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## 'Average' a poor achievement

'Average' a poor achievement  
Dan Kellar Apr 02, 2008

**Students should take advantage of being at an institution of higher learning and realize the merits of striving to be exceptional**

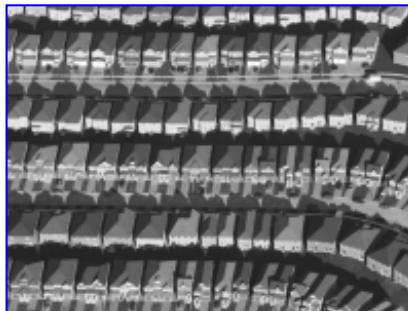
\* Image By: Contributed Photo

It has been argued that to excel in school or in life means that you have to give up aspects of a fulfilling or well-rounded social life.

To earn scholarships and entrance into graduate school means that you have to put your head in the books, fall asleep in the library and brown-nose your way around.

I cannot help but wonder – what is the great advantage to being average? Since you are paying to learn (how to learn) at university, applying yourself to achieve something more than average should be desired. You can learn how to follow orders for free in the army or at SunLife, and they will even pay you.

Universities have to be about creating new knowledge – not just attaining a diploma



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**Weekly Poll**

## WEB EXCLUSIVE Blog Central



**Gripped by the Madness**  
"The NBA's waiting, Mr. Curry"

Mike Brown  
March 31, 2008  
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**Gripped by the Madness**  
"The Throwdown in Motown"

Mike Brown  
March 30, 2008  
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## Behind the Lens


## Exams are ...

- A necessary evil
- A welcome reprieve from the hassle of classes
- More stressful this year than ever
- ... underway!? Oh, this can't end well ...

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The Cord Weekly is the flagship publication of Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications (WLUSP) and the official student newspaper of Wilfrid Laurier University.

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for an "average" life. Instead of university, you could have gone out into the workforce and gotten a perfectly meaningful average job, or you could have used your \$22,000, four-year tuition money and your \$20,000 or so in rental and ancillary fees to travel the world and gain a perspective few ever get; no one would force you to be an overachiever while travelling.

What is it about the high point on the bell curve that is worth working for?

Sitting in a small cubicle at work after driving in a large car through a traffic jam should not describe average.

Does working for a system you may not agree with while having no chance of changing it describe average?

1.8 children and a three-bedroom, fully-detached house out in a former forest with a plot of chemically treated imported grass is an absurd form of average.

The reward of being average is that you don't have to be an individual; you can turn off and fit right in with the masses.

I undertook my undergraduate studies at Laurier and spent much of my first two years in a Phil's-induced, life-directing and somewhat cloudy state (for only \$1.50 a drink).

In my last two years, I averaged 120 days of skiing and managed high enough marks for acceptance into a graduate program.

I also co-founded and then sold my interest in a now-thriving business (ARC Clothing Co.), sustained a loving and enriching common-law relationship, spent time with family, and created new friendships to go alongside already established ones.

I threw away no benefits for the sake of my "success," for success is happiness after all. Many other graduate students have similar histories.

Conferences are a great part of academics and students have ample opportunities to attend or present at conferences that are of interest to them.

Harmonizing and incorporating your life with your achievements and successes will ensure you do not have to sacrifice very much.

I have applied myself more thoroughly this year and for the first time received academic scholarships and have been awarded a pair of prizes.

Perhaps the pubs have missed my patronage a little this year, but an average life is not dependent on pubbing. Honour roll and otherwise "over-achieving" undergraduates and all graduate students do have time to hang out with their friends.

Some believe that there are associated downfalls or sacrifices with "over-achieving" but these are universal; please do not forget that even the average can fail – we are all humans.

It is what you don't sacrifice (ethics, values, morals) that makes one exceptional.



**CAS Strike Day 2**  
Check out photographic coverage of CAS work action.

[» More Photos](#)

## In Review



**21**  
April 02, 2008  
21 is formulaic caper film that follows conventions, but is still very enjoyable and worth a watch.



**Miss Pettigrew Lives For a Day**  
March 26, 2008  
"Charming, old-fashioned, yet not at all conservative, Miss Pettigrew just makes you feel good."



**A smashing good time on your Wii**  
March 12, 2008  
The newest installment of the Super Smash Bros. franchise, this one for the Wii, is a winner.

[» More Reviews](#)

## Bag O' Crime

*Crime of the week:*

### Suspicious Person

Reported: Friday March 28, 2008 at 9:02am  
An email was received from a professor reporting an incident about a group of people dressed in Star Wars apparel and disrupting his class in the Arts building. The group was observed on the video recording in the area. The investigation is complete until further evidence is made available.

**read the rest of the crimes...**

[Click here for more information!](#)

Striving for mediocrity will bring nothing but idiocracy; wishing only for the status quo invites apathy. Hoping for only average will lead to cultural and social stagnation, as there will be nobody working to better society because they are afraid to stand out.

One does not require a university degree to be exceptional, and I do not consider myself exceptional. But if you want to be average, do not continue at university – save your money and time.

You can be perfectly average without a degree, and too many average people with WLU degrees brings down the value of that degree for those who wish to achieve beyond the status quo.

*letters@cordweekly.com*

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