



THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

WLUSU reps under review

2010 in music and film: Upcoming arts releases

Board reviews, page 6

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Volume 50, Issue 18

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

thecord.ca

'I am trapped here'

The Cord speaks with two emotionally abused students who still carry the psychological baggage of their relationship trauma

ALANNA WALLACE
IN DEPTH EDITOR

Women everywhere show the marks of abuse, though not all their scars are visible.

Violence takes many forms and can be conducted in several ways. But when an individual suffers at the hands of a partner who is supposed to embody love and devotion, the experience is detrimental to their emotional and overall health.

Emotional violence is rarely a centerpiece for discussion, despite the fact that it often comes hand-in-hand with other types of abuse. And while physical wounds heal, many carry emotional scarring long after the abuse ends.

"The entanglement [of emotional abuse] is so intense and so complex," said Wilfrid Laurier University's women's studies professor Helen Ramirez. "There's something so incipient about emotional abuse that you can carry for an entire life. It's so disheartening."

Robyn Thomas*, a university student who has been emotionally and

sexually abused by two former boyfriends can attest to Ramirez's implication of this type of abuse and the toll it took on her psyche.

"You want to believe that what you saw the first time wasn't wrong," explained Thomas. "That your judgment is better than that and that you're not an idiot for having loved [your abuser] at any point."

Thomas is far from alone. Statistics Canada reports that 81 per cent of university and college males admitted that they had psychologically abused a female partner.

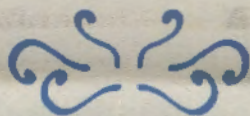
The United States Department of Justice has found that women ages 16-24 are most likely to suffer from intimate partner violence. This makes the issue a challenging one for university students, who fall directly into this age category.

"Emotional violence, controlling behaviour... there are tons of things that I know people have experienced and they wouldn't necessarily call it abuse... that's a part of their relationships," explained Kate Klein, a

In Depth, page 12

“ [He] broke my heart. [He] was the one that made the rules. [He] treated me like I was meat. Like I was there solely for [his] pleasure and that's not right.”

-Victim of emotional abuse



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Coming to terms with being a victim of emotional abuse and progressing towards finding a healthy relationship can be daunting.



Olympic fever

On Dec. 27 the torch relay for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics made its way through Kitchener-Waterloo

Sports, page 23



Beloved professor no longer teaching

Students will greatly miss Ramsomair

LAUREN MILLET
NEWS EDITOR

Tenured Laurier professor Franklin Ramsomair, who has been a faculty member in the business department for the past 20 years, is no longer teaching at the university

The multiple winner of the "Professor of the Year" award was a beloved faculty member by both students and co-workers. Students are left unsure of the reasons for his departure.

"I'm still on Laurier's payroll. I have opted not to teach, but am still very heavily involved in research," said Ramsomair.

"Because of the negotiations that we had, I'm under a legal agreement that I cannot discuss," commented Ramsomair.

Vice-president of academics Deb Maclatchy was also unable to

comment on any specifics of the situation.

"All I can say at this point is that the university and professor Ramsomair have come to a mutually satisfactory resolution of the issues," said Maclatchy.

"Everything else is confidential. That was agreed to by both professor Ramsomair as well as the university."

During the summer, an e-mail was circulated by former students of Ramsomair. The e-mail asked those who had been taught by Ramsomair to write letters to administration in support of him.

"He's unlike any other prof I've ever had. He's got his own style," said Laurier graduate Matt English. English, who completed his honours business administration degree in 2009, noted that students really

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Inside

Life on the fringe

Chatting with the producers of the student-run arts festival FR!NGE, running from Jan. 14 to 16.

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Parliament shuts down

Laurier professor David Docherty explains the impact of proroguing federal government.

National, page 9

Varsity report card

The Cord grades the Laurier sports teams who completed their seasons in fall 2009.

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Cord-o-scopes

Want to see what 2010 has in store for you? Look into The Cord's crystal ball and find out.

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From the archives

Read a prediction about Laurier from 1999 that eerily resembles our current campus' state.

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Editor's choice

Photojournal from South Africa
thecord.ca/



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

This week in quotes

When someone has experienced that level of trauma and disintegration of one's being, then you have to be present for a lifetime.

-Laurier women's studies professor Helen Ramirez on supporting loved ones after they've left an abusive relationship.



"I can see how administration would hate him. He's not about the textbooks and the assigned readings. In one class, he gave out textbooks for free."

-Matt English referring to former Laurier professor Franklin Ramsoomair.

"It isn't a decision based on what may or may not be a good or bad review."

-Former director Justin Glover on his decision to resign from his position - not the result of this issue's board review.

"Update on survey; the update is that it's ongoing."

-Graduate students' association president Melany Banks

You would think I was referring to a country that has very little experience with democracy."

-Laurier professor David Docherty on the Harper government's history of prorogation of parliament

To represent the world is something only a select few will ever be able to experience."

-Laurier wide receiver Alex Anthony



Vocal Cord

What was your new year's resolution?



"To be a more studious student."
-Lauren Oliva
Second-year sociology



"To get healthier and get to the gym more."
-Ashley Tossounian
Fourth-year biology

From the archives

5 years

Senate and board of governors positions added to WLUSU election ballot

The Cord reported that for the first time students would be voting for the student board of governors and senate positions on the same day as the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union president and board of directors elections.

Printed Jan. 6, 2005

25 years

50 per cent tuition hike suggested

The Bovy Commission, formed to plan the restructuring of the Ontario university system and the cause of much controversy between 1984 and 1985, released its recommendations on Jan. 15, 1985.

Printed Jan. 17, 1985

35 years

Money tight, programs expected to suffer

Financial difficulties struck Wilfrid Laurier University during the '70s; governments were cutting back on funding to post-secondary institutions.

Printed Jan. 16, 1975



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Photo of the week

Students line up to watch the World Junior Championship final at Wilf's last night only to be disappointed in an overtime upset.



"My life will be organized and I will be on top of my friends, work and school."
-Katrina Parisi
Third-year English



"They're dumb. Everyone just sets themselves up for themselves to break them in the end ... no one follows through."
-Brian Voegtle
First-year psychology

Compiled by David Goldberg
Photos by Yusuf Kidwai

Editor's note

Life

Starting this week, the Life section of The Cord will be making a significant overhaul. Some elements of the section, including favourites such as Dear Life, Cord-o-scopes, Drinking Days and Wisdom Disconnect will now appear with the classified ads (page 17), whereas more feature style and humour stories can be found online at thecord.ca.

Survey

Thanks to all who filled out our reader survey online at thecord.ca. Several readers participated in the poll and we will take your suggestions into consideration as we begin the winter semester. Please continue to send us your feedback by contacting editor@thecord.ca. The winner of the new iPod touch is Santana Moores. Congratulations!

thecord.ca
Watch video vocal cord

THE CORD

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Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2010
Volume 50, Issue 18
Next issue: Jan. 13, 2010

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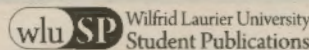
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The Cord is the official student newspaper of the Wilfrid Laurier University community.

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



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

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The Cord is created using Macintosh computers running Mac OS X 10.5 using Adobe Creative Suite 4. Canon Rebel cameras are used for principal photography.

The Cord has been a proud member of the Ontario Press Council since 2006. Any unsatisfied complaints can be sent to the council at info@ontpress.com.



The Cord's circulation for a normal Wednesday issue is 8,000 copies and enjoys a readership of over 10,000. Cord subscription rates are \$20.00 per term for addresses within Canada.

The Cord has been a proud member of the Canadian University Press (CUP) since 2004.



Campus Plus is The Cord's national advertising agency.

Preamble to The Cord constitution

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

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

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

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

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

Quote of the week: "I'm going to become so fucking famous you won't be able to function without reading about me!" -Opinion Editor Kim Elworthy commenting on her future.

NEWS

News Editor Lauren Millet • lmillet@thecord.ca

Director quits board

Sixth-year student Justin Glover resigns from his elected position due to scheduling conflict with school and work

LAUREN MILLET
NEWS EDITOR

Justin Glover, a member of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union board of directors, has resigned from his position as an elected student representative.

A letter of resignation was sent yesterday evening stating that he did not have enough time to commit to the board.

"Right now I cannot make the board a priority for me. It is unfair for me to be in that room; it's unfair to the other people in that room," said Glover.

He added that this semester he is taking two more classes than he had been in the fall and that he also has two jobs.

Glover noted that he enjoyed his time as a director and feels he has a much stronger grasp on policy now.

He added that he plans to continue to spread information about WLUSU and bring issues to the board that students inform him of.

"This isn't a decision I came to lightly," he said.

According to chair of the board Saad Aslam, it will be up to the board whether they want to replace Glover's seat or not.

However, Aslam predicts the seat will remain vacant for the remainder of the term.

A similar situation occurred last year at this time when director Taylor McGuire stepped down from his seat. The board did not replace him.

"It's unfortunate that he has to step down, but if he doesn't have the time to commit, at least he was up front about it. I appreciate it and I'm sure the rest of the board does as well," said Aslam.

“
It is unfair for me to be in that room; it's unfair to the other people in that room.”

—Justin Glover, former WLUSU director

Prior to the Christmas break, Glover also resigned from his position of student senator.



FILE PHOTO

Glover plans to continue to bring issues to the WLUSU board.



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Throughout the fall 2009 term, food bank co-ordinators and its 30 volunteers made 76 deliveries.

Food bank briefly closed

Laurier students able to access food after two day hiatus

TARYN ORWEN-PARRISH
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union food bank was founded three years ago to provide hungry Laurier students with free food.

By filling out an online request form, students are given a hamper of non-perishable or frozen items, fresh food and even hygiene products.

The hamper of food is dropped off at various lockers around campus and the student is provided with a locker number and combination. The entire process is completely anonymous.

The food bank was closed temporarily for two days in November due to security changes on campus.

As the food is stored in the basement of the Dr. Alvin Woods Building (DAWB), volunteers previously

needed only a key code for the elevator to access the basement.

Starting in November, volunteers wishing to access the basement were required to use a key.

Volunteers could not access the basement; therefore, the food bank was closed while the necessary keys were copied and distributed.

"Everyone was aware of the issue," said vice-president of services Odette Ansell.

"It was well communicated through Joel Robinson's [vice-president of public affairs] office as well and through the student food bank itself, so it wasn't really a huge issue.

The turnaround for delivery is usually one to two days anyways, so it didn't really hamper the service that much," said Ansell.

Food was delivered to the students once the food bank re-opened.

With 30 volunteers, the WLUSU

food bank makes two to three deliveries per week.

Though the program runs all year round, it is mostly used during exam periods and at the end of the year when students have run out of money on their OneCard.

For the 2009 fall term, food bank co-ordinators completed 76 deliveries.

Ansell explains that co-ordinators plan to include an educational component within the program, such as how to create easy recipes with the food provided and how to shop economically.

"We're always there to help [the students], but once they leave Laurier they don't have a student food bank, so [these new initiatives aim] to help them for the long term as well as the short term."

GSA report

The Jan. 5 board meeting marks changes for Laurier graduate studies students

ANDREA MILLET
LEAD REPORTER

GSA- GRT

On Monday Jan. 18, full-time graduate students will vote in a referendum regarding the fee changes surrounding GRT bus passes.

Grand River Transit has asked for a five per cent consumer price index increase to the graduate student U-PASS fee that will be effective as of September 2010 despite their contract not running out until December 2011.

GRT has also offered an opportunity for a three-semester U-PASS as they currently only have it for the fall and winter terms.

There will be two ballots available, the first addressing GRT's initial proposal asking students whether or not they support the U-PASS fee increase.

The second will address the latter issue, asking students if they support the three-semester pass for graduate students.

The poll will take place on Jan. 18 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the GSA office and from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. at the social work campus.

"It's a Monday, the reason we do this is so that MBA students and MSW students have the time and are on campus to poll," said chief returning officer Dawn Adams.

There will also be an opportunity for advanced polling starting on Thursday Jan. 14 where students can vote online via e-mail, which will be confidential.

The polling will close on Jan. 18 and the verdict of the questions will be tallied and announced.

“
I want people to feel like they can make a difference because anybody sitting here can bring a motion forward...”

—Dana Gregoire, newly acclaimed chair

GSA- chair

Former graduate studies association chair Bob Shields has stepped down after being a non-student for several months has left him ineligible for the role.

At the board meeting on Jan. 5, Dana Gregoire was unanimously acclaimed as the new chair.

"I want people to feel like they can make a difference because anybody sitting here can bring a motion forward and ... they can do anything they want to do, but they have to feel like they have a say and they have to feel like their opinions are important and the chair can do a lot towards that," said Gregoire.

Gregoire has prior experience in this field as he served as chair of the undergrad council at the University of Manitoba, where he attended prior to Laurier. He expressed a clear understanding of Robert's Rules of Order, and is confident that he is right for the role.

"It was the right position for me at the right time," said Gregoire.

Flu reporting changed

WLU will be reverting back to its previous policies for sick days

LAUREN MILLET
NEWS EDITOR

Wilfrid Laurier University has reverted back to its original policies regarding missed work due to illness for students and faculty.

Beginning in fall 2009, Laurier introduced a "flu declaration" website where students and faculty could report illness online to prevent further spread of the virus.

The initiative was part of the Laurier Pandemic Plan created in April

2009 in preparation for an H1N1 pandemic.

Laurier will now use the policies that were in place before September 2009.

"We're going back to what we've always done regarding student illnesses, in that it is the student's responsibility to do whatever the instructor of the course requests that they do, or as per their faculty guidelines," said vice-president of academics Deb Maclatchy.

"[If required, students] will have to get a physician's note for the flu."

Maclatchy noted that this decision is based upon what the Canadian Public Health units are saying about the flu being on a decline.

They are not expecting a serious outbreak in the near future.

If in fact there is another outbreak of the virus, Laurier will re-evaluate the system.

According to Maclatchy, final numbers about who used the online system will be presented at the next Senate meeting, which will be held on Thursday, Jan. 19.

Laurier student leaves climate change conference disheartened

DAVID GOLDBERG
WEB EDITOR

Emily Slofstra, a third-year Laurier student, travelled to Copenhagen for the 15th annual United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNCC) with a delegation of students with hope for serious change.

However, the results of this year's UNCC have left a bitter taste in Slofstra's mouth.

"The original goals that were set out about a fair, ambitious and legally-binding treaty did not come to fruition. The police state in Copenhagen was ridiculous and one experience with almost getting beaten by cop batons was enough for me – at least without full body armor," she said.

When the dust settled in Denmark and 193 nations jetted back to their respective states, the Copenhagen Accord had been reached.

"It's not much to talk about," she said.

What she'd rather not talk about is the world's agreement in principle to fight climate change by reducing emissions – exact goals are to be released at a later date.

"The Copenhagen Accord that was created was developed in a back room with only a few nations. When they started to cut back on observer entrance numbers, they completely blocked Friends of the Earth and eventually almost completely cut out NGO entrance.... To be honest, I got tired of the pettiness by the end of the second week and left before Obama arrived. I knew it wouldn't

make a difference."

It wasn't good news for Canada either. The Harper administration was awarded the Fossil of the Year designation once again as "the absolute worst country at the talks," announced a number of environmental groups at the conference.

"Canadians themselves are not content with the country's handling of these issues," said Slofstra of her experience at the UNCCC.

"Most NGOs and observers especially found Canada to be a laggard, especially on the issue of the tar sands."

Slofstra said the highlight of her trip was walking with Canadian journalist/activist Naomi Klein at one protest and getting to meet American environmentalist Bill McKibben.



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Franklin Ramsoomair poses here with his "Professor of the Year" award from 2005, voted by business students and faculty.

Prof to focus on humanitarian work

from cover

loved Ramsoomair, as he taught things that would not only get them through university but continue to help them throughout life.

"It's definitely a shame that they have lost one of the better teachers in the program," said English.

He added that it felt as though Ramsoomair genuinely cared about his students and their successes. "All you have to do is go upstairs in the SBE building and look at professor of the year and you'll see his picture multiple times," said English.

Ramsoomair, who will be greatly missed by those in the business program, said that if he could tell all future students one thing, it would be to "develop a social conscience."

Ramsoomair will be receiving the 2010 Bob Marley Humanitarian award for humanitarian work in the classroom and with the community.

He is currently working on officially launching his foundation, Dream High and Fly, which provides business education for youth who have been identified as marginalized or disadvantaged.

Laurier fills government relations position

JACQUELINE HOIVUS
CORD NEWS

Brian Rosborough has recently been hired by Wilfrid Laurier University to the new position of director of government relations.

The director of government relations will work as a main contact between Laurier and the provincial and federal governments.

Rosborough will have a key role in advocating and increasing Laurier's profile to decision-makers within the government.

His responsibilities will include ensuring that both the government and Laurier have an awareness of each other's priorities.

He will also keep Laurier aware of legislation that has an impact on the university.

Rosborough highlights the importance of the relationship between Laurier and the government.

"About half of Laurier's revenue comes from government sources, so it's increasingly important that Laurier is having conversation with the government so that [they] understand what Laurier's priorities and objectives are in terms of quality of education," said Rosborough.

Rosborough arrives at Laurier with 20 years of experience in government relations and public policy.

He is a graduate from Dalhousie University, holding a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration.

He has most recently worked for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario as the director of policy and government relations.

The relationship between the government and Laurier is crucial in order for the university to provide high quality education and research programming.

Post-secondary education is a very competitive and complex area, thus Rosborough's experience is an asset to the university.

"From Laurier's perspective, it means better public policy that helps meet the needs of the university and the students included," said Rosborough.

"So things that are better for the university and improve the quality of education, those are in both the university and the students interests as well."

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NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Health sciences student Latif Murji donated \$2,000 to the program.

Student donates to health sciences

OLIVIA NIGHTINGALE
STAFF WRITER

The winter semester is back in full swing and Wilfrid Laurier University's health sciences program is beginning its second semester.

Although it maintains a low profile at the university, the program is evolving with the help of involved students, such as Latif Murji.

Murji, a recipient of the TD Scholarship for Outstanding Community Leadership, has quietly donated \$2,000 to health sciences thus far which will be utilized to further develop the program.

He explains that "because I had a full scholarship, I felt that the health sciences program would be a great cause to give to and would allow me to have an impact."

The program is something Murji is very passionate about. After choosing to attend Laurier over other schools such as McMaster, which has a well-known health sciences program, Murji describes Laurier as offering something that similar programs at other universities lack: "a small, very personal program with a very tight-knit environment."

The program's small size creates a far less competitive atmosphere in

which students are very supportive of each other.

Despite the positive response from students so far, according to Murji health sciences is "not a perfect program yet." Students and faculty are working together to improve the program and develop it further.

Murji has taken an active role in creating the Health Sciences Students Association of which he is the president. The group's main goal "is to address issues related to courses," explains Murji.

The biggest matter they are addressing this semester relates to the necessity of the calculus course MA110 as mandatory for the program. With most of the health sciences students hoping to apply to medical school, the Health Sciences Students Association wants to evaluate which courses will be most useful for writing the MCAT.

With one semester completed, health sciences students seem pleased with the direction in which the program is moving.

Murji maintains that he is "really happy with the decision to come to Laurier," and looks forward to being part of the first graduating class of the program in 2013.

Alternative medicine

Two professors from Laurier's musical therapy program lead a new project, chosen as a finalist for the Aviva Community Fund

DAVID GOLDBERG
WEB EDITOR

The Music Care Conference, a project intending to educate health care professionals across Canada about the benefits of music therapy, is one step closer to receiving extra funding to make their event the best it can be.

Performer, songwriter and music educator Bev Foster came up with the idea of the Music Care Conference and is working alongside Laurier music faculty members Dr. Lee Willingham and Dr. Colin Lee.

The Laurier Centre for Music Therapy Research, along with the Room 217 foundation, made it to the finals of the Aviva Community Fund Competition.

Launched in 2005, Room 217 is a non-profit organization dedicated

to discovering new ways to treat people's physical and developmental ailments with musical therapy techniques.

Foster, the executive director of Room 217, began planning the event with Willingham and Lee in September 2009.

Foster and her planning group are seeking \$150,000 for resources, staff, programmers and advertising from Aviva if they are selected as the winners.

Aviva started the competition to help Canadians make their communities better.

Three winners will be chosen: a small idea proposal requiring less than \$10,000, a medium-sized idea requiring \$10,000-\$50,000 and finally a large-sized idea that could receive up to \$250,000.

The 25 finalists were chosen through an online voting system and

the Music Care Conference finished 13th overall with 19,848 votes.

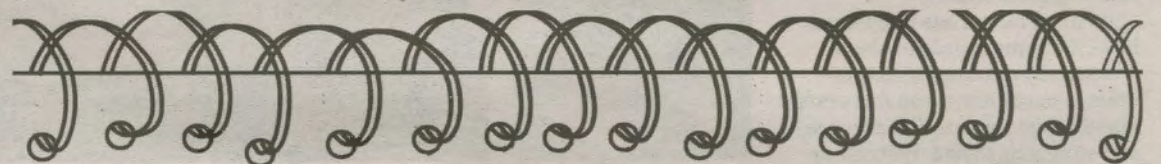
"I just want to thank all the people out there who voted for us," said Foster, ecstatic that their efforts had made it this far in the contest.

The conference is taking place in Waterloo on Nov. 6, 2010 regardless of whether or not they get the funding.

Still, Foster knows that getting the backing of an organization such as Aviva will increase the reach of what she is trying to accomplish.

"Health conferences like this generally aren't that accessible to lots of people," she said.

The final decision will be made June 25 when a panel of judges will choose the winning bid based on attributes of impact, likelihood of success, longevity and sustainability, originality and the quality of the proposal.



While you were out

Brantford denied funding

In December, the federal government officially told the Laurier Brantford Campus that they will not be getting the \$15 million they had hoped for to build a new sports and recreation complex. The project's co-ordinators will continue to look for other sources of funding.

-Compiled by Andrea Millet

Fire alarms evacuate Conrad

On Sunday Dec. 13, students were evacuated from Conrad Residence for approximately 15 minutes after burnt food in one of the kitchens set off the fire alarm.

-Compiled by Andrea Millet

Car catches fire outside the university

On Dec. 15, a Porsche 924 Turbo belonging to Laurier administrative assistant Cindi Wieg caught fire at the intersection of Albert Street and University Avenue. An external heater purchased at Canadian

Tire was determined as the cause of the fire.

-Compiled by Andrea Millet

Projects approved to increase Laurier services

The President's Innovation Seed Fund committee approved three new programs with the intention of increasing the number of service programs available at Laurier. The programs are Laurier English as a Second Language, BOOST and the Brantford Advanced Summer Acceleration Program.

-Compiled by Andrea Millet

Three Laurier researchers awarded funding

Biologist Dr. Mihai Costea, psychologist Dr. Diano Marrone and psychologist Dr. Bruce McKay, three Laurier researchers, received infrastructure funding from the Ontario Research Fund (ORF) to assist with and further their work.

-Compiled by Andrea Millet

Laurier student awarded for community involvement

Laurier first-year business student Corey Sherwood received the 2009 Lincoln Alexander Award on Dec. 10 for his efforts to end discrimination and promote tolerance in his community. The award is in honor of Lincoln Alexander, the first black lieutenant-governor in Ontario.

-Compiled by Andrea Millet

Laurier announces two senior interim appointments

Following the departure of Dr. Leo Groarke, principal/vice-president of Laurier's Brantford campus, Dr. Lesley Cooper has been hired to serve in the position until July 2013. Dr. Susan Cadell has also been hired to act as dean of the faculty of social work until June 2011.

-Compiled by Idil Herzi



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WLUSU under review

The Cord evaluates the performances of the 2009-10 students' union board of directors and president thus far and gives insight on their trajectory for the rest of their term

Despite having several strong directors sitting on this year's Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union board of directors, it is hard to identify a single thing this year's board has accomplished.

While they started the year off quite strong – acting very efficiently and effectively at the summer interim and operating budget meetings – the board seems to have lost the necessary passion and engagement that will make them successful.

In the beginning, the board appeared to work well together, fostering constructive discussion regarding topics on the agenda. The senior directors seemed to be paving the way for the newer members to become more involved.

As the semester has progressed, however, some board members – especially returning directors – seem to have given up on this year's board, while younger directors are still struggling to find their role on it.

A divide is evident, with directors often operating in subgroups.

Tension is most apparent between the chair and the other directors, which has significantly hindered their success.

The one noteworthy thing that has resulted from the board is the



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

implementation of the market research project, which was proposed and passed by the board at the June budget meeting.

This initiative shows that the board cares about the future of the student's union, as the union is now

in the process of collecting and incorporating student input into future plans.

The board needs to be careful when discussing issues, as sometimes debates can wander off topic. Board members should also be more

willing to ask questions when they are unsure of something, for certain issues might be under-analyzed due to lack of examination.

Overall the board suffers from a lack of direction and engagement, failing to be aggressive in the

presence of management or developing board positions on matters of importance to the student body.

As with most years, sadly, it's another underproductive year in student politics.

Laura Sheridan - President and CEO



There is no doubt that Sheridan is passionate about her job as president and puts everything she can into the position.

She works countless hours and is constantly seen around campus effectively engaging with both the student body and administration.

In terms of her platform, Sheridan has worked diligently to complete several of her tangible goals, including ensuring the proper implementation of the WLUSU restructuring, upgrades to the Terrace, the new tray system and increased composting.

Having effectively utilized online forums such as Facebook, Twitter and the union's website, Sheridan has provided mid-term reports and her President's Updates in order to engage the student body and maintain a degree of transparency that has not existed under her predecessors.

Though her updates reach many students, they often do not contain tangible elements such as facts and figures, which can be frustrating.

The line between transparency and public relations is often blurred. Though initiatives such as

the upcoming Know Your Fees campaign and additional assistance in the finance department have been implemented, there is some doubt that these reforms are actually making the union more transparent and accountable.

Sheridan came under fire following the small monetary donation the Charity Ball committee made, yet she failed to take responsibility for the union's mistake and instead defended something that many students were unhappy with.

At times such as this – when someone is highly critical of the union – Sheridan fails to act in a satisfactory manner, as she can take things very personally.

To increase dialogue with students regarding the union, Sheridan has altered her platform to hold open houses rather than an open forum in early January. If properly utilized, they can engage students and open WLUSU to feedback from those who are not part of the union.

Sheridan has already worked to do this to some extent through the creation of the Student Congress. This group, which she chairs, brings

together leaders from across campus and has started a dialogue about the importance of networking and combating silos between various student groups.

As the CEO of a multi-million dollar company, Sheridan has made some mistakes, including a \$300,000 budget misallocation from the finance department and select monitoring reports the board has sent back.

Despite this, directors have great respect for her, and appreciate her conduct during board meetings – often allowing members of management to speak on issues she is less familiar with, which is helpful to board members.

Sheridan has followed through with the day-to-day concerns of students, including making greater study spaces available on campus during the exam period.

She has exhibited strong communication with WLUSU management and full-time staff.

Her ability to reach out to all parties has maintained her role as an effective figurehead for the student body.

Saad Aslam - Chair of the board



Coming into the position of chair – to which he was acclaimed – the learning curve was steep for Aslam. Unfortunately, in the eyes of his fellow directors he has failed to recover from an unproductive summer.

With little transition between the incoming and outgoing chair, Aslam lacked definition in his role, and both directors and Aslam agree that the position should no longer be full-time over the summer.

Frustrations have been expressed regarding Aslam's relationship with management, as many felt that he was pushing their agenda, with things such as trying to get the \$43,000 project passed.

Directors have also expressed concern that Aslam is not always receptive to what they say.

Often during meetings it appears

that Aslam attempts to push the board in a certain direction, even if it clashes with what the majority of the directors want.

Aslam has been able to streamline discussion during board meetings, avoiding last year's prolonged discussions. He has succeeded in maintaining control of discussions during meetings, moving topics along from one to another while not allowing ideas or statements to be drawn out too long.

Aslam sometimes fails to remain impartial on issues, and his language in the boardroom can be harsh.

At times he prematurely cuts people off, and becomes visibly upset if discussion goes a certain way, showing bias when he should remain neutral.

Though his conduct during meetings is something Aslam should improve upon, he works well with directors outside of the boardroom.

He always makes himself available for anyone who has questions or concerns.

His implementation of one-on-one meetings has been a valuable resource for directors who opted to take advantage of this opportunity.

For the remainder of his term, Aslam needs to regain the esteem of his directors, show respect in the boardroom and demonstrate confidence and leadership abilities.

Others need to be reminded of why Aslam was the strongest choice for chair going into this year.

Laura Allen



Not being vocal in the boardroom is Allen's biggest weakness as a director. Self-admittedly Allen is shy and often refrains from asking questions when she believes they might be irrelevant or she is unsure of something. Though Allen has shown some improvements in this area she needs to find the confidence to speak up and offer her perspective, as she very often has valid points to bring to the table.

Behind the scenes, Allen seems engaged, as demonstrated in her work on the ownership linkage committee. However, it is hard to pinpoint exactly what this committee has accomplished.

Sunny Chan



Despite having good ideas, Chan has trouble communicating them to his fellow directors. Though his comments at times may seem random, usually his statements have validity.

Chan has a firm grasp on policy governance and the role of a director, but in order to be taken seriously he needs to be more coherent when expressing his ideas. Having failed to be elected to any committees, Chan has pursued involvement in other areas on campus, notably within the faculty of science.

Jackie Dobson



Dobson remains a strong director; she is very passionate about her work, understands her role as a director and is always prepared for meetings. As a second-year director she has a thorough understanding of policy governance and remains a valuable asset and resource to the board.

Despite her senior status on the board, it's disappointing that Dobson has not taken on more of a leadership role in committee work. To maximize her engagement in the boardroom she needs to speak more frequently to set an example for her fellow directors.

Greg Evans



Evans brings a humorous yet passionate voice to the boardroom table. He keeps meetings lighthearted while still offering valuable advice to fellow directors and taking a balanced approach to board-level issues.

Though many directors enjoy his sense of humour, others feel that he often acts immature and unprofessional.

Evans' co-curricular involvements, which include his roles of president of Sigma Chi and a director of Laurier Musical Theatre, keep him in touch with the needs of students, which is important for an effective director.

Stephanie Francis



Although taking an active role within the board by participating in the ownership linkage committee, Francis could take a more vocal approach to engaging in board meeting discussions.

She rarely voices her opinions, which makes her one of the more unnoticeable board members.

Andrew Fryer



Fryer is one of this year's strongest directors, being recognized by his peers for his leadership, knowledge and engagement in board meetings.

As a second-year director, Fryer is highly regarded by other board members and many turn to him for advice. He has made an effort to improve his conduct in the boardroom following last year, when he was often accused of being disrespectful and unprofessional.

Fryer effectively proposed the market research project, which, although setting WLUSU over budget, will provide students an opportunity to voice their concerns and expectations of the union.

Justin Glover



Glover's poor attendance at board meetings and lack of communication with his peers have been his biggest flaws as a director.

Having missed four out of the term's eight meetings, it does not appear that Glover has been able to effectively fulfill his role. Glover attributes this to his rigorous work schedule, and he has also resigned from his student senator position.

When he is in attendance at meetings, Glover often appears unprepared, having not read the material, which disappoints other directors.

On Jan. 5, 2010, Glover announced his resignation from the board.

Peter Hanna



Though quite vocal in the boardroom, Hanna's comments are often interpreted as accusatory and rude. At times he appears stubborn in his opinions and is hesitant to take what other directors say into consideration.

Although he sat on the elections policy review committee, he failed to show up to any meetings and then was very critical of the work produced by the committee. This demonstrates his apparent lack of commitment to the board.

Despite numerous requests, Peter Hanna refused an interview with *The Cord*.

Emily Harason



Harason is one of the least vocal directors on the board, often remaining silent for entire meetings. However, she surprised everyone and has been applauded for having successfully chaired the committee for sustainability development.

Now having the experience of working well with a small group, Harason would benefit from bringing her ideas forward in the boardroom.

Kyle Hocking



Hocking's ability to seek out directors for advice has given him an upper hand in the boardroom. He is willing to scrutinize management and raise student concerns, which are important attributes for a director to have. Hocking's perfect attendance and obvious eagerness shows his promise as a director, yet there is still much work for him to do in the remainder of his term.

The ends policy review committee he has been elected to, which failed to meet first semester, would be the perfect opportunity for him to take on a leadership role in an area he is very passionate about.

Jordan Hyde



Hyde has effectively immersed himself in the role of a director and has taken the time to ask questions and educate himself on various issues. He is often vocal in the boardroom, facilitating discussion, asking valuable questions and putting forward motions. Hyde's business background and ability to analyze WLUSU finances is an asset to the board.

His focus on short and long-term goals for issues such as environmental sustainability have made him an effective board member. This, combined with his ability to remain impartial, has won him the respect of his peers.

Disclosure: Jordan Hyde is the chair of Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications board.

Christopher Oberle



Oberle has taken a leadership role among first-time directors both during meetings and while sitting on committees. Oberle sat on the sustainability development committee and acted as the chair for the elections review committee.

Fellow directors applauded Oberle for his work on the elections review committee in particular, regardless of the fact that the board rejected many of his suggestions. Because of his great passion for student issues, he at times gets emotional in situations such as these.

Michael Onabolu



Onabolu has a positive presence in the boardroom, asking important questions and supporting fellow directors. Holding the role of secretary, Onabolu has been given the opportunity to take on a leadership position and has performed adequately in this respect.

His charisma and general demeanor allow for his words to be considered by other directors, even if they do not always agree with his views.

As a second-year student with great potential, Onabolu should take the remainder of his term to be more engaged with WLUSU issues.

Kayla Smith



Being the board's only representative from the Brantford campus, Smith attempts to represent not only the 2,400 students of Laurier's satellite campus, but also keeps in mind how her decisions will affect Waterloo students.

She chaired the Brantford realignment committee, which allowed her to excel in an area she is knowledgeable in. Other directors claim Smith brings a good perspective to the boardroom, because it allows them to always keep the Brantford students in mind.

These reviews were written collaboratively by Local and National Editor Linda Givetash, News Editor Lauren Millet, In Depth Editor Alanna Wallace and Editor-in-Chief Laura Carlson.

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

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

Photos by Nick Lachance and Yusuf Kidwai.

LOCAL

Local Editor Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca

Providing warm meals on cold days



COURTESY OF LUCAS LU

After raising over \$850, students helped prepare and serve breakfast and lunch to the appreciative St. John's patrons.

LINDA GIVETASH
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

We give. We cook. We care. On Dec. 4, a group of eight Laurier students took this slogan to St. John's Kitchen in Kitchener to provide meals to approximately 250 people.

"I had this idea in the back of my head to do cooking during the holidays for the homeless people," said Lucas Lu, a third-year business student, who established the event.

After being approached by a homeless person following a night out with his friends, Lu considered how to make this idea a reality.

St. John's Kitchen was suggested to Lu and his friends as a suitable venue to provide meals to those in need.

The group created a Facebook event calling for donations or any means of help Laurier students could provide. With the initial fundraising goal of \$300, Lu was astounded by the final outcome, which was over double this amount.

"This effort, this contribution from all the generous Laurier students made this whole thing happen," said Lu.

Students provided monetary donations, made holiday greeting cards and provided food products to be prepared for the event.

A total of \$856 was raised to purchase 100 lbs of beef, 97 lbs of pork,

80 bags of chips, granola bars, 50 litres of ice cream, hot chocolate, iced tea and juice.

"Everyone was so grateful because roast beef and ice cream are two items they don't usually provide because it's expensive," explained Lu.

The lunch was prepared and distributed by Lu, Catherine Horrigan, Sean Gallagher, Andrew Moores, Kristen George, Jacqueline Chan, Aeron Lawrence, Kyle Martin, Scott Cherry and Keeley Philips.

The abundance of food resulting from the fundraising efforts of the students was noted by Gretchen Jones, a cook at St. John's. "Nobody heard the word 'no,' you can't have more, 'you have to wait until the end.' People were served unconditionally," she said.

The volunteers were also encouraged to line up and receive a part of the meals they were handing out.

"It gives you the opportunity to be at the same level as the people you serve," said Lu.

"It's something that really changes your perspective," he added.

The students' willingness to participate and interact with the volunteers and patrons was appreciated.

"They were just the most amazing group of young people and they really got it, they really got our philosophy," said Jones.

Future projects haven't been determined as of yet; however, Lu

expressed the desire to make it an annual event. The long-term sustainability of St. John's was also an area Lu is considering helping with.

"What happens when you provide one dinner or one lunch it only provides the problem for that one day, you want something [to help] on a continuous basis, generating a much bigger impact," explained Lu.

"Food is a right, not a gift."

St. John's Kitchen

- A division of The Working Centre, a non-profit venture that provides tools and opportunities for people to get involved in the building of community projects in Kitchener-Waterloo.

- The meal program is run by 160 volunteers.

- Provides up to 300 meals per day, free shower and laundry facilities, psychiatric outreach and job placement opportunities.

- Many of those who use their services suffer from physical and mental health issues.

- Approximately 200,000 pounds of food are prepared or distributed every year.

- The marketplace distributes food to be taken home to prepare, provided by the Food Bank of Waterloo Region.

Student groups scrutinize wards

Boundary changes recommended better representation for university residents

LINDA GIVETASH
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

Waterloo's mayor and council received a letter last month addressing concerns that students are under-represented as a result of the current ward boundaries which divide the student population.

The letter sent by Griffin Carpenter, chair of the ward review committee for the Mayor's Student Advisory Council, and Kory Preston, Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union vice-president of university affairs, outlined concerns with the current ward system and provided recommendations for a more representative model.

While Laurier resides in ward seven, the area north of University Avenue West and encompassing the University of Waterloo resides in ward six.

This not only divides the two universities into separate wards, but also students who live in Northdale

and those who live south of Laurier.

"What this means is that even though there is a large number of students in Waterloo, there is unlikely to be a representative on city council that responds to student issues because the student voice becomes a minority in two separate wards instead of a more powerful voice in one ward," said Carpenter.

In addition to students becoming a minority group within each ward, the wards themselves become polarized by the differing needs of students and permanent residents.

"These councillors are asked to represent more people than other councillors are and also asked to represent very diverse opinions, which to no fault of their own, makes it difficult to be very effective representation of all of those groups through that one councillor," explained Preston.

Thus a more representative model was suggested in the letter to change ward boundaries, which would

encompass both universities in a single ward.

This recommendation reflects an option proposed to council in 2005 to hold both universities in ward six when the boundaries were last discussed.

It was not put to motion unlike the current divided model, which passed narrowly 3-2.

"The scenario where students were put in separate wards was given a positive spin in that it was argued that there would be more representation if the students were in different ward because there would

be two councillors responding to student concerns instead of just one," said Carpenter.

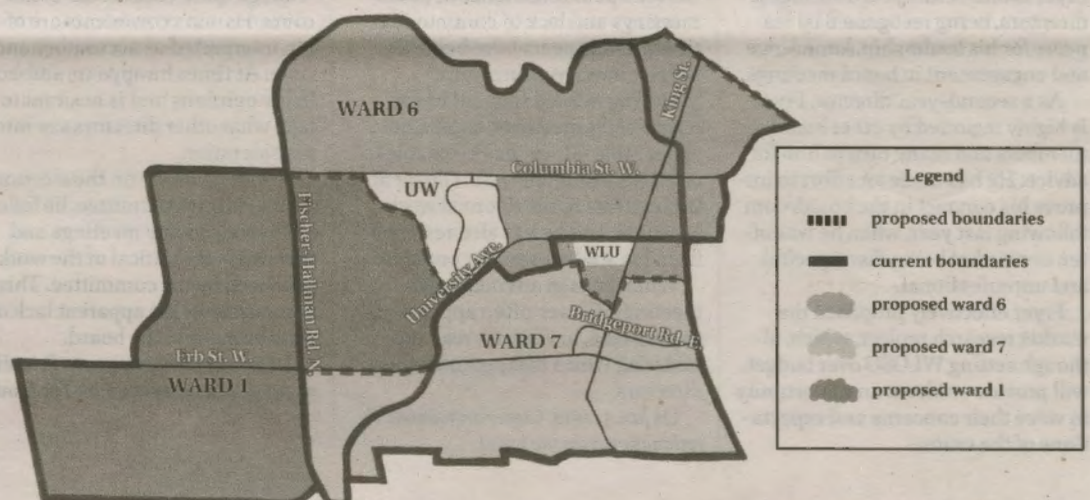
However, the issue will not be addressed in time for the municipal election this fall.

"City policy states that if there is changes made to ward boundaries they have to be made a year before an election," said Carpenter.

Though it will not be considered for quite some time the recommendation has set the foundation for discussing the representation of the student population and bringing forth ideas to improve it.

TRINA SCHMIDT GRAPHICS EDITOR

This map depicts the current community zoning with Laurier under ward seven and UW under ward six. It also shows the proposed recommendation to hold universities in ward six.



KW in brief

Crowd forms as DriveTest strike comes to an end

Nearly 100 people lined up to book their driving tests on Monday in Kitchener.

It was the first day that the DriveTest employees had returned to work following the four-month Ontario-wide strike that began on Aug. 24.

There is currently a backlog of 300,000 tests in the province.
-Compiled by Rebecca Vasluianu

Municipal election candidate announced

Waterloo city councillor Jan d'Ailly announced on Dec. 17 that he will be running against the current mayor Brenda Halloran in the 2010 municipal election, expected to be held in October.

D'Ailly is currently city councillor for ward six which encompasses Northdale, the community north of Laurier campus.
-Compiled by Andrea Millet

Attempted assault with a knife

Near the University of Waterloo campus at Phillip Street, a 20-year-old was threatened with a knife when a man demanded money around 10 p.m. on Monday night.

The victim received no injuries and the Waterloo Regional Police Services are currently investigating the incident.

The suspect is described as a male in his late teens and is

approximately 5'9" tall.
-Compiled by Rebecca Vasluianu

Stabbing near Laurier campus

On Jan. 1, Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRSP) responded to a disturbance on Hickory Street, near Spruce Street, in Waterloo.

It involved a large group of males from two different residences who

had begun fighting in the street.

According Olaf Heinzel, public affairs co-ordinator for the WRSP, four males were taken to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Three of those males were reported to have stab wounds, while the fourth sustained facial injuries resulting from kicking.

The incident is said to have been alcohol related.
-Lauren Millet

NATIONAL

National Editor Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca

Canada in brief

Ontario PSE system broken: book

TORONTO (CUP) – *Academic Transformation*, a new book by four Ontario university professors, accuses the province of failing students and calls for education reform.

Ian Clark, co-author of the book, told the *Globe and Mail* that the current system of universities combining research and teaching is crippling Ontario's post-secondary education system.

Growing pressure for professors to produce groundbreaking research means they are spending less time teaching. Part-time faculty are doing more teaching as a result, which compromises quality of education, explained Clark.

The book was commissioned by the Higher Education Quality Council.

–Danielle Webb, CUP Ontario Bureau Chief

Sombre memorial for Montréal Massacre

MONTREAL (CUP) – A single white rose lay on one of the 14 monuments that honour each of the women who were shot and killed 20 years ago at École Polytechnique in Montréal.

Aside from the rose, the Place du 6-Décembre-1989 showed little sign of visitors or mourners on Dec. 5, one day before the anniversary of what has come to be known as the Montréal Massacre.

The school held a private ceremony at the Notre-Dame Basilica on Dec. 6 to mark the milestone anniversary of the day that also saw 13 people injured at the hands of Marc Lépine, who was 25 years old at the time.

–Chris Hanna, The Concordian

Report refutes industry tarsands claims

LETHBRIDGE, A.B. (CUP) – A report published in December from the U.S.-based National Academy

of Science says that industrial pollution from Alberta's tarsands operations is five times greater than the industry and the government has claimed.

The report found that the amount of toxic chemicals Syncrude and Suncor deposit into the surrounding environment each year is equivalent to a major oil spill.

–Keith McLaughlin, The Meliorist

Lang becomes 17th journalist killed in Afghanistan

BURNABY, B.C. (CUP) – Four Canadian soldiers and a journalist didn't live to see New Year's Eve this year.

On Dec. 30, *Calgary Herald* journalist Michelle Lang and four Canadian soldiers were killed when an improvised explosive device destroyed the armoured vehicle they were traveling in near Kandahar.

Late on the afternoon of Jan. 3, the bodies of Lang and the four soldiers arrived at the Canadian Forces Base in Trenton, Ont. A repatriation ceremony was performed on the five bodies at the base.

Lang is the first Canadian civilian to be repatriated.

–Sam Reynolds, The Peak

Body scanners coming to airports

According to Rob Merrifield, minister of state transport, 44 body scanners with the capability to scan through clothing have been ordered for Canadian airports.

CBC News has confirmed that they will be installed in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal and Halifax.

These new security measures are in response to new U.S. security protocols following the failed terrorist attack on a Detroit-bound flight on Christmas

–Compiled by Linda Givetash

Parliament shuts down

Laurier professor David Docherty and KW MP Peter Braid explain the implications of proroguing the federal government

SEAN HAYWARD
STAFF WRITER

On Dec. 30, the Governor General Michaëlle Jean, acting on the advice of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, prorogued parliament until early March.

The government cited the need to consult with the public and prepare the next phase of their economic program as reasons to suspend the sitting of parliament.

At a press conference immediately following the decision, Prime Minister Stephen Harper stated that Canada's Economic Action Plan will continue to be a priority in the new session to ensure that it is implemented to benefit Canadians.

Emphasizing the government's focus on economic recovery, Conservative MP for Kitchener-Waterloo Peter Braid stated, "Canada's Economic Action Plan has accomplished a great deal and has placed our country on the road to recovery," he said.

"In the upcoming session, the government's economic priorities will be completing the implementation of the Economic Action Plan, returning the federal budget to balance once the economy has recovered and building the economy of the future."

Each of the three opposition parties criticized the conservatives for suspending Parliament, accusing them of trying to prevent debate on issues such as the alleged abuse of Afghan detainees transferred by the Canadian Forces to Afghan prisons.

David Docherty, associate professor of political science at Laurier, believes that the prorogation is in fact an attempt to distract the public from criticism of the government.

"They want to effectively shut down the questions that are being

“

It does not help the institution of parliament in the public's mind to have the prime minister treat parliament with such disrespect.”

–David Docherty, associate professor

raised by the opposition about the Afghan detainees," said Docherty.

"They're hoping that Canadians will focus on the Olympics instead of other things and they're helping them to focus on the Olympics by giving them less to focus on elsewhere."

Rather than having MPs and senators return on Jan. 25 as was previously planned, parliament will return on March 3 and a budget will be introduced the following day.

In support of the prorogation, Braid said, "Prorogation simply means we start a new session of parliament, beginning with a Throne Speech that will set a focused agenda for the country."

In Dec. 2008, Prime Minister Harper requested a prorogation of parliament to avoid a vote of non-confidence that would have defeated his government and caused its replacement by a coalition of the Liberals and the NDP, supported by the Bloc Québécois.

The Governor General granted his request and the Harper government



YUSUF KIDWAI FILE PHOTO

PM Harper closed parliament after receiving approval from the Governor General.

was allowed to survive when the Liberals agreed to support the budget in 2009.

The current break will give the Prime Minister time to appoint five new senators.

This means in the new session, the Conservative government would have a majority on senate committees where Liberal senators have recently delayed federal government bills by making major amendments to them.

"There are some things that this government has done that I have liked, there are some policies that I have not liked, but that is irrelevant," said Docherty.

"As someone who studies our parliamentary system, this is an abuse of parliament. It embarrassing and appalling."

"It does not help the institution of parliament in the public's mind to have the Prime Minister treat parliament with such disrespect."

–With files from Emma Godmere, CUP Ontario Bureau Chief

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INTERNATIONAL

International Editor Paula Millar • pmillar@thecord.ca



Nepal's tourism industry serves as a major source of income for the locals. Nepalis understand that the ability to communicate with foreigners is a marketable advantage.

COURTESY OF JODIE MANDERINO

The power of the English language

IJ Grant recipient Meropi Deligiannis experiences the education system in post-conflict Nepal first hand

Just like many university undergraduates, I found the opportunity to teach English overseas an intriguing proposition.

During the summer of 2009, I traveled to Kathmandu, Nepal with Peace for All International, a non-government organization founded by Laurier student Ayiko Solomon to do just that.

As one of seven volunteers hosted by Laxman and Laxmi Shrestha, I worked with my team at the Lotus Children's Home, a small orphanage the Shresthas manage in the capital city.

As I did not have any prerequisites in teaching English, I assumed that I would be a teacher's aid – assisting students with their schoolwork.

However, the school had other plans.

Manasalu Higher Secondary School, the focus of our volunteer efforts, was short on teaching staff.

The most logical thing to do was provide us with whiteboard markers, brushes and classrooms full of excited Nepali children.

In the beginning, miscommunication was rampant and learning what was expected of us was sometimes an uncomfortable experience.

Even though the principal and teachers taught English to their students, the language barrier was undeniable.

Not because their English was poor, but as foreigners, with different pronunciations and a completely different cultural frame of reference, we had trouble understanding them.

Not surprisingly, while tackling each classroom, our main focus became English pronunciation.

WLU Student Publications IJ grant

English as essential

English education is crucial in Nepal. In 2008, the country faced an unemployment rate of nearly 50 per cent. Today, tourism serves as a major source of income for the country.

The locals understand that English competency provides a marketable advantage, not to mention a livelihood.

As our host Laxman Shrestha explained, in Nepal "English [education] is a good idea.... Everything is in English: work, banks, everything."

Moreover, all post-secondary education in the country is conducted in English. To have any chance at a college education in Nepal one needs to be literate in English. This idea was reiterated within the confines of the Manasalu School.

All classes at the Kathmandu school were in English and students were expected to speak only English while at school. The school's aim was to create an environment conducive to learning the language.

The school's principal, Bhakta Ku Shrestha, explained, "Parents have expectations for English school."

He said they "expect to send their kids abroad – there's nothing here, no jobs in Nepal."

The price of education

However, English education is not free. There are three different school systems in Kathmandu: private schools, public schools funded entirely by the government and community schools like Manasalu, which are privately owned but survive during difficult times by taking out loans from the government.

As principal Shrestha explained, "It is like a company, it all has to do with property."

While those attending private schools pay the most, community schools depending on their standards have varying student, exam and computer lab fees.

Laxman's two boys attend Manasalu; their education fees are paid for by a close family friend, totaling 7,000 Nepalese rupees (NPR) a month – just under 100 CAD – a steep price for many.

Why pay for schooling, you might wonder, when the government provides it for free? The major reason is that public schools do not teach English.

At Manasalu, about 50 per cent of students continue their education past tenth grade to complete "+2" (two more years that would prepare them for college).

Principal Shrestha explained that there are many science students, and because it is so difficult to find jobs in Nepal, they go abroad, primarily to China. After my sophisticated survey of the Manasalu students – having the pupils raise their hands – science was the clear favourite for subject matter.

Education in Nepal is a complex issue for volunteers interested in development, since education is a

fundamental benchmark in understanding and evaluating any country's development. However, in Nepal, it would seem that the best education is primarily English-focused.

The 'brain drain' issue

In recent years, Nepali schools have tailored to parental wishes – children fluent enough in English to leave the country for post-secondary education or work. This contributes to the accursed "brain drain."

In Nepal, money is put into the education system to educate its population. The problem is that most educated Nepali who have desired skills and knowledge leave the country to create a better life for themselves. Thus, they do not contribute to Nepal's development.

Nepal is not alone; brain drain is the reality for many underdeveloped countries today.

While Nepal's education system has obvious problems, something can be said for the free public education system provided for the government, however sparse, and its exclusion of the English language.

Only seven years prior, civil war forced Manasalu to close its doors for two full years. The system has made notable progress in the post-war years.

For those interested in development, especially in teaching English as many university undergraduates do, I believe going to Nepal to teach English should be looked at more critically. Perhaps we should be working toward development in areas that would encourage well-educated Nepali citizens to remain in Nepal and contribute to their home country's development.

Nepal facts:

In addition to **Mount Everest**, the country is home to eight of the world's tallest 10 peaks.

While Nepal was the birthplace of Buddhism, today it is home to a **Hindu** majority.

In 2006, Nepal's **10-year civil war** ended.

However, the country is still struggling to recover from a decade of **Maoist insurgency**.

In May 2008, the country's last monarch was removed from power and a **democratic republic** was instated.

Since 2008, the country has been plagued by a **46 per cent unemployment rate**.

Nepal is one of the **poorest countries** on earth.

Approximately **one half** of the country's population lives **below the internationally sanctioned poverty line** of 1.25 USD a day.

Nepal is **landlocked** between two of the developing world's powerhouses - **India and China**.

The country is heavily **reliant on** neighbouring **India** for trade and economic support.

Foreign aid is vital to Nepal's survival.



MEROPI DELIGIANNIS IJ GRANT

Young Nepali students in class at the Manasalu Higher Secondary School.



MEROPI DELIGIANNIS IJ GRANT

Manasalu students are only permitted to speak English on school grounds.

World in brief

—Compiled by Marie Andic

GOMA, DRC

The BBC reports that Mount Nyamulagira, one of the most active volcanoes in Africa, erupted on Jan. 2. The eruption sent lava into the Virunga National Park, threatening the many species of endangered wildlife inhabiting the area.

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

According to the BBC, the Afghan parliament has rejected 17 out of Karzai's 24 cabinet nominees. The rejections stem from the belief that many individuals were selected to repay political favours rather than for their competency.

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

The *Globe and Mail* reports that a Somali man has been charged with two counts of attempted murder for an attack on Danish cartoonist Kurt Westergaard. Westergaard is the artist responsible for 2005 cartoon of the Prophet Muhammad.

MARSEILLES, FRANCE

According to the BBC, a pastel work by artist Edgar Degas titled "Les Choristes" has been stolen from the Cantini Museum. The piece was on loan from the Musee D'Orsay in Paris. The French national museum service places its worth at £710,000.

Yemen's threat

The attempted terror attack on Christmas Day renews terrorism fears in America

PRAVEEN ALWIS
CORD INTERNATIONAL

The failed Christmas Day attack on Northwest Airlines Flight 253 serves as a startling reminder of extremist violence and exposes the growing terrorist threat of the Arabian Peninsula.

23-year-old Nigerian national Umar Farouk Abdul Mutallab is currently in U.S. custody after attempting to detonate an explosive device during Flight 253's descent towards Detroit Metro Airport en route from Amsterdam.

The plastic explosive concealed in Mutallab's underwear failed to ignite properly, resulting in burns to his lower body but no major structural damage to the aircraft.

He was subsequently extinguished and subdued by passengers aboard the flight.

While disaster was averted, the incident has highlighted what U.S. president Barack Obama called "systemic and human failures" in American intelligence during his address from Honolulu on Dec. 29.

Obama also confirmed reports that prominent Nigerian banker and former statesman Umaru Mutallab, Umar Mutallab's father, had relayed concerns of his son's extremist involvement, which "could have, and should have, been pieced together" by American counter-terrorist agencies.

Equally as concerning is the orchestration of the plot by Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), a subordinate faction of Al Qaeda based not in the familiar extremist homesteads of Afghanistan or post-war Iraq but rather in the emerging hotbed of Yemen.

Obama explained during his address that Mutallab had traveled to Yemen where he had come into contact with AQAP members who "trained him, equipped him with those explosives and directed him to attack that plane headed for America."

This was not the first major terrorist attack with Yemeni roots.

The Al Qaeda bombing of the USS Cole at the port of Aden made Yemen a focus for counter-terrorism efforts in 2000.

More recently, a group calling itself Islamic Jihad in Yemen claimed responsibility for the 2008 car bombing of the American embassy in the capital city of Sana'a.

Boasting an unemployment rate of 40 per cent, Yemen is one of the Arab world's poorest countries; it is also one facing increasing political instability.

While Yemen's democratic central government has American support and sponsorship, it struggles to maintain political authority.

The administration is simultaneously facing a civil war against ethnic Shia militias in its north and a growing secessionist movement in its resource-rich south.

It is in this political climate that Al Qaeda is "largely free to do what it wants in certain areas," said Princeton University's Gregory Johnsen in an interview with the *New York Times*.

According to Johnsen, Al Qaeda leaders have begun marrying into Yemeni tribes and are assuming positions of social leadership.

"This development is both new and worrying because it has the potential to turn any counter-terrorism operation into a much broader war involving Yemen's tribes," said Johnsen.

While the events of Christmas Day have emphasized the importance of stabilizing the region, experts warn against aggressive American intervention.

Former U.S. ambassador to Yemen Barbara Bodine told the *Toronto Star*, "If we try to deal with this as an American security problem ... dealt with by American military, we risk exacerbating the problem."

"The objective of U.S. policy should therefore be more modest and aimed at helping to bring Yemen back from the brink by increasing its domestic stability."

"This task will not be achieved easily, quickly or inexpensively."

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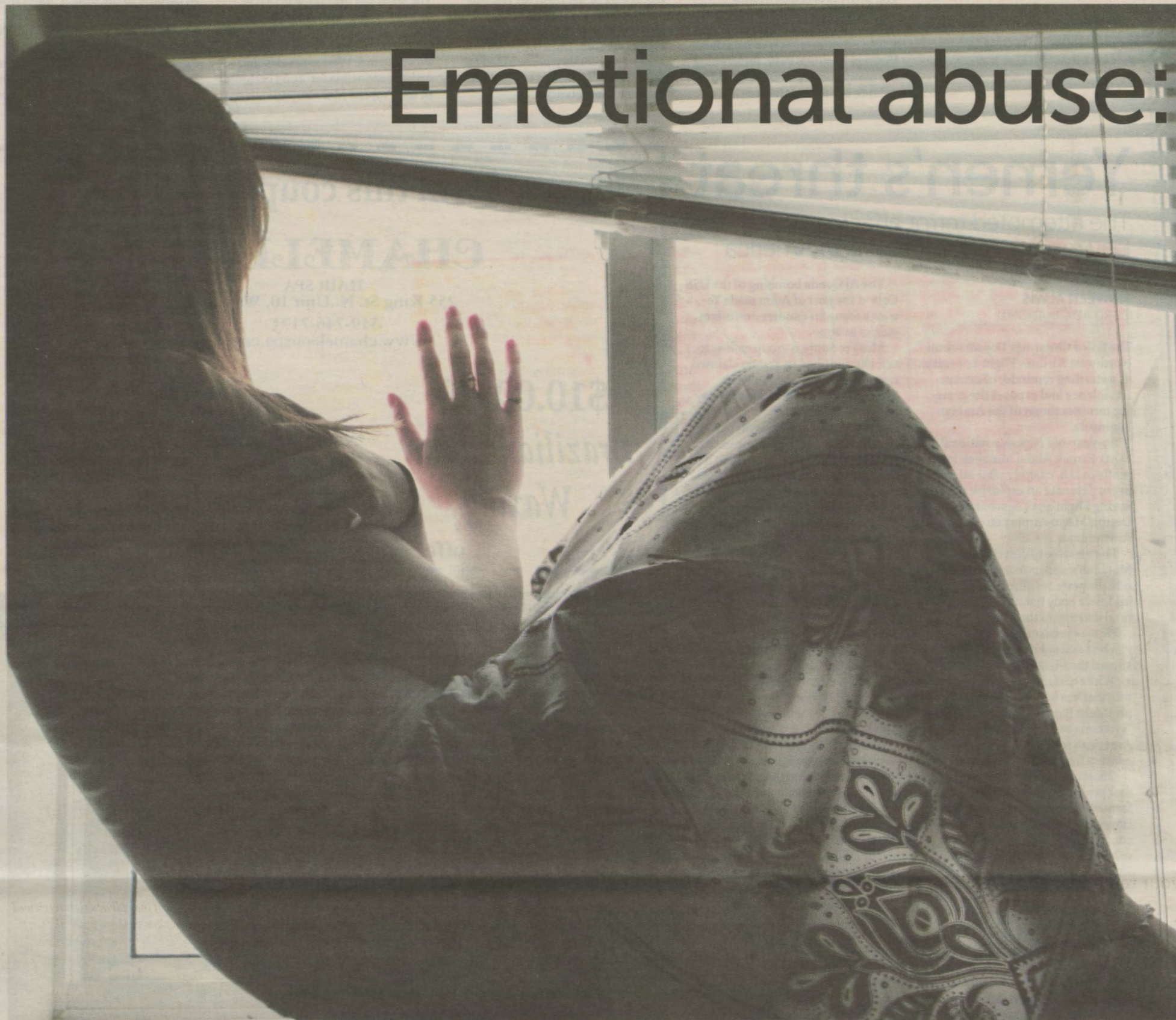
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Emotional abuse:



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Signs an individual may be trapped in an emotionally abusive relationship are very subtle, meaning it is difficult not only for the individual but for others to realize his or her plight.

Partner violence

Intimate partner violence (IPV) predominantly includes the following four types of behaviour:

- 1) **Physical violence:** Any type of physical force towards a partner, such as hitting, kicking and pushing.
- 2) **Sexual violence:** Forcing a partner to engage in sexual acts against their will, among other sexually related dominance.
- 3) **Threats:** The use of words, gestures or objects to convey a message to a partner with intent to harm.
- 3) **Emotional abuse:** Threatening a partner or harming their sense of self-worth, including name-calling, intimidation or isolation.

Warning signs

A partner's behaviour may escalate to being abusive if they:

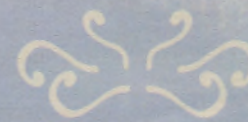
- Always have to be right
- Decide what to do, when to do it, where to go
- Control the finances
- Demand to know the whereabouts of their partner at all times

A partner often practices **emotional abuse** by:

- Constantly criticizing their partner
- Using humiliating language
- Threatening harm
- Threatening suicide if the partner leaves

Acting-out phase

Characterized by outbursts of violent, abusive incidents. During this stage the abuser attempts to dominate his or her partner with the use of violence, whether physical, emotional or otherwise.



Honeymoon phase

Characterized by apology and apparent end of violence. During this stage the abuser is often apologetic and affectionate. Some batterers shower their victims with affection and love during this time.



Tension-building phase

Characterized by poor communication, tension and fear of causing outbursts on the part of the victim. During this stage the victim tries to calm the abuser down to avoid confrontations.



The cycle of violence is present during intimate partner violence, which is often defined as a struggle for power and control between the abuser and the victim and can reoccur for years.

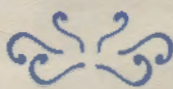
GRAPHICS BY TRINA SCHMIDT

The burden of a restricting relationship

continued from cover

member of the co-operative leadership at the WLU Women's Centre.

Because emotional abuse is so abstract and its employment is different in each unhealthy relationship, the discussion of emotional abuse with an objective eye is imperative if the trauma so many individuals endure is to be identified and halted.



"Like a box"

Its complexity often makes emotional abuse hard to recognize, even for the victim. Every abuser uses different strategies, and for the most part the reactions of the abused differ.

"It's multi-faceted," explained Thomas. "You can identify certain experiences and reactions as being the same but the fact is that it's never exactly the same."

As Klein points out, emotional violence can include controlling behaviour and the imposition of strict gender roles, two phenomena that are sometimes overlooked as characteristic of abuse.

For these women, identity issues often become a catalyst for their impending manipulation by male partners.



If your relationship is starting to feel like a box, that is not a good relationship."

Elizabeth Hill*, who helped a friend through an emotionally abusive relationship, explains that what a university student endures while trying to find their identity at school allows the trappings of emotional abuse to flourish.

Hill explained that as a result, she believes that university students often get caught up in their relationships to the point where their partner becomes a fixation.

"They lose all those other connections that help them grow as individuals," said Hill. "They focus on growing as a couple and they lose all these other things."

Carolyn Bennett* explained that her former boyfriend manipulated her need to please and constantly used the cycle of violence to reinforce that any wrongdoing was the result of her actions.

"He preyed upon the fact that I do my best to be a good person," she said.

"It didn't matter if he treated me like shit because at least someone thought I was good enough," explained Thomas. "You almost identify your worth by the fact that you are with someone."

And although she ended one emotionally abusive relationship,

Thomas's next partner ended up being both emotionally controlling and sexually abusive.

"I didn't think I was worth anything more so it didn't occur to me that I went into the next major relationship basically with the same kind of man who completely emotionally blackmailed me every step," she explained.

Thomas believes that being molested as a child and having an emotionally abusive mother made her gain weight as a mechanism to distance herself from others and that in the end, her weight gain led her to believe that her abusive boyfriends were the best she could attract.

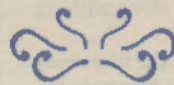
Ramirez explains that what Thomas and Bennett both endured was a matter of power and control, as well as the struggle that goes along with dominance and assertion in a relationship.

"It is about power and control over women emotionally, making sure that they cannot assert themselves, that they cannot exist without this person controlling all aspects of their being," said Ramirez.

Klein explained that in her experience working with women who have been emotionally abused, abuse is generally the product of an individual who feels a sense of entitlement over their partner. She said that the power and control aspect of psychological intimate partner violence magnifies its intensity.

"Nobody should ever be in a situation where they have to limit who they are to fit into a box of a relationship," explained Klein. "If your relationship is starting to feel like a box, that is not a good relationship."

The entrapment of a restrictive relationship that Klein explained is intrinsic in emotional abuse is not visible to outsiders, which makes it harder for those around a victim to identify when friends and family are in an unhealthy relationship.



"I'd become a prisoner"

Many women don't realize that what they sustain during a destructive relationship is abuse, but the warning signs tend to become clearer over time. Bennett remembers a moment where her inner voice told her she had to find a way to leave her unhealthy relationship.

"Over and over in my head I remember thinking ... 'You have the power in this. Just get up and walk out the door; and I couldn't,'" explained Bennett. "It was really scary to realize I am trapped here and I can't get out."

Often the abused becomes ensnared by the whims of their partner whereby they learn to be submissive; as the cycle of violence continues, they become accustomed to periods of trauma that are replaced by a honeymoon stage.

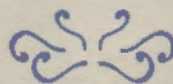
"You learn that you shut your mouth and you let him do it because otherwise it will be hell for the next day or two days," explained Thomas of her sexual and emotional abuse at the hands of a former boyfriend. "I always felt like I'd become a prisoner in my own body."

The toll of psychological abuse, which so often escalates towards other forms of violence, sexual or physical, as it did in Thomas's relationship, is tremendous.

"You just get weighed down," explained Thomas. "Every time there's a dig, a barb, every time there's a joke, it's all about the intention of keeping you down so that they can keep looking like the bigger, the more powerful, the better."

After attending professional counselling, Bennett realized that she was unable to define what she wanted in a partner as a result of her manipulation by a former boyfriend.

"I don't even know what a healthy relationship is anymore," she said. "[He] took that time to know all my weaknesses and to know exactly what [he] could say to manipulate the reaction [he] wanted."



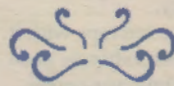
"Present for a lifetime"

Often the point of realization for an individual in an abusive relationship is aided by a strong support system. Those who have been emotionally abused often suffer in silence because of the lack of rhetoric that surrounds their plight. Friends and family must take the important role of supporting loved ones.

"You sit there and listen and you sit there for a lifetime," said Ramirez of those who help the emotionally abused. "When someone has experienced that level of trauma and disintegration of one's being then you have to be present for a lifetime."

Bennett had a friend supporting her through her struggle to end her abusive relationship, to whom she says she owes her mental health. She speaks about her final recognition of the abuse she suffered as coming to fruition on her own terms.

"I realized that she'd been holding me up for two years and it was time for me to walk on my own two feet," said Bennett.



"Everything is different"

The final decision to leave an emotionally destructive relationship must be made by the abused. However, this individual must be surrounded by those who support their decision to cut themselves loose from their abuser.



Every time there's a dig, a barb, every time there's a joke, it's all about the intention of keeping you down."

"You need those support systems if you're in an abusive relationship because otherwise you'll never leave and if you do leave, you'll be so broken you'll go back," explained Hill.

Bennett agreed that often one needs to come to the realization oneself before they decide to end a destructive relationship.

"It needed to be on my own terms," said Bennett. "It makes me sick to think of what I would feel like had I stayed."

Ramirez explained that being emotionally abused "frames who you are" and takes a lifetime to overcome.

Although Hill's friend overcame her destructive relationship and continued a new and healthier partnership, Hill believes that her friend will never be the same.

"You saw her lose herself, you saw that he took some of her light and she'll never get a part of that back," Hill said.

Most importantly, there must be a stronger emphasis on healthy, reciprocal relationships.



You want to believe that what you saw [in the person] the first time wasn't wrong."

"It's hard to understand the fallout," said Thomas. "What's the next logical step and how is your next relationship affected?"

Thomas and Bennett both agreed that they can recognize and deter behaviour that they find abusive. They are also able to create boundaries to protect themselves against abuse.

Both have developed boundaries and discovered what they want in their future relationships as a result of professional counselling.

"I'll be a little smarter," said Thomas about picking a partner. Through seeking counselling she now cares about herself enough to know what she deserves.

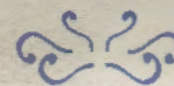
For Bennett, who is in a new relationship, the positivity of a healthy partnership keeps her optimistic about putting her past relationship behind her.

"Everything is different," Bennett said of her new relationship. "There's just a level of a respect there in every aspect that was never there [before]."

But their leftover emotions are hard to bear, and both Bennett and Thomas say they have unanswered questions and anger towards their former partners.

"I feel frustrated with him and angry with him. But I feel more frustrated with myself for not having listened to all those people who loved me and said something was wrong," said Bennett.

"[He] broke my heart. [He] was the one that made the rules," concluded Thomas, "[He] treated me like I was meat. Like I was there solely for [his] pleasure and that's not right."



*The names of the individuals interviewed herein have been changed due to the sensitive nature of emotional abuse, out of respect for their safety and to conceal the identities of their abusers.



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Victims of emotional abuse often struggle with new relationships.

ARTS

Arts Editor Rebecca Vasluianu • rvasluianu@thecord.ca

'A giant fill-in-the-blank'

FRINGE, the annual student-organized arts festival, opens its doors to an unprecedented six films this year

The plays

Heroman!

Written by: Andrew Posen

The tale of a formerly popular superhero whose decline in perceived usefulness leads to eviction from his secret lair, which leads to despair when he realizes that his lair has in fact been discovered.

Going Up

Written by: Carly Lewis

Going Up features an odd assemblage of strangers who are forced to abandon what they know about elevator etiquette when they become trapped.

The Whirligig of Time

Written by: Travis Herron & Luke Dotto

A rag-tag group of World War One soldiers in the trenches of war-torn France get the call to go over the top and rush the German front lines; each tries to convince another to go over the top instead with increasingly ridiculous rationales.

The Fairy Godfather

Written by: Lisa Sondergaard

The world's most exciting rendition of Cinderella takes to the stage in a musical extravaganza that's sure to be Broadway's greatest hit! The only problem? Prince Charming can't act.

Girls Who Ride Horses

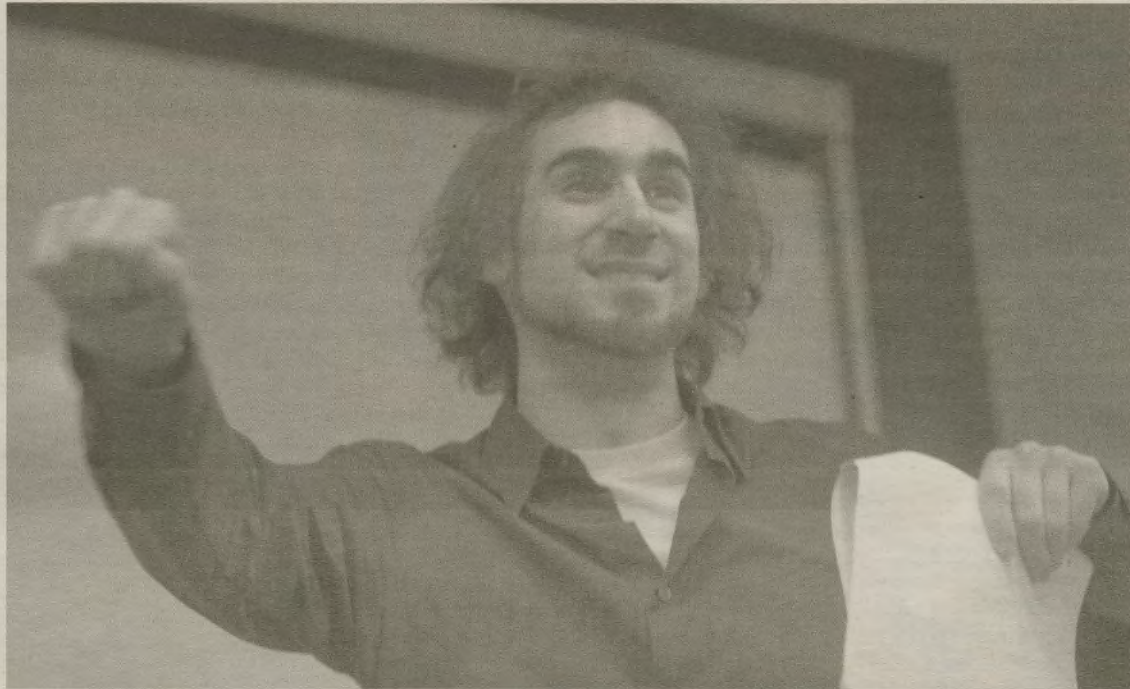
Written by: Maeve Strathy & John Kaye

Girls Who Ride Horses is an exploration of the pressures put on women, as well as their self-destruction. The audience will observe a variety of forms of pressure.

Public Display of Reflection

Written by: Adam Cilevitz

In the middle of a burgeoning career as an actress, an unnamed character sits in front of her vanity mirror. As she reflects on her past, present and future, her "reflection" seems to be uncannily dissociated with her physical presence.



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Andrew Posen, writer of the play *Heroman!*, rehearsing just over a week before the festival begins.

REBECCA VASLUIANU
ARTS EDITOR

From Jan. 14 to 16, various Laurier students will smother molasses all over their bodies, become immune to a zombie virus by smoking marijuana and burst into song.

No, it's not a cult uprising or Armageddon – it's FR!NGE.

The FR!NGE festival – an arts event organized and performed by students – has been providing unique, hilarious and horrifying moments for the Laurier community to share for almost 10 years.

"I have to stand up at the beginning before each showing and say, 'Okay, so there's going to be swearing and blood and strobe lights so if you have a problem with any of those you should leave now,'" laughed Kate Cooper, one of this year's FR!NGE producers with four years of festival experience.

Based off of the worldwide arts festival with its biggest events in Edinburgh, Scotland, FR!NGE at Laurier engages with the concept of celebrating independent productions on a smaller scale.

Providing individual projects with a budget allocated from the previous year's ticket sales, FR!NGE gives

students artistic license to take an idea and see it come to fruition.

"We are not affiliated with WLU-SU. We are not a campus club and because of that we don't have to necessarily be grouped in with affiliations and any bureaucracy that happens.

This way we get full artistic control over the product," explained FR!NGE's other producer Adam Cilevitz, who has been with the festival for five years.

Cilevitz explains that one year he wrote a play about panda porn and was able to make it into a production through FR!NGE.

"I really enjoy the outlet," he continued, adding, "There's no other that allows you to express yourself in the same way."

Because the festival does not enforce censorship on its productions, Cooper notes that there is great potential for creativity.

"There's a lot less red tape with it. I hesitate to put censorship on people, so if your play involves smearing molasses on yourself in front of the audience, you have it at – which will happen this year," she said.

Cilevitz added that part of FR!NGE's overall goal is to offer something different and cater to "the population of Laurier that lives a bit on the fringes."

The films

Memorandum

Written by: Dave Rodgers

Tom and Andy, a couple, live together with their common friend Laura. As Tom becomes increasingly emotionally distant, Laura becomes obsessed with Andy. Laura moves out, leaving Tom and Andy to deal with each others' dysfunction.

Stoner vs Zombie'

Written by: Tim Green

A graduate student at Laurier drops a test tube that smashes and lets a zombie virus loose. The only antidote for the virus is cannabis. Since it just happens to be Apr. 20, known as "Four Twenty", many students are immune, leaving them in a quest to survive.

At the Bat

Written by: Wade McAdam

A comedy about relationships and conscience.

Sensitized

Written by: Mike McMurran

This film centres around an urban legend of a preacher that apparently snapped and killed a young couple after they attended the opening night of *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* back in the '70s.

Vehemence

Written by: Ron Butler

This film takes two characters, Francis and Anna, through intense moments of understanding and coming to terms with their relationship.

We Shall Not Look Upon Its Like Again

Written by: Ted Steiner

Extrapolating upon Godard's theoretical musings as to the perpetuity of humanity's repetitious intellectual evolution, the aim of this short film is to further probe the theory of the "no-thing"; Existing – according to Godard – simply between "something" and "nothing."

-Descriptions courtesy of FR!NGE

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Arts bites

While you were out...

John Frusciante leaves the Chili Peppers (a year ago)

While rumours of his departure had surfaced beforehand, on Dec. 16 guitarist John Frusciante officially announced to the public that he was no longer a part of the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Frusciante confirmed via his MySpace page that he had in fact left the band nearly a year earlier while the RHCP were on hiatus after extended touring in support of *Stadium Arcadium*.

Prolific as a solo artist, Frusciante released his latest album *The Empyrean* in January 2009 and plans to focus on his solo work.
-Mike Lakusiak

Weezer bus crash

A tour bus carrying Weezer frontman Rivers Cuomo and his family hit black ice on a highway near Albany, N.Y. on Dec. 6 and plunged nearly 10 feet into a ravine.

Cuomo sustained rib, back and minor internal injuries to his spleen and a punctured lung in the crash which left him in hospital for six days.

There is no word on whether Weezer will continue to sell its own version of the "Snuggie" – the "Wuggie" – at shows when they resume touring or if Cuomo wearing such a garment in the accident prevented further injury.
-Mike Lakusiak

January in arts and culture:

From Thin Air by Ed Pien
Jan. 6 – Feb. 23
Art exhibit
Robert Langen Gallery

Arkells
Jan. 7 at 9 p.m.
Concert
Wilf's

Pecha Kucha Night
Jan. 22
Design exhibit
The Button Factory

WLU Jazz Ensemble
Jan. 24 at 7 p.m.
Concert
Maureen Forrester Hall

By Divine Right
Jan. 27 at 9 p.m.
Concert
Starlight

A new year in entertainment

Staff Writer **Mike Lakusiak** and Arts Editor **Rebecca Vasluianu** discuss 2010's most exciting releases

In music

Long-awaited music

This year promises to provide lots of variety in terms of new music. In the coming months there will be new full-length albums from Vampire Weekend, Spoon, The

Black Keys, Interpol and LCD Soundsystem.

U.K. group Los Campesinos! are scheduled to release their third effort in the past two years on Feb. 1 with *Romance is Boring*. Vampire Weekend's much-anticipated second album *Contra* comes out Jan. 12.

Later in the year, Blink-182, MGMT, The Red Hot Chili Peppers, Arcade Fire and Wolf Parade are all expected to release new material.

As well, Radiohead guitarist Ed O'Brien has said that the band is working on an eighth album for release late in the year.

More music

The coming year also provides music fans with some odd releases.

Lil Wayne's rock album *Rebirth*, scheduled to come out on Feb. 1, marks a departure from rap.

Limp Bizkit has reunited and plans to release an album this year, along with Good Charlotte, The Pussycat Dolls and Jessica Simpson.

Britney Spears is reportedly working on material for an album to be released in May, and Christina Aguilera's first album since 2006 tentatively comes out in March.

Courtney Love and Hole's album *Nohody's Daughter* that was postponed since 2007 is set to come out this year, although Love's loss of custody of her daughter in December may or may not lead to a different title.

Tours/Festivals

Bands touring in support of new albums will be playing shows throughout 2010. Some notable artists touring as a result of or in spite of not releasing

a new album include Mos Def, Grizzly Bear, Spoon, Sonic Youth and Jay-Z.

A lengthy tour extending long into the new year featuring Kanye West and Lady Gaga was scrapped last fall.

The Glastonbury Festival in the U.K. will feature U2 and Pearl Jam this June as well as a rumoured performance by the Strokes.

While most festival line-ups are not finalized until the spring, the Canadian Music Fest in Toronto this March is set to feature many big-name acts.

EdgeFest and North by North-east in June and the Guelph Hillside festivals should also provide a lot of selection for your summer entertainment.

—Mike Lakusiak

Despicable Me

Release date: July 9
Steve Carrell, Julie Andrews, Jason Segel, Will Arnett and Danny McBride star in this long-anticipated animated film about a villain who decides to steal the moon but runs into trouble when three orphaned little girls enter his life and foil all of his plans.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

Release date: Nov. 19
Another David Yates production, it's the second last installment of the Harry Potter movie series, meaning that with the novels completed, we will have nothing else to look forward to. Ever.

—Compiled by Rebecca Vasluianu

More film

The Book of Eli
Release date: Jan. 15

The Lovely Bones
Release date: Jan. 15

Iron Man 2
Release date: May 7

Robin Hood
Release date: May 14

Shrek Forever After
Release date: May 21

Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time
Release date: May 28

The A-Team
Release date: June 11

The Green Hornet
Release date: Dec. 22



GRAPHIC BY TRINA SCHMIDT

In review: Holiday releases

Nine
Directed by: Rob Marshall
Starring: Daniel Day-Lewis
Released: Dec. 25, 2009

★ ★ ★ ★
Academy-Award winner Daniel Day-Lewis stars in *Nine*, the star-studded film adaptation of the Broadway production of the same name based on Fellini's film *8 1/2*.

Directed by Rob Marshall, the musical revolves around Guido Contini (Day-Lewis), a movie director whose lack of focus has led to a man lost and a project gone awry.

For those of us longing for Day-Lewis circa *There Will Be Blood*, you're left wanting, although his perfect Italian accent cannot be denied.

—Anne T. Donahue

Up in the Air
Directed by: Jason Reitman
Starring: George Clooney and Vera Farmiga
Released: Dec. 25, 2009

★ ★ ★ ★
From Canadian director Jason Reitman (*Juno*) comes the eagerly-anticipated highly-nominated *Up in the Air*, a coming-of-middle-age comedy about the highs, lows and in-betweens of life.

Starring George Clooney as the successful-yet-isolated Ryan Bingham, career man extraordinaire whose sole responsibility is to end the jobs of others, Reitman succeeds in establishing three-dimensional characters that accurately depict the struggles of internal conflict.

As Bingham struggles to balance the responsibility of training the company's latest addition (Anna Kendrick of *Twilight*) with the importance of prioritizing family relationships, he reaches a decision that changes his life — all while striving for 10 million frequent flyer miles.

Co-starring Vera Farmiga and Jason Bateman, the film is true-to-life, raising some tough questions that prompt intense self-reflection and introspective thought.

However, if you're banking on a light-hearted tale of self-discovery, think again.

Though audiences will be left slightly downcast, they'll be fully supportive of its six Golden Globe nominations.

—Anne T. Donahue

Avatar
Directed by: James Cameron
Starring: Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana and Sigourney Weaver
Release date: Dec. 18, 2009

★ ★ ★ ★
James Cameron's first project since *Titanic* has proved well worth the wait.

Known for his ability to balance visual affects and action with equally worthy storylines, Cameron produced an exceptional work of art.

With strong social messages, a romantic storyline and beautifully crafted action sequences, *Avatar* can be appreciated on multiple levels.

—Elise Cotter

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FEATURE

Feature Editor Shannon Busta • sbusta@thecord.ca

Adventures in online dating

Features Editor **Shannon Busta** takes the plunge into the world of online dating and spends two weeks searching for love to find out if this popular trend is as amazing or as terrible as some make it out to be

Many of us cringe at the thought of online dating. I admit it, in the past I was guilty of associating online dating with neurotic, overweight men in their 40s living in their mother's basement fishing for an equally neurotic female partner.

Recently, however, a close friend signed up for plentyoffish.com, and guess what, she is not a neurotic, overweight man. Go figure.

Intrigued by my friend's newfound social networking tool, I decided to sign up and learn firsthand if online dating was all she had talked it up to be.

I chose plentyoffish.com primarily because it was free but also because I know more than one couple who have met on the site.

I filled out a few short character assessments, threw up a picture and wrote a generic list of interests – music, fitness, writing, friends, family, travel ... you know, the things no one in their right mind would actually dislike.

Plentyoffish.com emphasizes that the best way to meet new people is to make your profile unique, so in the about me section I added that I have an irrational fear of balloons (yes, sadly this is a fact).

Apparently the people at POF know what they are talking about. Within the first day I had received over 60 messages, and more than half were about my fear of balloons.

What really surprised me was that more often than not the men contacting me were attractive, well-educated and generally-speaking accomplished individuals.

Much to my pleasure, not one was a single, neurotic 40-year-old living in his mother's basement.

The best part about all of this was that if I wasn't interested in the person contacting me, I just deleted their messages. Of course, they were able to see that I deleted their message, but who cares?

With online dating there is no commitment, no awkward rejections, no beating around the bush.

And so with this sense of freedom fresh in my mind, I went fishing. I looked at profiles that interested me and contacted a few men who I thought were worth my time. Over the course of two weeks I casually conversed with dozens of individuals; I even came across a couple of friends on the website.

One of my most interesting experiences happened shortly after I dyed my hair from blonde to dark brown. The number of new messages I received each day was cut in half after changing my profile picture to reflect my new hair colour.

What was even more interesting was that I stopped receiving inappropriate messages, specifically from people interested in an "intimate encounter."

Regardless of the fact that I was not looking for a relationship, I did agree to go on a few dates to see if it was possible to find someone I was interested in through an online dating website.

For the most part, these dates went off without a hitch. We agreed to meet in a public place during the day and I made sure a friend knew that I was meeting with a new person.

The dates consisted of chatting over drinks or coffee. Two of the four dates were what I would call successful, one was incredibly successful and the other was simply a case of no real chemistry.

In each case, the men I met with were my age or slightly older, good-looking, happy and successful. In short, they were not the type I expected to meet on a dating website. I guess the internet has a lot more to offer us than free music and wikipedia. I would recommend online dating to any of my friends.

Worst experiences

Dunbar__86 asking me if I would be interested in a personal striptease via webcam.

Vincent2810 telling me I looked like his mother and then asking me out for drinks.

Elmar_tin_ asking me if I was interested in having phone sex.

one



two



three



TRINA SCHMIDT GRAPHICS EDITOR

Best experiences

1) Running into several different guy friends on the website. This reinforced the fact that online dating is for everyone.

2) My fourth and final date was a smashing success; we lost complete track of time and I consider it one of the highlights of the holiday.

Pros

1) Online dating offers you options that simply do not exist with other forms of dating. The anonymity provided by e-mail and chat means that you maintain control over your privacy and your comfort level.

2) For this reason, online dating can be the ideal solution for those who are shy or find it hard to come out of their shell on a first encounter. The gradual "get to know you" process means that you do not need to meet with anyone offline unless you absolutely know you are comfortable with the person.

3) Online dating can also be a great way to meet new people when moving to a new city. Many of the singles I encountered over the course of my experiment were new to Toronto and looking to meet friends.

Cons

Online dating, like any other form of dating, does have its risks. As with any new experience, common sense is your best defense against those looking to take advantage of you, whether for sex, money or anything else.

Safety

According to Match.com "online dating is no more, or less safe than any other kind of dating." Avoid meeting people you do not feel comfortable talking with in an online setting. Remaining anonymous until you feel comfortable to divulge your name is a good way to ensure your privacy and safety.

CLASSIFIEDS

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 dearlife@thecord.ca no later than Monday at noon each week.

Dear Life,

I am disappointed inf the Cord's Top Ten Worst Films of the 2000s. *Twilight* or *New Moon* should definitely be on there. I am deeply ashamed to admit that I did in fact see *New Moon* with a group of people, against my will. It was the worst movie I have ever seen. I hope you can understand how horrible. Sincerely, Real Men Don't Sparkle

Dear Life,

I know I have been spending all my time in the library with studying recently but it is not what it looks like. I do not feel that way about studying. It is you I love and once exams are over

I will end it with studying and come back to you. I love you life. Sincerely, Life, Wait for Me by the Train Station

Dear Life,

I just got an e-mail saying that the textbook buyback starts today. Alright, \$3.75 for a book I spend \$75 dollars on. I might as well just bend over while I'm at it. Fuck you, Laurier bookstore. Sincerely, Broke Student

Dear Life,

Why cant people at Wilf's appreciate when bands come and play for you. If you really want to listen to something by Miley Cyrus go and see her and stop requesting her shitty music mid song. Sincerely, Get Better Taste in Music

Dear Life,

Architects use a leveler for a reason. Next time WLU, hire construction workers that know this. Sincerely, Slipping on the Quad Ice

Dear Life,

Do not make me feel like an idiot for not knowing who Team Canada is.

Sincerely,

I've Never Seen a

Hockey Game In My Life

Dear Life,

How the hell am I already busy? Why am I pulling all-nighters the second day of school? Sincerely, Fuck My Life

Dear Life,

Where did the life section go? Sincerely, You Better Still Have Sudoku

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9	6	2		1			
		8		1	9		
2		5			1		
			3				
	1			7		5	
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		9		6		7	2
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Cord-o-scopes

♏ Scorpio Oct. 22 to Nov. 21
Welcome to Waterloo, located in the snow belt. Hopefully you had the good sense to ask for a pair of snowshoes for Christmas.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 22 to Dec. 21
This winter break you were a little bored and now you're looking forward to heading back to your exciting life at university. Unfortunately your partying days are limited as you are now on academic probation and must pend every weekend in the library.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22 to Jan. 19
Now that it's winter it is no longer okay to wear tights instead of pants. Honestly, it's never okay to do that, just as it's not okay to pretend a shirt is a dress.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 20 to Feb. 18
Venus has aligned itself with Saturn this month and you're feeling a little adventurous, don't be fooled. You don't really want to go out and strain yourself by trying new things like rock climbing or auditioning for *So You Think You Can Dance*. Sit back, relax and turn on the TV where you can watch other people enjoy life instead.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19 to March 20
You've been thinking that it's time for a style makeover before starting off the new year. If you're looking for inspiration, think Amy Winehouse meets Lady Gaga: you'll be guaranteed to turn some heads.

♈ Aries March 21 to April 19
You're going to feel an uncanny urge to apply yourself this semester and not pull any all-nighters trying to meet deadlines. Don't worry, that will go away in a few weeks and you'll be back to your old procrastinating self.

♉ Taurus April 20 to May 20
It's winter semester and you're finally going to get that snow day you've been hoping for this month. Unfortunately, it will be on a day that you already have no class.

♊ Gemini May 21 to June 20
You may be looking forward to the new year as a way to jumpstart your love life - don't hold your breath. This month Neptune is blocking out the stars and loneliness is in your future. On the bright side, it can't last forever; your love luck should improve in about 21 years.

♋ Cancer June 21 to July 22
You're getting your resume ready to start applying for a summer job; unfortunately, anchor on your drinking team does not count as work experience. Its okay, you didn't really want a job that much.

♌ Leo July 23 to Aug. 22
Your new year's resolution was to go to the gym every day. But everyone goes the first week of the semester and it's really busy, so you're just going to start next week. Yeah, next week you'll start... probably.

♍ Virgo Aug. 23 to Sept. 22
This month you're tired of being one in a crowd and are hoping to get some attention. Try singing "Livin' on a Prayer" at Chainsaw on Thursday night, that's an original way to get noticed.

♎ Libra Sept. 23 to Oct. 22
TAs the new year gets underway you're worried about getting older. Don't worry, the world ends in 2012 so that's not really going to be a big issue.

While visiting the zoo Andrea was spit on by a llama and is now able to predict your future.

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EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor Kimberly Elworthy • kelworthy@thecord.ca

Recycling is mandatory

Recycling is an important daily activity that will curb the effects of climate change and the ecological footprint humans make on the planet.

This is a known fact; however, knowing does not always translate into doing. Natural resources are not infinite, yet people regularly behave in ways that suggest otherwise.

Recycling efforts should be universal. There is no excuse for not making the effort. Not only is it one of the most basic forms of conservation that exists, but the Canadian government continues to make it easier to recycle waste every year.

Even at Laurier, recycling is remarkably easy. There are clearly-labeled recycling bins across campus, a composting system in the dining hall and a new eco-container initiative that allows students to purchase a reusable container (which is even washed by the university) for only \$5.

However, the feelings some people have about recycling has been exposed by recent educational calendar distributed by the City of Toronto – only 15 per cent of the waste produced in condos and apartments is actually recycled. The anonymity of high-rise living affords the inhabitants the social repercussions that not recycling may force upon other types of residences, such as houses, without the standard blue bin.

Regardless of the type of residence, not recycling is inexcusable. Laziness is no more acceptable than inaction as a result of anonymity.

The fact is, as university students, we are responsible for future generations; by not recycling we are contributing to the current environmental situation.

Recycling is socially responsible and we all have a moral obligation to the planet.

–The Cord Editorial Board

Use Counselling Services

The door of Health Services' packed waiting room stands directly opposite the quiet couches inside Wilfrid Laurier University's Counselling Services office – one of the school's most untapped resources.

Students rarely hesitate to ensure that their physical health is up to par by visiting the doctor, but sadly their mental health is often overlooked.

A negative stigma surrounds counselling that should not exist. Students are under a tremendous amount of stress at university; ignoring their mental health can have a detrimental impact on their relationships and their academic performance.

Counselling Services offers personal counselling, as well as performance coaching for those who need help conquering procrastination or managing stress. They also offer specialized services for music students and athletes to optimize their performances. They can provide tips for overcoming traumatic events and offer services for those who have recently endured a break-up, abuse, roommate tensions or the loss of a loved one.

As exemplified by the women of this week's In Depth article on emotional abuse (cover), for those who have suffered from unhealthy partnerships during their dating lives, counselling services is an excellent resource to help both men and women define boundaries to ensure they will not be manipulated by future partners.

With the wide array of services, which also include online articles and reading materials, the possibilities for Counselling Services to help students are endless – all the while abiding by a student's budget.

Unlike many services on campus, a student can book up to eight appointments per semester free of cost whether they are a full-time, part-time, graduate or undergraduate student.

Although some may feel uncomfortable booking and continuing appointments, students are paired with a counsellor who fits their needs and personality type and appointments can even be made over the phone.

Counselling is a service that those outside of university will pay hundreds of dollars for, so students are the ones who will really suffer if they continue to underutilize such an accessible resource as Counselling Services.

–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 16 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.



MAYA UEMURA CORD GRAPHICS

The resolution: yea or nay?

2010 is not just any new year, a new decade begs the question of whether new year's resolutions means real solutions



KIMBERLY ELWORTHY
OPINION EDITOR

To resolve

I thrive off of new beginnings.

Whether it's another birthday or a new year, I live for moments to start anew – my rebirth of sorts.

Life gets stale pretty quickly and too often people find themselves in ruts – doing the same things day in and day out without question. I promised myself to never be one of those people who becomes too

afraid to challenge their comfortable, safe, predictable life.

When I turned 20 I got my first tattoo; at 21 I signed up for a half-marathon. Last year at new year's I was determined to get in control of what had become some embarrassing partying habits. And I have followed through, with my best effort, in everything I have taken on.

This year I have resolved to track my 2010 new year's resolution on my blog: I took up the challenge to eat everything anyone offers me in order to expand my eating horizons (a lifetime challenge of food fear).

And while I could simply accept my limitations, I make sure I value those certain set dates every year that act as reminders for me to change my life for the better. Without them I would have never pushed

myself to set specific goals based on unchangeable timelines and would not be able to learn more about who I am.

Furthermore, this ritual of settings goals every year necessitates one to re-evaluate themselves. The big question becomes: am I the person I thought I would be at this point in my life? If the answer is no, then change it, no excuses.

New year's acts as a silent judgment day, whether or not you achieved your goals it still looms in everyone's mind and instills an appropriate guilt trip for those who, once again, settle for what's comfortable.

Check out new blogs at
thecord.ca/blogs



SHANNON BUSTA
FEATURES EDITOR

To not resolve

Why do we make new year's resolutions anyways? Why is it that we need a specific date to decide we want to make a change in our lives? It seems like the ultimate form of procrastination to me.

Every January the gym is flooded with eager resolutioners who have made a promise to themselves to get ripped, skinny, strong or whatever

it is they think will transform them into a better person. And then sometime around Jan. 20 the crowds begin to disperse and everyone goes back to the life they lived before the big day of change.

Don't be mistaken; I am not knocking bettering yourself or physical fitness.

Both are worthy goals to strive for, but really, you do not need to wait for Jan. 1 to change your life. I say, change today.

I know, "change today" sounds like a terrible title for a ridiculous self-help book, but honestly, life is short.

Relying on an arbitrary day to jump-start your journey of self-improvement is ridiculous.

Why not decide to start reading more, start learning to cook, sleep

more or be nicer to your family? Do the things you think you need to do to be happier right now.

Think of it this way: if you only ever waited 'till new year's to begin bettering yourself, you would only have 60 or so chances in a lifetime to change the way you live.

If you see every day as an opportunity to make changes that will make you a happier, more content and a more complete human being, that number grows immensely.

Whether you are trying to make habits or break habits, change is hard. The day you start has nothing to do with how successful you are in making that change.

So get on it, be the better person you long to be and don't wait another 365 days, by then you could have already reached your goals.

THE FORUM

Letters to the Editor

Music faculty consistently neglected

I have become a loyal reader of The Cord over my three years thus far at Laurier, and it never ceases to amaze me how utterly neglected the Music Faculty is.

As a publication aimed at representing the entire campus, you seem to be missing the entire goings on of one important building that the majority of students pass through every day.

The John Aird building houses a world class music faculty, complete with professors that are arguably the best in North America, as well as promising hopefuls who are already being recognized at the national and international level.

What people don't know is that though we are a small faculty, we are just as well known in our respective circles as the business programs that Laurier so willingly boasts about.

Though The Cord has made attempts in the past to write articles about our concerts, the majority have been so full of mistakes and a clear lack of research, that they're hardly worth reading for anything more than a laugh (Opera Laurier, anyone?).

However, what irked me the most was that there was absolutely no mention of the music faculty anywhere in the last edition of The Cord, a supposed review of the past decade.

Have we, as a faculty, really made that little of an impact?

Through reading The Cord, it would seem that Laurier has failed to notice that we too have undergone a complete renovation of our facilities in the past year, while the renovation of every other building on campus seems to be the topic of immense conversation.

In our experience as a faculty, however, the rest of the school sure has noticed.

With the renovations has come a string of major thefts (unreported by Bag O' Crime), vandalism, and the occupation of our rooms, pianos and study spaces by those not within the faculty.

By all means, I would welcome the interest of the wider student body in our faculty.

But, unfortunately, without so much as a nod from The Cord, I fear that the attention we attract as a faculty will continue to be towards our new equipment, rather than the beautiful music we are here to make.
—Kristen Morrison

The John Aird building houses a world class music faculty, complete with professors that are arguably the best in North America.

Andy's Ego fans arrogant

Re: Last Band Standing made bad choice, Letter to the Editor Nov. 25, 2009

When reading The Cord I was not surprised to see that there was a letter from a fan of Andy's Ego a band who had competed and lost in the Last Band Standing that was held mid-November at Wilf's.

The angered fan had not agreed with the decision that was made by the judges and believed that Andy's Ego should have won the round to move on to the finals.

The reason I was not surprised is because the same attitude was shown by their fans when Andy's Ego had lost in the finals last year for the same event.

I am writing in to inform Andy's Ego fans that this kind of arrogance in the music industry will ultimately lead to the band not making it anywhere at all.

Until the day Andy's Ego gets their big break they will continue to be an up and hopefully coming band. This will not come very easy with fans and friends of the band continually representing the band in a negative manner. The music industry is harsh, and people more important than fans and friends will make decisions that may or may not go well with the public.

Andy's Ego is a great band, but when the ego of the fans and friends come into play people's thoughts of the band may change for the worst.
—Michael Tjahjadi

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.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

From the archives: Dec. 1, 1999

Class of 2000

I'm a member of the class of 2000. As a class, we're probably the luckiest group of students currently attending university.

Not only did we avoid graduated licensing and deregulation, we entered the university system when classes were still small, professors were well – or over – qualified and there were enough residence rooms for almost everyone.

Even better still, we left university before schools, cities and students faced some of their greatest challenges yet.

Just as preparations were necessary to minimize the impact of the Y2K bug, so too are changes required to minimize the damages to the university system brought on by excessive growth.

The double cohort is coming: nearly twice the number of eligible students applying for a single year's enrollment – how's that for math? If high school marks are inflated now, I can only imagine how teachers will be pressured to "tough up" grades so students can get into the institution of their choice.

Laurier's senate recently passed an outline of its requirements for students graduating from the fourth-year high school program. Students will be expected to have

four "University Preparation" classes related to their programs of choice in order to apply. The process sounds familiar, but the ramifications are difficult to predict.

For student unions, younger students will result in lower revenues at campus bars and a dry Orientation Week. For academic committees, less-educated students will require more generalized courses and specific program counseling. With its admission requirements nearly finalized, Laurier is one step ahead – but, as a "small school," Laurier could easily get left behind.

Soon after universities manage the increased enrollment, they will face the forecasted retirement and potential shortage of professors. Already Laurier relies quite heavily on part-time instructors for many of its arts courses.

I don't know about you, but the qualifications of my professors were very important to me when choosing which school I would attend. If a school cannot offer the right mix of educators to suit its students, the value of the education is compromised.

In terms of housing issues, the City of Waterloo needs to work with Laurier and UW to come up with mutually beneficial solutions.

Even when I was in first-year, students scrambled to find second-year housing far before the Housing List was published in March.

Waterloo businesses thrive on student money, and there is little doubt that more students are on their way to the city. Would it be feasible to make the whole city a university town?

I'd be happy just to see a grocery store within a 10-minute walk from the majority of student housing areas. Are housing and food too much to ask for?

Wake up Waterloo. If you think city residents are angry with students now, wait until Laurier and UW expand, maximize their land and bring in up to 30,000 more noisy, messy and hungry university students. And if you think students will settle for over-crowded apartments and overpriced food, think again.

Universities, municipal and provincial governments and students have a lot to wake up to on Jan. 1, 2000.

With luck on my side, I think I'll take my diploma and start buying lottery tickets.

Kristina Spence
News Editor

SCREENING THE CARIBBEAN FRIDAY NIGHT FILM SERIES

Please join us for a special film series devoted to Caribbean cinema. All films are open to the public and all films screened on campus will be free! All screenings occur between 7-9pm, in Bricker Academic, Room 201 on Bricker Avenue, Wilfrid Laurier University. Two films will be screened at the original Princess Cinema.

See schedule below:

Jan 15: **Life and Debt**

Jan 22: **Sugar Cane Alley**

Jan 29: **Rude**

Feb 5: **Finder of Lost Children** (at the Princess)

Feb 26: **Sweetest Mango**

Mar 3: **Love, Sex, & Eating the Bones** (at the Princess)

Mar 5: **Agronomist**

Mar 12: **Strawberry and Chocolate**

Mar 19: **Divas Love Me Forever**

Mar 26: **Tropique Nord**

Apr 2: **The Harder They Come**

wlu.ca/screeningthecaribbean

For more info contact mpirbhai@wlu.ca
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OPINION

'Coolness' is a forgotten form of social oppression



JAMES POPKIE
letters@thecord.ca

Although North American culture claims to tout individuality as something to aspire to. Unfortunately this idealistic view has been twisted by popular culture and consumerism.

Self expression as a virtue has been replaced by the encouragement of its exact opposite – conformity to coolness.

This is promoted through mediums such as music videos and clothing advertisements. Popular culture values coolness over being oneself, even when the two are mutually exclusive, and encourages those who do not conform to be cast out.

This hierarchy can be enforced overtly through physical bullying or insults or more subtly through exclusion and elitist attitudes.

What constitutes as coolness varies from one setting to another, often reflecting what popular mainstream culture and trendy

subcultures deem acceptable.

Clothing, lingo, physical appearance, musical taste and athletic ability are often important factors.

In some circles, intellect can even be mocked, and the appearance of one's hair may be seen as more important than the contents of the mind it surrounds.

Although these types of social hierarchies are most rigidly enforced in high school and middle school, they often carry into young adulthood – it never really ends. Even though by their late teen years, most people are mature enough to realize that this hierarchy is fake and wrong, it is continuously perpetuated.

The discrimination against the "freaks", "geeks" and other "uncool" members of society is among the most prevalent forms of discrimination in our culture today, yet it is also one of the least discussed.

Perhaps its sheer pervasiveness leads people to believe that this divide is something natural, unlike more easily identifiable aberrations like racism or sexism, which most progressive members of society have vowed to eliminate.

While some people may find their emulation of popular culture to genuinely reflect their inner selves, many others who emulate it do so

out of social pressure.

This raises the question of whether things are popular because people like them or if people like them because they're popular.

The former explanation seems more logical, yet the latter often seems to be true. Many pay obscene prices to buy certain brands of clothing such as Abercrombie and Fitch or Hollister, not because they like it, but because the brand name will gain them social respect.

Popular culture is created by the corporate world, and if there is profit to be made from manufacturing coolness and upholding the social hierarchy, they will continue to do so. Those who enforce these hierarchies are often not expressing their own personal prejudices so much as upholding the image that pop cultural indoctrination has been jammed into their heads.

Identity means nothing in a vacuum, being oneself is only relevant if one can do so in front of others.

It is not coolness itself that is the problem, but its elitist and hierarchical enforcement.

If everyone would simply be themselves and accept others for the way they are – whether they fit the standards of coolness or not – then the world would be a better place.

Bitchin'



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

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SPORTS

Sports Editor Justin Fauteux • jfauteux@thecord.ca

Varsity sports fall review

With 2009 complete, Cord Sports grades the performances of the teams that have finished their seasons

Men's Baseball A

The Hawks' men's baseball team had a breakout season this year, making their first ever appearance in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) championship final. Having been a virtually unrecognized team in the past, the squad overcame having their funding cut by the athletic department and went on to earn an OUA silver medal after fighting a hard fought battle against the Western Mustangs. Under the leadership of head coach Scott Ballantyne, the Hawks finished their season with a 10-8 record, going 2-2 in the post season. The team also boasted the OUA Rookie of the Year – Andrew Greenberg, along with three OUA All-Stars – Chris Pittaway, Josh Robinson and Jesse Milanovich.

–Tieja MacLaughlin

Women's Lacrosse B

The fall of 2009 saw the dynasty that was the Laurier women's lacrosse team come to end. Fielding a team of several inexperienced players, having lost the majority of their key veterans to graduation, the young squad battled to a 7-5 regular season record, suffering the program's first loss since 2006 but backing into the OUA playoffs in the fourth spot. In the post-season, the Hawks upset the first-place University of Toronto Varsity Blues in the semi-finals but lost in the championship to the Western Mustangs. Although this was the end of a six-year streak of gold medals, the second-place finish is definitely a positive result for such a young team.

–Justin Fauteux

Cross Country B

Led by outstanding rookies Shoahb and Sohaib Ikram, the cross country team had a solid season in the fall of 2009. The highlight of the year came at the Badger Cross Country Meet at Brock University where the Ikram twins finished in the top two spots. To conclude the season, the men's team had seven representatives at the CIS finals, marking the first time that the Golden Hawks were represented at the national championship.

–Justin Fauteux

Men's Football B-

Despite key players such as quarterback Luke Thompson and defensive end Chima Ihekwoaba suffering season-ending injuries in week three, the men's football team finished the 2009 season with a 6-2 record, claiming second in the provincial standings. The Hawks showed flashes of brilliance, boasting three All-Canadians and handing the eventual Vanier Cup champion Queen's Gaels their only loss of the season. However, for a team with one of the top defences in the country as well as a bevy of weapons on offence, losing in the OUA semi-finals for the third year in a row is somewhat disappointing.

–Justin Fauteux

Women's Soccer B-

Despite an incredible regular season by the women's soccer team, the defending Ontario University Athletics (OUA) champion Hawks couldn't manage to keep their torrid pace in the post-season. They finished fourth in Ontario, losing the bronze medal game to the Ottawa Gee-Gees 3-2 in penalty shots. Highlights of the year include dominating performances by midfielder Heather Malizia, who earned CIS All-Canadian honours, as well as a breakout season by forward Ali McKee, who scored a team-high nine goals throughout the campaign. Head coach Barry MacLean, meanwhile, took home his second coach of the year award.

–Kevin Campbell

Men's Rugby C+

The men's rugby team had a successful run to the playoffs but ended with a mediocre 4-4 record in the regular season. The 2009 season broke a three-year playoff drought for the Hawks, but they fell at the hands of the McMaster Marauders in the quarter-finals, going scoreless for the first time in the season. Four players – Alex St. John, James Stewart, Jeff Pickel and Spencer Houlihan – were named OUA All-Stars, but the team as a whole went on to finish only fifth overall of eight teams in the OUA.

–Tieja MacLaughlin



LAURA TOMKINS FILE PHOTO

Probably the biggest disappointment of the first semester, the men's soccer team followed an OUA championship winning season in 2008 with a three-win season in 2009.



YUSUF KIDWAI FILE PHOTO

Likely the most pleasant surprise of the fall of 2009, the men's baseball team came out of nowhere to finish second in the OUA.

Men's Soccer D

A decade to remember ended with a year to forget. For the first time in their recorded history, the men's soccer team missed the playoffs and relinquished their title as Ontario champions without a fight. Coming off their miraculous run last fall, the team saw few key players depart and a dearth of talented youth enter the system. Sadly, the talent was squandered when injuries forced over half of Laurier's line-up onto the bench in the last half of the season. Down the stretch, the Hawks fielded a team that was mainly made up of players who hadn't even dressed for a game in the previous season. Entering the season with furor, the Hawks exited with a whimper, leaving behind a trail of dashed dreams.

–Luke Dotto

Women's Rugby F

Outscored 247-15, including a 90-0 loss to Guelph and an 87-3 beating at the hands of Western, the women's rugby team was by far the worst varsity team in the fall semester. They finished the season with a 1-4 record and only escaped a winless season with a 7-5 win over Waterloo in the final game of the season. The bright spot is that this team has nowhere to go but up.

–James Choleras

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
January 4-10, 2010

RECENT SCORES

01.03.10
M Basketball 60 - Concordia 62
W Hockey 5 - Waterloo 2
W Hockey 2 - Brampton Thunder 0

01.02.10
M Basketball 54 - Acadia 72
W Hockey 4 - London Jr. Devilettes 2

01.01.10
W Hockey 4 - KW Jr. Rangers 3
W Hockey 7 - Brampton Thunder 1
M Basketball 57 - St. FX 88

12.30.09
M Basketball 72 - Cape Breton 97

12.29.09
M Basketball 80 - UPEI 68
W Basketball 49 - Acadia 72

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

01.07.10
M Hockey vs Waterloo
Sunlife Financial Arena, 7:30 p.m.

01.08.10
W Volleyball vs Queen's
Athletic Complex, 6:00 p.m.

01.09.10
W Volleyball vs RMC
Athletic Complex, 6:00 p.m.
W Hockey vs York
Sunlife Financial Arena, 7:30 p.m.

01.08.10
W Hockey vs Toronto
Sunlife Financial Arena, 7:30 p.m.

LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Jesse MacDonald
Men's Basketball
Renee Dijk
Swimming

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Anthony to compete on world stage



NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO
Alex Anthony (12) became one of the Hawks' most dangerous offensive weapons this season, catching four touchdowns.

TIEJA MACLAUGHLIN
STAFF WRITER

Alex Anthony, a freshman receiver for the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks' men's football team, has been named to the Team World junior football roster as one of the top players aged 19 and under from across four different continents.

Later in January, Team World is set to face the United States junior national team, boasting the country's top-ranked high school football seniors.

"To be selected for the world team is one of the greatest honours someone could ever receive," said Anthony.

"To represent your hometown, your province, your school and your country is one thing, but to represent the world is something only a select few will ever be able to experience."

Coming into the season, Anthony was one of the most highly-touted recruits in the nation, and did not disappoint when the season started.

The kinesiology and physical education major made 21 catches for 330 yards and scored four

touchdowns in his first season with the Golden Hawks.

Now Anthony will have the chance to share the field with the top U-19 players from Germany, New Zealand, Japan, Mexico, Sweden and France.

Before clinching a spot on the final roster, Anthony's game film and stats were reviewed, his former coaches were asked their input and his workout logs were tracked. A list of 100 top-seeded players was eventually cut down to the 45-man final roster.

The all-around athlete and academic was named B.C. High School Athlete of the Year in 2008, has represented Team Canada at the Junior National Football Championships and Team British Columbia for baseball, among other noteworthy accomplishments.

"An opportunity like this almost never comes along," said Anthony, anticipating the experience. "This is the biggest game I've played to date."

The game will take place in Fort Lauderdale, Florida as part of Pro Bowl week in front of a live televised audience on the NFL Network on Jan. 30.



COURTESY OF ROBBY DAVIS, THE SHEAF
Team USA celebrates after defeating Team Canada to win the World Junior Championship gold medal.

No silver lining for heartbroken Canadians

KEVIN CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

The streak is over.

Team USA got their sweet revenge from New Year's Eve, and Team Canada's quest for a record-setting sixth-straight gold medal at the World Junior Hockey Championships came to a resounding halt Tuesday night.

The upstart Americans captured the gold in a 6-5 overtime victory in Saskatoon.

In a game that featured everything a hockey fan could ask for — hits, goals, saves and comebacks — American defenceman John Carlson silenced the boisterous Canadian crowd 4:31 into overtime, beating goalie Martin Jones blocker-side.

It was eerily fitting that the Americans would snap the gold medal away from Canada's clutches, as the

U.S. was the last team to take the gold from Canada at the tournament in Helsinki, Finland back in 2004.

Since then, Canada has wrung off five straight gold medals with various heroes emerging from the red and white to keep the streak alive, including this year's tournament MVP Jordan Eberle, with clutch goals at key times.

It looked all but over for Canada earlier in the third period when the Americans took a commanding 5-3 lead, but like they did in the New Year's Eve preliminary game, they proceeded to blow their two-goal margin.

Eberle electrified the crowd with two straight goals late in the final frame to further justify his "Messiah" nickname, given to him by the locals of Regina, the city where he plays junior hockey.


Team Canada certainly toed the line with miraculous comeback

after comeback at the World Juniors throughout the years, but this year the Americans' blinding speed and offensive weapons exposed Canada's hampered defence with Travis Hamonic out with a separated shoulder.

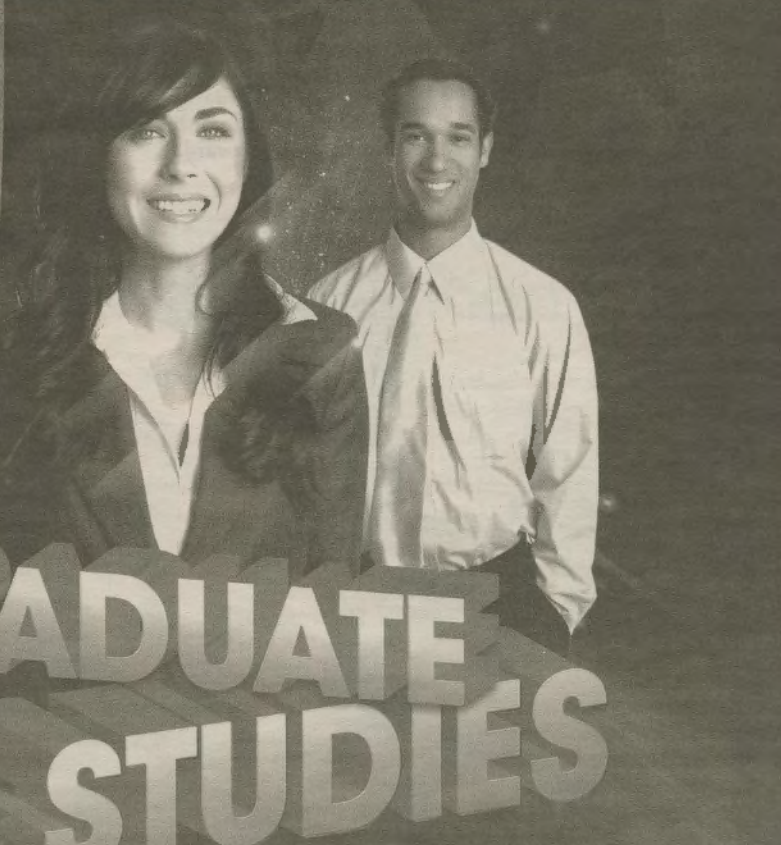
17-year-old goaltender Jack Campbell took over for Mike Lee — who allowed three goals on seven shots — in the Americans' net early in the second period.

Campbell came up huge late in the third period and in overtime, turning aside shot after shot to preserve the game for Team USA.

Canada will get the chance to try and exact some revenge on their neighbours from the south next year when they look to re-claim the gold in Buffalo in 2011; with the way these two teams have played each other, it should be another instant classic.



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KW joins Olympic celebration

Over the holiday break, the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay made its way through the streets of Kitchener-Waterloo

ANDREA MILLET
LEAD REPORTER

Residents of Kitchener-Waterloo took to the streets on the evening of Sunday, Dec. 27 to watch as the Olympic torch made its way down King Street, starting at the Union Street intersection and ending at Kitchener City Hall at 7 p.m.

Onlookers gathered to cheer on the torchbearers and celebrate as their city became a part of Olympic history as one of 1,035 Canadian communities chosen to host a leg of the relay.

Kitchener was one of the few honoured with hosting the flame overnight.

"To be selected to keep the cauldron overnight, I think that's great. There were only so many centres across Ontario, across Canada, and we are one of them," said the final torchbearer of the evening and prominent community member Pat Doherty.

Also present among the onlookers were event organizers, torchbearers and all others gathered at City Hall were a collection of local athletes from past and present Olympic Games, as well as a few hopefuls for the future.

"We have all been brought here because of the power of the flame," said Ann Bilodeau, chair of the Kitchener celebration task force.

Jim Richards, director of the Vancouver 2010 Torch Relay, stated that it was the planning committee's vision to use the relay to link the

passion of the Games, the athletes and the communities together.

While the Games are traditionally about the athletes, this experience allowed for the people in each community to also become a part of the Olympics.

Kitchener-Waterloo is now among the links that Richards hoped would bring Canada together throughout this journey as the flame makes its way from community to community across the country.

"Being selected as a celebration community will leave an enduring and profound legacy that will continue long after the flame is extinguished," said Bilodeau.

The Olympic flame is intended as a symbol of friendship, peace and unity, which was clearly evident by the crowd that came together on Sunday.

Waterloo Town Square was the location of one handoff along the route, and as the current torchbearer made her way into the square and the next made her way out, onlookers lined the streets, filled the square and even stood on rooftops to secure their place as a part of the relay.

"It was neat to see how many people came out; I thought it was a good crowd and a lot of excitement," said KW community member Don Marshall who came out to see the torch.

Further along the road, crowds gathered outside of City Hall not only to watch the torch carried in by Doherty but also to celebrate and share in the pride that comes with being involved in this event.

"The spirit that has been here tonight ... I think surpasses anything that we have done here at City Square at City Hall. This is an amazing sight, an amazing feeling and what it does is bring our community together, and it symbolizes how the country comes together for the Olympics and our Olympians," said Kitchener mayor Carl Zehr.

Protesters set up outside of City Hall to await the arrival of the flame, holding banners and calling out their concerns with environmental and ethical issues surrounding the Vancouver Olympic Games.

Despite their efforts, the cheering crowds drowned out the protest as Doherty made his way up to the stage.

The symbol of the Olympic flame, representing pride and honor for Kitchener-Waterloo as well as the community members who came out to celebrate, also held a special meaning for those chosen to carry it.

"It's just an awesome feeling and I really feel like I'm a real part of my community. I'm carrying the actual flame from Greece and it's just a wonderful experience to be involved in that," said torchbearer Tiziana Giovanazzo. "I'm so proud and so honoured."

Doherty also expressed his gratitude at being awarded the honour of final torchbearer, as well as his pride in the community members who came out to show their support.

"A tremendous crowd ... coming down King Street from Ontario we could hardly get through," said Doherty.



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

The Olympic torch passes by King Street Residence.

"To reach the stage and get up there and see the mass of the crowd out in front of me ... the people that came out to support the flame and the Olympics, it's just great."

Doherty will continue to share his experience with others as he travels to different schools to speak about the Olympics and what it meant to be a part of the relay.

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Calendar of Events

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



OPEN JAM⁴
MONDAYS @
Wilf's

Wilf's⁵
DYNAMIC DUO
CRAIG & JOHN

Winter Carnival
WC⁶
1960-2010
50th Anniversary
Kick-Off

arkells
WILF'S
\$5
an A-Team Production

Board of Directors Meeting
3rd floor FNCC 2:30pm

GREAT GIVEAWAY SATURDAY
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Winter Carnival
January 10th - 16th

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FRIDAY JANUARY 15TH



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MONDAYS @
Wilf's

Wilf's¹⁹
DYNAMIC DUO
CRAIG & JOHN

DUE TODAY 20
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3RD FLOOR FNCC

TEAM LAST BAND
STANDING ROUND 3
Wilf's

Board of Directors Meeting
3rd floor FNCC 2:30pm



OPEN JAM²⁵
MONDAYS @
Wilf's

Balroom Blitz²⁶

INTERNATIONAL YUK YUK'S
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PACKAGES DUE: JANUARY 20TH AT NOON

