range of transnational issues.



SYDNEY HELLAND

HOPE IN THE CONGO - Photographer Eddie Gerald's photo exhibition will run daily until March 27 at CIGI. It is free and open to the public.

WORLDIN BRIEF

Palestinian PM to resign

Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) Prime Minister Salam Fayyad has said he intends to resign in order to pave the way for a national unity government between the current government and their rivals Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip.

Hamas demanded Fayyad's departure but BBC correspondent Tim Franks believes this to be a political move of careful calculation in the creation of a new Palestinian government of national unity. Fayyad will not step down until this unity government is enacted. Current expectations are for the creation of such a government at the end of March.

Talks are ongoing between political party Fatah and Hamas, as well as other Palestinian groups. The new government is seen as a positive move towards peace in Gaza.

Zimbabwe PM's car crash

Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has been injured and his wife Susan Tsvangirai was killed in a deadly car accident south of the nation's capital of Harare.

The accident happened as the couple

were travelling to their rural home in Buhera. A truck carrying freight connected to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) crossed into their lane and side-swiped the couple's SUV this past Friday. Tsvangirai was released from hospital on Saturday after suffering minor head and neck injuries.

The BBC is reporting that the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), Tsvangirai's Zimbabwean political party, will conduct an investigation into the crash, though it is not suspected to be the result of foul play. Government ministers have been quoted as saying the driver of the truck fell asleep at the wheel. Others have contemplated the state of Zimbabwe's roads, as a result of the state's failed infrastructure, as having been a factor in Friday's collision.

Married in 1978, the couple had six children. Tsvangirai was sworn in as Zimbabwe's Prime Minister on February 11 and was set to travel to Murambinda, Zimbabwe this weekend to hold a celebratory rally.

South Korea diverts airplanes

Korean Air and Asian Airlines have made the decision to reroute some 30 daily international flights that pass through North Korea's airspace. The choice comes after

North Korea released a statement claiming the nation could not guarantee any airplanes' safety.

South Korea has called on its northern neighbour to withdraw the threat, as tensions grow between the two nations. The BBC links the clash to a US-South Korean 12-day military drill beginning this week. North Korea has long objected to the yearly exercise.

Tensions between the two nations continue to run high, surrounding issues of nuclearization and bilateral and international aid.

Austrian to plead guilty

Josef Fritzl, who was arrested last year for imprisoning his daughter in the family cellar and fathering her seven children, will plead guilty to most of the charges for which he will go on trial on March 16.

He will plead guilty to deprivation of liberty, rape, incest and coercion, but denies killing one of the seven children he fathered with his daughter over the 24 years he kept her captive. He will face life in jail if he is convicted of all charges.

Fritzl stands trial after psychiatrists deemed him mentally fit to do so last autumn. His lawyer describes him as a "deeply

disturbed character," according to the BBC, though he also claims Fritzl is not a "sex monster" as media headlines have made him out to be, claiming his client loved his daughter Elisabeth "in his own way."

Ex-FARC rebels released

The Colombian government has released two former rebels of the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), also known as The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia after they have vowed to work for peace. The two former rebels, Karina and Olivo Saldana, said they would help to reintegrate other former rebels into society.

Other such plans and releases have been made in the past and the BBC reports that this most recent release comes under harsh criticism.

Karina was found guilty of murder, kidnapping and massacres, and was sentenced to 33 years in prison. Olivo Saldana was also convicted of similar charges, including extortion. Both are part of the government's increased movement against the FARC rebels, in which 3,000 former guerrillas have turned themselves in to authorities under the government's amnesty legislation.

- Compiled by Alanna Wallace

Bashir charged for ordering deadly crimes

Sudanese president indicted for attacks in Darfur

ALISON SCHOFIELD
STAFF WRITER

In a widely unexpected move by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on Tuesday, March 3, Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir was indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the region of Darfur. This event, which may be seen by some as a step towards justice, has set off a chain of events that include the expulsion of aid organizations from the country, and the confiscations of their tools and resources by the state.

Bashir came into power after a coup in 1989 and now faces five accounts of crimes against humanity and two accounts of war crimes. In the declaration of Bashir's indictment, the ICC called Bashir an "indirect co-perpetrator, for intentionally directing attacks against an important part of the civilian population ... murdering, exterminating, raping, torturing and forcibly transferring large numbers of civilians, and pillaging their property."

Last week, thousands of Sudanese nationals rallied in the streets of the country's capital, Khartoum, in support of Bashir and against the charges the ICC has laid against him. Supporters ran after his motorcade, chanting, carrying Sudanese flags and pictures of the African leader. However, those that support the ICC and its charges against Bashir hope that, because of the ICC's warrant for his arrest, his popularity among some of his supporters will weaken.

As noted by Reuters on March 5, the UN Security Council passed a resolution in 2005 that referred the humanitarian crisis in Darfur to the ICC, which means that Sudan is obligated to co-operate with the ICC in the warrant for Bashir's arrest. However, it is not known when, or even if, Sudan will arrest and surrender Bashir to appear before the ICC to face the allegations against him.

Co-operation is unlikely because

Sudan currently does not recognize the ICC. The country failed to co-operate with the court twice previously when two Sudanese men were wanted for crimes against humanity as well, but were never surrendered by the state. As the Sudanese Ambassador to the United Nations, Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamad told the BBC in an interview last week, "We are not going to be bound by any verdict; for us the ICC doesn't exist."

While the United Nations currently have thousands of peacekeepers in Sudan, they will have no authority to arrest and surrender Bashir unless a mandate comes from the Security Council to do so. The ICC does not have a police force at its disposal, but has called upon its 108 signatory countries and even those who do not have to help the court in bringing Bashir to trial.

Following his indictment, Bashir expelled aid workers from Sudan, calling them "thieves" and "spies," accusing them of working with the ICC. The Canadian Press reported Saturday. Aid workers from Sudan say that their departure will leave two million people in danger. *The New York Times* reported on Thursday that Doctors Without Borders has been asked to leave the country and that the British charity Oxfam has had their licence to operate in Sudan revoked. United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has said that this action could cause "irrevocable damage" to the people of Darfur and has urged the Sudanese government to reconsider.

The conflict in the notable Darfur region of western Sudan exploded in 2003 between non-Arab rebel forces and the Arab-dominated government and has displaced an estimated 2.5 million people and claimed the lives of approximately 300,000 more.

Bashir is the first leader of a country to be called up by the court on such charges while still in power since the ICC began in 2002.

Correction

On March 4, the article, "Adventure in Antarctica" stated that Kevin Turner's trip was funded by International Polar Year, but it was actually funded by the following departments:

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Vice President of Academics
Office of Research
Office of Graduate Studies
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> cordweekly.com
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University strike in France continues

Staff Writer **Alanna Wallace** speaks to Nicole Ratis, an exchange student at Université de Lyon, about how the strike has affected her academic record and the intense picket lines.

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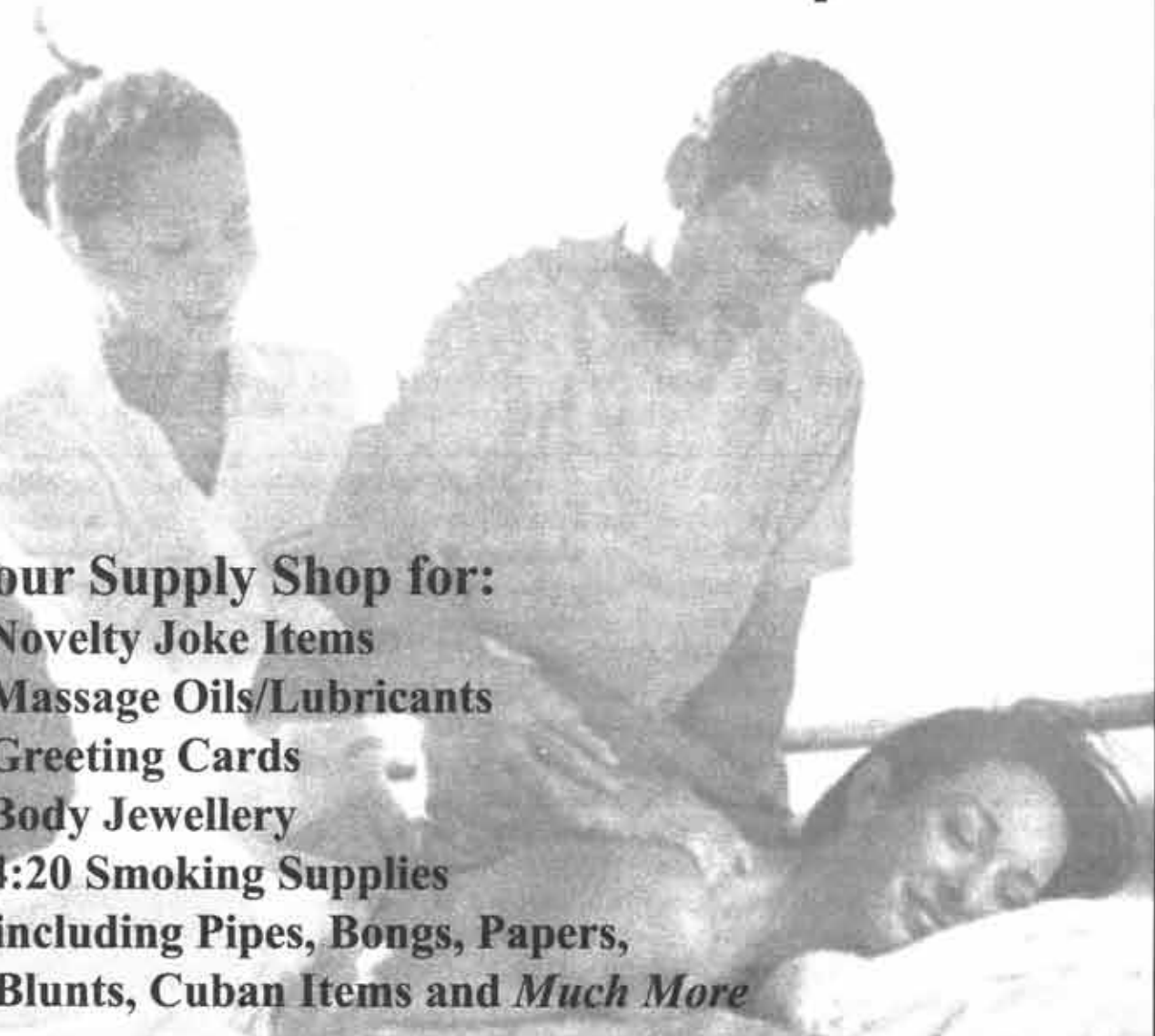
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Applications and job descriptions are available for pick-up from the
WLUSP office located in the basement of Macdonald House.
Applications will be due on Thursday, March 19th at 12:00 noon.
Hiring will be held on Sunday, March 22nd and Monday, March 23rd.

Any questions should be directed to Bryn Ossington at:
bryn.ossington@wlusp.com

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The Spotlight

Just a small-town girl

TIEJA MACLAUGHLIN
STAFF WRITER

Kinesiology major and Golden Hawks rookie Abby Rainsberry has had quite the season so far as a member of the Laurier women's hockey team.

As a first-year, Rainsberry has already established a strong name for herself – currently leading her team in assists and game-winning goals and has tallied 18 points in total.

A small-town Petrolia, ON native, Rainsberry is humble in describing her experiences on and off the ice.

"A lot of my development this year has been from the girls on the team, the coaching and the training – they've shown me potential I never knew I had," she said.

Growing up just outside of Sarnia, she and her two brothers were raised in the country.

"Everybody knows everybody there," she joked. A great deal of support comes from her parents and the rest of her family who come out to all the games, most notably Grandpa Rainsberry: her number-one fan.

Rainsberry played on boys' teams until the age of seven, but switched over to women's when the opportunity arose.

She played Midget AA and Bantam in Sarnia, and later in Strathroy for the Bluewater Junior Hawks.

"It's different on the girls' teams; there is a more social aspect," described Rainsberry.

Now as a member of the Hawks, she works hard with two early-morning practices a week and off-ice training, on top of a home and away game.

The girls keep things lighter on the road, though, with some singing and dancing, good movies and fun games.

With what little free time she has left, Rainsberry enjoys spending time with friends and family. As an ex-baseball player, her summers have now been taken over by training.

"It's totally worth it, though," she said. "You realize how hard you have to work to stay on top of things – it's really a year-round thing."

Working her way into the playoff season, Rainsberry wears a Golden Hawks bracelet as an ode to her team and the essence of teamwork.

She goes on to explain the meaning behind it: "I have a D, but a D alone means nothing. When we all come together it spells Laurier Golden Hawks."

Looking into the future, Rainsberry hopes to pursue her career in hockey.

"[Teammates] Bevan and Ironside just got back from the FSU winter games in China, and I would love to do something like that," she explained.

"The biggest motivation for me is my teammates. I can relate to them, and they are great role models; it makes you realize things are more attainable."

Coming to the end of her first year at university, she is very happy with her decision to come to Laurier, and couldn't imagine playing with a better group of girls. "I'm so content with everything. I love hockey, I love my program – I wouldn't change anything."



LAURA TOMKINS

AMAZING ABBY - In a stellar rookie season, Rainsberry picked up an OUA All-Rookie nod.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
March 10 - 16, 2009

RECENT SCORES

03.07.09

W Hockey 3 - Queen's 2
M Hockey 2 - Western 3

03.05.09

W Hockey 7 - Queen's 0

03.04.09

M Hockey 3 - Western 4

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

03.12.09

OUA Final

W Hockey vs Guelph
Sunlife Financial Arena, 7:30 p.m.

03.15.09

OUA Final (if necessary)

W Hockey vs Guelph
Sunlife Financial Arena, 7:30 p.m.

LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Chad Kennedy
Men's Hockey

Alicia Martin
Women's Hockey

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- MU137
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Avoid Cramming Workshops

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6 pm, BA305
- **March 30**
5 pm, 1C17

More info @ www.wlu.ca/study

March Madness Preview

A glance at the top teams

TREVOR SCHIEDEL
STAFF WRITER

North Carolina Tar Heels

The core of Tyler Hansborough, Ty Lawson, Danny Green, Wayne Ellington and Coach Roy Williams need a championship to cement their legacy as one of the greatest UNC teams ever. They simply have not been able to get it done. However, they have shown continued improvement in the tournament over the last three years and made the final four last year. They have more talent than anyone in the country, will have a number-one seed and should be playing in state early on in the tournament. This is their last chance. Can they get it done?

Pittsburgh Panthers

After beating a number-one-seeded Connecticut team for the second time this past Saturday, Pitt has shown the ability to win big games against top opponents. Behind the scoring punch of Sam Young, the toughness of Big East leading rebounder DeJuan Blair and the guidance of the nation's second leading assist man LeVance Fields, the Panthers have the personnel to match up against anybody. Their experience cannot be underestimated as Young, Fields and starting forward Tyrell Biggs are all seniors and have played in many big games.

Memphis Tigers

Few thought the Tigers would be in position to capture another number-one seed in 2009 after losing their three best players to the NBA. Coach John Calipari has recruited a fantastic freshman class including rookie-of-the-year candidate Tyreke Evans. While their conference schedule may be much easier than the other elite teams in the nation, they have not lost a conference game in three years. They also proved that they can beat anyone (and would have been national champions if they could have made one free throw) in last year's tournament.

Connecticut Huskies

UConn has been dominant all year and have only lost two games in 2009, both coming to highly ranked Panthers. Hasheem Thabeet is without a doubt the most dominant force in the nation on the defensive end. He is second in America in blocks, averaging 4.5 per game. The Huskies are loaded with talent and experience at all positions but the loss of Jerome Dyson really hurt this team. He was the only other player besides A.J. Price able to make perimeter shots and create easy baskets for his teammates.

Players that will have an impact

SAM RICHES
STAFF WRITER

With the 2009 NCAA Tournament almost upon us, here is a breakdown of several key players to watch for in this year's Big Dance.

Blake Griffin: The consensus number-one pick for next year's NBA draft, Griffin is viewed by many as the most dominant big man in the country. At 6'10" and 250 pounds, the athletic Griffin attacks the paint with reckless abandon. A monster on the glass for the Oklahoma Sooners, Griffin will look to prove he deserves the spotlight as the best player in the nation. An emotional leader, Griffin leaves it all on the court, averaging 22 points and 14 rebounds a game. His only glaring weakness is his foul shooting, which at 59 percent, could be the difference between a win or a loss in close games.

DeJuan Blair: An old-school-type basketball player, Blair is the

main post option for Pittsburgh. At 6'6" and 285 pounds, Blair relies on his bulk rather than his finesse. Although somewhat undersized in terms of height, Blair carries a 7'3" wingspan and arguably plays with more heart and determination than any other player in the tournament. A team leader, Blair anchors the Panthers defence and looks to win, rather than focus on individual numbers.

James Harden: An intriguing player, the 6'5" Harden does not have the traditional explosiveness and athletic ability often seen in elite shooting guards. However, his remarkable basketball IQ, teamed with great court vision and offensive skill, allow Harden to score in bunches. He does an excellent job of taking what the defence gives him and not forcing his own offence. His court vision allows him to get teammates involved and spark the offence for the Arizona State Sun Devils. When the score is close

Who's playing against the odds

CHRIS BALUSCHAK
STAFF WRITER

Gonzaga

The team that everyone seems to root for come tournament time is this year's number-16-ranked Gonzaga Bulldogs.

Whether it be their reputation for late game heroics and major upsets, or their emotional fairytale runs (see Adam Morrison, 2006 tournament versus UCLA), fans always seem to jump on the Bulldogs bandwagon come March.

This year, standout forward Austin Daye has led his team to an impressive 25-5 record. With convincing victories over Tennessee, but notable losses to Memphis

and UConn, Gonzaga has the opportunity to once again raise some eyebrows. Their success will be based on their ability to close out victories and maintain big leads, as well as Daye's talent from beyond the arc.

Florida

Florida is in a unique situation heading into this year's tournament. Presently hovering around the 49 seed, the 21-8 Gators are flirting with the possibility of not clinching a berth in the tournament.

They are a very young team with little big-game experience. They have not performed particularly well on the road and have

not proven they can play at the required level to make the tournament – let alone succeed in it.

However, Florida has a reputation for achieving on the big stage, and for that reason, no one is counting them out. Although young and inexperienced, they do have 21 wins on the season and can guarantee themselves a tournament berth if they can make it to the SEC tournament finals.

If they can play well over the next week and earn a spot in the tournament, understand that the Gators have turned the corner and are ready to chomp.

Notre Dame

One of the biggest surprises this season has been the play of the Fighting Irish. After a very promising regular season last year, which saw them rewarded with a number-five seed in the tournament, they have been a major disappointment thus far.

2009 has been surprisingly unkind to Notre Dame, who took to the hardwood this season with four returning starters and understandably greater expectations. They began the season on a tear, amassing a 12-3 record.

However, it was all downhill from there, as they lost seven straight, which severely hindered their chances at this year's tournament. They presently sit 69th in the country and with a 16-12 record, may be hard-pressed to crack this year's top 64.

They started off the season really well; provided they do gain entry into the tournament, they may be a lower seed than they are able to overcome.



and the game is on the line, there is no better player in the country than Harden.

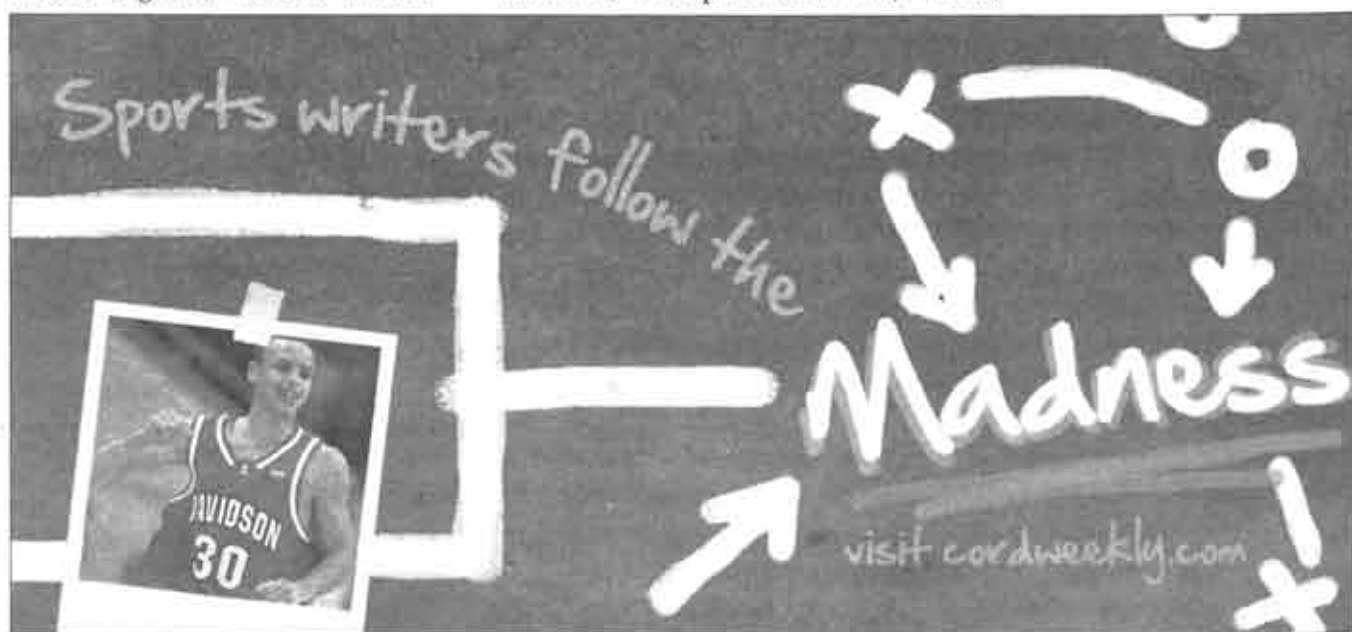
Hasheem Thabeet: The 7'3" big man from the University of Connecticut will look to continue his defensive dominance and help lead UConn deep into the tournament. Averaging a ridiculous 4.5 blocks a game, Thabeet is con-

sidered in many circles to be a top pick in the 2009 NBA draft. In addition to his size, Thabeet also has above-average speed and explosive leaping ability. His presence in the paint will be felt by anyone that attempts to drive to the bucket against UConn. Offensively, Thabeet's game is not as refined.

However, his speed and size,

coupled with his soft hands, allow him to clean the glass and get easy second-chance points.

The alley-oop is always a threat when Thabeet is on the floor. Look for the man in the middle to continue his dominance and improve his chances of becoming the number-one pick in next year's NBA draft.





SENSATIONAL SAVE - Goalie Liz Knox makes one of many key saves during their 3-2 victory over the Queen's Gaels. Knox made 18 saves during the game.

RYAN STEWART

Hawks advance to OUA finals

Hawks sweep the Queen's Gaels in two games, winning the second 3-2 in triple overtime to advance to face Guelph in the finals

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
STAFF WRITER

A tense playoff atmosphere was in full force last Saturday as the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women's hockey team advanced to the OUA finals, the result of a thrilling 3-2 triple-overtime victory over the Queen's Gaels.

This second and deciding game of the best-of-three series was in stark contrast to the first.

Game one saw little competition from the Gaels as the Hawks cruised to a 7-0 victory.

Cindy Eadie stopped all 18 shots she faced for the shut-out, while Alicia Martin and Kaley Powers each scored twice to go along with goals from Katherine Shirriff and recent Universiade gold medalists Andrea Ironside and Andrea Bevan.

"Today was a tough playoff game that we absolutely needed," said Head Coach Rick Osborne after game two.

"I thought in the first game we got a lot of good bounces.

"Today was pretty tough, and I'm not surprised. Queen's has traditionally, over the years, played us really tough. They play a really good rope-a-dope style and they eliminate the grade A scoring chances nicely."

Third-year Liz Knox got the start between the pipes for the Hawks in game two and wasn't tested very often early on.

Second-year Heather Fortuna opened the scoring for the Hawks, but the Gaels answered quickly on one of their two shots of the period, as rookie Kristin Smith tied the game at one.

The Gaels pulled ahead in the second period when fourth-year Cassandra Sparks beat Knox short-handed to give her team a 2-1 lead.

It was a lead they would hold onto until midway through the third period, when second-year Powers deflected a Kate Psota shot past Gaels goalie Melissa John, tying the game at two.

John played a spectacular game for the Gaels. She saved 57 of the whopping 60 Hawks' shots, as she rebounded well from her shaky performance in game one.

"She stood on her head," said Hawks captain Bevan of John.

"Compared to the last game, in Kingston, she played absolutely amazing.

"She kept them in it the entire game, and really didn't let us capitalize on our chances. You definitely have to give her a lot of credit."

John's terrific play carried over into the first overtime period, with Knox matching her save for save, and the teams found themselves tied after one extra frame.

The second over-time would follow a pattern much the same as the first, as the Hawks were getting chances, but John stood tough including several incredible, acrobatic stops, even batting a goal-bound shot out of the air.

"I do think we had our share of

scoring chances. But Melissa John really played a great game," said Osborne.

"She was in a zone. When I saw her bat that one out of the air, I knew it was going to be really tough to beat her."

As the teams settled into the third overtime - the sixth period of the game - the Gaels ran into penalty trouble.

Already down one player, veteran defender Alison Bagg took a slashing penalty.

Just 15 seconds later, a questionable call saw Mary McNeill, another Gaels veteran, ejected from the game after she appeared to run over the referee.

Almost immediately after McNeill's ejection, veteran forward Lauren Barch picked up a loose puck at the side of the net and put it past John, finally ending the game and sending the Hawks to the OUA finals.

"I knew I needed to score," said Barch. "We won the first game 7-0,

but we knew that [game two] wasn't going to be a cakewalk, we knew we were going to have to work hard."

In such a mentally and physically exhausting game, maintaining composure becomes just as critical as fighting fatigue.

The main reason that the Hawks were able to do this, and ultimately come out on top, was the team's solid core of leaders.

"We've been in these scenarios before, so we're prepared for it," commented Barch, one of the team's assistant captains. "It was mostly about motivation."

"Just making sure that everyone kept their heads high and believed that we could do it. Now, we have to take it game by game and just focus on Thursday."

The Hawks will now face the Guelph Gryphons in a best-of-three series for the OUA banner.

The series begins tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. at the SunLife Financial Arena in the Waterloo Recreation Complex.

Mustangs trample Hawks

JAMIE NEUGEBAUER
STAFF WRITER

The Golden Hawks men's hockey team was forced to swallow a bitter pill as they battled hard but did not lead for a single moment in the series, falling to the Western Mustangs in a two-game sweep in their OUA Semi-Final.

"They caught us flat in game one," commented Head Coach Kelly Nobes. "Tonight was just a playoff battle, and they had one more than us. They played a good game and you have to give them credit."

The Hawks dropped game one of the best-of-three set last Wednesday at the Waterloo Recreational Complex by a score of 4-3.

Hawks offensive leader Jean-Michel Rizk and veteran defenceman Chad Kennedy paced the purple and gold with three points each, but it was not enough as the talented Mustangs team kept them on their heels all night long.

The Hawks had a chance to even up the series on Saturday in London.

It was another back-and-forth affair and the Hawks fought with all the hunger they had.

In the end, however, it was not enough as the Mustangs came away with a 3-2 victory to take the series.

"They are the type of team that goes to the net and creates some traffic in front and that's how you score in tight games," goaltender Jeff MacDougald said. "They got a couple breaks in the end and we didn't."

After going behind early in the second, Hawks Captain Nick Vergier started the come-back when his turn-around wrister beat Mustangs netminder Brad Topping up high.

Craig Voakes, the hero from the Lakehead series, looked to play the role again scoring on a beautiful breakaway move with four-and-a-half minutes to go in the second to tie the game.

"I think the game favoured them a little bit," commented Nobes. "It was an old-time hockey game and they have a bigger, more physical team and certainly in this rink it favoured them with only five penalties being called all night."

"It's unfortunate," he continued. "You would like to see the standard being called, but it is the way it is."

Western's big forwards engaged in their cycle game and the Hawks defenders had a tremendous amount of difficulty containing them and gaining any sort of flow in the third period.

"We played hard and came out desperate," mentioned a deflated Rizk. "But I think we could not buy a bounce and in a game like this when you don't get the bounces it's tough to come back."

MacDougald faced 42 shots while Topping faced 31 shots. The game ends the Hawks' season - a season that will be remembered as one of the best for Golden Hawks



ROUGH STUFF - Rizk races for the puck during their loss to Western.

YUSUF KIDWAI

men's hockey in recent memory.

"We are losing a lot of key guys [next year]," Rizk added.

"It will be important for us to

recruit well, but it will be tough to lose the guys we are losing. But that is part of the game and we will just have to rebuild."

Women at WLU

Though women have made tremendous strides since the first wave of the women's movement in the early 1900s, full equality has yet to be reached. Last week *The Cord* explored the progress of women on campus. Part Two of this series addresses the most prevalent problems women face today and highlights three campus groups that are working to combat them. Special Projects Editor **Laura Carlson** reports

Fem-i-nism

the advocacy of women's rights on the grounds of political, social, and economic equality

"Women can vote; they must be equal;" "There are more females at university than males;" "I've never faced any discrimination; the work of feminists must be complete."

Ideas such as these, which are prevalent in the general public, are often used to suggest that gender oppression no longer exists.

Yet despite these current opinions, women's studies professor Dr. Helen Ramirez notes that, with the prevalence of things such as violence against women, female poverty and negative perceptions about body image, women still have a long way to go before true equality is reached.

"I don't think it's widely understood the extent to which there's inequality," said Ramirez. "I get tired of being the person that talks about how awful these things are.... I just can't bear that [change] is so slow."

According to the latest Statistics Canada Report, in 2005 women earned 85 cents for every dollar paid to men. Statistics Canada also reports that an estimated seven percent of women have experienced spousal violence in the past five years and that between 1999 and 2004, three percent of women reported being sexually assaulted in the previous twelve months.

However, the report estimates that in 2004 only 23 percent of female spousal abuse victims and less than 10 percent of sexual assault victims reported these crimes.

Statistics such as these trouble Ramirez, though she feels that they remind us that there is still a lot of work that needs to be done before gender parity is reached.

"We have to make sure we get those ideas out there ... and that we're supporting people that are trying to make change," said Ramirez.

Kate Klein, arts co-ordinator at the Women's Centre, feels that the inequalities women face are related to forms of sexism that are deeply embedded in our culture.

"We need to start valuing womanhood and femininity," said Klein.

"Look at the main insults ... used to insult men and it's to be womanly, to be girly, to be effeminate. That to me is an indicator that women are valued less in our society, that even though we have a lot of legal equality there are still many cultural barriers and problems."

Sara Conrad, co-chair of the Waterloo chapter of the Miss G_Project, notes that even things as seemingly innocent as "CEOs and office hoes" parties can have a detrimental effect on the way we perceive women.

"They just reflect the kind of attitudes and experiences we don't talk about every day," said Conrad. "Women face unique challenges ... when people say, 'Oh everything's fine now' maybe it's only because they're only looking in the scope of [their own] life or the scope of their institutions."

Embracing feminism

One of the most challenging things about feminism is getting women and men to identify with the movement and embrace the term.

Common misconceptions exist about what exactly feminism is and many negative stereotypes often get associated with the word feminist.

"We always vilify anything that tries to create change that's about social justice," explained Ramirez in regards to the concept of feminism. "If we vilify that group then nobody wants to join it."

When such negative connotations surround the word, Klein feels that it gets very difficult for women to challenge a patriarchal society, especially because there are often ramifications for how they are perceived.

"In a society that devalues women, you get by when you don't criticize that, when you don't criticize the status quo.... You're more acceptable when you're a person that doesn't challenge the way things are."

The numbers logic

Despite the large number of females present on Laurier's campus – 60 percent of the student body is female – this itself is not necessarily an indicator that women are at parity with their male counterparts.

"We are more arts-focused, and I do think that that will make a difference in the types of students that will attend," said Sasha Cocarla, co-chair of the Waterloo chapter of the Miss G_Project, of the exceptionally high number of females at Laurier.

"There's still going to be those [influences of] how we're brought up when we're younger – women do arts and men do science, that kind of stuff, it's not something we've escaped," she added.

At the staff level, WLU's Annual Equity report notes that in 2005 only 21 percent of females working at Laurier filled faculty positions and 36.7 percent were employed in positions relating to clerical and administrative work.

However, 56 percent of the new faculty hires for 2009-10 are female.

Adam Lawrence, co-ordinator of the Office for Student Diversity, stresses that numbers alone do not validate the success of women at Laurier.

"I hate the argument where people say 'there's more women on campus than men so women are better off.' If that is the case, why do we still have oppressive marketing material towards women? Why are women still degraded in the language we use?"

"The culture on this campus needs to be changed," Lawrence added.

The importance of allies

While feminism is typically addressed as a women's issue, Lawrence notes the important role men play in establishing gender parity.

"Until men realize their privilege ... we're going to have problems."

And as Ramirez explains fighting for female equality has widespread social ramifications that goes beyond improving just the lives of women. "[Men] also benefit from feminism because masculinity can also be very rigid and confining and destructive.... Wouldn't it be better if everybody had the ability to solely be themselves?"

Klein echoes Ramirez's sentiments, noting how important it is for women to engage in dialogues with men about issues such as masculinity and violence against women.

"We are really, really good in society at regulating women's behaviour," said Klein. "We need to start teaching responsibility and accountability to our young men.... We won't change until we start learning how to give young men credit."

In its current form feminism has become about more than just ending sexism. It is about putting an end to all forms of discrimination, such as racism and homophobia.

"Hierarchies exist because they all work together," said Klein. "They all intersect, they all build and add to one another, we can't all be equal until we get rid of hierarchy in general."

What's the harm in a sexist joke?

It's not funny; it's degrading and it's harmful. Those jokes are purposeful even if you don't consciously think so. The joke is to make you understand what your position is, so it makes you feel badly about it.

- Dr. Helen Ramirez, professor

It's important in a culture to also learn how to decide what's funny.... The [logic] is that 'that's just a joke' – that's a statement right there. That's saying 'I'm part of the joke' gets to decide what's funny and you're not.

- Kate Klein, Women's Centre

People that make the comment, 'nine out of ten don't believe it, but they're using [the joke] to get some sort of ... response'.

-Adam Lawrence, Office of Student Diversity

The Miss G_Project

Changing education

Working primarily with high school students, the Miss G_Project has the primary objective of implementing a women and gender studies course in the Ontario high school curriculum.

The project began in 2005 at the University of Western Ontario and now has various chapters across the province, including one at WLU, which is co-chaired by two Laurier students: Sara Conrad and Sasha Cocarla.

"The Miss G_Project is a province-wide, grassroots movement," explained Cocarla. "For any bold change to occur it will need to start really young, we need a redo of the entire way we raise our children [as well as] the education system."

The project has already experienced many successes in this respect, and in 2008 the Ministry of Education promised that a women and gender studies course will become an elective at Ontario high schools by 2010.

Aside from advocating for curriculum changes, the WLU chapter of the Miss G_Project also runs local high school workshops with the aim of breaking down myths surrounding gender.

"We can't start moving towards change until we understand the issues," said Conrad.

During these workshops, an attempt is made to debunk ideas surrounding the acceptance of things such as peer pressure, self-esteem, body image and bullying issues as a natural part of adolescence.

"Part of the Miss G_Project is to get [young people] to think and ask why these are normal things ... and to see possibilities for breaking those walls down," said Cocarla.

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Helen Ramirez, professor of Women's Studies at WLU

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- Kate Klein, Women's Centre arts co-ordinator

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am Lawrence, Office of Student Diversity co-ordinator



JULIE MARION

1978

Male: 1,780

Female: 1,153



GRAPH BY SYDNEY HELLAND

Enrollment at WLU

Numbers based on full-time undergraduate students

Visit cordweekly.com to read Part 1 of the "Women at WLU" series and an interview with women's studies professor Dr. Helen Ramirez. You can also nominate a woman from Laurier to be profiled for the final installment of the series. Nominations close Friday at noon.

The Women's Centre

A safe space on campus

The WLU Women's Centre currently exists to fulfill three primary mandates: providing a safe space on campus for women – or any individual comfortable using the space – to talk about issues of gender, to offer resources – including a library – and to encourage activism in the Laurier community.

"It's really important to have this space where anyone can come to talk about gender openly without a fear of being judged, without feeling that you have to live up to a certain standard of gender performativity and where [women] can feel safe from physical violence and emotional violence," explained arts coordinator of the Women's Centre Kate Klein.

The centre currently has five co-ordinators; however, they operate as a collective and every decision made is one of consensus. "It's really important for an organization that's dedicated to anti-oppression that our practices and the way we operate are anti-oppressive as well," said Klein. "We can't advocate for equality in society if we operate on an unequal working system," she said about the structure of the centre.

The Women's Centre falls under the Office for Student Diversity, which ensures that they have adequate funding for all of their events.

This also means that the Women's Centre has become a formal link at Laurier when issues relating to gender arise. "It has really allowed us to form stronger connections with other groups on campus," said Klein.

For the centre's volunteers, they feel that the space has fulfilled the mandate it initially set out to, when it was first created in 1990.

"It's really important for women to get together and have a space just to hang out socially," said current volunteer Heather Wells. "That's something that is lacking in our culture."

LMAC

Engaging males in the dialogue

Laurier Men Advocating Change (LMAC) is a recently formed group with the goal of ending sexual violence towards women.

LMAC, which began meeting last semester, operates under the premise that sexual assault is not simply a women's issue, but is just as much a men's issue as well.

"It makes sense that men be involved in all steps of the process and lend support in any way they can," said Adam Lewis, a current member of LMAC. "But at the same time men have to be careful that they're not hijacking the feminist struggle," he added.

LMAC works with the Women's Centre and the Office for Student Diversity to develop a united front in dealing with gender oppression.

"There needs to be a co-ordinated response to these issues," said Lewis. "[LMAC] is the third piece of the puzzle."

Lewis feels that it is also important to recognize that who is delivering the message often affects the general dialogue surrounding it.

"We still live in a white, privileged patriarchal society ... and I think that men are more receptive to these sorts of issues, unfortunately, when they come from other men."

With the group engaging in topics of discussion about language, violence and masculinity, Lewis is optimistic about the future this young campus group holds, especially in the context of how important it is that both men and women are involved in ending gender oppression.

"There's still a fundamental, systemic, structural problem with society and, more than ever, men need to challenge it," he added.

CORD-O-SCOPES

Now that spring is finally on its way, this week's Cordoscopes will predict the outcomes of your summer vacation.

Pisces

Feb. 19 - Mar. 20



Your plan this summer is to take a road trip across the continent. But when your car breaks down in Winnipeg, a.k.a. the city that never sleeps before 7 p.m., you'll be stranded for a month. Needless to say, you'll never drive through Western Canada again.

Aries

Mar. 21 - Apr. 19



This summer, you've finally got that corporate internship you've always wanted. Turns out, the corporate world isn't as intellectually stimulating as you thought it would be. Besides, how were you supposed to know they don't let you show up to work drunk?

Taurus

Apr. 20 - May 20



During a camping trip in the Canadian wilderness, you'll get separated from your group and lost in the woods. You'll be found a few weeks later, but by the time you re-enter society, you'll be more animal than human. The good news is that some day, there will be a straight-to-DVD movie loosely based on your story.

Gemini

May 21 - June 20



In need of a last-minute job, you'll get hired as a telemarketer at a call centre. By remarkable fluke chance, you'll misdial and end up on the phone with Barack Obama, eventually solving the global economic crisis. Sadly, the most exposure you'll ever get is a straight-to-DVD movie loosely based on your story.

Cancer

June 21 - July 22



Having failed a course or two this semester, you've decided to stay in Waterloo to take summer courses. But with all the beautiful summer weather and patio parties, you'll end up failing those courses, too. Let's face the facts - you're just not very bright.

Leo

July 23 - Aug. 22



Attracted by an advertisement for earning 100-500 dollars a day, you'll sign up to be a landscaper for the summer. But, after a freak weed whacker incident, you'll wind up with no money and a lifelong crippling fear of perfectly trimmed lawns.

Virgo


Aug. 23 - Sept. 22



Your goal for the summer is to take on a personal challenge, like running a marathon. Sure, running dozens of kilometres a day in intense heat sounds like a bad idea now, but when you're agonizingly tired, having finished 42K, it will all be worth it. Or, you could take up swimming.

Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22



Thinking that you love working with kids, you've decided to work at a summer camp. But when a group of hyperactive six-year-olds hopped up on Dunkaroos start jumping up and down on your reproductive organs, you'll start to realize that maybe sterility ain't such a bad thing after all.

Scorpio


Oct. 23 - Nov. 21



In a rush to go travelling abroad this summer, you'll forget to get your travel inoculations. Thinking that you've contracted Hep-B in Kuala Lumpur, you'll end your trip early, only to find out it was all in your head. You actually contracted it in Taiwan.

Sagittarius


Nov. 22 - Dec. 21



After a whole year of freedom at university, you have to go home to live with your parents again. Hell, I'm not even going to write anything mean about this - that just straight-up sucks.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19



You've always wanted to write a novel and this summer you'll finally have the time to do it. While your 850-page work will never be published, you'll always have the mystique of knowing that maybe centuries down the road, a future society will read it and find it a forgotten classic. Hah! Yeah, you keep telling yourself that.

Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18



You know what they say: there's no time like summertime for an arranged marriage. Okay, so I don't know if people actually say that. But when your parents try to set you up with some weird guy who's writing an 850-page epic novel, just be glad that it's summer.

When Dave Shore was a child, he was a victim of an alien abduction. Now, his therapist thinks it's a good idea to get drunk and write fake horoscopes to help him overcome the trauma.



I'M YOUR VENUS - A Venus Dip with pita triangles was served as an appetizer to the meal.

Raintree diverse

FOODREVIEW



Raintree Café: B



MICHELLE CALDARONI
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

The Raintree Café, located at 220 King St. North, is one of the closest restaurants in proximity to Wilfrid Laurier University - literally across the street from the Athletic Complex adjacent to King Street Residence - yet many students have not enjoyed the small and intimate feel of this hidden gem.

Identifying the style of Raintree Café is tough, as the menu hints towards a Caribbean, Thai, Indian and American feel, which isn't the most common of combinations to say the least.

The menu offers an adequate selection, and keeps options open for those with dietary restrictions. For example, the pasta entrées are vegetarian but chicken or tiger shrimp can be added for a low extra charge.

Our entourage of *Cord* reviewers was seated immediately and given a choice from the ten-or-so tables at the small, two-floor restaurant.

The dimly lit restaurant offers a cozy and intimate experience, and lends itself well to a romantic date or casual lunch get-together. With interesting art on the wall, the Raintree decoration offers a point of conversation during the meal.

In addition, the majority of the art on the wall is for sale, in case it really catches your eye.

We started with the Venus Dip (\$6.95) and pita triangles, which came untoasted and floppy. This was the most disappointing part of the meal because the raw pita triangles did not make it easy to scoop the dip. It may sound silly, but without a spoon this is not an easy feat.

Our meals arrived quickly and were appetizingly displayed with brightly coloured accents and sauces.

The Cajun chicken wrap (\$8.95) and Mediterranean wrap (\$8.95) were gracefully balanced on their respective plates, with strips of carrots and dip on the side. The toasted wraps were stuffed with meat. While they appeared thin, the two pitas were very filling and made for good leftovers.

The third entrée was a vegetarian Thai mango ginger stir-fry (\$13.95) that came piled with colourful peppers and bok choy, in a creamy mango sauce. The chow mein noodles were piled high in the bowl and covered in the mango sauce. While a little spicy, the dish was not spoiled by it.

The large portion was presented well and was enough for a few leftover meals.

At most average-priced restaurants, portion is often not realistic to how much people eat (I hope). Pasta bowls overflow and bread is served without end, where glasses of pop are bottomless and Caesar salads are magically refilled.

This dangerous portioning does not exist at Raintree café, where they have found the perfect balance of generous and realistic.

Between the main course and dessert, I ventured into the washroom and was not pleased by what I saw. Mouldings peeling away from the wall, boxes stacked as they would be in a storage room, dark and dingy and a toilet that did not flush without persuasion... I hoped that the bathrooms were in a process of being remodelled. However, I fear that's not the case.

For dessert, we ordered squirrel pie and a mango cheesecake. The latter was a plain cheesecake with a mango jelly topping, and none too exciting. However, the squirrel pie was very interesting.

Immediately the connection between squirrel pie and Reese's Pieces was made. The dessert had a dark fudgy chocolate layer, thinly spread across the top. The inside was like a peanut butter mousse with peanuts here and there, while the crust was made of a chocolate graham cracker crumble. I would recommend this dessert, despite the silly name.

The Raintree Café offers an average dining experience, enhanced by the variety in their cultural foods.

With a comfortable and casual atmosphere and satisfying, comfortable food, the Raintree Café is a great place for students to check out.

However, I advise that you stay away from the washrooms.

Being *Fash Forward* at Caesar Martini's

The Steele Family Foundation hosts a charity fashion show entitled *Fash Forward* to benefit charities in the Kitchener-Waterloo region

JACLYN STIEF
CORD STUDENT LIFE

On April 3, Jennifer Steele – a 2006 BBA Laurier grad – will be hosting a charity fashion show at Caesar Martini's. This event is titled *Fash Forward*, combining fashion and raising money for charity in one night.

When asked about her Laurier experience, Jennifer reflected on it fondly, saying, "I took business so I learned a lot about management and working with people in different situations. I am able to apply this then to the foundation and all of the work I do."

Her sister Amanda has completed two years in an arts program at Laurier and is assisting her with the fashion show.

It is because of Laurier that Jennifer explains, "I feel I can interact better with people. The academic and the social; it's better integrated. It gave me a lot of confidence and made me more goal-oriented."

Both sisters feel *Fash Forward* will be quite different from last year's event, *Fashionably Founded*. Not only is this more localized, it is also "close-knit" because her family, friends and the community have become more involved.

Fashionably Founded was more of an urban relaxed feel with street wear; *Fash Forward* is more formal and classy with upscale clothing.

Fash Forward is also quite different this year, as clothes are being supplied by two local designers, Megan Bambach and Julie Jacinto, instead of the retailer used last year. Bambach's designs are chic outfits for women, whereas Jacinto's designs are inspired by the seven deadly sins.

Together, the two designers will be producing close to 30 unique creations, giving the opportunity to see two very different collections in their first public showing.

If you are looking for a one-of-a-kind piece to add to your wardrobe, look no further, because all of their designs will be for sale. Both of the designers are also willing to craft custom-made outfits.

The Steele Family Foundation, Their family's own creation, raises and distributes money to multiple local charities. It was started in 2007 as a way for their father to give back to the KW community, in the hopes that his family would carry on the tradition.

The Steele family chooses "grass-roots charities" says Jennifer, as they don't get the funding they need to remain active in the community.

The idea of having a fashion show was created to raise additional money for the many charities the

family's foundation supports. Jennifer explains how the location, the designers, the models and the Steele Family are all from the Kitchener-Waterloo area, making this an entirely local event.

Amanda feels that this event is unique because "it's a lot of social interaction; more personal instead of sitting down at a gala and knowing no one. You come with friends and have a good time."

"I'M PRETTY CONFIDENT. ALL OF OUR FRIENDS ARE PROMOTING IT. IT'S JUST A LOT OF WORK, BUT NOTHING THAT ISN'T MANAGEABLE."

- Jennifer Steele, The Steele Family Foundation

The Steele sisters shared a couple laughs when asked about their relationship. According to Jennifer, they are very dissimilar but close. "We have different interests. I'm more business-oriented. Amanda's more creative."

Amanda also shares that, "We'll put our differences aside and work together for projects like these." Is Jennifer worried about this year's charity fashion show? Not one bit.

She actually claimed, "I'm pretty confident. All of our friends are promoting it. It's just a lot of work, but nothing that isn't manageable."

"People are usually more understanding when it's for charity, more willing to help out." In terms of goals, she hopes to match or even surpass the \$2,500 that was made last year.

Both sisters encourage students to come out to support charity and have a great time at Caesar Martini's. Jennifer is excited for the newly improved event because, "The fashion show is big but having these local designers is half of the main attraction; half is charity, half is designer clothes."

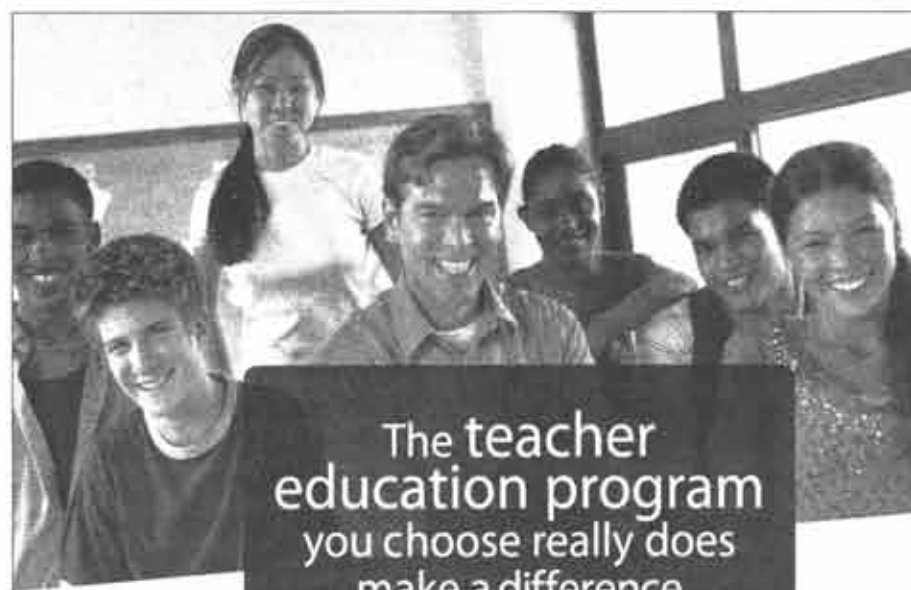
For those worried about giving up a night out on the town, don't fret. *Fash Forward* is like any other regular club night with drinks, music and dancing, with the added benefit of watching a fashion show.

Doors open at 9 p.m. and the show starts at 10:30 p.m., with tickets costing \$5 in advance or \$10 at the door. There will also be dessert samples throughout the night along with free prizes and gift baskets to be won.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WALK THE LINE - *Fash Forward* is being held this year at Caesar Martini's on April 3. Doors for the event open at 10:30 p.m.



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Students and city need co-operation

Last night's town hall meeting at St. Michael's Church re-opened an ongoing debate between permanent residents of the City of Waterloo and its student population.

If one thing is clear from this long-time argument between residents and students, it is that something needs to be done.

Residents are right to feel upset. Their property values are suffering and they are living in a neighbourhood filled with excess noise and litter.

Yet residents must remember that the student population allows the local economy to thrive.

Students are also often unhappy with living conditions. We pay high rent payments to landlords that are often negligent of their duties, many of them living outside the city. Off-campus student housing is often in poor repair and unappealing to live in. It is understandable that we don't treat our neighbourhood with care.

If the city expects students to respect the community, it certainly does very little to earn it. Sidewalk regulations are rarely enforced in winter, making sidewalks in stu-

dent areas icy and dangerous. And when regulations are enforced, by-law officers usually target students themselves.

Rather than threatening us with fines and by-laws, the city should create a respectful partnership with students. If Waterloo wants to create a cleaner neighbourhood and retain more students after graduation, it must make the student population feel like a welcome part of the community.

The most important course of action for the city, however, is to work with developers and landlords.

Developers must be held accountable to ensure that new student housing units are built soundly and are within a reasonable price range for students.

The city must ensure that landlords maintain their properties instead of passing these duties on to students.

Of course, students must be held accountable for their actions. But for the most part, improving the quality of living for students in the community would mean improving the quality of living for everyone else, too.



GRAPHIC BY MATT ENGLISH

WLUSA grievance selfish

The Wilfrid Laurier University Staff Association's (WLUSA) efforts to unionize nearly 1,300 student jobs on campus are misguided and selfish.

The Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) has evidence to prove that when WLUSA unionized in 1995, student jobs were not sought after to be part of the certification.

This suggests that WLUSA's current grievance is a retroactive attempt to gain additional income and influence in the university.

While the benefits to WLUSA are clear, unionizing student jobs is harmful to most other group on campus. For students, it would make on-campus jobs harder to obtain in the future. This is especially relevant to graduate students, many of whom rely on guaranteed TA positions to fund their schooling.

Furthermore, a decision in favour of WLUSA would strip students of what should be their right to decide for themselves whether or not to unionize.

As for the university administration, which has been making attempts to expand its graduate programs, this unionization could hurt its ability to attract strong students.

Should WLUSA be allowed to unionize students, the university may also be forced to pay the union 14 years' worth of union dues on behalf of past students. It hardly makes economic sense to demand an already struggling institution to take an unnecessary financial blow.

WLUSA should take a step back from its self-serving position and realize that it should back down from the arbitration process.

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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LAURA TOMKINS
PHOTO MANAGER

Have you ever felt like the odd ball? Have you ever been unable to give an explanation for what you're doing in life? If your answer to those questions is yes, then I can relate.

As I'm sure we're all aware, Laurier is a school that places a great emphasis on the volunteer options it has available to students. This is the beauty of being part of such a small campus.

Sure, you can find a lot of diversity within the campus clubs that are available here, but what they lack is balance.

By this I mean that we are seriously lacking in the number of science students that get involved around campus. But what is the underlying cause for this minority?

I'm sure there are people who will agree with me that the science professors in this school tend to emphasize how important it is to keep on top of your schoolwork, make sure you answer every question that is assigned to you and complete every lab report with clarity and precision.

But the one thing that I have

never heard a science professor mention is how important it is for students to get involved outside of the classroom.

See, it's not all about the academics, as they like to think it is. Sure, you can be academically smart, which may land you a well-paid job, but it is also important to be "street smart," so to speak. If you don't learn to keep up with the way the world is changing, the ways people interact with one another and to just put yourself out there to learn something new, it will be difficult to adapt later on.

I'm sure that most professionals who are in the field and who hold a science degree under their belt aren't constantly secluded within a lab setting. Look at doctors and therapists, for instance; these people have to be able to communicate with others in order to perform their duties, but you don't learn these skills simply by studying a textbook.

These jobs require the knowledge of the tone that you must adopt, the body language you give off and, most importantly, the ability to understand the personalities of the people you are speaking to.

It feels like we are forced to always be focusing on getting our labs done, writing up all the reports that follow them and to constantly be studying for the dread-

ful midterms that take a lot more than just memorization. We aren't really given the time to do much else.

If you have a job, then that's what you've got on the side, but where is this community involvement that others speak of?

Why aren't science students given as much of a chance to get involved in co-curricular activities as arts students are?

Something has to give somewhere, whether it be that you don't get perfect As for every course or that you miss out on other opportunities around campus. I, for one, think it's not all about the marks.

I enjoy what I am doing right now. I have learned a lot more by being involved around campus than I would have learned otherwise just from sticking my head in a textbook during my free time.

I'm not trying to denote the fact that arts students have more time on their hands, but look around you. How many science students are involved in the campus club that you're in?

Nowadays there is a greater emphasis for individuals to be more well-rounded, to be able to adapt to the changing environment. Laurier's science program would do well to take this into account.

letters@cordweekly.com

Discussing feminism

With International Women's Week brought to a close, two *Cord* opinion columnists debate some of the finer points of feminism

If God exists, it doesn't have a penis



WILL MAIN
BEYOND THE MAINSTREAM

While walking around a campus both heavily clad in Women's Week promotional material and home to a remarkably creepy old seminary building, I was struck with the impression of a strange tension.

In the name of social progress for women (as well as other historically oppressed groups) we have made persistent efforts to bleed our society and culture of all institutions that accommodate or perpetuate said oppression.

However, there is one institution that we have yet to make concerted effort to rid ourselves of, and this one could easily be called the great grand-daddy of all misogyny: religion.

It is difficult to think of any one social institution which has caused or condoned as much sex-based oppression as religion.

From Biblical verses that declare that wives must "submit [themselves] unto their husbands" (Colossians 3:18) to those that state that women must keep silent in church and save any questions they may have for their husbands at home (1 Corinthians 14:34-35), religious teachings are packed full of explicit and implicit sexism.

Taking cues on gender relations from religious texts and teachings merely serves to codify ancient and absurd social norms.

There are many other incredibly outdated edicts in the Bible such as those against eating pork, shaving or wearing clothes made from mixed fibres that we long ago abandoned. The question then presents itself: why have we allowed ancient notions of gender relations to persist?

The reason is that the sexism in popular religion runs much deeper than a few verses; it goes right to the core.

To the believer I ask in earnest, haven't you ever thought it strange that an omnibenevolent being would create two kinds of people, but create one in "his" image and love them more? Or that it would send a piece of itself down from heaven as a man? Or that all of the disciples of this holy man would also be men?

If God exists, It cannot be a man. To be a man would be to make women naturally inferior, which really wouldn't be a nice or sensible thing for an all-loving and all-knowing being to do. If God exists It has no penis, no testicles, no face, skin or sexual orientation.

There's a reason it all seems particularly unenlightened and out of step with our general views about inherent human equality. And that is that religious text was less likely written by an omnibenevolent being than it was by a small handful of old and dried-up men in some dusty old tower a few thousand

is most responsible for the shape of Western social institutions. However, let me be clear that this is not a problem in any way exclusive to Christianity; sexism is pervasive through most major religions, because they all involve the codification of thousands of years-old social structures.

Furthermore, I feel I must be explicit in saying the problem is not necessarily with the idea of God, just the idea of *that* God.

To move forward we need to first let go of the past. Religion is historical codification and progress will be inexorably limited until we let go of it.

So if you consider yourself a feminist, someone who wants equal rights for all genders, please do not consider yourself religious and vice versa. To consider yourself both religious and in favour of equality for women would make you a walking contradiction.

You can keep your spirituality, your belief in something greater, and even your belief in God, but please, please, do away with any belief you may have in the ridiculous and outdated social system prescribed by mainstream religion.

No woman can be free while bowing before a man.

letters@cordweekly.com

Feminism mustn't reinforce status quo



KIMBERLY ELWORTHY
UNDER THE RADAR

It's hard to believe that since 1971 women have made over two-thirds of enrollment growth at universities in Canada and yet only one-third of Canadian faculty are female.

As International Women's Week continues to grab the attention of students, arguments arise over the necessity of such a week.

Most people hear the word feminism and automatically clench their shoulders and adopt grotesque, repulsed faces.

In a recent study, more than 60 percent of American women said they would not consider themselves feminists.

What is it about feminism we seem to dislike so much?

As women and men of the West during a supposedly "progressive" era, why is it such a difficult concept for us to understand?

Basically, feminism's goal is to assert women as equals to men and, more specifically, encompass the same legal rights as men.

Obviously, there are many problems that arise from this statement alone.

We all know that there isn't equality amongst all men; there have to be considerations of race, class and sexuality when statements like these are made.

There has to be recognition of a woman's race, class or sexuality as well.

Generally, it is assumed that women want to be equal to white, middle-class, heterosexual men.

However, this legitimizes and reinforces the hierarchy of patriarchy instead of challenging it or breaking it down.

Some women are equal to some men, especially when the context of those individuals is considered, but this is obviously not enough.

Having marginalized people being equal to other marginalized people does not make for progress.

Attempting to define levels of oppression furthers the confusion of feminism. Is a homosexual white man as equally discriminated against as a heterosexual white woman? Is a lower-class man of a visible minority equal to a lesbian white woman?

Context is obviously a huge determinant to these questions and makes it almost impossible to make collective statements of women's experience in society. Everything is dependent on time, location, demographics, etc.

Understandably, feminism loses its energy with the burdening of all this relativism.

It makes sense then for an equal rights movement to adopt quick explanatory statements such as the one I made earlier, "Women as equals to men," for a simple understanding of the cause, but this also works to completely disassemble its own goals.

By fighting for the same treatment and considerations as white, middle-class, heterosexual men, feminists by default suggest that men's experience is the best and must be achieved.

It devalues the lifestyles of other people and cultures that choose not to adhere to the system of patriarchy.

Assuming a "type" of person has the perfect life experience is quite naïve as well.

Men find dissatisfaction in the public sphere and in capitalist society, just as women do.

Although it is not encouraged in Western culture for men to work within the home, many have found satisfaction in raising families, cooking, cleaning and running a household – roles typically considered feminine.

Feminism should seek to align all those of difference because everyone should have the ability to choose the life that seems right for them and not have to adhere to socially accepted gender roles.

Maybe women do not identify themselves as feminists anymore because they do not wish to have exactly what men have, but rather they want all that femininity now has to offer.



Canada's anti-Islamic actions shameful

Harper's treatment of Abousfian Abdelrazik, a Canadian citizen trapped in Sudan, is enough to warrant kicking him out of office



JOSH SMYTH
THE EXAMINED LIFE

Our government should be thrown out of office. Now.

Not for what it has done or hasn't done to the economy, health care or foreign affairs, but for what it has done to just one man: Abousfian Abdelrazik.

Abdelrazik immigrated here as a refugee from the civil war in his native Sudan in 1990. In 1995, he became a Canadian citizen.

He lived here quietly with his family until 2000, when he was among a number of Montreal Muslims subjected to intense surveillance by counter-terrorism agents.

Although he was subjected to surveillance severe enough to prompt him to call the Montreal police to complain of harassment, Abdelrazik was never charged with

a crime, denied all ties to al-Qaeda and testified for the prosecution during the trial of Ahmed Ressam, the "Millennium Bomber."

In 2003, he returned to Sudan on his Canadian passport to visit his mother. There, he was arrested and imprisoned by the Sudanese government.

After 11 months of torture and interrogations, including questioning by agents he identified as Canadian, he was released. The Sudanese government later officially exonerated him.

After his release, he expected to fly home on a Lufthansa/Air Canada ticket paid for by his family. Following standard procedure, a diplomat was to accompany him, as his passport had expired while he was in prison.

At the last moment, the airlines refused to carry him, citing his presence on the US no-fly list (although his route did not stop in the US).

Canadian diplomats were ordered from Ottawa not to tell Ab-

delrazik why he wasn't allowed on the plane.

He lived under surveillance in Khartoum until 2005, when he was re-arrested. Recent documents establish that either his first, second or both arrests were on the request of Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS).

LET'S NOT KID OURSELVES. IF ABDELRAZIK HAD A WHITE FACE, OR IF HIS NAME WAS ROBERT, HE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN THROWN INTO A SUDANESE TORTURE CHAMBER ON CANADIAN REQUEST.

After ten more months in a Sudanese prison, he was again released. Sudanese authorities refused to hold an innocent man.

Ottawa ordered diplomats to deny him a passport or travel documents, and the US formally designated him a terrorist.

In 2007-08, the RCMP officially reported to the government that they could find no evidence of any criminal activity on Abdelrazik's part, but CSIS still lists him as an "important Islamic Jihad activist."

In April 2008, he sought refuge in the Canadian embassy in Khartoum, and was granted it on the grounds that he faces risk of re-arrest. He has lived there ever since.

The government, as of 2004, had promised that Abdelrazik was entitled to the same as any Canadian citizen: emergency travel documents to return home.

They refused to issue them, however, until he obtained an airline reservation.

In September 2008, he got the reservation. Canadian authorities still refused to issue the documents.

As of December 2008, Passport Canada changed the rules. Abdelrazik, now utterly destitute, has to produce a fully paid-for ticket before documents will be granted.

The government has now indicated that his remaining assets will

be seized, and that anyone who helps him purchase a ticket home will be committing a crime under anti-terrorism laws.

This Kafkaesque bullshit is shameful and must end.

It exposes the worst instincts of our current government, whose combination of chest-thumping security consciousness, vote-chasing Islamophobia, secrecy and servile attitude towards the US has deprived an innocent Canadian citizen of his rights and torn him from his family.

Let's not kid ourselves. If Abdelrazik had a white face, or if his name was Robert, he would never have been thrown into a Sudanese torture chamber on Canadian request.

Were it not for the efforts of The Globe and Mail (from which this article gleaned many facts) and NDP MP Paul Dewar, this matter would be buried.

It is not, though, a partisan issue. The government should be thrown out not because it is Conservative, but because its treatment of this man has been shameful, immoral and illegal.

letters@cordweekly.com

Society needs to widen its concept of beauty

Our narrow definition of beauty harms the confidence of too many people



DEVON BUTLER
HYDE PARK CORNER

I think I may be the only person on earth who does not find Brad Pitt or Angelina Jolie attractive. This has led to various debates with people who are convinced that Brangelina is the epitome of real beauty.

Though most say "beauty is in the eye of the beholder," people often come to similar conclusions on what constitutes beauty.

Beauty pageants such as Miss America, television shows like Extreme Makeover and People Magazine's "Most Beautiful People" countdown exemplify this.

They define beauty as thinness, clear skin, a perfect white smile and, of course, long, luxurious locks. Delicate features are also desired; however, most human beings are not born with this "natural beauty."

Perhaps this accounts for the 11.7 million plastic surgery procedures that occurred in America in the past year alone.

Widening our perspective on beauty is not a new concept. A few years ago, Dove launched its "Campaign for Real Beauty" and the message was well-received. However, since then, our perception of beauty has not changed by much.

North America is not the only place obsessed with defining and

obtaining beauty. Cultures and countries all over the world have drastically different definitions of its meaning.

Recently, the BBC investigated the extremes that people go to in order to achieve beauty all around the world.

In Japan, perfect skin is the key to true beauty. Instead of injecting collagen or botox, women consume collagen orally by injecting it into their food or water. Their desire for porcelain skin doesn't end there; a frequently used beauty remedy is mixing soap with bird droppings to use as face wash.

To the Kayan tribe in Burma, beauty is an elongated neck. Ethiopian women find beauty in scarring their body, whilst Polynesians acquire it through tattooing.

Though some of these practices may appear excessive, they are not so different from spending hundreds of dollars on beauty products, hair extensions, eyelash extensions and tanning. Imagine how bizarre our beauty routines would appear to other cultures.

Aside from North America, the most beauty-obsessed location is Brazil. The average weight of Brazilian women is 110-125 pounds, and it's no surprise they are the biggest consumers of diet pills in the world.

Even Iran, a country of strict conservatism, has been named the "nose job capital of the world" with over 60,000 rhinoplasty operations occurring annually.

What is it about a perfectly thin nose or slender figure that makes a person beautiful? Is it okay that 90 percent of women told Dove's poll that there is something about their bodies they desperately want to change?

We are greatly conditioned by the society we grow up in to think a certain way about how we should look or the kind of person we should be.

Perhaps if we grew up in Mauritania, our perspective would be different. In this African country, skinny women are viewed as sick and unhappy - the beauty norm is to carry some extra weight.

But who do these beauty practices really benefit? Most cultures use these beauty rituals only in hopes of attracting a mate.

Feeling beautiful should be something everyone, woman and man, feels without having to cover up what our society deems as ugly. This confidence should be drawn from a place deeper than mere physical appearance.

I doubt Brangelina is going anywhere and I don't see a time in the near future when the demands for perfection will decrease. We should, however, learn to distinguish reality from plastic.

Perhaps if we understand more of what other cultures see as beauty, our focus will become wider and together as a society we can start accepting people as they are.

letters@cordweekly.com

Campus Pictorial



YUSUF KIDWAI

HACKIN' - Nick Bryans enjoys the warm March weather on campus.

Letters to the Editor

Apartheid week one-sided

The Apartheid week campaign sponsored by LSPIRG on our campus was offensive and ignorant for several reasons. The posters that featured an Israeli helicopter attacking a child, or the Israeli soldier keeping the baby away from the bottle are pretty controversial, I mean do you really see all Palestinians as babies? Think of a reverse version of the poster where a Middle Eastern man with a Palestinian flag and bomb strapped to him was approaching a bus full of Jewish children. I would expect a lot of people to be equally offended. My problem is that the posters are one sided and simplify a conflict that is much more complicated than the posters make it out to be. Raising awareness for current the victims is not the same as raising awareness of the entire conflict.

A lot of educated people on our campus have their opinion on the topic which is good, however the majority are not educated and influencing them in this way is nothing short of propaganda. In Israel's short history they have had a female Prime Minister, have adopted a large number of Ethiopian refugees, and some of the government cabinet is composed of Israeli-Arabs. No body seems to mention that or the attitude and beliefs that have been publicly shared by Leaders in certain Arab countries towards extermination of all Jews (not just Israeli Jews) way before Israel's existence. And yet a group that exists on our campus

(financed through student fees) to support human rights and peaceful resolutions has chosen not to mention this at all, and instead has sided aggressively with one side on the issue. This will greatly hinder the hope of any education and discussion as other people are almost forced to choose a side as well contributing to an us vs. them mentality.

So was this week really about educating, or more about yelling for something that seemed good on paper, until some of these issues are put into context this is not quite the Apartheid week that it claims to be.

-Vadim Levin

Family is important

As a more mature, experienced 30 something returning Laurier graduate, I have great concern for woman/men who seek out shallow rewards as those in the article "Gold diggers need comeback".

I have witnessed many friends go through the relationship process of their twenties, getting engaged, having kids and ultimately getting divorced. As a bystander to these marriages, I witnessed many of them marrying for the wrong reasons. Woman, marrying a guy because he could be a good provider, he was good looking, has a nice car and mother approved. Him, marrying because all his friends and dad thinks she's hot, seamlessly for all the wrong reasons. The marriage starts, they have a brand new house built, hardwood floors and annual vacations in Mexico. They

have kids, the responsibilities of life come about with no real stable connection as a couple. The relationship dissolves and ends up in divorce. In quite contrast to what our striving journalist says, marriage as a business contract isn't doing us well, and is not what our ancestors did. Our ancestors were young, broke and had nothing to offer each other. They only had themselves to offer each other, they had kids young and fell in love with the concept of family. They went through hard times and got to the other side because they connected as a family. When times got rough, she didn't take the easy way out and find another man for emotional/financial support. It is easy to prostitute ourselves to get the vices in life like money and beauty, but leave us broke of love, emotional connections/stability, family, fun and laughter. To this I say to you my young readers, will you make the same mistakes as my fellow peers have and continue to make filled with vain rewards of material possessions and a trophy wife?

-Cory Schneider

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 or through our website at www.cordweekly.com. Letters must not exceed 350 words.

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

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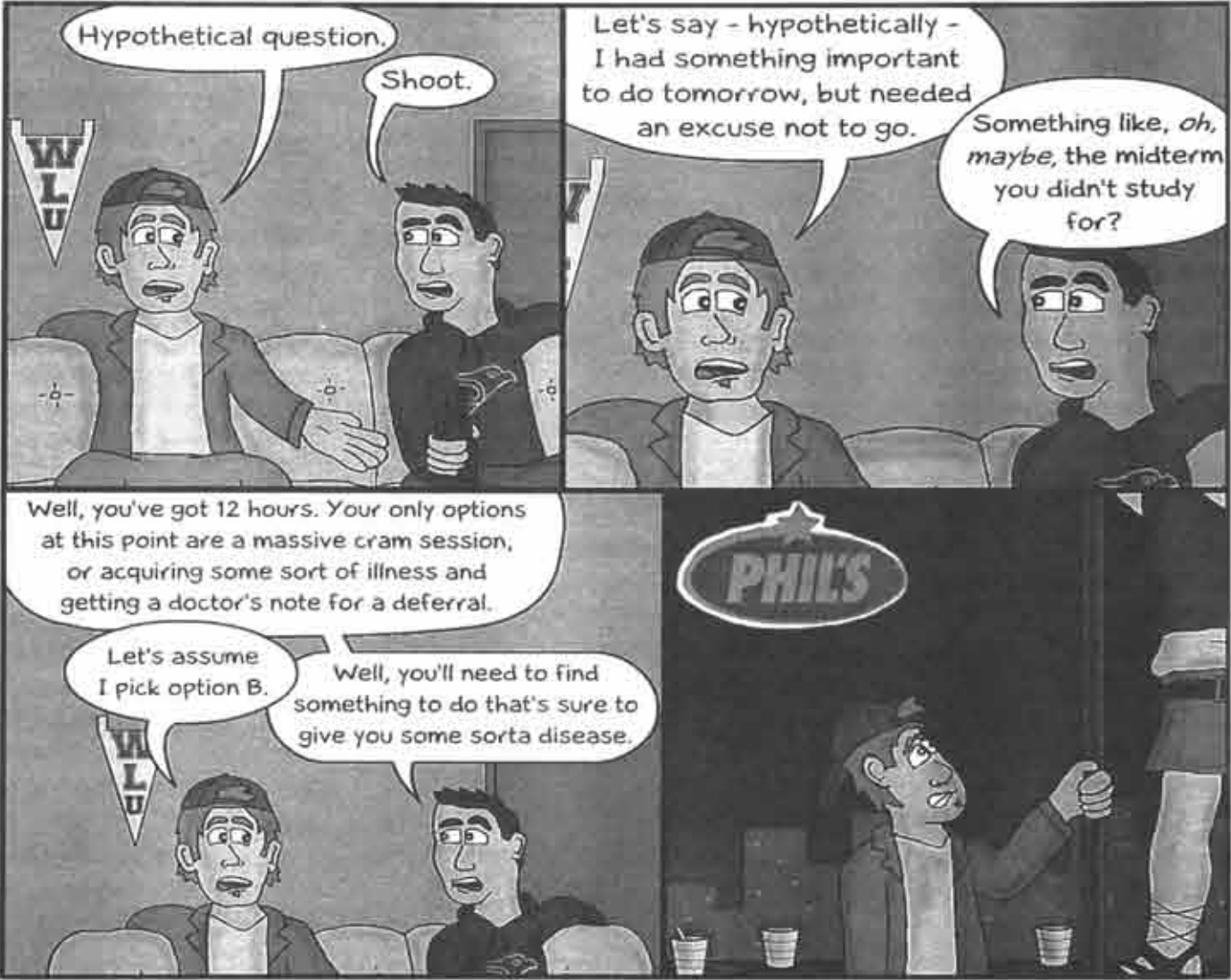
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2	5					9	1	
1	7				6		5	8
				8		1		
5	1		3		4		9	6
		2		6				
9	2		4				8	7
	4	3					2	1
	6		2	7	1			

COMIC STRIP CLUB

Matt English



Last issue's solution:

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

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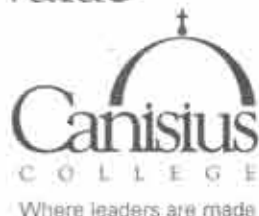
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Imagyn another world

Film festival provokes thought on gender inequality and violence

SHANNON BUSTA
CORD A&E

Imagine living in a society founded on notions of equality. For everyone. A society where personal safety and rights are guaranteed for all parties. Now think for a second about what it would take to get us there. There is a big gap between what we are today and what a society like that would look like.

Unfortunately, this is where so many people just stop thinking about tough issues. Lucky for us, last spring, some students and professors at Laurier decided that they were not going to stop thinking about the tough issue of ending gendered violence.

Laurier students Kate Klein, Sasha Cocarla and Sara Conrad have spent the last year or so creating, planning and organizing the Imagyn Film Festival. With the help of women's studies professor Dr. Helen Ramirez and film studies professor Dr. Katherine Spring, the team has worked to provide us all with a creative and productive way

in which to address and explore an issue that affects one in three women around the world.

Imagyn was created so that students from across Canada can speak out against this reality. Using artistic expression in the form of film, concerned people are shattering the silence that has accompanied every type of gendered violence in the past.

"INSTEAD OF REMINDING WOMEN NOT TO WALK ALONE, HOW ABOUT REMINDING MEN THAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS NOT COOL."

- Student in women's studies course.

Upon entering the Senate and Board Chambers Sunday afternoon, one found approximately 40 pieces of paper with various personal thoughts and ideas surrounding the issue of gendered violence spread across large tables. These thoughts originated from one of Ramirez's women's studies courses

and presented a very diverse picture of what Laurier students think and feel about the problem.

"More light and more security is NOT going to stop violence and assault on campus," one student claims in the collection.

"I wonder why men aren't outraged about the amount of gendered violence on campus. Why aren't the good guys speaking up?" another asks.

"Instead of reminding women not to walk alone, how about reminding men that violence against women is NOT COOL," one student suggests.

Issues such as these were addressed in the 18 short films showcased at the festival. The films were submitted from across Canada by both men and women, English and French, with ages ranging from middle school to university. Five of these films were created by Laurier students.

Imagyn and its films are a fantastic example of how creative expression can be used to promote change in honest, non-threatening and accessible ways. The range of topics covered in the films displays the vast kinds of gendered violence that young and old are subject to daily. Bullying, catcalling, drug-assisted assault, verbal abuse, degradation, sexual assault and rape were among the topics tackled by directors.

The structure of the Imagyn Film Festival was clearly designed to facilitate understanding and increase awareness of gendered violence. Change cannot happen without first educating audiences about the need for it.

The weekend started off Friday night with the topic "Contextualizing Gendered Violence" and a brief film screening, which prepared participants for a screening of the majority of films Saturday evening. Sunday was then dedicated to "Tackling Gendered Violence: Workshops and Screenings."

Workshops were led by both women and men alike. Topics for discussion ranged from how Disney conditioned children to accept gender violence to how women and men can work together to make our community a safer place. These workshops in turn sparked some heated debates around the realities of gender, language (for instance: is "feminism" dead? Is the term "violence" overused?) and directions for the future.

Imagyn teaches participants all that gendered violence goes beyond the physical - it also qualifies as emotional, psychological, financial and spiritual abuse.

Encouraging participants to stop associating femininity with inferiority and to treat others with respect, Imagyn showed the ability in promoting change through artistic expression.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

WORRIED? - Imagyn hopes to cut down on misconceptions of gender.

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Taking us out of our depth

Esther Wheaton talks to Edwin Outwater, conductor of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, about taking listeners on a journey

ESTHER WHEATON
STAFF WRITER

Edwin Outwater thinks Björk and Beethoven are both great artists, he ignores the bounds of genre and he has a blog. Edwin Outwater is not your typical orchestral conductor, or at least what you would consider one to be. Since he began working with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, Outwater has redefined the orchestra's image and invented a new concert series, *Intersections*, designed to feature music that belongs neither in the pop nor classical worlds.

"Orchestra meets something else," he called it in an interview with *The Cord*. "I was working with a lot of artists who didn't fit into any particular musical category. They didn't necessarily belong in a classical music series. They didn't belong in the world of pop music. They were hybrid artists," he explained.

"It's a popular series at UW, and people come in and really don't know what they're going to hear. We don't list what's going to be played, there's just a theme happening." So far, he went on to say, the concerts have featured electronica, folk, jazz and film music. "In the future," he suggested, "classical music meets food."

Performed in the Humanities Theatre at the University of Waterloo, the concerts are more intimate than those performed at the Centre in the Square. "Also, we dispense with all the classical music rituals in this series," Outwater added. "A lot of it is like a talk show. We bring in guests, we chat, we play music. It's super informal, super funny. It's great."

And Outwater seems to be quite a draw, bringing in big names from DJ and electronic composer Mason Bates, to YouTube violin sensation Gilles Apap, to conducting the premiere of "Popcorn Superhet Receiver," a piece by Radiohead's Jonny Greenwood.

Outwater doesn't agree that the orchestra is obsolete, or even the snobby organization many believe it to be. "If you listen to groups like Arcade Fire, or Björk or Sigur Rós, they're using orchestral textures and orchestral instruments," he said. "Sigur Rós works with a string quartet a lot, it's an essential part of their music. And a brass band."

Despite all the new electronic, DIY sounds from programs like ProTools and GarageBand, Outwater has noticed people find there's nothing quite like an orchestra to create music. "I remember the Hollywood Bowl did a Grizzly Bear concert, and they had the LA Phil as their opening act, and they asked Grizzly Bear what piece they wanted to hear, as an opener, and 'The Firebird,' Stravinsky, that's what they chose."

"There's a perception that it's elitist," he agreed, "that it's a museum and stodgy, and I think that's

true to some extent, that's the image we've backed ourselves into in the 20th century. It's not! The tickets are cheap, first of all. It's not elitist, people can afford to go to these things. It's cheaper than a movie sometimes. Yes, there's a culture of snobbery that surrounds the music, but we're trying our best to get rid of that."

I think, rather than a museum, what an orchestra really is, is 52 – in this case full-time – musicians who live and teach in the community, make music of all kinds at the highest possible levels. They were chosen by national audition and are virtuosos. I mean, that's a cool concept. If you said we have 52 musicians living in our town doing stuff for kids one week, for old people the next week, for young people the week after that. Play Nico Muhly one week, play Mozart the week after that."

It is critics and audiences that Outwater blames for misconceptions of the symphony and the associated classical genre. The only dividing line for him is music that is engaging versus music that isn't. "There's wallpaper," he said, "and there's music that turns you on. I'm always looking for new music that carries on the tradition of being engaging."

When asked which artists can claim this distinction, he listed artists he refers to as "hybrids": Arcade Fire, Owen Pallett of Final Fantasy, Silver Mt. Zion, Do Make Say Think, Grizzly Bear and others.

When Outwater programs a concert, he likes to take audiences on a journey, and wants them to go home talking about something. "I have to talk about something," he explained. "It's not recycling the past; it's not ritualizing the past. I think that's not how people like to be entertained in the 21st century. They want to discover something new."

"I think the ultimate musical rebel is someone who gets into classical music. Because that takes the most effort, you know." There's an incredible reverse snobbery towards classical music, Outwater pointed out. "Oh, classical music isn't for me." Imagine some snobby old lady saying that about Grizzly Bear.

"It's exactly the same phrase said with the same disdain and lack of knowledge. I happen to believe that Mahler and Beethoven are incredible, powerful things, and one ambition of mine is to share that with as many people as possible."

But orchestral music isn't for everyone, he concedes. "We provide inspiration to people, that this music is supposed to engage and inspire, but I'm not saying someone can't be inspired by going to a hockey game. It might be a different kind of inspiration, but it's not an either-or proposition, it's not an 'I'm better than you' kind of thing."

And Edwin Outwater is not an "I'm better than you" kind of guy. On his blog, www.edwinoutwater.com.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

INTENSE - But not inaccessible. Edwin Outwater believes in breaking down the mystique of the conductor.

om, he makes a point of being accessible. "I believe in demystifying and taking the anonymity away from conductors and classical musicians, so I look at my blog as a flash of what I'm into," he explained, contrasting his site with those of other classical musicians who spend paragraphs writing analyses of single musical gestures. "I don't want to read it, and I don't want to write it," he said. "But that doesn't mean they're not worthwhile."

In today's failing economy, the purpose of the arts has often been questioned. The KWS has a goal to make the arts an escape from the hard times, and is showing their awareness of the situation by providing sales on ticket prices, and increasing advertising. But Outwater doesn't think the increase of outreach and PR will compromise the integrity of the art.

"We're not changing what we're doing onstage," he said, recalling the wide variety of concerts on the programme. "Maybe sometimes

the focus is commercial, but maybe once you're in the door you'll have a better experience, better than you imagined. Because many people don't know what they're getting into when they go to the orchestra for the first time, they don't know the potential power of the music until they've actually heard it and

felt it in their bones."

The next *Intersections* concert scheduled is "Fearless Piano" on April 30 at UW's Humanities Theatre. Based on the intersection between music and art, students can watch pianist Eve Egoyan perform for \$20.

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Watching the Watchmen

The Cord takes an in-depth look at what has turned out to be the most devisive movie of the year

Despite most of the positive buzz that surrounded the release of Zach Snyder's new film adaptation of the graphic novel *Watchmen*, it has still divided critics and fans alike – in a way that hasn't been seen with a major release in a long time. Knowing full well that one opinion might not be enough to properly inform you about this film, we have decided to provide you with four different viewpoints culled from each writer's review on *cordweekly.com* – all of which vary in opinion. One thing unites viewers, though – go and see it, and decide for yourself. This isn't a film to miss.

KEVIN HATCH

Fresh off a similarly faithful comic book adaptation of Frank Miller's *300*, Snyder's vow to cherish the graphic novel, *Watchmen*, as his Bible throughout filmmaking appeared the crucial solution to a very complex problem. The director faced the incredible difficulty of transferring the staggering variety of thematic, social and political content of Moore's dark exploration and subversion of the superhero myth: keep as much of it intact on screen as possible to satisfy the die-hard fans, without alienating those uninitiated with the source text. However, Snyder's slavish dedication to the graphic novel ultimately proves to be both *Watchmen*'s greatest strength and most profound failure, resulting in

a film which is within earshot of greatness, and yet is never quite the *Watchmen* of expectations.

And yet, even such a comparatively pale shadow of the original proves an utterly exhausting experience, particularly for those unfamiliar with the text itself. While Snyder retains the narrative valiantly while truncating it into a palatable fashion for the uninitiated, viewers may still find the length, pacing and sheer mass of information presented daunting and somewhat of a struggle to digest. Snyder's overly trendy cinematic sensibilities hardly help the matter, attempting to punch up the excitement factor of an extremely long, mostly narrative- and character-driven superhero film with sporadic slow-motion inundated and frenzied, garishly violent fight scenes. Although enthralling and often gruesomely engrossing, these scenes prove so tiresomely in tune with recent action movie conventions – such sequences adapt a look sure to appear incredibly dated within a short matter of years. The musical score feels incongruous and jarring, but just as often subversively fitting. The disconnect between the two, however, shines light on the uneasy veneer of the film.

WADE THOMPSON

Without a doubt, *Watchmen* is one of the most visually compelling films you will ever encounter.

The director of the stylistic but less-than-stellar *300* accomplishes the impossible by bringing substantial life to the "unfilmable" graphic novel of the same name. That's not even the impressive part. What's impressive is that it's good. No, not good. Fantastic. It is one of the most faithful adaptations to its source material that you will ever encounter.

The movie continually plasters its audience with reasons to be glued to the screen, never wasting a moment of its prolonged runtime. There has to be something said about the opening credits sequence as well, which has to be the best I have ever seen. With the exception of the Dr. Manhattan flashback sequence, the opening credits give the best example of all the elements that make *Watchmen* such a compelling story. The art direction, effects, editing and Snyder's fantastic direction all give way to the glory that is this film.

TREVOR LOUGHBOROUGH

I've always kind of thought the whole "Zack Snyder is a visionary director" thing is kind of weird, because I can't think of anything less visionary than just following exactly what happens in the comic book, nearly frame for frame. It seems a bit lazy to me. This perception was strengthened in me by his use of music in the film – it's about as subtle as a sledgehammer. Some-

times it works, but other times it feels, again, lazy – he always picks the most clichéd music to convey a certain mood. I mean, "Ride of the Valkyries"? Seriously?

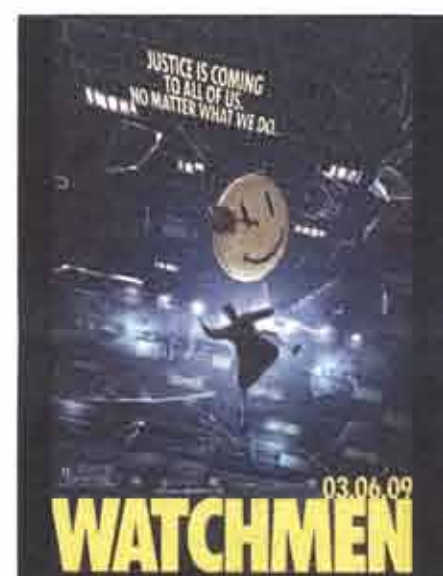
And yet, I enjoyed the movie. To be fair to Snyder, it is visually stunning. At least he lets the dramatic framing of the comic book show its stuff. And considering how his last effort was based off 88 pages of mostly action, this one is 416 densely packed, dialogue- and meaning-drenched pages... Suffice to say, there are a few more complications adapting this one to a Hollywood movie. But they do pretty well. As entertainment value goes, the pacing was handled as best it could be – it's a long movie, and I felt it moved along fairly well. And at least it was trying to say something with that 162 minutes; although the use of the Cold War as the framing device no longer resonates, the themes and questions explored do.

DANIEL JOSEPH

Watchmen taken as a film – not as a comic – is a very bold enterprise. A movie about a cadre of former superheroes that fight against just about everything from government to petty thieves to outrageous conspiracies in a Cold War alternate-reality America where Nixon serves his third term as president and the (first) war in Afghanistan threatens the entire world with nuclear

holocaust.

Wow. That's a lot to take in. I saw this film without having read the graphic novel, and this might be the reason why it has not left a sour taste in my mouth. There weren't any expectations of greatness or grandeur, and with little information on the storyline outside of the few trailers, I went in blind. If you end up doing the same, and have an appreciation for historical context and deep storytelling with a bit of mystery, you will be thrilled with *Watchmen*.



Watchmen

Director: Zack Snyder

Starring: Malin Ackerman,
Patrick Wilson, Jackie Earle
Hayley

Release Date: 6/03/2009



CAMPUS CLUBS

WLUSU WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR ALL OF THE HARD WORK AND LONG HOURS THAT THE VOLUNTEERS PUT INTO KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE, HEALTHY, AND HAPPY



A radical birthday bash

Waterloo community activism/caroling group celebrated its first birthday last week at the Grad Pub with art and organic beer

SARAH MURPHY
CORD A&E

Socks and shoes were optional, and organic beer was on tap at the Grad Pub last Friday, as the Radical Choir took over the place to celebrate their first birthday.

In what could be described as a showcase for the artistically inclined social activists at Laurier, the party saw performances by a variety of genre-transcending artists and began with a rousing group rendition of "Happy Birthday".

Caleb Lance kicked off the performance portion of the night with an acoustic guitar and harmonica, capturing the crowd's attention with his heartfelt folk songs.

He treated the partygoers to a mix of music – from a song he hadn't played for anyone but family yet, to a cover of Josh Ritter's "The Temptation of Adam" – and despite a solid couple minutes of screeching feedback, he was able to pull off a great set.

After Lance's warm reception, Foyo Juma enraptured the Grad Pub with a blend of songs in both English and Swahili. The Kenyan singer and her acoustic guitar seemed to already have quite a few fans in the room, but those who hadn't seen her before were thoroughly impressed.

Next, hip hop poet Kevin Sutton took to the makeshift stage. Crossing borders between spoken word and rap, he got some people up and dancing – he even got a couple audience members to drop a beat for him on the bongos.

The party really got going with a piece called "THC Prophecy", which elicited more than a few cheers from the laid back crowd.

The Radical Choir finally got up and demonstrated their unique style of peace caroling with some songs about, well, peace. And saving the environment! Enthusiastic, but well-rehearsed, the choir showed that Laurier is packed with students who care about making a difference.

Jacob Pries, founder of the Radi-



RYAN STEWART

STOKED - The members of the Radical Choir serenade the crowd last Friday night in the Grad Pub for their first birthday bash.

cal Choir, shared that the idea for the group emerged from his desire to form a barbershop quartet that wasn't limited to four people. Concerned with bringing issues of social injustice to the forefront, the ensemble has been going for a year and encourages anyone who is interested to join.

Another member of the choir, Emily Slofstra, described its importance to the Laurier community as a method of bringing students from all backgrounds together for a common cause. Kids from a wide array of academic faculties have participated, including ones from the more obvious departments like music, environmental studies and global studies – but "even one or two business students" have made their voices heard in the Radical Choir.

When asked why he agreed to join in the birthday festivities,

performer Kevin Sutton said that the Radical Choir does an excellent job of "mixing fun and social change together" – a method that effectively motivates and inspires students by eliminating "the doom and gloom" that can result from confronting important issues in our community.

The rest of the night hosted an exciting and emotional performance by Laurier's own poetess and spoken-word artist Britta B and saw the Radical Choir take to the stage for a few more songs, followed by some open mic acts.

Still going strong after a year, the Radical Choir showed that they know how to throw a birthday party, while remaining socially conscious – and proved that our own community still presents a lot of opportunities for social activism and change.



YUSUF KIDWAI

RADICAL ROCK - Kenyan singer-songwriter Foyo Juma also entertained.

THE BIG QUESTION

"What do you think about comic book movies?"

Compiled by Daniel Joseph
Photographs by Sydney Helland



"I like them. *Spiderman* was great. As for *Watchmen*? I might not see it in theatres."

- Steve Gallagher
First-year BBA



"Never seen one the whole way through myself. I guess I'm not entirely interested!"

- Nicole Verbreahen
Fourth-year French



"I think they do a good job at them. I really liked *Waltz with Bashir*, especially from a historical standpoint."

- Andrew Manson
Fourth-year history



"Yes! They're interesting and fun. *Iron Man* is the best."

- Alex Valeriotte
Second-year sociology



"I love em. They have great action and bring back something old."

- John Welker
First-year business