The Laurentian wants the facts on grade distribution

Making the grade at Lawrence

Pourciau memo on grade inflation prompts inquiries, concerns

by ALLISON AUGUSTYN

On January 8, 2001, Professor of Mathematics Bruce Pourciau released an independent study regarding grade inflation at Lawrence. As noted in the memo, "I remember being struck by the (university-wide) percentage of grades...the percentage of grades A-minus or better has risen from 31.5% to 46.2% and the percentage of grades B-minus or better has risen from 19.1% to 19.1%. If these percentages were to continue increasing as they have been, then, for example, in another 15 years roughly 90% of our grades would be some kind of A or B."

Grade inflation refers to the narrowing of the range of grades given to students, from A through F to something on the order of A minus to B plus. It happens on a national level, and it also appears to be happening here at Lawrence University.

Some of the implications of this increase were notable in last year's graduating class, which saw upwards of 40 percent of the class of 2000 graduates with Latin honors. Nationally, other colleges and universities have encountered grade inflation, noting that while the GPAs continue to rise, SAT and ACT scores remain the same. A 1999 Carnegie Foundation report revealed that SAT scores improved from an average of 837 in 1972 to 902 today, and nearly every other indicator of student performance has diminished as well.

Stanford University in California formally abolished the F in 1970, and has since seen a dramatic increase in grades. In 1992 more than half of undergraduate grade given were A-minus or higher, making the average grade slightly higher than a B plus.

At Princeton in 1973, the percentage of A's and As given to undergraduates was 30.7%. In the period for 1992-97 the percentage of grades given with only 11.6% of grades falling below the B range.

At Dartmouth, the average GPA rose from 3.06 to 3.23 from 1968 to 1994, with 44% of current graduates now A's or A-minuses.

At Harvard, 46% of the undergraduate grades given during the 1996-97 year were A's and A-minuses, more than double the figure for 1966, which was 22%. The percentage of C-pluses and below has fallen from 28% in 1966-67 to 9% in 1991-92.

Though it is difficult to determine what has caused the inflation, Dean Rosenberg stated, "I think the problem stems from the larger culture that creates a supportive environment, rather than a judgmental environment. If you don't get a good grade, it doesn't make you feel good." A May 1999 New York Times editorial criticized college professors nationwide for the increase in grading, citing the rise as a means to attract students to courses that would otherwise die out or to avoid negative course evaluations. Course evaluations affect tenure and promotion decisions at many institutions, as they do here at Lawrence.

Though Pourciau's memo reveals interesting and important general information about inflation, a detailed report on individual departmental grade data is necessary. Trivia Week 2001: a candid look at on-campus teams

by TOM SHRIBNER

Weekend are one.

Though to some students, the coming weekend will be much like any other of the freezing cold Wisconsin winter variety, to others the coming weekend will be one of little sleep, little peace and quiet, and little academic productivity. At least a good portion of the latter group will be participating in the 2001 Great Midwest Trivia Contest, which will be broadcast on Lawrence's WLFM from 10:00 to midnight.

This weekend's contest promises to be more competitive than usual, involving a large number of both new and established teams.

This year's Kohler/Teerw team, whose official name has yet to be determined, appears to be the best organized of the participating groups. Seasoned Trivia veteran Keith Rose has played a central role in putting the team together and preparing them for this contest. "This team," claims Rose, "has a very strong possibility of winning the contest." Rose observes that Kohler, in 1997, was the last team to defeat the Yuai, which has had the most successful team in recent years. "It would be fitting for Kohler to take back first place." He estimates that the team has at least 20 members, including a strong freshmen contingent, already infamous for their energy and enthusiasm.

The Yuai are by no means willing to relinquish their title as reigning champions. A core group of seven members will station themselves on the third floor of Brokaw Hall. Team co-organizer Jessica Ireland claims that because of smaller numbers, "we're not as ready as we were in past years, but we're still going to give it a go. We'll try and pull the answers out of our [posteriors], which is what Trivia should be." The 2001 Yuai team name, in adherence to the unbroken tradition of Yuai, was not yet to be determined. Though the Yuai's early lead of 20 to 0 was eventually narrowed by the Kohlers to 30 to 10, the Yuai's record of dominating the competition is one that the Kohlers would like to see vaporized. Both the Yuai and the Kohlers are hoping that the rest of the campus teams will participate in the contest. Trivia

Matt Pickens and Matt Pickens are one.

Matt Pickens and Matt Pickens and Triva Weekends are one.

photo by Marcia Becker

continued on page 8
What's On? at Lawrence

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

Last day to make class changes for Term II courses.
6:00 p.m. Opening lecture for Interpreting Gender: Frank Lewis, director of exhibitions and curator; reception for "Interpreting Gender," 1051 Main Hall. In the spring, Lawrence and Appleton residents have turned to water filters and bottled water. Is this really necessary? Is drinking water really unsafe? Not according to the city of Appleton's 2000 report on water quality.

The report is a federally mandated report on the levels of contaminants in drinking water, what those contaminants are, where in the water supply the consumer, and what is being done in the system to ensure meet­

The city of Appleton water filtration plant provides water to just over 70,000 people in the Fox Valley. The plant treated 3,968,012 gallons of water in 1999 with almost 900 times its entire system's storage capacity Appleton draws water approximately 1,500 feet from the shore of Lake Winnebago.

The water is run through a series of treatments before it reaches the tap. It is pre-treat­

Greene speaks about being a pop-star physicist

by STUART SCHMITT

The speaker at last week's convocation, physicist Brian Greene, leads a double life. In the halls of Columbia University, he is a hard-edged scientist who is near the top of the academic food chain. In the media, he is a pop­

The event is free and open to the public.

A copy of the lecture is available at Appleton Water Filtration Plant. The plant has also had no health­

The grimy banks of the Fox River are home to the city of Appleton's water filtration plant. The plant produces water for over 70,000 people in the Fox Valley. The plant treated 3,968,012 gallons of water in 1999 with almost 900 times its entire system's storage capacity. Appleton draws water from approximately 1,500 feet from the shore of Lake Winnebago.

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Pourciau memo tells only part of the story

continued from page 1

distribution is released every year for the faculty, providing additional information possibly valuable in pinpointing the causes of grade inflation, along with possible solutions. These yearly reports are not currently available to students.

Pourciau suggests in his memo that one reason these yearly reports remain confidential is that the hard data might be interpreted by some people as evidence of grade inflation. Annual reports are released every year, and those for the 1985-1986 school year remain confidential until the end of May, after the faculty is on break and before the students have begun their summer break.

In this article, I will focus on the actual data regarding grade distribution and inflation at Lawrence, rather than discussing the reasons why these reports remain confidential. According to Cross, the data presented in Pourciau's memo was "self-explanatory." Rosenberg added, "I don't think that the numbers are self-explanatory. Clearly there is grade inflation, but the reasons, and therefore the solutions, are complex." Until more information can be obtained, the questions surrounding grade inflation remain unanswered.

As stated in the issue's opening, "This is the time of year again when Lawrence University students prepare for Rush. Rush returns to campus this week (a), and grade distribution for the 1999-2000 school year is shown in the graph. Rush is an opportunity for students to find out about each fraternity and sorority, and to decide whether they want to become members.

Wisconsin education begins in Riverview

continued from page 1

It's that time of year again when all independent male students at Lawrence University have the chance to acquire membership in a member of one of the five active fraternity chapters here on campus.

Rush week, during which the fraternities recruit new members, is here. As always, there are certain activities that have been devised to acquaint male freshmen and independents with the members of each fraternity. However, unlike past years, a whole host of activities has been planned for this week, extending from January 15 to February 22.

Rush returns to campus

continued from page 4

This is the team's third year of competition and fun.

We'll be taking over the fourth floor and abolishing all rules and regulations that may normally occur. The scene will essentially consist, says Reiser, of a bunch of sleep-deprived people yelling at one another. He asserts to the other on-campus teams: "Bring on the noise!"

The team that edged out Planta to place third last year was "Das Uber Team," which is essentially a group of close friends, the team's constitution and regulations that may normally occur. The scene will essentially consist, says Reiser, of a bunch of sleep-deprived people yelling at one another. He asserts to the other on-campus teams: "Bring on the noise!"

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The Holy Grail of physics: Greene speaks on string theory

by Ray Feller

It was with a combination of intelligence, clarity, and humor that Brian Greene explained string theory at the convocation last Thursday. Greene spoke to a packed room with people standing in the back. He presented a history of string theory, beginning with the desire for knowledge that has been around for several millennia. He then explained the fantastic discoveries he has been a part of recently.

To begin, Greene showed that the Lawrence Celle Ensemble, featuring Robert Levy on trumpet, began the program with a piece entitled "Frazzle Dances." This was written by composer Professor John Harmon, who was in attendance. As the strings began playing, the pun they created in relation to the subject of the convolution sent a ripple of amusement through the audience.

Brian Greene was introduced by President Warch as the "poster boy of theoretical physics." Warch described Greene's achievements in holding teaching positions in both physics and music at Columbia University, to his habitat in the recent movie "The Emperor of Music," and his popular book, "The Elegant Universe," which explains string theory. Warch described Greene's theory, known as the "unified theory of everything," as "the holy grail of physics."

Greene fulfilled a challenge as he spoke. To a mixed audience, containing people who had varying levels of understanding of physics, he presented a very clear, concise explanation of quantum mechanics, gravity, and the concept of applying humor and easily understood analogies. Greene was able to describe some of the most complicated questions with an impeccable clarity.

While Greene observed that questions about space, time, the earth's origin, and other large subjects have been asked for thousands of years, he attributed the greatest strides to the past century. It was through a goal alluded to by Albert Einstein that a discovery as vast as the string theory was possible. Einstein realized that there was one fatal flaw to string theory, and that this flaw might in fact prevent all understanding of what is good and evil. The gurus are like the sediment to rise and mix with the water, imbuing all good with evil. The level of understanding of the Mind of Samsara is less desirable than those of evil.

The sediment represents evil. The currents and undertows cause the strings to vibrate at different levels of frequency, such as waves and currents. The strings represent the unity, selflessness, and mutuality, the tip of the iceberg, for to understand the sediment is to understand what is evil. The gurus are like the pure water, imbuing all good with evil. The level of understanding of the Mind of Samsara is in fact the same thing. The text only separates them for All reality is One—good and evil everywhere.

So, good and evil are really the same thing, even though they have very different causes and effects. As stated earlier, what appears good may in fact be evil, and vice versa. This again raises the question of how to differentiate between them, since the consequences of good are much more desirable than those of evil.

The question of whether to understand an understanding of good and evil, their causes, and even of reality itself.

A major tenet of Buddhism is karma, basically philosophy's version of Newton's third law of motion: every action has an opposite and equal reaction. If one does good, they will be rewarded. If one does evil, they will be penalized. This kind of cause and effect is what comprises reality, according to Buddhism. For instance, if one is black and white, then a black horse appears good but evil, and vice versa. But how does one tell which is which?

The "Lawakavatara Sutra," another important work, compares reality to an ocean. There is a decision that there was some sort of unified theory, and up until his death he was seeking to understand what it was. String theory, Greene claims, scientists "taking up Einstein's quest."

It was through Einstein that the special theory of relativity was discovered, but this was a result of another well-known mind—Isaac Newton. Newton is best known for his knowledge of gravity, stemming from the story of an apple falling on his head and bringing him insight into gravity. While he did advance math and physics considerably, there was one fatal flaw to Newton's views on gravity. It was explained, "a filament of vibration energy that appears string-like."

He then equated the vibration of this energy to music and the way the ear hears different tones at different levels of vibrataion.

String theory, however, results in people seeing in different colors.

"String theory was not a forced union of quantum mechanics and Albert Einstein," explained Greene. "It was a real union. Unavoidable."

Greene ended his lecture by sharing some of the new discoveries that have led, including the possibility of up to twelve dimensions of space and time. He went on to explain his philosophy of science and about the human ability to know everything there is to know. Greene completed his speech by saying, "I hope it is solved, and we are far from completing the next convolution will be presented by Martha Nussbaum on Thursday, April 19, at 11:10 a.m. in the Memorial Chapel.

Even more trivia continued from page 3

this year's primary organizer Megan McGlone, we hope to take third place for the third year in a row.

Uber Team Steve Schlei adds: "People underestimate the power of consistency."

The team to most recently rear its head is Trivia Weekend is the Ormsby/Collman/Breakaw or "West Side" team. Initially, Ormsby was going to go it alone, but on Wednesday the decision was made to annex its westerly counterparts. Team co-organizer Sara Gillette is excited to bring Trivia back to a residence hall that has not housed a major team for a number of years. Co-organizer Eric Seidel was being hoping prospective Ormsby team members with the catchy teaser "The West side of campus has come back...Trivia."

This year, the Memorial Hall has recently housed competitive teams, victory has eluded campus "West Sider" since Ormsby's 1993 victory. Although no competitive teams, it will be difficult to predict who will come out on top this year. Both. One of the hallmarks of Trivia Weekend is that there is an uncertain world, all matters Trivia-related are even less certain. It is likely that more Trivia teams have sprouted up throughout campus than those whose names have been recounted here. All it takes is a radio, a phone, and a good head rest against which to sit and find out what you're made of.

The Lawrentian seeks writers.

call x6768
San José, Costa Rica: Half empty or half full?

THOMAS KILIAN

It didn't take very much time for me to realize that I wasn't in Kansas anymore. In fact, as a close-ethnocentric, I had quickly written-off San José as the most distasteful Latin entity that I had experienced since Menudo. While it did not happen overnight, this Central American metropolis won my heart. It was not until I looked closely at San José that I realized every diesel cloud has a silver lining.

Roman Catholicism is the state religion in Costa Rica and the government is not shy about promoting its own moral agenda. Yet, for every image of the Virgin Mary that finds its way into a government office, there exists a not-so-virgin Maria on the street. She is a prostitute, and her profession is entirely legal. In Spanish, we call this hipocresía, and it tops the list of irritants that I encountered during my stay. In San José, this hypocrisy takes center stage, for the world. While the government denounces this type of tourism, there aren't many bureaucrats breaking down legislative doors to change things. Maybe it's because most of the local hotels and clubs are infested with geriatric American men who do not spend large sums of money in the country simply to see the rainforest.

No matter where you travel in the world, visible air is generally not a good thing. Thanks to clouds of blue exhaust from substandard motor vehicles, there is a hazard of living, or simply breathing, in downtown San José. But just in case what comes out of the car does not harm you, what gets into it and sits behind the wheel probably will. Most roads in the city are extremely dangerous for pedestrians and drivers alike due to inadequate compliance with (and enforcement of) traffic laws. Pedestrians have no rights. If you hear a beep, it's probably already too late. And just as if the planners of the city were moonlighting sadists, they decided to completely eliminate street addresses. You want to try to find someone's house for the first time? Buena suerte. Besides, if you didn't understand the preceding sentence in Spanish then you will have about as much luck explaining where your own house is in San José, Costa Rica as Reagan might in Santa Monica, California.

Unless you want to play Russian roulette with your digestive tract, eating at a respectable restaurant or middle-class home is very important. Inversely, the dish in front of you will be filled with rice and beans, the staples of Costa Rican cuisine. But the question of how this food is cooked and with what will vary significantly upon where you go (water is drinkable in San José, but care must still be taken). Despite precautionary measures, the third week that I was in Costa Rica, my luck ran out, and it ran out in a big way. Never had I encountered the term "explosive diarrhoea," much less been described as having it. The doctor, whose bilingual skills were questionable, told me I had to take a 'poo-poo' test. The diagnosis was 'parasites'. This bout of sickness cost me about fifteen pounds and my roommate's friendship.

The question is: what redeems San José from its urban sins? Much of the answer lies in its people. Costa Ricans have a reputation as warm, helpful individuals. The country and its people have been peaceful during times when the rest of Central America was riddled with war. Certain elements of the city may have made my acclimation difficult, but without the assistance and guidance of my host family and countless others it would have been unbearable.

For every car that almost ran me down, there was a stranger who pulled this unknowing gringo from danger. For every time that I got lost and found myself in a bad neighborhood, there was someone who helped me make a quick escape. And yes, sadly enough, for every child who didn't have clothes or food, there was a mother who would do anything to help—even if it meant selling her body.

As for the rest of the answer, San José can capably feed for itself. I may have acquired parasites, but they were dealt with by arguably the best medical care in Latin America. The National Theatre, inaugurated in 1897, by the French Opera Company, adds plenty of character to what may be considered an unremarkable downtown. Not to mention, there are enough merengue and salsa clubs to keep one's nights exciting, and there is enough international cuisine to escape rice and beans for a day or two. So while all of San José may initially seem like a breeding ground for hypocrisy, filth, and pollution, take my word for it. Only half of it is.
ATTENTION LAWRENTIANS!

LUCC Presidential Elections Are NEXT WEEK!

Vote at the following places:

Monday, January 22nd
Main Hall: from 8:15am – 11:15am
Conservatory Lobby: 12:30pm - 4:15pm

Tuesday, January 23rd
Downer: 11:00am - 1:00pm; 5:00pm - 7:00pm

In case you missed the Candidate Forum, this might help you make up your minds:

LUCC Presidential Candidates:

Name: Megan Brown Year: Sophomore Major: Biology
I am running for LUCC President because this year begins a huge transition for Lawrence. With, among other things, the fate of the quad and alternative housing options hanging in the balance the council is looking for strong leadership. I believe I have the time and experience necessary to lead LUCC through the difficulties that come with expansion. My experience with LUCC includes two terms as a hall representative followed by a year as Vice President during which time the number of groups requesting funds increased to over fifty. With the upcoming changes it is important to have a president that is fair, open-minded, and most importantly the president should be someone who will put aside personal feelings and instead be a representative of the thoughts and feelings of the campus at large. I am that person.

Name: Terrence O'Brien Year: Sophomore Major: Mathematics

My Name is Terrence O'Brien and I am running for LUCC president. A little information about myself: I am from Boston Massachusetts; I am a Mathematics and Psychology major; I have a strong interest in music of all sorts (mainly I compose); I am a sophomore; I live in Kohler hall; and am a member of Phi Kappa Tau. If elected my primary goal will be to equitably implement the residence life recommendations which where made this year. I believe I should be elected LUCC president because I have the leadership and the organization to fairly accomplish these goals and to efficiently conduct LUCC. I have experience on LUCC and 2 years experience as class president of my high school. If elected I promise to make the most of my term with respect to the monumental changes which are to begin. Thank you.

Name: Chris Worman Year: Junior Major: Music and Theater

Over the last year my cabinet, the council and I have tackled a variety of issues. Examples of two bylaw changes include one that allows for communication between the administration and Judicial Board in an attempt to recognize repeat offenders, thereby increasing campus safety and the effectiveness of our judicial system, and another which created a new monetary resource for students to assist in their presentation of such projects as the Glass Menagerie. We have also answered student concerns ranging from security lighting to an affirmation from the faculty that they would strive to keep our Convocation hours open. Current projects include streamlining our budgeting process and the possibility of a student press. Armed with the knowledge and networking that my cabinet and I have accrued we can maximize our impact on the incredible opportunity of shared governance thereby helping to empower students in their respective roles as the true governing body of the Lawrence community.

LUCC Vice Presidential Candidates:

Name: Adam Locke Year: Sophomore Major: Biology and Government
For almost two full years now I have been a member of LUCC, both as a representative and now as Finance Secretary. In both of these positions I have been heavily involved with the Finance Committee. As Vice President, the direction and goals of the Finance Committee would be my first priority. The manner in which LUCC allows Student Activity Fee money to be spent is an issue not to be taken lightly. I will work to foster a policy of responsible financial practices that at the same time is aimed at building a sense of community. This all must be performed with the diverse interests and desires of all members of the Lawrence community in mind. I know these next few years will be full of new opportunities and changes here at Lawrence, I want to have the opportunity to make these changes work for all of Lawrence.
Grade distribution should be public

In this issue of the Lawrentian, editorial board makes LUCC endorsement.
The Lawrentian feels that this is one of the most important issues at this university. To that end, the Lawrentian would like to publish an even more important piece on grading that would examine whether it appears to be an historic trend towards grade inflation both in the university and within certain departments, and the resulting disparities in grading from department to department. These are significant issues for any university, and they affect the value and integrity of the work students and faculty do and the degrees the university grants.

To publish such a story, the Lawrentian requires certain information to which it does not presently have access. The editorial board believes that for years the university distributes statistics on grade distribution within departments. To reason that the university grants the university dis-...
Non-incumbent candidates face an uphill battle in election

continued from page 1

ative ideas; and, second, she and her cabinet will work closely with heads of campus organizations in order to assess their needs more accurately. O'Brien said that her efforts to expand the scope of the council's representation of students, along with her experience as a representative and vice president of LUCC, qualify her for the position.

Terrence O'Brien, a sophomore Mathematics major with three terms of experience as an LUCC representative, opened his bid for presidency by asserting that this term's candidates were "discouraging," "pathetic," and "dis pleasingly in tune with trends on campus."

For the non-incumbent candidates especially, the poor attendance meant an added—and formidable—obstacle to their campaign to win office. Aschbrenner said that had more people shown up to the meeting to hear his address and listen to his treatment of policies and leadership issues, he may have had a better chance of displacing Locke, a two-year veteran of the council. For his part, Locke admitted that the low turn-out puts Aschbrenner at a "definite disadvantage" in the campaign.

O'Brien sought somewhat more discouragement by the turn-out, saying that "it seems there's no point in campaigning ... It's sad but you look how hall council elections go — the clever novelty poster prevails over the well-informed paragraph someone posted on the wall."
Honor Council Letters
The Lawrence 9

In this issue of The Lawrence University Honor Code in Anthropology

Term 1, 1999, with Professor

As agreed upon during the sanctioning conference on Tuesday, April 5, 2000, your sanction is a "0" on assignment and a for the reduction in the course. In addition, we have imposed an educational sanction. You must schedule an appointment with a member of the Honor Council to discuss the educational sanction. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. We trust that these actions will result in the future.

The Lawrence University Honor Council

April 5, 2000

You have been found in violation of the Lawrence University Honor Code for plagiarism in a term paper submitted to Professor . The Council has determined a sanction of zero on assignment and a one week grade reduction in the course. Please be advised that you should be found in violation of the Honor Code in the future, this violation will be used in determining your future overall grade in the course. By forging your advisor's signature on four separate registration documents, you have not complied with the educational sanction and have failed to uphold the mutual trust between students and faculty.

By forging your advisor's signature on your advising form, you have done the following:

• Impeded other students' academic performance by misusing campus resources, including your advisor's time and fellow students' time.
• Misused University resources, including your advisor's time and fellow students' time.

You may appeal this decision to the Faculty Subcommittee on Administration to use when considering any future petition for reinstatement to the Faculty Subcommittee on Administration to use when considering any future petition for reinstatement.

Sincerely,

The Lawrence University Honor Council

May 1, 2000

You have been found in violation of the Lawrence University Honor Code for improper completion of an academic petition. You have been found in violation of the Honor Code, resulting in failing this course and a recommendation to the faculty, registrar's office and fellow students.

You have failed to uphold the responsibilities and stipulations of the Honor Code, resulting in failing this course.

You have been found in violation of the Honor Code, resulting in failing this course.

You may appeal this decision to the Faculty Subcommittee on Administration to use when considering any future petition for reinstatement.

Sincerely,

The Lawrence University Honor Council

May 24, 2000

You have been found in violation of the Lawrence University Honor Code for improper completion of an academic registration for the 2000-2001 academic year. You have been found in violation of the Honor Code, resulting in failing this course.

You may appeal this decision to the Faculty Subcommittee on Administration to use when considering any future petition for reinstatement.

Sincerely,

The Lawrence University Honor Council

June 6, 2000

You have been found in violation of the Lawrence University Honor Code for plagiarism on your senior project, submitted to Professor . You have been found in violation of the Honor Code, resulting in failing this course.

You may appeal this decision to the president of the university within one week of receiving this letter. Please contact a member of the Honor Council if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The Lawrence University Honor Council

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You may appeal this decision to the president of the university within one week of receiving this letter. Please contact a member of the Honor Council if you have any questions.

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Steely Dan returns with Grammy-worthy effort

by ANDREW KARRE
CPU Coat

The Recording Academy announced this year's Grammy nominations on January 3. The albums nominated for Album of the Year demonstrate just how broad the pop music spectrum has become. The nominees are Radiohead for "Kid A," Beck for "Midni..."
Greene brings the cosmic down to Earth

continued from page 2

Michael Green, one of the founders of string theory, and after that, he was "hooked." Reconciling his double life as a pop icon and a scientist is difficult for Greene. Since becoming a public personality, he reserves a chunk of every day for real science. During this time, he closes his doors and ignores his e-mail. His work, however, is what prevents him from becoming a total recluse. "It's tough to really do more than four or five good hours of rigorous work in a day," he said. But Greene does not plan on writing another popular book in the near future because he does not want to spend too much time away from his research. During the last few months of writing "The Elegant Universe," he found the project demanded the attention of his entire working day. He maintains that it was a necessity, though, since a layman's book about string theory needed to be written. "We're getting so close to really understanding some of these questions that it's absolutely wrong for that information only to be available for (scientists)," he said. As a teacher, both popular and academic, Greene is known for extensive use of metaphors. In his book and public appearances, he uses them to explain accessible terms the complex and counterintuitive concepts of string theory. But, he said that they are useful for his own understanding as well: "I don't feel comfortable if my understanding of something is solely rooted in technical equations."

Indeed, the concepts of string theory are difficult to imagine. But Greene cautions his readers not to become discouraged, for he too finds them challenging. "The beauty that we can do is come up with approximate sets of words and pictures," he said, "ultimately, we need to leave the pictures and use the equations." Greene is optimistic that string theory will provide a fundamental theory of how the universe works, but he is realistic about its consequences. He does not believe that, when physicists do find the "theory of everything," peoples' everyday lives will be changed. But he does believe that "in time, it will begin to change our collective sense of how we fit into the big picture." Greene finds nobility in the search for such a theory. And if mankind does find it, it will be a testament to its intellectual capability. He said, "It will elevate us, and make us really feel like a deeper component of the universe."
The Lawrence University men's basketball program has, for the past few years, drawn large crowds because of the team's outstanding ball control and fast-paced tempo. The Vikings have themselves in a similar mold this year by Coach John Tharp after their second place finish in last year's conference. The loss in the championship game ignited a fire under last year's team, which has remained strong through this season.

In Midwest Conference play, the Vikings are 4-2 with about half of the season remaining and are 7-4 overall. Right now, Lawrence is in third place in the conference behind Lake Forest and Beloit.

The most recent home game, on Jan. 13, was an impressive win against a talented Grinnell team. While the opposition was run ragged by the quick passes and fast breaks provided by the Vikings, Grinnell did manage to stay close until the end, and the final score was 131-104. Against Grinnell, the starting five, Ryan Gebler, Jason Hayward, Adam Lansdale, Nate Lawrence, and Dustin Pagoria, managed to make the game look easy. A great show was provided by Leverence, who swung the tide of momentum back to Lawrence after a short lull in the beginning of the second half.

The impressive performance in their latest home game helped the team with their belief that the conference is theirs for the taking. Riding the wave of victory, the Vikings moved on to Carroll. The game, on Jan 16 at Carroll, put a damper on the team's enthusiasm, as the team lost, 83-70. After the loss, Coach Tharp wants the team to refocus on the games in the near future, not further down the road. However, the men are optimistic for the rest of the season and are looking forward to their next game on Jan19 at Knox.

Nate Lawrence (35) concentrates intensely as he prepares for confrontation with an opponent.

In a two game stand against Milwaukee School of Engineering, the Vikings lost one game 9-2 and registered their only win of the season of 3-2. "We didn't get frustrated," explained Ruhby.

Senior co-captain Stuart Manning credits goaltenders Grant Henderson and Nick Cosky as being the strengths of this year's defense. "Our goaltending has been there all season. They're what keeps us in games," said Manning. Conti is optimistic about the rest of the season, predicting a third place finish in the MCHA and an appearance in the conference tournament playoffs.

"The top two teams in the conference are pretty elite, but the rest are fairly evenly matched. We can compete with them," said Manning about the team's chances of making it to the conference tournament. Melchiori also predicts a strong second half of the season. Of the next ten games, only two are away games. "The home ice advantage should help us get into the playoffs," stated Melchiori.

In a 72-68 victory over Monmouth, Dara Rakun, a 5-foot-7 junior guard from Sheboygan Falls (Kohler High School), led Women's Basketball to two wins this past weekend. Rakun scored 31 points Friday in a 72-58 victory over Monmouth, handing the Scots their first conference loss of the season. Rakun hit 12 of 14 shots from the floor, 3 of 4 from three-pointers, and 8 of 8 from the free-throw line. She also had four rebounds and four steals. Her 31 points was the fifth-best game in school history. Rakun then scored 19 points, grabbed four rebounds, dished out five assists, and had two steals in a 77-62 win over Grinnell on Saturday.

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Lawrence had a triple-double in L7x's 131-104 victory over Grinnell on Saturday. Lawrence scored 37 points, grabbed 15 rebounds, and handed out 12 assists. Lawrence tied the school record for free throw made (17) and attempted (21) in a game. His 12 assists tied for the second-best game in school history. Lawrence also scored a team-high 18 points in Lawrence's 66-65 win over Monmouth on Friday night. Lawrence added four rebounds and three steals against the Scots.

Honor Council letters from term III

continued from page 9

containing none of your own work. By unfairly advancing your academic performance and view, you may be found in violation of the Honor Code. You, between students and faculty, have failed to uphold the responsibilities and stipulations of the Honor Code.

Please be advised that should you be found in violation of the Honor Code in the future, this letter would be used in determining an appropriate sanction. Feel free to contact a member of the Council with any further questions you may have concerning the Honor Code.

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You have been found in violation of the Lawrence University Honor Code as agreed upon at the sanctioning conference on Friday, June 9, 2000 for plagiarism on your final project in Biology, Term III, 2000 with Professor . For this violation, we have assigned a sanction of F in course.

We have submitted a project which contained extensive plagiarism taken from another student's work. By unfairly advancing your academic performance, jeopardizing another student's academic performance, and violating the mutual trust between students and faculty, you have failed to uphold the responsibilities and stipulations of the Honor Code.

Please be advised that should you be found in violation of the Honor Code in the future, this letter would be used in determining an appropriate sanction which commonly includes a suspension from the university. Feel free to contact a member of the Council with any further questions you may have concerning the Honor Code.

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At 11-1-1, the Lawrence men's basketball team sits in last place in the MCHA conference. Second year coach Dave Ruhly is optimistic at the season remaining and are 7-4 overall. Right now, Lawrence is in third place in the conference behind Lake Forest and Beloit.

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