

The Lancer Legend

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary
School Newspaper

Volume 4 Issue 5

<http://bihi.swil.ocdsb.ca/~library/LancerLegendindex.html>

March 2, 2007

Students involved in the community

by Elisa Feltmate

What do you get when a talented group of students, a great idea, and a lot of planning come together to form a day of fun-filled free outdoor activities open to an entire community? In this case, it looks like all you get is just a lot of potential.

Students In Motion is a student-based organization that works with students who want to make a difference in their community. The group organizes community events, such as the one held last Saturday at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School. The events are fun, active and open to the public, and focus on boosting the sense of community involvement. Along the way, the students raise funds for charities, such as the Ottawa Food Bank.

"Winter's in Motion" was the event put on at Sir Wil, and featured activities such as outdoor volleyball, ball hockey, an art contest, a barbecue and even an outdoor stage that showcased the musical talent of local teenagers. There were dozens of volunteers who signed up to help with the event, and advertisements had been put up in schools around the community. The only thing missing from this event was the people.

"Like our empty event?" asked Michelle Campbell halfway through the day-long funfest. "All of the volunteers showed up, which is great, but other than that, there is no one here!"

The disappointment was visible on the faces of the students who worked so hard to organize the event. Jenna Rego, a Sir Wil student and organizer expressed some of her disappointment:

"We were going to have dog sled races and lots of fun games and activities, but we couldn't do any of them.

See **Not enough people** on page 3.



Amnesty International

by Bakhtawar Khan

Our school consists of amazing people with the desire to make a change. There are many ways through which change can be carried out; one of the forms is through joining a club such as Amnesty International. Amnesty International (AI) is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights. AI is independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion. It is concerned solely with the impartial protection of human rights. Joining Amnesty International at Sir Wilfrid Laurier is what you can do to make a difference, starting in our own school environment. We at amnesty take part in activities such as letter writing campaigns to exert pressure against human rights violations.

See **The Penny Drive** on page 6.

New York City field trip

May 3 to 6, 2007

There are several exciting events here at Sir Wilfrid Laurier that are currently taking place. Many students have taken part in numerous activities such as Time Enough for Love, Live it Up, the Grade 9 Challenge and many more.

However, there is one event that is coming up that definitely should not be missed. This is the New York City International Studies Field Trip for students enrolled in Grade 12. This absolutely amazing trip is filled with thrilling attractions and amazing activities to keep students entertained for a full 4 days and 3 nights. For graduating students, it is the ideal way to finish off high school. Activities and attractions include 3 nights at a Manhattan Hotel, tours of the United Nations and Ground Zero, tickets to a Broadway play, a ferry ride to the Statue of Liberty, tickets to the Empire State Building's observation deck and many more! Students can look forward to exploring all of the amazing sites of the Big Apple with all of their friends in what would be the best trip of their lives. It is a rare opportunity for all students since the sites that are going to be visited along with the reservation at the hotel are going to be at a discounted price. For all of the activities that are listed above with 3 nights at the hotel, the combined cost of the trip is \$525 per student. Also, this trip is well organized and planned so that every minute that is spent on this trip will not be wasted. All graduating students are encouraged to sign up quickly for this trip; there are only 40 seats available and candidates will be considered on a first come, first served basis.

AI: Amazing inventions

By Scott Graham

A few years ago, Mr. Young conceived of a class in which students would learn not just computer programming, but how to build machines to follow instructions in these programs. This led to the creation of ICE3M and ICE4M, Computer Engineering, called simply 'Robotics' by students.

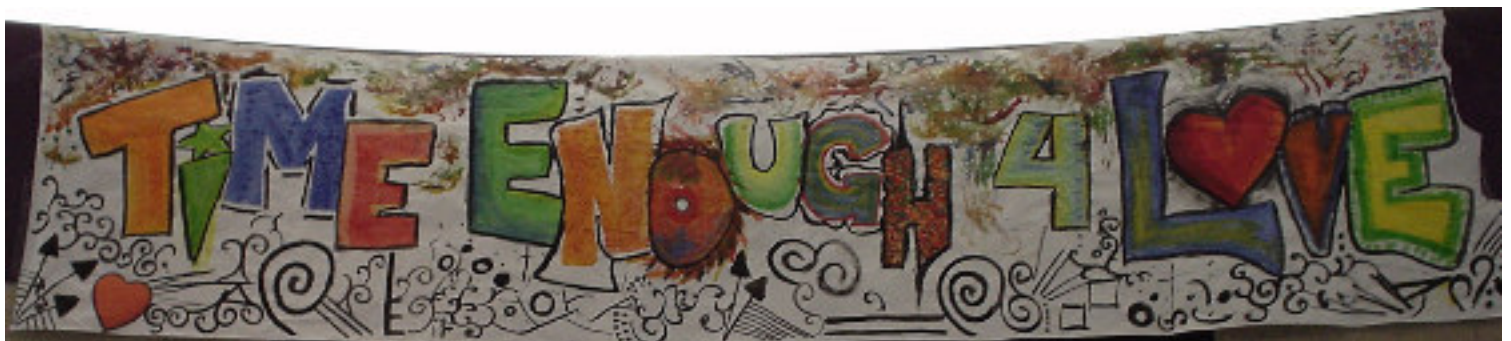
The class begins with the basics of how a computer circuit functions, including counting in different numeral systems such as binary and hexadecimal, and reading and drawing circuit diagrams. This is covered over the first week in both eleventh- and twelfth-grade classes through a series of assignments and a quiz to summarize the lessons taught to that point.

Once these basics are learned the course begins to focus more on programming and designing and building circuits. The students use 'breadboards' to wire up circuits. These circuits can range from simple to advanced: from turning on an LED (Light Emitting Diode) or making a speaker buzz to recognizing and responding to sounds and even sending and receiving wireless signals. These assignments are tangible creations of each student, and can invoke more enthusiasm than one would imagine for such a seemingly simple project.

See **Shoobox spoon alarm** on page 6.

Time Enough for Love movie night postponed

The movie presentation planned for February 28th as a grand finale to Black History Month has been postponed until March 7th. The showing of *Hotel Rwanda* is to be followed by a talk from our very own SWL teacher Mr. Ngoga presenting his personal reflections on the war in Rwanda.



A dancing disappointment

by David Allen

Last week marked the second Much Music Video Dance at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School. After the first Much dance, which was a financial and social success, there was a lot of hype for this next event.

The theme was Valentine's Day but, of course, placing the event date on that night wouldn't be such a great idea because everyone had already made plans, so February 15th was chosen. The day after sounded like a good idea.

Immediately after showing up there was a bad sign: the parking lot was empty. Was it the wrong day? No, we were all in the right place.

Entering the front of the school, tables were set up blocking the paths to the other hallways and making a place for the selling of tickets, drinks (soda), and another table set up with rows of hangers for a coat-check area.

See **Well-organized** on page 6.

Not enough people

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There just wasn't enough people. It's really too bad...a lot of work went into it."

It's not that the Winter's In Motion did not get any publicity. Apparently the students did a lot of work to get the event known to the public.

"I don't understand why nobody came. We put up posters in our schools, and we even put an ad in the paper!" says Campbell.

So if the publicity was not the problem, then why did no one go to the fun filled winter event? The effort that was put in was not lacking, and the event was held in a central location, easy to find and easy to get to. Could it be that our community no longer acknowledges the efforts of hardworking teenagers? Or could it be that our community is too busy with the cramped lifestyle of today's society to fit in a day in the snow? Or, could it possibly be that the public no longer cares to interact with each other as a community? The cause of the empty event is hard to know.

Winter's in Motion seems to have passed as a sleeping giant, having all the potential to be great, but simply not enough

Much art, not "Much Music"



Stephanie Martin's mural in the central staircase depicts dance moves not seen on the dance floor at Sir Wil at the Valentine's Day Dance. The murals that can be seen throughout the school were summative assignments for Grade Twelve Art.

energy to wake it. Though it may seem like a tragedy, Winter's in Motion just an example of all the wonderful leadership ability that is held by the students in the area. All we can do is hope that events such as this do not keep going unnoticed and unappreciated, and then, one day, we may have the chance to witness the waking-up of a community changing Goliath.

Local writer tells grade nine students about the craft of writing



One of her novels, *Ice Tomb*, is set in the Antarctic, and on the moon. Her more recent novel, *Time Meddlers*, moves from the Ottawa Valley in the present to New France in the distant past. What makes this more interesting is that characters in the novel make the same trip through time. Local science fiction novelist, Deborah Jackson explained to two classes of grade nine students at Sir Wil that she finds extremes appealing.

When she came to Sir Wil to do a reading of *Time Meddlers* on Thursday, February 15th, she did more than entertain the students with excerpts from her novel. She also explained the extensive research she did investigating the cultures of the First Nations peoples who lived in the areas around the Ottawa Valley. She talked about the sources of inspiration for her writing, the difficulties of making a living as a writer and the rewards of doing work that you like.

Her session was both informative and entertaining.

OSAID

by Danelle Cavallin

Impaired driving is the leading criminal cause of death in Canada. On average 5 Canadians are killed and 125 Canadians are injured daily due to alcohol related collisions.

In 2005 Mrs. Vincent launched an OSAID club in an effort to prevent drunk driving incidents among Sir. Wilfrid Laurier S. S. students. The acronym OSAID stands for "Ottawa Students Against Impaired Driving".

See **Reduce and eliminate** on page 5.

Yearbook: Paper memories

by Miranda Cross

This is the last year of high school and the last year at Sir Wil for me, and all the others who have accompanied me on this four-year journey of discovery and growth. Though there will always be a new crop of fresh faces, ready to fill our shoes and tread upon these hallways like so many have before, our experiences will always be trapped within the walls of this building. Our voices will forever ring in the classrooms in which we spent hours absorbing information and becoming something more than just kids. Best of all, our memories will never die, as long as we have something to remind us of the ones who may eventually become the "little guys" who helped us to become great leaders of the future, and of the good times we had amongst all the teen angst. Enter the yearbook, a precious capsule of paper and ink, crafted with care and dedication- for the students, by the students.

This year was unique for the yearbook, and for Mr. Young, the one who we can all thank for devoting his time to making sure that we graduates will have the privilege of looking into the pages of our past someday far away from today. For the first time, the yearbook is being put together by the same group of students throughout the whole year- the course was switched from a slot on the regular student timetable, to a slot after school on select days of the week, from September until May. This change made it possible to keep a level of consistency throughout the whole book, and to allow the team to develop what might be the best yearbook to date with uninterrupted unity. Several dedicated students have been working around the clock since September to produce beautiful spreads, covering everything from school couples, to events that have taken place in the school, to the many teams and clubs Sir Wil can boast about.

See **Emotional and important** on page 5.

Emotional and important topic

(Continued from page 4.)

One of the most important and emotional topics that the yearbook class has covered so far is the CHEO Telethon of 2006, and the passing of Eric Shaw, a hero and friend to hundreds of teachers and students, and the number one reason Sir Wil was inspired to raise a massive sum of \$16,000 to donate before the holidays. Unfortunately, his untimely death took place after the hit Telethon's spread had already been completed and was polished and ready to be sent away. Under high-pressure deadlines, hard-working creator and dear friend to Eric, Courtney Thistle, was able to rearrange her work in time to honor him in the CHEO spread, and many such efforts will be dedicated to him, in loving memory.

The yearbook is expected to be completed by the end of March, and deadlines are creeping up quickly. Luckily, Mr. Young and all of the senior students responsible for meeting the deadlines are more than ready to face the oncoming rush, with the same commitment and confidence that they have shown so far.

Reduce and eliminate alcohol-related injuries

(Continued from page 4.)

Its goal is to reduce and eliminate injuries related to alcohol and drugs, with the focus on driving. Since it was started, the club has initiated assemblies and approached guest speakers that have experience in the knowledge of impaired driving. They have also participated in club days at Sir. Wil and have attended "Party Smart" forums held outside of the school.

At the moment, club member's include Brittany Moorcroft, Lauren Gamble, Alex Lindsay and Danelle Cavallin. However, OSAID is always looking for new members and hopes that students in younger grades will look into the club, as many of the members are grade 12 students who will be graduating in the spring.

Fasting funds Tibetan retirement home

by Taylor Najjar

On February 2nd, more than fifty Sir Wil students got to school early for breakfast, after which they spent twenty-seven hours fasting, as part of Fast to Feast. Prior to this date, they had been collecting pledges totalling a minimum of \$40 for each student being sponsored to "starve" to help fund a retirement home in Tibet.

More than a mere opportunity to campaign for a good cause, the event, organized by Ms Brown and Ms Davison, was an interactive bonding experience. The students were divided into smaller groups, each led by a Team Leader, and after school hours on Friday, they stayed and participated in games, including challenge games that required cooperation on the part of the group members. For Aneesa Baksh, the best part of being a Team Leader was "meeting my team [members] and talking to them, getting to know them and helping them to get to know each other and feel comfortable in a group." After the games, a movie was set up in the gymnasium, but many students chose to gather in small groups and socialize instead.

Most students stayed for the sleepover, though some were not able to make it. The next morning, after everyone had woken up, the fasters played a couple of games to kick off the day, then cleaned up before "circle time," a roundtable event where each participant had the opportunity to share his or her experience and the highs and lows of the two days.

At one o'clock, the fasters gathered for a feast, subsidized by You Rock. "Overall," Aneesa added, "I thought Fast to Feast was extremely successful this year. Way better than last year and I think everyone had a good time."

If you missed Fast to Feast this year, you can still participate next year and get up to ten hours of community involvement for your participation.

The March Break

by Johanna White

The exciting count down to the March Break has begun. We look forward to this week when students and teachers can relax.

So what are the graduates at Sir Wil doing for the March break? Some graduates are beginning with a trip to Tremblant and ending with an intriguing vacation to Cancun, Mexico. Some students are making their way down to Dominican Republic. Others are going to have some fun in theme parks like Disney World.

No matter what you are doing for the March Break, have fun, relax and enjoy yourself.

The Penny Drive

(Continued from page 1.)

In the fall we had a speaker come in on behalf of Amnesty International and Free the Children. With his inspiration we are hoping to create a one room school for children in Kenya through the means of a Penny Drive. The Penny Drive is an exciting way to raise funds to make a change and have fun at the same time. It is something that Sir Wil hasn't experienced before; we are hoping for your support and contribution to make it a fantastic success that will carry on year after year in our dynamic environment. It is a great feeling knowing that you have made a contribution to the well being of the world. By joining AI you can evoke that feeling inside you and breathe a sigh of relief knowing that you've made a difference. In the words of Gandhi, "Be the change that you want to see in the world."

Setup well-organized

(continued from page 3.)

The setup was well organized and there were plenty of students and teachers to man each of the stations so there was no lack of actual event organization.

The bass of the music rumbled through the gym doors reassuringly and led us into the dance floor. This was where the problem lay. The attendance was slightly depressing. Probably a maximum of sixty or seventy students were in the gym at once.

The organization was great, so let's go back to the beginning. This must have been an advertising problem. Perhaps a dance on a Thursday wasn't the best idea? But all the last few dances were held on Thursdays and there was a lot of success before now.

The theme might have been misleading. A Valentine's Dance suggests that one might need a partner. This idea has been a problem for many people the same way that prom adds pressure to students each year on finding a date. This was not the desired implication at all; the idea of large informal dances is to get lost in the crowd.

All in all, the production of the dance was wonderful and we can only hope to have the same care next time around but the more of the effort should be on advertising the dance itself, perhaps more clips on the announcements or a few more bold posters in target hallways.

Shoebox spoon alarm

(Continued from page 2.)

In previous years, projects have included a 'Shoe Box Spoon Alarm,' which would sound an alarm if a spoon were removed from its platform incorrectly; programmed vehicles that follow a simple obstacle course, and even vehicles that react to their environment. The latter project was known as the 'Mars Rover' project, and is probably the most well-known feat in the Robotics course. This particular project consisted of a self-powered vehicle that moved freely around any given area. When it encountered an object blocking its path – detected by way of two 'feelers' on its front side – it reversed direction and tried to go around it. The more famous portion of the 'Rover' was that it sent data regarding its encounters to a remote laptop computer. Seeing this in action was awe-inspiring to many students who were excited to see that one of their peers could create something so advanced with merely two years of experience.

This course is still fairly new to Sir Wil, and that is, in itself, a part of its draw. Creating robots – machines that can 'think' and 'act' by their own devices – fascinates students, and drives them to succeed.

Former Robotics student William Fairclough says "I've done [computer programming] so much that it's almost boring, but I like Robotics because it's new and harder, and more *fun*. You get to make everything and see it work somewhere other than a computer. And it's different. Programming gets so repetitive, but Robotics is all new and different."

As years go by, the course becomes increasingly more advanced as Mr Young sees what students can accomplish and as they discover faster, easier ways to succeed. Each year students create more complex and intriguing devices--and now, with a new C&C cutting machine, students will be able to manufacture their own custom frames out of a variety of materials, including wood and aluminum.

Keep an eye on those Robotics students: you never know what they'll turn out next!

