

THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

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ROSALIE EID PHOTOGRAPHER/MANAGER

KEVIN CAMPBELL
SPORTS EDITOR

This time, there was no reason for hanging heads and dragging cleats.

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks had left everything and maybe even the kitchen sink on the gridiron against their arch-nemesis No. 2 Western Mustangs in their 34-28 loss on Saturday before 2,688 at University Stadium.

The usually-stalwart defence, which had been the missing

backbone in each of Laurier's past two games stood tall and didn't flinch in the face of one of the greatest offences in the country.

The Hawks (1-3) knew they had to get up for this game against the Mustangs (4-0). Not only to silence the naysayers, but to prove to themselves they belonged on the same field as the best team in the Ontario University Athletics thus far.

"We knew we could compete with them and we did," said head coach Gary Jeffries. "Despite what a lot of

people thought, we became a good football team today."

Sam Aird and Mitchell Bosch led the way for the young defence with eight and 7.5 tackles respectively.

Bosch repeatedly shut down Mustangs' quarterback Donnie Marshall and first-year phenom and Kitchener native runningback Tyler Varga.

Varga leads the country with 12 touchdowns in four games, and obtained three of those on Saturday.

But the defence held the prized

runningback to only 88 yards rushing and no touchdown was longer than a six-yard run-in. Varga had averaged 122 yards per game in Western's three previous tilts.

"That's the defence we're used to," said Jeffries. "They've got a lot of weapons; a lot of ways they can attack you ... our kids just dug in."

Laurier gave Western trouble all game long.

With the score 21-7 and less than two minutes left in the first half, the Laurier offence started to capitalize

on their few chances with the ball.

First, Dillon Heap, the fifth-year punt-returner shocked Western with a stunning catch just outside the end zone and Rashad La Touche, Laurier's runningback turned-fill-in punt-returner ran it in for the touchdown.

Heap finished the match with seven catches for 176 yards, including a 63-yard punt-returning touchdown 8:45 into the game.

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Shortened O-Week likely

MARCIE FOSTER
LEAD REPORTER

Next year, students may see the addition of a new fall study break, however, this may bring considerable changes to the structure of O-Week. A proposal of a two-day fall reading break, which would be placed at the third weekend of October, would potentially affect the placement and possibly the length of WLU's traditional weeklong O-Week.

"It came up at senate last fall, when I was presenting the academic dates," said Ray Darling, registrar and commissioner of oaths at WLU. "That day, people had questions. They were questioning the length of the orientation period, as well as the possibility of a fall study break."

After the senate meeting, a committee was formed that included David McMurray, vice president of student affairs, and former Wilfrid Laurier Students' Union president and CEO Kyle Walker.

"We drafted a proposal that

"As long as we're not overly compromising our ability to deliver great programming for Orientation Week, I'll be okay with it."

—Nick Gibson, WLUSU president and CEO

would have people start class on the Thursday instead of the following Monday after Labour Day," said Darling. "What we'd have to do is start classes a little bit earlier."

The proposal was then discussed again last week by the committee and was also sent out over the summer to all the division councils. Darling aims to present the finished proposal to the WLU senate in November, should it pass at the senate academic meeting next Monday.

"The reason why we're doing this is to benefit the students," he said. "The big concern is the impact on Orientation Week."

Orientation Week could shorten

by up to two days with classes taking place on the Thursday and Friday in order to free up two days later in the term. The other option was to use the two study days in between classes and finals.

"You're going to run into issues when you push it back," said Emily Butcher, a head icebreaker during this year's O-Week. "Dons would also need to be trained earlier, and prepared earlier, and would have to be on duty longer, because they'd have that extra weekend to have to watch students."

Although this is one issue that

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Healing through the arts

Features, page 10

PHOTO BY NICK LACHANCE PHOTO MANIPULATION BY WADE THOMPSON

Inside

Centennial Homecoming

This year's Homecoming will take on a special meaning for WLU as the school celebrates its centennial

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Engaging youth

Local PC candidate Michael Harris forms a youth cabinet as a way of getting young people in to politics

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Cord endorsement

After following local and provincial candidates in the coming election, The Cord makes their pick of who deserves the vote

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Editor's Choice
The offline student
Life, only at thecord.ca



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Quote of the week



"I'm married, I have a wife and still don't understand women."

—J.D. McGuire, K-W Green Party candidate when asked what he'll do for women and women's rights if elected

CORRECTION

In the Sept. 21 article "Giving back, one photo at a time" a quote by Matt Symes incorrectly read as though working for the organization Self-Help Alliance was difficult, when rather he meant that in previous years, attempting to reach out to organizations was difficult. His experience working with Self-Help has been a turnaround from that. A second quote "One in five Canadians commits suicide every year" was also published incorrectly as it should read that one in five Canadians suffer from mental illness. Allan Strong's affiliation was printed incorrectly, and he in fact works with the Self-Help Alliance. Their website is not www.self-help.ca but rather www.self-help-alliance.ca. The Cord apologizes for this error.

Bag O' Crime

Assist Other Service
Location: 41 Bricker Ave.
Reported: Sept. 16 at 1:30 a.m.
SCS officers on mobile patrol came across a noisy and rowdy party on Bricker Ave. Eight WRPS units were on scene in an effort to dismantle the party goes. A 23-year-old WLU student was extremely rude, disrespectful and uncooperative with WRPS. As a result of his actions this matter will be dealt with by the Judicial Affairs Council.

Assist Other Service
Location: Arts C Wing
Reported: Sept. 19 at 12:33 p.m.
SCS officers assisted WRPS plain clothes officers in making an arrest of a 20-year-old male WLU student in relation to a criminal offence that had been reported at an off-campus location in August.

By-Law Complaint
Location: 232 King St. N.
Reported: Sept. 20 at 2:33 a.m.
A 21-year-old local male was issued a Provincial Offence Notice contrary to the Waterloo Public Nuisance By-Law for 'Foul, permit to foul land owned privately'. He had been caught on CCTV cameras urinating by the front doorway of the SCS offices.

Unwanted Contact
Location: 202 Regina St.
Reported: Sept. 20 at 12:30 p.m.
SCS dealt with a former student wishing to attend this year's Homecoming. It was discovered that he was still on a trespass ban at WLU. He was informed that the ban is still in effect.

Impaired Driver
Location: Parking Lot #20
Reported: Sept. 22 at 4:54 a.m.
SCS officers discovered an intoxicated 18-year-old male sleeping behind the wheel of a parked vehicle. WRPS attended and arrested the male for having the care or control of a motor vehicle while his ability to drive was impaired by alcohol.

Theft Under \$5,000
Location: Residence
Reported: Sept. 22 at 5:05 p.m.
SCS is investigating the theft of a bicycle from a storage area on the fifth floor of the student residence during Orientation Week. The bike is described as a men's make 'Giant', Model - Rincon, 24 speed, red in colour bearing a J&J Cycle sticker. Valued at approximately \$600.00.

Injured/Sick Person
Location: Off Campus
Reported: Sept. 23 at 12:10 a.m.
Cambridge EMS called SCS Dispatch Centre to advise of a caller (male party) that had fallen and injured himself at an unknown location, possibly on campus. WRPS, SCS and EMS eventually located the subject at King St. and University Ave. The services of EMS were not required.

Disturbance
Location: Residence
Reported: Sept. 23 at 11:52 p.m.
SCS officers attended to a student residence in response to a complaint of a disturbance having taken place. A consensual fight had taken place between a number of males and females over 'catcalls' between all parties. Several punches were thrown and a window was smashed in the process. One male sustained a severe cut to his wrist and was treated on scene. He refused any further medical assistance. Most of the responsible parties had fled the scene upon SCS arrival. Residence Life is dealing with the known students responsible for the damage and their behaviour.

Vocal Cord

What do you think of the university shortening O-week?



"It's a terrible idea, O-Week is one of the attractive things about Laurier."

—Mike Abramovitz
Fifth-year kinesiology



"I think it's a good idea, we have a lot of mid-terms to write."

—Jingtong Hu
Second-year economics



"It's a bad idea, it's for kids to get to know the school and the school environment."

—Katie Williams
Third-year English



"It's a bad idea because that's where everyone meets everyone."

—Nishant Sripathy
Second-year BBA

Compiled by Katie Flood
Photos by Kate Turner

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

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

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

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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 solemnly held ethical conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or of commission has occurred, that error shall be acknowledged promptly. Where 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:
"Fuck you, I do care, I was just trying to be cool in front of Semites."
—News Director Justin Fauteux re: his World Series picks being omitted from the sports section.

NEWS

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Interim Liberal leader visits Laurier

Bob Rae discusses legacy of Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier

JUSTIN SMIRLIES
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Speaking to an audience of both students and locals, Bob Rae, interim leader for the Liberal Party of Canada and former chancellor at Wilfrid Laurier University, took the stage at the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall on Sept. 22 to present a lecture on the history of Wilfrid Laurier as a prime minister and Canada's place in terms of foreign policy.

The former premier of Ontario recounted the time that Laurier was prime minister from 1896 to 1911, with the last year of his term being the "birth" year of the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary of Canada, which later evolved into WLU throughout the 20th century. The talk was part of a series of "centennial" lectures hosted by Laurier that look back at Canada's politics for the last century.

"Laurier, the prime minister, had a vision of a bigger country, a bigger place, a bigger world. He had a humanitarian vision that was very powerful that was about liberal values and human values and that stood the test of time," Rae told The Cord after the lecture. "I think it's something that has a lot of meaning today."

The lecture was primarily focused on Laurier as an individual and what contributions he made to the identity of Canada, including his efforts in trying to create a cohesive society between the English and the French.

"Laurier [the prime minister] was dealing, from the very beginning, with the realities of the Canadian

experience," Rae said during his presentation.

"We were pulled from different directions, internally and externally."

Rae continued, "The first thing you have to remember about foreign policy is that it's not really foreign. It's merely an extension of your domestic policy. It's a reflection of who are you as a country. And that is true as much as it was during Laurier's time as it is today."

Rae then went on to explain in more detail some of the issues, both domestic and foreign, that the seventh prime minister of Canada faced. In particular, Rae discussed the implications of the Boer War and Laurier's political battles with Robert Borden, the Conservative prime minister that succeeded him in 1911.

Citing various examples from more contemporary times, Rae talked about Laurier's political legacy and influence on various political figures in Canada.

"I had no doubt in my mind, that Mr. Chretien had Laurier in mind when he said 'no' to George Bush's proposal to join the coalition in Iraq," he added.

While the majority of the talk was non-partisan, Rae did take some time towards the end of the lecture to criticize some of his political opponents, most notably the Conservative Party of Canada.

"I think for example, when we look at provisions between the Liberals and Conservatives today and as Liberals we need to articulate these differences more in the

days ahead," he continued. "Is that we don't see the world as a place where, necessarily, issues are going to be resolved by means of military confrontation."

After many questions were asked from various students and professors, Rae discussed his thoughts on foreign policy with The Cord.

For Rae, Canada's foreign policy should not only look outward to the countries surrounding the nation, but also inward at its inhabitants, especially as multiculturalism becomes an increasingly large part of Canada's identity.

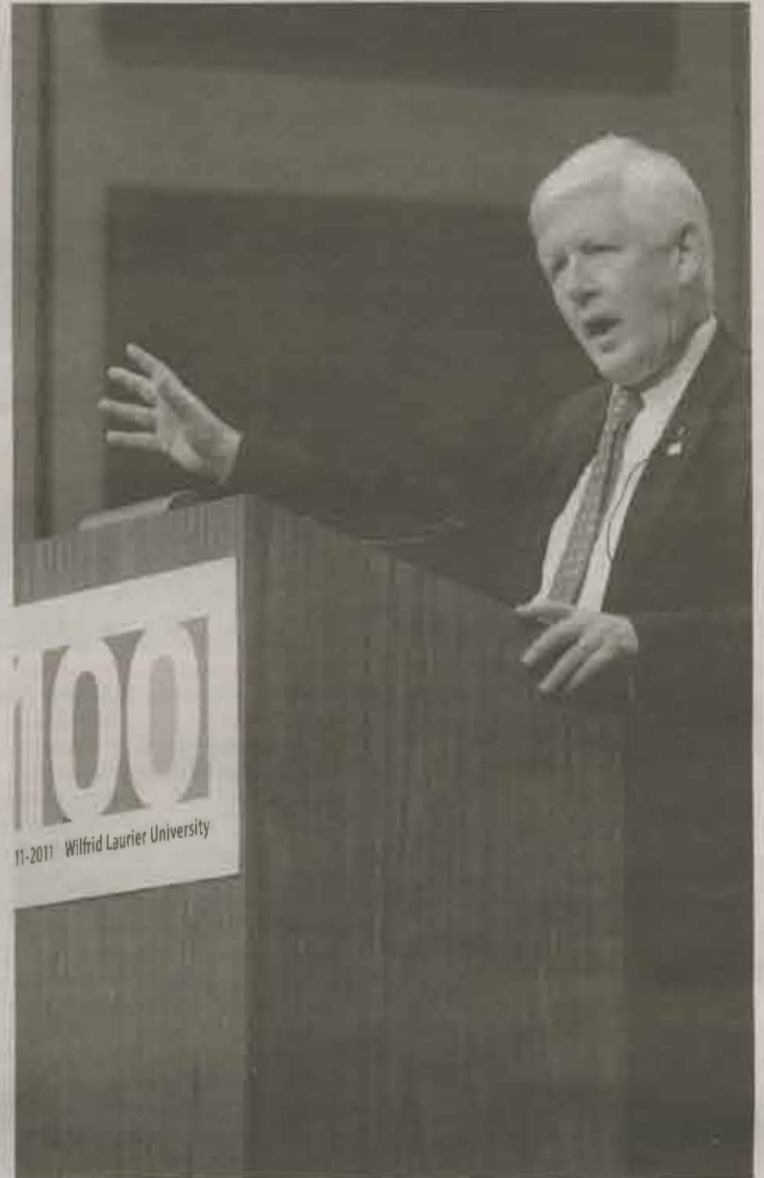
"Canada in itself becomes, in a sense, a mini-world. Therefore our success in bringing people together will enable us to do a better job around the world," he said.

Rae also feels that Canada will, and should, make a substantial impact in world politics in the future.

"What happens in the world has a profound impact on Canada and I don't think we should feel, because we're a relatively small country in terms of population, that we can't really have an impact on the world," he said.

With his stint as Ontario's 21st premier from 1990-95, Rae still had messages to send to students about the upcoming provincial election, hoping that involvement continues in an election that directly affects them.

"I think it's inevitable and natural for students to think about the issues that affect them. Like tuition and education and so on. But it's also important to think about more broadly," concluded Rae.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Interim Liberal Party of Canada leader Bob Rae speaks at Laurier Sept. 22. Rae was the chancellor of WLU from 2003 to 2008.

More news: online

Centennial celebrations continue

WLU celebrates 100-year relationship with Lutheran Seminary



LATANYA HYATT STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hyde's role restructured

WLUSU avoids potential conflict of interest during elections

thecord.ca

WLUSU election plans hit a snag

MARCIE FOSTER
LEAD REPORTER

After Elections Ontario delivered the news that Wilfrid Laurier Students' Union was not permitted to draft mail for off-campus students to use as proof of residence in the upcoming provincial election, director of policy research and advocacy Chris Hyde and vice president of university affairs Sean Madden worked together to find a solution.

"I think each side thought we were on the right side of the page with what we're being required, and I guess we got mixed signals between the two of us," Hyde explained.

"I guess one of the strongest reasons was that we just finished the Government of Canada elections, which have their proof of residence rules, there were a lot of them and it took time to get used to them. Once we were acclimated to those rules, they probably dominated how people look at the elections"

Elections Ontario forbids WLUSU from drafting mail for students to use as proof of residence in the upcoming provincial elections on Oct. 6, something that WLUSU thought they could offer to students. On-campus students are unaffected as Madden explained.

"Elections Ontario accepted residence rolls [lists of students in a residence] as proof of residence documentation, and so the 3,000 odd students that are in residence are covered," he said.

Madden added, "It's many of the same staff that they have hired for

"I guess [it was] just unclear information in our communications with Elections Ontario."

—Sean Madden, WLUSU VP: university

both elections so where the federal rules would have allowed something like this, there's confusion that the provincial rules are the same."

Madden then explained how Elections Ontario originally supported the idea to draft mail for proof of residence for off-campus students. "I guess [it was] just unclear information in our communications with Elections Ontario," he said.

Moving forward, Hyde and Madden drafted a poster detailing what is required for students to prove proof of residency. Some listed included lease agreements, utility bills and loan agreements.

Madden added that the websites itsyourvote.ca, elections.on.ca and wemakevotingeasy.ca are all helpful resources to help you get ready to vote.

There are advanced polls taking place in the Concourse Sept. 28 and 29 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Visit thecord.ca on Oct. 6 for breaking news coverage as the results of the provincial election are announced

RADIO LAURIER PRESENTS...

Hawktoberfest

THURSDAY OCTOBER 13TH
7PM - 1AM @ LION'S TENT
ON FREDERICK STREET
LOCATED ON THE 7 MAINLINE
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WLUSU OFFICES AT
205 REGINA ST. N.
AND RADIO
LAURIER
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CONCOURSE
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TICKET
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THE DOOR
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WLUSU hosts debate for students



ROSALIE EID PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Candidates from the Kitchener-Waterloo riding came to Wilfrid Laurier University on Sept. 22 to take questions from students.

JUSTIN SMIRLIES
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

In an attempt to get more students at Wilfrid Laurier University involved in the upcoming provincial election, the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) held an on-campus forum last Thursday with four of the candidates running in the Kitchener-Waterloo riding. Similarly to the federal election, this riding holds special importance because it encompasses two universities and a diverse local and student population.

The forum was moderated by Chris Hyde, WLUSU director of policy, research and advocacy and The Cord's editor-in-chief, Linda Givtash. While only an hour long, the debate offered students the opportunity to ask the candidates questions about their concerns and issues for the Oct. 6 election.

"We really wanted to give students an opportunity to ask their questions," Sean Madden, vice president of university affairs at WLUSU, told The Cord after the debate. "As well, I wanted the candidates to speak to kind of a unique perspective in terms of provincial politics because I can't think of any other riding with two universities and a college."

Ultimately, the debate focused on the issues relating to students — such as education and the growing number of university students — but also healthcare, trade and the environment. Present at the debate were incumbent Progressive Conservative candidate Elizabeth Witmer, Liberal party candidate Eric Davis, NDP candidate Isabel Cisterna and Green party candidate J.D. McGuire.

After a brief introduction from each of the candidates, the floor was then opened up to students where the first question regarded the issue of provincial debt and proposed budgets.

"So when we do it [implement the NDP budget], we're not cutting services but enhancing them. And we're doing it in a responsible way that puts families first," explained Cisterna, noting that her party will balance the budget.

Davis and McGuire stated similarly to Cisterna, saying their parties will not cut services but try to control spending. Witmer, on the other hand, felt that the current McGuire government hasn't been responsibly controlling government spending.

"We have seen irresponsible spending in the past eight years. We have a debt, by the way, that has been doubled by the current

premier," said Witmer.

The second question of the debate was more centred around student issues, where a student asked the panel of candidates, "Why should I let everyone pay for my education?"

Davis replied to this by saying, "Fundamentally, there are some people who don't have children and we pay for public schooling, there are some people who don't need hospitals yet we pay for hospitals. The point is that we're all in this together."

One of the more interesting questions of the day — something which lightened the mood of the debate somewhat — was a question from a Twitter follower of the debate. The question was simple; asking each candidate who their all-time favourite Canadian was, where each candidate gave a different answer.

After a brief pause from political discussion, a female student came to the podium and asked how each of the candidates were going to ensure the rights of women within the sphere of health and job equality. Most of the candidates said that women's rights and equality is still an issue to be aware of and that more women need to get involved in the political theatre.

At one point during the debate, Cisterna questioned Davis on the

possibility of the Liberal party building more nuclear plants, which Cisterna believes is too expensive and detrimental to the environment, especially when more renewable options are available.

"We also have to make sure we keep nuclear energy going, at least for the time being. It makes up 50 per cent of our energy mix," answered Davis, mentioning that the Liberal party will refurbish many of the existing plants. "We want to diversify the green energy mix but we can't do that overnight."

One of the concluding questions of the session was from a student who, most appropriately, asked why students are important topics of discussion during this provincial election.

"I don't want to be singing that children are future or anything like that, but it's true," joked McGuire. "We're a party focused on the future."

"When you take a look at our future, we realize we're going to be living in a global economy. It's going to be extremely important that our young people have skills," added Witmer.

"Not just professional and educational skills but social skills in order that we can continue to develop solutions to problems."

WLU in brief

WLU appoints a new chancellor, Michael Lee-Chin

On September 23, Canadian businessman and philanthropist Michael Lee-Chin was officially appointed chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University.

The decision was made with unanimous support from the Board of Governors and the Senate. Lee-Chin, who will become Laurier's eighth chancellor, will be succeeding John A. Pollack.

Lee-Chin will balance his new role at Laurier with a plethora of business and philanthropic endeavours. Lee-Chin was born in Port Antonio, Jamaica, but relocated to Canada to enroll at McMaster University as a civil engineering student.

Possessing a knack for financial investment, by his early thirties Lee-Chin had purchased \$500,000 of stock in Mackenzie Financial.

In 1987 Lee-Chin started Portland Holdings Incorporated. The first major acquisition was Advantage Investment Council, and, under Lee-Chin's tutelage, the company grew to manage billions of dollars in assets.

Portland Holdings Inc. has since grown and owns a majority interest in a variety of companies including, AIC International Investments Limited, CVM Communications Group, National Commercial Bank Jamaica Limited and Senvia Money Services Inc.

Throughout his lengthy career, Lee-Chin has also managed to become heavily involved in philanthropy.

In addition to the focus on corporate citizenship on the part of Portland Holdings, he has made sizable personal contributions to a number of institutions including the Northern Caribbean University in Mandeville, Jamaica.

With these donations, he gave \$30 million to the Royal Ontario Museum, which assisted in the creation of the Museum's addition, the "Michael Lee-Chin Crystal."

Lee-Chin will formally become Laurier's chancellor during Fall Convocation on Oct. 28, ushering WLU into its next one hundred years.

—Compiled by Olivia Nightingale

Check the Oct. 5th issue of The Cord for a story on WLU's new chancellor



TAYLOR GAYOWSKY GRAPHICS EDITOR

Alumni Relations plan for centennial homecoming

JACQUELINE SALOME
CORD NEWS

This year has marked the 100th anniversary of Wilfrid Laurier University and with it comes what Teresa Smiley, alumni relations officer at WLU, is calling "the biggest and hopefully best [homecoming] in Laurier history."

The WLU men's football team will take on the Ottawa Gee-Gees at 1 p.m. on Saturday Oct. 1 at University Stadium. Pre-game activities will be in abundance, though the nature of these activities as well as halftime events will not be disclosed until the day of the game. Both Smiley and

director of alumni relations Bridget McMahon stress that those attending the game should arrive at or earlier than 12:30 p.m. to ensure attendance at the pregame events.

"The student body will have to trust us that it's going to be unique," said Smiley.

Those who have arrived and had their ticket scanned before 12:30 p.m. will be entered in a contest. One winner will have the chance to make a field goal attempt between the third and fourth quarters of the game for a chance to win \$10,000.

Alumni attendance is expected to be at an all-time high for the centennial year. Homecoming

festivities will act as reunions for graduating classes of 1961, 1971, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006. Total attendance is expected to surpass 10,000 people.

Festivities this year will include the traditional WLU favourites such as a free pancake breakfast for students, staff, alumni and community members hosted in the quad before the football game.

Alumni and community members can partake in open houses hosted by each faculty or attend the Legends of Laurier lecture in which retired WLU business professor Tupper Cawsey will be speaking in the Senate and Board chamber on

Saturday morning. Saturday night will see alumni and student parties at both Wilf's and the Turret.

New programming includes a Sunday afternoon performance of Jesus Christ Superstar in Stratford, and an alumni dinner at Bingemans Conference Center. Here, Laurier's 100 Alumni of Achievement — alumni who are leading 'lives of leadership and purpose' according to the WLU institutional proposition — will be celebrated.

The fourth annual Laurier Loop, a road relay race of 2.5, five, or ten kilometres around University Stadium and through Waterloo Park will be held Sunday.

This outreach event raises money for Laurier's Sun Life Financial Movement Disorders Research and Rehabilitation Center (MDRC) whose research focuses on Parkinson's disease. Each year, the football team participates in this event in full force. "Whether you're an avid runner or have never run before, it's fun to come out and just support the cause. It's another event we'd love to see student participation out at," said Smiley.

"We're marketing this as the homecoming you don't want to miss. It's a celebration of 100 years that's not going to come around for another 100," added McMahon.

Milloy joins K-W candidate at Laurier



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Milloy and Davis came to WLU on Sept. 27 to meet students.

LINDA GIVETASH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Local Liberal candidates Eric Davis and John Milloy visited Wilfrid Laurier University Tuesday afternoon to spread the word among students regarding the advanced polls being held on campus on Sept. 28 and 29 for the provincial election.

In addition to providing polling information, the candidates, along with members of the WLU Young Liberals, informed students about the Liberals' education platform.

Minister of training, colleges and universities and Kitchener Centre incumbent member of provincial parliament (MPP) Milloy discussed the rationale for the party's proposed tuition grant. "We want to make sure finances are not an obstacle for any student," he said, regarding their proposal to offer undergraduate students a \$1,600 tuition grant if their family makes less than \$160,000 annually.

On deciding the focus of the party platform, Milloy said, "We identified the key areas, health care particularly for seniors and the other is post-secondary education."

"We put forward a very careful,

some could say modest, platform. We have 45 commitments, which at the end of year four [is] about a \$1.5 billion, about a third of that on the post-secondary side in terms of tuition credit," Milloy explained in response to the effects the tuition grant would have on the overall provincial budget. He criticized that the opposition parties are offering many more commitments at a higher price tag.

Not yet of voting age, first-year global studies student Yusuf Zine said while his family tends to vote NDP in elections, the Liberal platform on education has spiked his interest to learn about the party's other policies.

"This is the first time somebody has actually come and talked to us," said Zine.

"It's a lot more personal."

Looking at the benefits of the Liberal post-secondary platform for Kitchener-Waterloo, an area that is home to two universities and a college, Davis, a WLU grad said, "One of our commitments is to create 60,000 more post-secondary education spaces ... the primary reason being that we need to make sure we have a highly-educated work force

in order to compete in the global economy."

In adding more spaces to universities, an emphasis on international students has been viewed by the province since early 2010 with concerns on attracting these students and the challenges they have in funding their education.

"No, they will not be eligible, I've been asked about the tuition credit," Milloy said about international students. "But what we're looking at is, are there better ways to accommodate international students in terms of certainty around tuition, in terms of the support they're receiving at the institutions?"

"One of the things we've done to try to attract PhD scholars is the trillium scholarship," he said, adding that this is a program the Conservatives intend to cut.

Milloy concluded that international students are still accessing Canadian institutions at a bargain in comparison to schools in the U.S. or Europe. "University-wise you're coming to some of the best institutions on Earth and you're paying a relatively small amount when you compare it to something in the U.S.," he said.

CAS, WLU ratify labour agreement

Tentative deal reached in June finalized

MARISSA EVANS
CORD NEWS

Few Wilfrid Laurier University students need be reminded of the conditions that temporarily paused life on campus in the winter of 2008. Classes came to a halt and tutorials were put on hold as the university saw its contract academic staff (CAS) haunting the picket lines.

For the time being, it appears that the disagreements between the CAS and WLU have reached an endpoint — or at least a starting point in a future of negotiations and agreements.

Months of bargaining between university administration and the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA), the union that represents the CAS, led to a tentative settlement on June 16, 2011.

However, the settlement wasn't ratified until quite recently. Judy Bates, WLUFA president and professor of geography and environmental studies, explained that the majority of the CAS members have contracts to teach in the fall and winter term.

"We felt that it would not be appropriate to go ahead with the ratification vote in the summer," she added. Instead, they decided to wait until the fall, when more CAS members would be present.

Ratification took place on the evening of Sept. 14. Bates said that the changes will come into effect over the course of the next few weeks.

When asked about the goals the CAS was hoping to achieve in the new contract, Bates explained, "One of the main points was that we wanted to improve working conditions for our faculty."

Out of date computers and lack of access to offices in the Dr. Alvin Woods Building (DAWB) were both issues they wanted addressed. Improvements were made in both instances.

Bates further noted that the most important topic may be the transparency in the hiring processes. "We were finding that some instances, rare instances, but nevertheless some; it seemed to us that departments were hiring friends," she said.

"Some people are going to be very happy, some people aren't, some are going to be in the middle."

—Kendra Young, administrative manager of the faculty relations at WLU

"It wasn't very objective."

Kendra Young, administrative manager of the faculty of relations at WLU, agreed that one of the things both sides wanted was to streamline procedures with regards to hiring. As a result, one of the changes being implemented is a roster form. "We had training on that last week," said Young. "It was actually a good change in the agreement."

Despite the fact that the CAS achieved many of their goals, a few issues were left unresolved. However, Bates acknowledged that this was normal for negotiating.

She contended that this could be due to the fact that CAS members weren't fully engaged in the process. "Had they been," she reflected. "I think we would have achieved a lot more."

Young said university administration was happy with the results on their side. "Like everything," she continued. "Some people are going to be very happy, some people aren't, some are going to be in the middle."

Overall, the CAS members were mostly satisfied. "I mean, obviously they would have liked more," Bates explained, concluding that terms not met will be goals for next time.

From the university standpoint, Young found that the bargaining went very smoothly. She said that the process was a good pace, filled with lots of discussion.

"I hope that what we came up with actually worked for both parties," she concluded. "There were a lot of improvements that both sides actually agreed with and wanted."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE AND VISIONING WORKSHOP

The City of Waterloo has initiated the Northdale Land Use and Community Improvement Plan Study and has retained a consulting team comprised of MMM Group Limited in association with RCI Consulting Inc. and Sweeney Sterling Finlayson & Co. Architects Inc., to complete this study. The purpose of the open house and visioning workshop is to seek public input in the development of a vision for the Northdale neighbourhood and to obtain public input on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis) for Northdale. This event represents the first consultation exercise for this study.

Open House and Visioning Workshop Details:

Wednesday, October 5, 2011, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

New Location:

Federation Hall (University of Waterloo campus)
200 University Avenue West

Registration:

Participants are required to R.S.V.P. due to space constraints to
Anne-Marie Phelan at
anne-marie.phelan@waterloo.ca
or phone 519-747-8752.

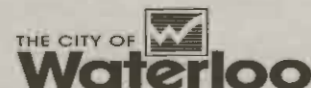
Agenda:

Available for viewing at
www.waterloo.ca/northdale



We encourage the public to provide input into this important study. If you are unable to attend the public open house and visioning workshop, a survey soliciting input will be made available the day of the event (linked from www.waterloo.ca/northdale). Members of the public not able to attend this event also have the option of submitting written/electronic comments. The public is informed and notified that names and comments may be made public.

For further information regarding this public open house and visioning workshop, please contact Tanja Curic, City of Waterloo Policy Planner, at 519-747-8745 or Tanja.Curic@waterloo.ca.



www.waterloo.ca/northdale



STEPHANIE TROUNG GRAPHICS ARTIST

Potential changes worry volunteers

—cover

may arise, Butcher claimed there would be more to the logistical issues than residence life and programming challenges.

"Nobody really likes the idea of having to change O-Week, and this year we made a lot of changes. There were a lot of issues but there were also a lot of positives that happened with it," she reflected. "Changing so much at once, there have been a lot of questions as to what is the value of O-Week, and cutting it down to four days is a possibility."

Butcher was concerned that, even with WLUSU out to represent students' interests in this proposal, O-Week would be cut down regardless.

In defence of a weeklong O-Week, Butcher stated that she, along with other icebreakers and volunteers, would be enraged should orientation week be cut.

"The programming is really important. Laurier is supposed to be

the number one orientation program in the country. It's like that for a reason. That's why we have a week. It's called O-Week," she explained.

"It's not just about pushing O-Week back two days when you really think about it."

Nick Gibson, WLUSU president and CEO, was also concerned about the proposal.

"As long as we're not overly compromising our ability to deliver great programming for orientation week, I'll be okay with it," he said. "I know there are many merits, it's pretty well known that there is overwhelming support from students to have that break. How it is actually done, that's where some conflict tends to come up."

Gibson sees the opportunity to create synergy between orientation week and academics.

"I'd envision there would be programming going on the Thursday and Friday nights, with classes

going on during the day," he explained. "Essentially, the idea there, my fear is that people will see this as cutting up O-Week, but I see it as sort of an integrated thing."

It is Gibson's expectation that allowing students a break in the fall semester would benefit everyone with their academics.

"If you're in a spot where there seems like no end, there's no room to breathe, by any stretch of the imagination that is a huge mental health strain."

He claimed that at the end of the day it is important that students get a break, even just to relax for a few days whether or not they have work to catch up on.

"Whatever they decide to do that's their prerogative. Giving them that opportunity, ultimately if we want to be a university that supports academic success, we need to be open to what most of the universities do, and that's giving some sort of a break."

Counselling services expand their availability

Increase demand results in new times

ELIZABETH DICESARE
CORD NEWS

Wilfrid Laurier University's Counselling Services has implemented new walk-in times to book both intake and crisis appointments in order to keep up with the demand from students for their services.

In the past, Counselling Services offered one-hour appointments for students based on the availability of the counsellors working, which slowed down the appointment process. Students had to wait long periods of time before being able to speak to someone and this became a concern for many students.

"Demand for counselling and the wait for initial in-take appointments became longer and longer," explained Alison Bertoia, director of Counselling Services. "And [Counselling Services] didn't want to cause a barrier for anyone and wanted to be able to invite people in as quickly as possible."

New walk-in appointments were also implemented to help counselling services be "more responsive to decrease barriers for students coming in and gives the student a chance to have initial consultation as quickly as needed," continued Bertoia.

The new walk-in times for intake appointments are from Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Walk-ins for crisis appointments take place Monday through Friday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Bertoia also stated that the demand for Counselling Services has been "increasing incredibly quickly," which also affected the decision to have new walk-in appointments.

In order to help with the growing amount of challenges students

are now facing, WLU's Student Success Team (SST) has recently put together new Student Crisis Response Procedures (SCRPs).

The SST is made up of faculty and staff who have a lot of interaction with students and are able to identify students who may need increased support. They analyze trends within WLU and come up procedures, such as the SCRPs, that will aid students.

"Laurier is a community where our faculty and staff care deeply about students. [SST] wanted to make sure that the whole community was in power to be able to support the students," said dean of students, Leanne Holland Brown. "This is not one person's job—this is a job of the entire university community."

The new procedures will make it easier for faculty and staff to refer students to services available, which can help with different challenges they may be facing.

It has information and contacts regarding such services as Special Constables, Counselling Services, academic advising, Residence Life and the WLU Food Bank.

"The ultimate goal [of the SCRPs] would be that it allows students who need the extra support to access that support in an easier fashion," continued Holland Brown. "Collectively, we are all helping our students succeed [together]."

For more information regarding the new procedures outlined by the SST, students and staff can look on the WLU website or stop by the dean of students office.

Students interested in gaining more information regarding Counselling Services are invited to go by their office, located across from Health Services on the second floor of the Student Services Building.

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LOCAL

Local Editor
Amanda Steiner
asteiner@thecord.ca

Easing students' financial woes

LINDSAY PURCHASE
LEAD REPORTER

When Ryan Chen-Wing first stumbled across the entirely student-operated Georgetown University credit union during a research project, he was struck by the idea that such success might be mirrored in Waterloo.

"We have talented students at Waterloo and Laurier," the University of Waterloo student commented. "If it can be done anywhere in Canada, it can be done here."

Chen-Wing is the founder and project leader of Waterloo Banking Project, a business which will provide an alternative platform for student money management. The financial institution will include services typically offered by larger banks, such as accounts, loans and credit cards, but will be entirely run by unpaid students from both of the local universities.

Students, Chen-Wing believes, would be more adequately prepared to provide financial advice and banking services to their peers due to their personal experiences.

"We expect to be competitive in terms of our prices and our rates, but we think that we'd be able to help students more in terms of advising them," said Chen-Wing. "Here's something where we're in the same situation as students, and

we can talk to them sort of on their own level."

The goal, said Helena Cao, who is the senior director of Waterloo Banking Project, is for students "to be able to carry themselves through their education with the least amount of debt that they can have."

The agreement is currently being finalized with an interested partner. Chen-Wing explained, "When we presented to them, and they were excited about it, that really validated the idea for us. Here is someone who could help us, and who is in the business, and says yeah, that makes sense."

Cao acknowledged that the co-op opportunities provided by both universities exemplify the ability of students to work to a professional standard. "This experience will hopefully help them in the future, and develop their career path in a way that's more beneficial than it is already," she said.

Steffen Ziss, the chair of the department of economics at Wilfrid Laurier, was in agreement. "I mean you have a School of Accounting and Finance over there [at the University of Waterloo], you have a BBA program here, and they're all doing finance, and they may have some knowledge about how banking works," he said.

Ziss continued, "I think from a

monitoring perspective it's kind of a plus, relative to what currently is available, where, you know, there's a pretty distant relationship between the person lending the money, and you."

However, he also acknowledged that the selection process for hiring

students would have to be particularly careful. "They're here for four years, and then they're gone, so if they make some bad loans to other students and are not held accountable to that, then that's a problem," said Ziss.

"There's still that issue of keeping

the bankers honest."

Waterloo Banking Project aims to open in the spring of 2013. In the meanwhile, students are encouraged to complete the organization's online survey to further understanding of student needs and desired financial services.



Local PC candidate creates political youth cabinet

LINDSAY PURCHASE
LEAD REPORTER

The alleged indifference of youth to the political process is a topic that ironically ignites plenty of passion from all ages. Are the young voters of today merely ambassadors of a lazy generation? Do students not vote because politicians don't care?

Kitchener-Conestoga Progressive Conservative (PC) candidate for member of provincial parliament (MPP) Michael Harris is aiming to dispel these stereotypically cited explanations.

On Sept. 21, Harris announced a campaign promise at Conestoga College that pledged greater efforts to engage youth in the political process. The plan included such ambitions as a "Youth Cabinet" for ages 14-24 that would advise on student issues, a spring job fair and an "MPP For a Day" program, among other initiatives.

Harris recognized that the

announcement came at a less than opportune time. "The last thing students want to see are politicians pandering to them during election time," he acknowledged. "If we can constantly get in to see students and be in front of them throughout the four years, they'll begin to realize this is a constant thing, not just during election time."

From being high school president, to being involved in the students' union during his post-secondary education, Harris maintained a commitment to the political process throughout his youth.

"I've benefited from the opportunity I was given as a young person to get involved and engaged," he explained. "Given the opportunity to be elected, I definitely want to extend the same opportunity and definitely make an effort to reach out to our young people."

Professor of political science at Laurier Jason Roy, described the plan as an "interesting initiative,"

but seemed unsure as to whether it would generate real results.

Although he acknowledged that the type of people likely to be drawn to such projects would likely be those with a prior interest in politics, Roy noted that those involved could potentially inspire friends to do the same, leading to a "snowball effect."

He commented, "I think part of the problem is whether young people see this as sort of ... a veiled attempt at actually including them when in fact their input's not really wanted."

"Young people are perhaps frustrated with this idea that parties are trying to appeal to them and engage them, but not really in a meaningful way," Roy continued.

Politicians often rely on venues such as Twitter and Facebook to communicate with youth, which is important, but insufficient.

However, while motives and depth may be debated, Harris' ideas

provide a unique attempt at combating the undeniable fact of low youth voter turnout.

Part of the problem, according to Roy, comes down to a question of resources. Political campaigns running on a stretched dollar may choose to "exclude young people" on the basis that strategic efforts could be used more effectively with an involved demographic of voters.

"It's just this circular effect," Roy explained. "They're not being engaged, they're not being motivated, they're not being asked to join and participate, and therefore they're not."

Conversely, it may be that the problem does not lie with the traditional blame game of reasons for low voter turnout, but with tradition itself.

Roy concluded, "Our formal rules of politics ... just simply may not move fast enough for a generation that's used to having anything, and instantly."



NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO
PC candidate Michael Harris

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Wheelchair relay raises \$25,000

Event raises money and awareness for Canadian Paraplegic Association

ANNE MARSHALL
CORD NEWS

The fifth annual Kitchener-Waterloo wheelchair relay race took place Saturday Sept. 24 at the Waterloo Town Square. Teams of five, each presented with a wheelchair, banded together to collect pledges and help raise money for the Canadian Paraplegic Association.

Teams competed in several different types of races including slalom and speed, with prizes going to the fastest teams. Prizes were also awarded to the top fundraisers, corporate teams and community teams as well as the teams with the most spirit and determination.

"This event," said Sheila O'Neill, regional event co-ordinator for the Canadian Paraplegic Association, "is a way to bring awareness to our organization and to the issues that people in wheelchairs face on a daily basis."

Organizers started the day with a warm-up stretch led by volunteers in order to make sure that none of the competitors injured themselves as using a wheelchair can be hard on the muscles of the upper body.

"The most general comment we get," O'Neill laughed, "is that it's much harder than it looks. Everyone does the race in a wheelchair, and if you don't have a spinal cord injury, you can find it's really challenging."

Participants said they were floored by how taxing manoeuvring a wheelchair is, but they all agreed that the experience was a lot of fun and that they were happy to participate and help raise awareness about spinal cord injuries.

"We're trying to bring awareness in a fun way," O'Neill said. "People like stepping up to the challenge, or trying to do better than they have before."

The races were not the only attraction of the day either. Balloon animals and face painting were offered for the younger spectators, as well as raffle draws and a free lunch provided by local restaurant Angie's Kitchen.

People of all ages showed up to cheer on family members, friends and colleagues who sported team outfits and showed off their competitive side.

Doug O'Toole, a member of the

"We're trying to bring awareness in a fun way. People like stepping up to the challenge."

—Sheila O'Neill, regional event co-ordinator for the Canadian Paraplegic Association

Legal Wheelies relay team said he believed this year's turnout was the best the event has ever had. Media coverage by Rogers Access helped to spread the word before the event, which is usually hyped only through word of mouth.

"We had 11 teams, each with five participants," O'Neill recounted. "We were also in a very public area, so people were stopping to watch and enjoy as well. But if it's just participants, we had 55 in total."

The new location in Waterloo Town Square also helped attract foot traffic and local spectators. O'Neill also mentioned that this relay has been trying out a variety of locations, and Uptown Waterloo has proved to be the most successful. "We will definitely be holding it again in this same location, next year on Sept. 22," she said.

Notably absent was the presence of university students as spectators or team members.

O'Toole mentioned this may be because most organizations understand that university students already have a lot of financial pressures, and do not want to add to that burden. He also added that it would be great to see more student faces in the coming years.

All proceeds from the day will be going to the Canadian Paraplegic Association of Kitchener-Waterloo, which uses its funds to help people with spinal cord injuries and their families through the recovery process, and also helps them reintegrate into the community.

"We raised \$25,000 that day," O'Neill said proudly. "That was \$10,000 more than last year, and we look forward to a beautiful, sunny day again next year."

—With files from Amanda Steiner



ALEXANDRA WATSON GRAPHICS ARTIST

A different kind of donation

ENVIE presents Women Crisis Services with intimate apparel

AMANDA STEINER
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

"When people think of donations," said Erin Sue, public relations coordinator at ENVIE Intimates, "they think of a financial amount or they think to donate food, but a lot of people forget about the basics like body products and intimate apparel. We're donating a quality product that every woman needs."

ENVIE Intimates, located on King Street in Kitchener, has decided to roll up their sleeves, or rather, unhook their bras, and give back to the community through intimate apparel bra donation for every \$100 purchase in store or online.

For the month of September, ENVIE intimates will be donating bras to Women's Crisis Services (WCS) of Waterloo Region.

"We just thought that since we have a lot of stuff to give, we should do it since we're in the position to," Sue said. "It's really based on WCS of Waterloo Region. They're such a phenomenal organization and they give so much back to those in our community, so we decided it was our time to give back."

A selection of bras in all colours and sizes has been selected to be donated at the end of the month at the ENVIE location in Kitchener.

"Size can be a factor," Sue said. "But what we're doing is we have a variety of sizes and shapes and we're just going to select a handful from each to donate."

The \$100 purchase requirement, necessary before the donation can be made might seem like a high number to some, but Sue assures customers that it's actually quite reasonable.

"We really do try to provide a range of bras that are affordable to every woman of every price bracket," Sue said. "Most of our bras range anywhere from \$30 to just over \$100. So if a woman has a bra in hand, we'll promote maybe buying the matching underwear or something from our body collection, just to bump that number up."

Earlier this year, ENVIE did attempt a donation of slightly used or lightly worn bras to give to WCS, but wasn't as impressed with the result. "You know how sometimes you buy a bra and when you try it on it doesn't really fit? Before, you could bring it in and we could donate this for you. But this time we really wanted to donate something that was brand new, something beautiful and special. And it's been going really well," said Sue.

The ENVIE Intimates website quoted Margaret Bauer Fund,

development manager at Women's Crisis Services as saying, "Without continued support from companies like ENVIE Intimates, we would not be able to provide the support and guidance we offer women and children as they flee domestic violence and start living a life without violence, a life we all deserve."

"I'd say WCS thinks the idea is great," Sue said happily. "As I said before, a lot of people don't think to give intimate apparel or the basics, so they're really excited in the fact that we're giving a quality product that every woman needs." She continued to say that WCS, "gives back to so many women and children in the area. This is something that is really beneficial to them — to have those items of stock to give."

"We're really excited to have this partnership," Sue said. "We're very new to the community — coming up on our one year anniversary in November and we thought it would be important to be more involved in the community, especially with women's issues."

In the future, ENVIE hopes to work with other organizations in order to raise awareness for a variety of women's issues. Bra donations will continue until Friday Sept. 30, when the total number of bras donated will be released.

Teacher Education Week

The following Faculties of Education are coming to Laurier to provide program application and admission information. Don't miss this valuable opportunity!

October 3, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; CC-101 (Career Centre, 192 King St. N.)
Brock University, Wilfrid Laurier University, University of Western Ontario

October 3, 2 - 4 p.m.; CC-101 (Career Centre, 192 King St. N.)
University of Toronto, UOIT, Trent University

October 4, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; CC-101 (Career Centre, 192 King St. N.)
Queen's University, Nipissing University, Lakehead University, University of Ottawa

October 4, 2 - 4 p.m.; CC-101 (Career Centre, 192 King St. N.)
Charles Sturt University, Niagara University, Redeemer University, Tyndale University

Teacher education programs (Ontario, US and International) will also be represented at the Graduate and Professional Education Fair on October 19.

For details and to register, visit www.wlu.ca/career.

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NATIONAL

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Life 101: ideas for the world

HIRRA GILANI
CORD NEWS

A free course with no exams, quizzes or tests? It's not worth a credit but is it still beneficial? The dean of students at the University of Toronto's Victoria College thinks so.

Kelley Castle, dean of students at Victoria College, recently launched the Ideas of the World experiment which involves six courses with no grades, no exams, no pre-requisites, no credit, and no charge— all part of a post-secondary education (PSE) experiment she calls 'Ideas for the World.'

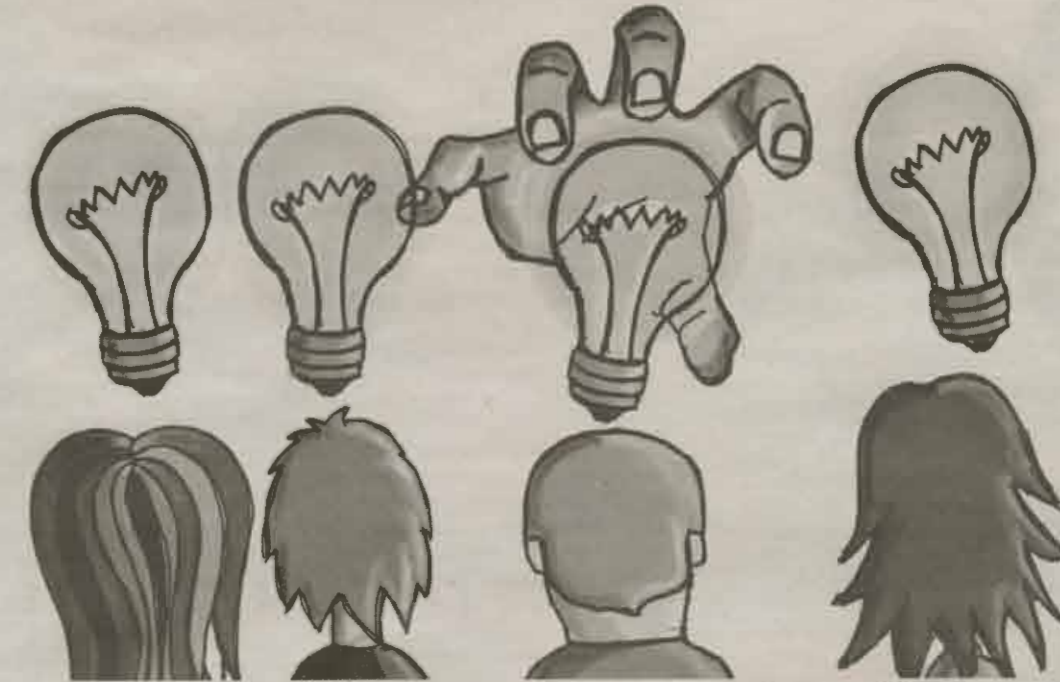
According to Wendy Freeman, assistant professor at the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences of McMaster University, "Students that are interested in these kinds of things, giving them opportunities to creatively use the knowledge and I think it might even enhance their performance in subsequent courses or courses they're in as they do this."

In a statement by Castle, she said, "For too long we've created classrooms where students aren't interested in deep learning; they're so worried about upsetting their professor, they're afraid to take a risk."

But I really believe university should leave you stirred—and shaken."

Freeman added that, "Now they are interacting more with the knowledge than trying to rope learn it, they are trying to understand how does it fit in the world, how do you use it to solve problems or understand things that are meaningful to them, which are things going on in the world today."

However, Freeman also noted



TAYLOR GAYOWSKY GRAPHICS EDITOR

that, "I do think that this is a nice addition in order to help students apply knowledge, but I think that it wouldn't replace more traditional kinds of courses where that knowledge acquisition takes place."

Rumsha Usmani, second-year commerce major at U of T, contradicted this opinion when he said, "They [traditional courses] teach us about work ethic and discipline and I feel like taking a course that has no marking scheme or no anything wouldn't do that right? Because you're free to do whatever you want, there's no discipline in that."

Hasan Siddiqui, a second-year political science student at the University of Toronto Mississauga felt that such a course would enhance

and encourage students to engage more freely in learning.

"A student can freely express their opinion, a student can freely contribute to it without any compromise in terms of being scared of marks," he said.

"You will see a lot of students who take the course doing it out of personal will, because there's no credit involved. If this is involved, and if this case is true, then you'll see that they're doing it out of personal interest and that they will actually contribute with a lot of quality."

Maria Mingallon, a chartered structural engineer and professor of architecture at McGill University took a more critical approach, analyzing the pros and cons for both

professor and student.

"The main difficulty for the teacher will be, how do you prove that the student has actually gone through the process that they should have throughout the course and that they have learned what the course was intended to give them to provide them with all the skills?" she said.

"But at the same time, you do leave the students free to learn how much they want and to make their own effort regardless of the marking system."

However, as Mingallon put it, "It is a new way of teaching and a new way of forming professionals. It can open the mind of the student as to what actually their work in life would be."

Canada in brief

Oilsands protesters converge on Ottawa

OTTAWA (CUP) — An estimated 100 people were arrested on Parliament Hill Sept. 26 as hundreds of citizens from across the country descended on Canada's seat of government to protest the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline and further development of Alberta's oilsands.

The action, which was billed as a peaceful sit-in, was co-ordinated by several groups, including the Council of Canadians, Greenpeace Canada and the Indigenous Environmental Network and drew citizens from all over the country.

—Briana Hill, CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

UWO library staff return to work after deal reached

TORONTO (CUP) — Last week, a deal was reached between the University of Western Ontario (UWO) and the university's library staff, ending a strike that has disrupted the campus since it began on Sept. 8. A four-year agreement was voted in favour Sept. 23 by 84 per cent of the library and archive staff, with Western's Board of Governors also voting their approval.

The strike began due to issues over pay, with a pay gap of 20 per cent between Western librarians and archive staff and library staff at other comparable Ontario universities. Workload and the number of staff were also discussed, according to a statement by the University of Western Ontario Faculty Association. The four-year deal will see the 51 members of staff receiving a salary increase of 1.5 per cent per year.

—Lee Richardson, CUP Ontario Bureau Chief

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Finding peace through performance

Features Editor **Bree Rody-Mantha** speaks to students and professionals about the mental benefits of the arts.



Since childhood, Michelle Gould has had a passion for dance. "It's an indescribable feeling," said the third-year Wilfrid Laurier University student. "It's the most fun way to stay fit. It's an awesome energizing feeling learning someone else's choreography."

Gould is one of the many Laurier students who uses forms of art such as dancing, drawing or playing music to escape from the stress that comes with being a university student.

But Gould doesn't just dance for herself. Every week, Gould uses her love of dance to inspire a group of young people who had not previously been given the opportunity.

As the co-founder and co-instructor of Feel the Beat, a dance class hosted by Laurier Athletics for young adults with developmental disabilities, Gould teaches self-expression through hip hop and jazz moves to a group of enthusiastic young people.

She spoke of the obvious physical benefits of the class, which currently runs with nine students and nine volunteers, but also felt that the participants experienced significant social benefits.

"From the start of the semester to the end of the semester one of the biggest changes we notice is the communication skills," she said. "Some of them are very shy at the start. But by the end they feel confident to express themselves. For example, they're able to say, 'oh, I can't do this move, it hurts my knees.'"

Gould remarked that the students of Feel the Beat have shown improvements in communication both in and outside of class. "Their parents come up to us and tell us how much they appreciate these things too."

Another common practice in the class is to allow the students to move beyond the structured environment of traditional dance classes and improvise. "They love showing off their best moves," Gould said. "It gives them a lot of confidence and allows them to express themselves."

"This is my voice, informed by everything I know and who I am. And isn't that interesting?"

—Dr. Carolyn Arnason, associate professor of music therapy

Associate professor of music therapy at WLU Dr. Carolyn Arnason, who works with students and clients in clinical improvisation, provided perspective on why improvisation is a healthy form of therapy.

"Improvisation gives a container, it gives a freedom for expression," explained Dr. Arnason. "That container can be big or small. It's like, 'this is my voice, informed by everything I know and who I am.' And isn't that interesting?"

Third-year business student Ian Watson, a dancer and musician, has a multitude of reasons why the performing arts have benefited him as a person — though he didn't always have access to it.

"At my school, I'm not sure if it was just that particular district, but we didn't have any focus on dance in our curriculum and the music program wasn't very well-funded either," Watson explained. "It might also have been the case that they didn't take it as a serious discipline. Personally, I think it's as vital as something like math."

Coming from a low-income area, Watson never had the opportunity for studio lessons and instead learned his craft on the streets of his neighbourhood.

Recalling his early memories of dance, Watson explained. "My first recollection of dancing was being six years old and coming home from school. We'd have the cardboard out down on the ground and everyone would be breakdancing. It was so fascinating to me, so I decided to pick it up myself."

"We didn't have things like cable TV or computers. Dancing was what we did."

As a teenager, a ski accident as well as another incident resulting in multiple stab wounds threatened to put one of Watson's knees out of commission.

However, determined to pursue his passion, he used dance as a form of physical therapy.

"It's just like biking or jogging — stimulating and slowly exercising your muscles to promote recovery," he explained. "Obviously you can't go at it too hard or you'll make it worse. But it's a great form of therapy."

But it's developing new skills as an adult that Watson said has been truly beneficial both physically and mentally.

"It wasn't until I started at Laurier that I began taking classes in hip hop, as well as contemporary and lyrical," he said. "When you're learning something new and learning to move in a totally foreign way, you're exercising your brain in ways that you don't normally. It's like learning a new math formula."

Watson also continues to use art as a form of release and therapy in his adult life. Like Arnason, he sees the benefits of improvisation as a container for emotions.

Specializing in krump, an aggressive style of street-based hip hop that utilizes exaggerated movements of body parts, Watson uses dance as an outlet for emotional expression.

"As a krumper, you have to put in all your emotions into it," he explained. "It's all about raw energy and real feelings ... so when I'm feeling stressed or depressed, the best thing I can do is just krump. Everyone needs something



in their life that allows them to

For one former Laurier student, the arts provided a path to emotional stability about far more than challenging along the path to emotional stability.

"I was molested for many years and suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and severe depression for many years."

Her severe anxiety led to anger, and also led to self-harm. She began to pursue music through lessons, singing lessons and improvisation. Her love of music has allowed her to be self-able to use musical composition to manage my stress," she said. "I put all my emotions into it."

The biggest benefit from music is a healthy relationship with a mentor. "I've ever trusted," she said. "I as

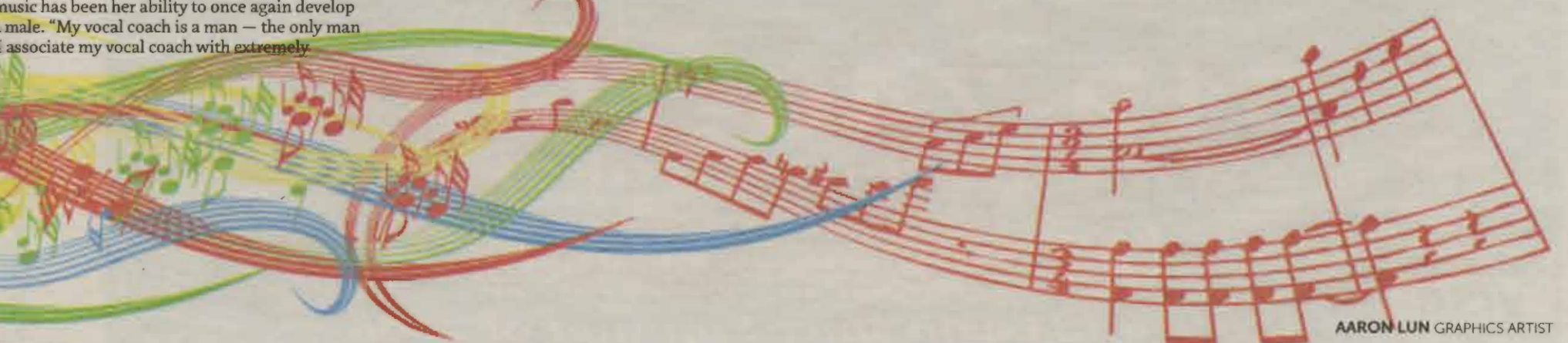
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NICK LACHANCE AND ROSALIE EID PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGERS

to express themselves."
 student who asked to remain anonymous, art was
 ing herself to learn a new thing; it helped her
 stability.
 years as a child," the alumnus explained. "I have
 c stress disorder, generalized anxiety disorder
 any years."
 an inability to feel comfortable around most
 rming behaviour. However, several years ago
 rough several means. "[I started taking] piano
 I joined a competitive travelling choir."
 d her a healthy outlet for emotions. "I find my-
 position and singing as a means of redirecting
 l my pent up emotions into a healthier means of
 music has been her ability to once again develop
 male. "My vocal coach is a man — the only man
 associate my vocal coach with extremely

positive emotions and he has instilled in me a great sense of self-confi-
 dence, something that not even the females in my life were able to do."
 Dr. Arnason, who specializes in the guided imagery of music, told
 The Cord that being immersed in music often leads to significant
 breakthroughs.
 "There are often parts of oneself that have been put away because of
 our family dynamics or the people we grew up with or maybe trauma
 that people have experienced," Dr. Arnason explained. "They've gone
 away many times for good reason - to stay protected."
 "Breakthroughs are like parts of yourself being uncovered or re-
 vealed," said Dr. Arnason. She emphasized that one does not need to be
 a trained artist to experience these breakthroughs. "There's benefits for
 everyone, and those benefits are available for everyone."
 The former Laurier student affirmed this. "Music definitely does have
 healing powers," she said. "Without it, I wouldn't be who I am today."



AARON LUN GRAPHICS ARTIST

ARTS

Arts Editor
Liz Smith
lsmith@thecord.ca

Laurier launches literary competition to commemorate Centennial year

Emily Bednarz's "Piece" announced overall winner of 100 Words Centennial Drabble Contest



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Brian Gabriel Smith in the leadership category for "Leap of Faith" and Nicholas Dinka's "Peach Tree" in the purpose category.

"The entries explored a range of topics in each of the assigned categories, and the winners all showed their ability to adhere to form while demonstrating innovative or strikingly original use of language," said MacDonald.

Of the winner, MacDonald said, "I know that we all really liked the range of things Emily was working with. In some ways she was the one who balanced lyricism and story the best, which is what makes her the overall winner. She managed to do both; a little narrative and these beautiful images within."

The response to the drabble contest was impressive. "A contest that's run by a university is attractive for many university students to enter because it has a lot of safety, it's not like a contest that a literary magazine would run, but yet, it attracted over 200 entries," MacDonald concluded.

The winners of the competition will be publicly honoured with their awards at a celebration at the Hawks Nest on Sept. 29 at 7:30 pm.

Including the winning drabbles, 48 entries will be published in an official keepsake book.

Copies will be available for purchase at the celebration event for \$10 each.

LIZ SMITH
ARTS EDITOR

In celebration of its 100th year, Wilfrid Laurier University launched a literary competition called "100 Words Centennial Drabble Contest." Participants in the contest were asked to write a piece of fiction using only 100 words exploring a topic from one of the following categories: inspiration, leadership or

purpose.

"It's a centennial initiative, a celebration of creativity at Laurier. Also the idea that each of the three drabble categories reflect the Laurier slogan," associate English professor Tanis MacDonald said of the contest. "It's a little bit of a gimmick, having a story of 100 words to reflect 100 years."

"There's a big challenge to writing a story in 100 words. Things called

flash fiction, or fiction under 500 words, are becoming quite popular as a literary genre."

As a judge in the drabble competition, MacDonald told The Cord, "What we looked for in many ways was very basic; good writing. But good writing in 100 words has to be very precise. It's not a lot of words to tell a story in, but it's longer than most poems. In some ways it's a genre trapped between those two

[poetry and narrative]."

The panel, made up of associate English professors Tamas Dobozy and Tanis MacDonald and director of WLU Press Brian Henderson, declared the overall winner of the contest to be third-year Laurier student Emily Bednarz with her fictional work entitled "Piece."

The additional winners were Eileen Morouney in the inspiration category for her piece "Laurifer,"

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Student DJ gaining steam

Laurier student enjoys recent success of National DJ title

LIZ SMITH
ARTS EDITOR

Wilfrid Laurier University student Jacob Meyer has an intense love of making music and a long history of involvement with his craft. The philosophy major is a DJ gaining steam and exposure in the music industry as of late.

"I started making music when I was in grade seven, on the computer," Meyer said. "Some of my friends when I started high school started getting into breakdancing ... and I was really awful at it. But I still wanted to be involved and I love hip-hop, and since I was already making music, I got into DJing."

This initial foray into DJing has now begun to pay off — Meyer recently won the East Coast Canadian DJ Mixing Championships (DMC) DJ battle, going on to win the

national competition as well.

Of DJing at a competitive level, Meyer said, "It's something I've been working at passively for a while now. I'm always working on scratching and different techniques. I first competed five years ago and it didn't go super well, but there were a couple of guys who were really successful Canadian DJs who noticed I had a bit of promise." It was those homegrown successes that gave Meyer the advice to keep practicing his talents.

"I entered the East Coast competition [in Hamilton], and I won it. I didn't really expect to," said Meyer, noting that his music selection was among the obscure at the competition.

"When I did the East Coast competition I was pretty shaky, I screwed up a bit in my routine. After I won the East Coast I got a lot more

confidence. When I went to the nationals I was really comfortable," Meyer continued.

Despite the recent successes Meyer has enjoyed as a DJ, he doesn't plan on making a career out of it.

"It's more than a hobby, it's my passion. I'm really in it for the artistic element of it. It's something I feel like I'll do many years from now — probably my whole life. I do competitions but I don't do clubs. A lot of guys use competitions as a stepping-stone to get into clubs but I'm not really interested in that because 90 per cent of the music played nowadays I'm not really into."

Competing under the pseudonym "DJ Vekked," the charismatic DJ shows promise of a fruitful career in the music industry that has only just begun.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Laurier student Jacob Meyer shows off his swagger following his win at a national DJ competition.

RadioLaurier Spotlight: J. Cole praised 'biggest rapper alive'

Up-and-coming rapper J. Cole is making waves this week as his debut album *Cole World: The Sideline Story* hit stores on Sept. 27.

Cole, rejected in the early stages of his career by rapper and hip hop mogul Jay-Z, eventually became the first artist signed to HOV's record label Roc-A-Fella.

Cole World: The Sideline Story was preceded by several mix tapes including last year's surprise hit *Friday Night Lights*, which featured such members of hip hop elite as Kanye West, Drake and Pusha T.

J. Cole, known for his lyrical talent, often makes reference to both his impoverished upbringing as well as his university education, a juxtaposition that is not often seen in the hip hop industry.

His method of storytelling and commitment to his performances is what gained him much popularity prior to the release of a studio album.

Cole takes his music to another level on *Cole World*, touching on some of the emotional topics that he previewed on *Friday Night Lights*. A notable standout is the song "Lost Ones", which tells the emotional story of a young couple weighing the

issue of abortion.

Cole admits most of his songs are inspired by true events and his storyline's often relate back to his father who abandoned him at a young age. This depth is what makes *Cole World* a unique and outstanding listening experience.

A far cry from being the only ones enamored with J. Cole's talent, the September issue of *GQ Magazine* praised him as being the "biggest rapper alive" on the cover and *Rolling Stone* featured an in depth video on their website of the rapper premiering his new song "Cole World" in

Toronto last month.

With his debut album now in stores and the buzz only growing in the industry, J. Cole is setting himself up to lead the next generation of hip hop artists. It's a *Cole World*, get your pea coats.

— Allie Hincks and Emily Frost, (The A & E Show, Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. on radiolaurier.com)

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Won't find 'Phony Rappers' here

Princess Original Cinema screens a film about the rise and fall of a prominent 1990s hip-hop group

MIKE LAKUSIAK
IN DEPTH EDITOR

If you're not familiar with A Tribe Called Quest, the first suggestion of this writer would be to immediately familiarize yourself with the early-1990s hip-hop pioneers. With that out of the way, the recently released documentary chronicling the rise and gradual decline of the Tribe becomes a compulsory viewing. *Beats, Rhymes and Life: The Travels of A Tribe Called Quest*, directed by Michael Rapaport, screened at the Original Princess in Waterloo last week to a packed house.

Beginning with the group's early days in the New York borough of Queens, it introduces Kamaal "Q-Tip" Fareed, Malik "Phife Dawg" Taylor, Jarobi White and Ali Shaheed Muhammad, the group's original lineup. Appearances by collaborators De La Soul and other big names that came into their own around the same time and place help string together the story of the Tribe as it went on to release the seminal albums *The Low End Theory* and *Midnight Marauders* during the rise of the New York hip-hop scene.

Amid sparring between the two most prominent members, Q-Tip

and Phife, along with battles with their label, the Tribe dissolved without warning to fans after the release of their final album, *The Love Movement* in 1998.

Shot during the lead up to and during the group's 2008 reunion tour, Rapaport gives a front row seat to the palpable tension and bickering between Phife and Q-Tip, to the point that taking the stage to perform for packed stadiums becomes questionable at times.

The film's depiction of the Tribe during its heyday, with the group's signature cries for unity for the common cause of one tribe,

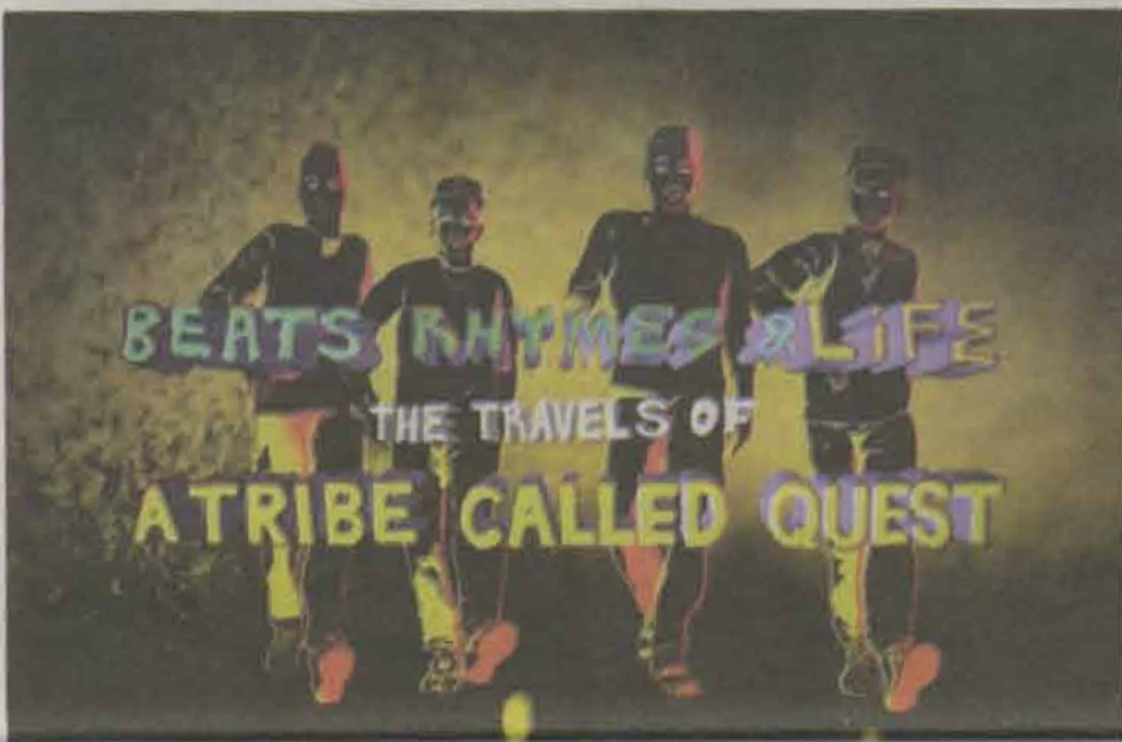
juxtaposed against the competing personalities that tore the Tribe apart from the inside, makes for compelling viewing. The thoughtful, impassioned tracks produced by the group helped bring hip hop to prominence in the decade that saw its rise to the place it currently holds in popular music.

Familiar or not with the Tribe, the film stands on its merit as a well-done depiction of inner turmoil leading to the demise of a wildly successful group.

Of course the hatred seems more superficial than not at times, as the members have been and are still

today apparently willing to hit the road for tours from time to time — not that the internal drama the audience is privy to seems staged or exaggerated in the film.

For its well researched back story and countless interviews with those who were the forefathers of, played alongside and felt the legacy of the Tribe, *Beats, Rhymes and Life* is well worth 98 minutes of your life, especially given the several hours afterward that the soundtrack — spanning the group's entire discography and arranged by DJ/producer Madlib — will bounce off the walls of your brain.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

Arts bites

The latest news in entertainment

Lautner film flops

Taylor Lautner of the *Twilight* series premied his new movie, *Abduction*, last week to scathing reviews. Movie reviewing site Rotten Tomatoes awarded the movie just 3% on their rating scale. Despite virtually non-existent acting chops Lautner was estimated to be among the highest paid teen actors in Hollywood in 2010.

(Flea of the *Chili Peppers* is a bandmate), is close to releasing an album.

Mayer under the weather

Singer-songwriter John Mayer has been diagnosed with granuloma, a serious throat condition. Consequently he has cancelling all plans to sing or perform in the near future.

Further, his fourth studio album *Born and Raised* will have its release date postponed as Mayer is unable to finish recording his vocals on several tracks. Everywhere, the hearts of housewives are breaking.

Radiohead to tour in 2012

Radiohead frontman Thom Yorke has announced impending plans for a Radiohead tour in 2012, on BBC 1 earlier in the week. Yorke's side project, *Atoms for Peace*

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Dear Life,

Ok Bookstore. I have a book list. I mentally prepare myself for the hour long line to get INTO the bookstore and what do I find? You don't have half of my textbooks and none of my course packages are there. Come on! It can't be that hard to have the right amount of books for a class. Right?

I still don't have all my text books and I have a test so hurry up already!!!
Sincerely,
First week of class and I'm falling behind - But its not my fault :)

Dear Life,

I wish people would stop referring to Laurier as a "business school". No self-respecting business student would forego ethical and legal practice to sell a student's intellectual property to private investors. We also wouldn't spend \$1.5 million on a Terrace expansion.
Sincerely,
A Business Student

Dear Life,

FIRST WORLD PROBLEMS
Sincerely,
Appreciative of the food I eat, the roof over my head, and the education I am able to get

Dear life,

Do you know what it's like being musically challenged? How it feels to go through elementary school completely unable to play any instrument? Having to sit and watch all my friends learn how to play their favourite songs on guitar in high school? Knowing that nobody will ever know or care how well I can sing in the shower!!
Well folks, I'm finally ready to

give something back after years of pain and neglect. So for a while now, I go everyday and drop a deuce in the 3rd floor bathroom of the music building.
Sincerely,
Being Generous!

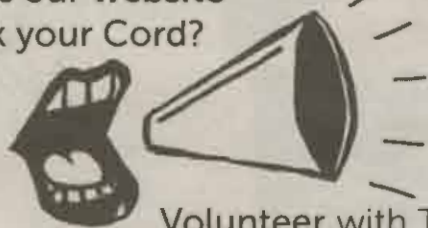
Dear Life,

I do not understand why classrooms have to be so overheated. I have 3 consecutive lectures in DAWB 3-106 and find in unbearably uncomfortable in shorts and a t-shirt. If you don't want students to attend lecture, keep it up.
Sincerely,
Turn Down The Heat

Dear Life,

I eat my fruits and vegetables, work out and maintain overall excellent hygiene. So why, WHY do I get the flu of the century? Students on this campus need to learn how to wash their hands and not cough on fucking everything, spreading their misfortune.
Sincerely,
I just want to breathe again and be able to taste my food

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EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor
Joseph McNinch-Pazzano
jmcninchpazzano@thecord.ca

Ontario Liberals have earned re-election

In the upcoming provincial election on Oct. 6, voters will decide whether to place a rubber stamp on the last eight years of Premier Dalton McGuinty's term or take a chance on a new untested leader of one of the three opposition parties.

Impressed by a strong and proven commitment to post-secondary education and a platform that addresses the long-term interests of the province, The Cord endorses the Ontario Liberal party and local Liberal candidate Eric Davis in Kitchener-Waterloo; McGuinty has earned a third term.

The proposal to cut Ontario tuition by 30 per cent will provide welcome assistance to the province's students as they seek to finance their education in increasingly difficult economic times. The New Democratic party (NDP) has offered a commendable proposal to freeze tuition for two years. This is a worthy policy but questions arise as to what the NDP's plans are for post-secondary education after the freeze ends. A \$1,600-tuition cut, as the Liberals propose, offers immediate relief.

The Progressive Conservative (PC) policy on post-secondary education is underwhelming. With the elimination of scholarships for foreign students forming the central plank of PC policy, the party seems to be seeking a wedge issue to use with voters instead of providing everyday solutions for Ontario's students.

As the current PC member of provincial parliament (MPP) for Kitchener-Waterloo, Elizabeth Witmer's 21 years of service are commendable. However, her tenure as minister of health and minister of education during the years of the Mike Harris and Ernie Eves governments puts a blemish on her record. Ontarians are not ready to return to an era where those key policy portfolios were characterized by detrimental spending cuts.

Kitchener-Waterloo Green party candidate J.D. McGuire has demonstrated an unbecoming lack of knowledge about his party's platform and in his political views in general. Unable to answer questions at various all-candidates meetings, McGuire is not a viable option for MPP and detracts from any potential benefit of the Green party's ideas and policies.

It will be difficult to oust a sitting MPP with such an engrained foothold on the riding. Yet, if students turn out and cast their ballots for Davis and the Liberals, a progressive alternative that looks to improve our collective future, we can send a message that we are a generation that believes in the benefits of government, and that we appreciate a party that pays attention to our needs.

Aside from post-secondary policy, the McGuinty Liberals offer a well thought-out and optimistic vision of our province's future. On health care, the Liberals have committed to continuing the success of the last eight years while introducing new measures such as home care.

With an inspiring commitment to improving our energy policy and our province's environment, the Liberals have committed unprecedented support to electric vehicles and have expanded GO train service to key parts of the province, including Kitchener.

Our political system unfortunately features the drawback of casting a vote for a local candidate instead of the provincial party. Local Liberal Davis is perhaps not as seasoned as Elizabeth Witmer, with substantially less experience in public life. He does not share the same eloquence and demonstrative passion for social justice as NDP candidate Isabel Cisterna. He does, however, belong to the party with the best policies for this election, and he shares the Liberals' commitment to securing a sound and vibrant future for Ontario.

In this election, the Liberals are the only party offering a tangible solution for students and a platform that showcases a viable future for Ontario.

— The Cord Editorial Board

How the Cord arrived at the endorsement:

The Cord's decision to endorse the Liberal party in the provincial election was based on debate and discussion at the Sept. 28 Editorial Board meeting. Each party's platform was discussed in detail, with Cord staff offering competing viewpoints on the merits and drawbacks of each. A formal vote was held amongst all attending members and ten voted in favour of endorsing the Ontario Liberal party, one voted in favour of endorsing the Ontario NDP and two voted to abstain.

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.

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ALI UROSEVIC GRAPHICS ARTIST

Laurier in danger of being known as 'last chance university'



MARCIE FOSTER
LEAD REPORTER

Wilfrid Laurier University's reputation has been debatable for some time now. Last Friday at the faculty of arts council meeting, the thunder was brought down upon this entire debate. The proposition? Raise the admissions average for incoming arts majors. The premise of the discussion was that the reputation of the school is undoubtedly on the brink of becoming "Last Chance U" or worse than "If you can walk and talk you can go to Brock."

While my friends at Brock could immediately disagree with their reputation, it's hard to argue what impact a bad reputation can have on a school and its admissions.

As a university, Laurier wants to attract top students: the brains and innovators, the leaders and creators, but without a great reputation for Canadian "excellence," we risk becoming a mediocre university in a sea of quality Canadian institutions. This is due, in large part, to the admissions average of 2011 hanging out at a meagre 73 per cent.

While high school grades are arguably already inflated, a 73 per cent in high school is considered well below what other schools demand. McGill University requires an 86.8 per cent for admission to arts programs while Western, considered a comparable school to Laurier, requires low 80s.

All of these figures inherently say something about a school's reputation. While the best and brightest among us may not have received outstanding 90-plus per cent grade averages in high school and extra-curricular activities in high school should also be considered,

“
By raising the admissions average, we would be picking from an entirely different pool of students, snatching up those who would otherwise have chosen Western or Queen's.

these standards are primarily indicative of a school's prestige. Schools in the United States rely on the Standardized Admissions Test (SAT) to determine a student's capabilities and is weighted heavily in admissions considerations.

The obvious problem with talking about admissions averages restoring the reputation of Laurier is that faculty budgets and funding are based largely in part upon the number of students we admit. A couple of weeks ago it was reported in The Cord, and confirmed at the council meeting, that arts admissions have gone down about ten per cent, leaving already starving departments meagre amounts of funding. We need to admit more students but we need to do it without lowering our admissions average to the point where Laurier is considered the last choice. We also can't lose any more funding.

So then, my proposition, although laughed at by many a faculty member and worried staff, is to raise the admissions average to 78 per cent. Because the amount of students with an 80 dramatically increases before tailing off at 90, according to a report by Alan Slavin, and the amount of Ontario Scholars (students with an 80 per cent or higher

upon graduation) increases every year, Laurier could benefit from jacking up the average. By raising the admissions average, we would be picking from an entirely different pool of students, snatching up those who would otherwise have chosen Western or Queen's.

It would lower the stress on administrators and advisors who are responsible for assisting the students, who once admitted, fail out or scrape by in first year. Dropouts would likely tailor off, creating stable funding and budgeting, and ideally a school more students would transfer to.

While funding is always a concern, the amount of students declining offers from Laurier would likely decrease as our reputation albeit slowly returns to being a quality school. More students would want to come here because as a school we no longer "fill space." Professors would have fewer masses of students who require extra help on the material; TAs would enjoy marking papers that aren't flooded with spelling and grammatical errors.

There are really many pros to raising the minimum entrance admission average. It would even help current students out, by providing some kick to the devalued arts degree, or giving that extra boost on a grad school application. We can promote Laurier all we want, and provide some of the best programs and professors in the country, but with a crap reputation we might as well be handing out degrees and become a revolving door of half-wits.

But whatever students come in with, that doesn't mean they'll fail or that they're incapable — I was one such student who didn't get 90s in high school. The day I got into Laurier I thought it was a joke, because I didn't think my grades were good enough. This was almost four years ago, and although there are always great bright students who turn on all the engines and graduate successfully, there are too many who are not on track to do so.

Online Comments

More Canadians should embrace TIFF

Re: "Why do people really go to TIFF?" Sept. 21

Comment posted: Sept. 23

I wish more people had your attitude when it comes to the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). Love how you describe it as "the art of exploring." So, so true! Sure, the parties are fun and the fashion is inspiring, but let's not forget about the actual films (oh, right, those). Great piece!
- sbc

Hold off on gay blood donation

Re: "UK blood donation policy a win for gay rights," Sept. 21

Comment posted: Sept. 25

Twelve months of abstinence is not enough.

Even the modern HIV test still miss 0.05 per cent of true infection, so in one million donations, there are 500 HIV contaminated blood samples that skip the tests. On the other hand, the HIV progress to AIDS takes ten years, so after ten years of no sexual activity and the person is still asymptomatic, and has negative tests, the probability of the infection is tiny.

So the ten years deferral is still warranted for a risky population such as homosexual males.

- sflssd

Risk of gay blood donation overstated

Re: "UK blood donation policy a win for

gay rights," Sept. 21

Comment posted: Sept. 25 in response to "sflssd"

Care to source where you got your information? Homophobics Anonymous?

Statistically, only about five per cent of worldwide cases of AIDS are contracted by homosexual males. There is a much higher chance that the blood of a heterosexual is infected with AIDS.

- Get your facts straight

Golden Hawks rebounding?

Re: "Hawks return to form, fall short," Sept. 24

Comment posted: Sept. 26

Everything about this game leads me to believe Laurier got their

swagger back.

While the Gee-Gees should be a tough one for them, they can take the experience from this game and run with it.

This game, albeit a loss is more where I expected Laurier's competitive level to be this season. My eyes will be glued to @cordsports Twitter feed on Saturday.

- Brandon

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.

New Opinion content exclusively online this week at thecord.ca

The freedom of university

Musings from a first year about what it's like to experience uninterrupted freedom for the first time
- Matthew Grant

Don't forget about social issues in election

Why abortion and sex education should be considered hot button issues in the Ontario election
- Hayden Starczala

From your Board

The benefits of first-year seminars
- Luke Dotto

Harper gets tough on crime



EMMA VAN WEERDEN
OPINION COLUMNIST

On Sept. 20, the Conservative government released its "Tough on Crimes" omnibus bill. I found the entire experience quite amusing, really. No, I didn't go down to Brampton to watch justice minister Nicholson deliver his speech, nor did I live-stream it. Rather, I set my Google search settings to "most recent," typed "Conservative tough on crime bill" into the search bar and repeatedly hit refresh.

Oh, how the comments flew! Journalists from across the country immediately protested, claiming ideological oppression. However, as I read this omnibus bill, I began to gain respect and admiration for it. Though I feel the bill is not flawless, it does raise a valid point. Officially titled the Tackling Violent Crimes Act, the bill introduces a long-needed backbone into the current wishy-washy Canadian legal system. Refreshingly, this bill was written with victims in mind.

No one could argue that the current legal system raises a few questions. Why were two Mississauga teens required to serve a combined total of seven years in prison for cold-heartedly drowning their mother in the bathtub back in 2003? Why was a 30-year-old man, convicted last week of dangerous driving causing the death of two Brampton women, given a house arrest where he can still drive to and from work? Why was Randal Hopley, with multiple child molestation convictions, able to snatch little Kieran Hebert out of his house?

Granted, these cases are all high-profile media stories but they serve to prove a point. They illustrate that we are dealing with a legal system which is plagued by inconsistency, inconsistency which has, in turn, created more victims.

This vicious cycle is what the current government has vowed to change.

Let's take a good look at the bigger picture before jumping in with two feet. As Bob Rae, interim leader of the Liberal party, is so eager to point out, the Canadian crime rate has been decreasing for the past few years. Fantastic. I won't argue the statistic, but to me that's like saying, "I just raised my school grade from an 'F' to a 'C'. I might as well stop trying now."

Canada cannot simply sit back and be content with our 2.1 million reported crimes a year. It has been said that there is a negative

correlation between economic hardship and criminal activity. The colourful graphs from Statistics Canada seem to indicate that as personal income decreases, the rate of crimes increase. As the stock markets once again tumble and cries of a recession are renewed, this would seem like a foolhardy time to take a passive stance on crime.

Even with the disturbing number of crimes still being committed in Canada, one can still question whether an active stance toward crime is possible. This new omnibus bill is one that claims to be "tough on crime," but what does such a deliciously vague term entail?

The eight acts that comprise this omnibus crime bill take wholesome steps toward achieving a tougher and more efficient stance on crime, with provisions including: minimum sentences on those convicted of sexual assault on a child under the age of 16, tougher punishment for those involved in drug-related activities, particularly if those activities are gang-related, adult-length sentences for youth convicted under a set list of serious crimes, removal of the right to house arrest for those convicted of serious and violent crimes, enshrining the victim's right to take part in parole hearings, eliminating the ability of those convicted of sexually abusing children to be granted pardon, allowing the minister of public safety more leeway to deny Canadians convicted of serious crimes abroad to transfer back to Canadian soil, giving victims of terrorism the ability to sue alleged perpetrators for loss and damage within a certain time frame and finally, allowing immigration officers to refuse work permits to foreign nationals, when it is deemed that worker would be at high risk of "humiliating and degrading treatment."

All in all, do I think this bill is perfect? By no means. As with most critics, my primary concern lies in the cost of implementation, a cost that has not yet been revealed. The safety of society's most vulnerable, particularly young children, is not something that I feel we should put a price tag on, yet Canada's current economic situation cannot be ignored.

A second, though not as pressing, issue I take towards this bill is the inclusion of the drug activity act.

Drug activity should not be ignored, but placing it in conjunction with a series of bills focusing heavily on sexual assault against children seems to cheapen the tremendously serious nature of the latter.

Nonetheless, I feel that this bill has accomplished what it set out

to do.

It tells the world that our government is willing to step up to the plate and take a firm stance to protect the victims of Canada.

For that, the Conservative government should be commended.



MITCHELL CHEESEMAN GRAPHICS ARTIST



You know what yanks my Cord ...

... the poster sale in the Concourse.

First years love it but everyone else dreads it — and for good reason. If you were in the Concourse last week you know exactly what I'm talking about. The Imaginus poster sale — you shudder when you hear the name.

Every year it shows up for a couple days, then thankfully they bugger off for a few months. So why do I hate it so much?

Firstly, the location. Could they put it in a more inconvenient location? Of course it helps their sales putting the event in one of the highest traffic areas of the school, but in doing so, it becomes the world's biggest pain.

Secondly, the timing. Now don't get me wrong, I understand that all of the first years have hideous dorm rooms and want to make them

original and in first year I did the same. Annoyingly however, while all first years are buying posters, everyone else is buying textbooks.

So this means hundreds if not thousands of students are funneled into the one metre gap between the Bookstore line and the vast array of posters. How lovely, two companies making enormous amounts of money while both of them make students miserable.

Now that first year is just a memory, I really wish Laurier would ditch the poster sale. It's an annoying money grab that inconveniences all students.

Please, get rid of it. Or at least host it at a different time in a different spot.

Please, for everyone's sake (or at least just my sake).
- Alex Reinhart

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Under fire, Obama courts middle class

After a bruising debate with the Republican Congress over the debt ceiling this past summer, Obama can hardly afford another fight. This time, he's putting himself on the side of the middle class. Is it sincere?



ALI UROSEVIC GRAPHICS ARTIST



SHAUN FITL
OPINION COLUMNIST

On Sept. 19, American President Barack Obama announced his deficit reduction plan in the White House Rose Garden. The major theme in his speech was the protection of American equality values in the process of generating revenue for the plan. Obama's rhetoric included the phrase "fair share," which he used frequently, to illustrate the overall framework for his plan.

Obama is well aware that raising taxes always creates unrest in the public. To soften the message, he quoted George Washington explaining that debts can only be solved with revenue, which must come with the difficulties of raising taxes.

The purpose of the plan is said to create "conditions where businesses can hire and middle-class families can feel a basic measure of economic security."

Both the Republican and Democratic parties agree that the deficit must be reduced by \$3 trillion more, including the \$1 trillion in cuts from August, in order for this to be achieved.

The revenue is expected to come from four different areas. Tax reforms, on the 2001 Bush era tax cuts for the upper tax bracket as well as the closing of many tax loopholes, will contribute \$1.5 trillion, the most revenue of the four.

Spending cuts from policies like reforming agricultural subsidies and

Medicare and Medicaid are expected to contribute \$580 billion. The diminishing or ending of the United States' role in Iraq and Afghanistan is expected to provide \$1.1 trillion in revenue.

And finally, from decreasing the overall debt, the government will also save \$430 billion from the lower amount of interest paid.

A quick glance at the list of cuts and reforms that Obama is planning gives the impression that the president's deficit reduction plan is weighted heavily towards the responsibility of the upper-tax bracket.

The new "Buffett Rule" is being accepted in the debate, which decisively states that any individual earning over \$1 million cannot pay a lower income tax rate than someone who makes less.

This is an important ruling as a high amount of income that these elites achieve is from investments, which are taxed at a much lower rate than corporate salary.

The question becomes, why does Obama care so much about protecting the working class now?

He did not display the same bravado during the July and August debt crisis where he catered the future of the US debt-based economy around the interests of the Republican party and their supporters.

It could just be a change of heart that can potentially occur in any human being, although this would be very unlikely given the massive amount of interests that are constantly competing for the president's attention.

Republican Senator John Thune of South Dakota later dismissed the president's plan as being motivated by "election year politics" and, thus,

insincere. On the other hand, Democrat Senator Carl Levin of Michigan was pragmatically happy that Obama was acting progressively in his planning instead of simply becoming cynical of his intentions.

It is hard to doubt that the president has set the goal of weighting the deficit-reduction responsibility primarily on the shoulders of the wealthy elite of America. However, it is always up for question what exactly the president's motives for this plan could be.

Obama comments on his proposed structural reforms for Medicare and Medicaid, which are part of the \$580 billion in spending cuts, and reminds that "we will reform Medicare and Medicaid but we will not abandon the fundamental commitment that this country has kept for generations."

He threatens that he will veto any bill that proposes cuts that will affect benefits for those who need them most.

The president seems to be making a very conscious effort to comfort the working class.

His promise to allocate a "fair share" of responsibility for the deficit reduction has resonated throughout the ranks of American politicians and incited different responses from each.

It is now up to the commentaries of Republicans and Democrats alike to mould the president's plan into a reality that can be contemplated by individuals from any degree on the political spectrum.

Yet, the sincerity of his motives remains in question.

His focus on the working class now seems more steeped in electoral awareness than any genuine concern for the debt.

When 'planking' actually has a purpose



ANDREW CHAI
OPINION COLUMNIST

It is always nice to see something completely useless turn into something actually useful. In this case, it is planking — the game where you try to find the most unusual place to take a picture of yourself lying face down on in a rigid "plank" position. This trend has spread like wildfire over the Internet with celebrities such as Ellen Page, Katy Perry, Chris Brown, Gordon Ramsay and Justin Bieber also partaking in the game.

It is in the news today not because another person has died from taking this game too far, but because of its innovative use as a form of protest. Last Monday, a group of at least 20 members of the League of Filipino Students in the Philippines planked while holding signs to block traffic at a busy roundabout in Manila in a protest over the rising cost of oil prices. In a time of global political unrest, protests are not something out of the ordinary.

The people of the Philippines are expecting their government to do more to address their concerns. However, some in the government are planning something different. Instead of working to solve the country's problems, Winston Castelo, a congressman in the Philippines, is trying to enact a law to ban planking.

He argues that disrupting traffic with planking is to the detriment

of commuters, dangerous and that participants are risking their lives and limbs. I agree; planking with a number of people on a busy road has all of those consequences. But, that is the whole point of such forms of non-violent protest. Whether you agree with it or not it is supposed to grab your attention. It is called civil disobedience for a reason.

The proposed legislation states that the bill should be enacted as a universal code of student conduct that strictly prohibits planking "as a form of redress of grievance" during street rallies or protests. What's next? Are they also going to ban walkouts and sit-ins.

This amounts not only to an attempt to restrict the act of planking, but to restrict students from staging protest actions on the whole.

I have nothing but praise for these students.

The Philippines is a country with a long history of authoritarian rule, the use of martial law and the suspension of human rights.

Even as recently as December 2009, through Proclamation No. 159, the province of Maguindanao was put under a state of martial law by President Macapagal-Arroyo. And as a result, one of the most important safeguards of individual freedom against arbitrary state action, the writ of habeas corpus, was suspended in the province.

The people of the Philippines face a long and hard road towards greater freedom.

And every demonstration and protest will lead closer and closer to that goal. It is my hope that these students live to see the fruit of their labour and be able to live freely without government oppression.

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SPORTS

Sports Editor
Kevin Campbell
kcampbell@thecord.ca

Tops in the country



MIRIAM SMIT CORD PHOTOGRAPHY

The women's soccer team has seven wins in its first seven games.

CASSANDRA BRUSH
STAFF WRITER

Rookie Emily Brown attributes her Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks' women's soccer 4-1 win against Waterloo on Saturday to their remarkable team chemistry.

"Coming in as a rookie, the team is so strong," Brown said. "Their chemistry is so high and we have a lot of new rookies that are really talented. The vets just kind of take us in and we learn their way of play. I think the whole team atmosphere just makes it such a great team."

Coach Barry MacLean echoed Brown's humble yet confident ability in the team this year. "We have some great chemistry from the bottom to the top," he said.

It came as no surprise last Saturday when the nationally-ranked No. 1 Hawks trampled over their defenceless neighbouring Warriors.

With precise passing and impressive team chemistry, the Golden Hawks took control of the game early on with Krista Celucci burying an

early goal just nine minutes into the game.

"Playing Waterloo, we knew they would come out strong because they are our local competitors," Celucci said. "I think that is one of the biggest reasons why we came out hard right away in the very first half. We kind of just wanted to prove a point and get as many goals as we could as fast as possible."

And coming out hard is just what they accomplished.

Celucci finished the game with a pair of goals and Alyssa Lagonia followed to set the score at 4-0 after the first half.

"The rookies are great, but our fourth- and fifth-year players have great character and it's a very cohesive team. I'm very pleased with what we have right now," said MacLean.

In a disappointing last few seconds of injury time, Waterloo managed to sneak behind the Hawks' defence and squeeze in a header off a corner kick to finalize the score at 4-1.

This was particularly disappointing for rookie goalkeeper Margaret Carmichael whose hopes of getting a shutout on her first-ever university start were upset.

"The game was pretty well over at that point," MacLean said. "I think our team took our foot off the gas a little bit but that was the first shot on goal and it went in the net so it is what it is. I would have preferred to get a shutout for her. We just let ourselves slip out of the game a little bit at the end."

The Golden Hawks will face off against the Brock Badgers on Sept. 28 for the second time this year. Winning their last game by a score of only 1-0, Celucci is preparing for a very physical game.

"The last game we played against Brock, they were really physical and I think we have to keep in mind that they are a hard team to compete with but it's nothing that we can't handle," she said.

"We just have to make sure that we have our priorities straight, and we come out strong like we did in the last game. If we do the same thing and stay composed against them like we did last time, we shouldn't have any problem with them."

"We ... wanted to prove a point and get as many goals as we could as fast as possible."

—Krista Celucci (Laurier Golden Hawks' forward)

Sports in brief

Laurier partners with multi-sport complex

The men's and women's soccer teams have a new place to practice in the off-season. Kitchener's new multi-sport complex, which has been the vision of investors and head coaches Mario Halapir and Barry MacLean, will house the soccer teams' practice facility. It is located at the 401 and Homer Watson Boulevard and will open this fall.

Baseball win one, lose four

The Golden Hawks' baseball team have hit a snag in their season. After beating Guelph in 15 innings with a 9-6 win, the team dropped four in a row to Guelph (by 8-5 and 2-1 scores) and Toronto (by 4-1 and 2-1 scores). The team drops to 8-6 after starting the year 7-1. They sit in fourth place.

Golf finishes 5th at first OUA event

The WLU men's golf team finished in fifth place at the Western Invitational. Jacob Bishop collected a team low +5.

Guelph won the tournament while Waterloo and Brock finished in second and third.

Women's lacrosse notch first win

The women's lacrosse team opened their season with a 10-5 win over McMaster.

Shelby O'Ryan, Jen Graham and Sarah Stanley all had two-goal games while Ashley Rutz, Jen Taylor, Krissy Leeder and Tash Robertson added singles.

—Compiled by Kevin Campbell

GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of
Sept 26 - Oct 2, 2011

REGISTRATION

09.21.11

M Soccer 0 - UOIT 2

09.22.11

M Baseball 9 - Guelph 6

09.23.11

W Hockey 7 - Ohio State 3

M Hockey 7 - Windsor 4

W Rugby 5 - Trent 37

09.24.11

M Baseball 5 - Guelph 8

M Baseball 1 - Guelph 2

M Football 28 - Western 34

M Hockey 1 - UOIT 4

W Soccer 1 - Waterloo 1

M Soccer 0 - Waterloo 1

09.25.11

M Baseball 1 - Toronto 7

M Baseball 1 - Toronto 4

M Rugby 3 - Guelph 38

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

09.28.11

W Hockey vs Burlington

REC Complex, 7:30 p.m.

10.01.11

M Football vs Ottawa

University Stadium, 1:00 p.m.

10.02.11

M Baseball vs Western

Bethel Park, 1:00 p.m.

M Baseball vs Western

Bethel Park, 3:30 p.m.

Golf - Laurier Invitational

Grey Silo Golf Course - All Day

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Dillon Heap

Men's Football

Alyssa Lagonia

Women's Soccer

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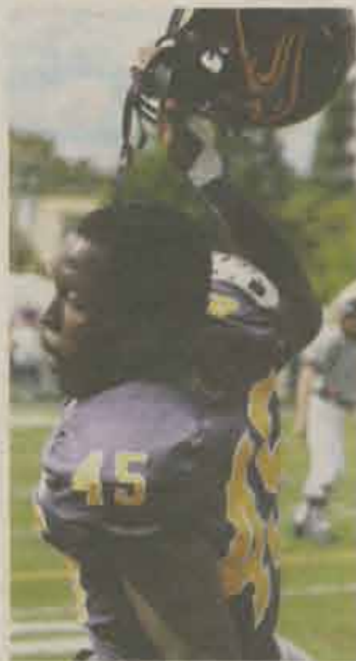
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ROSALIE EID PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Felix Odum celebrates a score while Anton Bennett evades a linebacker on his way to the end zone.

Playoff hopes remain alive

—cover

Just a minute later and with 11 seconds left in the half, Hawks' quarterback Shane Kelly found Russ Jirgens in the end zone to tie the contest at 21 going off into the dressing rooms.

But Western is a second-half team and has historically pulled away from close matches in the later stages of their games.

Laurier was ready.

The defence held Varga to his third touchdown in the third quarter and allowed only two field goals in the second half — both to kicker Lirim Hajrullahu.

Then Western's offence came apart at the seams.

Marshall's passes started airlifting away from his receivers and his runningbacks Nathan Riva and Varga couldn't muster any significant

drives and while his receivers Brian Marshall and Andrew Thibaudeau, usually threats on the offensive lines, were stymied.

Heap completed his OUA player of the week-winning game with a 52-yard touchdown reception in the fourth.

But it wasn't enough.

Untimely interceptions by Western deflated the Hawks' momentum at crucial points, including a turnover during Laurier's last-ditch drive with seconds remaining.

Kelly finished the game completing 27 of 48 passes but allowed four turnovers.

"Offensively, we gave them a touchdown," said Heap, referring to Sean Blake's touchdown.

"Coach V [Ron VanMoerkerke] put together a good plan and got us working hard for the week and it showed," said Bosch.

The punting which showed its frailty as La Touche filled in for the injured Ronnie Pfeffer also needs improvement. Pfeffer and starting kicker Nathan Hawkes are close to returning.

Now, with homecoming looming, the Hawks will rest easier knowing they can build on the best game of their young season.

Laurier now faces one of the OUA's top team in the Ottawa Gee-Gees, a team that eliminated the Hawks in the semi-finals 32-31 just one year ago. Ottawa then lost to Western in the Yates Cup final.

"It's all about trust," said Heap. "Ottawa is a good team They're a little underrated, so it's going to be a battle."

"We'll get some wins," said Jeffries.

"This thing's a long way from over."

The real season starts in October

The Cord's sports staff offer their insight as to who will win the Fall Classic.

Kevin Campbell



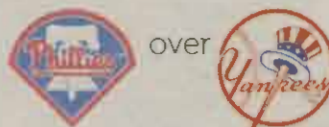
Ashley Denuzzo



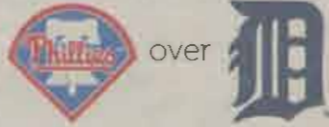
Luke Dotto



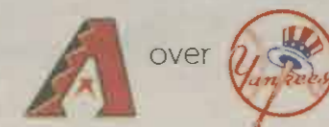
Chris Mander



Eric Thompson



Justin Fauteux



Sports in brief

Rugby teams lose

Laurier's women's rugby team (0-3) lost its third game in a row on Friday, losing 37-3 to Trent University. Patricia Shurrie led the Hawks with a try. The men's squad lost 38-3 to the Guelph Gryphons and fall to 1-3 on the year.

Hockey teams lose in pre-season play

Laurier's men's hockey squad dropped two decisions to Windsor (4-3) and UOIT (4-1) on the weekend. The women's team lost 3-1 to Ohio State. Kristen Kilgallen saved 26 of 29 shots and Katherine Shirriff scored the lone tally for the Hawks.

Cross Country team performs well at Western

The Laurier men's side finished eighth overall with Shoaib Ikram finishing with the best time at 34:17 in the ten km race. The women's team saw four members finish within a minute of each other on the five km race.

Fastpitch improves to 9-4

WLU's women's fastpitch squad split both their doubleheaders against York (3-2 loss and 15-5 win) and Queen's (12-3 win and 11-10 loss) and beat Waterloo 2-1 on Friday. The team sits in second place in the OUA.

Toronto FC hires Hawks' coach as K-W scout

Mario Halapir is scouting the region's top U-13 and U-15 players to feed Toronto's junior-level teams



DEBORAH LAM STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mario Halapir who runs the Golden Hawks' men's soccer program, has been hired as Toronto FC's newest scout for K-W area.

LUKE DOTTO
STAFF WRITER

Ask any greybeard soccer-enthusiast about the halcyon days of soccer in Canada and they might get poetic about the Whitecaps and Blizzard, Beckenbauer and Pele, and the 1986 World Cup.

Ask a young soccer player in Canada and they will tell you the glory days are still on the horizon while perhaps letting their imaginations run wild with possibilities.

It was with that look to the future and a potential for possibility that Toronto FC has hired Wilfrid Laurier University men's soccer coach Mario Halapir to scout the tri-city area for potential academy players for TFC's new U-13 and U-15 programs.

The TFC Academy, made possible by virtue of a 20-million dollar investment at Downsview Park for the team's future training facilities and expansion of the club's current academy structure, will focus on more grassroots development aimed at graduating young players to the older U-17 and U-19 teams.

"That's the one area that's lacking here in Canada. We need to put more resources into the youth level. We have lots of players with potential but our climate is different than other parts of the world. The passion or desire or hunger to get to the next level is not there," surveyed Halapir.

Halapir, who began coaching at just 13 years of age, recognized how formative the early teen years are for developing talent but also how demoralizing it can be.

"We are too overwhelmed in Canada ... to be able to have enough

proper coaching at that level for all the kids that have potential. Some kids who have the potential will leave the system because the coaching isn't there or the environment isn't there that keeps them."

Losing top, young talent is a common theme for the Canadian Soccer Association.

Names like Owen Hargreaves, Jonathan de Guzman and Daniel Fernandez all left Canada for Europe at a young age to train with academy teams in England, the Netherlands and Portugal respectively which is where, not surprisingly, they have all been capped as national team players.

The inability to keep these budding stars is a systemic issue, Halapir cites, and one that can be assuaged with a greater focus on creating a pathway to the highest level.

"Without it, it is very difficult to become a professional athlete. It's not about just the score-keeping, it's about driving them to play at an intense level, at the highest level, it has to do with their training habits and their technical habits, you shouldn't have to tell these kids when to get motivated but that's what happens here."

While names like Franz Beckenbauer, Giorgio Chinaglia and Johan Cruyff may bring to life images of the glory days of soccer in North America, an age that Major League Soccer desperately wants to and needs to re-establish, Halapir notes that the legends of old were not legends of our making.

"What was missing in the [North American Soccer League] days was the connection to the community. The Blizzard and the Cosmos had

strong followings, but they were bringing in players from all over the place at the ends of their careers to get people in the stands," said Halapir.

While butts in the seats meant money in the pockets, it was an unsustainable cycle and the North American Soccer League buckled, shortly after the brilliance of those stars had waned. The key, Halapir notes, is to have home-grown stars that motivate young people to take up the sport. "Young players everywhere else in the world have players they look up to, teams they look up to; it's sorely missing here and it's very important we develop local talent and have those players in our leagues, two or three is better than zero."

While those kids will one day hopefully love seeing their favourite athletes on a pitch, for Halapir, it's about something else entirely.

"I love being around kids, I love seeing the improvement," he said.

See thecord.ca for Eric Thompson's experience about the latest Philadelphia Eagles' game and his thoughts on the NFL's first three weeks.

