

# THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

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## City evaluates student area

LINDA GIVETASH  
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

After a year of discussion and debate, this April city council will be presented with two visions for the student-dominated community of Northdale to determine which will be the most effective in solving the problems of the area.

"We started off in town hall discussions fairly focused around creating a neighbourhood that was friendly and welcoming to all," said Kory Preston, Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union vice-president of university affairs. "There was a lot of focus on trying to create a very innovative neighbourhood."

From earlier discussions in April 2009, to later meetings in the fall and winter, the plan for Northdale seemed to shift its focus to the density of the area.

According to Preston, this has since reverted back in some degree to the original plans – in February, the universities proposed their vision for the area that involves them being larger stake-holders to ensure a quality living environment for students.

"The universities want to require that the developers develop in a way that creates, much like our residences do, community spaces for the development of safe, healthy and fun activities," said Preston.

Although these interests are still being taken into account, the visions being tabled this April will

“

It took 25 years to get where we are now, so it's not going to take one year to fix it.”

—Jan d'Ailly, councillor for ward six

consist of a proposal made by permanent residents and an accumulation of town hall results and city plans.

### Growing problems

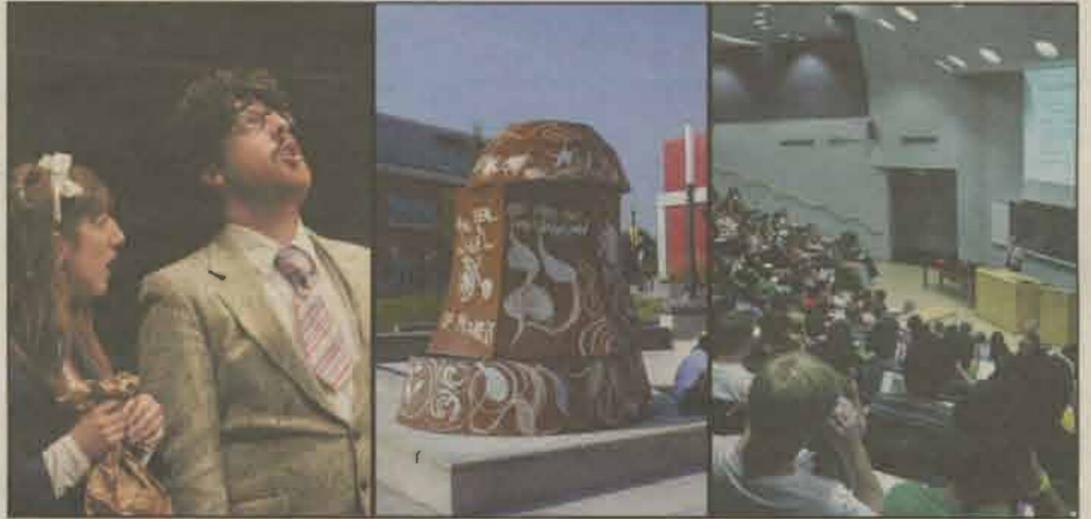
While behaviour and by-law adherence are often the more publicized problems in Northdale, the root issue sprouts from the inadequate housing in the area.

War-time houses and crammed apartments, which have been utilized for student housing, have resulted in illegal or absentee landlords and uncomfortable living situations.

"When we look at things like St. Patrick's Day and the Olympic

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## 2009-10 newsmakers



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## Planning for St. Mike's campus redevelopment underway

MIKE LAKUSIAK  
INCOMING CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

As part of Laurier's Campus Master Plan, a substantial amount of renewal is proposed for both the main campus as well as the university's facilities to the east, west and most promising, north across University Avenue.

The St. Michael's campus, a former elementary school that the university acquired in 2001, is the target of major plans for construction of a large multi-story building that would house the School of Business and Economics as well as the math department, graduate studies, research facilities and student

organizations. The Global Innovation Exchange building would also have office space to cater to local companies that would be interested in working with the university and recruiting graduates.

"We're trying to design a building that makes it really easy for people to have ongoing dialogue," said dean of business and economics Ginny Dybenko, who sat on the project team that organized initial planning of the building.

"That's what the innovation exchange is all about," she continued. "The whole lower floor is going to be orchestrated so that there's tons of opportunity for business people from the community to come in."

The building is also proposed to

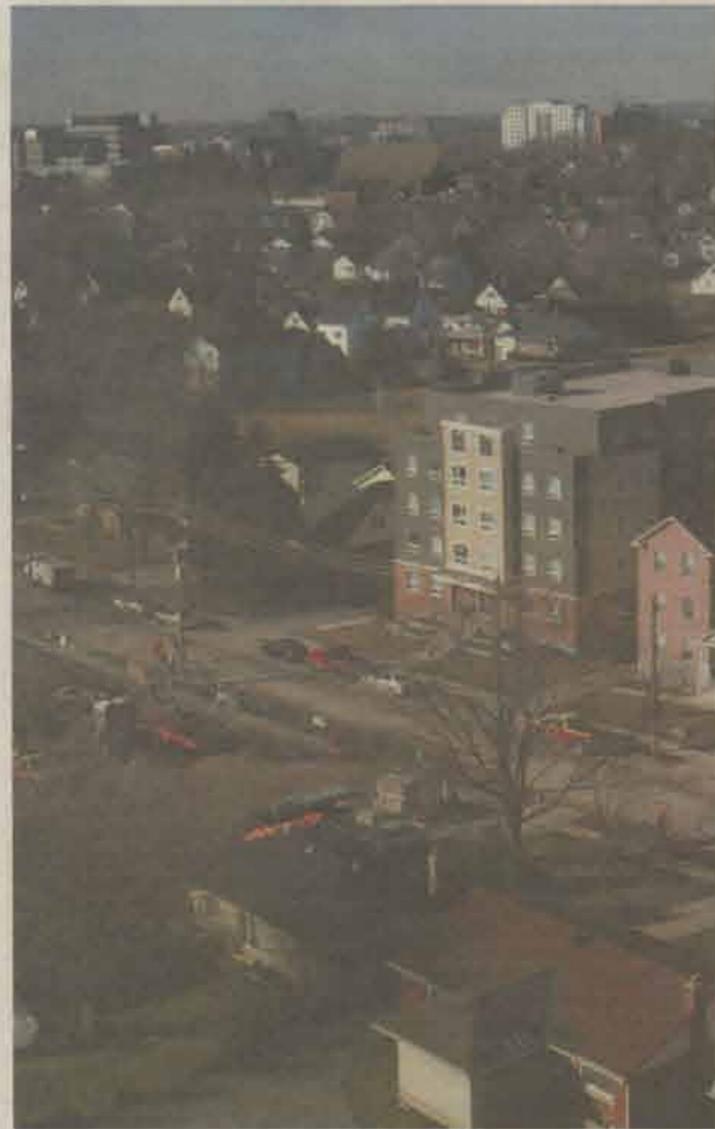
be environmentally friendly and very energy efficient.

The 210,000 square foot building, including a pedestrian overpass over University Avenue in place of the current crosswalk, would be Laurier's flagship building at the Waterloo campus according to documents sent to prospective architectural firms.

"This is the highest priority for the university here in Waterloo," said Laurier president Max Blouw.

"What's important that people understand is that this is a plan and plans you execute as you're able to. What we're proposing will cost a lot of money."

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NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Northdale, the area north of University Avenue West and between King Street and the University of Waterloo, has been a point of debate between students and homeowners.

## Charity Ball donation increases

ALANNA WALLACE  
IN DEPTH EDITOR

Last October, a member of the 2008-09 Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union Charity Ball committee came forward criticizing the committee for focusing on hosting an extravagant event instead of being concerned with donating to charity.

When numbers were finally released by the students' union after a budget misallocation, it was publicized that Charity Ball was to give a \$159 donation to the local charity KidsAbility.

The committee, as well as some WLUSU board members, attempted to remind the Laurier community that the ends intended to be met by Charity Ball is not a donation, but rather fosters a good volunteer

experience for students.

Despite the 2009-10 Charity Ball numbers not being finalized, it has been projected that the committee has raised somewhere between \$1,500 and \$3,000 for Epilepsy Waterloo-Wellington.

"We're back to in and around what Charity Ball usually gives," said vice-president of clubs and activities,

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### Inside

#### 99 things to do at university

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#### A journey in filmmaking

The Cord speaks with T.C. McLuhan, whose documentary was screened at Laurier last week

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#### SBE confronts cuts

The School of Business and Economics examines strategies to overcome effects of budget cuts.

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Editor's Choice
The Cord's best images
2009-10
thecord.ca

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This Week in quotes

I have to put a buck in a jar every time I forget economics."

-SBE dean Ginny Dybenko on forgetting "economics" when talking about her faculty



"Last year's team did a fantastic job as well and they really had a great connection with their charity."
-WLUSU president Laura Sheridan, speaking about the work of the 2008-09 Charity Ball committee, which raised \$159 in total for KidsAbility

"I don't know how these things happen to me. Sometimes life just unfolds in a miraculous wonderful way."
-MBA graduate and current director of Canada's National Ballet School Jeffery Melanson, speaking about getting the opportunity to teach actress Natalie Portman how to conduct for the 2007 film Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium

"I voted for you. That was a lie."
-Director-elect Ted Brown to Chris Walker after Walker was elected board secretary

"There's a lot of empty rituals sitting all around you."
-Diggy of Down with Webster discussing his band's rituals and pointing at beer bottles

"I'm hoping we're going to be going north. That's a good direction."
-Chair-elect Kyle Hocking regarding the location for the summer board retreat

"I guess it's an expensive lesson."
-WLUSU director Jordan Hyde, regarding the money lost at Wilf's during this period

Bag O' Crime

Property Damage
Date: March 22 @ 3:03 a.m.
Location: 209 Regina St.
A SCS officer on mobile patrol discovered some vandalism in front of 209 Regina St. An eight-foot-high ornamental tree on the front lawn had been kicked over, partially uprooted and was aying on the ground. The matter is under investigation.

Injured/Sick Person
Date: March 24 @ 2:46 p.m.
Location: Alumni Field
A 21-year-old male student playing Frisbee sustained a serious foot injury after he jumped in the air and landed awkwardly on his foot. The big toe on his right foot was partially severed. He was taken to Grand River Hospital for medical treatment where the toe was reattached.

Injured/Sick Person
Date: March 27 @ 8:57 a.m.
Location: Student Services Building
A 20-year-old female sustained a large cut on her right ankle as a result of jumping off a cart while working for The Hub. Upon landing, she cut herself on a metal leg of the cart.

Property Damage
Date: March 28 @ 12:19 a.m.
Location: Residence
Person(s) unknown tipped over a Coca Cola vending machine in the front lobby. Coca Cola was notified

to check the machine for any damage. No attempt was made to enter the machine for coins.

Indecent Act
Date: March 28 @ 2:52 a.m.
Location: Fred Nichols Campus Centre, The Turret Nightclub
A male party had approached a girl from behind and lifted up her skirt revealing her buttocks. SCS located the responsible party and he will be sent to the J.A.C. to be dealt with.

Property Damage
Date: March 28 @ 1:20 p.m.
Location: Lot #3
A student reported that a rude comment had been written on his windshield with pizza sauce. The incident occurred over night. There are no suspects.

Fire
Date: March 28 @ 10:45 p.m.
Location: FNCC
A garbage bin was found smoking, caused by a paper coffee cup holder catching on fire. The responding officer controlled the situation with a fire extinguisher.

If you have any information regarding these or any other incidents please call 519-885-3333 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. The Bag O' Crime is submitted by WLUSU Special Constable Service.

Vocal Cord

What is one thing you have to do before graduating university?



"Take an exam high."
-Tashae Houghton
Fourth-year communications



"You should definitely get involved in the exchange program."
-Amy Robinson
Second-year English

From the archives: The number one newsmakers of the past 5 years

2008-09: The pool
Issues surrounding the Laurier pool surfaced during the summer of 2008 and dominated Cord headlines for the next year. When a pipe burst in April 2008, it was determined that the pool was to be closed permanently. However, the Region of Waterloo Swim Club (ROW) raised over \$700,000 and the city of Waterloo agreed to give \$250,000 over the next five years, a figure that was matched by Kitchener the following week. Laurier students also lobbied for help, resulting in a successful referendum that determined that students will pay \$10 per semester in order offset the cost of the renovations.

2007-08: Laurier part-timers strike
365 Laurier contract academic staff (CAS) walked off the job on March 19, 2008, resulting in many classes being cancelled for nearly three weeks. There was strong disagreement on major issues, which included salary and seniority. Throughout the strike, there was a lot of support for part-time professors: a petition was signed by 2,750 students, there was a walk-in to university administration offices and several rallies organized by WLUSA were attended by many students. The semester was extended by two days, but students were not given a refund for missed teaching time.

2006-07: Blackface scandal
During WLUSU's annual Winter Carnival event, several members of the Loyal Order of Waterbuffaloes were seen around campus in blackface with novelty-sized joints and fried chicken buckets on their head. Though only one formal complaint was lodged to WLUSU president Allan Cayenne, national newspapers, including the Globe and Mail, picked up the story.



2005-06: Year of the athlete
For those who thought school pride was reserved for high school students and Icebreakers, Wilfrid Laurier's student athletes sent a clear message in 2005-06 as varsity squads pulled together gutsy performances across the board. The men's football team had an unbending will to win, taking them all the way to national supremacy, capturing the 2005 Vanier Cup. In football's expansive shadow, three other WLUSU teams - men's curling, women's lacrosse and women's hockey - brought home provincial banners. From top to bottom, WLUSU athletes helped 'the little high school down the street' dwarf the likes of UW, Western and Toronto, if only for a few sweet moments.



2004-05: The men's football team
Men's football may not have been the team of the year, but they were certainly the story of the year. Occupying the headlines from early September until late November, 2004 was as memorable for the players as it was for the school as a whole. Entering the season under a cloud of controversy, specifically the legal hot water of three players, the Hawks weren't expected to do much. Eight games later, the Hawks had plowed through every Ontario team and finished the season with their first 8-0 record ever. In front of the largest football crowd ever at University Stadium, the Hawks claimed a 31-19 win, and the school's first Yates Cup since 1991. A Canadian semi-final loss to Laval, the eventual Vanier Cup winners, would do nothing to tarnish what was an incredible season.



"Have a late night chat until 5 a.m. about life with your roommates."
-Gabriel Lerman
Fourth-year business



"Have a massive slumber party in the 24 Lounge with your friends."
-Natalie Moonan
Fourth-year history

Compiled by David Goldberg
Photos by Myles Wilson

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The Cord is the official student newspaper of the Wilfrid Laurier University community. Started in 1926 as the Collego 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.

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Preamble to The Cord constitution

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

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

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

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

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

Quote of the week: "Yeah, Timon looks really good... that aloof f---k" -Sports Editor Justin Fauteux on human representations of The Lion King characters Timon and Pumba on the Internet.

# NEWS

News Editor Lauren Millet • [lmillet@thecord.ca](mailto:lmillet@thecord.ca)

## Business faculty remains optimistic

Focus on revenue generation should offset cuts, even as other faculties struggle to cope with budget

**MIKE LAKUSIAC**  
INCOMING CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

As other faculties examine ways to cope with budget cuts that could adversely affect student experience, Laurier's School of Business and Economics (SBE) is taking a different, more optimistic, approach.

According to dean of SBE Ginny Dybenko, the faculty is looking at ways to generate revenue rather than making drastic changes that would impact students. Dybenko said that her experience in the corporate world with cuts has affected how she looks at the current budget.

"Having lived through it a couple times, I now know that you can Xerox less and turn every light bulb out and stuff like that but at the end of the day what you're really looking to do is generate revenue."

Cuts in other faculties have led to diminished class offerings, increased class sizes and seem considerably more dire than the minimal changes Dybenko forecasts that students will see.

"In terms of the actual cuts that we've made, there's very little that is actually going to impact students in SBE. They might not even notice," she noted. "We're going to have a few less TAs in BU111 and 121 and we're going to switch from 10 labs back to something like seven, so it almost won't be noticeable for the students."

As well, the faculty plans to cut any classes smaller than 30 students. Since business and economics courses typically have larger numbers of students enrolled than comparable arts or science offerings, there should not be a substantial change.

Business professor Sofy Carayannopoulos pointed out that choice should not become an issue as only very specific courses with low demand will no longer be offered.

"There may have been an elective in the past that was a group of 12 students which may have been allowed to continue," she pointed out.

"But when you're facing budget cuts you only have so many professors to put in front of students, so it would make sense that those classes may be cancelled. Those 12 students will still find another interesting class to take."

Carayannopoulos stated that as demand remains high for the programs offered in SBE, the budget cuts are not taking as heavy a toll as elsewhere at Laurier.

On top of a few changes to classes, Dybenko said there would be some minor cost-cutting measures

put in place. "Like everyone else, we've had to tighten our belts, there's no question about it."

"We've done some internal streamlining: instead of staff and faculty getting a computer every three years, we'll move it to every five years or something like that."

The revenue generation that the faculty is depending on to counteract the cuts the rest of the university is experiencing will come in a few different forms.

There will be a focus on the master's of business administration programs Laurier offers, including more flexible part-time MBAs tailored to employees at companies like Research in Motion. As well, SBE will offer continuing education certificate programs in executive development that will appeal to major local firms.

"Other schools make a ton of

money [with these programs]; Queen's, Schulich and those schools make well in excess of 10 million dollars every year in executive development," Dybenko said.

When speculating about the threat of more substantial cuts in years to come, including a six per cent overall budget reduction for the 2011-12 academic year, Dybenko remained optimistic that revenue generation would continue to offset any ill-effects.

"I can't talk about them yet because the ink hasn't dried on the contracts yet, but we have some really interesting opportunities with RIM," said Dybenko.

"We will have some constraints going forward but it's just the same as how the economy and how the entire business community are struggling now with the economic downturn, no different."

## WLUSU businesses see substantial loss

Wilf's and Williams lose combined total of almost \$400,000 this year to date

**LAUREN MILLET**  
NEWS EDITOR

The last Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union board of directors meeting of the semester on Friday saw two main points of discussion all revolving around finances: the first being Wilf's and then a follow up on the Brantford Williams'.

During the last period, Wilf's produced a \$28,000 unfavourable variance, which director Jordan Hyde pointed out to the rest of the board as a problem.

Wilf's had projected to lose \$97,000 over the course of the year; to date it has lost \$141,000.

"Literally food costs and part-time labour. If you take those two costs there you go," said WLUSU general manager Mike McMahon about why Wilf's has lost money this year. He added that Wilf's has been very busy, and has therefore needed to increase staff.

"We have to make sure we can provide the best level of customer service," said McMahon.

He added that next year the plan is to hire more full-time staff in order to decrease the number of people needed on a shift. "We have to be more conservative in our budgeting."

The other main issue discussed was what to do about the large losses experienced by the Brantford Williams.

To date this year the franchise has lost a total of \$251,000. Director Hyde asked the board about possible alternatives to the Williams.

WLUSU president Laura Sheridan noted that she met with Laurier president Max Blouw and dean of students David McMurray about the possibility of collaborating with the students' union about potentially getting a meal plan in Brantford.

"It's incorrect to assume that we can't have a meal plan in Brantford without a dining hall. You can, and the university is eager to help us explore that option," said Sheridan.

"Williams would be a part of the

“

It's still running at a loss, but we kind of expected to run at a loss.”

—WLUSU director Kayla Smith on the expectations for the Williams franchise at Laurier Brantford

meal plan, other external vendors would be as well. They're going to help us create another option, and the meal plan is not contingent on a dining facility."

Sheridan added that the process would not happen overnight, but would be phased in slowly. "There is still plans for a dining facility, but not until they build the new residence facility."

Hyde asked about the possibility of replacing the Williams with a Union Market, a WLUSU brand, so the student's union will not have to pay extra fees.

"Why can't we have both?" said director Kayla Smith, who attends Laurier Brantford.

"Brantford takes in more students every year."

Smith added that it might be difficult for directors to see the long-term picture because they only serve one term on the board.

"It's still running at a loss, but we kind of expected to run at a loss. If a board decided that the Williams wasn't for Brantford, then I fear that Brantford students would feel that we just took one step forward, two steps back."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO MEGAN CHERNIAK INCOMING PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER  
Fiona Rawle (left) and Eileen Wood (right) received the 2010 Award for Teaching Excellence.

## Profs honoured for teaching

**ANDREA MILLET**  
LEAD REPORTER

Each year, Wilfrid Laurier University distributes two awards recognizing professors for their teaching excellence.

This year's recipients of the awards are psychology professor Eileen Wood in the full-time category and biology professor Fiona Rawle as a part-time contract academic faculty member.

"I'm very excited about it," said Wood. "Even being nominated is quite an honour because there are a lot of good profs here at this university."

The award is given to professors who exhibit excellence in various fields such as teaching, research, support for students and positive faculty and student recommendations and feedback.

"A lot of it is not just how you teach but why you teach," said Rawle.

Rawle was selected to receive the Award for Teaching Excellence because of her innovative approach to teaching, her enthusiasm and the glowing recommendations made by her students and co-workers.

"I can give [students] information but it won't make a difference if they

aren't excited about it," said Rawle. "We talk about a big picture idea and then once they get excited about that big picture then we dig down deeper for the facts."

She pointed to her recent class discussion about how dolphins sleep as an example of this teaching approach.

Lucy Lee, chair of the biology department and Rawle's co-worker, explained that Rawle has an ability to interest students in the course material.

"Ever since she started in 2007 we've had students ... saying how wonderful she is."

Lee also noted that in her course evaluations Rawle has consistently scored above the department mean, and in 2007 she was selected by *MacLean's* as one of the Top 100 Canadian's to Watch.

Wood also received her nomination and award for her exceptional reception by students and co-workers, as well as her dedication to education.

Co-worker Kim Roberts explained that Wood believes in teaching people of all ages, recently hosting classes to teach seniors computer skills.

"She doesn't just see her job as turning up and leaving 50 minutes later, she clearly thinks about what

can I do to help people understand what I am talking about," said Roberts.

In the classroom, Wood uses everyday examples and stories as well as cartoons and media, such as YouTube.

Wood explained that with her degree in instructional psychology she focuses much of her research on how to teach effectively, incorporating what she learns through this research into teaching her classes.

"A lot of students who arrive at university ... haven't actually been taught the sophisticated strategies that they need to be able to do critical thinking," said Wood.

"I just blend it into my lectures." Both Rawle and Wood explain that this award means so much because it is a reflection of how their co-workers and students view them and appreciate their work.

"Laurier has a great student body and so many great teachers and so that makes the award mean so much more because it comes from them," said Rawle.

Wood echoed her feelings, saying, "It's a big thing for me ... teaching is really important and I think it's really valuable that they have an award like this because it says this university values this part of a faculty member's job."



NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO

Executives cut costs on decorations in an attempt to raise more.

## Charity Ball cuts costs; overcomes adversity

—cover

Jason Verhoeve. "They usually aim for between \$1,000 and \$3,000."

The committee raised the money despite low ticket sales, which ended up being about 150 attendees lower than the projected 500. However, a lower amount of attendees meant the committee did not have to pay as much for the rental of the Bingham's hall and food.

After the negative publicity Charity Ball received in the fall of last year, Verhoeve explained that some costs originally projected in this year's budget were phased out, like the subsidizing of volunteer wear, an expenditure highlighted during the fall controversy.

"I mean, \$678? After the article we were like, 'No let's see what we can save,'" said Verhoeve, regarding the decision to cut some spending from the Charity Ball budget.

The committee also saved money on the hall rental, cut costs in areas such as ceiling treatments, chair covers and on promotional items.

"I know they did a very good job in monitoring their expenses and trying to cut back," said current WLU-SU president Laura Sheridan. "I'm

"I mean, \$678? After the article we were like, 'No let's see what we can save.'"

—Jason Verhoeve, vice-president of clubs and activities

happy if that's reflected in their donation."

Some that viewed the Charity Ball's expenditures as lavish after the controversy in October went so far as to negatively interact with the committee's volunteers, explained Sheridan.

"I'm really proud of what [co-ordinator] Claire [Petch] and ... her team did to overcome that challenge and I think the article in the fall raised a lot of awareness for Charity Ball," said Sheridan. "To see the silver lining really has been being able to showcase all the fantastic things that they've done this year."

## Women's Centre project to compile stories of sexual assault on campus

ALANNA WALLACE  
IN DEPTH EDITOR

Sexual assault on university campuses is rarely spoken about to the extent that the Women's Centre working group is about to address through their publication *Saturday Night: Untold Stories of Sexual Assault at Laurier*.

The project, which began at Duke University, is a compilation of submitted stories regarding each individual's experience with sexual assault. It is meant as both a forum for dialogue as well as an educational work.

The idea to recreate the book at Laurier began four years ago after an outcry which followed The Cord's publishing of "The gentlemen's guide to getting laid at WLU" in September of 2005.

The article detailed the ways in which one Laurier student persuaded women to have sex with him.

Sonal Pala, a former member of the WLU Women's Centre, said the outcry occurred while she was in third year at Laurier, and prompted those involved at the Women's Centre to begin discussing the normalization of sexual assault.

"People were really upset about the way this was being portrayed and the kind of impact this might have on people's definitions of sexual assault within the Laurier campus," said Pala.

The increased incidence of sexual assault among those aged 16-24, according to Women's Centre member Kate Klein, is what makes the issue such an important one among the Laurier community.

"I don't know why people think that the school is somehow exempt from that statistic," said Klein.

Pala agreed with Klein, as she believes that on university campuses, sexual assault is "silenced and externalized."

Whether this lack of rhetoric is a

result of the university's attempt to stifle any controversy on its campus or that there is a stigma attached to speaking about sexual assault, *Saturday Night* will surely address any issue at its core.

With submissions by Laurier students, the hope is that the publication will resonate on a realistic level with students.

"The piece on page three could be the person sitting next to me in class, it could be my roommate, it could be my TA," said Klein. "These stories are very specific but they're also universal."

The Women's Centre – which holds several events throughout the year addressing issues relating to women, such as the Vagina Monologues and the March 25 feminist speaker Jessica Valenti – will be collecting anonymous submissions for the book until April 25.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to [saturdaynightwlu@gmail.com](mailto:saturdaynightwlu@gmail.com).

## Researching Canada's North

Students will be provided with funding for their field studies

TARYN ORWEN-PARRISH  
STAFF WRITER

Throughout the upcoming year, 15 Laurier students will be conducting research in Northern Canada after receiving funding from the Northern Scientific Training Program (NSTP).

The NSTP is a federal program that provides supplementary funding to senior undergraduate and graduate students to conduct research in Canada's North.

While the majority of Laurier students who apply to the program are geography and environmental studies majors, any field of scientific research is eligible for funding.

As chair of the Northern Studies committee, Laurier associate professor Brent Wolfe is responsible for compiling student applications and submitting them to the NSTP.

Laurier students have been

participating in the program for almost 20 years; however, this year students received the most funding, due in part to the large number of applicants.

"An important point for this year is that we've received the largest amount from NSTP in our history of applying and it was \$34,300 in support of 15 student applications," explained Wolfe.

"It speaks to the health and growth of our Northern Research Program here at Laurier. We're thrilled to have received these funds. They certainly are very helpful to offset the extra costs of doing Northern research, so we certainly appreciate the support."

Of the 15 students who will be conducting the research, five are doctoral students, six are graduate students and four are senior undergraduate students.

Research projects are planned for

the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, northern Alberta and northern Manitoba.

The projects will focus on the physical sciences, human sciences and life sciences; students will spend from one week up to four months at their field sites.

Graduate student Erin Dobson, who also received funding from the NSTP last year, will travel to Churchill, Manitoba to continue her research on the hydrology of tundra ponds. "[The NSTP funding] is great because it supports our fieldwork and we're able to go up [North] and complete our analyses."

"It is an important supplementary source of funding," said Wolfe. "It is very costly to do research in Northern Canada and so this is a source of funding that those of us who participate in this program have come to rely on to help get our students up to their field sites."

## News in brief

### Pre-trial appearance set for former OneCard manager

Following a court appearance last week, May 10 has been set as the pre-trial date for former university employee Nick Tomljenovic, who was committed to trial for fraud over \$5,000 in late January.

At the upcoming superior court appearance, the trial will be scheduled, which David Russell, a lawyer representing the crown attorney's office, predicts will be sometime this upcoming fall.

Tomljenovic was the former manager of the OneCard office; however, sometime during a forensic audit at the OneCard office, which lasted from November 2007 until February 2008, Tomljenovic was no longer an employee of the university.  
—Laura Carlson

### Official WLUSU election numbers still not released

Despite the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union election taking place nearly two months ago, official voter turnout numbers are still not available.

Although WLUSU has released the number of votes for each candidate and a breakdown of votes by faculty, not included in these totals are spoiled ballots and e-mail votes from co-op students.

As a result, there is no official student-voter turnout.

Totaling the votes for presidential candidates, there were 1987 votes cast – around 14 per cent of the undergraduate student population – however, this does not take into consideration people that might only vote for referendum questions or board, senate or board of governor candidates.

WLUSU board chair and chief governance officer Saad Aslam said he is still unsure of when the final numbers will be released by the union.  
—Laura Carlson

### Incoming board elects secretary

On Monday night, the 2010-11 Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union board of directors met and elected director-elect Chris Walker as secretary of the board.

Walker defeated directors Chris Oberle and Ted Brown for the position.

The first-year political science student emphasized his experience and interest in public policy and passion for student politics in both his platform and when speaking to the board after the vote.

"I just want to foster a good environment for the directors and help their ideas come forward in the coming year," he said.  
—Mike Lakusiak

## St. Mike's funding needed

—cover

In light of uncertainty with the university's current financial situation, where the capital to undertake such a project would come from is crucial.

As the projected cost of the building has been estimated at \$27.5 million, Blouw explained, "It's actually more like double that when you get everything done."

"There's certainly going to be a significant amount of provincial funding, I'm not certain we can raise that kind of money with a targeted fundraising campaign."

The project is making steps forward however, as an architectural firm has been recently selected.

The intention of the university is to present more detailed plans to potential investors and the provincial government as soon as the firm completes preliminary blueprints.

"What we'll be doing over the summer, based on what I've been hearing from the ministry of training, colleges and universities, is putting together a renewed capital request," said Blouw.

"The province needs to look at what we're proposing, what it will cost and factor that in, and come up with a multi-year capital plan."

"I'm hopeful that by the end of the summer the plans will all be in place," said Dybenko.

"Until [prospective investors] can actually see it in diagrams and

tangibly, it's a lot of money so they can't really commit."

Blouw was cautious about stating a date for completion, even though the Campus Master Plan schedules 2012-13 for that particular stage of development to be finished.

"Can I guarantee that it will go ahead in 2011? No, I can't. Can I guarantee that it will in 2012? No, I can't," he stated.

"It's very contingent – these projects are always ones where you know what you'd like to do, you make plans for what you'd like to do, and you have a master campus plan that says this is the right thing to do. But at the end of the day it all depends on cobbling the money together to do it."

## GSA elects Landry as president

The Graduate Students Association (GSA) held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) last night.

With 241 students participating in the online vote, Christinia Landry was elected president with 58.2 per cent of the vote over Adam Melnik, who refused to comment to The Cord.

Javaid Iqbal became the new board of governors representative

with 56.4 per cent of the vote over opponent Paula Bryk.

"I have worked really hard all year to gain experience as to what the president's job entails, and worked really hard to put together a platform and a plan for next year, so I'm glad that I'll get to see it to fruition," said Landry.  
—Andrea Millet



ANDREW WINDREM CORD PHOTOGRAPHY



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Jenny Kirby and Zoey Heath felt unwelcome at the Huether Hotel.

# Student upset over alleged discrimination

LAUREN MILLET  
NEWS EDITOR

On Monday night, Laurier student Jenny Kirby and her girlfriend were at Café 1842, at the Huether Hotel. After engaging in public affections, the two were asked to leave by the owner.

"She says, 'Stop that, that's enough of this. That's not the place for this,'" said Kirby.

"We were basically shamed out of the café for kissing."

Although Kirby believes that the owner of the café was discriminating against her because of her sexual orientation, owner of Huether Hotel Sonia Adly saw the situation a little differently.

"I'm walking up to the café, standing beside the dessert fridge, and I see two young girls necking. I was hoping it would stop, but it didn't," said Adly.

"We have senior people, families, we're a family restaurant. I walked up to them, yes I was maybe a little bit loud, and I said 'excuse me, can you please leave?'"

"Whether it had been two males,

a male and a female or two females, I don't want to look at that. It makes me uncomfortable," said Adly.

"I don't care who she was with, it's not appropriate in a family restaurant."

Kirby noted that she generally finds Waterloo pretty queer-friendly, but that she was shocked at how this encounter with Adly made her feel as though she was targeted because she was with another girl.

"Everywhere I go it seems like people have a generally open mind. Places like Gen X and Princess are very queer-friendly. They have queer flags in their stores."

She went on to say that her and her girlfriend would not be returning to the Huether, and have many friends who have agreed to boycott the establishment – the Facebook group, which Kirby started on Monday night, has over 650 members.

"I'm always kind of wary when we make out in public or do anything, because we do elicit stares. This kind of confirmed that," said Kirby.

Cory Sousa, marketing and communications director for the Rainbow Centre at Laurier, noted that he feels queer couples are generally

well-received both on the Laurier campus and in the Waterloo community.

"We have had a couple of incidents where people feel uncomfortable either on the bus sitting with their partner or dealing with servers in restaurants," said Sousa.

"For me it doesn't deter me. It actually encourages me. I try to make a spectacle of it. For the most part people 'tone it down' and probably not return to that establishment."

He added that this type of thing is bad publicity for the restaurant or café because word-of-mouth is a powerful product.

According to Sousa, there needs to be a give-and-take relationship between queer couples and the community; however, it is going to require baby steps.

"People in the queer community need to be comfortable going out and being themselves and not having to fake it. But also society needs to be more receptive because we are in the 21st century – the queer movement has come so far, and we are trying to make step in the right direction."

# Speaker warns about being 'happy consumers'

TARYN ORWEN-PARRISH  
STAFF WRITER

Last Saturday, Laurier's Religion and Culture Society hosted the annual Interdisciplinary Arts Conference (IAC) in the Science and Bricker Academic Buildings. The IAC is a competitive forum for faculty of arts undergraduate and graduate students across Canada to present papers and share unique ideas.

Winners of the competition were chosen not only on their thought-provoking topics, but also on the structure of their arguments and their ability to effectively convey their ideas.

Undergraduate president of the Religion and Culture Society Zabeen Khamisa explained that the goal of the conference is to encourage scholarship and academic discourse.

"The conference has grown with the intention of promoting scholarship in an academic setting outside of the classroom, allowing students to explore their ideas and speak up to their ideas in a very creative manner."

The conference is also firmly rooted in the oral tradition. "They're not conventional presentations that these students are giving," explained Khamisa. "They're not standing up there reading a paper, they're telling you ideas."

15 students presented papers, two of whom were from the University

of Waterloo and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Paper topics included Internet relationships, ethno-religious pluralism, social Darwinism and native residential schools in Canada.

Laurier religion and culture student Scott Craig won the undergraduate award for his paper, titled "The Erosion of Yoga in the West: The Problem with Cultural Appropriation". At the graduate level, Religion and culture masters student Uriah Pond won for her paper, titled "Negotiating Irreconcilable Differences: The Challenge of Developing an Ethical Code of Conduct for Religious Conversion". Each student was awarded \$100.

## Power of corporations

The conference ended with an address by keynote speaker Chris Hedges, an American Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, author and war correspondent. Hedges' speech related to his book *Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle*; he framed his address by speaking of the commercial exploitation of Michael Jackson.

"He was a reflection of us in the extreme," explained Hedges.

"The fantasy of celebrity culture is designed to drain us emotionally and confuse us about our identity."

Hedges also discussed the commodification of Americans, the ethics of Wall Street, the inverted totalitarianism of the United States

government and President Barack Obama as a brand.

"[The Obama brand] is about being happy consumers. We are entertained, we feel hopeful, but we are being duped into supporting things that are not in our best interest ... the goal, as with all brands, is to fool consumers."

Hedges further warned of the dangers of unregulated capitalism, the exploitation of human beings and the environment and ultimately, the collective cultural retreat into illusions.

"We must become as militant as those who are seeking our enslavement," urged Hedges. "If we fight back, we have a chance."

Hedges believes that Canadians are more critical of the power of corporations and possess a "mainstream discourse that doesn't exist in the United States," as evident through the popularity of author Naomi Klein, theorist Marshall McLuhan and the anti-consumerist organization Adbusters.

However, according to Hedges, Canadians are hardly immune from sophisticated forms of corporate enticement and control. "We're all hallucinating, all the time," he said.

Speaking to The Cord in an interview after his lecture, Hedges stated that following his keynote address he hoped students would become more aware of the control corporations have in our lives.

"The power of corporations are so pernicious and so pervasive that

if you don't actually thwart their attempt to expand and control it will destroy your democratic state," said Hedges.

"[Corporations are] not benign institutions. They're fiercely anti-democratic; they, because of globalization, seek to create a kind of neo-feudalism where the working class in every country are reduced to the level of serfs. And once that happens, democratic egalitarianism becomes an impossibility."

Khamisa believes that conferences such as the IAC are important, as they encourage students to engage in academic discourse and promote their ideas.

"Students don't often feel motivated to speak up to their ideas and as a result being in a classroom setting is not interesting, then they're not motivated to respond to it if they're not encouraged to respond to it."

He further explained that conferences provide a forum to continue discussion outside the classroom.

"Sometimes [students] don't feel like they have a space to say what they're thinking, or they don't feel like they have the confidence to say what they're thinking and I hope, at least the vision of the conference, is to create a space for that where students are able to take what they've learned and apply it and make it a reality, not something that's confined within four walls, so putting it out into the world and making it real."



ROSALIE EID STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

“We’re all hallucinating, all the time.”

—Chris Hedges, American Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist

# Raising environmental awareness

ANDREA MILLET  
LEAD REPORTER

This past Saturday evening marked the 4th annual Earth Hour, an international event that raises awareness for environmental problems and climate change. Laurier's EcoHawks hosted a day-long event in the quad to involve students and make them aware of the event.

"It's been really good because this whole day people have been walking by and asking us what's going on and asking us why we are here.

That's the most important thing because these people will go home and then they'll be thinking about it later," said EcoHawks co-ordinator Astri Buchanan.

The EcoHawks set up in the quad, offering live musical performances every hour and a free barbeque in the evening. At 8:30 p.m. they arranged to have many of the lights around campus dimmed or turned off and lit a collection of candles that students could then take home as a thanks.

"We worked out with PP&P to turn off not all of the lights, because

that's a lot of work for them, but they're turning off some of the lights in Mac House, the lights in the dining hall."

Buchman also noted that lights in the food court, the FNCC and Alumni Field were being turned off.

The event was successful, with a good turnout of students who stayed for the duration of the hour, playing games and enjoying the dark.

Waterloo Hydro North reported that during the hour long event, the percentage of power used in the city of Waterloo dropped by approximately 3.5 per cent.



ELLI GARLIN INCOMING PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

EcoHawks lit candles in the quad during Earth Hour event.

# Budget cuts highlight 2009-10 news

## 1. Office of VP: Academic copes with reduced budget

Class sizes increase, fewer courses are offered and an honours BA Arts degree is proposed

The effects of the university's \$8.9 million budget cuts became apparent to students and professors as class sizes at Laurier have increased noticeably this past year.

Although the faculty-to-student ratio has not noticeably increased (it is currently 21.8:1) overall classes have increased by 13.5 per cent.

The university's reputation came into question as students, many of whom may have chosen Laurier based on the promise of small classes and individual attention – found themselves elbow-to-elbow

in lecture halls and dealing with a more impersonal classroom environment. Faculty complained of student experience suffering as teaching and evaluation techniques changed as a result of more students.

Increased enrolment was more apparent in first and second-year classes, especially in the faculty of arts.

Throughout the year, faculty and students remained unaware of what specific steps were being taken to remedy the impact this was having on the classroom experience.

Questions have been raised as to what class sizes will be like beyond this year as more drastic cuts to the budget are forecasted.

Students were also confronted with less choices in the courses available as departments were forced to offer fewer sections and the number of contract academic staff decreased.

Less variety meant that registration became frustrating as students struggled to sign up for required courses and find electives.

In second semester, talk of offering an honours BA Arts degree emerged as a means of rearranging the way smaller arts programs were administered. This would allow Laurier to receive more provincial funding for students that would not otherwise have been classified as "honours" students.

As other strategies emerge for dealing with an increasingly difficult financial situation, the student experience may see more profound changes in years to come.

–Mike Lakusiak

## 2. Student dies in residence fire



YUSUF KIDWAI FILE PHOTO

First-year student David LaForest died as a result of burn injuries he received in a fire that broke out in his residence room on April 14, 2009.

The following September, police confirmed that the student likely started the fire. The total damages to the residence – which evacuated 320 students living in Waterloo College Hall in the midst of exams – cost \$1.3 million. Repairs took place over the summer and were completed just in time for students to move back into the building in September.

Waterloo Regional Police Services stated that some type of accelerant

was used to start the fire, and in January 2010 WRSP confirmed that it was no longer an investigation, as there were no outside suspects. The cause of the fire was reported to be "incidental to the actions of the victim."

At a city council meeting in early January two Laurier students and two dons were recognized for their brave efforts during the fire.

Waterloo Fire Rescue determined that by activating the fire alarms and closing the door to the apartment, the fire was contained, which saved many lives.

–Laura Carlson

## 3. Charity ball donates a mere \$159

Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union activity committee Charity Ball came under fire this past year when its 2009-10 donation to charity KidsAbility came to a measly \$159, despite revenue of \$27,355.

A former Charity Ball executive came forward stating the committee had become too focused on the extravagance of the event and were less concerned with the charitable donation.

She accused the committee of ignoring the final donation to charity in favour of a lavish party.

Concerns were raised in October over why the budget for the event, which occurred in March of 2009, had not yet been released.

A mistake with the budget and a misallocation of funds meant a discrepancy in the donation and the full amount was not given to KidsAbility until mid-October.

The lack of a substantial

charitable donation left many questioning whether Charity Ball was misleading the student population.

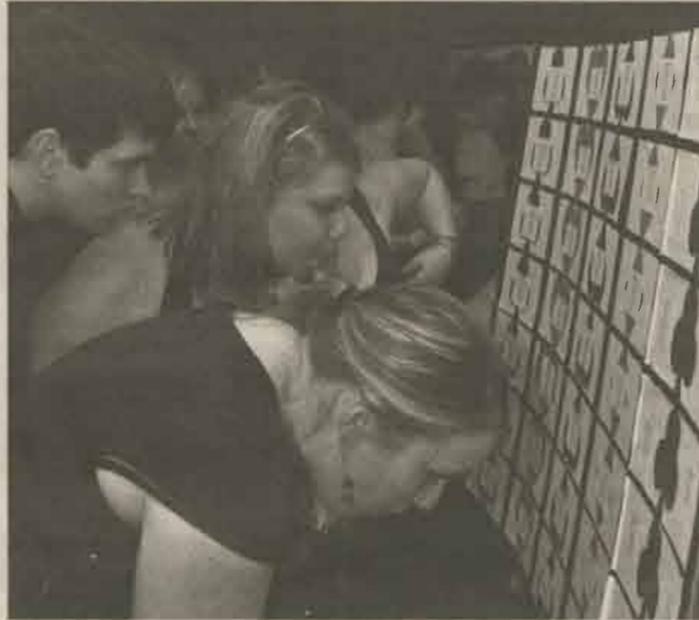
According to co-ordinator Claire Petch, this year's committee members were met with "negative feedback" on the part of the Laurier community.

The issue even prompted some WLUSU board members to discuss whether the committee's name was misleading to students if there was no sizeable donation being made.

The 2010-11 committee held events such as Hair for Hope and Luminera throughout the year, which were widely deemed successful, though attendance at the year's final ball was approximately 350 guests lower than expected.

This year's donation to Epilepsy of Waterloo Wellington is projected to be approximately \$1500 to \$3000.

–Alanna Wallace



NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO

“It just looks really sketchy when it's a \$30,000 [budget] and you're giving \$150 and change ... it is misleading I think being called Charity Ball.”

–Greg Evans, WLUSU board of directors

## 4. Three directors resign from board



NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTOS

From left: Directors Justin Glover, Peter Hanna and Sunny Chan all resigned from the board this year.

This year saw three of 15 WLUSU directors resign over the course of the term.

The first, Justin Glover, resigned on January 5, saying that it was simply too much of a time commitment along with school and work.

The second director, Peter Hanna, resigned just prior to reading week, following an emergency board meeting where board chair Saad Aslam did not step down from chair after being hired as vice-president of university affairs.

Hanna also noted that due to his co-op commitments, he was unable to attend many of the board

meetings.

The final resignation was Sunny Chan, who left following the results of the elections where he received only 7.5 per cent of the votes, saying he felt he no longer had enough student support to remain on the board.

He also noted that the results of the elections left him questioning the values of WLUSU; and therefore, he did not want to be a part of it any longer.

–Lauren Millet

## 5. WLUSU embarks on market research project

The Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union market research project was already off to a rocky start when it was passed at the operating budget meeting in June.

Director Andrew Fryer caught the board by surprise when he motioned to add a \$25,000 amendment to the budget, which caused a \$25,000 deficit in the WLUSU operating budget.

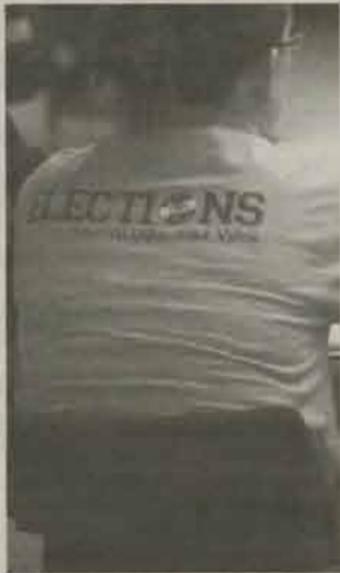
After the budget meeting, WLUSU began the three-step process, first hiring an external firm to combine and organize the results.

In September, select students were invited to attend focus groups to talk about what they wanted from the students' union, and these results were used to create the first mass survey for students.

Results of this survey offered insights into what students feel WLUSU needs to improve on, such as advocacy.

The third phase of the project, which involves another survey, has been pushed to next year, as WLUSU hopes to gauge student response on some of the changes they are making based on the results they have received thus far.

—Lauren Millet



YUSUF KIDWAI FILE PHOTO

## 6. Elections committee causes appeals controversy

The Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union elections committee's saw controversy early in their term, shortly after they made their first set of recommendations to the board.

After heated debate and frustrations from many directors, the board rejected most of the committee's proposed recommendations at the Nov. 20 board meeting.

These included no campaigning on elections day; reducing the number of candidate signatures to two; acclaiming people to positions if there were not enough candidates (instead of re-opening nominations) and removing the policy that

states that WLUSU is not allowed to voice opinions about referendum questions.

Controversy continued in January when many candidate packages were rejected by the elections committee for "not having enough valid signatures"; candidates also raised concern about what they were receiving fines for and the appeals process.

Early in the election, presidential candidate Reed Collis was disqualified for unclear reasons, as both he and members of his campaign team did not feel they broke as many rules as the elections committee stated

they had. The final contention arose when an anonymous source told The Cord about board chair Saad Aslam's questionable voting tactics during election appeals committee meetings.

It was confirmed that Aslam voted to disqualify Collis when traditionally the chair declines to vote on issues such as this.

And although the WLUSU election took place in early February, nearly two months later final voter numbers have not yet been released.

—Lauren Millet

## 7. Former OneCard manager committed to trial for fraud

In late January, former manager of Laurier's OneCard office, Nick Tomljenovic, was committed to trial for fraud over \$5,000. The preliminary inquiry that saw nine witnesses testify, four of which were from Wilfrid Laurier University administration.

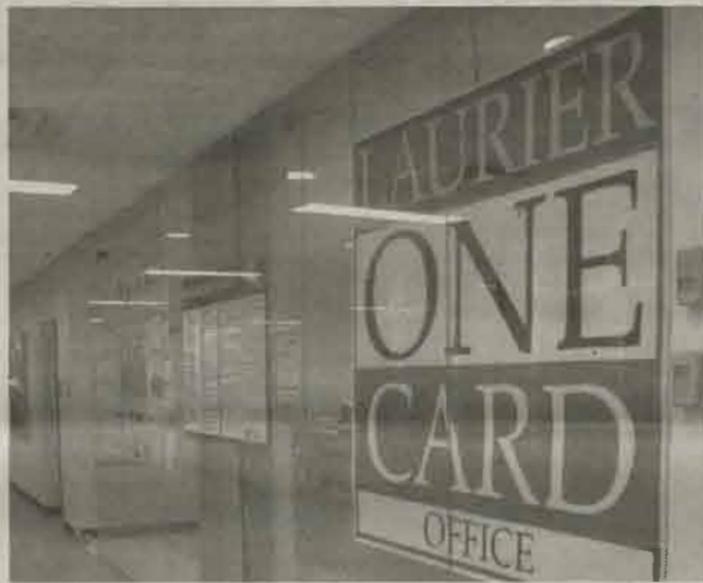
Tomljenovic is being tried by the crown attorney's office as the university has not pressed any charges.

This court date comes two years after a lengthy forensic audit that took place at the OneCard office between November 2007 and February

2008. This audit raised much suspicion around the financial activities of the OneCard office, though results were never released. Sometime during the time of the audit, Tomljenovic was no longer employed by the university, but there was no explanation as to why.

Tomljenovic will next appear in court on May 10; it is expected that his trial date will be assigned at this time.

—Laura Carlson



FILE PHOTO

## 8. Problems with Campus Clubs

In an effort to make the process more efficient and timely, this year the students' union created a new system through which Campus Clubs could apply for status as a club and obtain a budget.

Unfortunately, the new process took a while to get underway, and clubs were left without money well into October.

In a board meeting at the end of January, directors motioned for a board-direct inspection, requesting documents covering the policies campus clubs management was developing as well as their budgeting

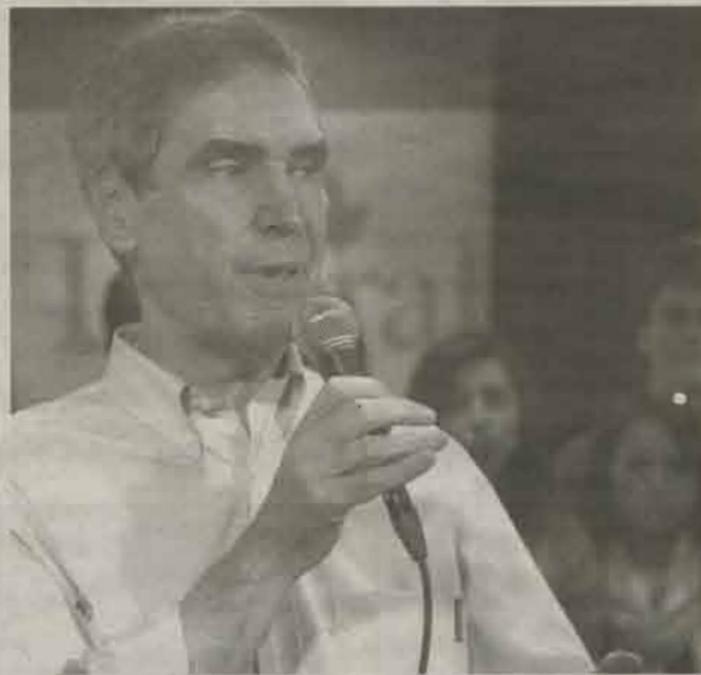
outline.

The board was interested in looking at how the amount of funding given to each club was determined; what outlines were in place to determine what clubs could do and how to attain status as a club.

It was reported on Feb. 24 that the new policies were available on the WLUSU website.

At a previous meeting, the board voiced interest in examining clubs' finances, as students still had many unanswered concerns.

—Andrea Millet



YUSUF KIDWAI FILE PHOTO

## 10. Michael Ignatieff visits Wilfrid Laurier

Following a vote of confidence in the House of Commons on Sept. 18 that nearly brought down the Conservative government, Michael Ignatieff, leader of the official opposition, visited Laurier for the Young Liberals' rally.

Students from across southern Ontario flooded Wilf's to hear the leader of the Liberal Party of Canada address youth engagement and the current state of politics.

Ignatieff pinpointed failures in the Conservative government,

including the federal deficit that has since remained a top concern in Ottawa.

While Ignatieff spoke to the cheering crowd, a group of approximately 15 students protested the rally amidst the sea of red signs outside of Wilf's.

The protesters consisted of members of the Laurier Campus Conservatives and affiliate parties at the University of Waterloo and Conestoga College.

—Linda Givetash

“I am in it for the same reason you're in it. I'm in it for Canada.”

—Michael Ignatieff

## 9. WLU conducts ICT investigation

After continued frustration, a review was conducted this year regarding Information Communication Technology (ICT) at Laurier.

The first staged proceeded through September, where an external group was hired to examine the current systems in place, advise on what areas required improvements and how to go about making those changes.

The need for ICT improvements became increasingly evident when WebCT failed to be functional during the first few days of classes in September.

In March, students' union president Laura Sheridan and assistant

vice-president of academics Tom Buckley announced that as a result of the review changes are now in progress to improve and update systems at Laurier.

WebCT will be replaced by a new system called Desire to Learn, a new wireless server (Laurier Wi-Fi) has been added on campus, ResNet service has been amalgamated with central IT, a new external e-mail provider is being investigated to offer more storage and stability and the MyLaurier web site is being re-configured to serve as a central database for all student accounts.

—Andrea Millet

The newsmakers were decided upon by News Editor Lauren Millet, Editor-in-Chief Laura Carlson, Lead Reporter Andrea Millet, Local and National Editor Linda Givetash and Incoming Campus News Editor Mike Lakusiak.

"Does anyone else want to jump in?" -Director Jordan Hyde, asking the board if they would like to join the discussion about Wilf's finances during the last board meeting of the year.



NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO

Overall the 2009-10 board of directors was disappointing as they accomplished little over the term.

## WLUSU board year-end review

The Cord critiques the board's performance this term

### Board review

The 2009-10 year for the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union board of directors has seen little accomplished, especially in the second semester.

Although they passed a market research project at the June budget meeting, they have not done much since then.

Debate over issues has been minimal during the past few meetings, and although new ends have been passed, great changes to improve the union have not been made.

Under the guidance of chair Saad Aslam, the board seems to have given up and is trying to rush through the second semester of their term, which is disappointing as directors generally take months to actually learn their roles and how to operate effectively as a board.

Even directors such as Andrew Fryer, who was once very outspoken, has contributed little recently, and incoming chair Kyle Hocking has done little to demonstrate his leadership abilities this term.

With little passion and not much to show for the year, the board has failed to represent the student body

with the confidence in which they were elected.

### Best director: Jordan Hyde

Hyde has performed consistently well throughout the course of his term, right through the last meeting.

He displays a genuine passion for student politics and is always willing to question management, the chair and the board, while remaining respectful.

Hyde is well-prepared for meetings, having read the documents ahead of time, which gives him the proper knowledge needed to engage in discussion. His inquisitive nature and interest in finances has made him a valuable director; he often brings up issues that other directors are not willing to discuss.

*Disclosure: Hyde is chair of the Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications' board of directors.*

### Most improved director: Laura Allen

During second semester it seems that Allen has found her voice in the boardroom, which was her biggest weakness in first semester. She asks important and logical questions and

brings up valid discussion points.

Allen also does not seem afraid to ask questions regarding issues that are confusing, concerns that other directors often share but do not voice. She appears to be prepared for meetings, following agenda items closely and displaying an overall engagement in the issues being discussed.

### Most disappointing director: Jackie Dobson

As one of the few returning directors, Jackie Dobson had great potential to be a resource for other board members; unfortunately, Dobson did little in her term. She was rarely vocal in the boardroom - something that was her strength in the past - and appeared to lose interest in issues as the term progressed.

As a senior director she should have not only been engaged, but also encouraged her peers to do the same. Although she sat on the ends committee, which did not meet until well into the second semester, the degree of her participation has been unclear.

*-Laura Carlson, Lauren Millet and Linda Givetash*

## Oddball newsmakers of 2009-10

### 1) Laurier takes extreme measures in dealing with H1N1

Laurier implemented an online flu declaration system in the fall, intended to combat the threat of a H1N1 flu outbreak. The system was revised in second semester when over 2,200 students opted out of assignments or exams based on claims of flu-like symptoms and medical notes were once again required to excuse absences.

Fall convocation was also modified because of the H1N1 threat; graduates were asked to refrain from shaking hands and were instead asked to "bump elbows" with officials.

*-Mike Lakusiak*

### 2) Wilf's fails to charge students' OneCards

Early in the year Wilf's restaurant encountered problems with its charging system, meaning that many students who paid for meals on their OneCards were never charged.

The problem was discovered in December - as a number of transactions had failed to properly process. As a result, the money owed was never withdrawn from students' accounts.

After discovering the problem, the money that could be recovered was, although many students did not realize that they had never been charged in the first place. Therefore students continued to use their OneCard accounts and some had insufficient funds by the time the problem was noticed, meaning Wilf's was not able to recover this money.

The system error was corrected and no further problems have been reported.

*-Andrea Millet*

### 3) Sunny Chan absent for election results

Presidential candidate Sunny Chan, who sat on the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union board of directors for two terms, failed to show up for the announcement of election results and was not seen around campus for several weeks following this.

Garnering only 7.5 per cent of the student vote with 149 votes, Chan came in a distant fourth place and when contacted by The Cord for an interview he stated he "had nothing

more to say to The Cord."

At the Feb. 26 meeting, the board accepted Chan's director resignation, which he sent at 5 a.m. on the morning after the election.

*-Laura Carlson*

### 4) 88-year-old graduates with a PhD

This past fall, at the age of 88, Wilf Tschirart completed a journey 23 years in the making when he graduated with a PhD in geography and environmental studies.

Tschirart was enrolled in a program that offered free tuition to seniors interested in continuing their learning post-retirement at Laurier.

Tschirart set an example for all students about the value of ones education, stating "you should learn all your life."

*-Shannon Busta*

### 5) Student asked not to stilt' on campus

Laurier student Evan Sharpe had a run in with campus security in September, when he was asked to stop powerbocking on campus - powerbocking is the use of spring-loaded stilts, which enhance a person's ability to run fast and jump.

Sharpe stated that the special constable was especially rude to him and that her reasons for asking him to leave the campus were unfounded as he was wearing a helmet and not disturbing campus property.

*-Lauren Millet*



NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO

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# LOCAL

Local Editor Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca



KATIE FLOOD STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Redefining beauty

The Eating Disorders Awareness Coalition of Waterloo Region hosts a fashion show to promote confidence in all body types

KRISTEN DUVAL  
STAFF WRITER

Self-confidence and embracing every body image were the main themes of the 5th annual Charity Spring Fashion Show, held on March 28 at the Kitchener City Hall Rotunda.

The "Reshaping Fashion" fashion show was co-ordinated by University of Waterloo accounting students Pelagia Cao and Maple Tay on behalf of the Eating Disorders Awareness Coalition (EDAC) of the Waterloo Region.

The fashion show – which featured clothing donated by Laura,

Costa Blanca, Moores, Zacks and Addition Elle, among other stores – embraced that concept that everyone is beautiful, no matter what his or her body shape, size or type is.

"[We had] volunteers of all walks of life, all ages, all sizes," said Cao. "Every body shape is beautiful and part of it is confidence."

There were 16 women participating in the event ranging in sizes from two to 15, and seven men ranging from sizes 30 to 38. All the models were volunteers and residents of Kitchener-Waterloo between the ages of 15 and 46.

"They were all really positive, all wonderful people," said Cao. Roughly over \$3,000 was raised

from the event, which was attended by about 200 spectators, but as Pelagia stressed, the focus was more about raising awareness than making money.

"This was not a profit, just [enough] to balance the book. The organization is not doing as well as we hope it could be doing [financially]."

EDAC is a volunteer-driven charity that is committed to improving the lives of people affected by eating disorders, weight preoccupation and size prejudice through delivering education and prevention programs, building a supportive community and providing referrals to treatment and resources.

## Coming together for a night of hope

The Mayor's Student Advisory Council hosted a fundraising event on March 25 to combat HIV and AIDS while supporting women in Lesotho by selling bracelets produced by an African craft company



MEGAN CHERNIAK STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Jackie Dobson, chair of MSAC.

MEGAN RAFTIS  
CORD LOCAL

On March 25, community members from Waterloo gathered at Waterloo Collegiate Institute (WCI) for the first annual Night of Hope. The event, in support of the Bracelet of Hope campaign, raised funds and awareness to combat HIV and AIDS in the African nation of Lesotho.

"This cause is so important because while North Americans live comfortably, 15 million children face the world each day with no parents, no future and no hope, while an entire young generation of men, women and children die of AIDS," said Jackie Dobson, Wilfrid Laurier University student and chair of the Mayor's Student Advisory Council (MSAC), which consists of students from Laurier, Conestoga College and the University of Waterloo.

Mayor Brenda Halloran and

founder of the campaign Anne-Marie Zajdlik – who directs the Masai Centre for Local, Regional and Global Health, which cares for HIV/AIDS suffers in the Guelph area – were the featured guest speakers at the event.

Proceeds, raised through a raffle for items donated by local businesses as well as a concession booth and the price of admission, amounted to more than \$600, which will go towards funding the Tsepong clinic in Lesotho.

Both Halloran and Zajdlik travelled to the impoverished African nation last summer, and shared stories of their experiences there.

"All we know in Canada is the letters [HIV and AIDS], but I was able to see people ill because of them," said Halloran, explaining the profound effect the trip had on her.

"I got this feeling: I've got to do something and I can and I will," she said about what inspired her to

bring the Guelph-based fundraising campaign to Waterloo through MSAC.

"Eight [African countries] are on the brink of human extinction because of AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis," added Zajdlik, who highlighted how outrageous this is when the Western world has the medicines that could end the African crisis.

"Africa does not need aid. Africa does not need charity. Africa needs us to grab their hands."

The Bracelet of Hope's main fundraising initiative is the sale of bracelets, which were commissioned from a craft company in Africa.

Not only do the funds made by selling the bracelets go towards medical facilities in Lesotho, but African women are employed in the production of the bracelets and other crafts themselves, contributing positively to the African nation on all levels.

"I wear my bracelet every day because I think of the women whose lives are so different from mine, and who made it for me."

—Brenda Halloran, mayor of Waterloo

"I wear my bracelet every day because I think of the women whose lives are so different from mine, and who made it for me," said Halloran in the conclusion of her speech.

## Working for a better community

—from cover

events occur ... on the streets because there's no common area for people to gather," said Preston, pointing out that the small homes students live in have minimal amenity space.

Anne Crowe, candidate for Ward 6 in the upcoming municipal election, active landlord and 30-year resident, echoed this view.

"We find with these enormous student residences – you know, with students packed in with very little space for recreation – it's no wonder they spill out onto the sidewalks," she said.

### A year in review

The town hall meeting in April 2009 identified many of these key issues and allowed students and permanent residents to find a common ground.

"We have certainly highlighted some of the issues and I think that we've also developed some respect

between the students and some of the permanent residents in terms of this being a situation we all have to deal with," said Jan d'Ailly, councillor for Ward 6.

While the results of this initial town hall were compiled to create a cohesive vision that was brought back to residents in the fall, the permanent resident group Help Urbanize the Ghetto (HUG) developed their own vision.

HUG's vision, entitled The Green Solution, was presented following the city's compilations at the town hall meeting in November. This vision has gained a lot of support among homeowners in the community who are anxious to reach a solution.

"That's what I'd like to see, a more urban vision, a more green vision," said Crowe in support of HUG's overall vision.

"We're moving towards a more urban type of environment and ... [implementing] some of the new urban planning principles creates

a more ecologically-sound urban environment."

### Looking ahead

At a council meeting in January, both visions were presented and it was determined that before choosing which route to take, an outline of the tools and resources necessary in following either vision was needed.

"City staff [have been asked] to provide a greater clarification to council on the vision for the area," said Tanja Curic, policy planner for the city of Waterloo. "They have also asked us to identify the various tools ... available to council to implement these two visions, including such things as costs."

It remains unclear as to which way council will lean once the costs, resources and time frames are presented for each vision, or even if another alternate solution is found.

Regardless of the vision that is adopted for Northdale, the actions required to reach it will take a great deal of time and resources to



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

War-time houses and crammed apartments provide student housing.

redevelop the area.

"It took 25 years to get where we are now, so it's not going to take one year to fix it. I think we're going to see a gradual and continued improvement in the area," said d'Ailly.

Speculation also remains as to whether any decision will result in

feasible changes, given the little improvement that has been seen thus far.

"We'll truly have to see if this city council has the guts to take a stand on the Northdale area or if they will leave it on the docket for the people who take over," said Preston.

# News of the year

## In Waterloo

### 1. The Public Square



NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO

From its opening on May 20, Waterloo's public square has been both a source of community-building and controversy.

Although the square's opening day was filled with celebration, it was preceded by a year of debate regarding its purpose, design and cost.

Immediately following its opening, it was criticized for its lack of green space.

The concrete ramps and steps did however become an attractive spot for local skateboarders to spend their afternoons; only causing further concern that this would both damage the square and become hazardous for those walking through.

The issue was quieted after rails were installed on July 1 and skateboarding hours were delegated. However, the need for a proper skateboarding facility in the area continued to plague city politics for months to come.

The artwork in the square, the rust-coloured Bell For Kepler, was vandalized in August when Laurier alumnus Marcus Green covered it in chalk drawings conveying messages of peace.

Although done with good intention, the chalk addition to the bell received mixed reviews from outraged city officials to amused local residents.

### 2. Northdale

After a heated town hall discussion in April 2009, it was clear that the student-concentrated area north of Laurier was in desperate need of a concrete, attainable vision.

City officials made a list of concerns and took suggestions from permanent residents and students to compile a community vision.

A town hall meeting in November revealed not only the city's compiled vision but also the "Green Solution" developed by the community group Help Urbanize the Ghetto (HUG) in Waterloo.

After debating about the appropriate next steps, a later council meeting in January determined that both visions needed to be given to city staff to outline the tools and costs associated with them.

Staff results will be brought to council this April and a vision to move forward with should be decided on at this time.

### 3. Amalgamation

With the upcoming municipal election, a group of local residents and business owners brought forward to council on Jan. 25 the question of amalgamating the cities of Waterloo and Kitchener.

The phrasing of the questions to be posted on the ballot, "Would you support members of Council engaging in a dialogue about the merits of merging the Cities of Kitchener and Waterloo? Yes or No," was not passed by council with a vote of only 3-5 in support.

The question was raised yet again at the Feb. 22 council meeting by mayor Brenda Halloran to let Waterloo residents share feedback.

The new question asked permission for city council to engage in dialogue on the issue of merging the two cities.

It passed 6-2 and will appear on the region's election ballot this October.

### 4. It's Your Waterloo

Launched in September, the "It's Your Waterloo" campaign was designed to educate students on the city's by-laws and promote good citizenship.

Posters around both university campuses, the main Conestoga campus as well as coasters in bars were used to market the most commonly issued by-law violations to the specific demographic, such as public urination.

The project worked in unison with the door-to-door welcoming initiative involving members of the Waterloo Regional Police Service, the city and both universities talking to students just after moving into their homes for the term.

By-law infringements were reportedly down this St. Patrick's Day from previous years.

Thus, it appears the initiative has taken some effect on the actions of community members.

### 5. Prorogation rally

Following Prime Minister Stephen Harper's move to prorogue parliament, Waterloo was one of many cities to host a protest on Jan. 23.

The rally, organized by the group Canadians Against Proroguing Parliament (CAPP), brought over 500 protesters and MP candidates to Waterloo's public square.

Despite the great numbers of support, only 30 students were present. As well, the event was a disappointment for the community as local MPs and elected officials were noticeably absent.

- Linda Givetash



YUSUF KIDWAI FILE PHOTO

## In Ontario

### 1. The recession

It defined 2008 and 2009, driving more students into post-secondary institutions as thousands of people sought to upgrade their qualifications due to the little work available.

University endowment funds tanked, student numbers soared and even high school students looking to attend university were guaranteed nothing in the face of an ageing laid-off workforce.

Many universities, including the University of Toronto, sought help from a struggling hospitality industry and bought hotels by the floor or the entire building to house new students.

The recession brought lessons and hard times, and Ontario's post-secondary institutions gained and lost in equal amounts.

### 2. CFS exodus

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), Canada's largest national student lobby group, saw the departure of many members.

Petitions to hold a referendum on membership in the powerful organization were circulated on 12 campuses across Canada and votes were held on at least three.

The University of Calgary Graduate Students' Association and the Concordia Students' Unions both voted to leave the organization by the end of 2010, and as many as nine other referenda could go forward before 2010 is over.

Due to the demanding by-laws that govern defederating from the CFS and its provincial counterparts, many of the results are expected to be contested, and several students' unions are expected to spend some time in court before the whole affair is settled.

### 3. Faculty strike vote

For two months, college students were kept on edge, wondering if they would have class or even be able to finish their semester.

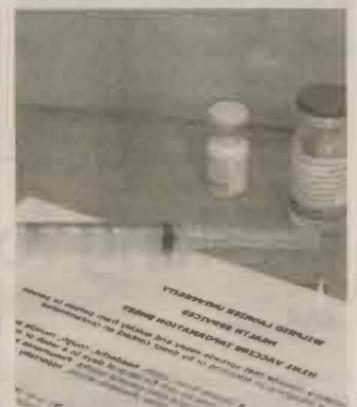
From the initial strike vote, the grandstanding strike deadlines and last-minute negotiations, Ontario college students had plenty of reasons to be nervous outside of their academic lives this year.

By the time the final Feb. 11 deadline approached, some students were praying for a strike, if only so they could start planning their lives around something firm.

### 4. Anne Coulter

If you didn't know who she was before her scheduled March 23 speech, you knew who she was afterward.

Whether she cancelled the speech herself as a publicity stunt, whether she was actually intimidated by the protestors who greeted her, or if the University of Ottawa chickened out at the last minute is now the subject of a human rights complaint that Coulter is filing with the help of none other than Ezra Levant, the Alberta-born right-wing pundit made famous for being the editor of one of the only media outlets in Canada that published the controversial cartoons of the prophet Mohammed in 2005.



NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO

### 5. H1N1

While the pandemic raged across most of the world and long line-ups formed outside make-shift vaccination clinics in many parts of the province, schools explored innovative alternatives.

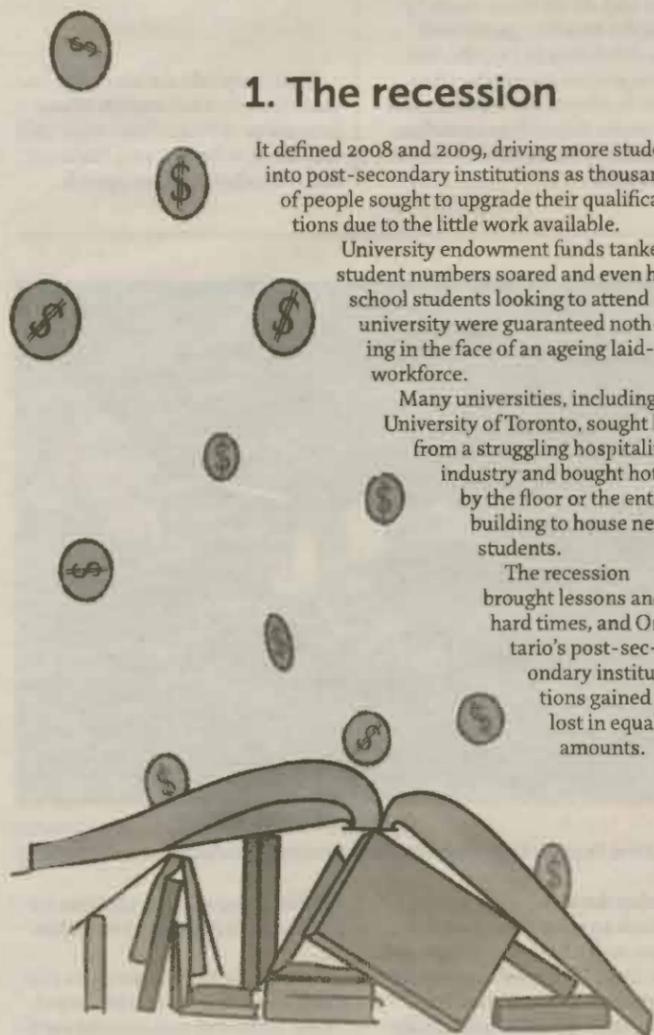
Determined to ensure the health of students and staff, initiatives such as online learning, web-chat office hours and a largely honour-driven sick policy that didn't even require students to present a doctor's note for missed exams were pursued.

Whether it was a dry-run for Ontario's newly-pronounced online university or just desperate times, post-secondary institutions rose to the challenges of H1N1.

- Danielle Webb, Ontario bureau chief, Canadian University Press



COURTESY OF THE FACULTY



KELLY CHAU FILE GRAPHIC

# NATIONAL

National Editor Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca

## Speaker causes protest at U of O

**ERIC MERKLEY**  
INCOMING OPINION EDITOR

On Monday, March 22, a planned speech at the University of Ottawa (U of O) by the controversial right-wing commentator Ann Coulter was cancelled due to security concerns. The decision came after demonstrations by hundreds of students from the University of Ottawa and Carleton led to fears of violence.

"The protesters were banging on windows, pulling fire alarms, creating a heightened sense of worry. If Ann Coulter showed up amidst the protesters it could have been a very unsafe situation," said Nicholas Fleet, a U of O economics student and volunteer for the event.

Coulter was in the middle of a tour of three Canadian universities, including the University of Western Ontario and the University of Calgary that was sponsored by the International Free Press Society and Clare Booth Luce Policy Institute, which encourages conservatism among women. She is best known for her controversial comments regarding women, homosexuals and Muslims.

Some students feel that Coulter's views constitute hate speech and are unacceptable in Canada.

"It is very disgraceful that there are so many people here that support a woman who has made very homophobic, racist [and] sexist comments," said graduate student Samantha Ponting, one of the protesters. "By allowing her here on campus it has created an unsafe space. That's why we closed the event."

Coulter previously created controversy at the University of Western Ontario where she suggested a Muslim student "take a camel" as an alternative to air transportation.

Supporters of the event, although in disagreement with most of her controversial comments, feel she has the protected right of freedom of speech.

"I didn't know a whole lot about Ann Coulter before I got into this event. I don't agree with a lot of what she says, but she gets people talking about issues that are important in politics, such as free speech," said Fleet.

In an unprecedented move, prior to the scheduled speech, U of O's academic vice-president Francois



People gather outside of Marion Hall at U of O, where Ann Coulter was scheduled to speak.

MATT STAROSTE THE FULCRUM

Houle warned Coulter in a letter copied to other university officials that, "Promoting hatred against any identifiable group would not only be considered inappropriate, but could in fact lead to criminal charges."

Critics see this as a deliberate move to limit free speech on campus, which only inflamed the situation.

"I'm deeply concerned by the assertion that views that disagree with the majority on campus are not welcome. People should not think alike. We should be welcoming a diversity of opinion on campus," said Fleet. "The [Student Federation of the

University of Ottawa] SFUO and Francois Houle appointed themselves as referees to what ideas are allowed on campus and what are not. This makes a lot of students concerned," he added.

The SFUO had called upon the university president Alan Rock to cancel the event, and refused to allow posters advertising the event in the student centre.

Its president, Seamus Wolfe, was seen as a key organizer in the protest.

"Students from across this campus got together to express their outrage that such hate would have

been allowed on campus," said Wolfe.

"I am very proud that students didn't allow somebody who consistently spreads hate and promotes violence to come and do that on our campus."

Coulter is a columnist for the Universal Press Syndicate, writes a legal affairs column for the conservative publication Human Events and frequents talk shows across the United States. Coulter gave a speech the next day at the University of Calgary without incident.

—With files from Len Smirnov, The Fulcrum

## Investments in OSAP

**\$12,240**

loan maximum for a two-term study period

**\$103**

maximum income per week during the study period

**6**

months of interest-free loans after graduating

**20%**

the maximum amount of income required to repay loans

## Provincial budget supports education

**LINDA GIVETASH**  
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

Students in the post-secondary education system were deemed a priority among the issues focused on by the Ontario government in preparing their budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

"In a year that a lot of budgets were being cut ... we do recognize and we are really appreciative that the Ontario government didn't cut into post-secondary education," said Kory Preston, Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union vice-president of university affairs.

Under the five-year plan called Open Ontario that was revealed during the speech from the throne on March 8, the province's goal is to pull the economy out of the recession by focusing on job creation.

### Focus on education

With plans to improve the economy, the budget released on March 25 included investments in health care, green energy and post-secondary education.

"One of the common themes has been that we would like to increase the number of Ontarians that have a post-secondary credential to 70 per cent," explain John Milloy, minister of training, colleges and universities, during a media teleconference.

As the province moves towards a knowledge-based economy, 70 per cent of new jobs are projected to require post-secondary credentials.

In the budget, the government announced they would invest \$310 million to support the projected 20,000 new students entering the system this fall.

"This funding is really going to the operating budgets of the universities to cover the increased enrolment that's coming in," said Preston.

Although these investments announced at the budget presentation exhibit mainly short-term aid, more long-term solutions for the post-secondary sector were announced on March 28.

### OSAP reform

The provincial government also brought forward reforms to the

Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) to increase funds available.

"The announcement we made today is very much based on the discussion that we've had with student organizations and student representatives over the past year," said Milloy, clarifying the reason the particular changes were made.

The changes will double the income a student can earn during the school year, raise the maximum loan to \$12,240 for a two-term academic year and implement a six-month interest-free grace period after graduation on the loan.

"These changes are going to mean a lot to students in terms of borrowing more from the government and ... also being supported in repaying their loans," said Dan Moulton, president of the Ontario Undergraduate Students Alliance (OUSA).

In addition to the reforms, the government extended the cap on tuition fees initially implemented three years ago for another two years.

"What's important to recognize here is that the government has frozen the tuition framework

for another two years going to give them a chance to reflect on the current state of affairs and some of the areas that may need to head in to in the next [five] years," said Moulton.

The cap is set at a maximum of five per cent per year that any post-secondary institution can raise their tuition.

The effect of this cap is apparent in the fact that Wilfrid Laurier University is only raising tuition 4.4 per cent this fall.

"We're also going to be working with the institutions themselves and ask that they will be required to contribute to a portion of additional tuition revenue of 10 per cent for on-campus bursaries and student assistance programs for strengthening the student access guarantee program," added Milloy.

While the investment represents improvements made to the accessibility of education, there are still other areas that need to be assessed for the sector in the long-term.

"The government needs to think through what quality means ... and what are the next steps to take in the coming years," said Moulton.

## Student diets reflect flaws in Ontario loan program

**LINDA GIVETASH**  
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

To shed light on the funding gaps in the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), seven students across the province participated in the recent Food For Thought Campaign. The campaign, run by the Ontario Undergraduate Students Alliance (OUSA), required participants to live on OSAP's food allocation of \$7.50 per day from March 8 to 26.

Nick Gibson, a participant from Wilfrid Laurier University, reflected on the difficulties of maintaining a nutritious diet while on the restrictive budget.

"When I really crunched the numbers and the servings according to the Canadian Food Guide, I was not even close [to meeting the requirements], and those were days that I thought I was doing pretty well," said Gibson.

While he managed to meet some of his daily requirements, Gibson noted that there was definitely a lack

in important food groups.

"My biggest problem by far was fruits and vegetables. For someone my age I need to get about eight servings per day and oftentimes I was getting in around four or less," explained Gibson.

Although the difficulties of the diet were apparent, it is a reality that Gibson has become accustomed to, as he is already reliant on OSAP to pay for his schooling.

"I've been living like this for a while, so it's sort of ingrained into my soul," said Gibson.

Making people aware of what a student goes through when living on OSAP is exactly what OUSA had in mind with the campaign.

"Our goal ultimately was to draw attention to a lot of the problems of the OSAP program and some of the challenges that we as students face," said Dan Moulton, president of OUSA.

According to Moulton, Gibson's experience was quite similar to the other students participating in the campaign.

"It wasn't an easy experience to

live a healthy and balanced lifestyle on so little food and nutrition per day," he said.

Both Moulton and Gibson believe that the campaign was an overall success in drawing attention to the fact that the OSAP food allowance, among other aspects of the system, are inadequate for the student lifestyle.

"A lot of people realized I was doing it and I think that people had at least a chance to think about what it was like," said Gibson.

# INTERNATIONAL

International Editor Paula Millar • pmillar@thecord.ca

## Developing news to watch in summer 2010

For the majority of students at Laurier, the school year is coming to a close. Regardless, international events will continue to evolve throughout the summer months.

The outcome of these budding issues will have a lasting impact on our world; they harbour the potential to set precedents for the future.

The following are top stories to keep an eye on over the summer.

### Reconstruction in Haiti

Although Haiti was in desperate need prior to the earthquake that got the world's attention, the influx of aid presents an opportunity to stabilize one of the world's poorest nations.

With t-shirts, songs and events generating funds for the Haitian relief effort, the issue this summer will be whether the country is able to move beyond the current disarray.

The attention brought by the earthquake has worked to highlight the need for sustainable development programs to revitalize the country. Today it appears that encouraging the re-development of the

agricultural sector and local ownership are key to reviving the Haitian economy.

However, nothing is as simple as it seems. Success will come if the international community limits its position to a facilitation role. While the world must be a part of the solution, Haitians must take ownership in the rebuilding process.

—Amalia Biro



### Fighting in the DRC

While not a top newsmaker over the past eight months, as of late, the fighting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has taken a frightening turn.

Beginning in December 2009, the massacre in the country's remote northeast took place over five days and took a planned route through

10 remote villages before the rebels returned to their camps north of the Uele River.

It is estimated that approximately 321 people were massacred and 250 more abducted for recruitment purposes by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a rebel group that has been active in the region for over 10 years.

The LRA, originally based in northern Uganda, fuelling violence there, has evolved into a regional threat with activity in Sudan, the Central African Republic and the DRC. The UN Peacekeeping mission in the DRC (MONUC) is the largest in the world. Although MONUC is stymieing the violence in the region, the government of DRC hopes to see them leave as soon as possible.

The region needs a solution to this escalating issue. Whatever the outcome, its implications will have a lasting impression on both the DRC and the surrounding African region.

—Amalia Biro

### Google-China drama

The epic drama that began in late 2006, as a tale of two superpowers

and a battle of ideologies, ended on March 22, as Google admitted defeat and withdrew from China.

In China, companies are forced to abide by strict government regulations on the Internet.

In order to comply with censorship laws, Google agreed to remove search results of any sites sanctioned by the Chinese government. In return, the multinational corporation received flack from the international community for submitting to China's wishes.

In its defense, Google argued that its presence as a censored search engine was better than no presence at all. However, according to the *New York Times*, after Google determined that a number of hostile attacks on its network originated from inside China, any sort of appeasement of the Chinese no longer seemed justifiable.

Of the company's recent move out of China, Google's chief legal officer David Drummond, said that this "goes to the heart of a much larger global debate about freedom of speech."

Immediately after Google shut its doors, the *New York Times* reported that the Chinese government launched an aggressive campaign to erase pro-Google sentiment from cyberspace.

As the slow-down of Internet censorship persists and the U.S. continues to struggle to develop a foreign policy for the digital realm, China's ability to force Google out of the country clearly set a dangerous precedent, one that we can rest assured has not gone unnoticed.

Now, the only question left is who the next emerging power to stand in Google's way will be. Repressive regimes that seek to stifle free speech online will be a trend to watch over the summer.

—Paula Millar

Google  
谷歌

nananmen massacre	
nananmen massacre 1966	4,000 (100%)
nananmen massacre of 1966	4,000 (100%)
nananmen massacre photos	4,000 (100%)
nananmen massacre: how many beijing	4,000 (100%)
beijing nananmen massacre	4,000 (100%)
1966 nananmen massacre in	4,000 (100%)

## Progressive and regressive policies plague Rwanda's government

ALEXANDROS MITSIOPOULOS  
INCOMING WORLD EDITOR

President Paul Kagame has made significant advancements in his native Rwanda, since he was elected over a decade ago.

The government's devotion to transparency, exemplified by their providing of detailed budget reports, has been most impressive when dealing with international aid.

Many foreign governments and charities working with the Rwandan cause have been so enamored with the government's work that they have agreed to inflate their total contributions.

Most of the international support has been left directly in the hands of Kagame and his ruling party – the

Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF).

In 1994, commonly referred to as year zero, more than 800,000 ethnic Hutus and Tutsis were systematically killed in what has become one of the most publicized genocides in recent times.

However, since year zero, Rwanda's emphasis on domestic issues has allowed it to become one of the most successful nations in the region.

Kagame has fared reasonably well in terms of foreign policy. The country has been commended by the international community for the contribution of Rwandan troops in peacekeeping details in the Sudanese province of Darfur.

Further, Rwanda has experienced an ease of tensions with France. As Rwanda's closest western ally,

France was harshly criticized for their shameful inaction during the genocide.

In turn, France has refused to drop charges against several members of Kagame's party, blamed for shooting down former President Juvénal Habyarimana, the event that was the catalyst for the country's genocide. However, with increased trade and diplomatic ties with France, Rwandan authorities have stated that the two nations have reached an undoubted time of reconciliation.

While the RPF has made substantial progress, the international community has indeed witnessed several actions of a regressive nature.

The RPF has yet to take responsibility for the killings of thousands of civilians after the genocide and

for carnage that ensued in Congo in pursuance of the "génocidaires" who sought asylum.

With an election pending this August, Rwandans have experienced a stifling of political freedoms. As of late, a criticism of political candidates or parties has become a forthright justification for incarceration.

As well, many new and popular opposition parties have been barred from registering while other party leaders have claimed that the government has encouraged civilians to assault them.

In the 2003 general election, the RPF successfully captured 95 percent of the vote. All evidence today suggests that Kagame is aiming to break his preexisting record. His recent strategies have included stifling all manners of "plural politics"

which, from the government's perspective, "led to mass killings" in 1994.

As the Kagame government is recognized as the legitimate governing body, it becomes a delicate struggle, as many nations, including Canada, do not wish to undermine Kagame's authority as head of state.

With extensive experience in the field of post conflict reconstruction, Wilfrid Laurier University professor Alistair Edgar observed that "you must quietly encourage proper structures of democracy by using the power of persuasion."

Edgar believes that Kagame and many of his ministers are still "seeking political legitimacy; they just have to work on good habits." Edgar added that, "Kagame is a very careful and calculated leader."



HAVE AN IDEA?

- Have an idea for a project or event you want to get off the ground?
- Do you have a campus group that needs funding or training?
- Trying to make positive social change on campus but need a little help?

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Each year brings with it a new fury of international issues. To navigate through this year's biggest headlines in world news, as well as afford stories the coverage they deserve, Cord International staff provide a month-to-month breakdown of the top stories across the globe

# A year in international news

## April 2009

In April, the Obama administration outlawed water boarding – a controversial intelligence technique in which interrogators make captives feel as though they are drowning. The labeling of this practice as torture set a precedent in the United States intelligence community. This is because water boarding is known to have been used on three al-Qaeda prisoners under the Bush administration. However, critics of the policy change argue water boarding has been proven to thwart terrorist attacks.

–Amalia Biro

## May 2009

In May, Sri Lanka's decade-long civil conflict between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebel militia and government forces came to a close after a highly aggressive military campaign. The government's actions were decried by the United Nations and Human Rights organizations as excessive after bombing assaults left thousands of civilians dead or trapped within the warzone. In the aftermath, nearly 300,000 ethnic Tamils were detained in a series of Internally Displaced Peoples (IDP) camps until their affiliation with the LTTE could be determined. With their leadership either assassinated or detained, the LTTE remains indefinitely defunct.

–Praveen Alwis

## June 2009

In June, Iran's ongoing political drama heated up as President Ahmadinejad claimed re-election victory and thousands took to the streets in protest. According to the *Washington Post*, these demonstrations were entirely pre-arranged via Facebook, Twitter and the blogosphere. Reportedly, Twitter's influence on the Iranian political situation was so profound that even American officials took notice. In turn, the U.S. State Department asked Twitter to postpone scheduled maintenance of their site as to not disrupt communication between the dissident movement organizers and their supporters within Iran's borders. In light of this summer's events, many have since coined the revolt "a Twitter revolution".

–Paula Millar

## July 2009

Over a three-day period, the Islamic militant group Boko Haram staged retaliatory attacks for the arrest of its leaders in northeastern Nigeria. The attacks spanned across four cities and targeted police stations and civilian establishments. Nigerian security forces promptly responded by attacking known safe houses used by the sect's followers. This has been the worst case of sectarian violence in Nigeria since November of 2008. It was reported that the three-day conflict killed over 750 people.

–Alexandros Mitsiopoulos

## November 2009

Nov. 9, 2009 marked the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Communist East Germany had erected the 155-kilometre concrete barrier in 1961 to encircle the capitalist enclave of West Berlin. It was constructed in an effort to stop citizens of East Germany from fleeing into West Germany. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 led to the reunification of Germany and the end of the Cold War. The BBC reported that anniversary celebrations were attended by tens of thousands of people. Guests included Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom.

–Marie Andic

## October 2009

In October, a European Union (EU) fact-finding mission made waves in the international community. The commission concluded that the August 2008 war between Georgia and Russia was unjust. Upon investigation, Georgia was found to be at fault for the conflict; an unprovoked Georgian attack on Russia was the source of blame. The escalation of tensions between the two countries began when each accused the other of a military buildup in the contested regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

–Amalia Biro

## September 2009

Uproar at the United Nations General Assembly meeting in September ensued after Canadian foreign affairs minister Lawrence Cannon and other foreign delegates walked out during Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's address. The officials protested against the Iranian leader for divulging countless anti-Israeli remarks, while dismissing the Holocaust as a "myth" used to justify the occupation of Palestinian lands. Delegates also expressed concern over the many individuals jailed and executed for challenging Ahmadinejad's re-election victory last June. Canadian journalist Maziar Bahari, an internationally-renowned documentary filmmaker, was jailed for covering the Iranian election and interviewing dissenters.

–Nikicia Phillips

## August 2009

After nearly five months of captivity in North Korea, American journalists Euna Lee and Laura Ling were officially pardoned of their alleged crimes on Aug. 5. The pair had been working for the independent television network Current TV when their work carried them across the border from the People's Republic of China into North Korea. Their trials found them guilty of illegal entry, as neither possessed visas. They were subsequently sentenced to 12 years of hard labour. Former U.S. president Bill Clinton played an integral part in the women's release, personally meeting and negotiating with head of state Kim Jong-il.

–Alexandros Mitsiopoulos

## December 2009

In December, 192 world leaders gathered in Copenhagen, Denmark for the 15th annual United Nations Climate Change Conference. The convention, a failure in many opinions, ended without solidifying concrete goals and agreements. In addition, previously-articulated goals were dropped, such as the goal to reduce CO2 emissions by 80 per cent before 2050. After days of little progress, U.S. President Barack Obama engaged in a backroom agreement with Brazil, China, India and South Africa. What emerged was the Copenhagen Accord, which – although not supported by everyone – includes goals to reduce emissions by 2020, short-term funding and long-term financing for environmentally-friendly projects and a goal of maintaining a two degree maximum temperature rise.

–Deanna Sim

## January 2010

On Jan. 12, the world was shocked when a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti. The epicenter of the earthquake was 25 kilometres from the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince. Officials place the death toll at approximately 230,000, and over one million Haitians have been left homeless by the earthquake. The Haitian government estimates that it will cost \$11.5 billion to rebuild the already-impooverished nation after the devastating damage of the earthquake. The disaster resulted in an outpouring of aid from the international community, and the federal government has pledged to match any donation made to a recognized Canadian charity working in Haiti.

–Marie Andic

## February 2010

At the beginning of February, Ukraine was gearing up for the second round of presidential elections, because in the first round no single candidate managed to secure 50 per cent of the vote. With the elimination of one candidate after the January election, Viktor Yanukovich and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko were left to compete in the second round, held on February 7. After the votes were counted, 48.96 per cent of the vote went to Yanukovich and 45.47 per cent went to Tymoshenko. Tymoshenko appealed the results to the Supreme Administrative Court of Ukraine, but withdrew the appeal on Feb. 20 and accepted defeat.

–Deanna Sim

## March 2010

After a prolonged and highly contested build up, on March 21 the U.S. House of Representatives approved President Barack Obama's health care reform bill. Obama's reform plan prevents insurance companies from refusing service on the basis of preexisting conditions. Furthermore, the mandate states that all citizens must purchase a health insurance plan under threat of fine, similar to current auto insurance policy. Low-income families unable to afford insurance premiums are to receive financial assistance from the government. The controversial bill did not receive a single Republican vote and has been criticized by Conservatives as being fiscally unfeasible. Immediately after the bill's passing, 13 GOP states attorneys filed a lawsuit against the federal government on the grounds that the plan violated the rights of states.

–Praveen Alwis



# Your university checklist

Features Editor **Shannon Busta** highlights 99 things to do before you leave campus

- Read your student newspaper.
- Find out exactly where your student fees are going and make sure you get your money's worth. – *WLUSU president Laura Sheridan*
- Vote! In school elections, federal elections, etc.
- Consume so many energy drinks that your tongue pulsates and you get caffeine pains.
- Return \$100 worth of empties to the Beer Store.
- Stop and take a moment to speak with seniors studying at your university.
- Use your time away at university as an opportunity to form a closer bond with your family instead of drifting away from them.
- Share what you've learned.
- Do all of your readings for at least one class.
- Attend an on-campus lecture for fun.
- Read the suggested texts for at least one class.
- Find out what Porch Climber is and spend a day drinking it.
- Befriend someone with different life views.
- Drink during the day on St. Patty's.
- Get a note from Health Services to get out of an exam when you're not actually sick.
- Pick a cause – environmental, anti-war, labour, LGBTQ etc. – and fight for it.
- Take a course on a topic you don't understand.
- Forge a connection with a non-student neighbour that slightly lessens the community's disdain for students.
- Support your varsity teams, you will enjoy it and it is a huge boost for the team(s) you support. – *Football coach Gary Jeffries*
- Fall out of a chair.
- Sing karaoke badly and often.
- Acknowledge on a regular basis the incredibly hard work of staff who provide hot drinks, snacks and meals (e.g., Second Cup, Tim Horton's, the Caf).
- Give back to your local community. You may be a resident of this town for four years but you're also a guest. – *Laurier professor Patricia Molloy*
- Talk someone into streaking and catch it on camera.
- Laugh at someone wearing socks and sandals.
- Sleep on campus.
- Drink a Texas mickey with an unreasonably small group of friends during the day.
- Initiate an annual drinking tradition with your closest friends that continues post-graduation.
- Go on a roadtrip.
- Actually explore and appreciate the community beyond your university's campus boundaries.
- Call out administration on a questionable policy/action.
- Give your house a ridiculous name.
- Go for a month without doing laundry.
- Spend more money on booze than groceries.
- Take a bird course.
- Write an essay arguing something you don't believe in.
- Attend a board of directors' meeting to learn how your students' union is governed.
- Plan a TV show night and then annoyingly quote sayings for a semester.
- Submit a piece of writing to a publication.
- Make up your own acronyms.
- Ask for an extension when you have no good reason.
- Care for your professors. They work harder and care for you more deeply than you can imagine.
- Show up to the wrong class accidentally.
- Have sex with an ex.
- Leave your name written or carved on campus.
- Go out for drinks with a professor.
- Actually tell that annoying person in your class to shut up.
- Make up your own drinking game.
- Receive a ticket for open liquor.
- Talk yourself out of a ticket for open liquor/public urination/noise violation.
- Rent out classrooms on a weekly basis just to watch movies or play videogames in.
- Take pride in the slum that is your house.
- Accomplish enough to make your hilarious drunken revelry cause for nostalgia rather than regret.
- Go to a demonstration. Your university years are a time when you have the opportunity to take a stand for what you believe in and make your voice heard.
- Join a club or team.
- Get blackout drunk at the campus bar.
- Visit your campus art gallery and take in a school theatre or musical performance. School spirit doesn't end with the varsity sports arena.
- Get wasted at a dinner where you are representing your university and embarrass yourself in front of people you have to interact with on a professional level.
- Write a letter to the editor of your student newspaper voicing your opinion.
- Discover a new interest.
- Wage war over dishes.
- Take someone's virginity.
- Dump someone via technology.
- Go to class wearing your pajamas.
- Frequent a coffee shop so often that you don't have to tell them your order.
- Show up to class still wearing last night's bar clothes.
- Use Wikipedia far too often, even for essays.
- Take a drunken bus adventure.
- Climb a fence. Tear clothing.
- Replace breakfast with Tylenol and coffee.

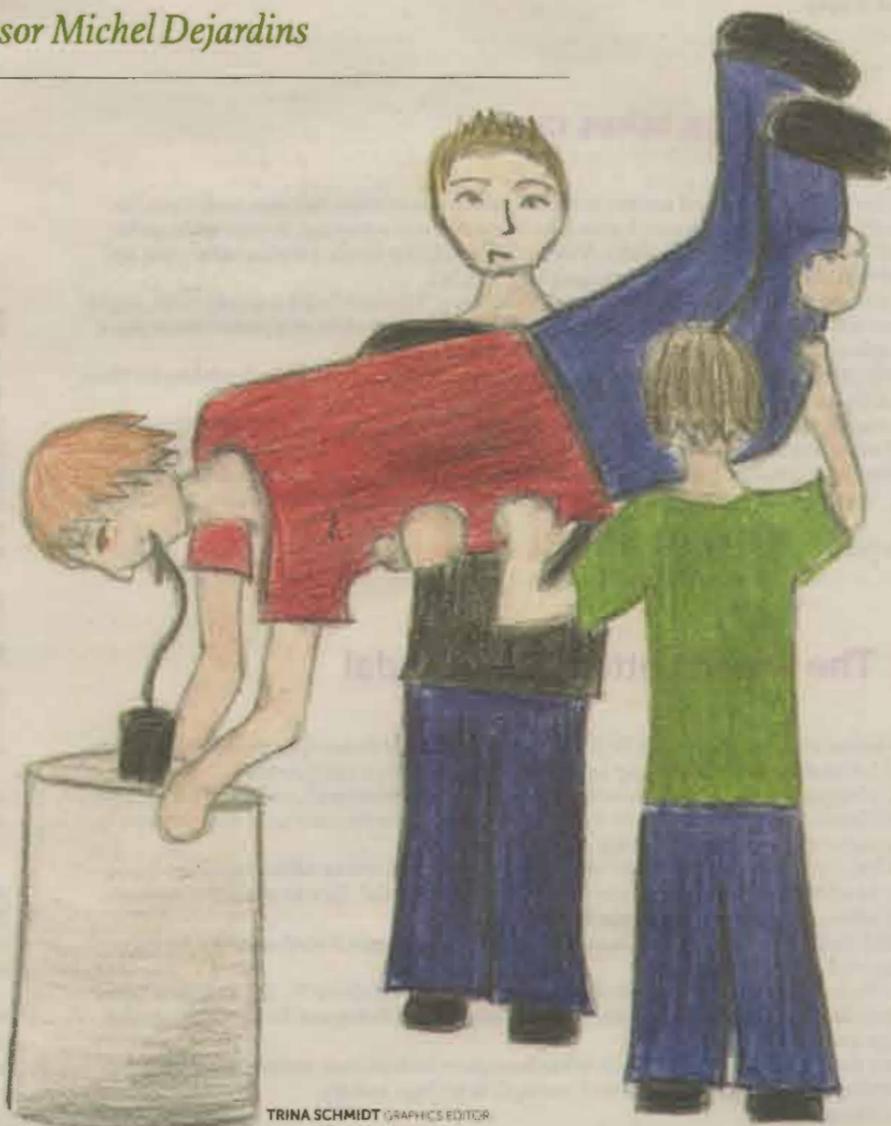


- Visit your professors in their office hours for the sake of saying hello.
- Make it into your campus newspaper by almost any means necessary and then frame said newspaper.
- Watch the sun rise over campus.
- Make a name for yourself on campus, good or bad.
- Wage war with your landlord.
- Let your house get so dirty you have to wear shoes in it.
- Get so drunk that you hit on your taxi driver resulting in a free ride home.
- Fall asleep in class.
- Pay for a two-dollar drink with your Visa.
- Have a sexual dream about a professor.
- Study a subject you really enjoy.
- Forget what it is like to sleep like a normal person.
- Throw up on campus.
- Do a keg stand.
- Be so poor that you eat expired food.
- Move in with a close friend and then develop feelings of hatred for said close friend.
- Hook up with a varsity athlete.
- Develop multiple circles of friends. This is the time to meet new and different people.
- Take an interest in your future from year one. Speak with professors, make connections and take advantage of your university's career services.
- Have a walk of shame.
- Hook up with your TA.
- Get to know the dean of students by name and high five him or her in the hallways.
- Develop a relationship with a local bar – good or bad.
- Vote for your student president based on his or her looks.
- Participate in a team flip cup tournament.
- Take chances as often as you can.
- Ace a class that you attended less than 20 per cent of the time.
- Write an essay drunk.
- Break something in residence.
- Show up to class wearing the same clothing two days in a row.
- Forget what it's like to live in a house that smells like something other than beer.
- Take pictures.
- Gain 10 lbs, lose 10 lbs, gain 10 lbs, lose...
- Decorate your front lawn with beer cups.
- Spend countless hours on time-wasting websites.



“  
Swear off drinking one day and drink the next.”

“  
Care for your professors. They work harder and care for you more deeply than you can imagine.”  
–Professor Michel Dejardins



TRINA SCHMIDT GRAPHICS EDITOR

# ARTS

Arts Editor Rebecca Vasluianu • [rvasluianu@thecord.ca](mailto:rvasluianu@thecord.ca)

## This year in the arts world

Cord Arts staff compile a list of this year's top celebrity, TV and music newsmakers

### 1 Michael Jackson's death

Despite his reclusive nature and tarnished public persona, Michael Jackson's death on June 25 was met with a gasp worldwide.

Perhaps due to his enigmatic nature as of late, Jackson's music career – rather than personal and professional issues – were celebrated as reaction to his sudden death.

With *Off The Wall* and *Thriller* in the late '70s and early '80s, not to mention his earlier career with the Jackson 5, Jackson became a household name, selling over 100 million copies of *Thriller* alone (so many vinyl copies of this record were produced that there is a 75 per cent chance you have one in your attic or basement right now).

After allegations of child molestation surfaced on more than one occasion, he dangled his infant son over a balcony and his appearance was altered by copious cosmetic surgery and a claimed skin pigment disorder. Jackson remained in the news for the last few decades even as his music career stagnated.

His death occurred as he prepared for a comeback series of concerts. He died of a reported drug overdose; his personal physician has recently been charged in connection with his death for administering the drugs Jackson was on when he went into cardiac arrest.

–Mike Lakusiah

### 2 Kanye West goes nuts

When it comes to being crazy, Kanye West always comes out on top. Since his debut, he's made a name for himself by acting out in public and having one of the biggest egos in the world.

Since his alcohol-induced interruption of Taylor Swift's VMA acceptance speech in September, Kanye has done nothing to tame his reputation as a douchebag. After last year's genius *South Park* episode starring Kanye as a gay fish (and the subsequent lack of amusement from West), Kanye decided to prove that he actually does have a sense of humour. In December, he signed on to do an episode of *The Cleveland Show*, which approximately zero people will watch.

Kanye West and his unitard-and-sunglasses sporting girlfriend Amber Rose rang in the new year in style, getting attacked by PETA for wearing fur coats.

He rounded out this academic year by throwing a hissy fit after being given a seat in coach on his way home from the Grammys, and still continues to post ridiculous blogs stating things like "IT'S FUNNY HOW SO MANY RAPPERS GET WORSE AS THEIR CAREERS STRETCH OUT BUT TRUE POETS GET BETTER." Just when we thought he couldn't get any more obnoxious, he discovered the caps lock key.

–Sarah Murphy

### 3 Lady Gaga takes over

From her worldwide musical success to her unusual choice of attire, this year, Lady Gaga has certainly fulfilled her role as a performer. The internationally renowned 23-year-old's performance at the 2009 MuchMusic Video Awards, began with her inside a replica subway car and ended with fireworks sparking from Gaga's wire cage bra.

At the 2009 VMAs, Lady Gaga presented her hit song "Paparazzi" with a spooky twist. Beginning with Gaga and her dancers costumed aristocratically in all white, this performance puts a dark spin on Gaga's song; ending with desperation and murder.

Most recently, viewers tuned in to watch Lady Gaga join in a duet with the legendary Sir Elton John at the 2010 Grammy Awards.

As Gaga's songs and performances are constantly changing, it appears that the only consistency in her acts are her unusual outfits. Ranging from a dress made of guns (from the Monster Ball tour) to one made of plastic bubbles to match her transparent piano (from the Fame Ball tour), Gaga explains that the unusual clothes, just like the elaborate performances, are all for the fans.

–Katie Flood

### 4 The David Letterman scandal

Since he had been passed over for the job of host on NBC's *The Tonight Show* almost 20 years ago, David Letterman has been riding Jay Leno's coat-tails on the late night circuit.

Early last year, there suddenly was no more Jay Leno to contend with, and a new competitor named Conan O'Brien stepped up to the plate. Pretty soon, the two men were neck-in-neck in the ratings, until, one unassuming day, everything changed.

On his Oct. 1 broadcast of *The Late Show*, Letterman made a serious address to his audience where he admitted to having been part of an extortionist scandal. He was accused of having sexual affairs with a number of former female staff members.

If that wasn't shocking enough, moments later Letterman himself confirmed that he did in fact have the affairs moments later.

For the first time in years, *The Late Show's* ratings skyrocketed above *The Tonight Show's*. Letterman handled himself in a professional manner, evoking both feelings of disdain and empathy from his audience members.

Since then O'Brien's *The Tonight's Show* has been given back to Leno, making the original Leno-Letterman rivalry start up again and leaving O'Brien high and dry.

–Wade Thompson



WADE THOMPSON INCOMING GRAPHICS EDITOR

### In other news...

#### Deaths

While one of the biggest newsmakers of 2009 was the sudden passing of Michael Jackson on June 25, earlier on the same day it was reported that Farrah Fawcett had passed away after a three-year-long battle with cancer.

Father of modern news Walter Cronkite passed away on July 17, marking the death of one of the last trusted anchors of our parents' generation.

On Sept. 14, *Dirty Dancing* star Patrick Swayze succumbed to pancreatic cancer after months of reports that he was on death's doorstep.

Adam "DJ AM" Goldstein died on Aug. 28 of an accidental drug overdose. Drugs also claimed the life of '80s teen idol Corey Haim on March 10, 2010.

It was reported that actress Brittany Murphy's death on Dec. 20 was caused by cardiac arrest, but speculation was rampant as to whether the underlying cause was a drug overdose or eating disorder.

The death of fashion designer Alexander McQueen was also shrouded in mystery, as speculation of suicide was reported following the discovery of a deceased McQueen in his closet on Feb. 11.

–Krysten Palser

#### Break-ups

It's being called the Curse of the Oscars. On March 15 of this year, it was confirmed that 2009 Best Actress winner Kate Winslet had separated from her director husband of nearly seven years, Sam Mendes, amidst rumors of his infidelity.

Only days later, a bomb dropped with the news that Sandra Bullock's husband of five years, Jesse James, had allegedly carried out an 11-month affair with a white supremacist tattoo model.

The rumours became public not even two weeks after Bullock picked up the 2010 Best Actress Oscar.

Other notable celebrity splits of the past year included Canada's own punk couple Avril Lavigne and Sum 41 frontman Derek Whibley in October when they announced their divorce.

Susan Sarandon and her partner of 23 years, Tim Robbins, announced that they had ended their relationship back in December last year.

On-again off-again couple Sean Penn and Robin Wright finally called it quits in August 2009 due to Penn's infidelity, though the pair had previously filed for divorce twice in the last few years.

–Krysten Palser

*"I never thought in my wildest dreams I could hang in there and I never, ever thought that it would take so many years to make."*

— Daughter of Canadian theorist Marshall McLuhan and director T.C. (Teri) McLuhan, who spent 20 years making the documentary *The Frontier Gandhi: Badshah Khan, a Torch for Peace*.

## 20 years in the making

T.C. McLuhan went across the world to film her documentary

Laura Carlson  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Between a government screening in Afghanistan where a crowd of people two miles long gathered outside the theatre, a sold out show at the Lincoln Centre in New York and an upcoming special-event screening at the United Nations for 183 diplomats at the request of the Indian and Afghanistan ambassadors, last Thursday filmmaker T.C. (Teri) McLuhan found some time to visit Laurier for a screening of her documentary *The Frontier Gandhi: Badshah Khan, a Torch for Peace*.

The film, which took the Canadian director and daughter of theorist Marshall McLuhan 20 years to create, is now on the screening circuit, having won the prestigious best feature documentary award at the Middle East International Film Festival in Abu Dhabi this past October.

"I always imagined the completion of it," said McLuhan to *The Cord* in an interview after the screening. "Each day in my head I imagined I was completing it; that's what kept me going," she added about her motivation to stick with the project for two decades.

*The Frontier Gandhi: Badshah Khan, a Torch for Peace* is the first documentary to chronicle the life of Badshah Khan — a Muslim peacemaker born in what is now Pakistan and a prominent leader in the non-violent movement to oppose British rule from the 1920s through 1980s.

The film's primary editor, Alex Shuper, who joined McLuhan at the Laurier screening, refers to her as "the ultimate outsider."

"[She is] the unlikely filmmaker/biographer ... a woman, Caucasian, from the West," said Shuper.

McLuhan noted, however, that surprisingly enough this actually worked to her advantage when she was making the film.

"What served me best, particularly in Afghanistan and Pakistan ... was that I was not a threat to anybody. And I remember very clearly people saying 'she can't be doing anything important so just let her do what she wants to do,'" she explained.

"People talked to [me] because they didn't know what else to do. They thought it was so peculiar that a woman would come along to that part of the world."

Although her outsider status may have been advantageous, making the film was not without its challenges.

Aside from financial difficulties — as McLuhan explained it was somewhat difficult to get funding for a project on a Muslim individual that few people in the Western world know of — filming in the Middle East came with its own unique set of obstacles.

"When you are doing a documentary ... there is a lot of time hanging around, waiting for something to happen, for someone to be available, and in those environments hanging around is a bit dangerous," explained McLuhan.

"A missile would be flying around and we'd all have to duck or go here, and [there would be] a landmine you'd have to watch out for," she added.

While managing to overcome the physical risk, McLuhan and her small crew were arrested twice for what she refers to as being in the "wrong place, wrong time."

"[It was] unpleasant; it [was] always the middle of the night, but we kept going."

McLuhan explained that during her travels she was able to build up a "network of allies who are really completely behind me," who were able to help her and her crew in difficult situations.

The environment they were shooting in was also a challenge to overcome.

McLuhan describes that, there were "sandstorms so thick ... we ate sand for days."

The documentary was filmed in Afghanistan, the Khyber Pass, Pakistan including NWFP, India, the United States and Canada.

Aside from interviews with individuals such as Badshah Khan's daughter, testimony from 72 of Badshah Khan's non-violent warriors — all of whom were over 100 years old — and Afghanistan president Hamid Karzai — there is also archival footage that she gathered from the places she was filming in, over 100 hours which were never even used in the end product.

"The whole film is ad hoc," said McLuhan, noting how reliant she was on others when obtaining her interviews and getting funding to continue with the picture.

"Nothing was certain and [we had to] make it up in a sense as [we went] along."

Although the documentary itself is now complete, McLuhan explained that she is still anywhere but done finishing up the project, as she is planning to release a multi-hour DVD before September, and is also in the process of writing a book called *The Daring of it All*, which will chronicle her two decades making the film.

For now, the focus is distribution and ensuring that it is as many people see the film as possible.

"It's going to open theatrically, without a doubt, in cinemas worldwide. That's the big push right now," said McLuhan.

McLuhan is confident that when audiences see the film, the message the documentary conveys about Badshah Khan's life will make it a success.

"My biggest hope is that young people find in this story the kind of promise they feel is lacking into their lives. In other words — 'I can do anything, look what he did.' That's my biggest hope."



ELLI GARLIN INCOMING PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Filmmaker T.C. McLuhan after the screening of her documentary.

### Who is Badshah Khan?

Born in the North-West Frontier Province (what is now Pakistan) in 1890, he organized a 100,000-strong non-violent army of men, women and youth to oppose British rule in India. He was great friends with Gandhi and once borrowed Gandhi's glasses to read the Koran. It is suggested that Gandhi's monopolization of the "non-violent peace movement" brand is why few know of this great historical figure.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Many people preach their musical tastes to others like doctrine.

## Elitism ignores the point



MIKE LAKUSIAK  
INCOMING CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Everyone has an opinion; some opinions are just better than others. When it comes to music — one of the most-widely discussed and rated art forms — this expression seems especially fitting.

Taste is so subjective that any attempt to rank a song or album can create endless arguments and pointless discussions based on supposed merits.

The natural result is that individuals are so sure of the validity of their opinions and tastes that they feel they are obligated to preach their wisdom.

I won't pretend I haven't been guilty of this in the past, sometimes offering my opinion or telling someone they should listen to something in particular.

Based on the sheer quantity of music I encounter and consume, I feel for whatever reason entitled and

almost responsible to give others an impression of what "good" music is.

What is it about this particular subject area that makes people feel entitled to dismiss the opinions of others and become offended by their "irrational" preferences?

Overwhelming choice seems mostly to blame.

There are so many options out there, from top 40 radio to the most obscure two-piece, lo-fi, post-punk band no one has ever heard of (except you, the music connoisseur).

The widely-dismissed "mainstream" may mean that to some people every song seems to sound the same, while for those with more conservative tastes, the sound of an unheard-of, music-blog-acclaimed band may be as appealing as listening to a lawnmower.

Problems surface when people begin to use music as an indicator of status.

"Wearing" music just doesn't seem quite right. It's incredibly easy to seem knowledgeable; anyone can pick a music blog and regurgitate notable artists or tracks along with reasons why a band can be hailed as the next Talking Heads or Pavement.

So what does all this mean?

While music used as a means of being fashionable seems contrived,

it seems like everyone who even pretends to know or care about music does this in some capacity.

Where does the balance lie between preaching taste to people and avoiding discussion related to taste altogether?

By no means should opinions or tastes be something to hide or be self-conscious of; taste is what allows people to get the most out of the music they choose to listen to.

People become musical elitists when the question of obscure and artistic versus formulaic and ubiquitous is raised.

It's cool to know about something interesting that no one else does, but that's where flaunting how crafty one is at finding obscure music occurs, creating tension.

When people start to use music as a way to show how fashionable they are, what gets lost are the truly meaningful and incredible things music has to offer.

Music can soundtrack your life or maintain your sanity; it can pacify, create a mood, provide a distraction or exist in the background. Those merits are all marginalized by arguing about how awful or incredible the people who make music are, whether it's Nickelback or whoever Pitchfork is touting on a given day.

# Webster returns to Wilf's

The Cord speaks with Down with Webster after their show

**LAURA SEDGWICK**  
INCOMING FEATURES EDITOR

In the words of Toronto's Down with Webster just before taking the stage at Wilf's last Thursday, "It's time to win."

The concert, which was A-Team's final concert production of the year, sold out in just a few hours.

Once at Wilf's, it was clear why everyone was having the time of their lives. Even lining up outside of the venue, the energy was staggering.

But it wasn't until the band finally hit the stage at midnight that the floor, literally, began to shake.

The show started off with a 30 minute set from Down with Webster's DJ Diggy; eventually the entire group took the stage as the headliners.

The band's passion and appreciation for music of all genres as well as their genuine musical talent was evident in the way they flawlessly incorporated songs from other artists in their live show, through the skill of Diggy and their unique cover songs.

Down with Webster also thrives on integrating genres, such as rock, hip-hop and jazz, into their sound.

"When you think about it, all these genres are fairly similar," Webster's vocalist, Cameron Hunter told The Cord after the show.

"For instance, you can rap on a rock beat or sing on a rap beat. It's just all four/four time," he said as he tapped the table to a simple rhythm. "Just like this."

Their sound, however, is far from that simple. Webster's creativity is made evident by their often unique song themes, witty and satirical lyrics such as "whoa is me, I'm so whoa!" and their ability to balance the sounds of all seven members.

Under this challenge, what's particularly impressive is the way in which the members work together so cohesively.

When there are seven members in a group, imaginably, it would often be difficult to get anything done; however, Down with Webster embraces this unique factor.

"I'm grateful for having a group of individuals who are so willing to work for a common goal," said the band's bassist and keyboardist Tyler Armes.

"We are so lucky that our families are supportive of what we're doing and that people didn't bail when times were hard. Everyone's so focused on the same goal."

"It's bad-ass," he added.

It probably helps that they don't seem to take themselves too seriously, are able to goof around with each other and have a common love for music.

"I'm obsessed with music - listening to it, downloading it, making it. It makes up most of my day," said Hunter.

"That, and social networking," he added humourously as an afterthought.

Down with Webster prides themselves on being a hardworking and dedicated group of musicians, but they also know how to have a good time.

Their desire for high-energy fun and partying was demonstrated by their overwhelming energy and enthusiasm on stage that managed to engage everyone in the room.

The musicians have been playing together for about 12 years now, but admit that they only began to take it seriously about three years ago.

Last April, Down with Webster signed with Universal Motown and have gained a lot in terms of publicity and popularity.

They explain that it wasn't until about a month ago that they begin feeling a difference in their musical careers.

"Up until then we've just been trying to play bigger and bigger shows in different places, but we've been doing that since we were, like, 16 years old," said Hunter.

Despite their newfound popularity, Hunter claims that he still really enjoys playing in smaller venues like Wilf's.

"If you get 200-plus drunk teenagers and 20-year-olds in a room, it's gonna be nuts," he said adding, "I like these smaller shows because it feels very familiar. It has a cool vibe and it's much more intimate."

Armes expanded on this, stating that their goal is to play music around the world with the hope of making it a better place.

"The first way we're gonna do it is by making people happy with the music itself, and then if we ever get in a position where we can actually make a difference in certain areas we feel warrant it, we'll do that. It's not all about partying and having fun ... though a lot of it is."



MICHELLE ATTARD FILE PHOTO  
The hip-hop progressive act played on campus last Thursday night.

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# Using business to pursue a passion

Jeffrey Melanson discusses his success after graduating from Laurier; he has managed to create a successful fusion of business and arts knowledge, allowing him to make progress in the field he loves

**LAURA CARLSON**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**A** masters of business administration (MBA) and a lifetime of art might not seem like the most natural combination.

However, for Jeffrey Melanson, completing his MBA was the most logical next step in his fine arts career.

Melanson, who graduated with a MBA from Wilfrid Laurier University in 1998, is now the executive director of Canada's National Ballet School.

Since he was appointed to the position four years ago, he has had incredible success by eliminating an operating deficit, increasing annual revenues by over 30 per cent and creating essential national and international partnerships.

"I never imagined doing an MBA, never imagined bringing those two worlds together," said Melanson in a phone interview with *The Cord* en route to the airport in New York, where he travels a few times a month.

"The MBA really was born out of experience as a professional within the sector, seeing these organizations really struggle."

Although he did not have a business background prior to enrolling in the MBA program at Laurier, he had a strong desire to grasp fundamental economics, which he believed would translate into success for the industry.

## "The MBA package is a really good enabling vehicle"

Melanson believes that, in particular, it is those with an incredible passion for something who succeed with the MBA skill set.

"I think of the MBA as a vehicle to ensure that that thing you're passionate about becomes more successful. For me, the decision to do an MBA was [because] I love the arts."

Being involved in the arts since high school – Melanson's first experience on stage was the result of "getting sucked into" a musical in grade 10 because there were no men involved in the production – the arts are not only an important part of Melanson's life, but he views them as essential to the core of every human being.

"In the case of art I fundamentally believe that we're all artists; that every single person has a pulse, speaks on pitch, moves through space. We're all artistic," he explained.

## "We're all involved in the arts"

It is because of this inescapable essence of art that Melanson believes it is essential to restore arts education in both the public school system and society at large.

"Art is an extension of being a human being and the more I can expose that to people, hopefully [that will help] awaken in everyone a sense that they are fundamentally creative and innovative and that there's deeper meanings to things in life."

Although a lot of debate has been taking place in the media recently regarding arts funding, specifically in context of what are perceived as cuts by the federal government, Melanson is actually quite optimistic about the future of arts funding in Canada.

He notes that both the Canada Council for the Arts and arts training have seen unprecedented increases in recent years.

Although he recognizes the incredible challenges facing the arts world right now – specifically the state of the economy, shifting demographics, the impact of technology and the lack of success amongst arts organizations at attracting young audiences – Melanson doesn't look at this in a pessimistic way.

"The challenges are just more dynamic and exciting," he said.

## "Think of the opportunities that might be present but might not be apparent"

Referring to a theory by Tom Kelley, author of *The 10 Faces of Innovation*, Melanson described how it is those people that remain optimistic in adversity that succeed in the end.

"In this world we've enabled cynics and the devil's advocate to be the smartest people in the room and to deflate ideas," he explained.

"One of the challenging questions that's been posed to me of late is of those successful people that you know, or of those iconic innovators ... how many of them were cynics? How many of them were negative? The reality is nobody."

It is this sense of optimism that carries into Melanson's work, as he simply focuses on how he can enable people to succeed within the industry.

## "I didn't have any sort of tools to figure out how to creatively address the problems"

Highlighting strategy as essential in the success of the arts, Melanson

sees the need for artists to utilize a business mindset.

"In arts organizations what we have, which is amazing, is all of these really talented people and this plethora of incredible ideas and initiatives that we could possibly embark on, and there's tons of them."

Melanson explained that at Canada's National Ballet School in particular there are three or four dozen projects that they would like to embark on immediately – involving things such as motion capture technology – but that it is essential that they develop a sustainable business plan to ensure these projects come to fruition.

"There's just tons of creativity but just not enough skills in terms of thinking strategically about how to make stuff happen."

When Melanson decided to go back to school to do his MBA – he already had obtained a bachelor of music from the University of Manitoba – it was because he saw it as an opportunity to obtain a skill set that the industry desperately needed.

"I was looking around and seeing the arts sector really struggling and a lot of organizations struggling and I thought 'you know, I may actually be able to do more as a producer than as a performer.'"

## "Executives need to have a compelling sense of purpose"

While acknowledging his MBA as central to his recent success, Melanson noted that at the core of it he sees his love for the arts as his biggest asset.

"If you're going to work in social enterprise ... the not-so-profit sector ... a fundamental is passion. You need to be smart, you need to be skilled, but it's hard for me to imagine staff leadership, artistic leadership that would have all of the business attributes but none of the core fire for the arts."

Building on this passion, Melanson hopes to continue to further his arts training.

He plans to complete his PhD at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music as he is a strong advocate for formal education because of how it shapes one's world view.

"Education is about transformation. It's about exposing people to new ideas, it's about exposing yourself to new ideas. It's not about a finished product, it's about a process," said Melanson.

"It's really a robust challenge," he added. "We need really, really passionate artists who also are equipped to produce and create the arts organization of the future."



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The MBA graduate became the executive director of Canada's National Ballet School in 2006, eight years after leaving Laurier.

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## Films to avoid

*The Back-up Plan*  
April 23

*Sex and the City 2*  
May 28

*Marmaduke*  
June 4

*The Twilight Saga: Eclipse*  
July 2

*Step Up 3D*  
Aug. 6

# This summer: What not to miss

## Albums

This spring and summer brings many highly-anticipated releases in music.

Toronto's Broken Social Scene returns with its first album since 2005 with *Forgiveness Rock Record* on May 4. There are three songs posted on their website that are available for download.

The long-awaited third album from Arcade Fire is expected before the end of the summer as well.

Though it has already been leaked on the Internet, MGMT's *Congratulations* and Ohio blues-rock duo The Black Keys should both have a new album available at the end of April.

LCD Soundsystem's still-untitled release is set to come out May 17.

Jimmy Fallon's house band The Roots' new album is also scheduled for a summer release, as are new Flo Rida and Lil' Jon albums.

As frontman Julian Casablancas tours in support of his solo album and other members of The Strokes continue with their solo work (Albert Hammond Jr., Little Joy), a new album is expected from the New York-based band.

—Mike Lakusiak



## Concerts in KW

**Sloan**  
April 27  
Starlight

**Xavier Rudd**  
May 19  
Centre in the Square

**Hillside Festival**  
July 23-25  
Guelph Lake Conservation Area

**Kitchener Blues Festival**  
August 5-8  
—Sarah Murphy

## Art in KW

**Foundling**  
March 28 – June 6  
Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery

**Waterloo Arts Festival**  
June 12 and 13  
Waterloo Park

**Grand River Chronicles #8**  
June 16 – Sept. 5  
Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery

**Product of Eden**  
June 18 – Oct. 5  
Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery

**A Nervous Decade**  
June 16 – Sept. 5  
Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery  
—Katie Flood



## Film - must see

**Kick-Ass**  
April 16

**The Losers**  
April 23

**Iron Man 2**  
May 7

**Robin Hood**  
May 14

**Toy Story 3**  
June 18

**Knight and Day**  
June 25

**Inception**  
July 16

**Morning Glory**  
July 30

**Scott Pilgrim vs. The World**  
Aug. 13

**The Expendables**  
Aug. 13

## Film - might see

**A Nightmare on Elm Street**  
April 30

**I Love You Phillip Morris**  
April 30

**MacGruber**  
May 21

**Jonah Hex**  
June 18

**The Last Airbender**  
July 2

**Cyrus**  
July 9

**Despicable Me**  
July 9

**The Sorcerer's Apprentice**  
July 16

**Eat, Pray, Love**  
Aug. 13

**Piranha 3-D**  
Aug. 27  
—Wade Thompson



## Arts bites

### The latest news in entertainment

#### Livin' La Vida Gay

In the most shocking coming-out-of-the-closet story since Clay Aiken, Latin music superstar Ricky Martin revealed that he is gay.

After dousing his hair with product, waxing his chest and wearing leather pants since the mid-'90s, Martin has finally issued a statement on his website, proclaiming that he no longer allows himself "to be seduced by fear and insecurity."

He has been the father of twin boys since August 2008 and stated that to continue living a lie would "diminish the glow that my kids were born with."

The "She Bangs" and "La Vida Loca" singer appears on the cover of *Rolling Stone* this week, and discusses in detail his newly discovered sexuality.

—Sarah Murphy

#### Successful musician fails to pay for her weave

R & B star Kelis lost a legal battle against a California hair salon this week after failing to pay the \$5,000 price tag on her weave.

The singer, best known for her failed marriage to Nas and using her "milkshake" to bring all the boys to the yard, didn't even bother showing up to her court appearance, causing the judge to rule in favour of the salon.

With the \$50,000 plus Kelis receives monthly in spousal support alone, you would think she could afford to pay after getting her hair done.

—Sarah Murphy

#### Octomom becomes part of neutering campaign

In an incredibly bizarre turn of events, the group People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has swapped food and cash with Nadya Suleman.

Suleman, also known as the "Octomom", received these goods in exchange for the placement of an advertisement on her property.

The sign reads "Don't let your dog or cat become an 'Octomom.' Always spay or neuter."

A mother of 14, Suleman gave birth to octuplets in January 2009, in addition to six children she already had.

According to CNN, Suleman has accepted the offer, agreeing to put the sign on her lawn.

This is an ironic move, given the fact that the "Octomom" could have benefited from the foresight provided by such a sign.

—Rebecca Vasluianu

#### Bimbos in 3D

In the midst of one of the least-promising acting careers in recent years, Heidi Montag of *The Hills* has discovered a new passion for script-writing.

The reality TV star has compiled a screenplay in which she is the main character who saves a small town from a shark attack using — wait for it — her 3D boobs.

She's been preparing for the role by receiving numerous cosmetic operations.

Oh wait, she's been doing that for her boyfriend Spencer Pratt for quite some time now.

—Sarah Murphy

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## Dear LIFE

Dear Life is your opportunity to write a letter to your life, allowing you to vent your anger with life's little frustrations in a completely public forum.

All submissions to Dear Life are anonymous, should be no longer than 100 words and must be addressed to your life. Submissions can be sent to [dearlife@thecord.ca](mailto:dearlife@thecord.ca) no later than Monday at noon each week.

### Dear Life,

I don't understand why some people enjoy dominating WebCT discussion boards and rudely insulting the intelligence of others when they in fact misspell words such as "co-wardinator" and "necissary". How can someone insist on being an "I'm-smarter-and-better-than-you" arrogant jerk when clearly he failed grade 6 spelling?

Sincerely,  
I'm Sorry We Apparently Haven't Gotten the Same Quality Education as You

### Dear Life,

I would like to express my disappointment in the EcoHawk's poor attempt to celebrate Earth Hour.

In prior years, this had been a very lively and upbeat event with lots of activities and participation. This year we just saw a bunch of people standing around looking bored.

Also, what was with the needlessly elaborate sound system? Isn't Earth Hour about taking small steps to reduce our impact on the environment? Clearly someone missed the point.

Sincerely,  
You Can't Spell Activist Without Activ(e)

### Dear Life,

Why does Relay For Life think it is a good idea to host their overnight event outside of a residence building? The event, staged from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., interferes with several required hours of sleep. Why wouldn't anyone foresee loud music and awful singing blaring into people's bedrooms all night long as a problem?

I love the cause. But I love sleep more. Next year consider a slight relocation away from a residence building.

Sincerely,  
F that Noise

### Dear Life,

A couple of the professors hired at Laurier must have put on Oscar-worthy performances during their interviews, because how some of these "experts" got hired is far beyond me. I have had unorganized, disregarding profs who do not seem to care at all. Really? I could hand him a script of an episode of Two and a Half Men and he'd give it an A. Bottom line: Hire more enthusiastic, creative and motivating professors who genuinely care about the issues they teach.

Sincerely,  
If They Don't Care, Why Should I?

### Dear Life,

When will Laurier realize its science department is a joke? 3-hour labs done in 30 minutes? Biology with no dissections? I would like to at least pretend that we're paying for a quality education.

Sincerely,  
Switching to UW if Things Don't Change

## Cord-o-scopes

This week's Cord-o-scopes predict what April has in store

### Scorpio Oct. 22 to Nov. 21

The exam period means you don't have to get up early every morning for class, so practice pressing that snooze button. Just make sure you remember not to hit it on the morning of your 9:00 a.m. exam.

### Sagittarius Nov. 22 to Dec. 21

It's the last week of class and everyone is busy writing and handing in papers. Next time you're in class, take a look around and enjoy all the new faces you haven't seen since the first week in January.

### Capricorn Dec. 22 to Jan. 19

You are anticipating the start of summer vacation. No more suffering through five classes a week, no more busy weekends with parties, movies and dinners out with friends. Now you can go back home to work 40 hours a week, sit on the couch all weekend and re-learn how to make your bed. Yup, that's the life.

### Aquarius Jan. 20 to Feb. 18

You've been up all night deciding on a topic and writing a last-minute essay. You find a list of acceptable topics to choose from in the back of your syllabus. Bet you wish you had been there on day one when the class read through the course outline.

### Pisces Feb. 19 to March 20

The summer is going to be hot and dry, perfect weather for lounging by the pool and working on your tan. Too bad you decided to take that boring office job six days a week so that you could make a few extra bucks. That's okay, pale is the new tan.

### Aries March 21 to April 19

Do you have a fun vacation planned for this summer break? No? I do.

### Taurus April 20 to May 20

Jupiter has fallen into your orbit this month and luck is in the air. Expect a job offer around the seventh. Jimmy from down the street has a real job now and it looks like your grandparents need someone to mow the lawn.

### Gemini May 21 to June 20

The stars are pointing towards a lot of laughter in your life this month. Unfortunately it is coming from those potential employers who don't think "can drink a whole case of beer" is sufficient to cover "skills" on your resume.

### Cancer June 21 to July 22

This month Pluto is in sight. No really, look there it is... Never mind, just a bit of dirt on the crystal ball.

### Leo July 23 to Aug. 22

You have calculated your marks from the term and figure that so long as you ace every exam, you should be able to pass. Guess that means its time to crack open the books, or at least go buy them.

### Virgo Aug. 23 to Sept. 22

You have just received your participation grade for the semester. Turns out that class was supposed to be twice a week.

### Libra Sept. 23 to Oct. 22

You're only a few exams away from graduation and you couldn't be happier. Soon all the stress will be gone and all you'll have to worry about is finding a full time job, your own place to live and paying all those bills. Welcome to the "real" world.

While riding her bike Andrea Millet was bitten by a flying squirrel. However, it wasn't until she ate a very old bagel that she could predict the future.

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# EDITORIAL

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

## Charity Ball donation fails to impress

Thankfully, this year's Charity Ball committee has risen above the controversy surrounding last year's event, which raised a measly \$159.

Although this year's executive team received negative publicity and attention from the Laurier community it is estimated that they have raised between \$1,500 and \$3,000 for Epilepsy Waterloo Wellington.

Avoiding the mistakes of the year before them, coordinator Claire Petch and her executive team admirably took steps to cut costs where they could.

Despite the amendments made to this year's committee's budget one still needs to ask: why is Charity Ball only donating one-tenth of its budget?

No doubt the committee is a great chance for Laurier students to volunteer. However, the very name of the committee has misled students and corporate sponsors to believe that 100 per cent of their money goes directly to the charity and not to fund an unnecessarily lavish spectacle. It is false advertising at best and dishonesty at worst.

In fact many other groups at Laurier have managed to raise far more money this year, often on a whim and with far smaller budgets.

Laurier's Movember team, a group of students growing moustaches for prostate cancer raised just over \$1,000, and a bunch of Pikes pulling a bus raised around the same. Just this month, 5 Days for the Homeless raised almost \$8,000.

Charity Ball pales in comparison to smaller charity initiatives on campus, which when put in perspective, erodes what little respect the committee has regained this year.

The Laurier community should be wary of committees like Charity Ball who work all year towards a charity, while legitimizing the spending of copious amounts of money by claiming providing a platform for awareness. Awareness does make up for a measly monetary donation after eight months of holding fundraising events.

-The Cord Editorial Board

## Earth Hour has a point

This past Saturday, the world participated in the fourth annual Earth Hour.

Last year, Earth Hour became the world's largest climate change initiative when over 4,000 cities in 88 countries joined in and turned off their lights between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m.

This year, 126 countries participated and 13,870 icons and landmarks worldwide turned out their lights.

That's 38 more countries this year than last and 125 more countries than four years ago - pretty impressive progress. While the popularity of Earth Hour has been growing rapidly, there are still nay-sayers who criticize the one hour a year that has taken on international significance.

Even though the environmental benefit of turning off lights for a short period of time may seem small, symbolically it is worth recognizing.

Landmarks around the world stand in darkness and people of every walk of life embrace the importance of our planet. At the very least, those who participate are able to understand society's reliance on electricity.

It becomes apparent to anyone who took the opportunity to sit in the dark for an hour that going without lights, even for a short period of time, is certainly not conducive to our daily rituals.

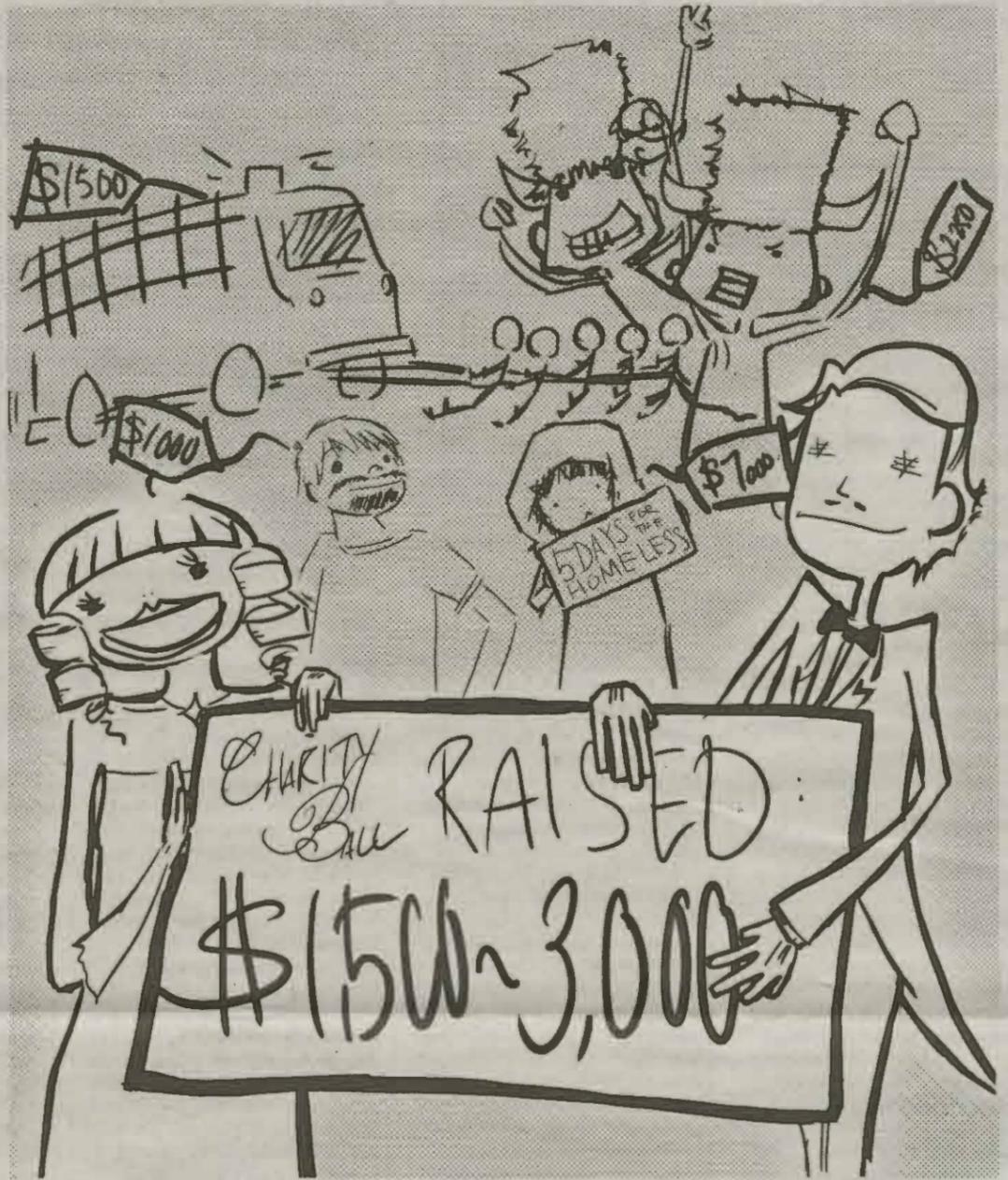
Considering Earth Hour began with a mere 2.2 million people in Australia in 2007, it is hard to argue that it offers no positive benefits.

While no official numbers have been released yet, the World Wildlife Fund expected that close to one billion people would participate in the 2010 event.

While Earth Hour may not be the knight in shining armour that saves planet Earth, it does suggest hope by demonstrating the potential for unity. 126 countries around the world participating in the same event for the same cause is a significant event in itself.

-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 14 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

## Is a business degree valuable?



PAULA MILLAR  
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

If there is one thing I remember from my short-lived days as a BBA student, it is not the countless dollars spent on a calculus tutor or hours mindlessly crunching numbers.

The thing I remember most is a joke made in the early weeks of BU111.

"What do you say to the philosophy major?" the professor asked. Despite a lecture hall of clever, over-eager business kids, no one knew how to respond. He answered for us, "How much do I owe you for the pizza?" Sure, I thought it was amusing at the time.

I was young and impressionable and if a professor was going to tell me that being a business student made me better than my peers, of course I was going to believe it.

The cultivation and indoctrination of biz kid elitism is in itself a strange phenomenon.

While admittedly I fell victim to this mode of thinking, it was some time before I realized how wrong it was.

Interestingly, I am not alone in this delayed realization.

Today, one does not have to look

beyond declining business school enrolments, statements from U.S. President Barack Obama and the recent musings of author Malcolm Gladwell to witness stories of a new enlightenment.

On an episode of Jay Leno last year in the midst of the global financial crisis, Obama said, "Instead of a smart kid coming out of school ... wanting to be an investment banker, we need them to decide if they want to be an engineer, they want to be a scientist, they want to be a doctor or a teacher."

Further, the president expressed his wish for students to pursue "things that actually contribute to making things and making people's lives better - that's going to put our economy on solid footing."

Undoubtedly, this new line of thinking should lead universities to re-evaluate their priorities.

While flashy business programs are magnets for corporate funds, the benefits of more traditional arts programs should not be overlooked.

At the same time, however, students of these undervalued disciplines must step up to the plate.

In order for serious change to take shape, arts students must actively question what happened to the status of their liberal arts education.

When did calculator classes become more intellectually stimulating than those that promote logical reasoning, critique and debate?

Strangely enough, it was only after becoming a BBA student that I

came to see these skills as less valuable than I had realized.

While healthy competition is one thing, a faculty-to-faculty rivalry is not particularly productive.

On the whole, perhaps everyone could benefit from a little interdisciplinary work and a broader perspective of their field of study and of education itself.

Today, the arts, and the skills associated with this faculty, are more crucial than ever before.

As a society, we seem to have grown comfortable with the way that we conduct ourselves.

We are accustomed to accepting dubious theories and political rhetoric as fact, rather than questioning our misgivings.

If the recent economic crisis has taught us anything, it is that we mustn't travel too quickly along a path without questioning where it is going.

How many reflected on the economic foundations, historical parallels and business ethics underpinning the economy prior to the crisis?

Clearly, those who critically question, peruse and unpack modern society are not those merely concerned with maximizing profit.

In light of this, the arts degree is not as defunct as our business department might lead young students to believe.

Sorry, but this arts major won't be delivering your pizza.

# THE FORUM

Opinion Editor Kimberly Elworthy • kelworthy@thecord.ca

## This year in controversy

The top 10 published stories that have garnered the most negative feedback this year. Excerpts taken from **Letters to the Editor** and **thecord.ca**

### 1. Cord makes one election endorsement

Re: "Cord endorsements," Feb. 3

Very disappointed that they only provided a single endorsement. From years past there would be four or five individual endorsements, but I can't help notice you gave the BOD multiple endorsements – hypocrisy at its finest.  
–Luke Dotto

While I may not agree with what they wrote, there is no perfect way to do endorsements, except to not do them.  
–Dan Hocking

I want to congratulate Kyle on receiving the one and only Cord endorsement this year. Of course I'm disappointed not to receive the endorsement, and more so I was also a little disappointed with the way in which endorsements were done this year.  
–Kory Preston

### 2. FRINGE star system review unwanted

Re: "Life on the fringe," Jan. 20

Your article seems to reduce the reception of the festival to arbitrary scoring and generalized statements. We hope that future reviews of the festival present themselves as more justified in their evaluation and with more understanding of the spirit of FRINGE.  
–Kate Cooper and Adam Cilevitz

What we do NOT and have NEVER wanted is The Cord to speak for the student body and RATE our performances.  
–Luke Dotto

BAD JOURNALISM! YOU WRITE LIKE INFANTS!  
–Anonymous

But who needs facts when you write for The Cord huh? Just as long as you get something published right?  
–Sara

### 3. Dear Life: Foot Patrol, Pita Shack and biz kids

**Foot Patrol**  
Dear Life,  
I can't thank Foot Patrol enough for being the black spot on the volunteering spirit in the Laurier community. You suck so much as human beings. Thanks for being a collective of douchebags.  
Sincerely, Trainspotter

Foot Patrol serves two important purposes for Laurier. First and foremost, it's a dating service.  
–A Former Footer

It's a dating service for the volunteers. No one is implying that they provide dates to lonely people.  
–Anonymous

**Pita Shack**  
Dear Life:  
Why do the employees at the Pita Shack on campus suck? Really, learn how to roll pitas. I'm sick of getting

tomatoes and sauces all over me.  
Sincerely, Give Your Employees a Tutorial on Pita Rolling.

Why does everyone hate the Pita Shack? We have feelings too. Sometimes your "thank yous" kinda sound like go #\*!@ yourself.  
–Buy a Salad

**Business kids**  
Dear Life:  
Why does every other faculty hate on business students all the time? It's not our fault if we make up the majority of the school. But you know? It's alright, it's okay. You're going to work for US someday.  
Sincerely, Why Don't YOU Try Calculating Combined Tax Problems?

Dear Business Student. You answered your own question. Its alright - your job will be outsourced to someone who actually knows how to research WITHOUT an attitude one day.  
–Fail

### 4. Charity Ball's donation stirs emotions

Re: "It feels like fraud" Oct. 7, 2009

When at its full potential, CB can have some excellent results not only with raising money but with creating awareness for the charity and getting the Laurier community to work together.  
–Darcy Maslen, Charity Ball Coordinator 2006-2007

If you don't like the amount donated by Charity Ball, then do something about it – force the board to pass a policy on how donated materials are used and enforce a minimum percentage of revenue to be donated. Students need to remember that the union can't read minds, they need your input.  
–Asif Bacchus

Wouldn't it have been great of 25 more WLUSP volunteers attended Charity Ball? Then there would have been a \$1,250 donation increase to KidsAbility.  
–Mya Wijbenga, volunteer liaison Charity Ball 2008-09

### 8. Student Asif Bacchus is 'glorified'

Re: "Nine years. No degree. No problem," Sept. 30, 2009

Why should an article glorifying a peeping tom who gets a kick out of spying on unsuspecting women in their own dorms be permitted in our campus paper?

It is quite ironic that one of his pet peeves is "dumb people" when he is a complete idiot himself.

Is an image of an underachieving, perverted, alcoholic the image of Laurier that The Cord wants to present?  
–Shay Beck

### 10. Sudoku unsolvable

I came across a page from The Cord dated 2009-01-20 that had the Classifieds and a puzzle. I realized that it does not have a unique solution.  
–Leroy J. Dickey

What happened to the Sudoku in The Cord?  
–Cord, put a Sudoku in every issue!

### 5. Campus Clubs is still disorganized

Re: "Campus clubs still unable to access WLUSU money," Oct. 21, 2009

Campus Clubs and faculty associations registering process was a high priority project that has resulted in a more efficient and easy-to-use system in which both returning and newly formed clubs can register and apply for appropriate funding all at the same time.  
–Lawrence Maclin, assistant vice-president: Campus Clubs and faculty associations

Good luck! Campus clubs is an absolutely useless organization! How do they continue their charade?  
–Me

### 6. In depth article about animal testing inaccurate

Re: "Furthering science or exploiting nature?" Nov. 4, 2009

If readers knew anything about the science department at Laurier, you would know that the article is inadequate and makes many false statements.  
–John

This article is a gross misrepresentation of the animal care facility at Laurier. Do your research before writing an "in depth" article.  
–Miles

### 7. Laurier chaplain writes on Christianity

Re: "Principled pluralism is needed today," March 15

I've heard it said Jesus is like your penis. You may be immensely proud of it. It may give you intense pleasure. You might want to share it among your most intimate friends. Other than that, nobody cares about it. Don't take it out in public. Keep it to yourself.  
Same for Jesus.  
–Scott M.

I've heard it said that Scott M.'s opinions are like your penis.  
–Brian B.

Re: "Have a subversive Sabbath," Feb. 10  
The Sabbath is a fictional day created out of a religion.  
–John Galt

Galt: Wow, could you be ANY more robotic? I was enjoying this article until I got down to your fevered proselytizing.  
–Anonymous2

### 9. Cord editorial board dismisses 'snow babe'

Re: "Naked snow woman is not controversial," March 3

A headless woman with her legs open facing Albert Street, which has thousands of cars passing by daily, not only makes an issue of student behaviour, but is also a huge disrespectful act to women.  
–Jackie Dobson, WLUSU BOD 09-10, chair of MSAC

It is irresponsible and dangerous for the editorial board to dismiss these arguments as they are ignoring how this incident is a representation of the systematic nature of sexual objectification/violence within our society and university  
–Jen Holden

I must not have been watching the news lately. When did we lose our freedom of expression? The people who made the snow woman were not violating anybody's rights. So, what gives anybody their right to take away freedom of expression?  
–Andrew

## Letters to the Editor

### Foot Patrol attacks are insulting to volunteers

Re: "Dear Life," March 10

I'd like to address the past few editions of "Dear Life" and the apparent concerns of the student(s) so unsatisfied with our Foot Patrol program.

I would like to ask that individual if they understand that labeling an entire group of unpaid volunteers in such a derogatory way is not only ignorant, but completely discredits their concerns.

I am 100 per cent proud of our Foot Patrol volunteers and everything they have done this year. They work around the clock to ensure the safety of you, your peers and the faculty who run our university.

They have completed over 8,000 walks and rides home this year, and are the only completely volunteer program of its kind in the country.

If you are a concerned volunteer, I suggest coming to meet with me in order to voice your concerns.

However, if you want to continue using "Dear Life" to vent, be my guest. But I ask that you at least have the guts to sign your name.

–Odette Ansell  
Vice-president: Services, WLUSU

### Science cuts actually not as bad as they seem

Re: "Cuts hit sciences," March 24

While the article detailing cuts to science courses was truthful, it is perhaps not fully informed.

I understand the sentiments that the interviewed student expressed; however, I would like to provide further insight into this matter.

Yes, 25 courses have been cut from the biology department for the upcoming year; however, the majority of courses removed were ones that had not been run in some time, as the current faculty structure did not easily facilitate their inclusion.

In place of the removed courses are 16 new or revamped course offerings, designed to maximize the diverse skill set of the faculty and the use of laboratory time and resources.

Also true, first-year labs are being directed towards bi-weekly tutorials.

This will however still provide students with hands-on learning opportunities in the form of tutorial exercises and simulation programs.

I will also provide an avenue for independent and group-based learning in a small classroom setting.

Through a decrease in teaching hours at the first-year level, the department has been able to reallocate money into providing a greater diversity of senior classes.

In the current school year, the biology department offered the equivalent of 33 0.5 credit courses (19 with labs).

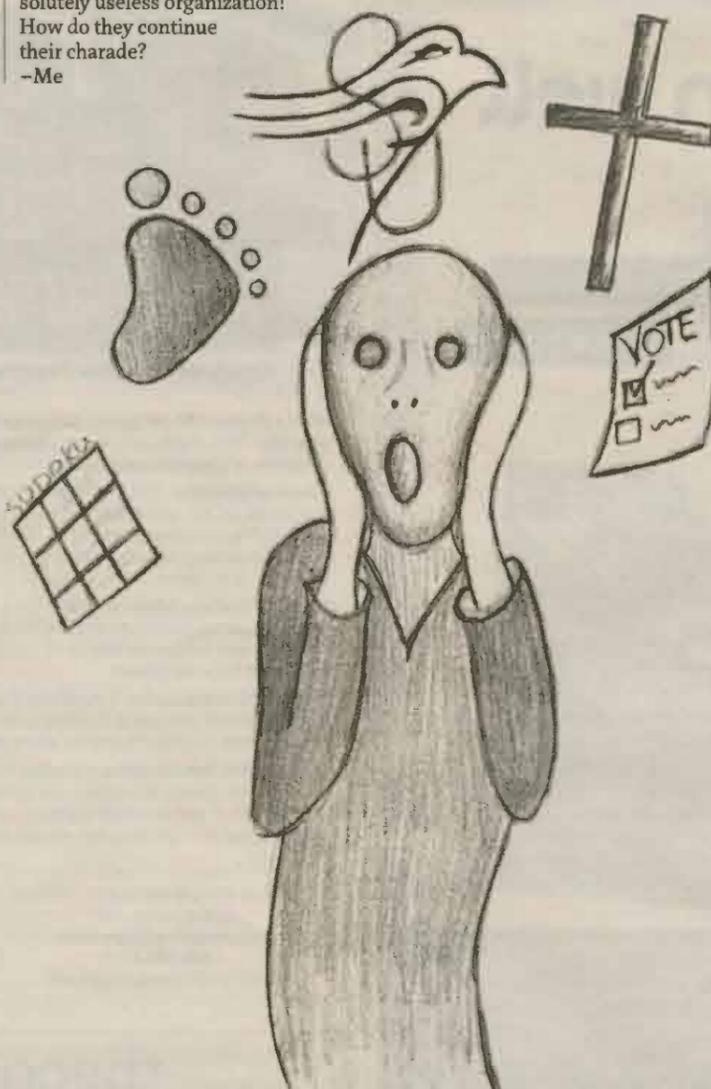
The 2010-2011 biology offerings have actually increased to 35 senior courses, 21 with lab components.

Thus, despite budget cuts the dedicated members of the biology department have been able to even further improve and expand the services and experiences that they offer to undergraduate students.

–Jessie Cunningham

### 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.



TRINA SCHMIDT GRAPHICS EDITOR

# OPINION

Opinion Editor Kimberly Elworthy • kelworthy@thecord.ca

## Ideas matter in politics



**ERIC MERKLEY**  
INCOMING OPINION EDITOR

This past weekend, the Liberal Party of Canada held a "thinkers" conference in Montreal in an effort to rejuvenate grassroots input into party policy and generate ideas and discussion to be considered for the party's next election platform.

This effort has been pilloried by many in the media as a pointless endeavor and by the Conservatives as a "spender's conference."

Ironic, given the contrasting track records in spending of Stephen Harper's government and Jean Chretien's Liberal government in the 1990s.

It is a shame the pursuit of ideas in politics is now so universally frowned upon.

This weekend, Liberals listened to a wide assortment of business leaders and community activists on a broad range of policy issues.

Many of them spewed predictable partisan garbage about how Stephen Harper's government's radical right-wing agenda (if you can really call it right-wing) has destroyed Canada as we know it.

Others, however, offered much more valuable insight.

In particular, David Dodge, former governor of the Bank of Canada, provided a gloomy yet realistic projection of the path Canada is on for the foreseeable future.

But why all the doom and gloom? Simply put, the government is too

big, and in certain areas costs are out of control.

The costs of maintaining current social programs such as health care have soared as the population is aging, and it's getting worse.

Complicating matters is a shrinking labour force and a declining tax base. Dodge warned of stark choices in the future if spending on health care is not reined in and reformed. He challenged the Liberals to talk about real solutions, not just more spending.

The problem is not only in health care but also in the overall size of government. Spending has increased astronomically at all levels of government. As deficits increase and debt mounts, we are ill-prepared for the coming strain on the state. A crisis is coming, and so far none of our political leaders have the foresight or the political will to do anything about it.

These are serious problems that need to be addressed. They need to be solved by more than increasing spending or doling out meaningless tax credits.

It's time for big ideas.

The Harper government has made it clear that it does not take the long-term financial future particularly seriously.

It has ramped up spending, lacks a credible plan to tackle the deficit and seems to lurch from crisis to crisis without a vision or purpose clearly staked out.

Harper's government embodies the notion of "power for the sake of power" that they used to mock Liberals about.

Instead of focusing on the issues that really matter in the long term, the government creates boutique policies and symbolic measures

tailored to groups most likely to vote for them. No big ideas and no vision; just the next election.

That's the leadership vacuum that Michael Ignatieff needs to fill if he is to be successful.

He cannot hope to measure up to Harper in the traditional notion of leadership as strength, but he can stake out his own ground in leadership based on vision and purpose.

So far, Ignatieff's track record is not good. Instead of communicating to Canadians the hard choices that need to be made, he tells them what they want to hear. He will wave a magic wand and make the deficit go away, while increasing spending and not raising taxes.

The Liberals seem to have abandoned their legacy as deficit fighters, which, considering Canada's outlook according to Dodge, they should be embracing with enthusiasm.

Ignatieff needs to harness his image as an academic to put forward bold ideas and create a vision to tackle the problems Canada will be facing.

So far, he has promised to freeze corporate tax reductions to funnel even more money into our already unsustainable social programs and implement a national daycare program. That is not vision. That is boilerplate Liberal rhetoric from a bygone era.

If he wants to beat Harper, he needs to truly show vision and have the courage to talk about the issues that threaten our country's prosperity in the long term.

I will probably not agree with his solutions, but at least big ideas will finally be talked about and discussed by all parties. Our nation will be better for it.



**WADE THOMPSON** INCOMING GRAPHICS EDITOR  
PM Stephen Harper and Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff need to discuss bold ideas in order to handle Canada's economic future.

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# SPORTS

Sports Editor Justin Fauteux • jfauteux@thecord.ca

## The role of a student athlete

What should the Laurier community expect from the members of its sports teams?

**TIEJA MACLAUGHLIN**  
STAFF WRITER

The precise role of a student athlete has been debated between coaches, staff, faculty, students, athletes themselves and even the media.

The time commitments, grades and the overall conduct of varsity teams and clubs may be disagreed upon, but one thing is for sure: the student athlete is subject to a higher degree of responsibility than the average student.

While there is obviously a wide degree of diversity amongst the 20-plus teams and clubs on campus, there is no doubting the importance of athletics to the university as a whole.

"Athletics and recreation is

integral to the mission of the university," said Laurier's director of athletics and recreation Peter Baxter.

"Our student athletes are in the spotlight – they help brand the university through their performance, travelling and the media attention they get."

What many fail to realize is that every student at the university, regardless of their involvement in athletics, pays fees to the athletics department. Half of these fees go directly to paying for the experience of the student athletes in terms of travel costs, facility time and sports medicine among other things.

According to Baxter, it is a privilege for an athlete to be named to the roster of a team and to have the support of the entire university

behind them.

"They've earned the privilege by making the team," said Baxter. "With that they have a great opportunity to have a very positive student life experience, but they're here to be a student first and they have to balance things."

Of course being a student athlete takes a great deal of hard work and that is exactly what these individuals have committed to do when they joined their respective squads.

"Balancing school, varsity and social life is somewhat of a rocket science," said Laurier football captain Taurean Allen. "Juggling games, practices, workouts and schoolwork presents numerous conflicts that have to be identified ahead of time to make the proper adjustments."

And what is the promising

Canadian Football League prospect's method of success? Self discipline.

"I surround myself with people possessing the same goals as I do," said Allen. "I am dedicated to my future, so I make the necessary sacrifices to ensure my goals are attained."

Although not all student athletes have their goals set as high as Allen, the attitudes and behaviour of each is consistent for the most part and they take their role on campus seriously.

"You are in the public eye, and when you are representing the university it is important that you take that responsibly and act in accordance," said Baxter. "We want to make sure that Laurier is put into a positive light."

## Sports in brief

### Football manager dies

Last night, Laurier's football team lost its longest serving member as equipment manager Chuck Classen died. Classen had been part of the program for over 30 years.

Visit [thecord.ca](http://thecord.ca) later in the week for more details.

### Montoya returning to Laurier

Last week, the Golden Hawks' men's football team announced its first set of recruits for next season, and among them was a familiar face. Defensive end Dave Montoya will be returning to Laurier to play out his final year of eligibility.

Montoya – whose younger brother Mike is currently on the Hawks' roster – previously played for Laurier from 2003-06. The Burlington native was a key part of the Laurier team that claimed the Vanier Cup in 2005, being named defensive MVP in the national championship game.

## Bradley moves on to pro career

**JAMIE NEUGEBAUER**  
STAFF WRITER

When Paul Bradley stepped onto the ice for his first game with the Royal Military College Paladins in 2005, there was little evidence that he would wind up where he did this season: pursuing a master's degree in history and playing hockey for the Golden Hawks.

In his fifth and final season playing university hockey this past year with the Hawks, Bradley led the team in goals, assists and points, and was named an Ontario University Athletics (OUA) First Team All-Star.

He now plays for the Central Hockey League's regular season champion Odessa Jackalopes, an affiliate club of the New York Islanders.

"I feel like I took a pretty unique way of getting to where I am," said the Calgary native. "I didn't get drafted [to the NHL], I was passed over for the NCAA scholarship I wanted and I wasn't on a lot of radars going into RMC."

The hockey program at RMC has been less than competitive in the last few years, and Bradley was able

to step right in and be a go-to guy immediately. In all but one of his four seasons for the Paladins, he led the team in scoring putting up strong numbers on a perennially mediocre team.

In his first year with the Paladins, the team's head coach was current Laurier coach Kelly Nobes, who saw an OUA star in Bradley.

"Kelly Nobes was the major reason I ended up at Laurier," said Bradley.

"He brought me to RMC and he brought me to Laurier. He knew what I could do five years ago, and whether or not he knows it, he is a major reason I am where I am. He's a great guy and a great coach who has done a great job."

With the loss of star offensive producers Nick Vergeer and Mark Voakes coming into this season, the addition of Bradley to the purple and gold line-up was timely.

After some experimenting with various line combinations throughout the season, Nobes finally settled on keeping Bradley and Hawks' captain Jean-Michel Rizk together on what turned out to be a dominant first line.

"My friend and line-mate Jean-Michel Rizk deserves the most



YUSUF KIDWAI FILE PHOTO

Paul Bradley was the Hawks' leading scorer this year with 42 points.

credit on the ice," said Bradley. "He is the best all-around player in the league, and I will argue that one to the death."

"He will be playing in the AHL or even the NHL one day; I'd put money on it."

Bradley has proved himself to be a reliable two-way forward, with outstanding offensive instincts and tremendous leadership potential. Nobes played him in all situations this past year, and he contributed 42 points.

### Hawks take part in all-star game

Last Wednesday, a team made up of the top female hockey players from the OUA defeated Team Canada's under-18 women's hockey team 4-2 in an exhibition game, and five Hawks were on the roster for the university all-stars.

Forwards Andrea Ironside, Katherine Shirriff and Candice Styles, as well as defenceman Stephanie Crarey and goalie Liz Knox were all part of the team, with Styles scoring the final goal of the game.

### Laurier to honour 'outstanding woman'

This afternoon, Laurier's athletics department will present the fourth annual Outstanding Woman of Laurier award to one of four nominees.

The award is presented to a female student athlete who demonstrates exceptional academic and athletic achievement, combined with leadership in the community.

This year's nominees are: Liz Knox of the women's hockey team, Brittany Shaw of the swim team, Megan Gilmore of the women's volleyball team and Danielle Inglis of the women's curling team.

The award will be presented at a luncheon where all the proceeds will be donated to women's athletic programs, scholarships and Laurier's mentor coaching programs. –All compiled by Justin Fauteux

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# A year in the sports world

As second semester comes to a close, The Cord Sports staff looks back at the top 10 sports stories since the end of the last school year



## 9. Yankees return to glory

The New York Yankees won their 27th World Series Championship this past November, their first since 2000, after dominating Major League Baseball in the mid to late 1990s. The Yankees beat the defending champions, the Philadelphia Phillies in the fall classic thanks to the efforts of the World Series' Most Valuable Player, Hideki Matsui. The exceptional playoff performance from Alex Rodriguez – who has often been criticized for his inability to come through in the clutch – was also a key component in the Yankees' return to glory. Rodriguez hit .230 with four home runs and nine runs batted in during his first 24 playoff games with the Yankees. In the 15 games needed to capture the World Series in 2009, Rodriguez batted .378 with six home runs and 18 runs batted in.

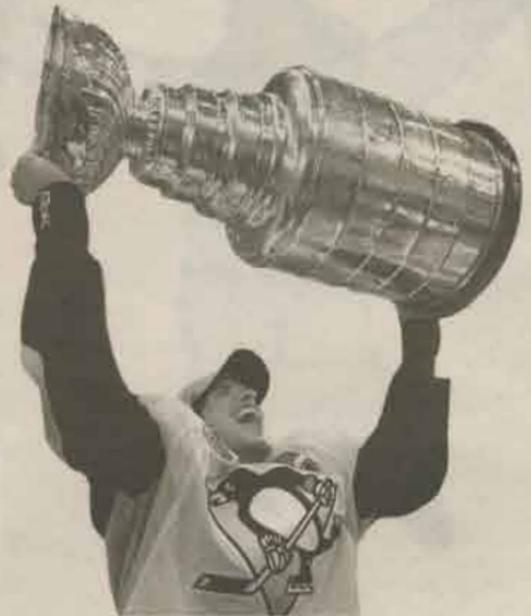
–Tyler Warry

## 10. Stanley Cup rematch

For the second straight year, the Detroit Red Wings and the Pittsburgh Penguins clashed in the NHL's 2009 Stanley Cup final. The Wings were seeking their 2nd straight Cup and their 5th in 12 years, while the Penguins were seeking retribution for their loss in 2008.

After falling behind 2-0 and 3-2 in the series, the Penguins would not be denied their first Cup in 17 years and won games six and seven by identical scores of 2-1. Sidney Crosby became the youngest captain in NHL history to hoist the cup; he had 31 points in the playoffs. Marian Hossa, who had bolted from the Pens a year earlier to play for the Red Wings, tasted ironic defeat, ending up on the wrong side of the spectrum two years in a row.

–Kevin Campbell



## 8. Federer back on top

Arguably the greatest tennis player of all time, Roger Federer returned to his throne in 2009 after losing it to Rafael Nadal the previous year. Over the summer, Federer broke the record for most Grand Slam titles of all time, claiming his 15th in July, 2009 at Wimbledon when he defeated Andy Roddick. Federer now owns 16 titles at 28 years old.

Federer has so far cemented his legacy with four Australian Open titles, one French Open title, six Wimbledon titles, five US Open titles, and one Olympic gold medal in the doubles category. His consistency, as well as his wicked forehand, guarantee that he is almost always ranked No. 1 in the world.

–Kevin Campbell



## Top five Golden Hawk headlines

### 1. Budget cuts hit Laurier Athletics

As part of the summer's university-wide budget reduction, Laurier's athletics department was forced to cut \$380,000, or 16 per cent, of the previous year's budget. As a result, eight varsity teams – baseball, figure skating, golf, rugby, cross country and cheerleading – lost their funding from the university.

### 2. The men's baseball team win silver medal

The men's baseball team responded to their loss of funding with the most successful season in team history this past fall. The Hawks lost to the Western Mustangs in the provincial final, giving them the Ontario University Athletics silver medal, after upsetting defending champions, the McMaster Marauders in the semi-finals.

### 3. Women's hockey dominates OUA ... again

The perennial powerhouse that is Laurier's women's hockey team somehow managed to improve this season, earning 53 of a possible 54 points in the regular season with their only loss coming in overtime in the final game of the year. They would go on to tie an OUA record with their seventh-consecutive provincial title before claiming the bronze medal at nationals. Goalie Liz Knox had an incredible season,

winning the first national MVP award in team history, after tying the CIS record for shutouts in a season (11) and in a career (30).

### 4. Football team overcomes early season adversity

After a rash of early-season injuries – including a knee injury that kept starting quarterback Luke Thompson out for the rest of the year – things didn't look good for Laurier's men's football team. However, thanks to a solid season from backup QB Evan Pawliuk, and a defence that ranked amongst the best in the country, the Hawks finished with a 6-2 record, handing the eventual Vanier Cup champions, the Queen's Gaels their only loss of the season.

### 5. Questions surround rugby program

After being one of the eight teams to lose funding from the university, Laurier's rugby teams went through a year of uncertainty in 2009-10. In December, there was speculation that the program would be moved to the Brantford campus, then came the news of both teams' head coaches resigning from their posts earlier this month. Just last week, it was reported by *The Record* that a series of infractions have brought the men's team close to losing their varsity status.

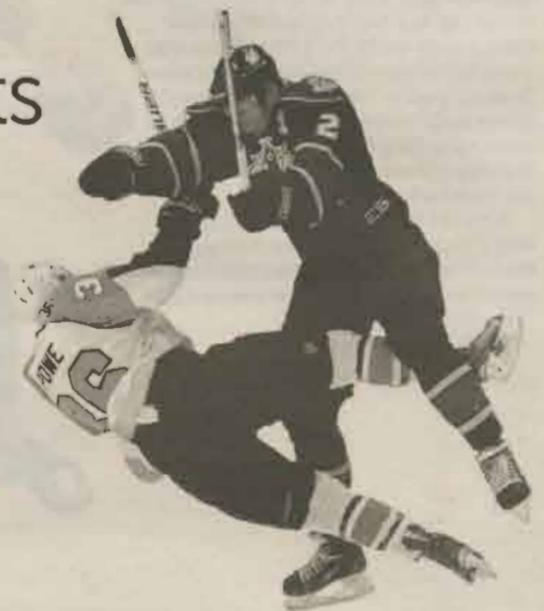
–Justin Fauteux

## 7. Headshots in hockey

In a long overdue move, the NHL finally addressed the growing concern of players targeting each others' heads during checks and blindside hits to the head as "incidental contact". In an unprecedented mid-season rule change, the NHL has put forth the rule that blindside hits to a player where the head is primarily targeted will be penalized.

The rule follows a plethora of recent injuries. This includes the Ontario Hockey League's Kitchener Rangers' 16-year-old rookie Ben Fanelli's season prematurely coming to an end thanks to a reckless head-checking play, which gave the defenceman facial lacerations and a fractured skull.

–Kevin Campbell



## 6. World Juniors

For Team Canada in the International Ice Hockey Federation World Junior Hockey Championships, there are only two possible outcomes. Either they win the gold medal or they fail. In 2010, the big story was that for the first time since 2004, the boys in red and white failed.

The squad was, as usual, packed with high-end talent and included 10 National Hockey League first round picks. Headlined by names like Taylor Hall (probable 2010 number one pick), perennial clutch performer Jordan Eberle, and the NHL-experienced Alex Pietrangolo, this Canadian team seemed set to win the tournament.

After rolling through the round robin – with their only serious competition coming from the U.S. – the Canadians unravelled in the gold medal game against the Americans. Only a heroic performance by the previously mentioned Eberle, who scored two goals within the last three minutes of the game, gave the Canadians a chance in overtime.

However, the record sixth-straight gold was not to be for Canada, as American John Carlson scored 4:31 into overtime.

–Jamie Neugebauer



# Story of the year: Vancouver 2010



Never before has Canada been brought together in such a patriotic fashion than this past February when Vancouver hosted the world at the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Although the games started bleakly with the tragic death of Nodar Kumaritashvili, a young Georgian luger, they were quickly rejuvenated by Canadian freestyle skier Alexandre Bilodeau, who became the first Canadian to ever win gold at home.

The party only continued, with the unforgettable gold medal performances of athletes such as Jon Montgomery in skeleton, Maelle Ricker in snowboard cross and the Canadian women's hockey team, opening the door for Canadians to set a Winter Olympics record with 14 gold medals – the most ever by a host nation. There were also incredible stories, such as that of figure skater Joannie Rochette, who had what was likely the most inspirational performance of the games, winning the bronze medal just days after the unexpected death of her mother.

Of course, none of Canada's accomplishments were as celebrated as Canada's men's hockey gold, which was won in dramatic fashion on the final night of the Games when Sidney Crosby scored the golden goal in overtime against the United States.

Even without the success of the Canadian team – who won a total of 26 medals, good enough for third place overall – Vancouver 2010 demonstrated its ability to unite Canadians and instill a sense of pride that has never been associated with Canada in the past.

–Chris Mander

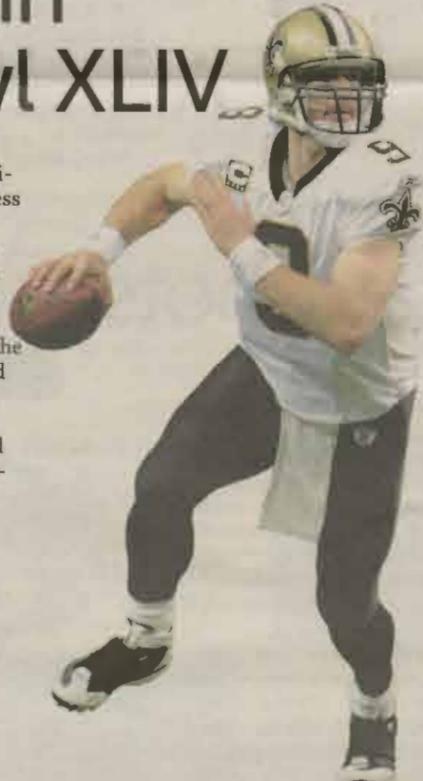


## 3. Saints win Super Bowl XLIV

After New Orleans was devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, things seemed hopeless for the city and their subpar football franchise. Led by quarterback Drew Brees, who many had written off as injury-prone when he was signed by New Orleans in 2009, the Saints made a stunning comeback this past season, finishing 13-3 and going on to win the 2010 Super Bowl, putting both their city and the team back on the map.

Brees led the team to their 31-17 victory over veteran superstar Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts, shocking and silencing critics and restoring hope amongst the "Who Dat" nation.

–Tieja MacLaughlin



## 2. Tiger Woods

The biggest scandal of the past year was undoubtedly Tiger Woods' infidelity, which not only messed up his marriage with a supermodel and damaged his image and reputation, but also lost him millions of dollars in endorsements because he could not keep his Escalade away from a tree.

Woods' squeaky clean image was tainted when his affairs were revealed to the public in late November. After Tiger's wife found text messages from several women on his phone, Apple approved an iPhone app that poked fun at the golf legend. This app allows text messages to remain hidden when someone other than the phone's owner is looking at it. However, not everyone wanted something to do with Tiger; top sponsors Gatorade and GM, among others, cut the athlete, as they no longer considered him an appropriate role model.

Although Tiger is set to return to the game with the Masters just around the corner, make no mistake, Tiger Woods will no longer be viewed in the same way he was prior to his sex escapade.

–Chris Mander

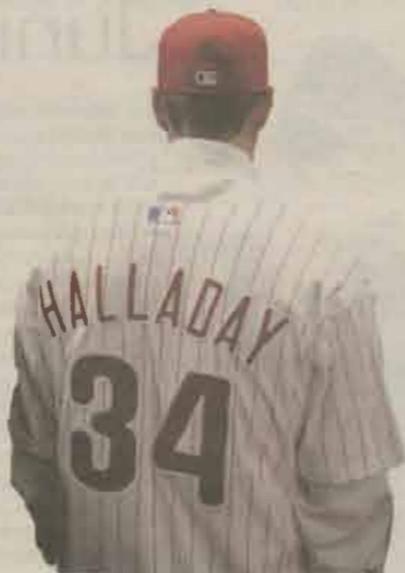


## 5. Halladay traded

This past December, the face of the Toronto Blue Jays franchise was traded as a massive four team, nine-player blockbuster deal sent Roy Halladay, arguably the best pitcher in baseball, to the Philadelphia Phillies. The Jays received highly-touted pitching prospect Kyle Drabek, third baseman Brett Wallace and outfielder Travis d'Arnaud. Also involved in the deal was former Cy Young winner Cliff Lee, who was shipped from the Phillies to the Seattle Mariners.

Although it is still too early to tell who won this trade, as of right now, it has dealt a large blow to the Jays. The Jays lost a former Cy Young winner, a fan favourite and ace in an already unstable rotation. Canada's team has now become insignificant in a very tough American League East Division and are definitely looking ahead to the future. No matter what happens in upcoming years, this deal will be one of the biggest in Jays history.

–Brenden Decker



## 4. Phoenix Coyotes

It's been a year to remember for fans of the Phoenix Coyotes. The drama surrounding the team regarding its ownership struggle and potential re-location seemed to be an indicator of what was going to be yet another disastrous year. But once the season started, the desert dogs took the hockey world by complete surprise. The Coyotes astonishingly find themselves among the elite teams in the NHL, currently ranked fourth in the Western Conference having already clinched their first playoff berth since 2002.

What's even more surprising is how the Coyotes have gotten to this point: goalie Ilya Bryzgalov was considered mediocre at best before this season, and now finds himself as a likely Vezina Trophy candidate; the team's offence doesn't have a player ranked in the top 50 for scoring and head coach Dave Tippett is in his first season with the club after the "Great One" Wayne Gretzky stepped down.

It is evident that the Coyotes have, against all odds, made a name for themselves as a team not to count out.

–Chris Paola

