

THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

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NICK LACHANCE VISUAL EDITOR

Hours after the April 22 fire that destroyed six business including Mel's Diner, firefighters survey the damage of the Campus Court Plaza.

New allegations behind blaze

PAULA MILLAR
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

At 5:30 a.m. on April 22, a rapidly developing fire engulfed a number of adjoining businesses in Campus Court Plaza – located at 140 University Avenue West.

According to John Percy, public education officer for Waterloo Fire Rescue, it took the responding units approximately two hours to get the

blaze under an acceptable level of control.

While neighbouring business owners have alleged that the fire started in the DJ booth at Tabu, neither Waterloo's fire nor police departments will corroborate this charge.

Percy explained that this is due to the fact that part of the Ontario Fire Marshal's investigation remains incomplete. It "is still part of our investigation to determine how the

fire started and where the fire started in the complex," he said.

At the same time, despite speculation of criminal activity, Olaf Heinzl, Public Affairs Coordinator for the Waterloo Regional Police, explained that the police must also await word from the Ontario Fire Marshal before commencing any sort of investigation.

While acknowledging that the police are currently involved, Heinzl remarked that the direction of the

investigation is "pending the outcome of the information that we have so far, and depending on what comes to us through the Fire Marshal." Heinzl urged anyone with information to contact the local authorities.

However, for the owners and those employed by the already-devastated businesses, such a success offered little-to-no solace.

Local, page 6

Cuts avoided

Laurier receives unanticipated government funds

MIKE LAKUSIAK
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

The provincial budget provided unexpected relief for Wilfrid Laurier University as the injection of over \$300 million into Ontario's post-secondary system allowed cuts previously anticipated in all areas of the university to be avoided.

Prior to the announcement in the budget, Laurier would have seen cuts of 1.5 per cent this year and six per cent the following year across all university operations.

These cuts were deemed necessary as major issues emerged with the university's pension plan and projected government funding came in to question.

"This year, as in previous years, they took us completely by surprise," said Laurier president Max Blouw of the province's decision.

"We were planning with all due diligence for those cuts and then completely unexpectedly, the dollars came in."

Departments had already taken measures in reaction to the cuts, which had been expected for nearly a year.

According to Blouw, areas of the school including the faculty of science had "already been on a path to readjust in the ways they deliver some of their education in anticipation of cuts," he explained.

"Not needing to make the cuts, what they can now do is achieve some other objectives that they have."

Along with the increased provincial funding the budget introduced a wage freeze for non-unionized workers, affecting about 20 per cent of Laurier employees.

"Most of our budget is wages and salaries," explained vice-president of finance Jim Butler.

"So in our original budget we had escalation estimates in there that we had to revise because of the freeze."

"It's a significant savings," Blouw said of the effect of the wage freeze.

"We have the opportunity to pay into the pension or what have you, we can redirect those dollars, and there's no end of need."

Despite provincial intervention that has allowed Laurier to balance its budget, the university is by no means nearing complete financial stability.

Campus, page 4



NICK LACHANCE VISUAL EDITOR
Epp at her campaign launch event on Monday evening.

Student runs for city councillor

Laurier student Erin Epp has declared her candidacy for the October municipal election; the third-year is running in Ward 7

PAULA MILLAR
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

On May 17, Wilfrid Laurier University student Erin Epp announced her bid for Waterloo city council.

The declaration made Epp, a third-year political science student, the first official candidate for Uptown Ward 7 and the youngest to enter the municipal race to date.

At her Monday evening launch event, Epp gave a taste of what is to be expected as she hits the campaign trail for the pending fall election.

Based on the premise of "community, consultation and

participation," Epp explained that her campaign will focus on "bringing forward the ideas of Waterloo's citizens."

Continuing this theme, the evening featured an interactive group session in which the audience was asked to envision their ideal Waterloo 15 years into the future.

Such visioning sessions will be a weekly staple throughout Epp's campaign. It is through these forums, she explained, and the input of community members, that she will determine and finalize her platform.

Nonetheless, Epp noted a few of the key issues she hopes to bring to the city's council. Epp highlighted

environmental sustainability, community engagement, ensuring a livable and accessible community for all residents and the promotion of Uptown Waterloo's local businesses as areas she plans to address.

At the same time, however, Epp promised that a concrete platform will only be decided after much input from area residents.

Although a university student, first and foremost Epp considers herself a member of the Waterloo community and believes that students entering local politics need to have a strong grasp of broader community issues.

Local, page 6

Inside

The ultimate summer



National pastimes to get you through the heat

Features, page 9

Stars leave a lasting impression on Waterloo

Cord staff review the band's show at Starlight and their upcoming album *The Five Ghosts*

Arts, page 10

John Morris: A Cord exclusive interview

The Laurier alumnus and curling gold medalist shares his experience of the Vancouver 2010 Olympics

Sports, page 15

"We're often consumed in some level of doubt on what our role is."

—CBC anchor Peter Mansbridge on Canada's role in the world

National, page 8



Editor's Choice

Redefining construction:
Art in flux
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Editor's Choice

Understanding Poland

thecord.ca/world

Acting Editor-in-Chief Laura Carlson • lcarlson@thecord.ca

This Month in quotes

“

It's kind of like
being with your family
at Christmas dinner for
28 days in a row.”

—Evan Cranley from Stars describing
band tensions in the recording studio



“

You'd rather go oops in a
positive way, rather than
the other way.”

—VP: Finance Jim Butler on making
conservative estimates when dealing
with Laurier's pension problems



“

“We're trying to put a time-lapse camera in place
that will film the project as it goes and will be ac-
cessible on the Internet so you could go on and
click – and you know when they speed up a flower
blooming – so you could actually be able see the
thing taking shape.”

—WLUSU general manager Mike McMahon, on how they will document the
Terrace expansion

“How old are you?”

—Canadian pop rock singer and songwriter Andy Kim, co-writer of the 1968 hit
“Sugar, Sugar”, in a phone interview with Cord Arts Editor Sarah Murphy

“I'm taking everybody on the dean's trip, the infamous dean's trip, this sum-
mer as planned.”

—David McMurray, dean of students, on maintaining a strong relationship with
student groups as he transitions into his new role as VP: student affairs

“I was shown this really great book called Mrs. Brooks Loves Books about this
little girl who has to go to the library all the time, hates going to the library,
hates books, and doesn't get into reading at all. The librarian was not your
typical librarian, she was a really zany out-there character and she gets kids
to fall in love with books. It's an amazing story and when I read it I thought,
you know, we can do something similar to that in Kitchener-Waterloo.”

—Bronwyn Addico, events and marketing co-ordinator of Words Worth Books on get-
ting children to read

Vocal Cord

What epitomizes
the Canadian
summer?



“Travelling around On-
tario. Even just going
somewhere like Ottawa
is beautiful.”

—Adrianna Ciccone
Second-year music



“Getting in a trip to
Canada's Wonderland.”

—Edward Casey
Fourth-year business



“Cottaging in Muskoka.”

—Mike Hayes
Fourth-year political
science



“I have a cottage near
Algonquin Park, so that's
always special for me.”

—Anna Kowaleski
Third-year languages

Compiled by David Goldberg
Photos by Nick Lachance

From the archives

5 years

WLUSU renovates third floor of the FNCC

In the summer of 2005 the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union underwent \$600,000 renovations. The intention was that the new space on the third floor of the Fred Nichols Campus Centre would be more accessible to students, as it would be clear where all the different WLUSU services were located. The new design featured improved lounge, more study space and grouped together full-time staff offices. With these renovations two businesses – TravelCUTS and Super Dave's barbershop – were removed.
Printed May 25, 2005

10 years

Drunk driver crashes on campus

A man driving impaired down King Street on a Saturday night smashed his car into the Willison field (now Alumni Field) tennis courts. The drunk driver hit three cars on King Street and crashed after he swerved into Laurier's parking lot while trying to evade Waterloo Regional Police.
Printed May 31, 2000

25 years

Plans to buy new residence building falls through

The university's bid for a new residence building located at 344 Regina St. North was blocked, as the university had a stipulation that they would not purchase a building that had already-existing leases. Although the tenants (including 30 from Wilfrid Laurier University) were offered accommodations at another building close by, they chose not to accept the offer. The new residence building would have housed 40 first-year students as well as a head resident and dons.
Printed May 23, 1985

Editor's note

2009-10 Editor-in-Chief Laura Carlson served as the acting editor for this issue. Alanna Wallace will assume the role as editor-in-chief for the June 30 issue.

DearLIFE

Dear Life is your opportunity to write a letter to your life, allowing you to vent your anger with life's little frustrations in a completely public forum. All submissions to Dear Life are anonymous, should be no longer than 100 words and must be addressed to your life. Submissions can be sent to dearlife@thecord.ca no later than Monday at noon each week.

Dear Life,

I am ashamed by and disappointed in some of the students here at Laurier. I am thoroughly disgusted by the amount of cigarette butts around our campus (ie. the library!) as well as the litter. For some absurd reason, I thought I was going to school with educated people who knew better. Garbage goes in a garbage can and cigarettes go in a butt disposal. Maybe try quitting?
Sincerely,
I'm Sorry I Thought I Was Going to University with People Smart Enough to Know Smoking Is Bad for You and Is Not Sexy

Dear Life,

I recently went to the Pita Shack to order a spicy chicken (which by the way are delightful) and to my surprise what I had thought was spicy chicken turned out to be a falafel

pita. Thanks Pita Shack, these new barriers that prevent us from seeing what goes in our pitas really doesn't work in your favour and they are probably why so many people are complaining.
Sincerely,
Crushed Chick Pea

Dear Life,

So I just overheard this Asian guy telling his friend that his ideal girl in the world is high in hotness and low in self-esteem. I recognized that guy because I see him talking to high school girls all the time. Geez, get a life.
Sincerely,
Hopes No One Ever Dates You

Dear Life,

Wind: you are loud and obnoxious. You mess my hair up and make me put more effort into walking outside. I can't go on my run because you are so miserable.
Sincerely,
Suck It

Dear Life,

Sup?
Sincerely,
Me

THE CORD

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Colophon

The Cord is the official student newspaper of the Wilfrid Laurier University community.

Started in 1976 as the College Cord, The Cord is an editorially independent newspaper published by Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications. Waterloo, a corporation without share capital. WLUSP is governed by its board of directors.



Opinions expressed within The Cord are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board. The Cord, WLUSP, WLUSP and CordWeb Printing Inc.

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Preamble to The Cord constitution

The Cord will keep faith with its readers by presenting news and expressions of opinions comprehensively, accurately and fairly. The Cord believes in a balanced and impartial presentation of all relevant facts in a news report, and of all substantial opinions in a matter of controversy.

The staff of The Cord shall uphold all commonly held ethical conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or of commission has occurred, that error shall be acknowledged promptly. When statements are made that are critical of an individual, or an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity to reply at the earliest time possible. Ethical journalism requires impartiality and consequently conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest will be avoided by all staff.

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

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

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

Quote of the week:

“Is this Laurier?”
—A drunk high school student participating in the Link conference who wandered into the WLUSP office on Saturday night.

NEWS

News Director Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca

Terrace expansion underway

Concourse will receive a Starbucks, Tim Hortons outlets expand as well

LINDA GIVETASH
NEWS DIRECTOR

Summer construction on campus is already underway, this year targeting primarily food and beverage venues.

Sites that have been approved include the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union's Terrace food court and Food Services' Fresh Food Company, Concourse Café and Tim Hortons.

The Terrace

The expansion of the lower level of the Terrace food court in to the area between the Fred Nichols Campus Centre (FNCC) and Macdonald House Residence began the week of May 10. The addition, set to be completed by January 2011, will provide an increase of approximately 2,000 square feet of student space.

Michael Welk, project co-ordinator of renovations and construction at Laurier, remarked, "It's going to be a comfortable space for students to come and hang out."

The proposal for the expansion was approved by the Student Life Levy (SLL) three years ago, which is now contributing approximately \$1.1 million to the new space.

The space is designed to accommodate the needs of students, including power outlets for laptops along the new window counter seating.

"We're going to try to integrate it into as much of the furniture as possible so that there's enough [electric] receptacles for people to go to," said Welk.

Both Welk and WLUSU general manager Mike McMahon assured that although construction will be on-going into the fall term, the

disruption for students will be kept at a minimum as the Terrace will remain in full operation.

"They are not going to remove the windows in the Terrace proper until the outside part is basically fully constructed," explained McMahon.

Apart from minor disruptions planned to occur on weekends involving the plumbing that fuels Union Market and William's Express, the businesses will be accessible until mid-November.

"In the space that remains in the lower level food court, Union Market and the sushi vending tent ... will conduct renovations of their own," said McMahon. The six week project will affect Union Market exclusively.

A digital sign, a \$42,000 capital expenditure also approved and funded by the SLL, will be installed outside the FNCC replacing the sign which currently stands by the entrance doors. McMahon confirmed that it should be fully installed by June 30.

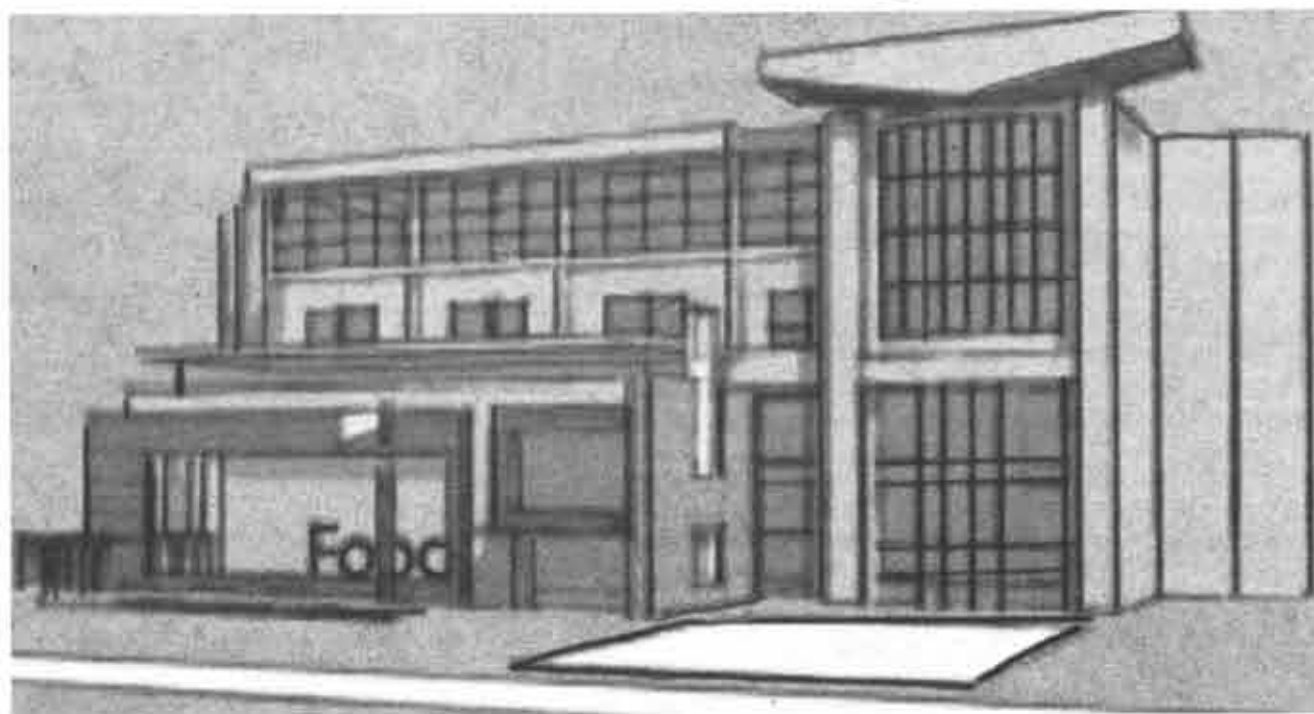
Food Services

Among the changes occurring at food services locations this summer, the most notable will happen at the Tim Hortons in the Peters and science buildings, and at the Concourse Café.

With both Tim Hortons locations being approximately 10 years old, renovations were necessary, according to director of student services Dan Dawson, to meet the brand's standards for merchandising and equipment.

"What we're moving towards is newer equipment, double point of sale ... and [to] set them up in an ergonomic way that benefits the employees better," said Dawson.

For the science building location,



COURTESY OF WLU PHYSICAL RESOURCES

An artist's rendering of the renovated FNCC featuring the expansion to the Terrace food court. The addition creates approximately 2,000 square feet of extra space.

changes will allow for a full menu offering of Tim Hortons products, including breakfast and lunch sandwiches.

"Part of our goal in the science location, to recognize the trend and the growth in the faculty over the past 10 years, we need to create another full service lunch location to take some of the traffic demand away from Terrace food court and dining hall," explained Dawson.

The Peters building Tim Hortons will change its layout to improve efficiency, while adding a toaster to prepare food for customers and removing the unprofitable pizza option from the menu.

The Concourse Café will receive a full renovation to accommodate a new partnership for the location.

"The Second Cup location is actually being removed all together and a Starbucks kiosk is going in its place,"

said Welk.

As contracts with Second Cup have ended, Starbucks was decided to be a more beneficial partnership according to Dawson.

The new Starbucks will feature the company's core product line, along with their sandwich program, although previously sold items such as soups and grilled cheese will most likely be discontinued.

Despite the physical changes happening to the site of the business, there are no plans for extensive upgrades in the seating area of the Concourse.

"They're thinking of providing some counter mounted seating along the window but overall there's no big plans," said Welk.

The Hub and the OneCard office are intended to be renovated this summer, but according to Welk the drawings for businesses are still in

progress. Once they are confirmed and a contractor is hired, construction will begin with hopes of completion for the fall.

More minor changes will be occurring at the Tim Hortons in King Street residence, where the current baking equipment will be moved to the Science building location and then replaced with grills and fryers to offer different menu items.

The Fresh Food Company, operating through the dining hall, will have three new pieces of equipment installed adjacent to the current deli counter to provide students with Halal food options.

"Part of our overall object has been with all of these redesigns to focus on getting line ups processed as efficiently as possible with the broadest product line that we can given the location restrictions," said Dawson.

WLUSU approves new budget

MIKE LAKUSIAK
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

The Wilfrid Laurier Students' Union operating budget for 2010-11 year was unanimously approved by the board of directors on April 30.

The new budget, while not significantly altered from last year, was approached differently than in years past and aims to achieve a more defined and succinct set of goals.

Totalling nearly \$1 million, with only a negligible decrease from last year, the budget introduced greater decentralization of WLUSU's Waterloo and Brantford operations, with Brantford receiving a greater share of funds than previously.

"What we tried to do this year was ensure that Brantford funds were benefiting Brantford students, likewise in Waterloo," explained WLUSU president Kyle Walker. "Now we've narrowed down where the funds are coming from and where they're going."

For the first time, no interim budget was passed for the summer and rather than waiting until June to release a budget for the entire fiscal year, it was passed much earlier. Since the incoming management team were able to work along with their predecessors to draft this budget, an interim budget was not

“What we tried to do this year was ensure that Brantford funds were benefiting Brantford students.”

—Kyle Walker, WLUSU President

seen as necessary.

"We had an amazing transition opportunity available by working with everyone together on the budget," noted WLUSU general manager Mike McMahon. He emphasized how effective the collaboration between incoming and outgoing groups was and will be as this approach continues.

"This strategy will allow us to produce an even better budget on an even better timeline next year because of what we learned this year."

With few returning board members examining the budget, McMahon outlined the aim of this budget process. "For our team the goal was to create a more transparent budget

for the board," he said.

"So the board could fully understand and walk away with more confidence on what they'd approved."

When the budget came before the board for approval, few questions were raised and board members seemed to have a clear impression of its contents.

"When we did pass it, I looked it over and it looked fine, the changes didn't look like they were significant enough to raise any red flags," second-time director Greg Evans pointed out about the budget's clarity that let the board pass it unanimously in five minutes.

McMahon explained the importance of the board having a firm grasp of the budget they approve. "I believe that the confidence directors have coming out of the process is contagious, just like a lack of confidence can be contagious."

Through comprehensive market research completed last year, WLUSU arrived at four new ends or goals for the budget to focus on. By defining new areas to focus attention in its services for students, WLUSU replaced the nine loosely-defined ends previously employed.

"The new ends mean that we really know what students want to see out of WLUSU now, so we know

\$976,615

Total WLUSU budget 2010-11

\$26,915

Budget for next WLUSU election

\$30,964

Increase in Brantford budget

what to put more money towards," said Evans.

"Students want more advocacy for example, so we've put more towards advocacy this year than we would have had we not known."

McMahon characterized the upcoming year as one of planning as WLUSU evaluates its role.

"The findings from the market research report are very challenging for the organization and are going to drive us to a great strategic plan," he said. "It challenges us to communicate better."

"Students are finding different things more valuable than when we did the last market research report - which was never."

News in brief
Since our last issue...

WLU, Conestoga begin degree-diploma programs

Laurier and Conestoga College have officially launched two new joint programs in computer science as well as biochemistry and biotechnology.

These offerings were the result of two years of planning and discussion between the two schools. More co-operation on programs like this is anticipated in the future and several new offerings are planned for the next few years.

—Mike Lakusiak

Prof earns \$1.4 million Canada Research Chair grant

Canada Research Chairs, a federal program that funds research in universities across the country, recently granted Laurier \$1.4 million in support of Rhoda Howard-Hassmann, a professor in the global studies department and Balsillie School of International Affairs.

Over the next seven years, Howard-Hassmann plans to use the new funding towards travelling to conferences and research sites.

—Taryn Orwen-Parrish

Read the full stories online at
thecord.ca

CAMPUS

Campus News Editor Mike Lakusiak • mlakusiak@thecord.ca

Researchers awarded grants

MIKE LAKUSIAK
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Fourteen Wilfrid Laurier University researchers in sciences and mathematics have been awarded \$340,000 in research funding through the 2010 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Discovery Grant competition.

According to chemistry professor Ken Maly, this funding, which will be granted over a five-year period, will allow faculty members to hire students for lab assistance and to purchase materials.

"Without [this] funding ... I wouldn't be able to proceed as I am, it is of critical importance," said Maly.

For the university to receive this number of awards – 14 of the 29 faculty that applied received grants – was not out of the ordinary, according to biology professor Matthew Smith. Smith was the recipient of the largest amount of funding from NSERC, earning a \$220,000 Discovery Grant and an additional \$120,000 supplement.

A Laurier graduate, Smith's research focuses on chloroplasts in plant cells and how cells manage to distribute proteins internally.

"We're interested in it from a pure, basic biological perspective," said Smith.

NSERC grants are typically provided for fundamental scientific



Professors Ken Maly (left) and Matthew Smith (right) have received NSERC grants to continue their respective research projects.

research rather than the potential "real world" applications of the findings, echoed Maly. His research in chemistry involves liquid crystalline molecules that exist between solid and liquid states of matter.

What make the grants Laurier researchers have received notable are the criteria weighed by NSERC in its decision, as well as recent changes in how these criteria are evaluated.

"It is becoming more competitive and more challenging to receive these grants, especially in smaller institutions," said Maly.

"If you're at a smaller school, chances are you have fewer

resources, you are hiring fewer students, publishing a little less – all of which makes it challenging."

Maly believes that a strong research component lends credibility to the university, is important for hands-on involvement for students (such as those hired using NSERC funds) and affects what students can expect from their instructors in the classroom.

"My research has value because I'm excited about what I do," Maly explained. "It shows students how a concept they may learn in class can be applied in a research setting, even if it's not yet the 'real world.'"

News in brief

More summer courses offered

Despite concerns for a shortage of summer class offerings this year, the total number of courses available on campus and online has increased from last year. Laurier registrar Ray Darling noted that in-class courses have increased from 116 to 130, while online courses increased from 72 to 79 offerings.

More notably, course enrolment has increased with 5,560 students currently registered in comparison to only 4,382 students registered last year.

—Linda Givetash



ELLI GARLIN PHOTO MANAGER

NYU prof speaks at finance conference

Laurier's school of business and economics (SBE) hosted its sixth annual finance conference May 14.

The conference attracts keynote speakers from all over North America who present and discuss papers on global corporate finance.

One presentation was by New York University economics and finance professor Marti Subrahmanyam whose paper focused on the U.S. corporate bond market during the recent economic crisis. "We always bring in some U.S. and Canadian speakers," explained conference co-ordinator and SBE professor Madhu Kalimipalli.

"We had someone from Harvard last year, we have people come from all the big schools....This is mostly a research conference," said Kalimipalli. "Most of the audience is PhD students that come from other schools, though there were a few undergraduates from here as well."

—Mike Lakusiak

MLSB begins a new season

Major League Summer Baseball (MLSB) has launched for its 18th season, providing Wilfrid Laurier University students with an official group to enjoy the summer pastimes of baseball and beer.

Despite a minor encounter with by-law officers due to noise complaints at a May 5 house party, Adam Gingrich, a convenor for MLSB, has confirmed that the season is still up and running.

This year, students can register to play in one of 30 teams that have been sponsored.

—Linda Givetash

Laurier profs' salaries rank better than average

According to a Statistics Canada report released at the beginning of May, tenured professors at Wilfrid Laurier University made an average of \$131,467 in 2007-2008, the latest available data.

Laurier professors are paid similar or more on average than those at most Canadian universities.

The report states that the 109 full professors at Laurier made more than those at Carleton University and the University of Guelph, and earned nearly the same as those at Queen's University.

—Mike Lakusiak

Fewer applications to WLU

The number of applications to the undergraduate program at Laurier this fall are down one per cent from last year according to Lois Wood, associate registrar.

This reflects a decrease in applicants of 0.1 per cent from Ontario secondary students and 11.1 from non-secondary students, excluding direct international applicants. In comparison, the Ontario Universities' Application Centre reported an increased of 2.9 per cent to universities across the province.

—Linda Givetash

Uncertainty lingers despite 'temporary reprieve'

—cover

"There's a lot of moving parts – we've got a severe pension problem that hasn't gone away," Butler pointed out, though the situation was not as severe as originally expected.

Butler projects that the situation for Laurier will remain tenuous.

"We're back to what will happen in 2011-12 because you're back into an uncertain environment where we don't know what the funding regime will do," he said.

"We're all in a sort of temporary reprieve."

He expressed that the university's position now is to make the best of the situation.

"What we're doing is taking the surpluses and plugging holes for the next couple years."

"If we ever knew we were going to get full funding, we wouldn't have to play this kind of game, but you have to plan for the worst and hope for the best."

Blouw shared a perspective of similar cautious optimism.

"With a balanced budget this year, we can actually think about, as we move forward, how we can position our resources relative to the new academic plan," he said about how

“

This is all a good news situation ... everyone around us is in pretty rough shape."

—Jim Butler, VP: Finance

Laurier can proceed now finding itself in a less tenuous position.

"This is all a good news situation; if you look at what's going on at Guelph, McMaster is laying off, huge deficits at Queen's – everyone around us is in pretty rough shape," said Butler.

"They're all forced to make cuts and we've managed to come out okay – reasonably okay."

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Summer class registration at Laurier increased 27 per cent over last summer to 5,560 – nearly half the number of students enrolled in the fall 2009 semester.



David "Daddy Mac" McMurray will now oversee the deans of students at Laurier's Waterloo and Brantford campuses.

McMurray appointed to new VP position

LINDA GIVETASH
NEWS DIRECTOR

On May 12, David McMurray, Wilfrid Laurier University dean of students, was appointed to the position vice-president of student affairs.

The newly-developed position will accommodate the growing needs of students as the university expands at all its campuses.

"We're a bigger place institutionally now in a multi campus way that one person couldn't possibly be geographically in more than one place," said McMurray.

"Our commitment to student life, student success and student experience requires that we have more than one person acting in that role."

With the creation of the new position of vice-president of student affairs, a dean of students at the Brantford campus will also be added to build a stronger relationship between students at each campus and their respective dean.

Including a dean at any future campus location, notably if an expansion to Milton does occur, will now be required under the new structure.

In regards to finding a successor for the dean of students position at the Waterloo campus, McMurray said that he will begin the search as soon as the budget for these initiatives are passed at the upcoming governor's meeting this month.

"We're going to do an international search and post it and have a full competition and review, selection and advisory group," explained McMurray. "My goal would be to have a successor in place for students' arrival in September."

Although the position of dean will be assumed by a new individual, students will still be able to find McMurray in the dean of students office on the third floor of the Fred Nichols Campus Centre (FNCC).

"I expect to be where students are," stated McMurray. "We're going to switch up our offices a little bit in this suite, but [I'm] going to be staying right here."

Although his administrative duties as a vice-president will take up more of his time, allowing for the incoming dean to develop close relationships with students, McMurray is confident he will maintain his connection with the student body to continue to ensure their needs are met.

"It's an exceptional commitment by the university to recognize the student experience as a pillar as what Laurier is about as a university," said McMurray.

"[Former dean of students] Fred Nichols set the stage and the tradition of the dean of students in support for students here and I'm honoured to maintain, develop and build that tradition in history over the years."

Changes to admissions approved

MIKE LAKUSIAK
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

With the May 12 meeting of the Wilfrid Laurier University senate, there have been changes to admissions as well as how students are categorized once they are enrolled.

Laurier president Max Blouw reported that Ontario's universities will need to attract greater numbers of international students and grow substantially in the future, goals that the province will examine in its provision of funding.

This focus at Laurier was reflected as senate passed a new form of mandated English proficiency testing for international students.

Laurier registrar Ray Darling emphasized the increased necessity of such testing. "The government has set very ambitious targets for international recruitment," he said. "We have to do all we can to attract those students here."

Also approved by the senate was a credit-equivalency program that would allow a Waterloo School Board grade 12 economics class to be counted as a university credit in the place of first-year economics course EC120.

This initial offering is meant as a trial of such a program which could be applied to a variety of university-credit high school classes in the future.

"We have to do all we can to attract those students here."

—Registrar Ray Darling on the university increasing targets for international students

"We may have other classes come along as well," said Darling. "We're going to monitor this and see how students do in this arrangement."

Another admissions-related item approved during the meeting was a program to offer guaranteed acceptance to Laurier for students who initially do not qualify out of high school if the student attends Conestoga College for one year.

"It gives our local partner some additional students and we'll be guaranteed students after that first year," Darling said. "We're always looking for transfer students."

If these students, whose high school grades were insufficient to be accepted into the Laurier bachelor

of arts program, complete one year of Conestoga's general arts and science program at an average of 75 per cent, their admission to Laurier will be guaranteed.

Acting dean of arts Mary-Louise Byrne pointed out that students would be able to attend college for a year, after which she said, "They are often highly motivated."

Finally, Byrne presented a motion for approval of changes to requirements for arts students to choose a major.

Since the province provides greater funding for those in honours programs, students will now be allowed to remain undeclared until their third year and remain designated as "honours" students.

Assuming the student maintains a GPA of 5.0, they will no longer be required to declare a specialization to stay in an honours BA program.

Previously, many students who did not choose a major after first year would lose the honours designation, only to re-enter an honours stream before graduating. As such, the university would receive less funding for these individuals. "In essence, they're getting a degree at a discount," explained Byrne.

With the approval of the senate, the change to arts will come into effect July 1 and the language testing and admissions changes will begin in September.

Bill Kitchen leaves WLU

LINDA GIVETASH
NEWS DIRECTOR

On April 28, programs and services manager for the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union Bill Kitchen ended his employment after working for the union since August of 2003, initially as the Turret Nightclub assistant manager.

Although unable to comment on the reason for his departure, WLU-SU general manager Mike McMahon confirmed that the position of programs and services manager has been terminated.

The development of a new position is currently in the works.

"We are reviewing the needs of the [campus] clubs, faculty associations and student services currently and we will hopefully be coming up with a resource model that's required within a month," said McMahon.

The new position is not expected to be posted until mid-July, with the intention of being filled for the fall.

"We are ... trying to be in touch with campus clubs as far as their resource requirements so we can design the best possible helper for those departments," said McMahon.

For the summer, the responsibilities of the former programs and services manager have been divided between McMahon and marketing and communication manager Phil Champagne.

"Most notably Phil [Champagne] has picked up responsibility for resource requirements for Orientation Week programming," McMahon said, which will ensure that student requirements of resources will continue to be met over the summer months.

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LOCAL

Local Editor Paula Millar • pmillar@thecord.ca

Possible changes to parking in student areas

City council will re-examine a proposal to install pay and display meters on Bricker, Ezra and Clayfield



NICK LACHANCE VISUAL DIRECTOR

A \$2 per hour fee for weekday parking will be effective as of Aug. 23 if the projected plan is accepted.

LINDA GIVETASH
NEWS DIRECTOR

On May 17, a proposal was made to Waterloo city council to install parking meters along Bricker Avenue, Ezra Avenue and Clayfield Avenue.

The reasoning for the motion was to increase turnover and reduce by-law infractions.

Phil Hewitson, the city's director of transportation, presented the idea for pay and display parking in the area immediately south of the Wilfrid Laurier University.

The project would require that any parking on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. cost \$2 per hour, being free for a limit of three hours beyond those hours. It would, however, still ban overnight parking on the streets between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.

After mailing informational pamphlets to residents effected by the proposal, Hewitson noted that only six responses were received, of which a mere two were in support. Ian McLean, councillor of Ward 7

— the area in question — pointed out that one of the letters submitted by a Laurier student preferred the proposal if the pay hours were reduced to 4 p.m. rather than 6 p.m., further inferring that greater feedback is needed before proceeding with the proposal.

"Has anyone ever seen pay and display parking in a residential area?" asked Mike Milovick, an area landlord, pointing out another flaw of the proposal to council.

Although the report contained a letter from the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union that Hewitson expressed was in support of the proposal, councillors Karen Scian and Diane Freeman remained hesitant on its overall purpose and benefit.

"I feel that we're essentially targeting students," said Freeman, who supported the move to defer motion to provide more time to research the impact of the project.

The project will be brought back to council on June 7.

UW plans for expansion

Initial projects to expand UW's north campus are approved

ALEXANDROS MITSIOPOULOS
WORLD EDITOR

At the end of April, Waterloo city councillors approved preliminary plans for a project that will ambitiously expand the size of the University of Waterloo campus.

The plans have outlined construction to continue at the research and technology park, located on the north end of campus, and at a plot of currently undeveloped land located at the property's northwest end.

Phase one of the construction is aimed at developing the northwest end, moulding the vacant lots into proactive and ergonomic university accommodations.

While the Waterloo city council was not unanimous in the proposition to develop vacant lots at first, the plans were eventually accepted.

Despite opposition against the projected use of the lots, ward six city councillor Jan d'Ailly said that the plans "were truly visionary in terms of being able to identify a proper campus for the university."

Scheduled to open in the spring

“Waterloo certainly represents a lot of leading edge activities.”

— Waterloo city councillor Jan d'Ailly

of 2011, the northwest section of the UW campus has been reserved to house a new city library branch and a YMCA.

While occupying UW territory, the YMCA and library will function as independent facilities, supported in part by a joint partnership between city and university resources.

D'Ailly is optimistic that the expansion of the UW campus will further the theme of academic integrity entrenched in Waterloo's public image.

"Waterloo certainly represents a lot of leading edge activities."

He explained that UW "has committed to expand the quantum mechanics department, which is at the leading edge of quantum computing, forefront on a worldwide basis."

UW's proposed Quantum-Nano centre, expected to be completed early 2011, will house both the quantum mechanics and nanotechnology program, which will offer students a much more comprehensive learning environment.

This style of expansion is not solely limited to the university's Waterloo campus.

UW has already been extended to satellite campuses across Kitchener and one even reaching Dubai. While encompassing a four square-kilometre campus today, the UW campus is expected to double in size over the next 40 years.

Currently employing over 2,000 staff members and educating close to 25,000 undergraduate students, it is anticipated that the expansion will dramatically increase UW's capacity to provide opportunities for staff and students alike.



NICK LACHANCE VISUAL DIRECTOR

Jerry Smith, the owner of Mel's Diner, stands near the property where the business he owned for 15 years was formerly located.

Tabu unreachable

—cover

"You never think to yourself that the whole thing will go down in an unstoppable blaze," said Mel's Diner owner Jerry Smith. When Smith arrived on the scene at 6:30 that morning, he was just one of Campus Court's business owners forced to anxiously wait and watch the fire run its course. At the time of his arrival, "Mel's was not even on fire," he explained, "I had to watch it burn."

Regrettably, Smith was not alone. In its wake, the inferno also reduced University Vision Centre, Sugar Mountain, Tabu, 140 West, and Mr. Sushi to ruin and left Caesar Martini's severely damaged.

Initially, Waterloo Fire Rescue projected that total damages would amount to \$3 million. As of May 18, Percy explained that a reassessment of the original estimate will be necessary as, once the "content from each of the businesses and structural damage" is documented, the cost could be much greater.

Further, Percy remarked that the pending investigations undertaken by the various insurers of Campus Court businesses could conceivably push the price tag even higher.

While the smoldering wreckage marked the end for some of the small businesses of Campus Court Plaza, at that point, the investigation had barely begun. Yet even weeks later, as the clean up and demolition crews have come and gone, many questions surrounding the blaze remain unanswered.

As the police and fire departments await the results from the Ontario Fire Marshal and business owners struggle with the decision of whether or not to rebuild, questions

remain as to the fire's point of origin and what started the destructive blaze.

According to Smith, the days immediately following the fire marked the last contact Campus Court Plaza business owners had with the owners of Tabu and 140 West. Smith said that as of late, "nobody can get in touch with them." Despite repeated attempts by The Cord to contact the owners of Tabu, no one could be reached for comment.

In the immediate aftermath of the blaze, Waterloo Fire Rescue widely publicized the importance of sprinkler systems. While Campus Court Plaza was operating in accordance with Ontario Fire Code, as one-floor plazas are not permitted to have sprinkler systems, Waterloo Fire Rescue remains adamant that the presence of such a system would have made for a drastically different outcome to this story.

According to Percy, "if they had a sprinkler system, you would not have lost as many businesses as they did."

In the weeks following the fire, many in the Waterloo community have banded together to offer assistance to those affected.

Smith explained that for him, the mass outpouring of support "makes a pretty clear case for rebuilding."

Moreover, Smith expressed his appreciation to those businesses that have offered temporary or part-time positions just to help Campus Court Plaza employees get back to work.

Overall, "I really did not know what we had there until it was gone," Smith said.

City needs to integrate students: Epp

—cover

She explained her interest in city politics as a "natural progression" of her involvement in the city over past years.

In recent years, Epp has served as a member of the planning committee for the 2010 Community Action Forum, and as the facilitator of community exchange dialogues with both the Social Planning Council and Laurier Students' Public Research Interest Group (LSPIRG).

As for the post of city councillor in particular, Epp said, "I see a really valuable opportunity to engage the community in a new way, to really hear what people want from a councillor and to deliver that."

On the topic of university students, Epp explained that "student issues are community issues."

Moreover, she expressed concern

over the fact that "there is too much segregation between the community and students."

According to Epp, "We have to treat student issues as if they are as important as community issues."

While Ward 7 encompasses the Wilfrid Laurier University campus, only those living east and south of University Avenue West, excluding Seagram Drive and Lester Street, and West of Weber Street North and South, are members of this district.

Councillor Ian McLean is the current representative of Ward 7 residents.

While Epp's bid remains the sole declaration for Ward 7, the nomination process will continue through to Sept. 9.

Waterloo's municipal Election Day is scheduled for Oct. 25, 2010.

How to register to vote

Enumeration forms to be eligible to vote in the fall municipal election have been mailed out to homes across the city. They must be completed and returned by June 1 for residents to be included on the voters list on Oct. 25.

For other residents, including students, who fail to return the enumeration form, advanced polling stations will provide an opportunity to still vote despite not being listed. Advanced polling locations and dates have yet to be announced, however it is confirmed they will be open between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

NATIONAL

National Editor Paula Millar • pmillar@thecord.ca

Finding Canada's identity from abroad

CBC's Peter Mansbridge addresses audience of Laurier alumni

LINDA GIVETASH
NEWS DIRECTOR

"I'm sure I could learn a lot more from you than you could from me," said Peter Mansbridge, anchor for CBC's *The National*, to an audience of Wilfrid Laurier University alumni on May 14.

Mansbridge presented a keynote address at Professional Development Day 2010, an annual event hosted by Laurier Alumni to promote networking, leadership and ideas.

Although Mansbridge felt his formal education — he did not complete high school and has no post-secondary training — was incomparable to those in the room, his more than four decades at the CBC covering issues across Canada and the world allowed him to provide "a reflection on the country we live in."

"We're often consumed in some level of doubt on what our role is," observed Mansbridge, on the much-debated issue of defining Canada's identity.

Yet as the debate continues at home, Mansbridge shared three

"[Canadians are] often consumed in some level of doubt on what our role is."

—Peter Mansbridge, CBC

stories of his interactions abroad in which Canada had a clear and powerful meaning.

While covering the devastation in Sri Lanka following the 2005 tsunami, an eight-year-old girl approached Mansbridge following his broadcast on a beach, pointed to the Canadian flag pin on his lapel and told him "Canada good."

Investigating the meaning of her comment, Mansbridge discovered that she had received treatment and vaccinations from two Canadian

nurses who came to Sri Lanka at their own expense to utilize their skills and provide aid.

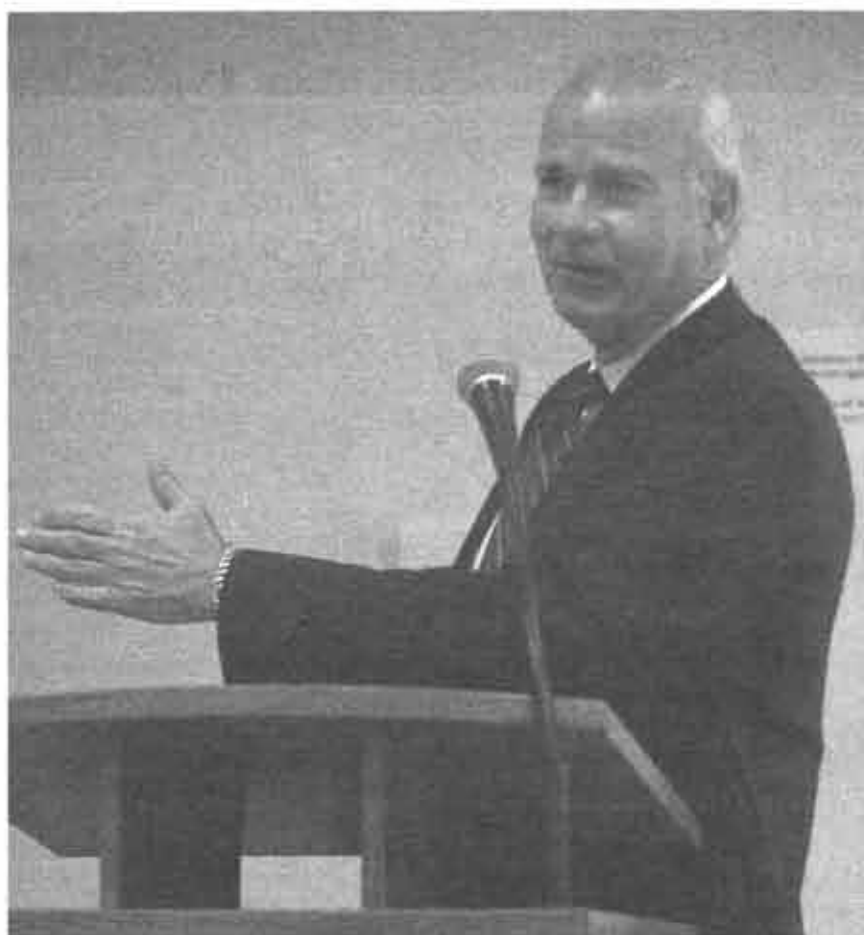
"For that little girl for the rest of her life ... she'll remember that day," said Mansbridge.

Earlier that year, Mansbridge reported from the Netherlands on the 60th anniversary of their liberation in the Second World War, which included a parade of Canadian veterans.

Interviewing a Dutch woman in the crowd on why she brought her young son to the parade, she said, "I want him to know what a Canadian is."

Mansbridge went on to explain that the knowledge of the Canadian sacrifice for Dutch freedom in the Second World War is passed on through generations and that "they never forget us."

The final story Mansbridge shared was that of an Afghan woman who, after receiving her Canadian citizenship and completing her schooling, returned to the war-torn country as a member of the Canadian troops to help the women there understand their rights.



ELLI GARLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

On May 14, Mansbridge presented the keynote address at Laurier Alumni's annual Professional Development Day.

To Mansbridge, the lesson to be learned from these instances is clear. "What it means to me ... what we show through these stories is that we are a country that cares."

He went on to remark, "We care about our neighbours, we care about those on the other side of the country and we care about those on the

other side of the world."

Canada's compassion and desire to provide aid is what brings us respect and recognition from the international community.

"We're pretty lucky," concluded Mansbridge. "Other people in the rest of the world would trade a lot to be sitting here."

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WORLD

World Editor Alexandros Mitsiopoulos • amitsiopoulos@thecord.ca

Greece's credit rating has been reduced from A- to BB+ by Standard and Poor's, a 'junk' status

Greece: The plague of civil unrest



CREATIVE COMMONS

Protestors clash with police at the riot taking place on May 5 at Syntagma Square.

ALEXANDROS MISTIPOLOUS
WORLD EDITOR

Optimism is running short in Greece's capital where thousands have taken to the streets following the third general strike after months of civil unrest.

The insurrections were inspired by the growing distaste for the government's austerity measures – the planned wage cuts in the public and

private sectors and the increase of taxes to help manage the financial bailout prepared by the Eurozone nations.

The level of anger and ferocity among citizens has not been seen in Greece for a number of years, but is inspired from the realization of how much the average citizen stands to lose.

Fotini Bogatsiotis, a pension recipient living in Athens stated that "I

stand to lose 30 per cent of my pension. It makes it impossible to make ends meet with the cost of living in Athens."

By May 5, Greek citizens had taken to the streets numbering in the thousands in protest of the new measures.

While some protested with peaceful means, it wasn't long before others began throwing rocks and projectiles at the riot police. The

violence quickly escalated targeting Parliament and many banks in the nearby area.

Marfin Bank, which is central in downtown Athens, was hit the hardest during the May 5 protests. Masked assailants targeting the bank threw Molotov cocktails through the windows at the employees inside. Most inside the bank escaped, however three employees were killed as a result of the attack. "We could hear the three [employees] screaming for help and the crowd responding that they were going to let them burn because they worked at the bank," explained Nikos Stathopoulos, a nearby business owner and eye witness.

"The riot had a very organized, military feel to it, with many applauding and cheering on those who attacked the bank."

The identities of the assailants have yet to be determined; however authorities believe that they belong to anarchist factions whose central philosophies focus on anti-capitalism ideals.

While the police have released statements assuring the public that the assailants are close to capture, many, including Stathopoulos, are certain there will be no real investigation at all and that those responsible will never be caught.

"Many with the police force fear for their lives, thus, it is doubtful any action will be taken. It is very difficult to predict what will happen next," said Stathopoulos.

The situation

- The austerity measures, proposed on May 1, persuaded Germany to sign a \$110 billion European bailout package, the last nation to sign on. Germany has been highly critical of the proposition to offer Greece any kind of bailout options, offering harsher alternatives instead.
- Following the falsification of their numbers, the government has stated that the budget deficit has reached 13.6 per cent and debt has reached 115 per cent of the GDP.

Austerity measures

- Increasing the Value Added Tax from 19 to 21 per cent totalling 1.3 billion euro
- A freeze on pensions and an additional cut to pension subsidies totalling 600 million euro.
- A reduction in public sector pay by approximately seven per cent including cut on holiday bonus and overtime pay totalling 1.1 billion euro.
- Additional measures include a 10 per cent cut in public sector benefits: tax on luxury items, cigarettes, alcohol, electricity, petrol, and vacation homes.

'To say that nuclear weapons will never be rid of is defeatism'

DEANNA SIM
STAFF WRITER

United Nations ambassador Jayantha Dhanapala presented a humanist approach to the topic of Nuclear disarmament, reminding us that 8,000 nuclear weapons could destroy the world in a moment's notice.

His lecture on May 12 at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) was entitled "Global Nuclear Challenges and Multilateral Responses."

Two motifs that were present throughout the lecture were United States President Barack Obama's stance on nuclear weapons and the odds of sheer luck.

In the struggle towards disarmament, Dhanapala supported Obama and his efforts towards disarmament. He believes that as a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member, Canadians should support Obama's endeavours.

In approaching disarmament, Dhanapala said, "What we require is actual destruction of nuclear weapons."

Dhanapala is a member of the Global Zero action plan, which consists of leaders in business, politics, military and faith, which began this past February.

In essence, the goal of this plan is to reach complete destruction of all nuclear weapons by 2030. This 20-year action plan gradually reduces the amount of nuclear weapons being held by each nation instead of destroying all of them.

Dhanapala believes it is a concrete achievement and suggested that "to say that nuclear weapons will never be rid of is defeatism."

His philosophy is that if people believe the spread of nuclear weapons is inevitable, the use of nuclear weapons is inevitable.

Throughout the lecture, Dhanapala returned to the fact that we haven't experienced nuclear disaster due to luck. In light of close-calls in Scotland and other countries involving nuclear weapons, including the recent collision of a French and English submarine containing nuclear materials, it was luck that kept situations like these from ending in catastrophe.

NICK LACHANCE VISUAL DIRECTOR
UN ambassador Jayantha Dhanapala lectures at CIGI.

There are many factors that increase the likelihood of nuclear weapon use. As Dhanapala explained, these factors included the design, accidents and the hostile intentions involving the use of nuclear weapons and nuclear materials and by terrorist groups or a nation.

"The world cannot continue in its present state of nuclear haves and have-nots," said Dhanapala.

However, as he later stressed, "[The] danger of nuclear weapons being used today is far greater than it was in the Cold War."

Better city, better life

Expo 2010 focuses on urban centres

AMALIA BIRO
STAFF WRITER

Expo 2010 Shanghai China, which launched on May 1, aims to be a grand international gathering with an emphasis on innovation and interaction, though there are downsides to these expositions.

"[It can be hard to] look past the national branding that goes on in these fairs to get at the substantive content," said Alex Latta, assistant professor of global studies at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Latta believes that the expo's theme of "Better City, Better Life" can also be read as "China's announcement that the 21st century is urban and also a Chinese century."

Over 250 organizations and countries are displaying exhibits, and the expo is considered to be a great source for future policy making among the international community.

Canada's pavilion – "the living city" – features Cirque de Soleil on its main stage, and aims to introduce themes of diversity and inclusion while emphasizing the Canadian city and how it plans to grow for the future.

[It's] China's announcement that the 21st century is ... a Chinese century."

—Alex Latta, professor of global studies

While world expositions are viewed by many as monumental events for economic, scientific, technological and cultural exchanges, the impact the expo will have on international views on sustainability and the prevention of resource depletion is questionable.

"If anything, this kind of event further entrenches the problematic belief that cities should be defined by their 'attractive capital,' rather than by their social and environmental policies," said Latta.

Expo 2010 concludes on Oct. 31 and the bi-annual expo will be hosted by Yeosu, Republic of Korea in 2012.

World in brief

—Compiled by Alexandros Mitsiopoulos

CARACUS, Venezuela

President Hugo Chavez has invited Bolivian President Evo Morales and Cuban dictator Fidel Castro to join Twitter. Chavez stresses that relations over cyber space will help strengthen the alliance between the three nations.

Chavez currently has over 360,000 followers on Twitter.

GAZA STRIP, Palestinian Territories

The United Nations has assisted in distributing rugged laptops to thousands of school children.

The initiative is designed to help bolster the education of children in developing countries. Their goal is to distribute 500,000 laptops within Gaza by 2012.

VOLGOGRAD, Russia

On April 30, businessman Vasily Bukhtienko, founder of the Josef Stalin museum near the site of the Battle of Stalingrad, was murdered by three assailants. He was struck in the leg with an electroshock device on a tennis court then beaten brutally.

Motive is still unknown.

Understanding Poland

A panel of professors discuss the April 10 Polish air disaster that claimed the lives of all 96 people on board, including Poland's President Lech Kaczynski.

Read the story online at thecord.ca

FEATURES

Features Editor Laura Sedgwick • lsedgwick@thecord.ca

A Canadian summer

Cliché Canadian pastimes and sardonic affairs for those of you stuck in Southern Ontario to pursue before you hit the books again come September

LAURA SEDGWICK
FEATURES EDITOR

Summer is almost here, and if you don't already have plans to go skydiving in New Zealand or mountain climbing in the Swiss Alps, then make the most of the warm weather right here in our beautiful nation. Here are some very Canadian ideas to get you through the heat.

Road trip

If you didn't already know, Canada is the second highest tourist destination in the world: for Americans, at least.

Either way, the Canadian economy is beginning to piece itself back together (and at a rate much quicker than the American economy, I might add), so what better time to toss some clothes in a bag and take a drive across your country?

Ditch work for a week (I mean, request time off) and head out east with a group of rowdy, yet responsible friends to visit Anne of Green Gables and sail the great Atlantic. On your way, make a pit stop in Trois Rivières to brush up on your "Français."

If that doesn't float your boat, out west there's a whole lot of flat land without much of a view. Thanks Saskatchewan. If you make it past there, go fly fishing and rafting in the Rockies.

To make your trip truly Canadian, be sure to go skinny-dipping in a not-quite-frozen northern lake. If you're jobless, broke and can't swing the cost of gas, there's always hitchhiking.

Celebrate Canada Day in style

Painting a giant maple leaf on your face and on your chest is a start, but it takes more than that to show true Canuck pride.

If you're in Ottawa (or plan on road tripping up there), check out the Canada Day Arts Festival. There is something for everyone – a petting zoo, a car show, a water park and more.

If there aren't any beavers at the petting zoo, you might have to settle for a beavertail pastry from a stand down at the Byward Market.

No matter where you are, hunker down with a cold beer and watch some fireworks. Bonus points for setting off your own. Double bonus points if you still have all your fingers after setting them off.

Take in a Jays game

Or an Argonauts' game, or an Eskimos' game, or a Toronto FC game. There's just something about sitting in the stands, eating a hotdog and paying \$8 for a warm, flat beer in a sippy cup that screams "Canadian."

Besides, I've heard there have been sightings of the elusive Sasquatch at the Rogers Centre. Oh wait, that might just have been the Argonauts' mascot, Jason, torn up and running for cover after a particularly brutal game against the Rough Riders.

For those of you who actually appreciate a good game of baseball or football, your Canadian summer won't be complete without witnessing a grand slam from Vernon Wells or a touchdown catch from Andre Talbot (a former Golden Hawk).



Canada's Wonderland

Big rollercoasters, big people and big lines – all for the low, low price of a week's pay. What could be better? Doing it all with a sunburn, maybe.

While you're there, check out Snoopy Rocks on Ice to satisfy your Peanuts nostalgia. Arthur Bay's Dive Show and Rock Band Live are also there for you to ch-ch-check out!

Make sure to eat an obscene amount of Tiny Tom's mini doughnuts right before going on the Behemoth – because vomiting should (occasionally) be induced by something other than alcohol.

Go camping

Summer isn't complete without spending a couple of nights under the stars with only a thin sheet of fabric between you and the Winnie the Poohs of the wild.

It's also the perfect opportunity to work on your outdoor cooking skills, including roasting hotdogs and marshmallows on a campfire.

Talk about gourmet.

Depending on where you are, you can go hiking or spend a day on the beach.

For a wilderness adventure, only four hours north, head to Algonquin Park.

Closer campgrounds are Elora Gorge or Laurel Creek, found right in the Region of Waterloo.

At night when you're sitting around the campfire, drinking beer and fighting off mosquitoes, make sure you're armed with some seriously spooky

ghost stories – like the one about the axe murderer who slashes tents in the middle of the night and steals the beer of campers everywhere.

Be prepared.

What else can you do when you're camping? How about drinking beer, playing beer pong, dodge beer and flip cup.

Did I mention drinking beer?

Rock out with your hawk out

Raise your hand if you don't love live music and outdoor festivals. Keep it up if you don't like anything associated with it. Now, wave it like you just don't care!

If your hand is still up, the following isn't for you. For the rest of you, this could very well be the best part of your summer.

There's Hillside (Guelph), Beaches International Jazz Festival (Toronto), North by Northeast (Toronto), Mutek Festival (Montreal) and V Festival (cities across Canada), just to name a few of the great Canadian summer music festivals.

Expect to see artists such as Stars, Ben Frost, Brastonaut, Japandroids, The Blackburn Brothers, Jason Collett and Shad K (a favourite Laurier alumnus).

One of the best parts of outdoor festivals is seeing the musicians chilling out in the beer garden.

Stop by to say hi, if you're feeling gutsy, and be sure to ask how they came up with their kooky stage name, like Tim Hecker. I mean, what kind of name is that?

Make yourself utterly unforgettable by showing him that thing you can do with your tongue, foot, and a skipping rope. Gross.



WADE THOMPSON GRAPHICS EDITOR

Did you know ...

- In June of 2009, there were 80 living supercenterarians (people who are 110 and older). Five of them live in Canada.
- There have been 17 Canadian-born Nobel Prize winners including Richard Taylor who verified the Quark Theory.
- Superman was co-created by a Canadian.
- British Columbia consumes less beer than any other Canadian province per capita.
- The world's average life expectancy is 66.47 years. Canada's average life expectancy is 81.23.
- Lady Gaga claims that her first boyfriend was from Toronto.
- 21 of the top 25 all-time NHL scorers are Canadian-born.
- The Bloody Caesar was invented by a Canadian.

ARTS

Arts Editor Sarah Murphy • smurphy@thecord.ca



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Torquil Campbell and Amy Millan from Stars; the band played Starlight on May 6.

In review: *The Five Ghosts*



Stars
Label: Soft Revolution
Release Date: June 22, 2010
Listen To: "Dead Hearts", "Fixed", "Changes"
8.5/10

Two years after the success of the Polaris Music Prize nominated *In Our Bedroom After the War*, on June 22 Stars will release their fifth studio album *The Five Ghosts*. The first on their independent label Soft Revolution Records, the 11-track album is another quality record from the five-piece Montreal band. With the opening track "Dead

Hearts", Stars establish their characteristic sound with the hauntingly crisp back-and-forth lyrical exchanges between band co-founder Torquil Campbell and Canadian indie darling Amy Millan. The album is consistently strong, with notable tracks including the recently released single "Fixed", the lyrically catchy "We Don't Want Your Body" and the retro infused "Changes". The biggest distinction with this release is that there is heavier synthesis than in previous work. This, combined with an overall slower tempo, creates a more vintage sounding album. Though *The Five Ghosts* may fall short on the individual track list – as it lacks what will likely become staple Stars singles – by combining their mature pop sound with dark lyrics the latest offering from Stars is sure to be one of the best Canadian albums of the summer. –Laura Carlson

A stream of *The Five Ghosts* was provided to *The Cord* from Soft Revolution Records.

To read an interview with Evan Cranley from Stars, visit thecord.ca

Live preview of Stars' new album

SARAH MURPHY
ARTS EDITOR

As frontwoman Amy Millan pointed out, it takes a lot of trust for an audience to buy a ticket to see a band play songs that they've never heard before. That's exactly what happened at Starlight on May 6. Montreal-based indie band Stars took to the stage at Starlight to play their new album *The Five Ghosts* in its entirety, a month and a half before the album hits stores. The night started out with an interesting alternative to an opening act as frontman Torquil Campbell

DJed from the back of the venue, accompanied by a light show on stage. After Campbell's set, the crowd listened intently as the band ran through the 11 new songs on a stage that was beautifully decorated with white flowers. Opening with "Dead Hearts" and getting great responses for songs like the new single "Fixed" and the synth-heavy "We Don't Want Your Body", the album was executed perfectly. Intertwined with light-hearted banter from singer/songwriter Torquil Campbell about swearing too much and not being able to see the people at the back of the venue, the songs were done justice by Starlight's sound system. With the new material being received incredibly well by the audience, the band came back out to play an encore of songs that had been voted on by fans. Playing favourites that spanned the career of Stars like "Your Ex-Lover is Dead", "Ageless Beauty" and "Heart" the crowd moved and sang along until the show was brought to a euphoric ending with Campbell on vocals and Chris Seligman on piano performing "Tonight". Despite forgetting the lyrics, which Campbell humorously accredited to 20 years of marijuana

use, they brought the show to a successful close. In what was supposed to be a four song encore, the band made it clear that they appreciate their fans and played seven of the songs that had been requested. Speaking to *The Cord*, Evan Cranley of Stars said that they always aim to create "a personal, intimate experience" for fans. He continued, "I don't want to go out and just play through the songs, I want there to be a connection." A visually and sonically impressive show, it's clear that the Stars fanbase is only going to grow with the June 22 release of *Five Ghosts*.

The encore
Songs played as voted on by fans
Your Ex-Lover is Dead
Take Me to the Riot
Elevator Love Letter
Heart
Ageless Beauty
One More Night
Tonight

Turning the pages

Words Worth Books hosted an event at the Waterloo Regional Children's Museum to promote child and teen literacy

LAURA SEDGWICK
FEATURES EDITOR

Last Saturday, children's and teen's authors, illustrators and poets from across Canada came together at the Waterloo Regional Children's Museum to explore new worlds, tell their stories and expand their imagination in hopes of sharing their love of books and literacy with the youth of Kitchener-Waterloo. The festival, organized by Words Worth Books, offered children the chance to meet and interact with the authors. "It makes the books come alive to the kids," said Bronwyn Addico, the events and marketing co-ordinator of Wordsworth Books. "When kids have so much constant media pumped into them all the time, events like this show them that although books might not be

flashy and in your face, they are really cool and really good for you," she added. Aside from the authors' readings and presentations, which were all uniquely creative, the kids also had the opportunity to make their own books, buttons and other crafts. Laura Reed, the co-ordinator of children and teen services at the Kitchener public library, was also in attendance at the festival. She manned the Kitchener public library booth where her and her colleague engaged children in different reading-related activities, including making bookmarks. "We're here to give the kids information about our summer programs," said Reed about the library's participation in the event. "This year our summer reading club's theme is 'destination jungle'. We're going on a safari and we're

going to be dodging snakes and critters, having drum circles and getting kids excited about reading." Both Addico and Reed emphasized the importance of imagination, and the influence that reading has in that regard. The variety of activities and presentations also promotes such creativity. "Reading helps kids with crafts, it helps them in school, and it will really help them in the future," said Addico enthusiastically. "It's the building block of engineering, computers and for a lot of different things in our modern lives." "It also improves your attention span," she explained. Addico hopes to make this festival an annual event and to continue to promote a love of literacy and reading in Canadian youth.



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Children acting out a scene from Nan Forler's *Bird Child*, while the author read excerpts from the book.

Upcoming summer festivals

North by Northeast
Toronto
June 14-20

Bayfest
Sarnia
July 8-10 & 16-18

Hillside
Guelph
July 23-25

Kitchener Blues Festival
Kitchener
Aug. 5-8

Buskerfest
Waterloo
Aug. 30

Redefining construction: Art in flux

MEAGHAN WALFORD
CORD ARTS

Toronto-based multi-media artist, Michael Capobianco attempts to merge the real and the illusory in his installation entitled *This Site is Under Construction*.

Displayed at the University of Waterloo Art Gallery (UWAG) from April 20 to May 14, this collection offered viewers a chance to step outside reality and immerse themselves within what he described as a "virtual territory in the pursuit of painterly adaptation and image reconfiguration."

The installation, consisting of six pieces, takes regular oil and acrylic paints and combines them with plywood and steel to create a masterpiece of abstract art.

In an interview with The Cord Capobianco said that his inspiration was drawn from his experiences in the field of construction. Working with his father, he was never really able to find a place for himself in "that type of work."

Discovering art at an early age,

Capobianco focused on his studies at institutions that provided him with further means to develop his passion for art. As a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) graduate from the University of Waterloo, he said that the campus construction impacted him.

"I chose to have this installation displayed at the UWAG to show that this space can be reaffirmed," he said. "And because I was influenced by the construction in this area."

In describing what he wants to express to his audience through these works of art, Capobianco explained that he hopes to evoke "confusion."

Based on unfinished works of architecture, *This Site is Under Construction* portrays objects in a state of flux. The University of Waterloo is currently under construction, embodying instability and creating a focal point of inspiration for the artist.

Capobianco explained that he wanted to depict "what constitutes a site" and how sites can be interpreted in different ways. He also likened construction to the artistic process, claiming that architecture

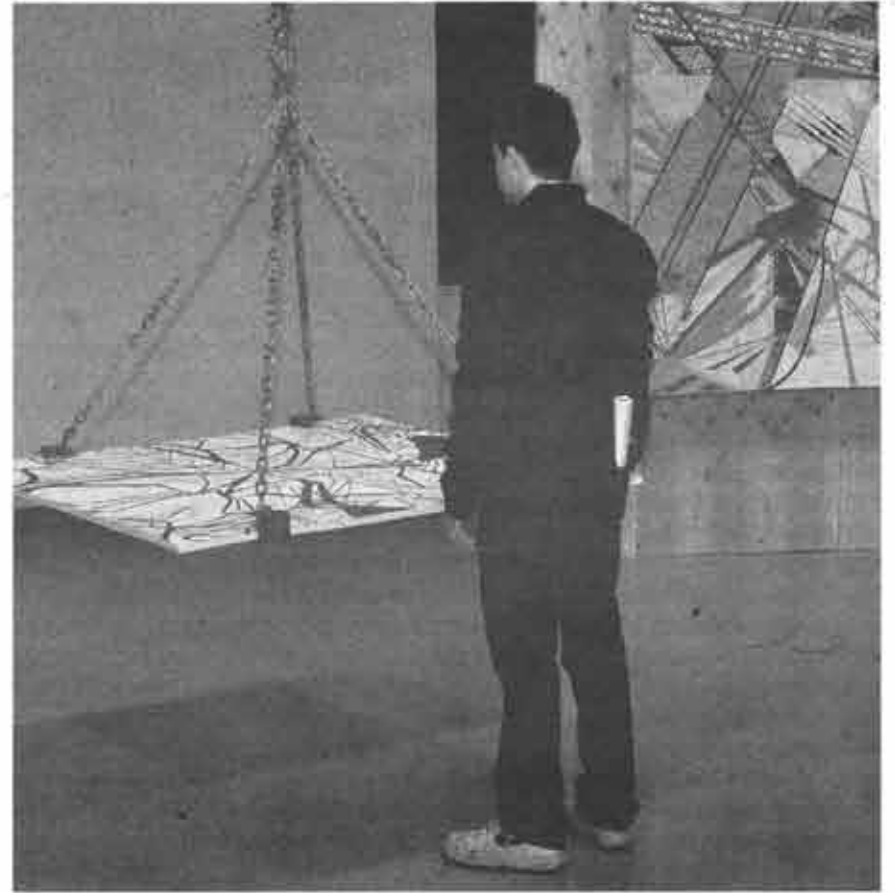
and building is similar to "the continuous creation of a painting."

Using bright colours, thick lines and huge canvases, this installation captures the attention of the audience because of its unique flare and abstract feel.

It allows the viewer to reconsider objects that are not typically seen as art by removing them from a real life setting and displaying them as part of a colorful, off-centre, illusory world. It is this separation of the real and the illusory that Capobianco was striving for. "I want the audience to see flux," he said.

The development of these paintings is representative of flux – the fluctuation of ongoing construction, as well as the changing elements of an art piece that is still in the process of being created.

Summing up *This Site is Under Construction*, Capobianco said that he views the installation as a whole. The exhibit, like the paintings it contains, "transforms and oscillates between conditions of deconstruction and construction," while taking into consideration the use of space, illusion and the role of perception.



ELLI GARLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Michael Capobianco's exhibit showcases the art of construction.

North by Northeast expands

Arts Editor **Sarah Murphy** speaks with Andy McLean, co-founder of the Toronto festival to discuss the past, present and future of the event

Running from June 14-20, this summer marks the 16th year that North by Northeast (NXNE) has taken place.

Managing director and co-founder of NXNE Andy McLean, alongside fellow directors Michael Hollett and Yvonne Matsell, was inspired to create the event after repeatedly attending South by Southwest in Austin, Texas.

McLean reminisced about a time when Internet was not a readily available resource for promoting new bands and when the independent music scene was just "starting to be a viable option for a lot of bands."

McLean went on to say that he "wanted to provide a platform for musicians in Toronto," which eventually evolved into the festival it is today – showcasing over 650 bands from around the globe.

What to expect this year

Known for booking a combination

of some of the biggest established names in alternative music, as well as numerous up-and-coming buzz bands, McLean refers to the musical component as the "lifeblood of the festival."

With over 40 venues showcasing at least five bands a night, each playing 40 minute sets, NXNE promises to be jam-packed with renowned names like Iggy Pop and Sloan, plus hundreds of artists "just on the verge of breaking" the Canadian music market.

McLean remarked that in some ways the festival is "not quite the underground event that we used to be," but remains dedicated to preserving the principles on which NXNE was built.

Partnering with media company Flash in the Can, NXNE has introduced a new interactive component for 2010.

After two years of planning, the interactive element will feature workshops, keynote addresses and panel discussions devoted to what

McLean describes as "exploring the world of digital media and how it relates to music, gaming and screen-based technology."

In addition to musical and interactive events, the film component of the festival will be screening 40 works that cover diverse subjects, ranging from country music legend Johnny Cash to post-modernist author Thomas Pynchon.

Looking to the future

When speaking about the future of NXNE, McLean said that the organizers are content with the growth that they have achieved in the last 16 years and emphasized consolidating the already existing components of the festival.

"It's at a nice point now, where it's easy to navigate for the consumer. They can see as much music as they want to and check out movies as well," said McLean. "And hopefully do the interactive thing. So for us it's about maintaining quality and building on what we've got now."

“

It's about maintaining quality and building on what we've got now.”

—Andy McLean, managing director of NXNE

Advice for students

With affordable student passes and free shows throughout Toronto, what is McLean's advice for university kids? "I'd tell them to come out, even if you're totally broke!"

He also suggests stocking up on sleep because the venues will be open until 4 a.m. Describing NXNE as "a once-a-year opportunity to discover something that you can make your own," the festival is the perfect vacation for music lovers, film buffs and tech geeks alike.

Arts bites

The latest news in entertainment

Christina Aguilera releases hot mess of a song, video

Trying to stay relevant and rip off every edgy artist in the past 30 years, Christina Aguilera released her new flop single "Not Myself Tonight" in April.

Failing to revive the bad-but-good magic of "Dirrty", the song includes such forgettable lines as "I'm kissing all the boys and the girls" and a grating backbeat that sounds like air escaping from a balloon.

The single's video is best described as Madonna and Lady Gaga at Phil's and on ecstasy; a situation that is both unpleasant to watch and will probably give you an STI.

—Morgan Alan

Miley Cyrus gives lap dance

TMZ has released a video of a then 16-year-old Miley Cyrus dancing suggestively with Adam Shankman, the 44-year-old director of the PG-rated *Last Song*, at the film's wrap party last summer.

Cyrus' dad, "Achy Breaky Heart" country singer Billy Ray Cyrus, weighed in on the controversy telling TMZ, "It's what people her age do."

It's good to know that Miley has her father's support on her way to becoming a full-fledged slut.

—Laura Carlson

In review: Summer releases

Together

The New Pornographers
Label: Matador
Release Date: May 4
Listen to: "Your Hands (Together)", "Daughters of Sorrow"

7/10

Together opens strong with "Moves" and "Crash Years" which gloriously combine synths, strings and electric guitar in the New Pornographers' signature style.

Though the album drags along in the middle, it is redeemed by the haunting and melodic "Daughters of Sorrow", which showcases Dan Bejar's often under-represented talent – that said, it can't be easy to stand out in a group with four lead

vocalists.

Neko Case and A.C. Newman shine as always on up-tempo numbers like "Up in the Dark" and "A Bite Out of My Bed", while Kathryn Calder gets her chance on "Sweet Talk, Sweet Talk".

The album closer "We End Up Together" presents stunning harmonies and the band's trademark instrumental crescendos.

Overall, *Together* offers a more vibrant and cohesive collection of songs than 2007's *Challengers*, though it doesn't quite match the glory of 2005's *Twin Cinema*. Nevertheless, the more you listen, the catchier *Together* gets.

—Sarah Murphy

Iron Man 2

Directed by: **John Favreau**
Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Mickey Rourke, Don Cheadle, Gwyneth Paltrow, Scarlett Johansson, Sam Rockwell, Samuel L. Jackson
Release Date: May 7

★ ★ ★ ★

Despite the massive line-ups for midnight showings, a star-studded cast and box office success, the much-anticipated sequel to 2008's *Iron Man* fails to live up to the hype. Robert Downey Jr. and Mickey Rourke deliver exceptional performances as each other's battling archrivals.

The film's special effects keep the audience entertained throughout,

although over-the-top ideas in the sequel seem to detract from the quality of the first movie.

New concepts are introduced without adequate explanation, leaving the viewer confused.

Explosive fight scenes and dry, sarcastic humour keep the audience interested, but overall, *Iron Man 2* is quite disappointing.

The one thing saving this movie from complete failure? Robert Downey Jr. is an attractive man.

—Meaghan Walford

Read more reviews at

thecord.ca

Lindsay Lohan's porn star dreams dashed

A few weeks back, everybody's favourite drug-addled ginger Lindsay Lohan reportedly signed on to play porn star Linda Lovelace in the upcoming movie *Inferno*.

People everywhere were shocked, not at the explicit sexuality of the role, but at the fact that Lohan was still getting job offers.

Nevertheless, director Wali Razaqi came to his senses days later, revoking Lohan's offer and handing it to *Juno* actress Olivia Thirlby.

—Sarah Murphy

EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • emerkeley@thecord.ca

Parking proposal ignores students

At the most recent meeting of the Waterloo city council a proposal was presented to install pay and display machines on Bricker, Ezra and Clayfield Avenue where Laurier students frequently park. This proposal was designed to help reduce parking infractions.

The Cord Editorial Board is deeply concerned that this proposal is a deliberate targeting of students by the city for a money grab. Councillor Diane Freeman, who strongly opposes the measure, expressed similar concern.

What is even more alarming is that this proposal comes through at a time when students have gone home for the summer, unable to provide adequate feedback to the city on the issue. Even this past meeting when the proposal was discussed occurred at a time when student representatives, including the vice-president of university affairs and the president of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union were away in Ottawa for a Town and Gown event. It seems that there is intent to slip this measure through the back door.

In addition to failing to receive adequate feedback, little has been done to study the affect of pay and display parking on traffic flows on each of the streets or if it's a reasonable cost for students to pay in lieu of having a parking permit on campus.

It is preposterous to target a money grab on students without even analyzing the impact. If there ever was an issue that highlights the need for a greater student voice in municipal politics this is it. Council needs to realize that university students are here to stay, and that they form one of the pillars of the local economy. We deserve the respect of any other resident of this city.

We urge all students to make their opinions clear to city council on this issue before it is revisited on June 7. The only way for the student voice to be heard is if they become engaged in the process.

—The Cord Editorial Board

Students engaged in city elections

Municipal elections are approaching across the province and it is very important for students to get involved. A Laurier student is running for council in the Uptown ward, while a recent Waterloo graduate is running for Central Columbia.

This is a good sign that students are becoming engaged in the municipal election process, which will go a long way to properly integrate students into the community as a whole.

The ward structure in the city makes it very difficult for students to receive a voice. Student voters are divided into two separate wards, making it difficult to have a concentrated vote. With that being said, people close to student interests running in both wards with a high student population is a great stride in making sure the student voice is heard during the election campaign.

Student candidates need to be conscious, however, that to be on council they need to represent more than just students. We live in this city side by side permanent residents, and our interests will be served for the better if we can work together to improve the community. It is critical that student candidates, like any other candidates, run to represent their whole ward. City voters will have little patience for a single interest representative.

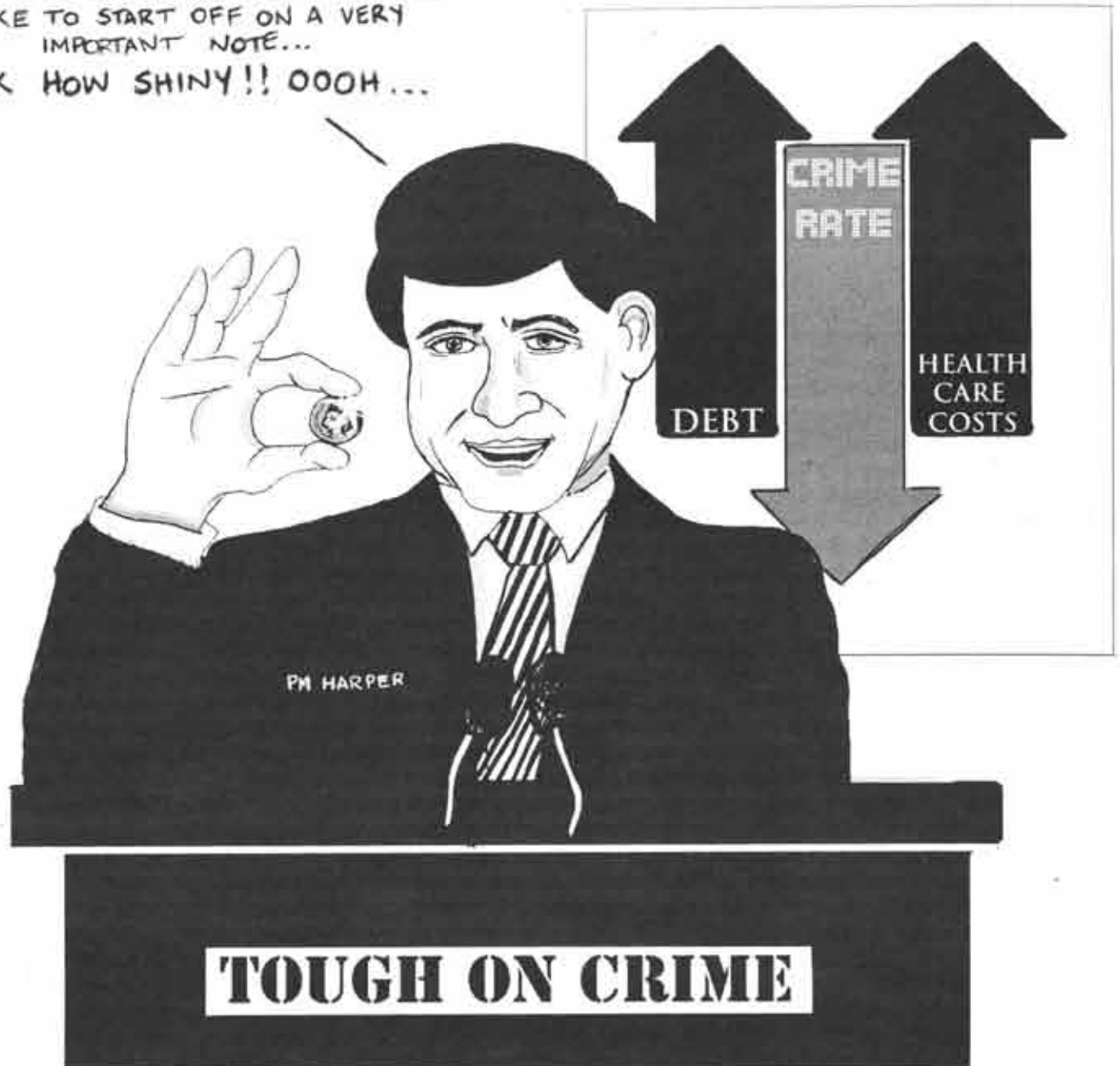
Students have a stake in the upcoming municipal elections. The gains of having people close to student interests run will be lost if students do not come out to vote. Get involved in the process and make a difference.

—The Cord Editorial Board

This unsigned editorial is based off informal discussions and then agreed upon by the majority of The Cord's editorial board, which consists of 15 senior Cord staff including the Editor-in-Chief and Opinion Editor. The arguments made may reference any facts that have been made available through interviews, documents or other sources. The views presented do not necessarily reflect those of The Cord's volunteers, staff or WLUSP.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WOULD
LIKE TO START OFF ON A VERY
IMPORTANT NOTE...
LOOK HOW SHINY!! OOOH...



Cynical populism behind government's crime agenda



ERIC MERKLEY
OPINION EDITOR
emerkeley@thecord.ca

In a time when Conservatives don't really act conservative anymore, there is one field in which a more right-wing mindset has gradually advanced in Canada: crime policy.

The Conservative Party has pushed an aggressive approach to be "tough on crime" with a combination of mandatory minimum sentences on a broad range of offenses from growing as few as six marijuana plants to car theft, tightening up bail restrictions and pushing for mandatory breathalyzer tests. Why has crime been at the centre of government policy initiatives?

A poll commissioned by the Manning Centre for Building Democracy, a small-conservative "do-tank" found that Canadian attitudes have hardened about crime and punishment.

In a time with spiraling deficits, corporate bailouts, MPs parading around with giant cheques, abuse of access to information laws and a growing centralization of power in the PMO, Conservatives see an opportunity to reassure their base that they aren't, in fact, Liberals.

To secure the base and make inroads in immigrant communities in the 905 the Conservative Party has embarked on a very clever campaign of fear. Using populism designed to exploit the fears of a public driven by the sensationalism of the mainstream media they have even forced Liberals to line up and declare their support for Conservative crime bills out of fear of being branded as soft.

This drive towards being tough on

crime is about using populism to advance political fortunes and not about ideology. This can be seen clearly when the Conservative government has repeatedly killed its own "important" legislation with prorogation after prorogation. They are keeping the crime issue alive to beat up the Liberals. It has the dual purpose of also distracting Canadians from more pressing issues that may put the government in a negative light.

Are there any grounds to justify the course taken by the government? Hardly. Crime has been in a steady decline since the late 1980s without a tightening up of crime sentences.

Any argument that bases itself on deterrence as an effective justification is false: there is no credible evidence to suggest deterrence prevents crime. The United States locks up more people as a percentage of its population than any other industrialized nation, and yet its crime rate is one of the highest. If the government is going to make the case to ratchet up sentencing on non-violent crime it needs to have facts to back it up.

Furthermore, policies need to be costed out responsibly. The cost of Bill C-25 to repeal 2-for-1 credits for time in pre-trial custody was announced by Public Safety Minister Vic Toews to be 90-million over two years. In fact the costs would soar to \$2 billion between federal and provincial governments as revealed by Kevin Page, head of the Parliamentary Budget Office.

Similar costing needs to be done on each of their policies that would see the size of prisons swell.

Aside from the financial costs of this push to becoming "tough on crime" are the personal costs. The size of government is growing bigger, and this threatens our liberties. Nowhere is this clearer than with the government's support of mandatory breathalyzers.

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson has staked out the government's support for the Justice Committee's recommendation that random roadside breathalyzer

Conservatives see an opportunity to reassure their base that they aren't, in fact, Liberals.

tests be instituted. This would allow police to force people to be tested for alcohol consumption at roadside stops whether or not there is due cause.

This is a blatant intrusion on our individual liberties guaranteed in the Charter and hundreds of years of English common law tradition, including our security of person, right to not be subjected to unreasonable search and a presumption of innocence until being proven guilty.

To break with our traditional liberties is a dangerous slope our society cannot afford to go down. The size of government grows ever larger, and each and every individual loses out.

As a classical liberal I am deeply suspicious of any legislation that expands the size of government. While I concede the role of government is to protect the rights and property of its citizens, for such legislation to be justified it needs to be based on facts and not cynical populism, it needs to preserve our liberties and it needs to be fiscally responsible. It is also not even close to being amongst the important issues that impact our society today.

Canadians should not be distracted by this populist ploy. Too much is at stake.

OPINION

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • emerkley@thecord.ca

Sex education debate flares up

Controversial changes to Ontario's curriculum that would push an early-learning emphasis on sex-ed are opposed by conservative parent groups and religious organizations

Grade 1: Introduction of body part names

Grade 3: "Invisible differences" such as gender identity

Grade 4: Introduction of puberty development

Grade 6-7: Terms such as "vaginal lubrication" and "anal intercourse"

Against

Changes ignore the will of parents



JOHN KENNEDY
letters@thecord.ca

While I'll let the progressives and the religious duke it out in the war for moral decency and the right to indoctrinate the youth, instead I will appeal to common sense and logic. Recently debate has exploded about the newly proposed, and highly controversial, sexual education curriculum put forth by the McGuinty government.

This curriculum would have children learning about homosexuality and gender identity as early as grade three and the oh-so-important intricacies of vaginal lubrication and anal intercourse in grade seven.

This new proposal is ridiculous and it raises the question of 'when is enough, enough?', when it comes to what we are willing to subject our youth to.

The first question one must ask when educating themselves on this proposed change is what are the immediate benefits of such a controversial change?

The simple answer is that there are none. Parents province-wide have expressed a similar sentiment that the changes are drastically unnecessary at best and downright indecent at worst.

The provincial government is forcing parents to accept what the government believes are appropriate values to teach in school, and that will never stand with parents of any kind.

The disapproval of parents, regardless of whether or not they have a religious background, only scratches the surface of what is wrong with this proposition.

What really irritates me about this new proposal though is this ardent commitment to promote "healthy relationships" and "invisible differences" in grade three.

While the infatuation of many comes from the implementation of the previously

mentioned explicit content to grade sevens, it is these fabricated attempts at explaining significant culture and identity predispositions that could be inherently dangerous to youth development. Anyone who tries to argue that an eight-year-old can fully comprehend the complexity of something like sexual identity is delusional.

And what about the teachers in all of this controversy? Did anyone stop to think about whether or not they would be comfortable teaching this kind of material in their classrooms? It is extremely unfair for the provincial government to put teachers in this position that could ultimately end up in them choosing between their jobs and their values.

What is also extremely vexatious is the attempt at justifying this curriculum by saying that "the younger they are exposed to this material, the less likely they are to conduct such activity." This is a main pillar in the pro-side to this debate that has absolutely zero credibility and is nothing more than undignified speculation.

The attempted quantification of youth curiosity is flabbergasting and unnerving. That's like saying a thief could teach kids the most efficient ways to steal but the larceny rate would decrease. It makes no sense.

What may be the worst part of all this is the provincial government's absolute failure in properly communicating this proposal.

The fact that it was rescinded within 54 hours should tell you one thing, but the passing of the buck by the premier from a stance of ardently defending the proposal to then saying he was "kept in the dark" by the Education Ministry when public opinion was calling for his head shows just how much faith McGuinty has in this plan.

The fact that McGuinty's Transportation Minister Kathleen Wynne blatantly called the Progressive Conservative opposition "homophobes" for not supporting this particular agenda, although they were expressing many of the same arguments of concerned citizens, truly shows that this agenda is not in sync with the perspectives of parents in Ontario.

It is refreshing to see public opinion finally saying enough is enough.

In favour

Early learning of sex-ed critical for healthy living



SHAGUN RANDHAWA
letters@thecord.ca

When I was young, I watched a television show demonstrate babies being brought to a family by a beautiful stork.

When I was in grade four, my friend told me that babies came from an act that involved the boy's "pee-pee" going into the girl's "pee-pee."

My parents were immigrants and were not about to give me any type of sex talk that didn't involve the simple lesson of "don't do it," and thus I was deeply confused about sex and its consequences.

The reality is that kids learn from their friends, and often parents may not be the best, or willing, information source on the controversial topic of sex and healthy living.

The schoolyard is often the primary teaching ground on this subject and adults can't control what information is exchanged here. With the Internet it is even more difficult to monitor what children are learning.

This makes it especially important for the school system to convey accurate information.

With the new and innovative Health and Physical Education (HPE) curriculum that was to be launched by the Liberal government of Dalton McGuinty in the 2010-11 school year, children would have been taught about active living, healthy eating, life skills and yes, sexual education.

What should have been a revolutionary strategy in the Ontario curriculum is now lost by McGuinty's backpedalling, which was forced by pressure brought on by religious and political groups.

"It becomes pretty obvious to us that we should give this a serious rethink," McGuinty told CBC News after they pulled the new curriculum. Years in the making, the HPE curriculum would have had much

more relevance to the 21st century and set a benchmark for what sexual education should involve.

Unfortunately, lobbyists played on the emotions of parents, appealing to their over-protective natures and alarming them by painting a picture of a child's innocence corrupted by the knowledge of what a penis and vagina is, or properly explaining details surrounding issues that impact the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) community.

Charles McVety, head of the Canada Christian College was quoted in CBC News as saying that, "It is unconscionable to teach eight-year-old children same-sex marriage, sexual orientation and gender identity."

In a country where same sex marriage is legal, it is important to inform children that this is a normal way of life that we should be accepting of.

It may not be too late to ensure that the government's crucial approach to health and physical education is not drowned out by loud voices that have so little confidence in the ability of our children to learn, understand and register information that they will be bombarded with regardless.

At least if it is taught in school accuracy and sensitivity will be ensured.

The idea of basing our education system on wishful tradition as opposed to reality allows ideology and religious fervour to trump knowledge and realism.

In the end, the children of Ontario are truly losing out.

If you are interested in writing for the Cord opinion section please contact the Opinion Editor Eric Merkley, at emerkley@thecord.ca

Letters Policy

The Cord is looking for Letters to the Editor for the June issue. Letters must not exceed 250 words. Include your full name and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00p.m. noon on Monday June 28th via e-mail to letters@thecord.ca

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SPORTS

Sports Editor Justin Fauteux • jfauteux@thecord.ca

Hawks pursue pro careers

TIEJA MACLAUGHLIN
STAFF WRITER

McMaster University.

Oddly enough that's where it all started for two of Laurier's finest and highly-touted 2010 draftees.

"We met [during] a recruiting trip to McMaster and we've been home-boys ever since," joked the Detroit Lions' newest defensive lineman Chima Ihekwoaba.

Luckily for the Golden Hawks, Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) stars Ihekwoaba and Taurean Allen decided to come to Laurier.

The tantalizing defensive pair made the switch last minute, persuaded by an impressive recruiting class that boasted the likes of running back Mike Montoya and wide receiver Josh Bishop, as well as linebacker Giancarlo Rapanaro who signed with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

Ihekwoaba and Allen have not only been teammates, but have become good friends throughout the last four years at Laurier. They train together, live together and they even have the same major: communication studies.

"Chima [Ihekwoaba] and I both had the same vision and pushed

each other along the way," said Allen who has signed with the Calgary Stampeders.

"Football consumed our [lives]. Being drafted is now an opportunity to perform at the highest level and confirm all the positive things scouts saw during the evaluation process."

In May 2's CFL draft, defensive back Allen was drafted in the second round 13th overall, and Ihekwoaba followed back-to-back going 14th overall to the Montreal Alouettes.

While Allen took in the news at his Etobicoke home amongst family and friends, Ihekwoaba was stuck at the airport.

"I was at the Detroit airport coming back from the Lions' mini camp," he laughed. "My brother was texting me giving me updates."

In addition to being touted as a top CFL prospect, Ihekwoaba had also been drawing attention south of the border, and shortly after attending mini camp in Detroit signed a three year free agent contract with the Lions.

Both draftees put up big numbers at the CFL combine back in March.

Allen finished second in both the 40 yard dash and shuttle run, while Ihekwoaba completed a 41" vertical



YUSUF KIDWAI FILE PHOTO



RYAN STEWART FILE PHOTO

This summer, Taurean Allen (5) and Chima Ihekwoaba (9) will look to continue their football careers.

jump, which was higher than any defensive lineman who took part in the NFL combine – and that's after undergoing surgery on an injured shoulder that kept him sidelined for the majority of his senior season.

Getting drafted is just the next step in the process for Ihekwoaba and Allen.

Both will continue training and conditioning throughout the summer and then attend their respective teams' training camps attempting to

crack the final roster.

"Hard work got me here and it will sure keep me going," said Allen.

Ihekwoaba agreed.

"I've just scratched the surface of where I want to be. I've set my goals really high and I know I'm definitely on the right track."

One of the biggest perks for Ihekwoaba in the NFL will be the salary figures.

An entry level starting salary in the NFL is US\$325,000, and even if

he only makes the team's practice roster he's guaranteed US\$90,000. That's compared to a first round CFL pick's salary of CAN\$90,000. However, that's not something that the modest Ihekwoaba is concerned with.

"I don't really look at the salary," he said.

"If you look at the extrinsic value of the sport I don't think you'll focus as hard on becoming better or becoming the best."

Security concerns surround World Cup



LAUREN MILLET
STAFF WRITER

Every four years, in front of the eyes of the world, countries battle it out on the soccer pitch for one common goal: winning the FIFA World Cup.

This year, it is to South Africa we turn, on a continent that has never before held the World Cup.

Since FIFA awarded South Africa with the responsibility of hosting the event, much controversy

has arisen about whether or not the country has the necessary capabilities to support it. Security for players, fans and other people travelling to South Africa has been at the forefront of most of the concerns.

The African continent is not exactly known for its stable politics; this was evident earlier this year, during Africa's biggest soccer tournament, the Africa Cup of Nations.

Hosted by Angola, the tournament was far from free of security breaches.

On Jan. 8, two days before the scheduled kickoff of the tournament, the team from Togo was travelling on their bus en route to the grounds of their first match, when their bus was attacked by terrorists.

Three were killed, including the assistant coach, the bus driver and a media officer, and nine others were seriously injured. Defender Serge Akakpo and goalkeeper Kodjovi Obilalé were two of those seriously injured, and remained in critical condition for several weeks following the attack.

The assault prompted Togo to withdraw from the tournament, as they no longer felt safe allowing their players to compete.

This in turn began a ripple effect of concern across the globe, as countries began to question the safety of the players they were sending into such an unknown, unstable territory. U.S. President Barack Obama further pressed the security

issues, when he stated that if the United States makes it out of the group stage, he will travel to South Africa to support the team.

But then one looks at the heart-warming story of a previously war torn continent, attempting to fix its reputation with the rest of the world through a medium where all are equal: sport. K'naan's song "Wavin' Flag", selected as the official song of the World Cup, provides positive reinforcement to anyone with lingering doubts.

K'naan encourages the world to forget about its differences and enjoy the greatest game in the world.

For 31 days this summer, politics will be irrelevant, elections will mean nothing and which countries

are fighting with whom will be forgotten. Players set aside their club jerseys and join their league rivals under their country's colours. The world, as one unified body, will watch the brilliant feet of Lionel Messi, the unwavering passion of Wayne Rooney and the lightning speed of David Villa as people cheer on their country towards the biggest prize in the game.

South Africa has assured the world they will be ready for this, and they deserve an opportunity to allow the African continent to become a bigger part of a game that is more than just a game to them.

So until they prove us wrong, give South Africa a chance. They may just surprise us.

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Sports in brief

—Compiled by Justin Fauteux

Nobes leaves Laurier

On April 29, it was announced that Kelly Nobes was leaving his position as head coach of Laurier's men's hockey team to take the head coaching job at his alma mater, McGill.

In four seasons behind the Golden Hawks' bench, Nobes posted a

77-26-8 overall record, leading the team to the playoffs in every year of his tenure. His most successful season came in 2006-07 when he led the Hawks to a second-place finish in the provincial standings, followed by an appearance in the national semi-finals.

Hawks take part in East-West Bowl

After the 2010 CFL draft saw a pair of Hawks selected in the second round, the draft class of 2011 got a chance to impress the scouts at the eighth annual East-West Bowl game, on May 8.

Representing Laurier on the West all-star team were: wide receiver/kick returner Dillon Heap, defensive lineman George Kourtesiatis and defensive backs Scott McCahill and Shane Herbert. The East would come out on top 12-9, with Heap finishing with 81 all-purpose yards.

A real 'Golden' Hawk

Curling gold medallist and Laurier alumnus John Morris tells The Cord about his experience at the 2010 Olympics

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

He's been a Laurier Golden Hawk, a World Champion, the bad boy of curling and even one of Canada's most eligible bachelors. But now, John Morris can best be described as Olympic gold medallist.

In February, Morris entered into instant stardom, as he and his team mates on Canada's national men's curling team, took home the Olympic gold medal, and that is a moment that the Laurier grad will never forget.

"That was definitely one of the greatest feelings I've ever had in my life," Morris told The Cord in a phone interview from his home in Chestermere, Alberta.

"That's what you always dream of but actually seeing that flag go up and having that gold medal around your neck, all I could think was 'wow.' It was just pure elation."

Growing up

Morris began working towards that moment of elation as a boy growing up in Ottawa, Ontario. A sports enthusiast throughout his youth, Morris played just about every sport that was available, with curling eventually emerging as his passion.

"My family was into sports big time, we played every sport in the book," said Morris. "I was lucky because in Ottawa, there's a fantastic youth curling program and that really got me hooked on the game."

Morris decided to devote his full attention to curling at the age of 16, when the strain of balancing his athletic schedule became too demanding.

"I remember having curling tournaments and hockey tournaments on the same weekend and I would stay at hockey for the first two periods, and then I had to change into my curling gear in the car and my father was racing to a different town," he said. "It was at that point where I really realized I had to choose one or the other and by then I knew that I wasn't going to the NHL, so curling was what I stuck with competitively."

University life

While continuing to curl on the World Junior stage Morris was faced with the decision of where to continue his education and in 1999, he decided upon Laurier and enrolled in the kinesiology and physical education program.

"What really sold me on Laurier was the fact that it was a smaller university," said Morris. "Also I knew that I still wanted to curl competitively and they were one of the only schools who expressed interest in accommodating that."

In his five years at Laurier, Morris rarely had down time. He continued curling competitively while playing for the Hawks' men's curling team and handling the responsibilities of a regular student.

"I can remember writing essays and take home exams on the plane as I'm travelling across Canada, so it was definitely a challenge," said Morris. "Overall, I had a phenomenal time at Laurier, I made several friends I'm still close with today, and I'll always think of those five years as some of the best times of my life."

After Laurier

After graduating from Laurier in 2003, Morris was determined to

continue curling at a high level so he moved to Calgary — which was home to the top curling facilities in Canada — where he took a job as a firefighter. Competing with fellow former Hawk, Paul Moffat, Morris's rink came within one game of qualifying for the 2006 Olympics, losing to Brad Gushue.

Shortly afterwards, Morris would receive an offer to join 2002 Olympic silver medallist Kevin Martin's rink and that was a proposition he couldn't refuse.

However, Morris came close to missing his shot at the 2010 Olympics altogether. Just before receiving Martin's offer, Morris was preparing to take time off curling and move back to Ontario to attend teacher's college.

Morris decided to stay in Alberta, where he teamed up with Martin, Marc Kennedy and Ben Hebert and dominated the curling scene for four years, on their way to the Olympics.

It was during this time that Morris would earn his "bad boy" reputation, something he simply attributes to frustration.

"It was at the Briar in 2007, we were having a really tough tournament, losing a couple matches by literally inches," said Morris.

"So one game against Manitoba I was upset with the way I was playing and I missed a shot so I broke it over my knee and realized right away, 'uh oh, this might not go over so well,' and suddenly I was the bad boy of curling."

During this time leading up to the Olympics, Morris would also co-write a book entitled *Fit To Curl*, in which he draws on his kin/phys ed background to explain why curlers need to be in top physical shape and also provides a workout plan for beginners to elite level athletes.

Olympic experience

At the Olympics, Team Canada went undefeated on their way to the gold medal, playing in front of the surprisingly rabid curling fans in Vancouver, something Morris enjoyed.

"They weren't traditional curling fans but the energy they brought was just great," he said. "We really enjoyed seeing that atmosphere and I think that's something that the game really needs."

According to Morris, the atmosphere inside the curling rink was merely a microcosm of the amazing energy that surrounded Vancouver.

"You could feel the energy in the city the entire time," he said. "The reception and support we received was just phenomenal. Everyone was cheering hard for the country, it was just an incredibly positive vibe and it was incredible to be a part of it."

Another memorable aspect of the Olympic experience for Morris was getting the chance to get to know other elite athletes.

"We got to bond with so many athletes, especially the women's and men's hockey teams, who were on the same floor as us," he said.

"After our second or third game, we went up to the Canadian athletes lounge and Sidney Crosby and Marc-Andre Fleury came up to us and said 'great game guys,' and that was just an amazing feeling."

Morris even got to cap off his Olympics by celebrating the men's hockey gold medal with the players, just a day after he had won a gold medal of his own.

"We were able to sit 10 rows up and watch Sid [Crosby] score the winner against the U.S.," he said.

"So that night we tied one on with Sid [Crosby] and Shea Weber and a bunch of guys from the hockey team and that was just an incredible night."

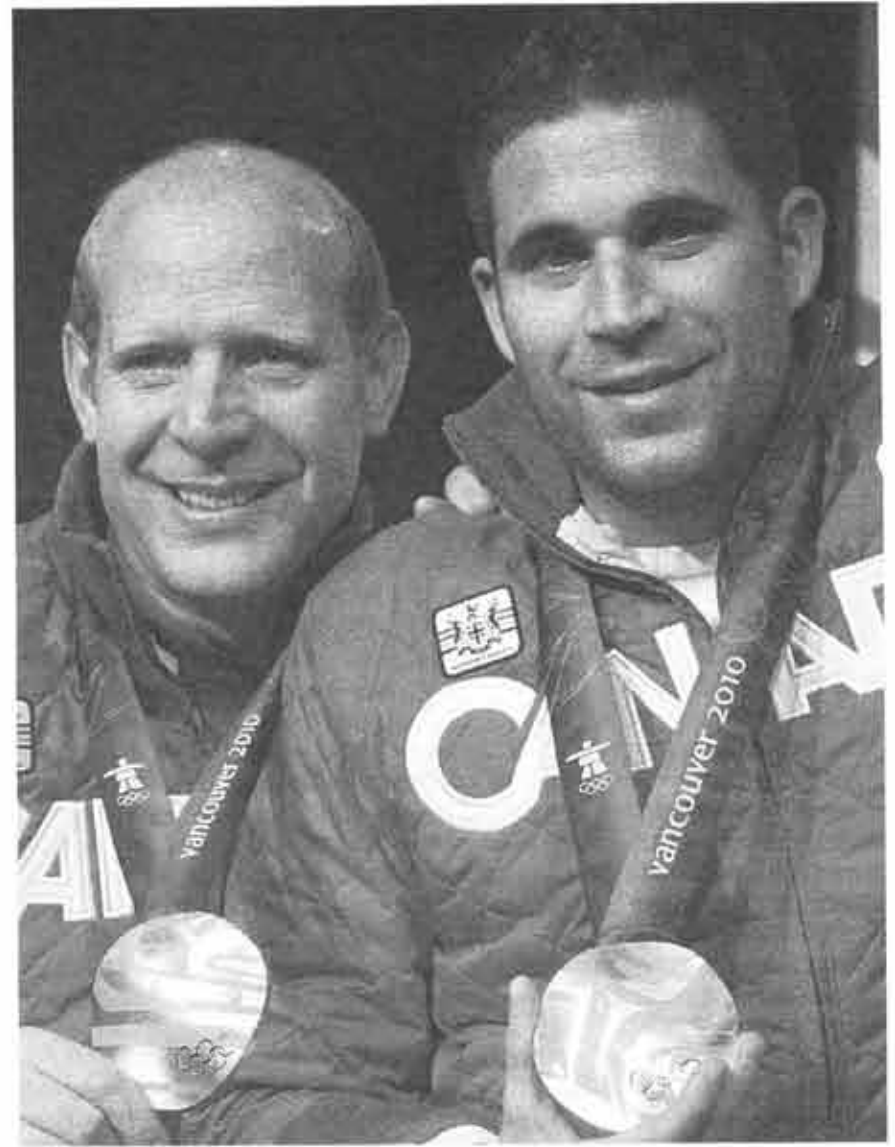
Gold medal aftermath

Coming home as an Olympic champion, life became much different for Morris, he began to be recognized everywhere he went, signing autographs and posing for pictures, and even being named one of ET Canada's most eligible bachelors. However, all that attention was strange for the humble curler.

"It was definitely weird," laughed Morris. "Being a curler you're really not a glamorous athlete like Alex Rodriguez or Alex Ovechkin."

To receive that recognition if anything, it shows that curling is gaining some recognition, but I'm a low-key type of guy, so personally it just felt strange."

Morris will surely be swamped with more autograph and photo requests when he returns to Waterloo on May 25 to share his Olympic experience at the annual Laurier alumni golf tournament.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

John Morris (R) and his teammate Kevin Martin (L) after defeating Norway to win the Olympic gold medal in men's curling.

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