

THE CORD

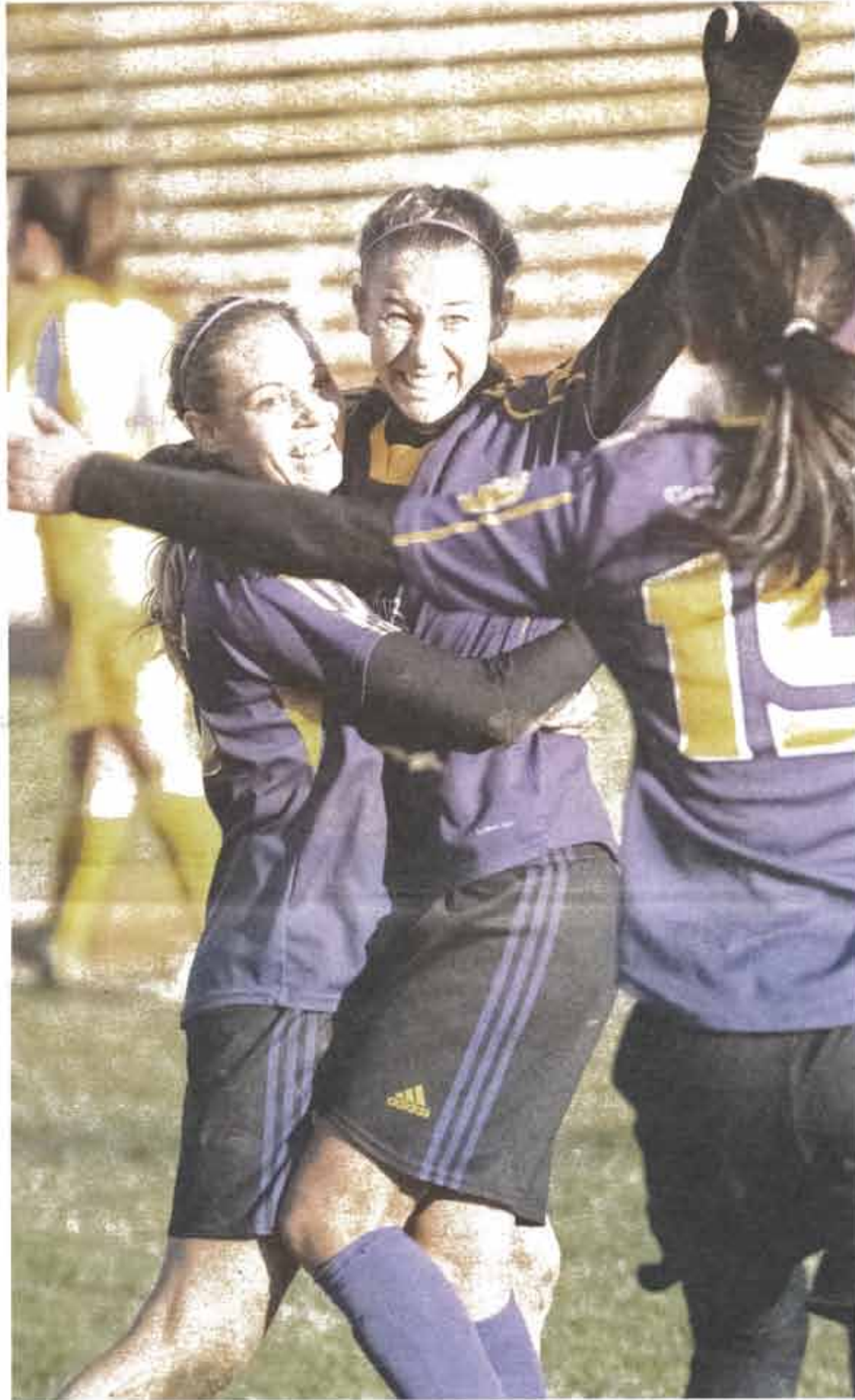
The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

Volume 51, Issue 13

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

thecord.ca

Soccer Hawks strike OUA gold



MIKE WHITEHOUSE LAURIER ATHLETICS

Alyssa Lagonia (centre) celebrates her first OUA title with her Hawks teammates.

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

KINGSTON, Ont. — Over the weekend, everything continued to go exactly as planned for the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks women's soccer team.

With a 1-0 win over the Queen's Gaels in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) finals on Sunday afternoon, the Hawks followed their 11-1-2 regular season by claiming the provincial title.

This marks the second OUA championship in three years for the purple and gold and the seventh in the team's history.

"Throughout the year we built up to this point and we gave everything we had today," said midfielder Alyssa Lagonia. "I'm so proud of every girl that was out there on the field today, we all gave it our all and it was definitely our best game of the season."

After downing the Ottawa Gee-Gees 2-1 in Saturday's provincial semi-final, the Hawks were put in prime position to exact some revenge on the host Gaels on Sunday.

Last year, Laurier cruised through the regular season in a very similar fashion to this campaign, posting a 9-3-2 record.

However, in the OUA semi-finals the Gaels would provide an abrupt ending to the Hawks' season, beating them 3-2 in extra time, barring the defending OUA champs from nationals.

This time around, the Hawks came into the provincial final as an underdog of sorts, with the Gaels being ranked number one in the nation.

"We watched [Queen's] succeed in their division all year and we knew we would probably be seeing them in the finals," said forward Ali McKee of the re-match with the Gaels.

"It feels a million times better to beat them this time around."

After trading chances, with Laurier getting the better of possession for the majority of the game, McKee would break the deadlock in the 78th minute.

The fourth-year headed a corner kick just under the bar and into the Gaels' net to give the Hawks the game-winner and some vindication, sending Queen's off their home field with silver medals.

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Inside

Football season ends with heartbreaking 32-31 loss to Ottawa

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Backpacking on a dime: university students share their stories of budget travel

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Healing through music

Inaugural Music Care Conference delivers new ideas about the benefits of music therapy for physical and mental illness

SARAH MURPHY
ARTS EDITOR

Saturday saw Laurier play host to the first ever Music Care Conference. Drawing in a diverse range of participants, the day featured a variety of workshops and performances in addition to keynote addresses from Dan Hill and Deforia Lane.

The event shed light on music therapy and provided different perspectives on the benefits that music can have on healthcare.

Taking a cross-disciplinary approach, the conference aimed to address the developing problem of our aging "Baby Boomer" population, suggesting that therapeutic music will improve the standard of care in years to come.

The event was organized by the Room 217 Foundation, a Canadian not-for-profit charity that focuses on providing research, resources and training for the use of music in the medical field.

Attendees were greeted with a performance by global music specialist and former Laurier professor Gerard Yun. Following this, Canadian singer Dan Hill — brother of author Lawrence Hill — took to the podium and shared his personal story of music as a healing agent.

From the early age of 11, Hill would use his guitar as a coping mechanism for dealing with his mother's psychiatric illness.

Later on in 2003, as Hill's father suffered from the devastating effects of diabetes, his music created a

bond between father and son — the basis for his book *I Am My Father's Son*, which he signed copies of after his session.

Hill also claimed that as he tried to use music to heal his ailing parents, the songwriting process in turn healed him.

The afternoon session began with a breathtaking performance from the Penderecki String Quartet. Formed in Poland, the foursome has been WLU's "Quartet-in-Residence" for 16 years now.

They delivered a rendition of a Beethoven String Quartet in A-minor, emitting an air of both playfulness and sophistication.

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KATIE FLOOD STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Editor's Choice

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Editor's Choice

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair gallery
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Editor-in-Chief Alanna Wallace • awallace@thecord.ca



MERCEDES DEAN GRAPHICS ARTIST

Vocal Cord

Where do you have the most trouble getting wireless?



'In my residence.'
-Jordan Vanover
First year BBA



'Usually on high floors in the library.'
-Natalie Maderic
Second year sociology



'Ugh, everywhere it sucks. Library, sixth and seventh floors.'
-Samantha Beauparlant
Second year communications



'In the Dining Hall... it's awful.'
-Seamus Townsend
Second year cultural studies

Compiled by Eric Merkley
Photos by Megan Cherniak

Bag O' Crime

Unknown call requiring police assistance
Location: Peters Building
Reported: Nov. 1, 2010 @ 7:46 a.m.

Break and enter
Location: Nichols Centre
Reported: Nov. 01, 2010 @ 10:33 a.m.

Intoxicated person
Location: 232 King
Reported: Nov. 4, 2010 @ 2:32 a.m.

Driving complaint
Location: Mid Campus Drive
Reported: Nov. 3, 2010 @ 11:40 a.m.

Intoxicated person
Location: 232 King St. N.
Reported: Nov. 5, 2010 @ 8:45 a.m.

Alarm
Location: Willison Hall
Reported: Nov. 7, 2010 @ 3:39 a.m.

For the rest of Bag O' Crime, check out thecord.ca

If you have any information regarding these or any other incidents please call 519-885-3333 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

This Week in quotes

'I said before the game to all the girls, 'I want one too''

-Midfielder Alyssa Lagonia on winning her first OUA championship at Laurier despite being on the team for four years



'I remember us scoring on the next play but after that there's a five or ten minute period that I just can't remember.'

'I've got a year [of eligibility] left but I don't want to push it, being 25, I'd like to move on with my life.... It gets kind of awkward when I'm walking around campus talking to 18-year-olds.'

'We hand a blue cable sometimes to a first year student and they don't even know what that is. 'What do I use this for?''

'Trust me, if we don't get some level of enjoyment, if we don't get joy out of what we do, it's probably not worth doing or we're not doing it right.'

'It would be nice if we could put an access point in a room and say 'don't go outside this room' but it doesn't work like that.'

'Your generation must learn from us, living witnesses, while we are alive. You must think, if [the Holocaust] could have happened in a modern, enlightened place like Germany; could it happen here? Could it happen again?'

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In 2009 the Canadian Community Newspaper Association awarded The Cord third place in the campus newspaper category.



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The Cord is the official student newspaper of the Wilfrid Laurier University community. Started in 1926 as the Collegium Cord, The Cord is an editorially independent newspaper published by Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications, Waterloo, a corporation without share capital. WLU SP is governed by its board of directors.



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.

NEWS

News Director Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca

Strike possibility low

Faculty association says that negotiations continue amicably

BREE MANTHA
STAFF WRITER

Despite talks of strikes at other Ontario universities, the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA) is confident that Laurier will not be following suit. Individuals involved in the negotiations believe that there will not be a strike or even a strike vote taking place this year even though the contract for Contract Academic Staff (CAS) expired at the end of August.

"At the moment, there is absolutely no suggestion that we could be moving towards a strike action," said Judy Bates, a geography and environmental studies professor who is the current president of WLUFA.

WLUFA serves as the certified bargaining agent for all faculty and professional librarians. Currently, the association is negotiating numerous issues related to CAS instructors and staff, a group of 520 part-timers at Laurier.

"Workload and compensation are the major issues that come up every time we negotiate," Bates said. "There's concern about access to benefits... that's an issue that has come up every time we negotiate, whether it's for full-timers or part-timers."

Bates believes that the primary concerns of CAS members – workload and compensation – are often the same issues of concern to permanent and full-time employees. "The only difference, perhaps with CAS are for job security," Bates

remarked. "CAS members obviously would like provisions for job security."

WLUFA has been meeting twice weekly since mid-September to discuss these issues and will continue in the same fashion into December. Kendra Young, administrative manager of faculty relations, has been present and believes that the negotiations are progressing smoothly, and like Bates, sees no indication of a strike in Laurier's future.

"I have to agree... that there is nothing pointing in the direction of a strike at all."

Several other Ontario universities have been experiencing strike talks and actions in recent months. At the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, support staff moved to strike in September after their concerns for access to benefits and contracts were not met by administration. When the school decided to commence orientation regardless of the strike, support staff took to the picket lines and blocked entrances at the Sudbury and Thunder Bay campuses.

The University of Western Ontario has recently reached a tentative agreement between administration and faculty in order to avoid a strike of their own. Bates expressed a pleasant surprise at this turn of events.

"There seemed to be huge difference between what administration was offering and what the faculty association was offering," Bates explained. "Yet at the last minute

“
At the moment, there is absolutely no suggestion that we could be moving towards a strike action”

—Judy Bates, president of WLUFA

they managed to reach a tentative agreement.”

Students may recall a strike at WLU in the winter 2008 term, when 365 part-timers and CAS walked off the job for nearly three weeks, resulting in cancelled classes and missed teaching time for many students. But both Bates and Young believe that the current negotiations taking place are nothing out of the ordinary, and that any talks of a strike are merely rumours fueled by sensationalism.

"[Negotiations] are progressing slowly, but that's normal," said Bates. Young confirmed this. "I believe that they are progressing well," she said. "We are moving along. I'm actually quite happy with the way things are at this point."

	Library 4th floor Center of Floor		Dining Hall Empty
	19.87 Mb/s		3.36 Mb/s
	Library 4th floor Corner carrel		Dining Hall Busy
	9.87 Mb/s		0.31 Mb/s
	BA 201 Empty		Science Atrium Empty
	7.53 Mb/s		8.51 Mb/s
	BA 201 Peak		Science Atrium Peak
	0.22 Mb/s		0.17 Mb/s

—For methodology see thecord.ca

Wireless unplugged

MIKE LAKUSIAK
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Every student on the campus of Wilfrid Laurier University seems to have something to say about access to or the quality of the university's wireless Internet access. Tuesday afternoon, the science building atrium was filled with laptop-toting students and the general sense was that Laurier Wi-Fi wasn't working much at all.

"I'm down here because up where the independent study areas are there is pretty horrible [wireless] reception," Tyler White, a first-year biology student said as he tried in vain to check his email from the atrium. "I came down here to try and get a better connection."

White said during his time at Laurier he's experienced problems with connecting to the network elsewhere on campus. "I went so far as to purchase a network cable because I noticed that there's plugs where you can plug in but none of them that I've tried work," he said, pulling a blue cable from his bag before leaving to do work at Starbucks. "I was hoping I could just plug it in and skip this wireless."

Manager of infrastructure and network security Richard Godsmark explained that the university installed more access points for the wireless network over the summer, but certain areas aren't adequately served and it takes time to adjust to demand. "Bricker Academic is one example, we've had some struggles there. We're adding access points there, same over in SBE," he said.

Assistant vice president of academic services at Laurier Tom Buckley explained that with more students than ever before bringing devices to campus that access the "Laurier Wi-Fi" and "Laurier Wireless" designated networks, the load on the system predominantly contributes to performance issues.

"We have some work to do in terms of matching student demand in certain geographic areas, time

of day and what have you," Buckley said. "That will be an ongoing process."

"The science atrium and the concourse are two areas where we want to invest heavily," he continued. "The library is another, to ensure that large numbers of students connecting in the library are able to get decent upload and download speeds."

Godsmark said that each of the current wireless access points has a recommended performance threshold of 30 simultaneous users. "An access point only has so much bandwidth it can process through it," he said. "You can have more than 30 users on an access point but performance can degrade pretty significantly pretty quickly."

He said that the science atrium currently has two access points. "Could it do with a third or fourth? Maybe," he speculated. With the additional access points added over the summer, Godsmark said the total number was likely "up in the hundreds" campus-wide.

According to Buckley, the wired network that underlies wireless connections has been upgraded and will continue to be. "Earlier this term we quadrupled the size of the total Internet connection in and out of the university," he said, adding that the Brantford campus still runs all Internet traffic through Waterloo. Once Brantford is given its own Internet connection, performance should improve at both campuses.

Godsmark is currently examining options for upgrading the wireless network, including more substantial access points to allow more simultaneous connections. He mentioned the possibility of new wireless technology that is currently rolling out in the U.S. using the former analogue television wavelengths for Wi-Fi signal, a technology that is better at penetrating buildings.

"All I'd say is that I think wireless is going to be a lot better coming soon, it's just that we're trying to catch up with the explosion."



BEN DEROCHIE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Research profile: Anne Wilson

Social psychology prof examines students self-image, habits

MIKE LAKUSIAK
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Wilfrid Laurier University psychology professor Anne Wilson, part of the university's social psychology program, works with students as she researches self-image and the psychological perception of time. She holds a Tier II Canada Research Chair in social psychology, which helps fund her work at Laurier.

"I'm interested in people and the weird things that people do in daily life," she said.

"It's a fun area of research because almost everyone can resonate with it."

"People tend to see themselves as having undergone a dramatic improvement through time," Wilson said, pointing to her work with young adults. "My research generally shows that that is kind of inaccurate."

Whether or not someone undergoes a true improvement over time, people tend to make themselves feel better about their current state by thinking of their past self as worse.

"When people think back to the past, the further away it seems to them, the more they criticize that past self," Wilson said.

Wilson's recent work has focused on identity and the implications self-image and self-esteem can have for peoples' behaviour and decisions.

Psychological time becomes important when someone perceives



MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTO MANAGER

positive or negative events in their life as closer or farther away based on how the events reflect on their sense of self.

"One of the things that students can do to protect their self esteem is to push off failures and bring forward successes," she said, using the example of a successfully or not so successfully completed midterm as something to be either pushed away or brought closer.

"When something feels really recent, even when you know it was awhile ago, it tends to directly affect your self-image," she explained. "So if you did badly you feel like a failure

today, if it feels distant then it no longer has any implications for your identity."

Psychological time can contribute to a person's behaviour, including procrastination.

Wilson has tested the effects of how far from the present students perceive a test to be on their study habits.

Among the Laurier student subjects of two different studies conducted in her lab, Wilson and her colleagues found that students that said a test seemed further away, possibly in order to protect their self-esteem and push away the idea of failure, scored worse overall on the actual test.

"People do these things sometimes to protect their sense of self but that can actually backfire sometimes when it also makes them less motivated to pursue goals," she explained, noting that this can have consequences for things with long-term benefits including health goals, financial planning and environmental responsibility.

"Getting people to focus on the positive outcomes in the long term is really important, and if you can make those feel really close to people, it seems to help motivate their behaviour today," Wilson said.

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CAMPUS

Campus News Editor Mike Lakusiak • mlakusiak@thecord.ca

Entrepreneurial spirit encouraged



MIKE LAKUSIAK
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Alan Quarry, an entrepreneur-in-residence at Wilfrid Laurier University spoke on the afternoon of Oct. 9 to a substantial crowd in the Senate and Board Chamber, on entrepreneurship, its pitfalls and the fulfillment that can be achieved with the right combination of persistence and sacrifice.

Steve Farlow, executive director of the Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurship at Laurier, introduced Quarry, whose talk is one of many around Waterloo as part of Entrepreneurship Week from Nov. 8-12. He called this area, "the best place in North America to start a business."

Quarry's speech dealt with his experiences building a business from the ground up including moments of near-failure and the gradual development of Quarry Integrated Communications, a marketing communications and advertising agency headquartered in Waterloo with offices in Toronto and the U.S.

"How many of us here are anxiously awaiting a career as a middle manager?" he asked the crowd, later identified through a show of hands as the lecture was mostly comprised of School of Business and Economics (SBE) students.

He added, "Trust me, if we don't get some level of enjoyment, if we don't get joy out of what we do, it's probably not worth doing or we're not doing it right."

Leaving a cushy job at TD Canada Trust in his early thirties to go into business with his father and eventually taking over the company, Quarry saw his fortunes dip when he was forced to put his family's home on the line to secure a loan to revive the business in the late 1980s.

"Fear is good for you, it makes you run faster," he recalled.

Quarry, who also teaches marketing courses at Laurier, emphasized the qualities of the university that make it ideal for young entrepreneurs to grow.

"This school has one of the best business schools in North America, and it's inside a school that has some of the best social programs and some of the best arts and science programs," he said.

"We have this tremendous integration available to us here at Laurier that other schools don't have. It's a tremendous opportunity for us to move forward."

Dean of SBE Ginny Dybenko explained the importance of having entrepreneurs-in-residence like Quarry as a resource for students.

"Entrepreneurship, really unlike any other thing we try to develop here at Laurier, really can't be taught in the same way other subjects can," she said.

"It's really not something in my way of thinking that comes out of a textbook."

Students have been responsive to the presence of Quarry in the Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurship as

"How many of us here are anxiously awaiting a career as a middle manager?"

—Alan Quarry, Entrepreneur-in-residence

someone to talk to about their ideas as they consider entrepreneurship possibilities during or after university.

"The response from the students has been very gratifying," Quarry said. "I have office hours Mondays and Wednesdays and my schedule is usually booked."

He said he enjoys listening to students' plans and offering ideas of his own, though he noted that it's often about asking people what they are willing to sacrifice in pursuit of a dream. "If you want to do something, great," he said. "What are you going to give up to get that?"

"It's just a matter of being there to listen," he said of his role. "I'm just turned on by the imagination and the ideas that the students have."

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News in brief

Dr. Blouw goes to India

Wilfrid Laurier University president Max Blouw is one of fifteen Canadian university presidents on a recruiting trip to India that began this week.

The delegates have gone on behalf of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) to build ties with Indian institutions to encourage international students to consider Canadian schools.

Demand for higher education in India is immense, and it is estimated that 800 new universities would need to be built in the next decade to accommodate Indian students at home. Currently only about 4,000 Indian international students attend Canadian universities though tens of thousands are attracted by other nations.

Faced by funding uncertainty, Canadian institutions are increasingly looking abroad for lucrative international students who on average pay much more for their education here than their Canadian counterparts.

University obtains Olympic memorabilia

Wilfrid Laurier University now holds in the library archives over 40 years of personal documents and International Olympic Committee (IOC) correspondence from Avery Brundage, IOC president from 1952-72. Brundage is best remembered for his decision to allow the 1972 Munich Olympic games to continue after 11 Israeli athletes were killed by terrorists. The collection was brought to Laurier through an endowment fund and efforts from kinesiology professor Stephen Wenn.

Survivor draws awareness

DAVID GOLDBERG
WEB DIRECTOR

ALANNA WALLACE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The opening ceremonies of Holocaust Education Week 2010, hosted by Hillel Waterloo, began on Nov. 8 with a memorial march that ended in the Wilfrid Laurier University campus Quad.

The ceremony included the reading of testimony from those who lived through the Holocaust, read by participants, an exercise education co-ordinator for Hillel Waterloo Rachel Biranbaum said is an integral part of the week-long event.

Hillel Waterloo is a joint group open to any student interested in learning about Judaism or Jewish culture, regardless of religious affiliation.

"We're not going to have the stories from the people who experienced it themselves," said Biranbaum, a second-year Laurier business student. "We want to make sure that everyone still knows what happened."

Students got the opportunity to experience a first-hand account from Holocaust survivor Judy Cohen. She relayed her story to a packed lecture hall Tuesday night.

Born in Hungary in 1928, Cohen was sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp in the spring of 1944. Her mother, father and six brothers and sisters had all been sent to concentration camps or used as human shields for the Hungarian army.

"Every day was a struggle to stay alive. Every day took its toll physically, psychologically," said Cohen of her time in the camp.

Cohen was eventually transferred to a manufacturing plant in Aschersleben, Germany to work as a slave for 12-hour days with little sustenance.

As Allied troops penetrated further into the Nazi empire, Cohen experienced one of the now infamous "death marches" after American bombs decimated the plant.

Cohen, along with nearly 500 workers, was forced to march the 120km journey to another concentration camp, Buchenwald.

Fortunately, Allied forces along the way liberated them, though many prisoners had already died from malnutrition or sheer exhaustion.

It was finally all over, however, the harsh reality was that Cohen would never see the majority of her family again and she moved to Montreal to begin her new life.

"We were not immigrants who longed to return home," she said.

Nearly 50 years passed before Cohen began to speak about her horrific, almost surreal experience.

Living in Toronto in 1993, Cohen encountered a group of neo-Nazi protestors at the corner of Yonge and Bloor. The harsh reality of the human condition so many years after Auschwitz made her want to speak out and break her silence and her story has taken her all over the world.

"Your generation must learn from

us, living witnesses, while we are alive," Cohen told the audience.

"You must think, if [the Holocaust] could have happened in a modern, enlightened place like Germany; could it happen here? Could it happen again?"

Events continue throughout the week

Events throughout the week include a film screening of "Life is Beautiful" on Nov. 10 and a panel discussion on tolerance at the University of Waterloo on Nov. 11.

Chanie Antfleck, president of Hillel Waterloo and a kinesiology third-year at Laurier, explained that the panel discussion will not simply revolve around the Jewish

Holocaust.

"With all the intolerance going on around the world it's really important to get the message out," said Antfleck.

Both Antfleck and Biranbaum stressed Holocaust Education Week as an opportunity to learn from mistakes of history so they will not be repeated.

"If we say 'never again' what does that really mean?" Biranbaum asked.

"There are so many genocides that have gone on since the Holocaust and it is important for us to keep that history alive even though we may not be able to hear it from the people themselves."



ELLI GARLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Judy Cohen speaks to the students and faculty on Nov. 9.

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LOCAL

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Dismissal results in an inquiry at the Balsillie school

MATTHEW SAVARD
CORD NEWS

In May 2010 distinguished professor and researcher Ramesh Thakur was dismissed from his position as inaugural director of the privately funded Balsillie School for International Affairs (BSIA).

Upon investigation, it was revealed that academic freedom and incompatible goals of private investors and educators had a hand in the dismissal.

In an investigation commissioned by the Canadian Association for University Teachers (CAUT) and conducted by Len Findlay from the University of Saskatchewan, it was found that "insofar as [Thakur's] academic freedom depended on the protections of institutional autonomy, it became increasingly vulnerable to threats from the outside and complicity on the inside."

The "threat from the outside" as far as the report is concerned is the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) which is also funded by Jim Balsillie, co-CEO of

Research in Motion.

"Complicity on the inside" refers to the involvement of other staff at BSIA as well as representatives from Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU) and University of Waterloo (UW) which are the other principle partners of the school.

WLU and UW are academic institutions and contributed this aspect to the BSIA. CIGI, however, is considered the private investor.

When Thakur resisted attempts by CIGI to be present for meetings regarding the curriculum and academic direction of the school, it led to his dismissal.

Thakur refuses the idea that private institutions that fund a school should have the ability to influence curriculum.

"That would require a fundamental change in the basic philosophies and principles in the way Canadian and western universities systems have operated to date," he said.

"Think of it this way, [universities'] major funders have tended to be governments. Does that mean government should chair effective

decisions or have a say in academic matters? And if you think about it, governments at least have some legitimate claim to be acting in the public interest. Private benefactors can't even claim that."

According to Thakur, the issue reaches even farther than this. It also could affect students who obtain a degree at any of the three schools. "It affects the academic integrity and issues of academic reputation of the institutions and the universities. And therefore in the long run also the marketability and reputation of their degrees," he said.

In Findlay's report, he offered recommendations that, if followed both at BSIA and other similar institutions, could help prevent these issues in the future.

Specifically for WLU and UW he wrote "UW and WLU should develop clear and comprehensive guidelines for dealing with current or potential donors and for collaborative initiatives such as BSIA, so as to ensure that the academic autonomy and integrity of all university-associated institutes, centres or schools."

However, Thakur thinks a precedent may be set by this case. BSIA is not the only such institution in Canada with private donors and academic goals, and with governments cutting back on educational funding, this could become a real issue for public universities as well.

"The issues are important and I think they might even become more important in the future because rather unfortunately governments have been cutting back on the level of their funding for universities and universities have been scrambling to make up the short fall with financial input from private donors," he said. "If that is the case then it becomes extremely important to make sure that the restrictional boundaries are clearly understood and are respected on both sides."

While it is a difficult situation that has risen from the BSIA, Dr. Thakur hopes something constructive comes of this.

"I hope it spurs a debate and discussion and clarifies the issues and principles for the university community locally and nationally."

KW in brief

New slogan for UW

According to the uWaterloo Daily Bulletin, the University of Waterloo (UW) has adopted a new slogan: "Ideas start here." The new slogan is meant to call attention to the innovative nature of the school and spread awareness about the brand identity of the university. The office of marketing and undergraduate recruitment believes that the new themes are powerful for attracting students.

Promoting mental health through art

The *Waterloo Region Record* reported that a photography project run by Spark of Brilliance, a local community-based mental-health initiative is being shown at the Freeport site of the Grand River Hospital and has also been made into a book.

The project included photographs taken by 20 individuals who have suffered from mental illness and addiction, depicting many types of struggles and conveying both hopeful and painful messages.

New CIGI director named

It was announced last week that Thomas A. Bernes would be taking up a position as executive director for the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI). The *Waterloo Chronicle* reported that Bernes will be responsible for the institution's overall strategy, programs and management.

Previously, Bernes held positions as vice president of programs and acting executive director. He is well-known in the international policy community for his work with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

Councillors discuss transit woes

The *Waterloo Region Record* reported that incoming Waterloo councillors discussed what they agreed was a major concern for voters during this election: traffic and transit. It was discussed that voters raised concerns about traffic congestion, particularly around the downtown area despite opposing the Light Rail Transit (LRT) initiative.

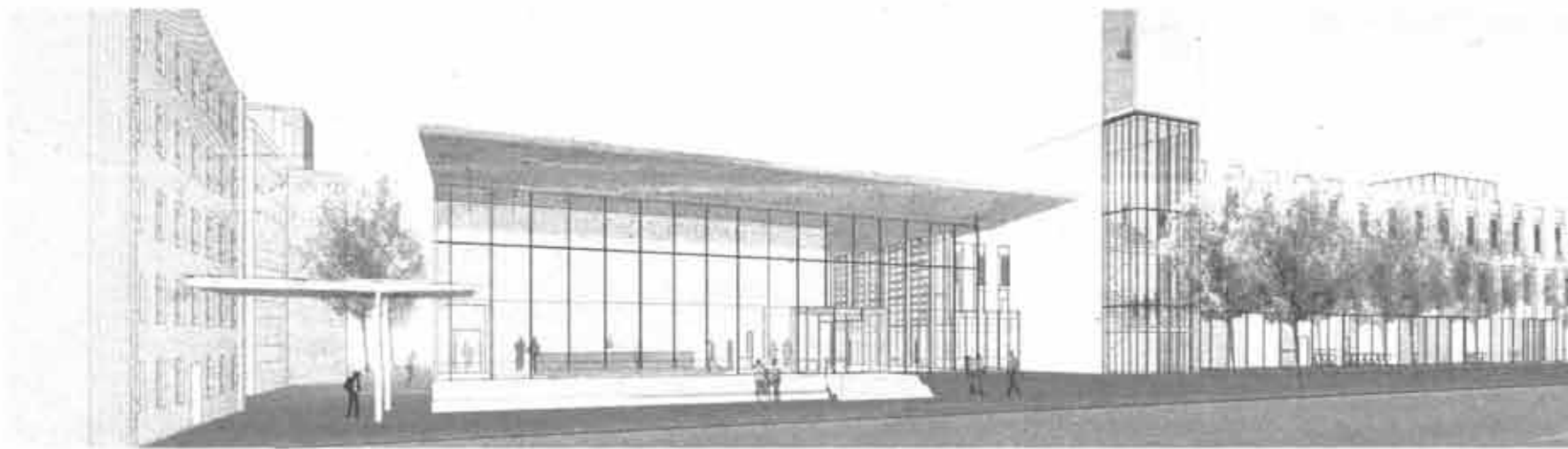
Despite the conversation, councillors have little control over traffic issues, as those are to be addressed by regional council, not city council.

Kitchener man convicted on weapons-related charges

Last year, a 59-year-old Kitchener man named Victor Orłowski was seen with a firearm which set off a helicopter search after he jumped into the Grand River. The *Waterloo Region Record* is reporting that Orłowski was convicted on Nov. 8 of much lesser sentences because he had no intention to harm anyone but himself during the incident last June. Orłowski's business in the auto industry had been hit hard by the recession but has since recovered. He was convicted of several less-serious weapons-related offences.

Music marathon

The *Waterloo Chronicle* has reported that 200 musicians will be coming to Waterloo for the seventh annual Love of Music Marathon in support of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony on Nov. 13. The event will be hosted by more than 200 musicians. —Compiled by Alanna Wallace



Plans of the finished Balsillie School of International Affairs with CIGI located on the left, scheduled for completion next summer.

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One vote margin in Kitchener Ward 9 race

CAMERON WALKER
CORD NEWS

The race for Ward 9 councillor was narrowly won by Frank Etherington, who barely squeaked by candidate Debbie Chapman with a solitary vote: 1,689 to 1,688 to be exact. A recount on Nov. 3 turned out the exact same results.

The Oct. 25 municipal elections may be days past, however, the race for Ward 9 city councillor may not yet be over. That is, not until we hear Debbie Chapman's decision on whether or not she will apply for an official judicial recount of the astonishingly close election results, an announcement expected to be made Nov. 10.

"It's very surreal", said Chapman, a professor of North American studies at Laurier. "I expected myself to be upset over the result, but it hasn't come over me yet."

Remaining positive despite the same outcome during the recount, Chapman said, "I don't feel like I've lost [and] I don't regret it either."

"Delighted with the result" of the election, Etherington said he was "hoping that the figures would stay the same as they were and that's exactly what happened."

Had the result of the Ward 9 election been a tie, a recount would have

automatically been prompted, but it was up to Chapman to request a recount to be executed.

"Initially I had asked for a manual recount," said Chapman, who explained that only the judicial recount can be performed manually.

The Nov. 3 recount was performed using many of the same tabulators that counted the Ward 9 ballots on election day, two of which broke down partway through the recount process.

Many of the ballots, torn and damaged in the time since the election, were unreadable by the tabulators and others, deemed ambiguous by imperfections in the voters' markings, had to be duplicated in order to be properly read by the machines.

Chapman noted the issues weren't always so clear though, where ballots with no visible tears or damage and no ambiguities in the markings were continuously rejected by the machines.

Despite the small mishaps with the tabulators, Chapman mentioned the recount revealing the exact results as election night were "very telling" on the reliability of the new electronic voting system.

"It showed the integrity of the whole election system," said

Etherington of the recount process, done using electronic machines. "If those figures had come out different then we would have been in a lot of trouble I would suggest because the whole system would have been in question."

As it stands, Frank Etherington is the new councillor for Ward 9, but currently remains hesitant to begin his celebrations while awaiting Chapman's decision on whether or not to request the manual, judicial recount.

"The rollercoaster we're on, it's still moving," said Etherington of Chapman's pending decision.

Upon asking Chapman about her feelings about another recount she explained, "I haven't decided whether or not to do so yet. People are telling me to just 'go for it', but it's a big financial investment. I want to talk to my scrutineer before making my decision, which I will announce by Wednesday."

While Ward 9 awaits the final word on the decision to call a judicial recount, both Etherington and Chapman have expressed their support and sympathies to one another's hard fought campaigns with Chapman concluding, "We've been very friendly, Ward 9 will be very well represented regardless. Frank will make a great councillor."



KATE TURNER CORD PHOTOGRAPHY

Seven Shores is located at 8 Regina St. N. in uptown Waterloo.

Café provides fair trade to Uptown

After years abroad, the Zisters decided to share their travels with the community

DAVID GOLDBERG
WEB DIRECTOR

Have you ever wondered if the food you're eating has a story?

If you wander into Seven Shores Urban Market and Café, store owner Sean Zister will tell you one.

Located at 8 Regina St. N., Seven Shores was nominated for Business of the Year 2010 (employees under 20) by the Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce. The business targets customers who care about organic and fair trade products from fruits, vegetables and coffees to house wares and art.

"[Fair trade] is being transparent but also knowing directly where your product is coming from," said Zister.

For Zister and his wife Amy, the passion was ignited by their travels to destinations like Kenya and Tanzania while they were teaching abroad. He said that when they saw local artisans, it made them think about how products from such places end up in North American hands.

"We wanted to find out more about the issues that are facing these artisans around the world... you think about the middle man controlling what happens in-between along with the issue of getting a proper wage to these artisans," said Zister.

In 2003 when the couple returned to Canada to teach, they discovered a genuine interest from family and friends in the products they had returned with. So they set up shop at the St. Jacob's farmers market armed with their fair trade goods.

Zister said it was the reaction they got that made them realize their calling.

"The first couple of months we got a real interest from our customer base and we said, 'Yeah this is it', and seven years later we're still advocating and trying to get the word out."

Until 2008, Seven Shores was a trading company in Kitchener with a focus on providing house wares and

"[Fair trade] is being transparent but also knowing directly where your product is coming from."

—Sean Zister, co-owner of Seven Shores Urban Market and Café

art. Then the café in uptown opened in July of that year and the warehouse closed after a few months. The Zisters' focus changed from artisan pieces to food and Seven Shores Trading Company became Seven Shores Urban Market and Café.

The store offers a range of services. One can stop in for a cup of fair trade coffee and a certified organic sandwich or do shopping. Along with fair-trade products such as coffee and sandwiches, Seven Shores also provides a service that offers "food boxes" which can be ordered in-store or online, where patrons can pick out food items on a list that will be put together for you to take home.

For the Zisters, their goal has always been to make a difference in their community, no matter the size or the number of people that they reach.

Even though they are no longer teachers but entrepreneurs, for them it's still about the education.

"This is a chance outside of the school walls to have our own classroom where we can educate as many people as we can about fair trade, about eating healthy, about organics, and other social issues that we are learning about," explained Zister.

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A bit of country in Toronto for the Royal Winter Fair

ALANNA WALLACE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"I go every year," said Laurier third year psychology major Sarah Main of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, which runs from Nov. 5 to Nov. 14 at Exhibition Place in Toronto. "It's a great learning experience for everyone, there's always something for everyone to do."

In its 88th year, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, or the "Royal" as it is typically called, includes two predominant events: the Royal Horse Show and the Royal Agricultural Show.

The fair has expanded to become much more of an attraction than it was almost a century ago when it first began, so much so that it is now the world's largest indoor agricultural fair and international equestrian competition.

The Royal affords many opportunities for the public to learn about healthy eating, agriculture and horses.

"A lot of people in the city don't realize what's involved in rural living so the Royal gives them that opportunity," said Melissa Monardo, marketing manager for the Ontario Equestrian Federation (OEF), the organization that runs the "Spirit of the Horse" exhibit, which offers patrons the ability to learn about "different types of horses that there are and the types of riding styles that are available."

Main commented on the unique nature of the Royal and its ability to bring together the many diverse disciplines from the equestrian world.

"It's really cool to have a look around and see the different aspects involved," she said. "There's so many different types of riding so there's something there for

everyone."

Monardo commented that the OEF's close relationship with the Royal allows for an increase in knowledge about the opportunities Ontario provides for horse enthusiasts.

"The Royal gives us a public venue that we can really reach the masses because [equestrian] is a really niche market sometimes it's hard to get out to the general public," Monardo said.

"The Royal really gives us that opportunity so that's why we really like working with them."

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair began on Nov. 22 of 1922 and has since expanded to host more than 340,000 visitors.

In particular, the Royal Horse Show draws riders from the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) such as Michael Whitaker from Great Britain and Leslie Howard of the United States.

"For horse people [the Royal] brings international competition to the city, gives them a chance to see FEI riders, everything from show jumping to dressage to hunter to driving," commented Monardo.

"It just brings [a high level of riding] to the city where you don't always get a chance to see that."

Main echoed Monardo's statements and said she returns to the Royal Horse Show each year because of the draw the competition has for international riders from across Europe and North America.

Along with expanding internationally with the Royal Horse Show, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair has begun catering to all ages with petting zoos, dog shows and the "journey to your good health" exhibit, all attractions that garner great crowds.

'Royal' facts

- Originally slated to start in 1921, the event had to be pushed back a year because the heating could not be installed in the Coliseum in time.
- During its 1922 inaugural year, the fair had an astonishing 17,000 agricultural entries and over 150,000 visitors.
- The Royal Agricultural Fair is a registered, not-for-profit charity.
- Some 326,000 visitors attend the Royal each year.
- The Royal Agricultural Show includes prizes for entries like giant vegetables and butter sculpting.
- The Royal Horse Show includes competitions in driving, show jumping, indoor eventing and dressage.

—courtesy of royalfair.org



ALL PHOTOS BY MEGAN CHERNIAK PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

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Complexities of student voter turnout

Campus News Editor Mike Lakusiak examines trends in national post-secondary voting from several provinces across the country, discovering reasons why students do — and do not — participate electorally

Municipal elections were held across Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta in recent weeks, allowing for student participation in municipal affairs to be examined now that campaigns have been concluded and results have been tabulated.

While some cities experienced increased turnout, it is difficult to determine what role, if any, students played.

In many cases, students simply do not participate in municipal politics. According to Robert Williams, professor emeritus in political science at the University of Waterloo, local elections require more effort from often uninterested voters.

"You don't have a party label to refer to, every candidate is independent and has his or her own views," he said.

Zachary Spicer, a PhD student at the University of Western Ontario specializing in municipal politics, outlined why students should make an effort to get out and vote in local elections.

"There are issues with landlords, zoning, bylaw enforcement, stuff like that," he said. "All of that is entirely local."

In Winnipeg, Sarah Petz, the news editor of the campus newspaper the Manitoban, cited transit development and crime as municipal issues with a direct effect on students at her school and the University of Winnipeg across town, but she said students still remained inactive during the election. "I think students don't understand why they should care," she explained.

In Calgary, University of Calgary Students' Union vice president external Hardave Birk saw a different situation play out on his campus,

with hundreds of students turning out for election-centric events and nearly 1,800 votes cast at the polling station in the student centre on campus.

"Overall the participation was quite high among students," he said.

In a particularly exciting municipal race that saw newcomer Naheed Nenshi, a University of Calgary alumni and former students' union president, become mayor, students were among the groups candidates appealed to directly, Birk said. "The city was engaged and here at U of C you could definitely feel the energy; students got out to vote, they got interested."

The Nenshi campaign, noted for its use of social media to interact with voters, ran buses from student residences to polling stations.

Spicer said candidates need to learn to speak to students if there is any hope of encouraging more engagement from the often tremendous numbers of students in communities surrounding universities and colleges in Canadian cities.

"I think if candidates choose to engage students with a medium they choose to be engaged with, you'll probably see increased turnout. You have to speak to their issues and also learn how to speak to them," he said.

Joe Cressy, who was campaign chair for Mike Layton's successful council bid in Toronto's Ward 19, suggested making voting easier, possibly through use of online methods for local elections as well as ranked balloting in order to make young people feel their vote is more important and actually go out and cast ballots.

There are other reasons students

don't bother voting on the local level, said Spicer, that local issues like snow and garbage removal seem to pale in comparison to federal-level items like the economy and military.

"Even though students are there for about four years, you kind of feel like you're visiting," he added.

Williams echoed the same thoughts. "They might live in the community but they're not of the community," he said of student residents.

"They're totally divorced from the kinds of things the municipality is trying to deal with and for most of them it doesn't really make much difference."

Advanced polls were set up and candidates visited campus at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, but Petz said that there was still a lack of participation. "It didn't look incredibly busy, it's not like there were students lined up to vote or anything," she said. "I don't think there was any tremendous effort to get students engaged."

Since students aren't, for the most part, perceived as an important voting demographic among candidates, they don't tend to devote time to reaching out to students during the campaign.

Cressy agreed that while candidates may say they are going after the student vote, the focus of their efforts lies with those who identify as supporters — student or otherwise.

"If you speak to a lot of people outside of the political process, they'll tell you campaigns need to target students more." He continued, "When you speak to people within the political process, they'll say that the nuts and bolts of the campaign

“If students aren't vocalizing support then why would you target them?”

—Joe Cressy, campaign chair for Toronto Ward 19 candidate Mike Layton

is about finding your supporters." "If students aren't vocalizing support then why would you target them?"

Peter Woolstencroft, a candidate for councillor in Waterloo's municipal race this year and retired political science professor from Wilfrid Laurier University, pointed out that students are often able to vote for the first time in a municipal election like this year's.

While the first-time voter rate 30 years ago hovered around 40 or 50 per cent, there has been a downward trend. "Now it's probably closer to 20 or 25 per cent," he said.

Woolstencroft commented on the potential students hold if they make an effort to participate in the politics of their often temporary communities, based on sheer numbers.

"If you can mobilize otherwise uninvolved people, then you have a good chance of winning an election," he said.

1,772

Votes cast at the polling station in the University of Calgary's student centre

462

Votes cast at the polling station in Pitman Hall at Ryerson University in Toronto

362

Number of people who cast ballots in advanced polls in the University of Manitoba's ward

24,267

Undergraduate students at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg

—courtesy of respective municipal websites

eHealth provides electronic records

SEAN HAYWARD
STAFF WRITER

The government of Ontario has made progress in its campaign to convert the province's health records from paper files to electronic files. The number of patients whose health records have been converted into an electronic format has increased from none in 2003 to roughly 5 million this year. Electronic medical records are expected to allow for more effective patient care and better co-ordination among different components of the healthcare system, saving money and increasing efficiency.

"It means quicker results, it means less time travelling, it means better care," said Deb Matthews, the Ontario Minister of Health.

The provincial government provides a subsidy of \$28,000 for each doctor to convert his or her patients' medical records to an electronic system and currently approximately 5,500 doctors in Ontario are using electronic patient health records. Most of the electronic health records are accessible only to an individual's particular doctor's office or hospital, but some cities have connected the records of multiple doctors' offices and hospitals together.

The ultimate goal of eHealth Ontario is to create a province-wide network for sharing of patient medical records from doctors' offices,

hospitals, long-term care facilities and other healthcare providers.

"One of the things we have to do is build the network of networks so that no matter where you are in the province you can access information from the hospitals that your patients are referred to. That is the work ahead of us," said Greg Reed, CEO of eHealth Ontario, the provincial government agency responsible for overseeing the conversion to electronic health records.

eHealth Ontario was the focus of much criticism last year when it was revealed that the agency had spent over \$1 billion on items such as expensive consultants and had not produced adequate results. Both the Minister of Health and the CEO of eHealth have since been replaced. David Caplan resigned and was replaced as Health Minister by Deb Matthews, while former eHealth CEO Sarah Kramer was replaced by Greg Reed.

Although critics, including the provincial opposition parties, have argued that Ontario is behind other provinces in creating electronic health records, Deb Matthews said, "We've got more physicians with electronic medical records than any other province in the country. We are now a leader when it comes to the adoption of it."

The government's objective is to have electronic records for everyone in Ontario by 2015.

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Canada in brief

Troops to remain in Afghanistan past 2011

The *Globe and Mail* has reported that the Harper government is considering putting forward a proposal to keep hundreds of Canadian troops in Afghanistan until 2014. The troops will form a non-combat training group and would extend the Canadian military's presence in Afghanistan three years past the July 2011 withdrawal deadline that was set by Parliament. Defence Minister Peter MacKay has assured that the post-2011 role of the Canadian military would respect this motion for an end to combat.

A shortfall of approximately 900 NATO troops to conduct training has led to considerable international pressure being put on the Canadian government to leave a contingent of trainers behind to aid the mission.

MacKay confirmed this information; no comment has been made regarding the number of troops that may remain in Afghanistan. The decision comes weeks before the Nov. 18 NATO leaders' summit in Portugal.

—Alanna Wallace

Canadian med schools diversifying admission

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Medical schools across Canada are re-vamping their application process by adding new requirements and eliminating outdated criteria.

Autobiographical essays, panel interviews and, in some cases, the Medical College Admissions Test have all been eliminated in an effort to diversify the students admitted to

programs across the country. McGill University made headlines in July when they announced that Canadian applicants to their program would no longer have to submit an MCAT score after the English-language test was criticized for deterring francophone applicants. McMaster University now requires students to take a computer-based personality test instead of submitting an essay.

Some schools are now mentoring prospective applicants who have expressed interest in attending medical school, but might not have applied under the previous process. These changes are all designed to recruit a better and more diverse cohort of doctors.

—Nicola Gailits, *The Ubysey*

Canadian university presidents on India mission

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Fifteen Canadian university presidents began a seven-day excursion to India today in order to build ties with Indian universities. The delegation is travelling on behalf of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, and includes presidents from the University of British Columbia, Dalhousie University, University of Alberta, Wilfrid Laurier University and others.

The group will be meeting with Indian educators, members of the business community and government officials to build relationships and agreements with Indian institutions and to attract more Indian students to study in Canada.

—Arshy Mann, *The Ubysey*

B.C. premier resigns

Province celebrates as pundits say Campbell's resignation could give B.C. Liberals a facelift

DANIELLE POPE
CUP WESTERN BUREAU CHIEF

VICTORIA (CUP) — B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell has stepped down as leader of the provincial Liberal party this week, leaving many around the province mystified — and others celebrating.

Campbell announced his resignation in Vancouver on Nov. 3, stating that "it's time for a new person to lead" and that he would be making a "smooth and orderly transition" for the next leader and premier.

"After considerable soul searching and discussion with my family I have decided to ask the B.C. Liberal Party executive to hold a leadership convention at the earliest possible date to select a new leader for our party," Campbell said, in a statement released on Nov. 4.

"Over the last few weeks, our government has continued to move forward with initiatives that will create jobs, build a stronger economy and support families across British Columbia ... yet it is clear to me that those initiatives are being overshadowed. When public debate becomes focused on one person, instead of what is in the best interest of British Columbians, we have lost sight about what is important. When that happens, it's time for a change."

During his announcement, Campbell noted the fallout from the introduction of HST and other issues, though he would take no questions about the resignation.

Now, the party has less than a month to meet and then hold a leadership convention within six weeks. While the B.C. Liberal Party has denied the idea that there was any internal push to remove Campbell, pundits are saying this "facelift"

may come too late to return voter sympathy to the party.

"Campbell was coming in at nine per cent in the polls, and the B.C. Liberals were barely in the 20 per cent range. So now, it's the same old story — lop off the head of the beast, and now it's a new beast," said Dennis Pilon, a political science professor at the University of Victoria. "The challenge for the Liberals now, however, will be if Campbell tainted the pot too deeply."

The party's weak approval rating was clear in Victoria on the day of the announcement. News crews could be found wandering throughout the city asking bystanders how they would remember Premier Campbell. While some offered heartfelt messages of satisfaction about Campbell's decision, others whooped and hollered, walking away laughing.

"Good riddance," one man said, with a laugh.

Pilon says that while the move could have been a smart one on the part of the party, it's still unclear as to who will be best-suited to take up Campbell's position — a lesser-known Liberal may stand more of a chance, he says.

"The Liberals have learned that, if they can avoid fracturing the vote into other parties, they can win every election," Pilon said. "Campbell had a lot of puppet followers within the party, however, and people will see that. Liberals like Rich Coleman and Kevin Falcon are too far to the right ... but someone from the outside could legitimately look like a fresh face who wasn't involved with all the mess."

Pilon also suggests that Campbell's quiet resignation could ensure him offerings — like a possible seat

in the Senate — that would be harder to obtain with more party failure or a troublesome outing.

NDP leader Carole James, head of the official opposition, says that the resignation did not come as a surprise to her at all, and she believes it was the right decision.

"Premier Gordon Campbell resigning seemed inevitable to me. It wasn't a matter of if, but when," she said.

"The next interesting time to watch, however, will be to see the B.C. Liberals try to convince the public that everything is different now, which is, of course, going to be impossible."

James says the party's 10-year record of disappointing the public with issues surrounding HST, the environment, low minimum wage and child support isn't something that can be forgotten with a new face.

"All those tough questions will be waiting there for the next person who fills the spot — no matter who it is," James said. "In this province, there's the sentiment that people vote out governments. But my job is to make sure people know there's something to vote for, too."

James says that while an election could now come sooner than previously expected, the opposition will be ready for it. In the meantime, she says she doesn't envy the Liberal who steps up to fill Campbell's shoes.

"There are a lot of people who line up to take over in the good times, but what really counts are the ones who can step up in the bad times," she said. "We've got all the strength we need in British Columbia ... we just haven't taken advantage of it yet."

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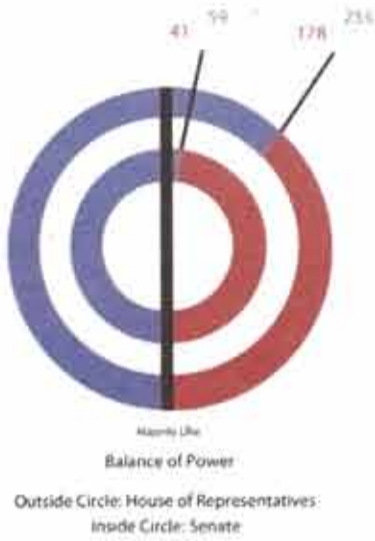
WORLD

World Editor Alex Mitsiopoulos • amitsiopoulos@thecord.ca

U.S. midterm elections yield historic results

The 112th United States congress is set to begin on January 3, 2011, bringing forth a new set of challenges

US Midterm Election Results
Gauging 111th Congress



EUGENE GOMEZ-CHICO
STAFF WRITER

Last week, the United States was dragged to the right by the midterm elections as the majority for Democrats in the House of Representatives was lost. The Senate received some victorious Republican candidates as well who owe their allegiance to the ultraconservative Tea Party movement.

"The fact that the Republicans' gain is not surprising, it would have been surprising if they didn't gain. Just as the Democrats gained back in '06 when Bush was president," said Laurier political science professor Barry Kay.

The expected victory of the Republicans in the House of Representatives and its progress in the Senate has not been totaled, but promises a

significant restructuring of the legislature. Every indication leads to a hard era of co-operation on the part of the Obama administration.

What Kay highlighted is the size of the swing, especially in the House of Representatives. "I think that in addition to the normal out party phenomenon, sort of correcting and reacting to the President is the recession," he added.

One of the main topics on the agenda for the next term will be to review the possible extension of tax breaks that former president George W. Bush handed down, primarily benefitting wealthier Americans. The tax breaks come to an end later this year.

The issue will be a matter of great debate as the Grand Old Party maintains a position of keeping the tax cut package as it is.

"[Republicans] are concerned about the deficit and they want to cut taxes at the same time and that's just irreconcilable," commented Kay.

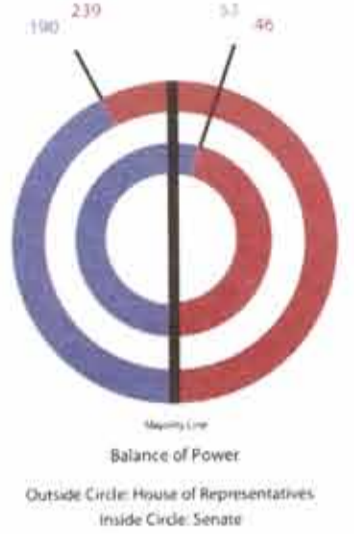
The election results so far show a 60 seat loss for the Democrats in the House, with 187 seats, while 239 for the Republicans and nine still undecided.

In the Senate, the Democrats maintained 53 seats, with a loss of six, leaving the Republicans with 46 seats, one being yet undecided.

The Republicans' gain of at least 60 more seats in the House to take control is the largest by either party since 1948, while they picked up six more seats in the Senate, putting them close to parity with the Democrats, who maintained a much smaller majority.

—Numbers taken as of print date from the BBC

US Midterm Election Results
New as of January 3, 2011



BRITTANY PORTER GRAPHICS ARTIST

World in brief

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland

Scientists at St. Andrews University in Scotland have developed a material called "Metaflex", which may in the future provide means to create an invisibility cloak. The fabric is scientifically complex, where special "membranes" behave unnaturally in order for the material to manipulate light, rendering itself invisible for prolonged wavelengths of time. The product is still in testing stages.

SAN FRANCISCO, USA

Early this month, San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a law banning the giveaway of toys in accompaniment with food purchase, cracking down on various fast food chains city-wide. Dubbed the "Happy Meal Ban," the decree requires that meals must meet a specific nutritional guideline before it can be sold in unison with a toy. Passing with a majority vote on the board, officials claim the ban helps discourage unhealthy meal choices for children.

PERTH, Australia

A 19-year-old dive tour leader survived an attack by a ten-foot long great white shark, escaping with 200 stitches to her legs. The young woman was leading a group up Australia's coastline and never saw the shark coming, letting it sink its teeth into her legs. One of the thirty-three swimmers Trevor Burns took action, physically grabbing the shark's tail to free its grip on the woman's body and leading her to the surface where a helicopter waited. She is now being treated in hospital.

YANGON, Myanmar

The country, which had not seen an election since 1990, finally allowed citizens access to voting stations across the nation earlier this week. 40,000 polling stations were opened for approximately ten hours, showing citizens the first federal election in 20 years. However, much criticism arose due to circulating belief that the rare appearance of the ballot was fixed to favour the existing military rule. There are those who believe that regardless of the outcome, change will ensue.

LONDON, England

Facebook has officially gone Royal—Buckingham Palace has announced Queen Elizabeth II's Facebook fan page, where millions of users can now "like" the British monarch. Although the Palace makes it clear that one cannot add the Queen as a friend, or virtually "poke" her as they would other friends, they will receive live updates of monarchical activity in their news feed.

—Compiled by Leeza Pece

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"If [Khadr] was a soldier, he was a child soldier so I think the law would say he should not have been prosecuted. That he should be considered a victim rather than a perpetrator." —Rhoda Howard-Hassman



The new deterrent?

Mbarushimana's extradition to France leaves many doubtful that justice can be found in the Democratic Republic of Congo

LINDSAY PURCHASE
STAFF WRITER

Callixte Mbarushimana, Executive Secretary of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and alleged perpetrator of crimes within the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has been detained in France following a warrant by the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued on Sept. 28 of this year. He is wanted by the ICC on six counts of war crimes including murder, torture, rape, inhumane acts, persecution and destruction of property, as well as five counts of crimes against humanity.

Mbarushimana, provided there is no appeal, will be the fourth person to be extradited to the ICC, located in The Hague for crimes committed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a nation currently facing a crisis of mass sexual violence against women and young girls.

"The women who are being raped and mutilated in the Congo ... are

saying 'we want justice'. They would probably like it if the ICC could do a lot more," said Rhoda Howard-Hassman, professor of global studies and Canada Research Chair in International Human Rights.

However, with years of history behind the conflict and many inter-related actors, the effectiveness of the ICC trials as a deterrent to violence is questionable.

While Howard-Hassman believes that "the mess started in 1960 when [the country] became independent," a clear escalation can be linked to the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

The recent history of displaced persons, human rights violations and conflict that can be traced to various African nations in the eastern region of the DRC is deeply complex.

"From what I know of the Congo, I doubt that [the ICC] will have much effect if any in lowering the level of violence," said Howard-Hassman, acknowledging the extreme complexity of the situation.

Many critics attribute this not

only to the diverse history and multiplicity of factors affecting the dispute, but also to the ICC itself. Those who favour international criminal tribunals over a permanent court have frequently cited the non-membership of the United States as a critical factor in the future effectiveness of the Court. To suggest that one of the world's most powerful countries has the appearance of being above international justice reflects poorly to skeptics of its success.

Howard-Hassman contradicts this oversimplification, stating that "to always concentrate on the United States is a major flaw," as there are many other notable countries, such as China, which have yet to adopt the Rome Statute.

Howard-Hassman reflected bleakly upon the future of the Congo, with her conclusion that "The West is to blame; the US and France left [Mobutu] to do what he wanted as long as he was a Western ally." She added, "I don't know whether any kind of intervention could have stopped this mess now."

Upholding human rights in oppressive societies



SHAGUN RANDHAWA
letters@thecord.ca

It's sad when you're watching the news and you see yet another human rights case where the world cannot intervene because those committing such violations are governments themselves. It's a bit of a helpless situation, which provokes temporary outrage and then routine indifference.

Despite the fact that we live in the 21st century, a new age of reformed ideas, there are an alarming number of countries that have fought hard against what is referred to as "Western propaganda" and insist upon laws that may raise an eyebrow or two.

While coming from an East Indian background myself, I completely understand cultural and religious values and the struggle many have in keeping their cultures alive in a rapidly homogenizing world.

My concerns are actual laws implemented by countries, punishable by physical harm and death, that are clearly in violation of any human being's basic rights. For example, a woman accused of fornicating outside of wedlock is committed to 99 lashes.

In these countries, if you cheat, you get built into a stone wall with only your head vulnerable, made to suffer the blows of stones until you die.

Interesting how the governments in some countries have such a control over their countrymen's lives that such a decision is decreed heinous enough for the woman to die because of it. But that's not all.

What's even more atrocious is how lopsided these barbaric laws can be when it comes to the gender of the individual they are accusing.

In Iran (and in many other countries ruled by Islamic law), married women require the permission of their husbands to leave their houses, to work a job and to apply for a passport.

To appear in public without a hijab and moderate Muslim dress gets you 74 lashes. Iran rejected a recent

bill for the same inheritance rights for men and women, stating it goes against Islamic law, which stipulates a woman's share is only half of that of a man's. Health care is segregated, which is a problem with the lack of female doctors.

More incredulous laws include conversion from Islam and homosexuality which are punishable by death. Iran is second only to China in numbers of annual executions.

An example of a woman accused of fornication outside of wedlock and adultery was Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani. She is one of the numerous women on death row sentenced to death by stoning.

Her case has sparked an international cry of injustice against this barbaric yet legal act, which delayed her date of execution. There is talk of hanging her instead of the more torturous act of stoning.

Human rights activists state there are 200 death row cases in the Tabriz prison where Sakineh is locked up. This includes individuals such as Azar, who as a 14-year-old was convicted of having sex out of wedlock and was sentenced to death by stoning.

The law states that they have to wait until she turns 18 to execute her and they have put her through "mock stoning" to prepare her for the execution act.

Sakineh's lawyer and her two children insist that the conviction was based on false evidence.

Her son appealed to Western-based activists, a risky move that has led to the arrest and subsequent disappearance of her son and her lawyer.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have taken up the case, but the Iranian regime has responded by stating that these Western protests are nothing but an assault on Iran and Islamic values.

While in the West, we are aware of what goes on, we complain about it for a while and then wrapped up in our day-to-day lives we forget about it and fail to act.

We enjoy so many freedoms that many other women would not dream of having and do not even believe they are entitled to. It is a crime for women in many countries to pursue a life equal to that of their male counterparts.

In these countries, you were a criminal the day you were born.

Examining the tortured and turbulent life of Omar Khadr

Dr. Rhoda Howard-Hassmann, Canada Research Chair in International Human Rights and global studies professor at WLU, discusses the implications of child combatants and their rights in the international forum

PRAVEEN ALWIS
STAFF WRITER

While Omar Khadr's signing of a plea agreement on October 26th may have brought protracted court proceedings to a much awaited end, the implications and repercussions of his guilty plea have yet to take shape and have left many critics wary of the precedent which has been set for future tribunals, especially ones involving under-age defendants.

By pleading guilty to the murder of US Sergeant First Class Christopher Speer, Khadr agrees to an additional year of imprisonment at Guantanamo Bay before being moved to a Canadian prison where he will serve no more than eight years, with eligibility for early

release in 2013. The terms of his plea agreement also stipulate that he cannot seek legal or monetary recourse for any alleged mistreatment or torture he experienced during his time in American custody.

Originally taken into custody and detained at Guantanamo Bay in 2002 after allegedly throwing a grenade at US forces during a firefight in Afghanistan at the age of 15, Khadr stands as the first child combatant to be prosecuted for war crimes since the establishment of the Geneva Convention. His status as a child soldier and his designation as an illegal combatant have been hotly debated in legal proceedings and have raised concerns from observers such as Canada Research Chair in Human Rights, Rhoda

Howard-Hassman. "There are a whole slew of implications with regards to his rights as a child soldier, his right to be protected from torture, and his right to be protected from malfeasance," she noted.

Howard-Hassman takes issue with the tribunal's white-washing of immediate human rights violations which took place during Khadr's detention at Guantanamo. "The court rejected his allegations that he had been tortured and also that he had been questioned while he was still seriously ill. They rejected his allegation that threats to rape him to death would be a form of coercion," she said, referring to interrogators' suggestions that Khadr would be raped in prison by older inmates if he were not to co-operate with

them.

Equally troubling to Howard-Hassman is the sharp, concrete legal distinctions which have been drawn in Khadr's case and the attached designation of illegal combatant. "If you're in a war, and you are in uniform and you're a legal combatant, you can't be tried for murder. In war people get killed. The claim here is that he was not a legal combatant," she noted. "It seems to me that if he was an illegal combatant then he should have been tried in a civilian court, but he was tried in a military court." The added complication of Khadr's age is a crucial one, and Howard-Hassman points to a lack of American complicity with UN regulation as the root problem.

"If he was a soldier, he was a child

soldier so I think the law would say he should not have been prosecuted. That he should be considered a victim rather than a perpetrator. But the United States has not signed onto the Convention on the Rights of the Child so presumably the United States doesn't accept that definition of a child soldier."

Despite playing a key role in its development, the United States joins only Somalia as one of two nations which have not ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This lack of synchronicity with international law in conjunction with the precedent set by the Khadr trial may prove problematic as tribunals, and pursuant objections from human-rights watchdogs, continue.

FEATURES

Features Editor Vacant • editor@thecord.ca

Travel on a shoestring

University students share stories of backpacking, a growing trend. Whether it's across Canada or around the world, travelling cheap garners incredible stories



PHOTO BY ELLI GARLIN GRAPHIC BY WADE THOMPSON

PATRICK ERSKINE THE EYEOPENER

TORONTO (CUP) — Shauna Kewin stands at the side of the road, with a knapsack strapped to her back and not a clue how she'll get to the next town. A large van slows to a stop as it approaches her and a 68-year-old man peeps his head out the window.

His long white hair is the same length as his beard and he grins at Kewin invitingly.

"Need a ride?"

Kewin shrugs and hops in.

Hitchhiking doesn't come with all the luxuries a company like WestJet offers. There are no flight attendants to show you how to fasten your seat-belt or to bring you packages of assorted nuts. The seats don't recline.

Roughing it

More and more, university students are opting to rough it across the country instead of checking into hotels and resorts. They're trading in plane tickets for gas money, itineraries for entropic adventures and hotels for park benches.

This isn't surprising, considering the high tuition fees in many parts of Canada and the benefits of "roughing it" can extend far beyond simply saving money.

So what classifies as "roughing it" exactly? Well for starters, giving up the normal luxuries of a vacation is a must. Say goodbye to the friendly concierge in the hotel lobby and the chartered air-conditioned buses. Also, you may want to lower your standards of what you consider a good meal, because you probably won't be enjoying a steak dinner and a Grey Goose martini during your trip.

Kewin, a fourth-year Ryerson University student, hitchhiked her way across British Columbia for a month after tree planting one summer. Despite having an awkward drive with an older man who used more sexual innuendos than an amateur comedian, the relationships she built with people were invaluable.

"We met a lady who we called Mama Faye. She is a 65-year-old lady we met who cooked us dinner and made us care packages when we left. We still write and she sent us a Christmas package last year."

This likely wouldn't have happened if they spent their nights in a hotel.

Anastasia LeSage, a fourth-year psychology student, had no problem forgoing amenities as she travelled across Canada this summer to pick cherries in British Columbia. Instead of spending over \$1,000 for a round-trip flight, LeSage

estimates she spent around \$300 dollars on gas money to drive instead. Her meal of choice during this escapade: Quick Oats for breakfast with free hot water from various gas stations, peanut butter for lunch and beans for dinner. Also, running into some relatives and friends along the way provided opportunities to eat healthy vegan meals for free.

"They were some of the best sleeps of my life," said LeSage, recalling her roadside slumbers and park-bench naps.

"We pulled into a lookout point over Banff National Park to get some rest one day. When we drove in, it was pitch black and we couldn't see anything. But in the morning, waking up to the illuminating sun rising over Banff with my hands at the steering wheel, it was one of the best feelings ever."

After about five days of travel, LeSage made it to the Okanagan Valley, where she planned to cherry pick as a short-term employment experience.

But when LeSage and her friend arrived, it was too dark and unfamiliar for them to locate their final destination. They were driving around in darkness when they overheard some noise coming from a beach and decided to check it out.

The noise was coming from a few travellers. One was Australian and the other was a man who howled at the moon on a regular basis.

Friendships were made, a drum circle was formed and accommodations were decided upon. They stayed at the beach after making a deal with a police officer that told them it was illegal to sleep there. As long as they cleaned up the area, they were free to stay.

Alternative lifestyles

If the idea of sleeping outdoors, eating food and taking rides from strangers doesn't sound like something you would consider, there are less ambitious ways to rough it and still guarantee yourself an adventure. Hostels, for example, are a cheap alternative to hotels. And depending where you are, you can almost guarantee yourself an interesting time.

Katie Wilson, a first-year food and nutrition student, spent more than two weeks with four friends in a rental car on the south island of New Zealand. While they spent over \$1,000 during their trip, the events that occurred are no less absurd. They checked into Base Queenstown Hostel and took the last five beds available.

Unbeknownst to Wilson and her friends, Queenstown was officially known as the party hardest town in New Zealand. At the time, Base didn't feature the girls-only dorm now known as

"Sanctuary," so they were put with two random travellers that happened to be standing right next to them.

"One of us had to sleep on the floor because the guys had spilled beer all over the bed. We all fell asleep before the guys came back from partying. I awoke from a noise coming from the bed next to me, where one of the guys was sleeping for the night. I turned around to see what was happening and saw several pairs of hands amidst the sheets and the darkness. I remember thinking, 'Okay, there are at least two more people in that bed than there's supposed to be, and those hands definitely don't belong to any of the girls in my crew. So I went back to sleep. Unfortunately, whatever was happening in that bed got a lot louder and kept my best friend up for the entire night. Luckily, I'm a heavy sleeper.'"

A growing trend

And while you may be the type of person who would rather spend the week relaxing at home watching DVDs, a new study says that you're probably the minority, at least when placed on a broad scale.

A study in the *Journal of Consumer Research* said productivity is a central value in Western societies. It argues that we often evaluate our self-worth based on how much we're able to accomplish or how productive we can be.

And for many, travelling or backpacking extensive distances satisfies a deep sense of accomplishment.

In all cases of backpacking and adventure tourism, a standard rule is to never travel alone. There is always safety in numbers, especially when hitchhiking or staying with people you don't know. So what to do if you're an adventure-seeking traveller who has nobody to travel with?

The Adventure Society — also known as the Oakham House Outdoor club — regularly organizes skiing, hiking and exploration events. While the club itself doesn't organize cross-country or overseas travelling, Jennylyn Pringle, the president of the club, says likeminded people have often got together and travelled after meeting at one of their events.

If you're planning a trip during reading week and aren't interested in trekking across the country with a backpack and a few bucks, Travel Cuts suggests booking your trip at the beginning of January, when prices are cheaper.

But whatever your method of travel is, spontaneity seems to be the constant variable for ensuring your vacation produces some interesting stories.

Top 10 countries to backpack

1. Bolivia

The cheapest country in South America and hides gems like Salar de Uyuni, the world's largest salt flat.

2. Turkey

A "melting pot" of Asian and European cultures. Turkey gives great value for your money.

3. Ireland

With friendly locals and beautiful landscapes, the country is easy to navigate.

4. Morocco

On a budget, one can travel the country easily on US\$20 a day.

5. Australia

A haven for backpackers, the country offers everything from spectacular diving to hiking.

6. Argentina

The country has plenty to offer, from the nightlife in Buenos Aires to the beauty of Patagonia.

7. Finland

Travelling the country while it's still relatively cheap is a must, particularly with its ease of transit.

8. Uganda

Gorilla trekking in the country is a definite must.

9. Georgia

Unspoiled by most travelers, the country is a hidden haven.

10. India

Diversity is the country's specialty, offering everything from beaches to the Himalayas.

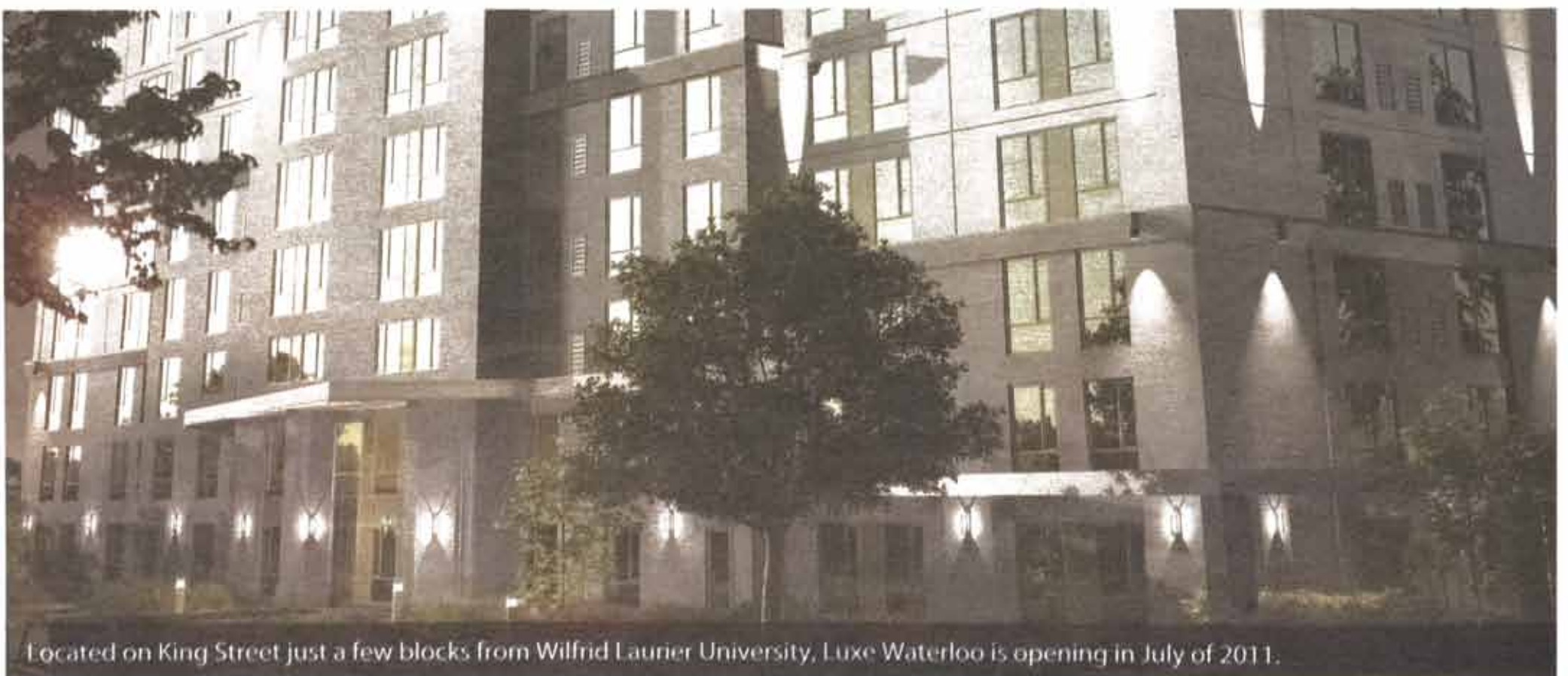
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ARTS

Arts Editor Sarah Murphy • smurphy@thecord.ca

Weezer tribute rocks Starlight

JAIME HORN
STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday the Starlight Social Club was host to a very special act – the world’s greatest all-girl Weezer tribute band, Sheezer.

Hailing from Toronto, this band is made up of five very talented ladies from the local indie music scene, each with a particular fondness for the music of Weezer.

The newly formed act has thus far proven to be a successful endeavour, particularly since Weezer frontman Rivers Cuomo “tweeted” his approval of the group.

Formed in the early ‘90s, Weezer’s career took off with singles like “Say It Ain’t So”, “Undone – The Sweater Song” and “Buddy Holly.”

Despite continually releasing new material, most Weezer fans have remained most loyal to the band’s earliest works.

It is in this respect that Sheezer, having only formed within the past year or so, has thus far framed their repertoire around the band’s first two records, “The Blue Album” (Weezer) and *Pinkerton*.

The night at the Starlight began with Trap Tiger, a local band whose fast, high-energy and enthusiastic stage banter was the perfect introduction to the main act.

Armed with guitars, bass, drums, harmonica and sporting some stylish boots, Sheezer took the stage in front of an eager audience.

In terms of technical accuracy and authenticity to Weezer’s studio recordings, everything was impeccable.

With each song, the crowd heard the definitive guitar riffs, solos, drum beats and feedback.

Even the opening dialogue from “Undone – The Sweater Song” was performed by volunteers from the audience.

They played every song from “The Blue Album”, starting with “My Name is Jonas” and closing the show with the last track of the record, “Only in Dreams”.

Interspersed were three songs from *Pinkerton* – “El Scorcho”, “Geotchoo” and “The Good Life”.

Four of the five band members took turns singing the beloved tunes, while the fifth member held her own on the guitar.

It was clear that Weezer’s back catalogue had longstanding ties to the audience, who sang and danced along.

One member of the crowd ecstatically exclaimed to her friend, “So much nostalgia!”

Moreover, the band seemed to be having as much fun as their audience, assuring that Sheezer will attain lasting approval from Weezer fans everywhere.



KATIE FLOOD STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Penderecki String Quartet opened the afternoon sessions.

Musical healthcare

—cover

The performance garnered a standing ovation before Lane took her turn on stage.

The associate director at the Ireland Cancer Centre in Cleveland, Lane received her Ph.D. in music education. She is a cancer survivor herself and uses this experience as a means to empathize with patients.

Lane started off by remarking how impressed she was by Waterloo’s warm welcome, then shared her earliest experiences with music. She explained that her parents came from the deep south of the United States and had been subjected to racism.

As a result, music became a source of comfort and strength.

She told anecdotes about her mother at the piano and her father’s soulful voice, then got the crowd laughing at a story about the ladies at her church.

Lane claims that she first realized the healing power of music when the older, overweight, arthritic ladies of her church would struggle to walk down the aisle of the church and seat themselves. The moment the gospel choir started to sing, these ladies would jump out of their seats and join in, leaving a four-year-old Deforia wondering, “Where did the arthritis go?”

Her studies in music therapy involved a combination of science and art, receiving training in everything from physiology to playing an instrument from each musical family.

Lane also shared numerous case studies from her professional work.

She described the positive effects of music therapy on patients from every age group – from pre-natal to palliative care patients.

The Cleveland hospital she works at has used musical techniques to condition babies from pre-natal stages to the point of delivery, describing the benefits of music-assisted labour. The most effective examples were with patient-preferred music, allowing mother’s to select certain songs to make the birthing process more comfortable.

Lane demonstrated the physiological and psychological efficiency of music therapy with video clips as well.

In one instance, an adult affected by autism was able to focus and concentrate responses to his care-worker as she played him a song on the guitar. Both his visual attention and motor movements reacted to the music, calming him down and creating a focal point of concentration.

Ending the address, Lane recited what she refers to as her “personal theme song,” taught to her by her mother. Showcasing her beautiful voice, Lane sang: “Over my head, I hear music in the air,” leaving the conference attendees in awe.

The Music Care Conference wrapped up successfully, leaving participants with a new perspective on musically-driven healthcare. The individual stories shared and medical research presented not only gave the crowd progressive ideas for the increasing “Baby Boom” burden on the healthcare system, but delivered a feel-good atmosphere.

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"Glee Club. Every time I try to destroy that clutch of scab-eating mouth-breathers, it only comes back stronger, like some sexually-ambiguous horror movie villain."

-Sue Sylvester, *Glee*

And with that, I'm done with *Glee*

Despite its popularity, Fox's latest hit fails to live up to its undeniable potential



WADE THOMPSON
GRAPHICS EDITOR

From the moment that I clicked on the first promo trailer, I was in love. I sat and watched it a dozen times over, in total awe of how this little show called *Glee* looked more spectacular than almost any other show on TV.

After giving us a sneak preview of the pilot episode, I was indeed hooked. It delivered big time, and then some. In the wake of the less-than-stellar *High School Musical* phenomena, it was able to create its own identity.

Instead of succumbing to the preconception that musicals were lame and unrealistic, the show's creators embraced that notion to help develop their cast of misfits and establish the glow-in-the-dark humour that almost always carries the show.

Between the song choices, the element of reality vs. fantasy and the mixed, but totally cohesive, hopping character narration, I would argue that the pilot episode of *Glee* is the best thing to air on any of the four major networks in the past five years.

It's so unfortunate then that we are not even halfway through the second season, and I am at the point where I cannot watch the show any longer. I am, in fact, done with *Glee*.

You see, despite that first episode being so utterly fantastic, the show has not yet hit that same high since. Yes, there have been good, even great, attempts to reach those levels over the first season and half, but more often than not, *Glee* has devolved into what any sane human being would have feared: another brand for the Fox network to bank

off of.

The show no longer revolves around any specific characters. Hell, the show barely revolves around any specific storylines.

Without a clear focus on one or both of those factors, you start to lose your credibility as a top-rate television show.

What the show's creators have begun to count on is the after-school-special storylines, and the glamorization of popular culture.

I realize that it is rather convenient to use a television show to raise the issues you want and sell the music on your show, but to have an entire episode that is nothing more than an elongated recreation of Britney Spears's music videos is taking it too far. I have given up on a TV series for a lot less than that.

The show's creators Ryan Murphy, Brad Falchuk and Ian Brennan have mistakenly mishandled the running of the show. What started out as a smart, hilarious breath of

fresh air on television has now become a series that feels legitimately different episode to episode, and not in a good way. I'm not the only one who thinks this either. Blogger Myles McNutt, over on his site *Cultural Learnings*, has a theory which he deems, "The 3 Glee's". He surmises that having three consistent, yet totally individual writers with three separate visions of what the show should be about has caused "Glee" to become a disjointed effort. We no longer have one consistent show. We have three different ones.

I couldn't have theorized it better myself.

Think about it. Have you ever sat there and wondered, "How exactly is this furthering the storyline?" or "Why is that character saying those things? They haven't before." I, for one, am tired of needing to ask these questions.

So, after the airing of the "Rocky Horror Glee Show", I decided that they had used up my final bit of

patience.

They took a musical property that I treasure and used it to sell music and bring up high-school body issues, nothing more. You could almost see the massive amounts of cooks in the kitchen throughout the episode. I mean, Mercedes as Frank-N-Furter? Mr. Shue as Rocky? Please. I'm glad they gave John Stamos "Hot Patootee" to sing before they finished totally ruining that storyline too.

I have given "Glee" a year and a half of my television watching and it has failed more times than it has delivered. I mean, there are some fantastic episodes interspersed here and there, but overall, the show has lost sight of what is important.

It is now about selling music, big name cameos and playing on hot-button issues. I am done with it. Because no matter what goes on within each episode, all I can focus on at the end is how much better it could have been.

Arts bites

The latest news in entertainment

FREE WEEZY!

Dwayne Michael Carter Jr., 28, was released from jail on Thursday after serving eight months of a one-year sentence for weapons convictions.

Many people have celebrated Lil Wayne's freedom, with his release earning one of the top trending topics on Twitter this week.

Fans of Weezy and Twitter alike brainstormed ideas for what the rapper's first post-prison tweet should be, using the hashtag: #weezysfirsttweetfromjail.

What is the first thing he did after being in jail for eight months? Party, of course.

Lil Wayne popped by Drake's "Lights, Dreams and Nightmares" tour in Vegas and performed to an eager crowd.

He was also spotted partying in Miami and New Orleans.

After eight months in jail, or, as Weezy has called it, "vacation," he will no doubt have a slew of new music coming out soon.

Blake Lively gets an A for effort

Blake Lively of *Gossip Girl* fame was spotted meeting with Leonardo DiCaprio and Baz Luhrmann this weekend to discuss Luhrmann's re-creation of *The Great Gatsby*.

Lively is contending for the romantic lead opposite DiCaprio, though she's up against many big hitters. Scarlett Johansson, Natalie Portman, Keira Knightly and Michelle Williams are also rumored to be up for the role.

No offense to Lively, but somehow we don't see her "acting skills" being of any use to this movie.

We do give her a thumbs out for an attempt to venture outside of teen dramas, but she should stay where she is needed.

xoxo *Gossip Girl*
—compiled by Allie Hincks and Emily Frost



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Dear LIFE

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 dearlifethecord.ca no later than Monday at noon each week.

Dear Life,
I am 21 years old and the only thing I am confident about is when somebody says, Dude? Smell my fingers! You should politely say, No thank you!
Sincerely,
Not funny enough for you
P.S. If I ever tell you that the cake smells funny at a birthday... You should definitely lean in for a sniff

Dear Life,
TV screens no one looks at? How about more courses. A costly terrace expansion? How about more study space. Services turning into "clubs"? How about financially supporting the groups that make a difference in peoples' lives. But no, the school "has no money" so the students pay EXTRA just to keep the community pool open. I take pride in what my schools' campus looks like, but it's far less important than the academic experience. Stop blowing our fucking money.
Sincerely,
That flashy LED screen isn't teaching me anything

Dear Life,
Why do people still attempt to study in the Concourse on Sundays? By now you should have realized that we are there dancing every Sunday so go move somewhere else on those days if you don't want to hear us. Deal with it.
Sincerely,
Your just jealous cuz you can't dance

Dear Life,
Is it just me or has the A-Team, once again, dropped the ball. It appears that they just realized it's November and they've failed to organize anything up until now so they grabbed the first artist they found was available. I mean Kardinal Offishall? Really? Fail A-Team.
Sincerely,
Going to have to pay to go to Toronto to see a real performer

Dear Life,
Despite understanding the purpose of Dear Life articles, I fail to understand why individuals at an educational institution choose to bitch, bitch, bitch rather than seek a solution. Problem: The Concourse is noisy on Sundays. This is due to dedicated volunteers dancing for charity who in fact do not have an alternative place to practise. Solution: Get some exercise and walk two more feet to the library, I hear it's quieter there to accommodate your ideal work environment.
Sincerely,
It's really a lot easier than you think!

Dear Life,
Why is there Wi-Fi on Mount Everest but not in the Library?
Sincerely,
A fucking Yeti can access his My Learning Space but I can't...

Dear Life,
In response to "This is a University, not a playground" and "So you think you can dance... Don't" Since when did the Concourse become a strict study space? I'm pretty sure you have the library for that or even the Solarium. The dance program you didn't even bother to acknowledge is called Fashion n' Motion and they have been using the Concourse to practice in for years. They may not be professional dancers but they have tons of passion and could probably dance circles around you. So either put your headphones in and shut up or move your ass to a place that is designated for studying.
Sincerely,
Dancing in the Concourse

Dear Life,
Why is it that when you walk into the Dining Hall you feel like you're walking into the opening ceremonies at the fucking olympics? I didn't realize my tuition was paying for a bunch of flags.
Sincerely,
Vancouver 2010 is over, figure it out

Dear Life,
You would think by 2010, a university would have high speed internet access. But no, we are stuck with dial up. What, you mean the internet at Laurier isn't dial up? No, that can't be ... ten years ago I had faster internet speeds on my Windows 98 with dial up. Every day I try to connect and then question why I bother. Sure, I know there are a lot of people trying to go on Facebook during their lectures, but how about some faster internet for those who attempt to use it for educational purposes.
Sincerely,
If this doesn't get published that's fine; I'll have a different rant for every week until it does

Dear Life,
Every Sunday in the Concourse some lame ass dance crew invades and annoys the hell out of everyone. Your dancers are off beat, out of step and boring to watch; not to mention your dance moves are cliché and novice at best. Also, why is Katy Perry the best dance music you got? God! Please stop annoying everyone trying to study and take Canada's worst dance crew somewhere else.
Sincerely,
Don't quit your day job

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Poll Results: Are you already getting excited for Christmas?

55%
Heck yes! Jingle my bells!

26%
No. Why do stores already have that stuff up?

19%
Uh...I'm still wearing my Halloween costume

Total participants last week: 31

Check out thecord.ca for this week's question

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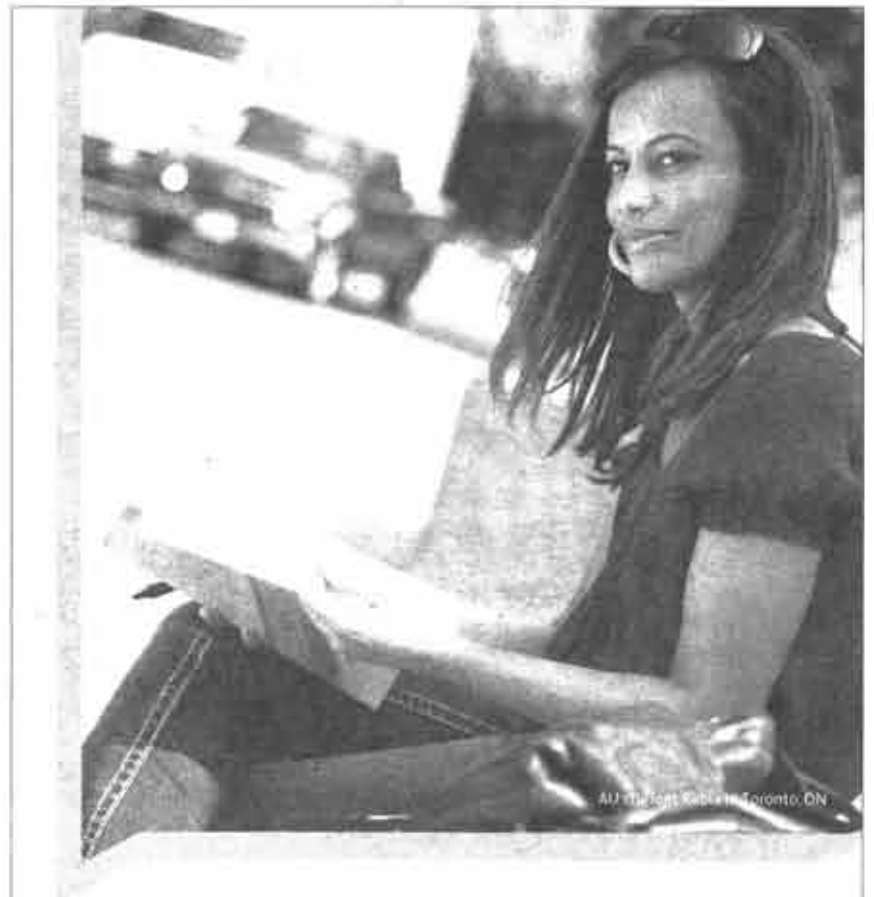
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EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • emerkley@thecord.ca

Students not buying into rhetoric Mr. Hudak

Controversy has erupted over Premier Dalton McGuinty's announcement of 75 new scholarships geared towards foreign Ph.D. students for \$40,000 a year at a cost of \$20 million for the province. The opposition, spearheaded by PC Party leader Tim Hudak, claims students are outraged by the government spending money on foreigners instead of Ontario students. Tim Hudak; thanks but no thanks.

Universities across the province are applauding McGuinty's initiative as a good step in attracting the best and brightest the world has to offer. Little funding exists to attract students from abroad for our graduate and doctoral programs and Ontario is falling behind. In fact, the government of Ontario only provides direct grants to domestic students. The manufacturing sector is in decline; the future for Ontario is building an economy centred on innovation. Attracting talent from abroad is an important part of the innovation agenda. The president of the University of Toronto, David Naylor, pointed out that the Silicon Valley was developed in part from the ability of neighbouring universities to attract talent from abroad.

The opposition's claim that foreigners don't deserve merit-based financial assistance because they don't pay taxes is absurd. Upon arriving in Canada they will be paying the same amount of tax the average university student pays who doesn't make a taxable income: the HST. Furthermore, the aim is to attract them to stay in Ontario and contribute to our innovation economy. If successful they will be paying taxes for years to come.

It is not surprising that a party with no policies or ideas beyond opposing literally everything McGuinty has done (even conservative policies like tax harmonization) is trying to score political points off the backs of foreigners. There is nothing like a healthy dose of cheap nativist rhetoric to boost your electoral prospects in 2011. But, Mr. Hudak, don't think for a second that university students will fall for it.

—The Cord Editorial Board

WLU and UW must stand up for academic integrity

An academic inquiry into the firing of Dr. Ramesh Thakur by the Balsillie School of International Affairs has made potentially damaging allegations regarding the academic integrity of the school and of the two universities that jointly administer it. According to the report, Thakur was fired for objecting to including the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), a private investor, in on the decision-making process for academic programs.

This case is deeply troubling on many grounds. Firstly, CIGI having the ability to influence the development of the academic process of the university is not acceptable. Private donors do not determine the academics or administration of any of our public universities in this country, as our educational institutions would lose their credibility. This should be no different at the Balsillie School.

Secondly, it is improper to fire the head of an academic institution for defending academic integrity and, as the report suggests, manufacture reasons for his dismissal that have no grounding in reality. This case of wrongful dismissal would be unacceptable in any private sector corporation.

Lastly, the silence of UW and WLU in this matter sets a terrible precedent. The reality is that increasingly our academic institutions will have to turn to private dollars in future years as governments tighten their belts and reduce funding to university operations all while requiring low levels of tuition. Cases of private donors and investors attempting to influence university operations will become more common, which threatens their academic integrity.

The University of Waterloo and Laurier need to make a strong statement in favour of academic integrity and issue an apology to Thakur.

—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.



TYPICAL ONTARIO UNIVERSITY GRAD

Reflections on Remembrance Day



ERIC MERKLEY
letters@thecord.ca

The process of writing this editorial has been one of those times where I have found myself struggling to concentrate my thoughts. I didn't want to do my typical ranting on X political topic, but rather something with deeper meaning relating to Remembrance Day.

It is a day of the year that has always been dear to me; using it as a time to reflect upon the sacrifices of our veterans and on whether I personally have lived up to their legacy.

Thus here I sit, by the Canadian Veterans' Memorial in front of Wilfrid Laurier University attempting to collect my thoughts on what Remembrance Day means to me.

Like many of us I had a grandfather who served in the Second World War. He was a proud, self-made man, signing up immediately in the Canadian army once of military age. Grandpa served with great distinction in the Royal Montreal Regiment, ascending to the rank of sergeant major. Upon the war's end he got into the tire business, working as a sales manager at Uniroyal, a line of work my Dad continued on in, but me not so much.

Many of my fondest memories are of being at the cottage he and my grandmother owned at Sauble Beach. They lived on the Saugeen First Nation native reserve just off the Sauble River. We went fishing, went on golf cart

rides down hidden paths through the area and practically domesticated the local chipmunks.

Always one for getting a good deal on anything, we would hit up the local flea market or various garage sales every so often. My family wasn't particularly wealthy in my early years, so we did very little travelling. Instead we went up to visit him at the cottage almost every long-weekend.

My grandpa's health was never the greatest and it was painful watching him fade over the years. Eventually he could no longer take care of himself in Sauble and he had to sell the cottage, something a very proud, independent man like my grandpa was none too pleased about.

He was a fighter though, making it through an absurd number of operations, some successful and many botched. He passed away last March due to complications from pneumonia at the age of 83.

For all the good times I had with my grandpa at the cottage, I never got to know him as well as I would have liked. I never really got to know about his life and what he experienced during the war. It's something I will always regret.

As time passes many other veterans will likewise fade away and with them their own unique personal experiences of an event so catastrophic it has no parallel in human history. I fear their legacy of spirit will likewise fade as a distant memory.

I look around at society and wonder where the spirit of the "Greatest Generation" has gone. Honour, self-sacrifice, service to one's family, community and country and an ethic of self-reliance seem increasingly a rarity in a society dominated by feelings of entitlement. To even suggest that one has responsibilities as citizens of this

As the "Greatest Generation" fades away you should take the time to learn their story and reflect on their sacrifice.

country is met with allegations of being socially backward and having a desire to return to the past.

Fewer and fewer people will wear poppies this Remembrance Day; even fewer people will observe a moment of silence and last post.

I will again take the time this Remembrance Day to reflect on whether I am living up to the spirit of the "Greatest Generation"; a spirit which I like to think was embodied by my late grandfather.

I will take the time this Remembrance Day to remember how the veterans who reflected these values saved our democracy and preserved our way of life, so we could live free of fear, free of hardship and free of tyranny. I will take the time this Remembrance Day to reflect on the lessons of the past.

As the "Greatest Generation" fades away you should take the time to learn their story and reflect on their sacrifice. Talk to our veterans while you still can and thank them for all they did for our country. Remembrance Day only comes once a year; honour them.

—Written in memory of my grandfather, Owen Merkley (1927-2010)

THE FORUM

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • emerkeley@thecord.ca

War, remembrance and scholarship: In memory of Louis Audette, a Canadian veteran of World War II



ROGER SARTY
letters@thecord.ca

Remembrance has special meaning in a university. For remembrance, without study and the understanding that comes from study, can too easily become empty ritual. Understanding war is probably an impossible task, but it is one that humankind cannot avoid. Incomprehensible as war may be, it is also definitively human.

Capacity for co-operation to protect and nurture has been the tap root of humankind's success and yet has also embraced co-operation to commit organized violence on an ever larger and more destructive scale.

To paraphrase the great historian Blair Nearby, the university is one of the very few places where people have the freedom and the means to tackle such an open-ended and profound issue.

On Remembrance Day, I particularly think of Louis de la Chesnaye Audette, who educated me — and many other historians — about the

enormous challenge and urgent necessity of studying war. It is painful, I must confess, to speak of Louis in terms of "remember."

The cold reality is that we lost him over fifteen years ago, at a ripe old age, but I find it hard to speak of him in the past tense. I can still see his jaunty form (perhaps five feet eight inches on a good day, always meticulously turned out in jacket and natty bow tie), the quizzical tilt of his head (he was always completely engaged with everyone he met) and hear his wicked one-liners (he was the very definition of irreverent).

Yet, we have lost Louis, like so many of the generation that endured the Great Depression and fought the Second World War. And, as he himself always proclaimed, he was exceedingly fortunate to have had the privilege of experiencing old age.

A native of Ottawa, Louis was descended from two of the ancient families of Quebec City, one English-speaking (his mother was a Stuart), the other French. He was fluently bilingual and truly bicultural. During the late 1930s, Louis, then a young lawyer practising in Montreal, volunteered to come out on active service with the navy in the event of war.

He was among the first groups of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve to be called up in 1939 for

an accelerated training program and he served at sea almost continuously from 1940 until the end of the war in 1945.

He saw as much of the Battle of the Atlantic as any person. He was in the destroyer HMCS *Saguenay* when she was severely damaged in a torpedo attack off the British coast in December 1940. He was commanding officer of the corvette HMCS *Amherst* in November 1942 when she formed part of the tiny escort for convoy SC 107, whose passage in the face of some 15 U-boats was among the bloodiest convoy battles of the war.

As captain of a big new frigate, HMCS *Coaticook*, he was fully engaged in January 1945 when German submarines equipped with schnorkel equipment that allowed them to evade Allied defences, inflicted heavy losses on shipping near Halifax.

Yet Louis was the first to declare that, even as a warship captain of extraordinarily broad experience, he had only a worm's eye view of the naval war. The key to understanding, he always proclaimed, was study — research and reflection.

Although he became one of the government's top administrators after 1945 (he held a succession of senior appointments, ultimately at the deputy minister level) he never

ceased to study war. He particularly made a point of picking the brains of young scholars to discover the results of the latest historical research and analysis, the revelations of newly declassified high-level military and political archives.

The hospitality was always on Louis. He would produce ample quantities of the best scotch at his beautiful heritage house in downtown Ottawa, while his resident cook put a superb dinner on the table.

Yet convivial as Louis's hospitality was, his purpose was intensely serious. Understanding can only be achieved through disciplined study and without disciplined study there is no understanding, and the great danger of "prejudice." He used the word more broadly than most people, to mean any strongly held opinion that was not based on a genuine effort to gather the pertinent facts and analyze them in a balanced, open-minded way.

Among the prejudices that most infuriated him was the belief that chronological age automatically imparts wisdom.

I well remember the shock, during my early meetings with this wartime hero, when he repeatedly asked me what I had learned in my studies — if his views were at all accurate or needed to be modified in light of

The key to understanding, he always proclaimed, was study — research and reflection.

recent scholarship. I was only 28 or 29, not yet finished my graduate studies and well used to keeping my mouth shut in the presence of the great.

He had no patience for that attitude and made it clear I had to share my discoveries and insights — treat him as an equal and not some sort of historic artefact — if he were to be saved from the prejudices of his own experience.

On this Remembrance Day it comes to mind that Louis embodied the ideals of our best schools. He was one of those rare individuals who show that the university is not just a place — vital as it is to have such wonderful places — but a state of mind.

Letters to the Editor

Tea Party thrives off Ignorance

RE: *Passion trumps reason in American midterm elections, Nov. 3*

Troublingly, the election of Barack Obama in 2008 reinvigorated the conservative base, lulled into complacency with the re-election of George W. Bush. Obama's message, even if it was vague, of hope in 2008 has been met with hate, in 2010.

Had McCain won in 2008, conservatism in America would have likely proven itself to be an abject failure. Obama's election granted a reprieve to conservatism and allowed its adherents to remobilize.

The "grassroots" movement of the Tea Party is an example of this, even when it is anything but a coldly calculated, bought-and-paid-for

campaign, thanks to the coffers of corporations, perversely exerting their newly affirmed electoral rights as persons after the Supreme Court repeal on such involvement. A party antithetical to actual governance, fomenting the strength of that comes from resolute ignorance, has taken control of the House of Representatives.

The double-bind of the political centre and left is thus: how to counteract a thirty-year narrative of conservatism naturalized in print, television, and now digital media, to prove conservatism's inability to actually represent people and legislate justly to address concerns of the future, while articulating an alternative that does not merely supplant the status quo, but fundamentally

shifts the paradigm of political engagement.

—T.A. Pattinson

Khadr's rights violated

RE: *Khadr got off easy, should count his blessings, Nov. 3*

The recent editorial about Omar Khadr was completely misguided and misunderstands the true nature of Khadr's crime and of his sentencing, which was completely illegitimate. To say that the only injustice was "the fact Khadr will again walk freely in Canadian society" disregards the huge injustices of a trial at Guantanamo Bay, set up entirely to evade the real justice system.

While Omar Khadr did sign a

plea bargain limiting his sentence to eight more years, the editorial staff has ignored the eight years that Khadr has already served.

"Law" at Gitmo also conveniently ignores international conventions about child soldiers. Captured at age 15, Khadr is the epitome of a child soldier. Additionally, given the coercive nature of Khadr's upbringing (having been forced into an Al Qaeda cell at the age of 11), even his supposed guilt remains questionable as his rationality cannot be proven. Democratic societies are founded on concepts of fairness and justice, which the entire "trial" of Khadr has completely undermined.

Khadr's rights as a Canadian citizen have been violated, as ruled by the Supreme Court of Canada, and

he spent a third of his life in prison before even this sham of a trial occurred. These eight years alone are more than a juvenile murderer would be sentenced to in Canada. Instead of hailing retribution and vengeance, the U.S. and Canada should be focusing upon rehabilitating him into society. To do otherwise would be the true travesty.

—Kira Misiewicz and Emily O'Brien

Letter policy

Letters must not exceed 250 words. Include your full name and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00 p.m. noon Monday via e-mail to letters@thecord.ca. The Cord reserves the right to edit for length and clarity or to reject any letter.

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OPINION

Opinion Editor Eric Merkley • emerkeley@thecord.ca



NICK LACHANCE VISUAL DIRECTOR

2010 Cleghorn tour participants visit the beach at Puys, adjacent to Dieppe. Puys had the highest casualty rate of the failed raid in 1942.

The importance of military history



NICK LACHANCE
letters@thecord.ca

If you study military history, you're not a real historian. When I hear this, I can't help but be bothered. Especially during the month of November, when it is more important than ever to remember the value in Canada's military past.

There is the perception among many historians today that military history is no longer relevant. Cultural history, social history, political science; these are worthwhile areas where you can safely look upon the study of war and society. Most universities in Canada hold true to this notion. I do not share this view.

Military history is my passion. It has offered me education and many worthwhile opportunities.

It was my interest in Canadian military history that compelled me to come to Laurier. My decision to come to university developed out of a growing feeling that my career was not fulfilling and it was having a seriously negative impact on my life.

So when I sat down to consider what I would be interested in studying, there was one thing I had always held a strong interest in: the Second World War. Since leaving high school, it had been a subject of interest that I had perused on an amateur level. Laurier is one of the few schools that offers a wide range of courses focused on the study of history with a strong focus on Canadian military history.

Though I came in wide-eyed and enamoured with the thoughts of studying paratroopers from the Second World War, over the past three

years my interests have changed drastically. I owe this in large part to the opportunities afforded to me by my involvement with the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies (LCMSDS).

It was through the Centre that I had the opportunity for the past two summers to be a participant in the Cleghorn Battlefield Tour. Each year, the Tour gives Laurier students the opportunity to visit the battlefields of Western Europe where Canadians fought during the First and Second World Wars.

Beginning as a student participant and then this past summer working to record it through photographs, my experiences on the Cleghorn Tour have truly been the most rewarding of my university career thus far.

I have learned more about the past of ordinary Canadians in those few weeks than in months of reading and study. By having the chance

to travel to battlefields, which before I had only read about. I have discovered a deeper passion for the study of Canadian military history and a focus for my university career.

Military history is important. Canada's military past, and its military present, raises countless issues for academic and citizen alike. Military history is an interdisciplinary subject. When it is studied from different backgrounds, such as social history or political science, a far more critical interpretation can be developed.

Only by approaching it from different perspectives can we begin to understand its importance to Canada and its history.

On Nov. 11, regardless if you feel the same about the field of study, take a moment to remember our veterans and consider what their contribution has meant to our country's history and its people from its beginning through to present day.

Keep politics out of Nov. 11



KEITH MARSHALL
letters@thecord.ca

This year, thousands of Canadians will wear a red poppy up to and during Nov. 11. To them, the poppy symbolizes our commitment as a country to remember and respect the sacrifices made by our veterans, stretching back to our involvement in the First World War. As our community members flock to Remembrance Day ceremonies at local schools and community centres across the country, many Canadians will take the time to think about their relatives and friends who have been involved in this country's past military endeavours. Many will also take the time to donate to their local Canadian legion and pick up a red poppy in the process.

In the eyes of organizations across the country, such as the Ottawa White Poppy Coalition, the Canadians who do this will have missed an important message; wearing a red poppy isn't good enough anymore. That's right, that iconic red poppy you wear over your heart to mourn the loss and sacrifice of our veterans is not doing enough to promote peace. To them the red poppy somehow romanticizes war, while only the white poppy truly advocates peace.

Groups across the country have been promoting white poppies for years. One such group, the Ottawa White Poppy Coalition, seeks to promote peace by remembering not only military, but the civilian casualties of war as well. There have also been local initiatives in the Kitchener-Waterloo area to promote white poppies. Last year a Waterloo man started a Facebook group that actively encouraged people to paint their poppies white, with similar objectives to the Ottawa White Poppy Coalition. While neither group takes donations when handing out poppies, that's not the point. For over 80 years Remembrance Day has been Canada's day to remember those men and women who have died on behalf of Canada in conflicts around the world. I see no reason to belittle the one day of the year we take solely to remember members of our military killed in war, purely to satisfy those people pushing for the day to be more politically correct.

Amongst these organizations there is a common belief that to simply remember is not good enough. People must actively lobby their government to stop war abroad as it is never a means of securing peace. This is a ridiculous notion, as it was not the strength of our democratic convictions that defeated the Nazis, but rather the collective strength of the millions that were involved on the battlefields of Europe, in the skies above Britain and in the Atlantic.

Of these young men and women 45,400 Canadians with distinct lives and families never made it home. It is to them and to the more than 100,000 Canadians that have died in military missions overseas in the history of our country that we have dedicated Remembrance Day.

To read the rest of Keith Marshall's column and more check out

thecord.ca

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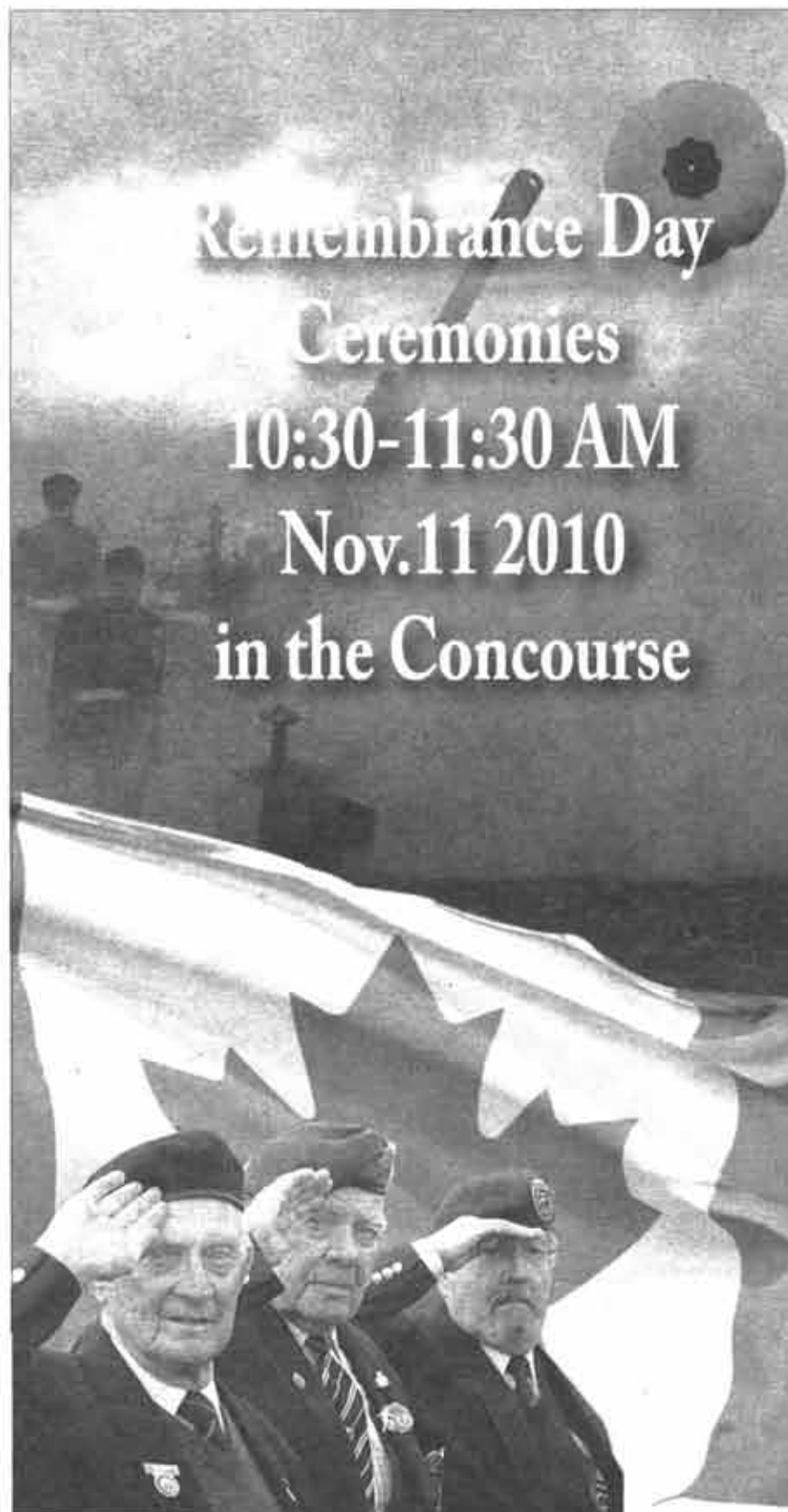
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abbr. Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group; a student funded, student-oriented organization that provides opportunities for Laurier students to create social change.



"Those who support sensibility and reason need to come out against the social conservatives who cry out against big government in the pocketbook and at the same time support greater government intervention into people's lives." —Andrew Chai

The 'land of the free' needs to live up to its cherished ideals

Cord Columnist Andrew Chai discusses the failure of Proposition 19 to legalize recreational marijuana use in the state of California and the need for a new direction in U.S. drug policy due to the failure of the War on Drugs



ANDREW CHAI
letters@thecord.ca

I bet many of us here on this side of the Canada-U.S. border were eagerly awaiting the results of the vote on Proposition 19 in California, anticipating an easy win for the passage of the initiative that would have legalized recreational marijuana use in the state.

But, it would not be so. When all the votes were tallied up it was struck down with 54 per cent of California voters rejecting the measure and 46 per cent supporting it. The campaign in favour of legalization was banking on a surge of participation from young voters and others

on the periphery of the political process.

Unfortunately voter turnout was abysmal. Perhaps the stereotype of the lazy pothead prevailed this time around.

The failure of Proposition 19 in California, considered one of the more progressive states in America, has been seen as a large blow to the pro-legalization movement. They may have lost the battle this time, but the war is far from over.

Support for legalization is growing among all segments of society, from young people to professionals and even members of law enforcement.

It has reached 50 per cent or more in several western states, including Oregon, Washington and Nevada.

Sooner or later marijuana will be legalized. The debate is now shifting towards *how* it is going to be done. Part of this change in opinion

has largely been due to the disaster called the War on Drugs.

The average citizen and police officer are beginning to understand that putting more and more people behind bars for marijuana possession and cultivation is simply unsustainable.

According to a 2009 report by the U.S. Department of Justice, there were over 1.5 million drug arrests in the United States of which more than half were marijuana related. With tens of thousands in prison for marijuana-related crimes and an innumerable amount of law enforcement resources dedicated to combating it, it is clear that the money spent is being wasted in an effort for which there is no end in sight. It has been three decades after the launch of the War on Drugs and there is nothing to show for it.

It is really quite sad that the U.S. has learned nothing from the prohibition of the late 1920s and

early 1930s. Sure, less alcohol was consumed by fewer people, but at what cost? This time period is best remembered for the Italian-American gangster Al Capone. Criminal activity became rampant *because* of the ban of alcohol.

There was nothing noble about this "Noble Experiment," which sought to curb social immorality. Instead, it resulted in an increase in social problems and the flourishing of a highly profitable and violent black market for alcohol. I guess there's some truth behind the saying that those who ignore history are bound to repeat it.

Those who genuinely want to make the world a better place should look to Portugal as a model for drug policy. In 2001, Portugal abolished all criminal penalties for personal drug possession. Drug trafficking is still illegal, but drug users are targeted with therapy and rehabilitation rather than prison sentences.

A follow-up study found that in the five years after the start of decriminalization, drug use by teenagers and the rate of HIV infections among drug users had declined and the number of people seeking treatment for drug addiction had doubled.

These results speak volumes against the hard-line drug policies that have done so much harm to the United States.

The country known as the "land of the free" and a bastion for individual freedoms needs to live up to its ideals.

Those who support sensibility and reason need to come out against the social conservatives who cry out against big government in the pocketbook and at the same time support greater government intervention into people's lives.

The United States was recently promised that "change" was coming. I hope it comes soon.

You know what yanks my Cord...

...when I am taken advantage of by creepy people on the bus.

I am certainly not the only one who will venture into the world that is the Grand River Transit bus system with the hope of not having to deal with creepy people. Now, I really hope these people get help to turn their lives around, but in the meantime it would be nice if they didn't touch me, or for that matter, spit when they are talking to me.

I do not mind having conversations with strangers — I think it's interesting. However, this interest quickly degenerates into extremely uncomfortable situations when they decide to ask questions you do not want to answer, like where you live.

I had one such instance when I was making my way to the Fairview Mall. I got on a packed bus, so I was standing. I knew, however, that it was going to be a long bus ride so a seat would open up for me to take. When the opportunity arose I took it — worst decision I could have made.

I sat down beside a woman who had clearly just finished a long night

of drinking and likely other activities and reeked as such. After a few minutes, I discovered that it was going to be very difficult to get over this smell, but I didn't really have a choice.

After a few minutes, she finally said something to me, asking what the time was. That was certainly innocent enough I thought, so I proceeded to check the time only to realize that it was 4:20pm. This question was followed by rounds of more questions about me seemingly running on a loop because she could not remember the answer I had previously given. Did I mention that throughout this time she had been inching closer to me and intermittently put her hand on my leg? And that she would often spit on me when she was talking to me? Let's just say that I was lucky it was the iXpress and not anything else.

I would like to thank my friends in this situation for doing absolutely nothing and enjoying every moment of my misery.

—Nick Gibson



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

Gordon Campbell showed mettle



JOHN KENNEDY
letters@thecord.ca

No one can claim that former British Columbia premier Gordon Campbell wasn't willing to take one for the team. Last week, the increasingly unpopular premier resigned due to rising public malevolence over the

province's decision to implement the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). This is a huge loss as Campbell is the definition of a politician who was willing to make unpopular decisions for the good of the province; a rarity in politics nowadays.

Although shrouded in the dark mist of the HST that now looms over his head, Campbell should walk into the sunset with his head held high. For all his mistakes over the past few months, Campbell's tenure has been marked with many bold policy initiatives that should raise his legacy out of the ashes.

After assuming office in 2001

following intense dissatisfaction with a wildly unpopular NDP government, Campbell looked like a stud coming out of the gate fast. He became the model of fiscal conservatism in a province where provincial spending was out of control.

The province reaped reward after reward under this new model of political management.

To read the rest of John Kennedy's column and more check out

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SPORTS

Sports Editor Justin Fauteux • jfauteux@thecord.ca

NFL mid-season report

Staff Writer Chris Mander reviews the top stories from the first half of the NFL season.

Player safety and fines

Steelers' linebacker James Harrison is the poster boy for NFL fines, but several helmet-to-helmet hits have forced the NFL to crack down on player safety. Concussions and their long-term effects are a hot topic, so this issue won't go away any time soon. The league wants to protect its star offensive players and hard-hitting defenders are paying the price.

Randy Moss's demise

Moss is declared by many to be the most gifted receiver of all time, as well as statistically one of the top receivers in NFL history. Unanimously, Moss is considered to have a big mouth and often act like an idiot. After two bizarre press conferences and transactions, he will suit up for an NFL record 3rd team this season when he joins the Tennessee Titans. Moss's attitude can't be tolerated due to decreased production.

Super Bowl chumps

The New Orleans Saints were near perfect last season, winning the Super Bowl in dramatic fashion and making the "Who Dat" nation finally proud. This year has been different as Drew Brees and company have stumbled, standing at 6-3, and in second place in the NFC South.

The Michael Vick show

He was supposed to be a backup; instead, he revived his career and has been the comeback player of the year.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This year's return has been anything but successful for Brett Favre.

The Brett Favre debacle

Everyone's favorite Wrangler Jeans spokesman opted to return for a 20th NFL season, and his second with the Vikings, a decision he has to be regretting now. Minnesota stands at a rough 3-5, Favre has countless injuries and, to make matters worse, he is in the midst of an NFL investigation over sexually explicit voice messages and photos sent to a former Jets employee.

The fall of the Cowboys

The Dallas Cowboys were picked by almost everyone to contend for the Super Bowl this season. Instead, they are 1-7, playing some of the worst football imaginable, and will have a new coaching staff next season. They're also looking to Jon Kitna at quarterback for the near future with Tony Romo's recent injury. America's team has so far been nothing but losers.

Rise of the dead

Last year, the St. Louis Rams, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Oakland Raiders, Seattle Seahawks and Kansas City Chiefs were all laughing-stocks of the league. This season, they are all winning games and, so far, appear to be playoff contenders.

No Ben, no problem

Coming into the season, Steelers' quarterback Ben Roethlisberger was suspended for the seasons' first four games and everyone thought if the Steelers could somehow win a game they would be fine. Instead, they came out 3-1 and hardly missed a beat without Ben. Now with him, they look as good as ever.

Coaches feel the heat

With Wade Phillips already out of a job in Dallas, 49ers' coach Mike Singletary shouldn't be far behind. However, the likes of Brad Childress (Minnesota), Lovie Smith (Chicago), Marvin Lewis (Cincinnati), Josh McDaniels (Denver) and Eric Mangini (Cleveland) can try and save their jobs with a strong second half of the season.

Emerging rookies

Sam Bradford in St. Louis and Ndamukong Suh in Detroit have shown their potential, while Earl Thomas (Seattle), Nate Allen (Philadelphia), Joe Haden (Cleveland), Dez Bryant (Dallas), Jahvid Best (Detroit) and others have showed a great deal of promise.

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of November 8 - 14, 2010

RECENT SCORES

11.07.10
W Soccer 1 - Queen's 0

11.06.10

M Football 31 - Ottawa 32
W Basketball 78 - RMC 43
M Basketball 114 - RMC 53
W Hockey 6 - Waterloo 0
M Hockey 1 - Lakehead 5
W Volleyball 1 - Brock 3
M Volleyball 1 - Queen's 3
W Soccer 2 - Ottawa 1

11.05.10

W Basketball 63 - Queen's 53
M Basketball 86 - Queen's 59
M Hockey 6 - Lakehead 5
M Volleyball 3 - RMC 0

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

11.11.10

M Hockey vs Waterloo
Sunlife Financial Arena, 7:30 p.m.

11.12.10

W Basketball vs Carleton
Athletic Complex, 6:00 p.m.
M Basketball vs Carleton
Athletic Complex, 8:00 p.m.
W Hockey vs Toronto
Sunlife Financial Arena, 7:30 p.m.

11.13.10

W Basketball vs Ottawa
Athletic Complex, 1:00 p.m.
M Basketball vs Ottawa
Athletic Complex, 3:00 p.m.

11.14.10

W Hockey vs York
Sunlife Financial Arena, 3:00 p.m.

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Kale Harrison

Men's Football

Kelsey Tikka

Women's Soccer

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Scores from the road

Men's hockey		Men's basketball		Women's basketball		Women's volleyball
Nov. 5	Nov. 6	Nov. 5	Nov. 6	Nov. 5	Nov. 6	Nov. 6
Laurier 6 Lakehead 5	Lakehead 5 Laurier 1	Laurier 86 Queen's 59	Laurier 114 RMC 53	Laurier 63 Queen's 53	Laurier 78 RMC 43	Brock 3 Laurier 1



ROSALIE EID STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Greg Houston (2), one of the veterans on the Hawks men's volleyball team goes up for a spike on Saturday night versus Queen's.

Hawks crush Warriors

KEVIN CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

Well, that's no way to repay a favour to your considerate neighbours.

Head coach Rick Osborne and his band of merciless Laurier lady hockey Hawks laid a beat down on the Waterloo Warriors, 6-0 on Saturday.

Hardly the treatment deserving of such an altruistic group of Warriors who, just one week earlier, had vanquished the Windsor Lancers who tarnished Laurier's perfect record (they now stand at 8-1) with a 2-1 win on Oct. 29.

The Warriors would find no gratitude from the Hawks.

"That's the same goalie who stopped 52 shots against Windsor," said Osborne of Warriors' keeper Martina Michaud. "On any given day, you can run into a hot goalie, so those first two quick goals were important."

While the Hawks did fail to pay UW's niceties forward, they were more than happy spreading the scoring wealth between themselves Saturday.

Andrea Shapero, the first Hawk to put one past Michaud, was just one of 10 girls to collect at least a point in Laurier's drubbing.

"The team is very well-rounded," said the first-year forward after collecting her second tally of the season. "It's nice to see players who don't usually get those goals get them tonight."

A learned Ontario University Athletics (OUA) observer would be hard-pressed to pick just one of those out from this deep squad.

"We're not going to have any fourth line checking-role players on this team," said Osborne.

Six different players found the net in Laurier's lopsided win.

Shapero, Caitlin Muirhead, Heather Fortuna, Brittany Crago, Abby Rainsberry, and Laura Brooker all added to their totals, with no player except Brooker – who has six goals on the year – claiming more than their third tally of the year.

Despite scoring the most goals of every team in the OUA with 32, the Hawks currently hold the absurd phenomenon of possessing no player in the top 10 in league scoring.

"I think we've got five or six who will eventually be at the top, but everybody will chip in," said Osborne.

Making the Hawks even more formidable is the one area where a Golden Hawk does indeed reign queen – between the pipes.

Coming as absolutely no surprise, fifth-year goaltender and last year's Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) player of the year Liz Knox has stood an imposing figure to start the year with an otherworldly 0.89 GAA and .961 save percentage.

"Full confidence in her," said Shapero of the Team Canada vet. "When she's back there, we've got nothing to worry about."

Laurier strikes in engulfing waves, instead of flashes of sparse brilliance, like some star-laden teams are wont to do, making them so difficult to guard against. Opposing defenders have no idea who they're supposed to focus on.

"Rolling four lines is nice," said Shapero. "Everyone gets out there and pushes it for their own 40 seconds, and then we roll the next line."

Often, those 40 seconds last an eternity for the opposition; even if they did just flash some courtesy towards those ungrateful Hawks.

.500 start for men's volleyball

Hawks battle inconsistency and key departures through opening of 2010-11 season

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

After a 3-3 start to the season, the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks men's volleyball team is still looking to hit their stride.

Opening their season with four straight road games, the Hawks started the 2010-11 campaign with a pair of wins, beating York and Ryerson. However, they followed that up with two consecutive losses to McMaster and Guelph.

This past weekend, the Hawks returned to the Laurier Athletic Complex where they split their matches, beating the Royal Military College (RMC) Paladins on Saturday and falling to the Queen's Gaels on Sunday.

"We've been extremely good at times but we've also been extremely

average," said head coach Shayne White of the Hawks' start. "When a few things start to go wrong I think we just start to panic a little bit. I'm hoping that as the season progresses, they'll develop that feeling of trust and confidence so we won't panic when we get into those tough situations."

That inconsistency was a problem that plagued a young Hawks team last year, culminating in a disappointing 9-11 record, leaving them just short of the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) playoffs.

This season, the purple and gold once again feature a large number of rookies, with six of the 15 players on the roster being first-years; however according to White, the small group of experienced players have become solid leaders.

"The veterans have really taken

care of the rookies and made the transition very easy for them," he said. "[Fourth-years Erik Kroman and Cam Wheelan] have always been good leaders who lead by example, but this year we've really tried to spread out the leadership between those two and [fourth-years] Greg Houston and Dave Hamilton."

According to White, that veteran presence has sped up the maturation process for the Hawks' rookies.

"I think [the first-years] have come along pretty well," he said. "We've had some really good contributions already, a couple will start and a couple will play some significant time but they're all going to be very good players. It's a really promising group."

During the off-season, the Hawks were dealt a pair of significant

blows in losing two starters from last year's team. Second-year John Wilson was unable to play this season due to co-op, while former OUA rookie of the year Sam Schachter had to leave the team in order to play with Canada's national beach volleyball program.

"Those are two starters and two very big losses," said White. "Losing a 6'6 off side and a 6'7 middle really makes things difficult but some other guys are really stepping up and getting used to being leaders."

No matter how young they are, or whom they have lost, White has high hopes for his team this year.

"If we can achieve consistency, I think that we can finish top three or top four," he said. "Our goal is not just to make playoffs, our goal is to get home court advantage and get to the final four."



MIKE WHITEHOUSE LAURIER ATHLETICS

Laurier's Sadie Anderson (left) and Tania Pedron (right) accept the championship trophy and banner after beating Queen's.

Women's soccer ready for nationals

—cover

"It's not so much about the revenge, I thought they're an excellent team and we knew we were in for a tough game," said head coach Barry MacLean of beating Queen's. "We've got a lot of respect for them and winning the provincial championship against such a good team is a huge accomplishment."

For Lagonia, whose corner set up the Hawks' championship winning goal, this was the first chance she had to celebrate a championship with her Laurier teammates. The fourth-year has been on the team since 2007, however her duties with Canada's national team forced her to miss the Hawks' provincial title in 2008.

An elated Lagonia explained how much winning a title in purple and gold meant to her after the game.

"I'm just on top of the world right now," she said. "I've missed a lot and to be here finally celebrating and sharing a title with this team means so much. These girls mean so much

to me and I'm so happy I could be here with them."

Having conquered Ontario, the Hawks now set their sights on this weekend's Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) finals, hosted by the University of Prince Edward Island. Two years ago was the last time the team appeared at nationals and came away as consolation champions.

"Having an OUA gold under our belts just makes us so much more pumped heading into nationals," said OUA west MVP, Tania Pedron. "We're looking to prove that we're not just the best team in Ontario but the best in Canada."

The purple and gold will open their CIS finals with a game against the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds this Thursday.

"We really wanted to come into nationals in first place [in Ontario] and that goal's been accomplished," said Lagonia. "Going into the tournament in first, other teams are definitely going to be looking out for us but I know we're going to be ready."

Hawks fall in dramatic semifinal

Football team eliminated from OUA playoffs after nail-biting 32-31 loss to powerhouse Ottawa Gee-Gees

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

OTTAWA, Ont. — Could there have been a more fitting way to end this season of Golden Hawk football?

After a year dominated by questions and guessing — everything from “how good is this team, really?” to “how long will they keep that win over Toronto?” — the Hawks kept everyone on the edge of their seats for 60 minutes longer in Saturday's Ontario University Athletics (OUA) semifinal versus the Ottawa Gee-Gees.

In an instant classic that came right down to the wire, the Gee-Gees, who were the OUA's number-one seed, squeaked out a 32-31 win, ending the season for the purple and gold.

“You can't ask for anything better than playing in a game like that,” said Laurier quarterback Evan Pawliuk. “It's what every football player dreams of, but sometimes in the end it just doesn't work out.”

Pawliuk would be forced into action in this one, taking over for Shane Kelly who suffered a concussion just before half time. Prior to his injury Kelly had led the Hawks to what is likely their best offensive performance of the season, racking up 197 yards to lead the game 24-16 at half.

However, for the third time this season, Kelly would need to be replaced by Pawliuk after sustaining another unlucky injury.

“[Kelly] was concussed, he didn't know where he was for awhile and as much as he wanted to go back in, it just wouldn't have been safe,” said manager of football operation and head coach Gary Jeffries.

“But Evan did a great job. We have great confidence in him and he went in and moved the team. I have great admiration for any one of them.”

After vaunted Gee-Gees quarterback Brad Sinopoli brought his team back within a point mid-way through the third quarter, Pawliuk would answer, leading an almost flawless six-play drive and scoring a three-yard touchdown run. In the process, bucking one of the trends that haunted the Hawks all season — at least temporarily — second-half let-downs.

However, in the fourth quarter, the Hawks' late-game demons would return.

After stopping the Gee-Gees' on second down in the red zone, linebacker Giancarlo Rapanaro would be called for a pass interference penalty, in the endzone, giving Ottawa the ball on the one-yard line. Runningback Franck Ngandui would punch it in and the powerful Gee-Gees were once again less than a field goal behind. Matt Falvo would hit a field goal with four minutes left to put the Gee-Gees on top by the eventual final score of 32-31.

“At times we had absolute brilliance, at times we had a couple of let-downs,” said defensive tackle Steve Cormack of the defence's effort. “They got two scores off tipped balls, there were a couple of pass interference calls that we didn't really agree with, but those are the ins and outs of football and you just kind of have to go with them.”

In the nail-biting final four minutes, two attempted game-winning drives fell short for the Hawks, despite a timely interception from defensive back Scott McCahill and a partially blocked punt that gave Laurier the ball inside the Ottawa 50-yard-line.

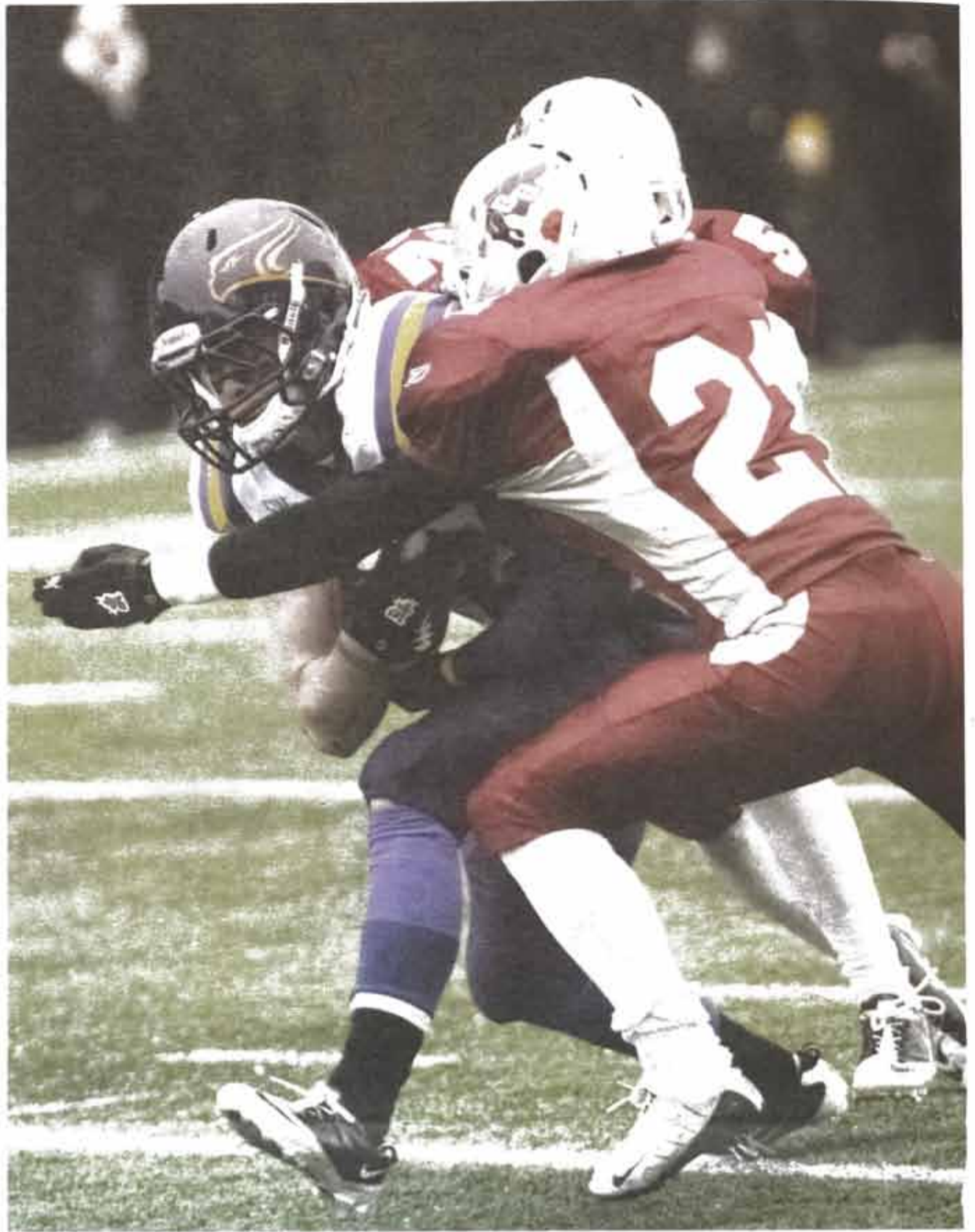
“I just have the utmost respect for our football team,” said Jeffries. “They just kept battling and battling right to the last second on the clock. They're a great football team and it's a damn shame that we're not moving on.”

In the end, this game provided a perfect fitting to one of the most up-and-down seasons of Laurier football in recent memory. Very few expected the game to be this close, few even expected the Hawks to make it this far, after the events that transpired early in the year.

But the team showed its growth and as Cormack put it, “went down swinging.”

“You just talk about resilience, it's unbelievable to see what we've done to turn it around,” added Cormack who along with players such as Rapanaro and receivers Jeff Emberley and Vince Luciani played his last game in a Golden Hawks uniform.

“You start 0-2 and everyone's against you and you just keep clawing back and then you get a win taken away, so you keep clawing and you get to the semis and we just came that close; sometimes you just don't get the bounces.... I couldn't be happier with the group of guys I got to spend the year with.”



MIKE WHITEHOUSE LAURIER ATHLETICS

Hawks' receiver Alex Anthony is smothered by a pair of Gee-Gees during the Hawks' 32-31 loss.

Nine Hawks named OUA all-stars

First-Team

Dillon Heap (KR)
489 return yards, 1 TD

Giancarlo Rapanaro (LB)
28.5 tackles, 2 sacks, 2 INT

Mitch Nicholson (S)
17 tackles, 1.5 sacks, 3 INT

Second-Team

Mike Knill (OT)
8 games started

Shamawd Chambers (WR)
27 rec, 366 yds, 2 TD

Dillon Heap (WR)
41 rec, 466 yds, 5 TD

Steve Cormack (DT)
20.5 tackles, 4.5 sacks

Mitchell Bosch (LB)
46 tackles, 2 sacks, 3 INT

Sam Aird (Special Teams)
25.5 tackles, 21 unassisted



ELLI GARLIN FILE PHOTO

Heap among America's best

Golden Hawks' receiver named Academic All-American

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

Dillon Heap just keeps adding to his impressive resumé.

The fourth-year receiver has already garnered recognition for his play on the field — being named a provincial all-star twice and an All-Canadian once, to go along with winning last year's President's Award as Laurier's top male athlete — but what's almost more impressive is how he's complemented those honours in the classroom.

Heap has twice been recognized as a Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Academic All-Canadian and last year he won Laurier's Luke Fusco Academic Athletic Achievement Award. And now, the Waterloo native can add making the ESPN Academic All-America district team to his long list of accolades.

“It feels great, but it's certainly something I never expected,” said Heap. “To be recognized for all of

North America is definitely a great honour.”

Every year, the College Sports Information Directors Association, in conjunction with ESPN, recognizes athletes who also excel in academics. There are two divisions, one encompassing National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division One schools and another that is comprised of NCAA Division Two and Three schools, American junior colleges and Canadian universities.

Heap's 11.4 GPA earned him a spot on the second team, making him the only Canadian football player to be honoured this season. This also marks the first time that a Laurier athlete has been named to the Academic All-District team.

“I didn't really look into it too much, but I know I was the only Canadian football player this year, so it's definitely a big honour,” said Heap. “It's kind of hard to tell the magnitude of it, but it's certainly something I'm proud of.”

Heap, a business major, says his secret to academic success is relatively simple.

“It's just a matter of focus and dedication,” he said. “I've been able to manage my time well and make some sacrifices. Sometimes I've had to sacrifice some leisure activities, especially during crunch-time during football season.”

To go along with his academic performance, Heap has also been one of the Hawks' most consistent performers on the field over the past two years. Heap has led the purple and gold in receiving each of the past two seasons, while setting a CIS record for punt return yardage in 2009.

And with a year of eligibility left, the explosive receiver/kick returner intends on coming back for one more season with the Hawks.

“As of now, I'm back next year,” he said. “I have a year left to play and I think we have some unfinished business as a team.”