Students demand answers from university administration

Alicia McFadden
Dillon Moore

Yesterday in the Paul Martin Centre, a large group gathered to take part in a town-hall style forum held by the Students’ Union to address the problem of rapid growth at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Executive Vice President: University Affairs Dave Wellhauser chaired the forum. He welcomed the audience to the event, which he stated was one among a series planned. Each of the six panelists was then allowed to make their introductory statements.

Dr. Barry K. loaned his experience as part of the Political Science department. He said that since about 1996, the Political Science department has seen a growth of about 55% in the number of students enrolled in classes, without a proportional growth in faculty. This in turn leads to unavailability of classes, and restriction of some classes to just Political Science majors.

Dr. Franklin Ramsoomair of the Business department also remarked on his personal experience having more students in his class than he was prepared to handle. He attempted to draw a comparison between the situation at Laurier to the one at his Alma Mater Mount Allison University, where he felt the enrollment had been effectively capped. “I don’t think we’ll lose our identity as a small, unique and personal university,” he said.

Chair of the Board of Governors Gerry Young presented the side of the administration, producing a number of documents examining growth at Laurier.

“I’m trying to drive home that we aren’t functioning without a plan,” he said. His two main points were that the BOG is concerned about the problems and is working to limit their repercussions, but is constrained by monetary limitations.

“Clients” and should be given a greater say in how decisions are made, given their monetary importance. He suggested that in future, the contribution of money from the Students’ Union to the university might come with more strings attached to ensure that the students’ agenda was being accounted for.

Continued on page 2

Faculty talks nearing end but strike not ruled out

Nadine Fadd

The Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association is down to the last details in their negotiations with the university over the establishment of a part-time collective agreement.

“We are now negotiating the crucial last stages,” said chief negotiator for WLUFA and history department member, Doug Lorimer. “We’re approaching a point where we’ll know if the parties can reach an agreement.”

WLUFA and the university have been meeting to negotiate three times a week since August 13, and are expected to meet again today (Wednesday). Students may have noticed the recent campaign on campus, including the onslaught of square, yellow PART-TIMERS GIVE FULL VALUE buttons that have appeared everywhere from teachers’ shirts to backpacks. “Students in particular need to know these negotiations are going on,” said Lorimer, “they need to be aware of the issues.”

“Part-time faculty aren’t being paid very much,” he explained, “the university is pocketing a considerable amount.” A WLUFA pamphlet argues that a student pays $445 in tuition for a one-term course, and that part-timers are paid $4,400 to teach it. The combined tuition paid by an average class of 47 students equals $20,521. After paying a part-timer his or her $4400 to teach the course, the hand-out claims, the university is left with $15,810. While “there’s a range of salaries,” Lorimer explained, the average full-time member of the teaching staff earns approximately $78,000-80,000 annually.

The WLUFA also proposes that, instead of a set salary per course regardless of class size, part-time staff should receive an extra $50 per student per term in classes that exceed 40 students. Lorimer claims that negotiations have been whittled down to the issues of “benefits and salaries.”

He told The Cord that part-timers are “also engaged in scholarship and research on their own,” and that their qualifications and contribution to the university should be recognized.

Continued on page 3

In memory of Graham Solomon

Sean Hill

The recent death of Graham Solomon has left friends, colleagues and students in a state of shock and dismay. Anytime a seemingly young and healthy individual dies, all those around are left with questions and confusion about how such a thing could happen.

The problem with these questions is that the answers are not immediately available, and may not be for a long time. Although the only personal relations I had with Graham was through a second year philosophy course, I am still left mired up, trying to make sense of such a disappointing and sad event.

Dr. Solomon’s death came early Thursday morning as the result of a stroke. What started as a cold, developed into pneumonia, and may not be for a long time. Although the immune system. The stroke was apparently brought on through complications from the pneumonia.

I feel the opportunity to allow others to reflect on their relationship with Dr. Solomon is both beneficial to individuals
WLUSP audits the books

Student Pubs moves to prevent repetition of last year’s financial disaster.

Dillon Moore

The Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications administration is hopeful that their recent actions will prevent the recurring and costly mistakes of last year’s Vice President of Finance from being repeated.

During last winter term, the VP: Finance at the time, Dharmesh Makwana, was removed from his position once it was determined that he was doing a negligent job. At the time, WLUSP President Christian Pearce was unsure of the extent to which Makwana had allowed his responsibilities to slide.

Current VP: Finance Edward Schall was hired for his position and put in place early with a mission to find out what went wrong and to get WLUSP back into sound financial standing.

After auditing the books for the 2000-2001 fiscal year, Schall, along with the WLUSU Board of Directors, is of the current revisions and formal explanation to the administration of the University, to explain what happened last year, and to outline what measures they have planned to prevent the re-occurrence of such a problem.

The WLUSU Statement of Operations as of April 30, 2001 shows a net loss of about $20,515, compared to the budgeted profit of $17,290.

Part of the loss is from an outstanding payment transaction of Student Activity fees from the Students’ Union, a sum of about $12,000 that should have been counted as an addition to the budget last year. The treatment of Depreciation Expense, a part of the budget that Schall says has had the same mistake made on it after year in the past, was by itself $15,874 over the budgeted sum.

A large amount of the problems have been directly tied to the negligence of Makwana. A number of advertisements that were supposed to run in the Keystone did not, and WLUSP lost $6,440 in ad revenue.

A portion of the cheque written by students ordering a Keystone allowance was already been stated, resulting in a loss of $4,186. Late sales incurred another $2,000, while interest and penalty expenses for late filings and payments by WLUSP amounted to $3,000. Combined with these losses was the additional cost of hiring Collin Barrow’s Chartered Accountants to help sort out the books, an expense that is not normally required. All told, the report holds Makwana accountable for a loss of $16,462, of which it is expected $6,440 will be recovered this year.

To prevent this from happening again, the WLUSP administration has promised to put a number of controls in place. An auditing system, following a simplified form of the computer labs, and the volunteer program which was done on a monthly basis by a Finance Committee appointed by the Board and at arm’s length from the VP: Finance. The hiring process for VP: Finance, in past years merely an interview process, will be revamped. Candidates for the position will in future be given a test of their abilities. As well, a training manual to help future VP: Finances more easily navigate their duties is being developed by Schall.

When asked if he thinks enough changes have been made, Schall replied he is “satisfied that it shouldn’t happen again.” He also said he foresees a gain of $12,000 for WLUSP.

In regards to responsibility for the debacle, Bliss believes that Makwana was at fault, but WLUSP is a corporation, and has to take responsibility for what happens within it. Schall believes that in the past year there was “maybe a bit too much pressure.”

WLUSU Board meetings are open to the public, and are held at 5:30 on Thursdays. Location is variable, but can be found posted on the WLUSU office door by 5:20, also on Thursdays.

Continued from Cover

Vice Chair of the WLUSU Board of Directors Kris Kristo addressed the plans of the administration, saying that they were out of date and needed to be re-examined due to the fact that growth has already exceeded the margins of the plans.

Board member Andy Bruce, fighting for the floor amid interjections by Young, expressed his dissatisfaction as a student when he only received one of the six elections that he asked for this year on his first try.

One student in the audience said that it was hard to find outlets where their concerns could be expressed. Young replied that progress was being made, with more students present on the BOG, and through formal meetings such as the town hall.

A student named question whether the university was speaking to the municipality to encourage change in bylaws on rooming houses. The individual felt that changes might be necessary to provide space for all the senior students in the city. Pargh answered that there is a lot of communication with the city, but that it was highly unlikely that current restrictions on rooming houses would be changed during Mayor Lynne Wootton’s term in office.

The second half of the Town Hall on Growth meeting seemed focused on the use of the word “small” in relation to Laurier’s status as a University.

Laurier’s size has always been a strong selling feature to students from around the country. It has dubbed itself a community that is sensitive to the needs of the students wherein you are person, as opposed to merely a number. This ideal was finally known before they enrolled at Laurier what the conditions were truly like, and had not believed the marketing story, they may have reconsidered coming to this institution. The survey presented by the Students’ Union showed that students felt congestion in common areas has significantly increased, there is limited access to the AG and computer labs, and the volunteer program which Laurier has a strong reputation of upholding, is absolutely out of touch.

Another problem addressed was the allotment of part-time staff and less tenured professors. The part-time professors are less costly, and more flexible in what they are given to teach.

However, concerns about the quality of education are also being raised in regards to these further cutbacks. The concern is not of the caliber of these professors. Instead it is that they are given less prep time, are being faced with more and more students to teach, and are often given classes that may not be exactly their area of expertise. Combine these issues with less teacher/student time, more Teaching Assistants teaching labs and marking papers, and a decreasing feeling of belonging among the students, and there emerges a litany of issues that are hurting the Laurier experience.

Growing at an incredible rate, Harry

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Safety of water supply questioned

Stefan Sercda

Water — would you dare to drink it? Of course you would! You need water to survive. However, more and more people have recently become skeptical of their drinking water, and are taking extra precautions before consuming it. Canadians are testing, boiling, and filtering the chunks out of their water, and yesterday Laurier students found out why.

Lecturing in the Paul Martin Centre, guest Koswan and Judy Greenwood-Speers, the Deputy-Leader of students ride their platform, Gomberg finished second in the Canadian water supply. The event, entitled "Water for the 21st Century," and put on by the Environmental Awareness Committee here at WLU, provided a disturbing outlook on the amount of pollution in water systems throughout the country, and raised concerns of a worldwide crisis.

Koswan, a well-known environmental activist and founder of the Dandelion Festival and G.R.O.U.P. (Get Rid of Urban Pesticides), spoke on the issue of pesticides contaminating water in Ontario and the harmful effect that this has on humans and wildlife. She joked that her organization's goal is "getting people's lawn off drugs," and noted that 7,000 licensed pesticides are marketed in Canada, whose deadly chemicals are not tested or even acknowledged by Ontario's Ministry of Agriculture.

Koswan's chief concern was that pesticides being applied to lawns and crops are escaping into the air, and into Ontario's water systems.

Pesticides being applied to lawns and crops are escaping into the air, and into Ontario's water systems. 

in Canadian water systems is extremely high, and spilling some of the world's most pristine bodies of water.

The second lecture, by Judy Greenwood-Speers, explored the depths of political and industrial ecological violations in Ontario. Greenwood-Speers, who spoke at the Walkerton Inquiry and co-founded HTALT (Highway 7 Alternatives) as well as the 7 Generations Network, noted that Canada has eight of the twelve largest lakes in the world, and "a lot of responsibility."

However, she was disturbed that the Canadian government has identified sixteen points in Southern Ontario's water system as "areas of concern."

Greenwood-Speers blamed the contamination on large industries which use the Great Lakes as a "giant toilet system," and on politicians who are unwilling to stop the dumping of waste, examine these water systems or enforce their own federal laws regarding the capping of wells in order to prevent poisonous substances from entering Canada's water supply.

"What we are shorting is a genie in many areas of nature through our complacency to neglect politicians," she said. While many people ignore the idea that the environment can be changed for the better, the speaker cited China as an example of progress, pointing out that their government took measures which reduced their greenhouse-gas emission by fifteen percent.

While Canada's contaminated water has been linked to high rates of cancer, E. coli, diabetes, as well as the deaths of large numbers of animals, and experts at McMaster are blaming the water for an estimated 7,800 accelerated deaths this coming year, the government is doing little to remedy this situation.

Greenwood-Speers called for an increase in environmental activism and stated "just because a problem is big doesn't mean you can ignore it."

Tooker at critical mass

Political activist speaks to students; students ride their bikes

Brent Raney

Upon taking over two lanes on King Street during rush hour last Wednesday, a group of sixty cyclists involved in this year's first Critical Mass ride rode through the city's downtown to protest environmental issues.

Cyclists steel their nerves, preparing to enter the flow of automotive traffic.

The purpose of the ride was to promote the bicycle and public transit as viable means of transportation, while making people think twice about driving their cars for short distances.

After the riders reached City Hall, environmental activist and special guest Tooker Gomberg addressed the group, urging his audience to "keep an eye on what they're doing inside those buildings and see how they're making their decisions," as he gestured towards City Hall.

Running on an environmentally focused platform, Gomberg finished second in the Toronto Mayoral Election this past year. David Suzuki called Gomberg "one of the few politicians I have met who has a deep understanding of the environmental and social justice issues that confront us today."

Well respected within the environmental community, Gomberg has spent time working on issues of urban health and sustainability, transportation, city design, energy conservation and waste management.

Speaking from his experience as a City Councillor in Edmonton, Gomberg talked about the lack of municipal funding for environmental initiatives saying "there's lots of money that's been spent in the city. It's a question of priority."

Gomberg feels strongly about the use of community activism to help further environmental goals. "It starts right here in our streets, with people talking to their neighbours, mobilizing other people and pushing for change," said Gomberg when asked how the average citizen could affect the municipal political process.

After arriving in Kitchener-Waterloo that morning, Gomberg took part in a "parking space take over" at Waterloo Town Square, organized by the Environment Club, then spent the afternoon in lecture and discussion with Laurier students before riding in the Critical Mass bike ride.

Started in San Francisco in 1992, the Critical Mass has grown to be held at different locations around the world. The Laurier Environment Club now holds 4 or 5 of these events every year. The Critical Mass was entered in the K-W Santa Claus parade last year, and plans to enter this year's event as well.

In memory

Continued from cover

Not only could I ask him about anything in philosophy and get an interesting response, but he also had good suggestions of novels for all occasions (for example Don DeLillo's White Noise for depressing times). In return I gave him advice about his raspberries.

"He was always so organized and on top of things. It will take a while for it to sink in, and it's a huge loss to the department. He always had a kind word and was quick to help when at all possible."

"My whole experience with Graham was very positive. He was always supportive, showing me the ropes to make me feel at home. I was impressed with his organization as a chair and he had everything under control. Everyone respected him for his judgement and caring nature, and appreciated his unique sense of humour."

"Graham was a courageous, honest academic, a teacher and a person, he was extremely helpful and caring. He had such a positive effect on my experience as a university student. I feel lucky to have known him."

"By the time this goes to print, the visitation and service will have passed. There is talk of holding a service at an outdoor location, which is going on right now that no date has been confirmed."

Donations can be made to The Graham Solomon Memorial Fund. Send to WLU Development Office, Attention: Marilyn Field.
Students walk for peace

Stefan Sereda

If you happen to be walking up University Avenue and wondering “Who wrote Bread Not Bombs on the sidewalks?”, you should know that Abbie Hoffman had nothing to do with it. Neither did Bob Dylan, and John Lennon was only involved in spirit. Truthfully, the slogan was written by a student activist walking from Wilfrid Laurier University to the University of Waterloo for peace.

Last Thursday, approximately fifty students and community members were seen taking it to the streets for a peace walk not only in protest of the bombings in Afghanistan, but also in sympathy for the victims of the September 11th attacks and the civilians who have lost their lives as a result of “America’s New War.” Armed with banners, signs, chants, speakers, an acoustic guitar and one very effective megaphone, the students marched to the University of Waterloo and back.

Unlike the demonstrations of the 1960’s (or those that took place last spring in Quebec), this protest had the aura of a 1960’s action, with slogans like “Give Peace a Chance.” Upon arrival at the University of Waterloo, both the organizer of the rally and the man who came out of his house in pajamas was shaking his fist in approval, not as a way of coercing the protestors to get off of his lawn. Still, despite their high level of enthusiasm, the activists were unable to convince anyone passing by to join them by singing “Give Peace a Chance.”

Disagreed? Present them with a witty rejoinder while speeding by in your car like all the intelligentia do.

Faculty talk dollars

continued from cover

“We’re working hard to get an agreement,” said Lorimer, who also foresees the possibility of reaching an agreement in the next ten days or so “if everything goes well.”

Despite his optimism, however, he also confirmed that if the university and WLUFA are unable to reach an eventual agreement, a strike has not been ruled out as a possibility.

The Cord was unable to reach chief negotiator for the university and Dean of Business and Economics Scott Carson, for comment before deadline.

Universal Bus Pass Survey (UPASS)

To all Laurier students who were contacted via their University e-mail accounts regarding a survey on opinions about the proposed UPASS (Universal Bus Pass):

If you have answered the survey, thank you. Your input will help the Student’s Union decide on the best next step. If you have not yet answered the survey - please take the ten minutes it requires, if you possibly can. For an accurate cross-section of student opinion, as many responses as possible are needed.

Shane Dixon
Project Manager
Survey Research Centre

Correction:

In last week’s edition of the Cord, the story with the headline “Health Plan money to be donated,” contained numerous mentions of a “Health Services surplus.” In fact, the surplus and donations came from the Health Plan, not Health Services, which is a separate entity. The Cord regrets the error.

No correction:

In past issues of the Cord, lists of people have been referred to as “patchy” and “clumsy.” The Cord does not regret this and would, in fact, like to re-emphasize it. I feel better about myself because you are kind.
Ziplock baggie of all things bad

THEFT UNDER $5000  OCT 30/01
Person(s) unknown entered an unattended office at 202 Regina and took the occupant's wallet.

THEFT UNDER $5000  WED OCT 31/01
Person(s) unknown stole an employee's purse while it was unattended at the Tim Horton's outlet in the Science Building.

FIRE DEPT RESPONSE 2030 HRS THU NOV 01/01
The fire department was called after an alarm in Conrad Hall was activated. The cause of the alarm was a pot of food on a stove that was left unattended.

NOISE COMPLAINT 0145 HRS FRI NOV 01/01
An officer responded to a complaint of some individuals outside Willison Hall being loud. The individuals were spoken to and left the area.

FALSE FIRE ALARM 0030 HRS SAT NOV 02/01
Person(s) unknown caused a fire alarm in the Nichols Centre by activating a pull station. The fire department responded and found everything to be in order. The pubs were closed for the duration of the night.

CAUSE DISTURBANCE 2310 HRS SAT NOV 03/01
Officers attended lot 3 in response to a report of a fight. Several people were identified as being involved. The matter will be forwarded to the Judicial Affairs Council.

MISCHIEF 0220 HRS SUN NOV 04/01
Person(s) unknown broke a window in Willison Hall and a mirror in the washroom of the 3rd floor.

MISCHIEF Nov 04/01
While on patrol, an officer found that someone had broken the plastic cover over the Wall of Memories index.

FIGHT 0630 HRS SUN NOV 04/01
An altercation took place between two room mates at Bricker residence. The matter is being dealt with by residence staff.

Let this be known: if I catch you perpetrating, I will not hesitate to take you down, brotha.

NEW ON WEDNESDAYS
SMOOTH HIP HOP
all night long

doors open at 9
WED thru SUN
across from the
ATHLETIC COMPLEX

THURSDAY

House, Hip Hop, and R&B

FRIDAY

Big Wreck* Unfortunately Joydrop will no longer be opening... Alexandra Slate will now be opening

SATURDAY

Top 40 Turntables
A failure to communicate

It is too much to ask for a simple phone call when a relationship is headed for the rocks? Call me crazy. Call me weird. Call me high maintenance. Whatever you decide to do, just CALL ME. I'm sorry if I sound degrading or just plain rude. But I can't even begin to describe the rudeness that I have encountered in the relationship sphere. I speak from a realistic perspective, but I realize that the party on the receiving end can come in either a male or female package.

Being on the receiving end is no fun, no matter who you are or what your story may be. What bewilders us all is making sense of how someone with whom you once were involved in a relationship can virtually disappear into the clouds. And I must comment that the tendency to vanish seems more common among males than females. Maybe it has something to do with the well-known fact that females are better communicators than males. I was under the false notion that the less-skilled communicators were still communicating, if not as effectively.

Recent experience has left me to believe that some like to eliminate the communication process entirely. You know, like dropping off the face of the earth. We females may indeed be better communicators, but is that really so much to be proud of?

I cannot understand how some people choose to handle matters of the heart. What prompts such a complete lack of effort to provide closure to a situation gone awry? It won't go away, so why would you choose to simply not confront it? Maybe you don't want to end things completely, because to do so would mean that the door is forever closed. And who wants to do that? Simply turning your back on the door could leave you with a dreadfully credible future opportunity. Right? Wrong.

It is hardly humane to treat someone with such disrespect, especially someone that you have learned to care about deeply. It goes back to the treat others how you would like to be treated.

The Cord reserves the right to reject any letter; in whole or in part, that is in violation of our regrets policy. All letters will be printed with the author's name. Letters can be printed without the author's name. Letters must be submitted by Tuesday at 12:00 noon for publication the following Wednesday. Letters should be typed or neatly handwritten. Double spaced and cannot exceed 350 words.

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Higher education? Says who?

Call me criminal and pass the hemblock, but lately I have been wondering exactly how "academic" our academic institution really is. I know you are all reading this and thinking, "I thought being academic meant being totally irrelevant to the real world." I will admit that if you were to follow that logic, good old WLU has impressive academic credentials. Sadly, that is not what I mean in this particular case.

You see, back in the day when the illad topped the hip-hop charts, being an academic meant challenging popular convention, searching for truth. Now "challenging convention" involves applying Marxism to any social phenomenon under the sun. Marx has been dead for almost one hundred and twenty years. Am I the only person who has noticed that this has somehow slowed down his publishing?

Furthermore, although I must profess my love for the field of economics, I occasionally wonder whether using complex terms increases the bulk of knowledge, or is it knowledge's bulkiness? No matter how many times I go to the Centre Spot to buy Gobstoppers, I can still never quite view my purchase as anything but a utility-maximizing transaction.

Higher education should be about critical thinking.

You may be asking how this is actually a critique of our university rather than simply a string of flip-floppant observations about academia in general. Well, the two terms flip-flop-observations sound, the worse a job our university is doing. Higher education should be about practicing critical thinking and expanding our horizons. For some reason I do not think Socrates was executed for giving his followers endless multiple choice tests, although he would have deserved execution if he did. What he was executed for was the corruption of the youth. He corrupted the young by encouraging them to ask questions.

While wandering around in a toga making fun of people is not really the norm nowadays, we should still be asking difficult questions and finding difficult answers. Yet finding an undergraduate student at Laurier working with a professor on a publishable study is about as easy as finding a student wandering around in a toga making fun of peer. While reading this you might be thinking, "Why should I care about this? I'm in business and I'm not going to school for the arts." This is why I do not like to think of it as "higher education." I do not think of it as "education". I think of it as "school."
Remembering Dr. Solomon
Asad Kiyani

The sum of my experience with Dr. Graham Solomon, who passed away last week, doesn't do him justice. It does, I hope, show a little bit about why he was such a good teacher.

Dr. Solomon was a Philosophy guy, but he didn't reach the flashy stuff. He wasn't the Existentialism Guy or the Moral Issues Guy. Balding, with slightly hazy eyes and those dark-rimmed glasses, he was definitely the Logic Guy, the Philosophy of Science Guy.

The Philosophy of Science, held in the mid-afternoon of second-year, right after a good lunchtime, was the most dreary of classes. My mind often wandered, then faded and finally shut down. Dr. Solomon's quiet monotone didn't help either.

Once, sitting in the first row of a two-row class, I fell asleep. I slept until two minutes after class had ended. I woke up and it was empty except for Graham, who was busy packing all his overheads up. Even though I knew it was university and professor tolerated lateness and slack in all sorts of ways, I figured I was toast. This sin seemed unforgivable.

As I stirred, Graham looked up at me and kind of smiled that wry smile of his. He caught me before I could speak. "You know, I really don't mind if you sleep in my class. It's just that I'm sure there are more comfortable places to do it."

He gave me everything I needed to make a decision, then left me to make it.

There was no judgement or suggestion or implication in his tone. Just the suggestion, "I know you're better than passing out in my class. Show me." It's a day I'll never forget because that day, in such a simple way, Graham showed me what a quality professor and person he was.

Graham wasn't the most popular of teachers, because his scholarly interests were different from that of most students. Nor did his dry sense of humour, which never let you entirely know if he was laughing with or at you, make him less intimidating. But he was one of the best loved teachers.

He was one of the finest teachers I had. He was incredibly intelligent, ridiculously funny, helpful and welcoming to students. Best of all, if you got past your preconceptions and presumptions long enough to take a chance on him, he would take a chance on you, and that was what made him such an amazing professor.
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KEYSTONE, GOTTA GET THAT KEYSTONE KEYSTONE
AIDS crisis grows in Africa

After defeating apartheid South Africa battles AIDS

Jeffrey Kroeker

The AIDS epidemic is sweeping through the African continent at rates unprecedented for any communicable disease.

Particularly hard hit is the Republic of South Africa, though some believe that this is the case only because South Africa is one of the few African nations keeping tabs on the spread of the disease.

Sample studies within South Africa have indicated the infection rates of AIDS from as low as 2% to as high as 50%.

Worst hit is the black population, who for years, under the policies of apartheid were uneducated, and thus received no public information of how the disease spread.

In fact, the apartheid regimes thought that by not educating the black population about the disease their position of power was reinforced.

However, even after the apartheid regimes were forced out, the past two South African governments refused to acknowledge that AIDS even existed, thus further compounding a rampant infection rate.

South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki went so far as to say at an AIDS conference hosted in Durban that "there is no proof that HIV causes AIDS." His comments dumbfounded an audience of medical researchers from around the world.

It was not until that conference in 2000 that any reasonable sum of money was made available to provide public awareness campaigns to educate the masses about both the dangers of the disease and practicing safe sex as a means to help curb the epidemic.

Having spent a short time in the province of KwaZulu Natal, I witnessed numerous occasions where reports of infections were so commonplace in daily conversation that discussion around the topic had an air of acceptance rather than horror.

If one wished to define horror, one need look no further than infection rates and their correlating statistics. While publicized figures indicate infection rates of one in five, official infection statistics within the South African government have repeatedly been found interfering in data collection and preventing the publication of results.

Independent AIDS research organizations have conducted several massive sample collection programs and have found that the rates of infection in both rural and urban areas are substantially higher than the government is reporting.

It is believed that the government is withholding the information in an attempt to avoid embarrassment due to their lackluster handling of what has grown to be the worst disease outbreak ever.

Within sub-Saharan Africa, some 13 million people are now infected. Estimates indicate that some 40 million people will be infected with HIV/AIDS by 2010. South Africa's portion of that estimate will be around 20 million, or about half of its population.

International aid agencies are reporting that infection rates in some towns are nearing 100%, and that babies born with AIDS some two decades ago are now having children of their own. These children are also infected with the disease, signaling the first full cycle of the disease through a generation.

The result of these massive infection rates is not only catastrophic with respect to personal and human dimensions, but the societal impact is enormous. South Africa is facing the obliteration of two entire generations.

The backbone of a growing democracy and an emerging nation is a sound public education system. While North Americans struggle to retain teachers for reasons of compensation, the KwaZulu Natal provincial ministry of education is losing 15-25 teachers a week due to death from HIV/AIDS.

The deaths are so traumatic on students that education boards are transferring teachers regularly during the middle of the term, so students will never know whether their teacher died or was transferred.

The United Nations is now more heavily involved, because the situation in which South Africa is becoming bleaker by the day.

In South Africa, HIV/AIDS now surpasses all other forms of death combined, including that of old age. In sub-Saharan Africa, the UN is estimating that roughly 7,000 people are dying of HIV/AIDS per day, of which, 3,800 are in South Africa.

These rates of death alone will completely overwhelm the South African economy, which is arguably one of the strongest in the continent. Moreover, the massive rates of death will distort the rich national history, orphan thousands of children, and set back nearly all of the gains the country has made since the end of the apartheid era.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has created a negative population growth rate that is unsustainable. The average life span of a South African citizen some 10 years ago is now halved.

The problem has reached the point where government ministries are created for the sole purpose of preparing to count the dead and bury bodies.

Apartheid regimes thought that by not educating the black population about the disease their position of power was reinforced.

Women encourage discussion at the 2000 AIDS conference in Durban, South Africa

In South Africa, HIV/AIDS now surpasses all other forms of death combined, including that of old age.

AIDS crisis causes concern

The Cord's International Notices

1) Thursday, November 8th, Zoraida Bonilla of Nicaragua and the Association for People's Development will be speaking to the Global Studies Club and other interested members of the Laurier community.

2) There will be a Holocaust Memorial and Education Night on Tuesday, November 13th at 7 pm in the Paul Martin Centre. Speaking at the event will be Holocaust Survivor Judy Cohen. The UW and WLU Jewish Students' Associations are hosting the event titled "From Generation to Generation." For more information email jewish@calum.uwaterloo.ca.

The Cord encourages and needs submissions to this magical box of international information.

Examples of suitable submissions include guest speakers, trips to conferences and other opportunities for students with an international focus.

Please forward suggestions to the International Editor's mailbox in the WULS Office on the 3rd floor of the Union Building or e-mail events to <john.carluo@wulsp.com>.

FILE PHOTO

South African President Thabo Mbeki's AIDS comments cause concern

FILE PHOTO

Jeffrey Kroeker
A look at Afghanistan's history

Kiran Kharaud

Groups that would one day form the base of the current Taliban government have been important players in Afghanistan for centuries.

Tajik, the Uzbek, and the Hazara (Sunni). The Pashtun state in order to consider their population now made up less than 50% of the Afghan population.

In 1995, the Taliban emerged as a small group of religious students began to attack local warlords... it is here that the Taliban emerged.

Rise of the Taliban

The Pashtun established the Empire from 1747-1818, that of Afghanistan existed, and from 1880-1818, where a decentralised political juncture for the Pashtun to recover their dominance, though regional power, as the regime was overthrown by the Northern Alliance, the Soviets invaded and the country was placed under communist rule.

Though the Soviets had retreated, the Afghanis remained under communist rule until April 1992. When the regime of President Najibullah collapsed, the Andi Pashtuns suffered a great political loss which led to another shift of power again, as strong ethnic divisions and regional powers present themselves as warlords, resulting in an anarchic state of affairs.

The United States had signed up to Kyoto, even without the US. The Kyoto agreement, even without the US, would make up the needed 55% of 1990 world's biggest economy and polluter. If Japan, Russia, the European Union and the Turbulent political atmosphere of Afghanistan took another turn in 1988 when Mikhail Gorbachev announced the withdrawal of 1994, the Taliban's rise is a reflection of the decentralized political and social climate. Their power is dependent on the absence of a central governing authority and the use of religion as a political tool.

However, seeing that they have managed to obtain control of 95% of the country, they are left with the problem of estimating the power of regional organization. Given this decentralization, they may prove a difficult group to displace by any means.

World Watch

Singapore

Ireland

Japan

Cuba

Protestant moderate David Trimble will get a second chance to return as head of Northern Ireland's power-sharing government on Monday, after pro-peace parties struck a deal aimed at outmanoeuvring his hard-line opponents.

Under the deal, Alliance members will vote in 2007 election, capturing all 2 of the 84 seats. The party was an expected result as the weak opposition ran candidates in 2007, with the exception of a brief time in 1929.

In 1985, the Darfur War was signed between Britain, India and Afghanistan. This treaty resulted in the Pashtuns exercising greater self-governmen.

Since that time, the Pashtuns were influential militarily and politically, to the point where they were essentially governing themselves. However, during the creation of the modern Afghan state, a constitution was drafted in 1964 where all ethnic groups were granted equal privileges. This resulted in a shift of power away from the Pashtun majority for the first time.


They gained influence and ethnic heterogeneity. Since the collapse of communism and the emergence of warlords, the country has been plagued with conflict, regional divisions and ethnic heterogeneity.

The Taliban's rise is a reflection of the decentralized political and social climate. Their power is dependent on the absence of a central governing authority and the use of religion as a political tool. However, seeing that they have managed to obtain control of 95% of the country, they are left with the problem of estimating the power of regional organization. Given this decentralization, they may prove a difficult group to displace by any means.

Compiled by Chris Scriven
The way it is...

Real life in Afghanistan

Melissa Warden

By now you have all heard different issues and opinions about life in Afghanistan. You have heard about the Taliban, the women, the politics, or lack thereof - but how much do you really know? How informed are you to make an intelligent and educated opinion on anything concerning Afghanistan?

How much do you know about Islam, Afghanistan's religion for 99% of its population, and how women are regarded in this religion? Do you know the main forms of Islam practiced in Afghanistan are Sunni Muslim and Shi'a Muslim? Do you know how the Taliban became the governing party over the country and what its connections are to Osama bin Laden?

To begin with the basics, the capital of Afghanistan is Kabul. The country is located in Southern Asia with 647,500 square km of landlocked ground and a population of about 26 million people. Compare that to Canada. We have a population of about 33.5 million people covering 9,976,140 square km of land. To put that in perspective, that would be roughly 85% of the population of Canada living in Manitoba.

Afghanistan celebrated its independence from the United Kingdom who controlled over Afghan foreign affairs on August 19, 1919 and celebrates Independence Day on August 19th. The terrain consists mostly of rugged mountains, plains in the north and southwest, and 50,000 square km of irrigated land. Natural hazards consist of flooding, droughts and damaging earthquakes. In 1998, Afghanistan experienced a devastating earthquake that killed over 4,000 people, destroyed villages, and left thousands of people homeless.

The official languages of Afghanistan are Pashto and Dari, which is Afghan Persian and usually used for government and business dealings. The average life expectancy is 47 for men and 45 for women. The literacy rate for the total population is 31.5%, with the majority being men since women are no longer allowed education under Taliban rule.

An Afghan boy crosses the desert on a donkey.

The country is extremely poor, with a high dependence on farming and livestock. Two decades of war have left the country with more of a focus on political and military efforts rather than a focus on the economy. Many inhabitants suffer from lack of food, clothing, housing and medical care.

The exports of the country total $80 million, which is small compared to other countries. For example, Canada's exports total $272.2 billion with imports totaling $238.2 billion. Afghanistan's imports only total $150 million. The industries consist of small-scale productions of textiles, soap, furniture, hand-woven carpets, natural gas, and oil. Agricultural industries consist of wheat, fruit, nuts and wool.

There are also numerous landmines scattered across the country, left from the years of war. In December 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan as part of its efforts to spread the Communist regime to other countries. During the same year, Noor Mohammad Taraki was killed by his close advisor, Hafizullah Amin. Taraki had become president of the Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister of the country in 1978. During his brief stay in power, the country experienced numerous anti-Communist revolts that Taraki was unable to control. Amin took the place of Taraki, and was believed to be an independent nationalist, despite having Soviet connections. Once the Soviet Union realized this, he was assassinated along with his associates during the invasion of Afghanistan.

His successor was Barak Karmal, who remained President until 1986, when the Soviets grew tired of him and replaced him with Dr. Najibullah Ahmadzai. Najibullah was made the head of KHAD, the military intelligence of the country, and was known for his brutality. He remained president until the Mujahedin (Afghan rebels) defeated him in 1992. He then took refuge in the UN compound in Kabul. When the Taliban troops captured the city in 1996, they executed Najibullah and his brother and hanged their bodies in the center of the city.


Osama bin Laden aided Afghanistan in the fight against the Soviets. In the September 24, 2001 issue of the Canadian version of Time magazine, it is reported that bin Laden raised money for the Afghan rebels. He also brought in some of his family's bulldozers to dig trenches for the rebels.

Later, he began to build the training camps that prepared rebels to fight against any outside influences who were, or are, deemed to be of a corruption to Muslim states. Bin Laden was reportedly eager to help Afghanistan because he saw the Soviet presence in the Muslim country of Afghanistan as an insult.

His anger was fuelled years later when Saudi Arabia refused the help offered by bin Laden for his rebels to fight when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait at the beginning of the Gulf War, but rather invited the United States to come fight. Bin Laden viewed the American presence in Mecca and Medina as yet another insult.

The Taliban militia was created in 1994 as a political party. The Taliban is headed by Mullah Omar, though some doubt his existence since he is rarely ever seen in public. The Taliban is only officially recognized by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as legitimate rulers of the country. The name Taliban comes from the Persian plural of the Arabic word 'talli', meaning student.

Their main opposition is the United National and Islamic Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan (UNISFA),
which is often referred to incorrectly in western media as the Northern Alliance.

By 1996 the Taliban had captured the city of Kabul. During the same year restrictions on women were implemented. They were ordered to be fully veiled, no longer attend work, or go outside alone. Men were also ordered to grow beards. At this time tensions rose in Afghanistan as the government accused Pakistan of aiding the Taliban. In 1998, the Taliban captured Mazar-e-Sharif, and later massacred thousands of civilians. The United States launched cruise missiles into Afghanistan hoping to destroy the training camps run by Osama bin Laden, though they failed to be successful.

In May 2000, the Taliban tortured and killed civilians in the Robat Pass (the border between Baghlan and Samangan provinces), and in January of this year they tortured and killed even more in another part of the country. In March of this year, the Taliban destroyed ancient historical statues in the Kabul Museum, historical sites in Ghazni, and blew up the giant Bamiyan Buddhas from the 5th century. In September of this year, and up to the present, they have harried Osama bin Laden, despite warnings of what would happen if they did not release him to the United States.

Women in Afghanistan are suppressed under the Taliban rule, though the Taliban states that women will only be restricted until their party holds a safe position in the country. They currently have power over 90% of the country.

Women are not allowed to vote, receive an education, have a job, or go outside alone, and must wear a burqa, which covers them from head to toe when they are outside the house, and are not to be seen inside the house from the outside by passers-by. The Taliban say their treatment is justified under the Islam religion.

Islam is a very peaceful religion, with many prophets similar to Christianity. For instance, they recognize Jesus, Abraham and Moses as important figures. They also believe there must be no god before God (Allah) and that Muhammad is His prophet, which is similar to Christianity where there is to be no god before God. While Christianity views Jesus as the Messiah, Judaism views Jesus as a prophet, just as Muhammad is viewed as a prophet to be respected and acknowledged.

There are Five Pillars of the Islamic religion. The first is: There is no God but God (Allah) and Muhammad is the prophet of God. The second is to pray five times a day. Prayer times during the day are at dawn before the sun as. completely risen, noon or early afternoon, late afternoon, directly after sunset, and at night between darkness and dawn, usually about two hours after the sunset prayers.

The third is almsgiving. You are to give a portion of your wealth to those who have less than you do, or do a friendly gesture for your neighbour. The fourth is the fast of Ramadan, a lunar month of about 28 days in the Muslim calendar where you are not to eat or drink between daybreak and dark but rather devote this time to praying and paying attention to religion.

After sunset during Ramadan, family and friends usually dine together on traditional Ramadan dishes. The fifth is a pilgrimage to Mecca, the birthplace of Muhammad. If you cannot go, for whatever circumstances, you are exempted, but for those who can go, the spiritual fulfillment is said to be substantial.

Women hold a very important place in Islam. Women are the ones who raise the next generation of Muslims and are crucial as early socializers and educators of the children. Their role has a long lasting effect on the behaviour, attitudes and character of the next generation of Muslims.

In the early history of Islam, there were many women scholars who were of great significance to the Islamic world. For instance Aisyah, the wife of Muhammad, was one of the most famous female scholars of the time. Many were encouraged to go to her for guidance and learning of their religious duties. While men are permitted up to four wives in the religion, it is stressed that they must do so in order that widows and their children will be provided from destitution.

It is also stressed that if men have more than one wife, they must treat all their wives equally, emotionally, financially and in every other aspect, an almost impossible task. Islam is therefore really only encouraging marriage to one woman.

The Qu'ran, the holy book of Islam, also states that women are to be treated with respect, kindness and justice, that they have a right to work, own property and can have wealth. These rights are the same both before and after marriage.

The two forms of Islam practiced in Afghanistan are Sunni Muslim and Shi'a Muslim. Sunni Islam is practiced by those who believe to be practicing the correct form of the tradition, and it is practiced by 85% of the world's 900 million Muslims.

The religion is interpreted by a group of learned scholars who base their translations of the Qu'ran and their decisions, on tradition and comparison. The emphasis is placed on the Five Pillars of Islam and a formal style of devotion. Its purpose is to put all of life under God and the Qu'ran. Sunni Islam is self-governed according to each Muslim country.

Shi'a Muslims believe that after Muhammad's death there were Imams, divinely appointed and authoritative teachers of Muslim who were to guide the religion. The first was Ali, Muhammad's cousin, followed by Ali's eldest son, Hassan, and then Ali's second son, Hussain. Shi'a faith puts most of the emphasis on Hussain, considered the most tragic and worthy figure of them all. According to Shi'ites, Muhammad appointed Ali as his successor before his death. An Imam is a successor of Ali, and they are considered to be without sin and are the ones who are believed to be the proper figures to govern the tradition.

In Afghanistan, the culture consists of music, proverbs, short wisdom stories, and poetry, which are reflective of the Afghan tradition. The tradition would essentially be a peaceful one, reflective of the Muslim tradition. Unfortunately, wars and political upheavals have disrupted life in the country. Perhaps some time in the near future Afghanistan will be able to restore itself to a country without civil strife, poor economy and unjust government management.
The Look of Laurier, part 1

The Cord explores the most common items found on WLU students.

Siobhan Bhagwat

Laurier is full of people with their own unique sense of style. Unfortunately, whenever you want to photograph one of these people they go into hiding. So we went on a mission to find them. It was difficult but we found them. We also found the people who represent the type of clothing we boring people wear, meaning the people with no creativity. Okay, so maybe I'm just talking about myself but we've got most of the styles covered. We have made an effort, we've searched, we've photographed, and now we'll write about the wonderful world of fashion at Laurier.

Piercing is a wonderful trend, and I admire the many people who allow someone they don't know to use needles to punch holes through them. Did I mention I have a fear of needles? This is obviously not just a craze since it has been an ongoing attraction with many people. Who says we haven't changed the world - would our parents have done this? We have even become more creative with our piercing - nose rings have taken a new shape! Some people opt to not get another piercing after their first. Instead they use colourful earrings or different styles. In fact, some people use Christmas lights to add the colour to their earlobes. Frankly this trend scares me since I cannot begin to imagine the pain these people go through for fashion, and yet some of them dare to ridicule women who wear high heels.

Kristin Heinrichs and Dianna Harleib decided to show off their school spirit by wearing the ever popular Laurier bag and sweatshirt. At Laurier people love to don their school wear. In fact, if you casually wander through the school (it's not my fault I have no life) there are so many people wearing one of the favoured tops. The shirts can be seen in many different colours and styles, all bearing a similar logo. Purple and Gold seem to be the preferred colours of the vast majority. If students were given the choice I'm almost certain that we would be drowned in a sea of purple and gold due to the popularity of this particular fashion.

Visors. What can I say? They're everywhere, everyone has one, they're like Laurier sweatsuits. Actually most people wear them together. Visors, like Laurier clothing, come in different styles and colours. They are popular and can be found anywhere. We are thankful to Steve for allowing us to photograph him since he was making a great Laurier fashion statement. Steve is not only wearing his visor but he also wore his trendy black-rimmed glasses. This accessory is extremely popular among the student body. If you are going to get a pair of glasses your best choice would be to purchase a pair of these trendy eyeframes.

It's everywhere, everyone has one, and it is in every class. It's the famed Tim Hortons. Everyone, at one time or another, has held one. It does not matter who you are or what you do, because you know you have given in and had something from Tim Hortons. It's inevitable, you can't turn around without confronting one of those brown paper cups. They are everywhere and are loved by everyone. They are an amazing source of caffeine and yes, it counts as a food group. Caffeine is an amazing booster that is a part of our daily lives and is a must for some late night studying, early mornings, mid-morning, early afternoon... well you get the idea. No I am not addicted, just because I am going to get one right now and already I can't remember how many cups of coffee I've had already this morning, but this doesn't make me addicted!

Most of the time you can find business students roaming around in their suits but on certain days (like when you want their photon) they disappear off the face of the world. We uncovered three wonderful people who decided to share their fashion with us. The wonderful relationship between business students and business suits has not been traced to any particular source, but we are trying to find out if there is a cause or if it's just the way the world works. We're trying to find out the cause and will keep you posted on our progress. We will discover the cause of this - it has now become an obsession. If anyone has any information, please contact us.

The infamous David Wellhauser allowed himself to be photographed for this fashion page. This guy has the most eclectic sense of style. Today, as you can see, he is wearing a safety vest and shirt with streaks that shine when they catch the light. There is no way that he can be compared to any other person when it comes to fashion. David wears almost everything there is to wear, and still manages to look as if he belongs on the campus. David can be seen wearing anything from a cowboy hat to a suit.

I'd just like to thank all the people who allowed us to photograph them and have some fun with them. I'd like to thank all the little people, without you I couldn't be here, and so all the different fashions out there and the people who share them with the world. Thank you all for everything.
In the day where Michael Jackson can spend $20 million, Hefner manages to make an album that will turn heads for only a fraction of the cost through their ‘all-new’ analog sound. English translation—lol is cool again, let’s be lo-fi while we still can.

It’s ironic that Hefner make use of long forgotten instrumentation to record Dead Media. The analog synths do give warmth to the songs, but feel forced on a few tracks. There’s a difference between making a statement and being stubborn—Hefner walks the line with great carelessness.

In reality they do care about you the fan. For example, they usually play two shows in each town, one show that concentrates on each of their albums. Its like a choose your own adventure, only it’s more like choose your own set-list. How cool is that?

The first single, “Alan Bean” is not fit for radio consumption, it’s far too spacious for the average 40 listener.

In the grand scheme of things Dead Media is a pop album, and the most predominating song is “Trouble Kid,” a track with a suede sounding vocal infused with repetitive power pop sound.

Hefner’s new collection of songs about the disaffected youth of today are something we can all identify with. Dead Media is a very suitable title—it’s so lo-fi it hurts. And that’s a good thing.

By Divine Right
Good Morning Beautiful

When taken at face value, BDR fall into the endless indie rock cliché. Simply by looking at the video for their mainstream rock breakthrough track “Come for a Ride,” from 1999’s BDR This Mess album, you immediately expect a lo-fi mess rock show where you can’t leave without a fresh sample of saliva on your stubby chin. Good Morning Beautiful is where these awkward comparisons end.

This album is textured beyond any of the band’s previous efforts, and reflects not only the maturity of singer/songwriter Jose Miguel Contreras, but also the ‘new band’ energy that has recently infected BDR.

Opening with the soulful melody of “Dedication,” and thrusting enthusiastically into “Supernatural” (the first single), it’s evident that this is much more than a three-chord rock album. The sun-stroked power pop sensibility that BDR are known for isn’t far off.

The tracks are well produced, with some funny additions from the crew. It isn’t a terrible album, it just isn’t great.

For the big fan of the Headstones this C.D. gets a big 5 out of 10. Who really wants to blow 16 bucks when you already have all the songs? An idiot, yes an idiot! Unless you’re a bone-head who buys singles. For the semi fan that has one to two of their C.D’s this greatest hits package is worth the cost (7 out of 10). It flows well and will fit nicely into your long road trip collection of music. For the who are these Head people? individual, this C.D gets a big 8.5.

Dara Hakimzadeh

Blue Cantrell
So BLU

You have probably heard the first hit single off of this debut album by Blu Cantrell, “Hit ‘Em Up Style.” It has been receiving heavy rotation on radio and video airwaves, and deservedly so. It is at once, original, hypnotizing, and funny. She talks of how she got even with a boyfriend whom she found cheating, and does so with a unique delivery and concept.

Blu Cantrell is “the real thing” as her bio contends this is true, to a point. Yes, she can sing with a soulful emotive quality. Yes, she writes songs, and co-wrote almost every song on this album. But, outside of “Hit ‘Em Up Style” there is little originality here. She falls into the very familiar, “you’ve hurt me” love songs. The songs on this album aren’t bad, Cantrell carries her own well, but upon hearing the first single I was expecting more from this album.

The production is handled for the most part by C. Ticky “Stewart,” and he provides nice soulful tracks that compliment Blu nicely. “LA” Ried brings his directions to the project and serves as executive producer on the album. Overall, the tracks are well produced but for some reason, they just don’t coalesce into a memorable album. Don’t get me wrong, it isn’t a terrible album, just it isn’t great.

Blu can fit into the neo-soul category but with so many artists emerging as of late, I think she may be destined to remain a one-hit pop sensation that is destined to fade into obscurity. That would be a shame, she has potential.

Uncon Valjean

Editor’s Note- Thank you Amanda for being here for 15 hours today and for being our very own “Greatest Hits.”

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7 2001

Hey ladies, when your man wanna get back wild, just go back and hit ‘em up style...oops!”

Andrew Stewart

The Headstones Greatest Fits

At first glance, the new Greatest Fits album is a cornucopia of great songs. Looking closer, you begin to wonder why such a well-known band wouldn’t bother to add two new songs to a greatest album. Are they losing their creative touch? Greatest Fits in all honesty will not be on your Christmas list if you already a fan of the Headstones. It has every beloved song the band has put out with the exceptions of, “’Round,” “And,” “It’s All Over,” “Hearts, Love & Honour.” The musical flow of the album is commendable, moving in and out of frantic riffs like within “Smile & Wave,” to softer sounding ballads like “Three Angels.” The album cover is an angry red and yellow vibe but once you’ve accepted the grotesque realism of the art, the liner notes and songs will enhance your interest in the band. Hugh Tim, Trent and Dale give short comments on each song with some funny additions from crewmembers.

For the big fan of the Headstones this C.D. gets a big 5 out of 10. Who really wants to blow 16 bucks when you already have all the songs? An idiot, yes an idiot! Unless you’re a bone-head who buys singles. For the semi fan that has one to two of their C.D’s this greatest hits package is worth the cost (7 out of 10). It flows well and will fit nicely into your long road trip collection of music. For the who are these Head people? individual, this C.D gets a big 8.5.

Stuart Reed

Good Morning Beautiful

Kevin Smith
As Canadian as Skid Row

Adam Clark
Jason Huth

"Hey ma, get off the dang roof, Big Wreck's a coming ta town." That's right kiddies, this Friday the 9th of November, we WLU students shall be graced with the presence of the tour de force known as Big Wreck. These four music college dropouts will be bringing with them their electric and progressive rock sound for your listening pleasure.

Hot off the western leg of their North American tour, the boys will be stopping at the Turret for a sold-out show to promote their brand-spanking new sophomore album, The Pleasure and The Greed. They will be accompanied by Alexandra Slate. Original opening band Joydrop cancelled their appearance.

Big Wreck have been a staple of modern rock radio since their first single "The Oaf (My Luck Is Wasted)" was released in 1997. Since then, they have had numerous hits including: "That Song," "Blown Wide Open" as well as current singles "Ladylike" and "Inhale." They have been compared with everything from Led Zeppelin to Soundgarden, however their style is still creative enough to be called unique.

It is clear that the band has high ambitions for the future. Big Wreck's collective sound originates from the formal education they received at Berkley Music College in Boston. It was there that lan Thornley (guitarist and vocalist), Dave Henning (bass player), Forrest Williams (drummer), and Brian Doherty (guitarist), began to blend together as musicians. The band decided it was best to pursue their music careers outside of the school environment, and were quickly signed to Atlantic Records. Their freshman album, In Loving Memory of... was released on October 7th 1997, and received heavy airplay.

The band toured for two years promoting their album, creating the strong fan following that they enjoy today. Four years later, the band has followed up with The Pleasure and The Greed, and has again hit the road to inject their new sounds into the minds of fans everywhere.

The tour has focused heavily on Canadian venues thus far, allowing Thornley to return to his roots. The Toronto native was given the chance to perform in front of his hometown fans on October 6th, when Big Wreck brought a unique musical experience to Roy Thompson Hall.

Joining the quartet were the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Japanese percussionist Uzume Taiko, Le Cirque Eloize, 'Guitarist Extraordinaire' Eric Johnson and surprise musicians Robby Baker and Paul Langlois of The Tragically Hip.

The addition of these talented musicians enhanced Big Wreck's previous work and gave listeners, as well as the band, a new experience to enjoy.

In a relatively short period of time, Big Wreck has managed to mature from a local Boston bar band into a recognizable mainstream group. With two well-received albums, a solid fan base, and the creativity and drive to produce original and unique music, it is clear that the band has high ambitions for the future. If they can stay true to this current path, they may just succeed in carving out a distinct niche in an industry known for trends and followers.
The silver lining

Despite losing gold medal match, men's soccer qualifies for National Championship

The fans in attendance Wednesday night saw yet another great performance by goalie Brandon Sacco. Sacco has yet to start a game where he has faced fewer than 30 shots.

On Thursday, Sacco stopped 44 Western shots in a losing cause. Sacco's play between the pipes has been nothing but sensational, and will be a key factor in any success that Laurier has this year in the OUA.

After defeating Waterloo on Saturday 4-3, the Laurier men's hockey team has a week off to prepare for a double header this weekend against the 5-3 Lakehead Thunderwolves.

The loss Hawk goal came on a beautiful play by first year standout Kevin Creso, as he fed the puck to his fellow winger Ryan Gies for his first goal and second point of the season.

The Hawks defeated handily by scores of 2-0 and 4-0 earlier in the year.

The Hawks finished the regular season with a 7-2-3 record and also had the advantage of playing on their home field.

As expected, Doski looked hesitant early on and appeared reluctant to make plays on any plays.

Laurier began to receive a number of opportunities to score and largely dominated the play.

However, it wasn't until the 41st minute, when Wojciech Cwik punted it in, that the Hawks found themselves on the board.

Laurier looked good taking a 1-0 lead into the locker room.

Things quickly changed in the second half, however.

In the 55th minute, Toronto midfielder Tom Dekel took a shot from the edge of the box. The ball was tipped while in the air, putting it into the goal and tying the score.

The game remained unresolved after regulation, sending the match into the tiebreaker.

The fans in attendance perhaps you think you should have taken better chances before finally depositing the puck in the net.

In the 55th minute, Toronto midfielder Tom Dekel took a shot from the edge of the box. The ball was tipped while in the air, putting it into the goal and tying the score.

The game remained unresolved after regulation, sending the match into the tiebreaker.

The Hawks would be unable to recoup.

Throughout the first extra period, Laurier continued pressuring the Blues but were still unable to put anything past Elkaim, sending the game into the second fifteen minutes of extra time.

In that period, with the game into injury time, and the referee's whistle preparing to blow, Laurier careened a shot off the crossbar, sending Elkaim diving out of the play.

With the wide open net in front of him, Abwunza headed the ball into the open goal, giving the Hawks the win and a ticket to Halifax.

"I think we were a lot better and better prepared," said Abwunza, discussing his team's confidence throughout the match.

"There was no time in the game when we felt it wasn't our game and I believe that's why we took it." 

Coach Mario Halapir, who took over the team while Head Coach Barry Maclean was in London for the OUA final four with the girls' team, described his team's play as "tremendous."

Knowing full well that a let-down was possible, the team head-coached into the gold medal match against the Warriors, a team the Hawks defeated handily by scores of 2-0 and 4-0 earlier in the year.

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Women's b-ball sets lofty goals

Mariana Hrkac

Women's basketball here at Laurier has definitely taken a bearing in the last decade, both in terms of wins and losses and in terms of negative publicity. The team has struggled year after year, but finally a light has appeared in the distant horizon.

Head Coach Stu Julius, now in the third year of his reign, is feeling the pressure of living up to the standards he personally set for this basketball program.

“We better make the playoffs this year. No, actually, we better be in the top half of our division,” commented Julius. “It’s realistic for us and there’s no reason why we can’t be there.”

Upon his signing on with the Golden Hawk team, Julius was confident in his ability to help ignite a team that was plagued by misfortune and negativity. His declaration to administration was the infamous guarantee that the women's basketball team would visit the National Championships within five years.

For those who follow women's basketball at all, it is known that Julius was able to take the team to the playoffs in his first year of service. During his second year, the team did not show any signs of progress; in fact they regressed by not qualifying for the playoffs all together.

So here we are wondering what to expect of a team in its third year of evolution and nowhere near its mark, according to the five-year plan set out by Julius himself.

Every year there is talk of an improved team, the new recruits, the lofty goals, the continuous defeat, the same excuses, and so on. How can there be an assurance after two years that this year will be any different than the past two years? That the team will not continue down the same slippery slope of failure that they have become accustomed too?

There is reason to believe that things will in fact be different once and for all. The main reason for this year’s potential is the actual players that make up this year’s roster.

First and foremost is the gold mine acquisition of point guard, Sarah Zagorski. She joins the Hawks after having competed in the Canada Games as a member of the Canadian Junior Women’s National Team. Described as the best point guard in the country by Coach Julius, she clearly has high hopes for Sarah to be a major contributor for this team. “It’s a big load for her to carry, but we’ll see,” said Julius.

Transfer Delicia Channer, joins us from McMaster University, eager to wear the purple and gold. She brings skill and experience of the game to the team. The only setback being that she will not be academically eligible until after Christmas.

Channer’s presence on the court is eagerly anticipated, as she will have an immediate impact due to her previous experience and successful track record in the league.

Another rookie deserving mention is 6’3” forward, Robin Ross. Deciding to graduate from high school a year early, she is a barely hatched Hawk.

Despite her tender age, she has made the transition very well. “She is a young player but a very good player who finishes extremely well. We need that,” said Julius.

Beth Dragon acquires rookie status as she joins the Hawks, but demonstrates fundamental skills beyond rookie ranking. Having competed in the Canada Junior Women’s National Championships, Dragon is in the country considering the fact that this year’s set of girls are all his own picks.

The Golden Hawk Women’s basketball team may finally have their act together but only time will tell.

The only apparent weakness is the team’s recurring inconsistency. A common problem of the past, hopefully the team can iron out this wrinkle and be on their way to an uncharacteristically successful season.

The pre-season has offered just a glimpse of the potential for this team. The squad concluded the pre-season with a 2-4 record. “We should be 4-2 though, the only team that absolutely hammered us was Dalhousie, the others were close that should have gone our way,” offered Julius.

He continued, “This year’s team is completely mine. I take full responsibility for the outcome. If we do not finish in the top 4, I haven’t done my job.” By referring to the team being completely his, Julius speaks of the fact that this year’s set of girls are all his own picks.

This point is rather immaterial due to the fact that last year’s team was 11 of 12 purely Julius picks and still did not finish.

Surely the one lone black sheep that was never sought after by Stu himself, could not single handedly be blamed for the team’s dismal showing.

Time will tell what impact a group hand-selected by Julius will have on the success of this team.

The women begin their regular season this weekend away from home. They return on the 14th and 17th to play their first regular season home games against Laurier and York, respectively.

Tara Ross: the woman, the myth, the legend

Caitlin Howlett

Running since the age of nine, Tara Ross loves cross-country, and shows it through her participation at Laurier.

“This far has been the most enjoyable year,” said Ross. “Last year also was fun, so much fun that I had to come back and do it all over again.”

At 5’6”, Tara Ross, who hails from Barrie, is one of the top long distance runners in Ontario. No doubt, she is soon to be one of the best in Canada as she heads to Ontario. No doubt, she is soon to be one of the top long distance runners in Canada.

Ross is elated to have qualified for the CIS championships. “It had been sort of a let down for me,” said Ross.

Ross hopes to race in five and six days a week, for 2 hours a day, averaging well over 50 kilometres per week, and a mix of intervals and long beach runs.

Ross is definitely ready for competition. She has been reaping the benefits of training for the swim team as well.

Competitors? Yes she says, Ross considers herself to have been competitive since day one. While racing she often questions if she is going fast enough, hard enough or how she can beat the wind.

Her best moment in cross-country would have to be the OUA’s she participated in just one week ago. “I went out with the front of the pack, something I’d never done before,” says Ross. “It was a great experience.”

Ross believes that many of the other meets this year were some of her most memorable. With each new race, she was able to use previous experiences to help gain more of a competitive edge.

With no injuries to speak of, a passion for competition and a realistic attitude, look for Ross to definitely finish in the top twenty, perhaps in medal contention come the CIS championships this weekend.
Watch out for women’s hockey...

Kristen Lipscombe

A younger, fresh-faced women’s hockey team brings with it a faster, stronger andnormally talented squad. Following a 19-3 season and second place finish in last year’s OUA finals against their rival Toronto Varsity Blues, Laurier women’s hockey is looking to come out on top in their dig for gold.

With a current regular season record of 2-0, the Hawks are off to an exceptional start on the road to OUA and CIS success.

The addition of 15 promising rookies and the return of key veterans will be pivotal to the Hawks’ trek to victory this season.

“Everyone will be gunning for us,” said Assistant Coach Roly Webster.

Although Laurier will suffer from the loss of former captain and CIAU All-Canadian Lisa Backman along with OUA All-Star goalie Joyce Torrington, the team has gained several impressive recruits. “We’re more than 50% faster than last year,” said Head Coach Bill Bowker.

Correction: In last week’s Cord, contributor Kristen Lipscombe’s name was erroneously listed as Kristen Holdscombe. The Cord regrets the error and hopes Kristen can emerge more than 50% faster than last year,” said Assistant Coach Roly Webster.

The addition of 15 promising rookies and the return of key veterans will be pivotal to the Hawks’ trek to victory this season.

Fourth-year centre Heather Allan fills Backman’s shoes as team captain. Second-year player Alison Goodman will provide leadership for the Hawks’ defensive end, while third-year winger Jacqueline Grahek also wears an ‘A’ on her sweater. Returnees Jenn Neilson and Kate MacNamara will be essential to maintaining team solidarity.

The Hawks spent Halloween night hosting the Western Mustangs in the Laurier home opener. This competition marked the Hawks’ first official game to take place in the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex.

Laurier has officially moved from their former rink affectionately coined the “Bubble,” to the Rec Complex, which they will share with the men’s team.

After defeating Western 7-0 in the first game of regular season play, the Hawks went into the first period of their home opener with excessive confidence. This resulted in a slow start to the game, and the girls had difficulty coming together as a team.

It was not until the closing of the first period that MacNamara was able to put one past the Mustangs’ net minder. Grahek also put one up on the scoreboard for the Hawks at the end of the first. “We need better support coming out of zone,” said Webster of the girls’ performance. He also stated that the players had to work on communication.

During the second period, Western responded with what would be their only goal of the game. Laurier was unable to add to their score throughout the second.

The Hawks came out with more intensity in the third, with Joseph pocketing Laurier’s third goal. Goodman followed suit, scoring a marker, with a pretty set up from MacNamara and Neilson.

Although a number of penalties left Laurier short-handed at numerous intervals throughout the game, Laurier emerged victorious with a final score of 4-1. On November 3rd the Hawks faced the Windsor Lancers at Laurier’s home arena. Having previously defeated the Lancers 9-1 this season, WLU was in slow in gearing up for the game.

A combination of low motivation and bad officiating resulted in a final score closer than their last meeting. Laurier out-shot their opponents 62 to 14, with MacNamara, Goodman, Mashinter and Stephenson all contributing goals. The Hawks walked away with a 4-2 win.

Laurier travels to Kingston this Friday to face off against Queen’s and then to Toronto on Saturday to meet their toughest competition, 2001 National Champions, the U of T Blues.

The Women’s hockey team is hoping to improve on their OUA silver medal of last season.

WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ARTS

THE ADELE SLATER AWARD
FOR WRITING ON WORLD PEACE

Thanks to a generous bequest from the estate of Alyce Adelaide (Adele) Slater, the Faculty of Arts is presenting the second annual competition for, “The Adele Slater Award for writing on World Peace.”

The purpose of the award is to encourage and recognize serious and skillfully written student contributions that contribute to research and reflection on world peace and its promotion.

There are two $500 awards—one for an essay of 3000-3500 words, and one for a shorter piece of prose or journalism (up to 1000 words), poetry, short story, etc. The results of the competition will be announced publicly and award-winners will participate in a related event at Laurier.

This competition is open to all students—undergraduates or graduate—who are registered at Wilfrid Laurier University. Submissions will be made to a jury appointed by the Dean of Arts. The jury will look for original, independent and well-written unpublished work. Submissions will be accompanied by an official entry form.

Additional information, including explanatory guidelines and evaluation criteria, and official entry forms are available from the Office of the Dean of Arts, Dr. Alvin Woods Building, Wilfrid Laurier University.

The deadline for submissions is 31st January, 2002. The results will be announced in February, and presented at a related Peace Day event.
Learn to read by walking
Laurier Students for Literacy raise awareness (and $2,000) with annual walk

Kent McCrea

At Laurier pretty much everybody can read, even the meatheads. However, once you look off campus and into the community, the ability to read isn’t something that can be taken for granted. And that’s where Laurier Students for Literacy (LSFL) get it.

LSFL is a group that runs several programs, all with the goal of promoting literacy. This past Sunday was their major fundraiser, the 8th annual Walk for Literacy. The Walk for Literacy is designed primarily to raise money for LSFL programs, but more importantly to help students understand the work that LSFL does and the need for it within the community.

This year’s Walk was a big success, raising over $2,000 to fund the purchase of new books and supplies for their literacy programs. Additionally, volunteers from all over campus came to support the LSFL walk, with large groups showing up from Foot Patrol, Bacchus and the Pi Kappa Community, among others.

The Walk for Literacy is one of the few times that LSFL gets attention on campus. Unlike most clubs, almost 95% of their activities are in the community. This can be good and bad, as sometimes you’ll have to hunt for something of interest but there is always something interesting to see or do.

Every Saturday morning, LSFL volunteers are up earlier than almost everyone else on campus, helping to run the Walk for Literacy. The volunteers can outnumber children two to one, and practically anyone can join in. Levelling with the kids is no problem, and the walk is a fun way to raise money for a worthy cause.

We’re walkin’... oh yes indeed... We’re talkin’... oh you and me... We can read... oh yes indeed...

The best damn oatmeal cookies.

Makes between 6 and 8 dozen

Ingredients:
1 1/2 cups flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
1 tsp baking powder
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 1/2 cups chocolate chips or raisins
1/2 cup chopped nuts (optional)

Preheat oven to 375 F.

Directions:

Drop by teaspoon 2 inches apart onto lightly greased cookie sheets and bake for 8 - 12 minutes.

These are perfect for potlucks because the recipe makes so many cookies and everyone loves them! Once my roommate woke me up in the morning so I could make a batch for a potluck she had to go to that afternoon. I generally don’t add the nuts.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7 2001

Stacey Fitzsimmons

Editors Note: Submit your favourite recipes to kevin.klein@wlusp.com. Please. I’m a starving student and all I can make is Kraft Dinner and eggs. Mmmmm... eggs...
What the heck are you supposed to be?

A look back at some of the best and worst of Halloween 2001

Story and Photos

Kevin Klein

Ghosts and goblins. Pokemon and princesses. Halloween brings out the best creative minds among the 2 - 20 year olds. Costumes can take minutes or hours, and the thought process behind them can be astonishing or frightening.

October 31, 2001 was no exception, as costumed characters came out in full force to celebrate the one night of the year when it is okay to look stupid.

Some of the more popular destinations on campus included The Turret Nightclub, Wilf’s, The Grad Pub as well as elementary schools and neighbourhoods throughout the K-W community.

The Turret, the ever-popular meat market on Thursdays and Saturdays, opened for a special Wednesday night to celebrate the big day and was filled with men in underwear called “wrestling tights”, and girls in coconut tops and lingerie representing the lovely ladies of the Moulin Rouge.

There were prizes for best costumes and as the hopefuls paraded up the winding stairwell, entertained Turret security gave their votes for the best outfits on the night. Favourites included Macho Man Randy Savage, HHHHHH Jim, Hulk Hogan, the whole crew Ghostbusters and Mr. T.

Wilf’s was another hotspot, as Jay and Silent Bob, a police woman and some pylons from the Metro Toronto Zoo preferred the pub atmosphere. Making an appearance was the jolly one, Santa Claus, who was making his list and checking it twice. I snuck a peek and have learned that Andy Pushalik, our esteemed Vice-President Student Services, has been a naughty boy. Bad Andy! Bad!

Although Andy might have been a bad boy, Foot Patrol volunteers were out in the community at local elementary schools giving safety talks. This was the fourth annual year for the Safety Walk and Talk program, where members of the volunteer organization visited seven local elementary schools, teaching children some of the rules of safe trick-or-treating. And when the kids were out scavenging for chocolate and chips, Foot was there making sure everyone was safe.

“We want to make a difference - beyond the service that we normally provide,” said Graham Folkema, a member of Foot Patrol executive. “Foot Patrol wants to give back to the community that is home to Laurier and its students, and help out with safety for the children.”

Another Halloween in the books, and I must say, I miss being a kid. The enthusiasm of running from house to house, getting more candy that you can ever dream of eating, and being a superhero or a supernatural for one night. You just don’t get that feeling in university. At least not without ridicule and abuse.

Tell me you wouldn’t sell your souls to these three.
Where did the money go? Explaining the stock market, our economy, the current financial situation, and how it effects you

Marc Henicen

Why? What happened? Will things ever be the same? These are the questions that anyone concerned with the stock market has been asking. It seems everyday that the headlines in the paper about a major company laying off employees or missing their expected earnings. A company that was perceived to be a leader in the industry one year ago is now applying for government loans to protect themselves from bankruptcy.

All this has happened for two reasons: first, what goes up must come down. In other words, the so-called boom Canada has seen in recent years must sometime come to an end. Second, the nervousness around the world people were already feeling. Investors are becoming anxious about a major company laying off employees, missing their expected earnings. A company that was perceived to be a leader in the industry one year ago is now applying for government loans to protect themselves from bankruptcy.

Lower interest rates are good for fourth year students that need to start thinking of paying back OSAP loans.

This basically means you’re giving the government less money which certainly is a good thing. The downfall to lower interest rates affects the students who are taking the extra money stashed in their bank accounts and using these Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GIC’s) from either banks or the government.

Andre Pires, a second year business student, has already returned from his summer job and invested it in a GIC recently. The one he was interested in had an attractive rate, but when he went to the bank to purchase it he had an unpleasant surprise. It seems the week before David Dodge lowered the Bank of Canada rate by 75 basis points, meaning an interest rate that was 5% is now 4.5%. Lines of credit and loans are lowered as a result, but for investors in fixed income they are losing 0.5% annually in interest. Let’s look at this from a different perspective.

The simplest way to explain the world economy is as if it were a pyramid. At the bottom is the American economy, the largest economy in the world that also supports all other economies, either directly or indirectly. When that major economy weakens from selling off or a major terrorist attack, a ripple effect is sent through the whole pyramid.

Watching the NASDAQ, the world’s global securities market, is the easiest way to follow the American economy. As such, it proves more essential to follow than the TSE. When Nortel went at its peak it was valued at over 50% of the whole TSE. If one stock is valued at 30% and the other 49% stocks are only 70%, how can the TSE really claim to properly represent the economy? The NASDAQ is structured to provide a truly representative way of monitoring the world’s markets.

Throughout this article a lot of topics have been briefly brushed over, and in future weeks relevant and interesting topics will be included. These upcoming issues will help take all the jumble of the stock market, and make it further understandable from a student’s perspective.

Weekly Business Joke:

Letterman’s Top 6 Signs You’re Doing Business With the Wrong Bank:

6. All cash deposits go directly into teller’s pockets.
5. Your safety deposit box is a Dunkin’ Donuts carton wrapped in tinfoil.
4. After you get a free toaster, bank presidents suddenly don’t speak English.
3. Your ATM is full of cash and suddenly your bank teller is nowhere to be found.
2. Lobby is waist-deep in Mexican Pesos.
1. When you make a deposit, tellers high-five each other.

Microsoft’s World Domination continues unabated:

In what is being touted as a major victory for Microsoft, the company and the US Justice Department have reached a settlement that ends their three-year long antitrust battle. Microsoft made off like a bandit, winning on two major issues: the one it was interested in having won and the other 298 that it did not. They certainly are not making a profit on anything allocated in any party regarding any issue of fact or law.

Loonie takes a beating:

Last Thursday the Canadian Dollar (which has not exactly been a solid investment over the last couple of years fell to 62.66 to the US dollar. Lowest level since the currency’s inception in 1858. On Friday, the Dollar fell to 62.61 cents, its lowest level since the day before, which, while obviously worse, didn’t sound nearly as bad. It is an open-ended debate as to whether the plummeting loonie is a good thing or a bad thing while our nation’s exports increase due to the relative inexpensiveness of our products and services for other countries, the downside is that if you were thinking about visiting beautiful Wisconsin this year, prepare to see your cash disappear fairly quickly.

Having said that, no one quite seems to care right now, as the events of September 11th have taken a lot of the air out of exports and hurt the balloon in the travel industry. Still, if you were thinking of doing something as simple as ordering from a J. Crew catalogue, now might be the time to do it, as most analysts suspect that the Canadian Dollar will slip past its lowest level since November 2nd 2001 soon enough.

But it sounds so appealing:

Both Kimberly-Clark Corp. and Procter & Gamble Co. have found themselves more than a little surprised at the lackluster sales of their new products: wet toilet paper. Combined sales of KC’s Cottonelle Fresh Rolls and P&G’s Moist Mates (Most Mates!) have only totaled about $700,000 (US) this year, leading many to question the future of the product. While this may not come as a complete shock to some, the new products were apparently based on consumer research that indicated that many already use a wet cleaning method, such as a baby wipe. Presumably this exciting innovation won’t be making its way north of the border until it is a proven success in the States, so unless sales pick up, Canadians may be reduced to wasting individual squares of toilet paper if they wish to stimulate the experience. As it isn’t enough that we don’t get 1800.

Giving Back:

There is an ethical dilemma that all companies have to take into account when dealing with the community. The community provides companies with an infrastructure in order to stimulate business affairs. There is a growing debate whether it is the duty of companies to give money back to the economy or if companies benefit society more by earning higher profits and thus giving shareholders an increased return.

Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment have been active in giving back to the community. The Toronto Raptors and Imperial Oil launched the annual Read to Achieve program on October 22nd. The program donates more than 200,000 books annually and also creates Reading and Learning Centers in schools and community based organizations throughout the country.

This event is supported by the NBA and WNBA players, wives, parents and officials.