

## **A lost opportunity**

Letter to the Editor  
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Re: Protesters derail Blatchford's appearance at University Waterloo, 15 November.

Michael Strickland, the University of Waterloo's assistant director of media relations, said he cancelled the talk Christie Blatchford was to give because: "We also had no interest in providing a photo op of our security dragging three people off the stage."

With his decision, and his justification for it, Strickland has said that freedom of expression on campus and the integrity of campus events are less important than public relations.

He's wrong, of course. But he also seems not to know an opportunity when it arises. Photos of protesters being hauled off stage would, in fact, be great publicity for the University of Waterloo. Such photos would say to the world that UW values what a university should value and is willing to stand for those values. You couldn't buy such great advertising.