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Condos Replace a Montreal Icon • News 9

INIEWS

SPEAKER: ELIE WIESEL COMING TO CONCORDIA

PAGE 03

Student Centre Reborn

Student Union Opens Controversial Project from the Past

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Although the Concordia Student Union is staying mum about its plans, the student centre project that was rejected by 72 per cent of students at the March general election seems far from abandoned.

"Students are already paying \$2 towards this project, so we decided that we have to tell them what the centre is and why they are paying a fee levy," said CSU VP External and Projects Adrien Severyns.

Over the past week, a number of posters were put up by the CSU asking students what they would want a student centre to look like. A blog was also created to "Help build the student centre YOU need," according to the website's tagline.

"When we started running Fusion as a team, one of our campaign points was the creation of the student centre," Severyns continued.

The student centre was a legacy passed on to the governing Fusion slate by its ideological precursor, the Vision slate run by former CSU President Amine Dabchy. Under the plan, the centre would contain all student services, including financial aid, clubs and the student union.

A controversial part of the 2010 election, the CSU asked students for an additional \$2.50 per credit, on top of the \$2 currently collected per credit, to fund the \$43 million project.

At a cost of \$405 for a 90-credit degree, the student centre would be the most expensive project ever undertaken by Concordia students. While plans called for the centre to be housed inside of an existing building bought by the CSU somewhere within Quartier Concordia, the student union has refused to identify the building.

"It's a beautiful promise of having everything concentrated in one building, but the CSU is only describing the services found in the Birks Centre and the Hall building," said Tina Salameh, a computer science student who ran with the opposition Community slate in the 2010 election.

"I think a lot of students think they already have that student space and the building will be redundant."

Much about the student centre

has already been decided.

In May 2009, a 79-page legal agreement was signed between the CSU and the university that set out who would own, control and finance the operations of the building. Under the document, 32 per cent of the building would belong to Concordia's administration, while students would control the rest.

"The student centre is a project by students, for students," said Severyns. "The beauty of this project is that students can decide what they want: a student-run café, another bar, more study space, lounge space or a public kitchen."

"By asking students, we are getting them involved in something that will be theirs."

Despite starting what might seem like an early campaign to get another student centre fee levy to pass in March, Severyns said that the executive didn't have the kind of power to put fee levies on ballots.

"The CSU isn't in a referendum period whatsoever," Severyns said. "The fee levy will be up to council to decide. It doesn't fall within our jurisdiction, but having studied all the options over the summer I think this is something we will push for."

Despite the promises, Salameh, like many students last March, could not accept the price tag.

"I would be really glad to have a student centre, but an extra \$60 a semester is a lot of money for a building I'll probably never use," said Salameh. "I am also concerned that the space we will be paying for will be another advertising opportunity for the university and a space for corporations like Tim Hortons."

Salameh's fears may have been confirmed in the past, when the previous CSU speculated about selling the naming rights of the building to a corporation.

Despite the history of the project, Severyns saw the student centre as one of the only ways of defending student space at the university.

"Student space is a critical issue at Concordia and the administration has cracked down on student space throughout the years," said Severyns. "We have seen a reduction in space and it won't get any better unless students take action and create their own space."



In the 2010 Concordia Student Union election, 72 per cent of students voted against a fee levy to build a student centre. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

\$43

million, the cost of the proposed student centre

\$405

per student in a 90-credit program for the student centre.

\$67

cost per semester of the student centre for 15 credits.

\$4.5

per credit, the proposed fee rejected at the March general election.

\$2

per credit, current fee for the student centre.

68%

of the student centre that is student space.

Seville Comes Down

Montreal Theatre to be Replaced by Condos



Over the summer and fall, Seville was gradually dismantled to make way for a \$100 million development project. PHOTOS RILEY SPARKS

• JASMINE PAPILLON-SMITH

Montreal's Seville Theatre was torn down on Oct. 7.

The theatre, which decayed on the city's western edge for the last 25 years, was destroyed to make room for three condo towers to be built by Montreal developer Prével, a project estimated at \$112 million.

The condo complex is part of an effort to revitalize the Shaughnessy Village, an area of downtown that was devastated when the Montreal Forum closed in 1996 and a new arena was built closer to the downtown core. Although 25 per cent of the housing units are priced at approximately \$185,000, the development will include no social housing.

Despite receiving heritage building status in 1990, the dilapidated venue had never been restored to its former glory, becoming a derelict stain on the Montreal cityscape over

the years. Some citizens remember when the theatre was not always such an eyesore, however.

"I used to go there to watch movies; it was a beautiful theatre. It's where I saw *Apocalypse Now*. It's a heritage site," said Marshall Upshaw, seated at Heart for the Nations, a store across the street from the old theatre.

The venue opened in 1929 as one of only fifteen elaborately decorated theatres in Canada. Its ceiling was painted to resemble the night sky and its interior was designed to look like a Spanish theatre. It held the biggest movie screen in Montreal at the time.

At its peak, the Seville attracted crowds of English Montrealers. It was not uncommon to see men and women in their Sunday best walking in to catch a show.

The Seville became a live the-

atre in the 1940s and showcased such acts as Sammy Davis Jr., Frank Sinatra and Louis Armstrong. It eventually turned back into a movie theatre, closing in 1985 when the building's rent quadrupled.

"The Seville had a lot of stage shows; I saw Nat King Cole, The Ink Spots and Tony Bennett there years ago," said Alma Wolff, also at Heart for the Nations. "I'm wondering why they tore the facade down." She went on to say that she would have liked to see it restored "not as a theatre, but the ambience should [have been] kept."

All that remains on-site are bulldozers and excavation shovels sitting atop piles of rubble. The once-majestic edifice shows only traces of old graffiti.

Prével is not new to the construction of condominiums, with the Imperial Lofts and the Lowney units already in its arsenal.

Reporter Supports Israel Defense Force

Yaakov Katz's Claims Contradict UN Findings

THE JERUSALEM POST

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AFTER HELL
New book explores long, painful process of soldier's rehab
See Page 6

THE GENOCIDE MECHANISM
Framing mass murder as self-defense can turn decent people into killers
See Page 13

BARE ESSENTIAL
Pianist Murray Perahia is adamant that while practice is important, knowledge is vital to See Page 24



Jerusalem Post reporter claims international reporting on Israel is often "lazy" and "ignorant." PHOTO ANTONIO ZUGALDIA

• MEAGAN WOHLBERG

International media may be biased against Israel, claims Yaakov Katz, the military correspondent for *The Jerusalem Post*.

"Israel has a legitimate story to tell," he said to journalism students and professors at Concordia last week during a lecture on reporting in the Middle East. "But it's very difficult to get that story into today's media."

He claimed that restrictions on time and space posed by the 24-hour news cycle are at fault for much of the inaccurate coverage he sees, but had stronger criticism for the journalists reporting on Israel.

"What bothers me more is not the bias, but the ignorance," he said. "Journalists are not only ignorant in many cases, but they're also lazy."

Using headlines, photos and video from the 2006 Lebanon war, Operation Cast Lead, and the recent raid on the Mavi Marmara aid flotilla, Katz emphasized repeatedly how the "complexity" of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is being ignored.

"You read those headlines and you say to yourself, 'they're just peace activists,'" Katz said of the Mavi Marmara attack.

"But later in the day, Israel released a video and you see that the soldiers are being hit by poles and chairs," he continued. "And you say to yourself, the soldiers attacked them? You see soldiers getting the living hell beaten out of them. And you wonder, whose fault is it?"

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights released a report on Sept. 27 concluding that the nine passengers killed on the Mavi Marmara were shot execution-style by Israeli commandos, with evidence that some were hit first by bullets from a helicopter above.

According to Katz, however,

Hezbollah, Hamas and those on the Mavi Marmara can do and say "whatever they want" without being held accountable, unlike Israel, which is not afforded such luxuries as a democratic state bound by "law, truth and honesty."

"Why not create a military base in an open field like regular militaries do and fight from there?" he asked. "There's space in Gaza."

"Because that's not the strategy," he continued. "[If I] pull Israel into the conflict and make them bomb that mosque and shell that school, then I'll get the Goldstone Report, I'll get the UN, I'll get the media against Israel because I can't go up against their fighter jets, but what I can do is get the whole world against them. And that's what we see today. So who's really the underdog here?"

Katz's talk was a definite contrast from the one given by *Haaretz* editor Gideon Levy one month ago at McGill. Levy, who was on tour with his new book *The Punishment of Gaza*, remarked on the victim mentality he sees in Israel.

"There have been many more brutal occupations than the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza," he said. "There were maybe even longer occupations in history. But I can't recall one example in which the occupier felt so good about himself and—what is even more astonishing—there is no example in history and will never be where the occupier thinks that he's the victim. This is unprecedented."

"As the unforgettable late Golda Meir had phrased it—who could phrase it better than this?—'We will never forgive the Arabs for forcing us to kill their children.' That's the way of thinking in Israeli society."

Katz's lecture caused some audience members to become visibly agitated, with several people leaving before it was finished.

Balloons Light Up SGW Campus



A group of artists with überculture drop balloons with LED lights inside them across the street from Reggie's. Good times ensue. PHOTO JULIA JONES

Wiesel to Speak at Con U

Author to Speak for Student Union he once called 'anti-Semitic'

• RAY CORKUM

Writer, activist, Noble laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel will bring his story to Concordia on Oct. 19.

The Romanian-born Wiesel has published nearly 60 books and is a respected commentator on the subject of racism, violence and the evil of apathy in the face of suffering, which he calls the "greatest of all evils."

Following the liberation of Auschwitz by Soviet troops in 1945, Wiesel worked as a journalist, novelist and professor of Judaism. In 1954, he broke a self-imposed censure and began to write about his experiences during World War II.

The 865-page Yiddish transcript *And the World Remained Silent* would become known in English as *Night*. It is a memoir of his experiences in the Jewish ghettos of Sighet, Romania and later in the death camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau. *Night* is praised as a hallmark of Holocaust literature.

Wiesel became a respected lecturer and spoke out in support of marginalized groups, including those affected by South African apartheid and the Bosnian genocide in Yugoslavia.

Awarded the Nobel Peace prize in 1986 for his campaigns against racial hatred and institutionalized violence, Wiesel was praised by the Nobel Committee as "a messenger to mankind."

However, Wiesel is not without his detractors, as many have trouble balancing his stance against institutionalized violence with his support of the state of Israel.

Wiesel is part of Concordia's recent history as well.

Following the cancellation of a heavily protested appearance by then and current Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, planned at Concordia University in 2002, Wiesel denounced the Concordia Student Union as "anti-Semitic."

The protesters denounced Ne-

tanyahu as a war criminal. Supporters of the presentation decried the protest as impeding Netanyahu's free speech.

The Netanyahu affair illustrated the complexity of demographics at Concordia, the variety of perspectives and the often-divisive nature of morality and politics.

Adrien Severyns, the Concordia Student Union's VP External and Projects said that the Wiesel event is "symbolic" of the CSU's commitment to move beyond partisan politics.

"Mr. Wiesel is a great humanist and activist," said Severyns. "He is a survivor who has seen the worst of human nature. This event must not be taken out of context. This is Elie's story and will not be about the terrible situation in the Middle East."

The group Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights Concordia issued a statement denouncing Wiesel's appearance as a "partisan event," and that his views "are anti-Palestinian."

Tomer Shavit, President of Hillel Concordia applauded the decision to host the Wiesel event and

sees the event as progress within the student body.

Weisel has been criticized by academics such as Norman Finkelstein and fellow Holocaust survivor Hedy Epstein for his silence on the treatment of the Palestinian people in the Gaza strip.

Epstein has offered to accompany Wiesel to Gaza.

"Remembering is not enough," she said. "Remembering must have a present, and a future perspective. We cannot deny the suffering of these people."

Bruce Katz, a Jewish anti-Zionist and president of the group Palestinian and Jewish Unity Montreal describes the situation facing Palestinians in Gaza as, "a parallel to the treatment of the Jews during World War II." He described Gaza as, "an open air prison camp."

He insists open dialogue about the Holocaust and its subsequent effects cannot exclude these "inconvenient facts."

The event will be held in the Hall building room 110. Preregistration is required at www.csu.qc.ca.



Wiesel's *Night* is praised as a hallmark of Holocaust literature. PHOTO ROBERT SCOBAL

Guerilla Gender Neutrality

The EV Building gets DIY Gender-Neutral Bathrooms

• LAURA BEESTON

Before Thanksgiving weekend, 12 single-person bathrooms on each floor of the EV building were quietly "gender neutralized" by a guerilla sign maker.

Covering the traditionally sex-separated bathroom signs with a more androgynous model, the *neutralizer*—who spoke with *The Link* on conditions of anonymity—said the move was to draw attention to Concordia's failed implementation to provide bathrooms and other safe space for queer and transgendered students on campus.

The person involved said that they "just don't see why it hasn't been done in every building," explaining that the gesture was as simple as changing a mark on the door, but students shouldn't have to go out of pocket to pay for signage of the space.

"I find it shocking to be in a school that has one of the most renowned gender studies and women's studies institutions in Canada, yet none of that knowledge has spread throughout the university."

The gender-neutral bathroom dispute began back in 2005, when the then-executives of the Concordia Student Union promised their implementation across both campuses.

Prior to this, McGill University had successfully executed a similar student initiative for "barrier free" washrooms on the first floor of the Shatner Building, which would also be wheelchair accessible. The project was developed and fully realized in 2004.

By April 2008, Concordia VP University Affairs Shandell Jack announced that one-person,

gender-neutral washrooms would be in operation on campus by October of that year. A year later, Former CSU VP President Keyana Kashfi said the project was underway, but they were still awaiting construction plans from the university.

Most recently, the potential gender-neutral bathroom in the Hall Building—room H692—was sidetracked after asbestos was discovered in the space in 2009, with a cleanup cost of \$27,000.

Due to the long weekend, the Concordia administration could not be reached to give an update to *The Link* about the state of the project.

The few gender-neutral bathrooms available for students are located at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute of women's and sexuality studies and the 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy.

"This bureaucratic back and forth since 2005 is taking far too long," said the neutralizer. "But I do understand how this is bound up in privilege. If you are cisgendered [someone who has a gender identity that agrees with their socially recognized sex], you don't have to think about these things every day because you are so used to what society has made accessible to you."

"But in the meantime, I purposely chose the single bathrooms," the neutralizer continued. "I understand there are some people who don't recognize that having a trans person in your bathroom isn't a threat. It's really not harming anyone and it's not like I mislabeled a group bathroom."

How long the signs stay in the EV will also be indicative of Concordia's trans climate on campus, said the neutralizer.



Police arrest activists calling for the release of Mapuche political prisoners. PHOTO ANTITEZO

Mapuche Hunger Strike Continues

Chilean Prisoners Protest Deforestation and Anti-Terrorism Laws

• LES HONYWILL

Fourteen Mapuche aborigines say they are willing to starve themselves to death in a Chilean prison to draw the eyes of the world to their villages, which they say are being leveled by the forestry industry.

Supporters of the Mapuche organized a press conference in Montreal on Oct. 7 to raise awareness of their land claim and the alleged human rights violations being propagated by the Chilean government and its anti-terrorist laws.

"This is a social movement, they are not terrorists," said Armando Navarrete, representative of the Mapuche Nation Support Committee. "[The Mapuche] don't want to stop, they're willing to go until they're dead or as long as the Chilean government continues to apply these anti-terrorist laws."

Many Mapuche have been arrested on arson and destruction of property charges after the Chilean government sold a large portion of their land to forestry companies, allegedly without their consent. But the Mapuche say the arrests are unjust.

Navarrete said Chilean legis-

lation has allowed the presumption of terrorism to trump the presumption of innocence. This has allowed for imprisonment without charges and trial by military tribunals rather than by civilian courts.

"They invented terms, 'terrorist burning' and 'terrorist threats,' but these acts haven't been in the city, it has been on [Mapuche] land," Navarrete said. The laws, he continued, have been implemented specifically to target the Mapuche. "[The accused Mapuche] spend two and a half years in prison before being charged at which point, if they are found not guilty, they will be released. But once they're out they are taken [in] again."

Thirty-eight prisoners had been on the hunger strike since July 12, 2010 protesting the anti-terrorism laws.

Last week, 24 of the prisoners ended their strike following partial reform to the legislation after pressure from Amnesty International and the United Nations on the Chilean Government. But 14 prisoners remain in Chilean hospitals, continuing the protest fast until all Pinochet-era anti-terrorism laws are repealed.

Stuart Myiow, Wolf Clan Rep-

resentative for the Kahnawake Traditional Council, spoke in support of the Mapuche prisoners.

"Why is it that the Mapuche have to go on a hunger strike? Why is it illegal just for them to be alive?" Myiow said. "If we don't take responsibility to fix this, and that means the problems that are plaguing the native people, [we'll] never be able to get back your own humanity. Because how can you be human when you're oppressing people? Humans don't do that. Monsters do that."

Myiow believes the onus of the Mapuche situation lies on the shoulders of all Canadians.

"Everybody is living in numbness where they don't take responsibility for anything, even politicians, the buck is always passed," Myiow said. "Six point five billion people need to realize what our individual responsibilities are. These responsibilities go beyond those to our family and to our nation. They extend to our Mother Earth."

When asked if death was an option for these prisoners who do not achieve their goals, Navarrete was quick to respond, "Absolutely."

ASFA Elections Under Way

Typically-Low Voter Turnout Be Damned



Both VP Communications candidates want to make ASFA more visible. GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

• LAURA BEESTON

As the Arts and Science Federation of Associations campaigning period for a VP Communications came to a close on Oct. 11, all parties are now hoping that students just show up to vote.

"The most important thing is that people know about the election," said Golam Kazi, a contender for the executive position. "We want a voter turnout—whether they vote for me or for the other candidate, it's important they do. If there aren't enough votes, the actual election process is nullified, which is a big waste of time and student money."

Voting takes place Oct. 12 and 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at both campuses.

The election will also feature a referendum question looking to add a seat for a member of Sustainable Concordia to ASFA's sustainable committee.

Typically, the 18,000-member faculty association's byelection voter turnout "can be problematic," said Chief Electoral Officer Nick Cuillerier, who explained that ASFA's general elections only see between 1,000 and 1,250 students vote.

"But we're hoping to improve on that this year [...] trying to reach out and get as many people as possible [to vote] through promotional materials."

"I'm a big proponent of by-elections," he continued. "The students should really decide who gets the position. I mean, these things could be done by appointment, but I really feel that the students should have a choice and participate. It shouldn't be assumed they're not interested in being part of the election process."

Golam Seeks Precious VP Seat

Kazi, a political science major and the resident DJ at ASFA events, agreed that reaching out to students who

"don't know about ASFA or what's going on" was pivotal to last week's campaign.

Using Facebook, posterage and classroom visits, he said making students "feel like part of a team" and "being available" would give him the edge in the competition.

"Talking to people face to face makes a huge difference," he said, adding that, if elected, he would be interested to sit down with students in a style similar to the Coffee with Amine campaign undertaken by last year's Concordia Student Union president.

"I think my experiences [as a DJ] will also really be an asset to ASFA," he said. "That experience has given me the ability to adapt, to learn to work with crowds and to create what people want."

Natasha Launi Missing in Action

Natasha Launi, the other candidate for the position, is a third-year communication studies student, photographer and graphic artist. She was VP Social of the Communications Guild last year.

After repeated attempts by *The Link*, Launi was unavailable for comment about the campaign, but has mapped-out her platform on natasha-launi.com.

Launi's campaign focuses on increasing ASFA's exposure to students by helping the organization use social media to "step up their game in spreading the word about social events, academic opportunities and protests," updating the ASFA website and creating a newsletter.

Students at the Sir George William's Campus can vote in the lobby and on the 4th floor of the Hall Building, as well as the lobby of the LB Building. Students at Loyola can find their polling stations in the lobbies of the AD Building and the SP Pavilion.

More G20 Charges Dropped

• ADAM KOVAC

In a move that some are calling an admission of wrongdoing by the police, many Quebecers who had been charged with conspiracy during June's G20 Summit in Toronto had those charges dismissed on Oct. 8.

Those involved were detained during the early morning on June 27 in a University of Toronto gym where they had been staying during the summit.

Blandine Gux works with the activist group Convergences des luttes anticapitalistes, which had organized the trip to the UofT.

Of those arrested there, about "80 per cent came from Montreal," she said. "Around 70-80 people [who were arrested] had their charges dropped."

Guillaume Tremblay-Boily is one of the protesters who had his charges dismissed. After his arrest, he was held for 62 hours in a deten-

tion centre before being charged with conspiracy to commit mischief.

After his release on bail, he was told not to come back to Ontario except for court dates, and to refrain from participating in protests. He has since become involved with the Regroupement des arrêtés du G20, an organization dedicated to fighting charges stemming from the G20.

"[Hearing about the dropped charges] felt really great, I was really happy, but still it's only the first step towards reestablishment of justice, because now we're going to sue them for the violations of our rights," he said.

Maryse Poisson is a protester who found out she was no longer facing charges of conspiracy to commit an "indictable offense." Despite no longer facing legal repercussions, she maintains some anger at the authorities that detained her for over two days following her arrest.

"I would say I'm happy that the



About 70 to 80 people saw their charges dropped. PHOTO SAM SLOTNICK

charges have been dropped, but I feel that it's all been a kind of theatre," she said. "They spent all this money for security, and maybe they were right to spend it, but maybe they needed something to show for it."

While nobody who spoke to *The Link* could say why the charges had been dropped, Marc Laramée, a spokesperson for Regroupement des arrêtés du G20, was quoted in the *Toronto Sun* as saying that the charges were dropped due to a "lack

of evidence."

Boily agreed, summarizing the evidence he had seen against him as "complete misinformation. They tried to associate all of us with other people we didn't know at all."

Other protesters still face charges, such as conspiracy to obstruct justice, and 19 more are under house arrest while awaiting trial.

The Ontario Attorney General's Office could not be reached for comment by press time.

As to what the charges being dropped said about the controversial tactics used by the police, Gux pulled no punches.

"The crown is basically recognizing they had no reason to arrest people."

There will be a fundraising concert for Regroupement des arrêtés du G20 on Nov. 3 at 8:00 p.m. at Foufounes Electriques (87 Ste. Catherine St. E.)

The Age of Collaboration

The Macrowiki World is Upon Us: Don Tapscott



GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Don Tapscott is an author, media theorist and optimist.

The author of *Macrowikinomics* thinks the world has finally had the wakeup call it has been waiting for after having barely avoided the collapse of the global economy in 2008.

"The economic crisis was really a convulsive shock to the system that I hope will cause a rethinking of all these institutions, from health care and education, to science and government," Tapscott said, sitting in the café of a hotel in Old Montreal.

"The crisis accelerated a lot of secular changes that were happening."

A future of collaboration and openness has already arrived for many people under the age of 30. The current generation of smartphone toting, tweeting, compulsive Facebook users has already em-

braced the world of *Macrowikinomics*.

Tapscott thinks it's time for the rest of the world to adapt to the new age of collaboration.

"The industrial economy and its institutions are clearly running out of gas, that model can't take us forward," said Tapscott. "Whether it is the model of the newspaper, government or global problem solving, these things appear to be in atrophy."

"On the other hand, you have this new communications medium that is enabling whole new models of how things get done in the world. Everywhere, these sparkling new initiatives are underway."

With Wikileaks keeping governments honest, Threadless transforming how art is made and Wikipedia codifying the world's knowledge, the age of collaboration has put a printing press into every bedroom and opened a plethora of

new opportunities.

To digital natives—those born into the Internet—these ideas and institutions might seem natural, but they are revolutionary, according to Tapscott.

"We can rebuild our institutions around collaboration, openness and interdependence. If there is anything we have learned in this crisis, business can't succeed in a world that is failing."

Despite all the promise and opportunities provided by collaboration, Tapscott warned that a future with smart-phones in every pocket could also hold a dark side.

"If we want it to map the galaxy, it will do that. If we want it to organize Tea Party events where the big idea is to end public education, then it will do that too," Tapscott said.

Creating more dialogue and a constant link with the rest of the world will not create a less polar-

ized society, but it will provide a way for everyone to be involved in how society is shaped. Even in formerly elitist circles like the media, the Internet has thrown open the doors, allowing everyone to contribute.

"The old media was one way and it was from one to many. It was centralized and it was controlled. The old expression goes, 'Freedom of the press is a great idea, especially when you own a press.'"

"The new media is the antithesis of all that. It is highly distributed. It is one to one. It is many to many. It is highly decentralized and it has this awesome neutrality, where it will be what we want it to be," said Tapscott.

The impact of this change has been clear on the media. Advertising revenue is down, newspapers have been forced to close and reporters are travelling less and staying at their desks longer. With blogs

and the Internet making information ubiquitous, it is also becoming nearly worthless.

"This is a time of great destruction and great volatility, you are going to see all kinds of crazy things happen," said Tapscott. "Old institutions will fight this."

The most visible part of that fight is taking place in the workplace.

"Young people are going to make this happen, it won't be old people. My generation blew it, we are leaving you guys with a mess," said Tapscott.

"If we don't wake up and provide leadership during this change, instead of fighting it, we may see a clash. In the workplace, a generational clash is shaping up."

"Young people are coming into the workforce and they are smart, collaborative, they have a new culture of collaboration. They are bright eyed and happy to have a job, they are roaring to go and what do we do? We stick them in a cubicle, we try to supervise them, treat them like Dilbert and ban their tools."

Everything from low attendance in classrooms to young people not voting comes from their lack of identification with an industrial system that is collapsing.

Why vote when you can cause change through direct civic engagement like protests and flash mobs? Why attend class and sit through a TA who doesn't know the answers when you can go directly to the source the teacher is consulting?

"Democracy is in danger of being irrelevant," said Tapscott. "I am very concerned, we have a generational class and a clash of old and new. The timing of the two is coincidental, but I am worried."

No Place for the Homeless

New Shaughnessy Village Condos to Transform Neighbourhood



Clockwise from left, Corrie (left) and her sister Christina were turned aside at two different shelters when they first came to Montreal. Mary has frequented Cabot Square for 27 years and refuses to be nudged out. Prével's Le Seville development will be built over the long abandoned Seville Theatre. A statue of John Cabot overlooks a park that has become a hub for the homeless.

PHOTOS CHRISTOPHER CURTIS & RILEY SPARKS

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Young couples line up around the block. The line stretches along a steel fence on Ste. Catherine Street past a heap of rubble that used to be an Indian restaurant. Gradually, they trickle out into the warm September night into a showroom on Lambert Closse Street.

Ordinarily, it's conceivable these people might have avoided the area altogether. For the past 15 years, the western edge of downtown Montreal, also known as Shaughnessy Village, has been decaying. The very block they stand on has been abandoned for three years.

Tonight, each couple is buying up a condo unit in the area's newest phoenix: Le Seville. Before the showroom closes, every available unit in the building is sold.

Across the street an entirely different scene is unfolding. The neighborhood's homeless and working poor gather in Cabot Square, where they have struck an uneasy truce with local police.

Every night they gather in the small park to socialize and maybe drink a few beers. As long as the bottles are kept out of sight and the socializing doesn't extend too far beyond the park, police officers don't generally intervene.

But Shaughnessy Village is undergoing a series of changes that will completely transform the area and threatens to push the local homeless population further from the city core.

Social Housing to the Wayside

Le Seville is a \$112 million, 450-unit condo development that will be erected on the site of the once thriving Seville Theatre. Since the Seville shut its doors in 1985, the neighbourhood went through a

quick decline that saw the Montreal Canadiens relocate their arena downtown and entire blocks of businesses fold.

In 2004, Claridge Investments bought the Seville along with the other buildings on the same city block for \$10 million.

Claridge's majority shareholder is Stephen Bronfman, whose family founded Seagram's and once owned the Montreal Canadiens.

By 2009, Claridge, ACDF Architecture and urban design firm Groupe Cardinal Hardy announced plans to convert the block into a three building complex that would include 1,100 rooms reserved for student housing.

This is where one critic claims the project's fundamental problems arose.

"The city of Montreal requires that any housing development project that exceeds 200 units has to put aside 15 per cent of its units for social housing," said Eric Michaud, a spokesperson for renter rights group Habiter Montréal. "[Claridge] managed to circumvent that requirement because they were building student housing, which was lacking near downtown Montreal. My fear at the time was that they would change the nature of the project from student housing to condos and still not include social housing."

Michaud's fears proved to be prescient.

The student-housing proposal was scrapped later that year. Claridge then enlisted the help of Groupe Prével—a Montreal firm that developed condo projects in former industrial areas Griffintown and St. Henri—and the partners went to work on a new project.

Le Seville was greenlit in April 2010 with no plans to include social housing. As a compromise, Claridge agreed to donate \$680,000—about 0.5 per cent of the project's

budget—towards the construction of a homeless shelter or social housing.

"A shelter is not housing," said Michaud. "It provides only temporary relief instead of long term solutions. And that amount of money can't sustain a shelter over a long period of time."

The practice of excluding social housing from a project of this scale is uncommon in Montreal. District Griffin, a \$750 million condo development located a few blocks south of downtown, will include 275 social housing units. Twenty-five per cent of developer Samcon's Point St. Charles condos are set aside for the construction of social housing.

Darren Becker, a spokesperson for Montreal Mayor Gerald Tremblay, says Le Seville should be a welcome change for a part of the city that has been "derelict for over a decade."

"We're always getting complaints that the city is losing young couples to the suburbs," said Becker. "But after Le Seville sold out in just one day, I think this proves the contrary."

In May, Mayor Tremblay announced potential budget shortfalls of \$400 million from the city's coffers. For a city that depends on property taxes to keep afloat, 450 new homeowners is never bad news.

Life in Cabot Square

For the past two years, homelessness has been a growing concern in Shaughnessy Village.

Sylvie Cornez is the director of Chez Doris, a women's shelter adjacent to Le Seville. She said that lately she is having trouble placing homeless women in overnight shelters.

"Two years ago this wasn't a problem," said Cornez. "We wouldn't leave the office until our clients had a place to sleep that night. We

can't do that anymore."

Cornez said she welcomes the new development if it means the construction of a new homeless shelter in Montreal.

Back at Cabot Square, the city's crowded shelters are an all too present reality. Corrie and her sister Christina left their Odjibwe Mohawk reserve north of Ottawa to come Montreal.

"We just wanted to get away," said Corrie. "To backpack."

Upon arriving in Montreal on Oct. 7, the sisters were turned aside at two shelters and spent their first two nights sleeping outside in near-freezing temperatures.

Then they met Mary at Cabot Square.

"She took us under her wing," said Christina. "She introduced us to other indigenous people in the park and showed us a safe place to sleep. It's like a community here."

Mary came to Montreal from Salluit, one of Quebec's northernmost Inuit communities, over 27 years ago. She spent most of that time living on the streets, including a 10-year period where she was in and out of jail.

For Mary, Cabot Square is a place she can be with other indigenous women without being frequently questioned by the police. She said the new development would likely change that.

"We don't hurt anyone, but the people in those condos won't want to live across the street from us," said Mary. "They'll complain to the police and we'll be kicked out of the park. Well, this is my park, and I'm never leaving."

Mary may not be welcome to loiter in Cabot Square for much longer. In October, the city announced plans to "clean up" the park. No figures or plans are currently available, but a similar project aimed at cleaning up Montreal's Dominion Square has largely elim-

inated the presence of homeless people in the park since it was completed in 2010.

Becker also told *The Link* the Mayor's office was looking into increasing police presence in the area.

The Road Ahead

This week, Mayor Tremblay will unveil a new plan to fight homelessness in Montreal.

"I can't [divulge] the details right now," said Becker. "But the goal is to come up with more rooming, more social housing and to work closely with the police."

A pilot project called Equipe mobile reference is already in place and may be expanded as a part of the mayor's new plan.

EMR has police collaborating with social workers when dealing with the homeless.

"The idea is not to arrest the problem under the rug," said Becker. "This is an issue that is close to the mayor's heart and we want to do whatever we can to fix it, but we need participation from other levels of government."

Michaud isn't buying the party line.

"There was an opportunity to increase social housing in Montreal when Le Seville was planned," he said. "But Habiter Montréal was completely excluded from the process and so was social housing."

Le Seville will start selling its second phase of condos later this fall. If September's one-day sellout is any indication of things to come, Claridge can expect its investment to continue paying dividends.

Whether the influx of middle and upper class homeowners into the area is the shot in the arm the Shaughnessy Village has needed for decades or just a social sweep of Montreal's homeless, the neighbourhood will scarcely resemble itself in just a few years from now.

Tall Order at Montreal's World March of Women

• MEAGAN WOHLBERG

With education, health care, employment, housing and gender-based violence on the agenda, the Quebec Women's Federation will be walking under a big banner at the World March of Women.

The international march, founded by the FFQ in 1998, is taking place in neighbourhoods across the province and in 60 other countries from Oct. 12 to 17. Its aim is to draw attention to poverty, violence, discrimination and marginalization and how they affect women.

Montreal will host a variety of actions, including a regional forum on the privatization of the health care system on Oct. 13.

"The privatization of health care is one of the biggest threats to women's equality that we've seen in the last 40 years," said Alexa Conradi, president of the FFQ.

"Each time the government tries to privatize services, they offload those services to private companies who will then charge us money to have access to them, which is a challenge for those of us who have little money or who have to spend it already on other things like housing and food and education."

The Liberal government's 2010 budget included a proposed mandatory health-care fee for Quebec residents, aimed to increase each year towards a flat rate of \$200 by 2012.

"The other way to offload some of the services is to send them back to women," Conradi continued. "If we return it back to women as we already do with a lot of elder care, then it will be harder for us to occupy spaces in public life, it will be harder for us to find work outside of the home, and

therefore we come back to the situation where women's choices are really limited."

According to the Canadian Women's Health Network, women provide more than 80 per cent of both paid and unpaid health care in Canada and are the most frequent users of the health care system—as patients themselves, or in taking children and relatives, especially seniors, for care. It also reports that paid health care staff—from nurses to housekeeping—have faced massive job losses due to hospital closures and restructurings.

Conradi also argued that women bear the brunt of housing problems, especially as single mothers or victims of domestic violence struggle to find affordable housing.

The FFQ was recently criticized by *La Presse* journalist Marie-Claude Lortie, who questioned the organization's decision to include the war in Afghanistan and the privatization of public services in their new controversial ad campaign with the view that neither are explicitly "women's issues."

The FFQ's response was that all social justice issues are women's issues.

"The advancement of the rights of women cannot exist outside of the advancement of society," they posted on their website. "That's why all social issues interest women. To say otherwise would be troubling."

Other actions planned for this week include a historic walking tour, a rally for affordable housing, an anti-war demonstration and a conference on violence against women that will be taking place at Concordia. The events will finish in Rimouski on Sunday.

QPIRG to Charge Flat Rate Fee



Both student and non student members of QPIRG will pay a \$10 annual membership fee. PHOTO SAM SLOTNICK

• ALESSIA FAUSTINI

The Quebec Public Interest Research Group, Concordia's grassroots and social activist organization, will charge a \$10 membership fee to student and non-student members alike.

To institute the new fee rules, QPIRG amended its constitution at the group's annual general meeting on Oct. 7.

Prior to the change, associate members were only required to pay the equivalent of the student fee levy of three credits per semester, which amounted to 31 cents per credit, or 93 cents per year.

As a result of the amendment, non-students, or associate members, must now pay an annual fee of \$10, which is the same amount that student members pay.

"The rationale behind the change is to ensure that associate member fees are more on par with the average annual fees paid by student members who are enrolled in full time studies at Concordia," said Ashley Fortier, QPIRG's administration coordinator. "Because the large majority of our members are going to school full time at Concordia and paying what amounts to about \$10 a year."

The motion, which Fortier also stated was to ensure that people could not merely pay 93 cents and be given the right to vote on impor-

tant matters with minimal knowledge, was unanimously approved by the more than 60 members in attendance at the AGM held in QPIRG's headquarters at 1500 de Maisonneuve Boulevard West.

"We really want to make QPIRG as accessible as possible and not require that people have to be able to pay in monetary amounts to be a part of the organization," Fortier said. "But for folks who don't have the time or wish to be a volunteer member or for those who aren't student members, this is a means by which they can become involved."

Also on the agenda for the annual meeting was the election of six members to sit on the Conflict Resolution and Complaints Committee, as well as the election of 12 members, six students and six community members, to the Board of Directors.

Rooted in anti-oppression analysis and practices, QPIRG is independent from Concordia's administration and student union and aims to inspire social change through inclusive and non-hierarchical means.

Jaggi Singh, QPIRG's working groups and programs coordinator said that the organization's ultimate goal is to allow members to "meet new people and hopefully to get that spark going of being an active and socially aware member of the Concordia and Montreal community."

Briefs

Golden Boy

Alexandre Despatie claimed gold for his performance in the men's three-metre diving competition yesterday at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi. The Laval native now has eight gold medals since his first appearance at the Games in 1998. His Canadian counterpart Reuben Ross, of Regina, finished right behind Despatie for silver.

Peace Talks

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has confirmed that his government is holding continuing discussions with the Taliban in an attempt to sway moderates away from the group. A new peace council has been instituted to continue peaceful discussions with the Taliban. The peace talks have the full support of the U.S government, according to U.S Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke.

Boroughs to Decide Parking Rates

The city of Montreal has ceded decision-making power on parking rates to the nine original boroughs. Plateau-Mont-Royal councilor Luc Fernandez has already made clear that his borough intends to increase the revenue generated through parking meters, with several other boroughs exploring similar options.

South Shore Man Accused of Attempted Murder

A man accused of attempted murder will be appearing in court on Oct. 12. The 22-year-old allegedly tried to strangle his mother with a shoelace, before hitting his stepfather in the head with the family phone yesterday morning at an apartment building in St. Hubert. The man's stepfather suffered head lacerations but both he and his wife are said to be in stable condition.

Infamous Arsonist Paroled

James O'Brien, who was arrested for an arson that claimed 37 lives in 1972, was recently granted full parole. O'Brien burned down Montreal's Blue Bird Café with two accomplices. O'Brien had been paroled in the past, but repeated problems with alcoholism resulted in his returning to prison on several occasions.

Standing Up Against Homophobia

• CLAY HEMMERICH

Amidst the pouring rain, nearly 100 candles illuminated Parc de l'Espoir where an Oct. 6 vigil was held to commemorate the deaths of young people who suffered through homophobic bullying.

In the month of September alone, there had been five incidents of teen suicides related to homophobic bullying in North America. This is why Jean-Pierre Roussain was compelled to do something after learning that more than two-dozen Canadian and American cities were holding vigils on the same day to bring awareness to the ever-present issue of homophobia amongst teens.

"After reading Toronto's Vigil website [on Friday, Oct. 1], I asked myself, 'what can I do?'" said Roussain.

sain. "It was very short notice for Wednesday. I thought it was going to be just my friends and I."

About 100 people trickled in at different times to show their support for those who have been afflicted by homophobia.

Among those who committed suicide due to bullying last month were Asher Brown, 13, Seth Walsh, 13, Billy Lucas, 15, Justin Aaberg, 15, Tyler Clementi, 18, and Raymond Chase, 19.

"This is a very clear indication of intolerance," said Roussain, reflecting on a news report recounting Brown's last instant of harassment. He had been thrown down a flight of stairs and then someone kicked his books to add insult to injury.

"How low can you bring someone down?" Roussain asked.

Roussain said that it is still

taboo to talk about suicides and their motivations, but it is even more taboo to talk about suicides that were a result of someone's sexual identity.

"People have to really suffer to have to take their own lives," said Roussain. "Maybe they tried to tell people and their community just didn't want to listen."

"I hope through this, things will change around me," he continued. "I will be more aware and accepting of the differences of my own community. I will be able to see and act on things instead of being passive and waiting for things to happen."

Roussain said he has also been the victim of homophobic bullying. He passionately stated that when he lived through peer intimidation at a young age, it felt like it was never going to end.

It Gets Better is a viral video campaign that sex columnist Dan Savage spurred in response to the tragedy. The videos showcase gay adults speaking sincerely about the struggles they went through while coming out, and reassuring those that are in a similar situation that things do get better eventually.

"It's very easy to say [it's going to get better], but when you're living [through the bullying], it's the worst thing to ever go through," said Roussain. "And yes, it does get better."

Although Montreal is well renowned as being a queer-friendly place, the city was not always so accommodating to homosexuals. Montreal police regularly raided gay bars, clubs and sauna's leading up to Expo '67 and before the city hosted the Olympics in 1976.



Montreal, Undercovers



Subtlety gives way to self-expression at the Montreal Fetish Expo. PHOTOS GARY WHITE

Two Festivals have something for the naughty and the nice

• DAVID ADELMAN

Montreal is a city of contradictions: it's a hot-blooded city that suffers through a long, cold winter. It's notorious for having strip-clubs inches away from downtown churches. For years, the city was dominated by the church while still boasting the title of Sin City North.

Perhaps it's because of this historical duality that formerly "underground" sexual events have gained more and more mainstream acceptance over the years.

Our cosmopolitan city has the reputation for being the sex capital of Canada and two major events contribute heavily to this perception: the Montreal Burlesque Festival and Montreal Fetish Week.

The brrr in burlesque

Scarlett James, a burlesque dancer and director of the Montreal Burlesque Festival, was proud to acknowledge that of all the cities in the world she has travelled to, Montreal is the most unique, especially when it comes to sexuality.

"I grew up in sexually-liberated France, where nudity is the norm, but that doesn't compare to Montreal, a city that was Las Vegas before Las Vegas even existed," said James.

Sexuality, according to Sigmund Freud, is the main motivational force of life. James agreed, and went on to say that the sexual aspects of burlesque are more than just a performance or entertainment, but a way to worship the excitement of sexuality.

"I enjoy burlesque because it captures the beauty of foreplay—it entices and teases. Burlesque is about learning and mastering the art of seduction. It's not what you wear, but how you take it off," explained James.

The erotic attraction of the show crosses gender and generation gaps—the people who attended James' burlesque show were not limited to any single demographic. The audience featured both men and women of a wide range of ages.

"The people who have come to my shows in the past and those who will come in the future are not only coming to be entertained, but to celebrate the duality of sexuality and sensuality in Montreal," said James.

James was intrigued by "[1960s era singer-actress] Dalida and her marvelous outfits, Brigitte Bardot, May West, Sally Rand, classic pin-ups, Marilyn Monroe and other mythical American sirens of the silver screen," according to the biography on her website. "She began to dream that, one day, she would have the chance to perform on stage and dazzle audiences in costumes as extravagant as those of her favorite glamorous stars."

Burlesque spanned North America in the 20th century and is defined as a "humorous theatrical entertainment involving parody and sometimes grotesque exaggeration." Burlesque events generally are comprised of a variety show, with a striptease performance as the main event.

James takes great pride in continuing the tradition of not merely

putting on a show, but a spectacle. At a recent event, when the velvet curtains opened and she trotted out in her elaborate period costume, the crowd's jaws drop in unison.

"Burlesque is provocative, but classy at the same time," said James, explaining the growing mainstream appeal. She added that the show is "just a tease, a dip into the waters of sexuality," rather than a full-fledged hedonistic escape.

With two feathery props that she wields with deadly and seductive skill, the scene on stage resembled the masked-sex cult in the film *Eyes Wide Shut*. Unlike the movie, the focus of the show is simple fun, albeit adult-oriented.

Putting the Fête in Fetish

While the redevelopment of lower St. Laurent Boulevard has brought a gloomy feeling to the area, Cabaret Cleopatra still holds a strong sexual presence that lights up the block. The club, which is deeply rooted in downtown Montreal culture and has been around for over 35 years, hosts Club Sin on the top floor, which, once a month, becomes a fetish event.

Montreal Fetish Weekend is a three-day spectacle of techno music, disco balls and dozens of scantily-latex-clad stage performers entertaining the crowd with their sexualized energy. Performers act out roles of bondage, discipline, sadism and masochism, with some in cages or dog chains and "punished" with light spankings.

One notable performer was

dressed as a goat-like pagan god, completely out of dark latex. Aside from performers dressed up in unbelievable designs and costumes, the audience themselves were spectacles to be seen. Montreal Fetish Weekend at Club Sin is unlike any Halloween party that one could attend. The events are essentially unconventional sexual fantasies becoming reality.

Eric Paradis is the producer of Fetish Weekend. Paradis described his event as a time where people, regardless if they are members of the audience or stage performers, can exist as an "expression of the moment" and of their sexuality.

"Montreal will always be one of the best cities in the world to put people together and have celebrations, especially ones that revolve around sexuality," he said.

According to Paradis, Montreal's sensitivity to sexuality is a result of the Quiet Revolution during the '60s, which coincided with the sexual revolution happening in North America.

"This phenomenon opened an awakening to the beauty of sexuality and sensuality and that the human body was not something to be kept in a closet, but to be celebrated," he explained. Paradis opined that Montreal was "reborn" in the '60s and is currently in its sexual prime.

Our history isn't the only factor in our sexual identity, as Paradis listed the weather as a crucial contributor to Montreal's sexuality.

"Montreal really only has two seasons—winter and summer," he said, only half-jokingly. The wide

disparity between the boiling summers and freezing winters make for "endless cycles of rebirths. When the winter ends, the sensuality of Montreal and its inhabitants reflower. The month of September and mid-October is such a crucial time in Montreal because that's the dying days of summer and sensuality. But this cycle makes Montreal such an extraordinary city because Los Angeles and other huge cosmopolitan centres don't have [it]."

James chose September to host her event because people want to end their summers with something fun, sexy and exciting before going back to their regular routines.

"I think the month of September is a time where people want to reconnect on a sexual level, before going into their nook for the winter," she said.

Wake me up when September ends

The mood in Montreal is slowly changing with the colours of the leaves. Both Paradis and James agree that Montreal has a unique open-mindedness when it comes to sexuality and sensuality.

"Every year, it's so incredible to see the sexual energy that people bring to my events," said Paradis. "People come from different backgrounds and professions, slap on some latex and other types of costumes and bask in the beauty of their identities as sexual beings."

As for how to survive the coming cold, James had just one piece of advice.

"Find someone warm to curl up to."

Une Carte Postale

Local Band Postcards Keep It Real with Electronic Sound

• COLIN HARRIS

Great things come in twos: shoes, socks, eyes, mittens, ears, lungs, kidneys, chopsticks and now, local band Postcards.

Dimitri Ohan and Filip Minuta create rhythmic, textural music with drum machines, guitar and vocals. While the guitar has taken a backseat role in the recording of their sophomore record, their electronic aesthetic is nothing new.

"It's always been electronic because recording is electronic. We've never been a straight jam band," Ohan explained. "From the get-go it's just [a matter of] layering the sounds and recording it. Seeing how it sounds. It was never really 'organic' ever."

In the past, the group has used other musicians to flesh out their live sound, but are now taking a different approach.

"There have been a lot of people who have come and gone but I think we finally set on a duo because it was more satisfying having one vision," Ohan said. "The two of us were always making the music and other people would come in [to perform live]. It seems more natural to be a duo."

While live drums kept the beat



Local band makes music for "whoever wants to listen."

on their self-titled release, the group now relies on synthesized rhythms.

"It seems more risky in a way. It's still kind of a taboo; people expect to see a drummer. It's fun to play with those expectations," said Ohan. "We also like the whole as-

pect of pre-recorded tracks. It's nice because we were always trying to reproduce a sound that we came up with [in the studio], but it would not be faithful to what we intended. We're able to capture that sound with pre-recorded [tracks]."

In addition to Montreal's Fixture Records, the band has teamed up with FLA/Skrot Up, independent labels based in Texas and Denmark, for their new album.

"We bonded and said, 'Why don't we make a record together?'"

and that's what we're hoping to finish soon," said Ohan. "The general feeling of being like-minded and enjoying the music is so much better than anything else."

The group experienced that same kind of communal enjoyment in Austin at South By Southwest earlier this year.

"We were lucky because we played with friends. It was the FLA/Skrot Up [showcase] with bands Rave Faction and Dirty Beaches from Montreal and a bunch of other people on the same wavelength as us," he said.

For Postcards, it's that community of like-minded people that is most important. They create music they want to hear for whoever wants to listen. The sound may change but the mentality is the same.

"Not even a genre, more of a feeling really. We just do whatever we do," said Ohan. "You always try to keep the audience in mind but you don't overdo it, otherwise you're pandering."

Postcards are playing with Dirty Beaches, Black Feelings and Rape Fiction on Oct. 14 at L'Interstice in Griffintown (242 Young St.) The show starts at 8:00 p.m.

Possible Worlds

Cosmic Love and Murders in Space

• MICHAEL WILLCOCK

Anything is possible in a sci-fi world. *Possible Worlds* attempts to portray that onstage.

A scientist simultaneously lives on several dimensions of existence. In love with the same woman in each of his alternate realities, he yearns for her contact but contact is seldom.

Meanwhile, people noted for their intelligence have been found dead with their bodies intact and their brains surgically removed.

Confused yet? Fascinated, perhaps? That is the plot of local theatre house Uncalled For's newest production, *Possible Worlds*.

"It's a sci-fi love story, a philosophical murder mystery and a tragedy that spans multiple universes," explained Anders Yates, who is producing the show and playing the role of the protagonist.

"The fleeting connections in the story mirror reality. Science Fiction

is generally used as a way of commenting on life and, in this case, we explore human relationships by looking at the many ways that falling in love with someone can arise only out of a special, specific and unique instance," Yates said.

The Possible Worlds theory sees the world that we live in as being a product of many "possible worlds." According to the theory, for every possible outcome of every event by which the world can be viewed, there exists an alternate reality.

"It is beautiful to see [the protagonist] so devoted to the same woman, no matter what the circumstance," he said, adding that the story is also sad because it shows how difficult it can be for people to connect, considering that all possible circumstances have to be perfect for this to happen. "There is such a small chance for two people to come together."

Celebrated Canadian playwright John Mighton wrote the script for



Possible Worlds explores human possibility.

Possible Worlds. Mighton has won the Governor General's Award for his works, including the published text of *Possible Worlds*.

"The show brings up pertinent issues," Yates said. "It talks about

how far science should be allowed to go."

Use of human beings and animals for scientific research is showcased, leading one to ask whether the pursuit of science justifies

human and animal life being used in experiments.

"How far is too far?" the play asks.

Uncalled For is, primarily, a comedy-based company. "We were reading stacks of plays to figure out exactly which one we wanted to do and this one really jumped out at us. The play spoke to what we do in our comedy already. We like to explore heavy topics like the nature of love, life and reality," said Yates.

"We are still talking amongst ourselves about all of the different possible meanings for the multiple scenarios in the play and their outcomes," he said, noting that every time they rehearse the play, new possibilities for solutions to the puzzles in the story arise.

A preview performance of *Possible Worlds* is open to the public Oct. 13 at 8:00 p.m. and runs until Oct. 21 at Mainline Theatre (3997 St. Laurent Blvd.)

Friendly Factory

Budding Label Re-Claims Old Factory to Harness Local Music



Crane Records has taken over a space in the old Crane factory building in St. Henri to capture local music.

• R. BRIAN HASTIE

From the ashes of an old industry rises a new one.

The remains of the old Crane factory building in the south west borough of St. Henri have been re-configured to house lofts and Crane Records.

“[Crane Records] is an artist collective recording space,” said Jenna Harkness, one of the label’s members.

“It’s a purpose-built, recycled space that focuses on artist creativity, collaboration and freedom rather than solely being a business venture focused on profit,” she said.

Recent Concordia communications studies graduate Harkness and Crane Records partner Matt Cartman conceived the project, but Harkness stressed that “there were numerous people involved from the beginning, which is essentially how it has turned out the way it has.”

The group aided in “helping construct the space, lending [sound equipment] and advertising,” said Harkness. “It has been quite a collaboration from the beginning.”

The duo at the core of Crane Records explained that the performance aspect of recording is of paramount importance to the budding label.

“A lot of [Crane’s] influence comes from the older style of studios, like Motown or Stax and Sun,” Harkness said. “These [studios] were centered around capturing great musical performances right off the bat, as opposed to manipulating them afterward.”

Although studios like Sun Records released relatively simple, lo-fi music from over 50 years ago, Harkness considers the recordings to be some of “the best ever made because of the way they captured the music, the feeling, and that moment in time.”

In a city known for its myriad number of recording spaces, Harkness told how Crane Records plans

to set itself apart from all of the others.

“The artist-centered mentality, the affordable rates and the fact that we are a space specifically designed for music production helps,” she said.

Crane Records plans on releasing a 10-track compilation during this weekend’s open house in order to showcase the studio’s abilities to anyone who might be interested in recording at the space.

Harkness added that the financial angle is currently not the underlying motivation behind the project.

“The main financial goal is to have enough money coming into the studio to make the space sustainable and to keep recording prices affordable to the artists,” she said.

“A recording studio is about the experience in itself and collaborating with other artists in a purpose-built space,” she continued. “We’re all about DIY but we know from experience there is only so far you can go with consumer-grade equipment in your bedroom. The studio environment encourages learning and the freedom to create beyond the boundaries of a home-recording environment.”

Crane Records is located at 2205 Pitt St., Apt. 304, and their open house/studio launch will take place on Oct. 16 from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Stick around for the after party, which kicks off at 10:00 p.m., with free beer provided by Tasty Brews. Their website will also be launched on Oct. 16.

An Inspiring Account of Non-violent Resistance in Palestine

• MEAGAN WOHLBERG

“Death, stealing and uprooting the trees are one and the same,” says an old landowner, looking to the horizon where Israel planned to erect its infamous wall in early 2004.

Budrus, the award-winning 2009 documentary by Brazilian-American Julia Bacha, was featured last week at Cinema du Parc for the seventh edition of the Palestinian Perspectives film series alongside two documentaries by Palestinian-Lebanese filmmaker Nasri Hajjaj and another on activist Rachel Corrie, who was killed in Gaza.

The film centers on the tiny village of Budrus in the West Bank where 1,500 people risked their lives to protect their land over a period of 10 months in 2004, defying bulldozers, tear gas, live ammunition and an imposed curfew to protect the olive trees in the region and fight a “security barrier” that would completely enclose their village.

Its planned route would have cut through farming lands and taken 300 acres and 3,000 life-giving olive trees. It would have, if not for the months of protests that stopped its construction.

Through intense live-action footage of the demonstrations, *Budrus* chronicles over 50 non-violent marches and blockades involving Palestinian men, women and children, international activists and sympathetic Israelis.

Budrus is a rare story from the Middle East where persistent action succeeds in thwarting the occupation in a relatively small but profound way. At the centre of the film is movement organizer Ayed Morrar, a villager from Budrus and formerly imprisoned Fatah member, and his fearless 15-year-old daughter Iltezam as they attempt to unify factions within Palestine and work in solidarity with Israeli supporters.

Including interviews with the IBP, activists from Israel and South Africa and villagers of all ages, the film gives a balanced account of the dispute, moving beyond borders into complex human relationships.

The documentary also shows how the protests in Budrus have set an example for the rest of the occupied territories and the world. The movement that Morrar started has garnered international support and has since sparked protest throughout villages in the West Bank, including the popular protests of the barrier in Bil’in.

spins

Belle and Sebastian

Write About Love

Rough Trade



Sometimes bands just know what you want. And for Belle and Sebastian, it meant sensing our imminent need for a good dose of folk-pop as autumn rolls around.

Write About Love is chock-full of catchy lyrics, twangy guitars and energetic keyboards to liven up even the dreariest October morning. “I Didn’t See It Coming” opens the album with eerily quiet sounds, only to launch into a melodic orchestra carrying a rhythm that will puppeteer your head back and forth.

Press play on “I Want the World to Stop”

8/10

—Sofia Gay

Antony and the Johnsons

Swanlights

Secretly Canadian



Setting out to write anything

related to Antony and the Johnsons is asking to pull out the thesaurus and look up “sad” and “heartbreaking” and then “poignant” and “moving.” But gosh, has he done it again.

Antony Hegarty writes songs that act in similar ways that the literary device of the euphemism does. Although these songs are heartfelt and acutely sensitive, they are so beautifully composed that you can’t help but get sucked into it all.

In “Ghosts,” Hegarty sings, “Leap from my heart and find your way/ Chase the river/ Chase the sunlight/ Do not stay” and then

“Snake, snake, shed your skin and go away.” The desperation and pain behind Hegarty’s voice reverberates poetically. The song is pure perfection.

The album remains true to the distinctive Antony and the Johnsons sound. One of the album’s highlights is on “Fletta,” where Bjork makes a welcome appearance. Her vocals are an added oddity to the album.

On this album, melancholic and tragic songs grow wings and emerge as hopeful, euphoric songs. Somehow, Hegarty transforms the listener. Somehow he stays purely authentic and untouched by stereotype. Beautifully haunting music that will chill you to the bone if you let it (and you should).

7/10

—Ashley Opheim

Blue Hawaii

A Band Who Won't Surf the Same Wave Twice



Blue Hawaii want to try new things on their forthcoming album.

• ALEX MCGILL

Blue Hawaii has reasons to be melancholic about Art Matters events.

"It was actually on the Art Matters Opening Party night we decided to make music together," explained Alex Cowan, who, along with Raphaëlle Standell-Preston, comprise the two-piece electro-pop group. "It went really well, we were just jamming on the stage. I had synched her loop pedal to some of the software I was using and it sounded really good and we were really excited about it."

But it was a trip through South America that threw the duo the inspiration needed to create their first album, *Blooming Summer*.

"Our album is based a lot on our experiences down there," said Cowan. "We were constantly surrounded by water and sand and palm trees and all this beautiful idyllic dream-like imagery. So it's really nice to be able to reflect [our music] on that [experience]—all the warmth and that beauty."

Cowan added that the experience wasn't all fun and rainbows. "Hidden beneath [the beauty] there were also lots of strange and weird unaccountable kinds of forces. We tried to communicate that as well."

Blooming Summer uses guitars, synths, drum machines and other electronics, as well as both of their voices as instruments, to create the floaty, sonically textured electro-pop that is characteristic of their music.

Both Cowan and Standell-Preston had been involved in the Montreal music scene before they formed Blue Hawaii. Standell-Preston is a member of local band Braids and also plays under the moniker of Indiensoci for her solo work.

Cowan helped run creative loft space and music venue Lab Synthèse. Since its closure, he has been a part of the Arbutus Records team that sprouted from that space. With each tackling other projects, the production process of their album was fit into two tight schedules.

"I would come to the table with a bunch of song ideas and melodies and chords and stuff and she would work out a vocal line and we would produce it together, but we always started from separate positions," said Cowan.

"Since it's electronic music, we started with the recording itself as creation. Whatever we did, it was recorded. A lot of the lyrics were really spontaneous. Once everything was in place, we kind of saw what was natural for us and refined it so it was more unified."

The pair have already gotten started on their next album but are approaching it a bit differently this time. "We're trying to go at it the more old-fashioned way now, with instruments. It's really healthy, but very difficult," said Cowan.

Cowan is conscious of the obstacles Blue Hawaii will likely face after the success of their first album. "It's really important to be making something meaningful. I mean, our lives are so meaningful already and if you can just change and develop as your life does, that's great. This [new album] is one of the ways we're doing that."

"What we did with [*Blooming Summer*] worked really well, but if we just did the exact same thing again, we wouldn't be doing anything new."

Blue Hawaii play Casa del Popolo (4873 St. Laurent Blvd.) on Oct. 29. The show starts at 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8.

Water: A Right or a Commodity?

• STEPHANIE LA LEGGIA

Whether it's mineral, flavoured, sparkling or simply flat, buying bottled water has become a habit for the young.

Liz Marshall's documentary *Water on the Table*, featuring Maude Barlow, demands an answer to the question of whether water is a commodity or a right.

The film follows water-warrior Barlow—the national chairperson of the Council of Canadians and author of 16 best-selling books—over the course of a year. *Water On The Table* documents her time, energy and political struggles as she fights the corporate abuse of water.

"There's a mighty struggle taking place in the world between those who see water as a commodity to be put on the open market like running shoes or Coca-Cola and sold to the highest bidder, and those who say, 'No, it's part of our common heritage. It's a public trust. It belongs to other species and it belongs to future generations as much as it belongs to this one,'" Barlow said.

Although many companies refused to take part in the film, the film provides shocking facts and compelling visuals. It will become difficult for corporations to continue to ignore the masses of people alongside the fence at Dump Site 41 and the powerful native

voices protesting Alberta's tar sands.

"Our creator put us here on this earth with our hands. We are supposed to live on our earth undisturbed until the end of time," said Fort Chipewyan elder Josephine Mercredi about her polluted land. "Our treaties were supposed to protect our way of life; it is now broken."

For every barrel of oil that is retrieved, three to five barrels of water are being destroyed in the tar sands. With 3 million barrels a day and a demolished boreal forest the size of Greece, Alberta's oil sands, said Barlow, are "Canada's Mordor."

"As a Canadian, I feel incredibly

lucky to live in a country with such a water heritage. It is part of our national identity," said Marshall.

While other countries suffer from lack of water, Canadians are destroying and exploiting what's keeping us alive. Barlow believes that the lack of honest political leaders is at the source of the problem.

Whether Canada's water should be sold or shared is a continuous debate.

"Corporate-controlled nanotechnology will clean our sewage water and sell it to private utilities, which will in turn sell it back to us at huge profit," Barlow said.

Water on the Table is a wake-

up call for many Canadians who take for granted the luxury of having clean, fresh water at the touch of a knob without questioning how long this resource will last.

"[The documentary] presents some chilling information, but it should not make the audience feel depressed. Instead, my hope is for people to become active and conscious after experiencing the film," said Marshall.

Water On The Table will be screened Oct. 12 at Concordia (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. in Room H-110) in conjunction with Cinema Politica. The film is free of charge and will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Modern Mythmaking

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Montreal author Claude Lalumière knew he was an atheist by age 10, as did graphic artist Rupert Bottenberg.

But neither of them quite knew how to reconcile their beliefs—or lack thereof—with their obsession with cryptom mythology and ancient superstitions.

With the launch of *Lost Myths.net*, Lalumière and Bottenberg have officially entered the mythmaking game. But unlike their mythological forebears, they admit it's all hogwash.

"I am an atheist, but I'm fascinated by myths. And I think that's kind of common of atheists to really know a lot about [religion] and to be well versed in it," said Lalumière. "I remember back when I was a kid in elementary school, I would finish my work really quickly so I could go pick up the dictionary and flip through it and I would always glance at those descriptions of gods and follow all the cross-references."

Bottenberg approached Lalumière with a proposal while looking for a project to mark his return to his comic roots.

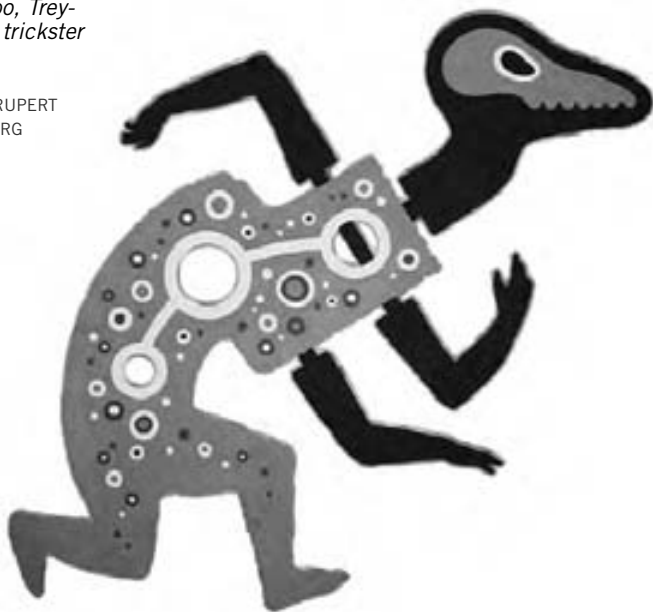
"I asked him, 'Do you have one loose little short story lying around

that I could use as a practice and an exercise?' and his face lit up. It turned out he had a whole stack of stories that he'd gathered under the title of *Lost Myths*."

Taking it from there, the two artists began their sojourn into

Zerberobo, Treymurgian trickster god

GRAPHIC RUPERT BOTTENBERG



mythmaking, sometimes beginning with an illustration by Bottenberg or a piece of Lalumière's prose, or sometimes a bit of both.

The site features myths presented in comic form, in handy post-card size and as audio presentations read by Lalumière with accompanying orchestration, with all of the stories illustrated by Bottenberg.

what we do, at its core, it's actually very old media."

As a visual artist, Bottenberg said he's as inspired by cereal boxes from the '50s as he is by primitive folk art—the cave paintings at Lascaux, France being what he considers the "high point" of graphic representation.

"So much religious work has so much to offer me as a secular artist, whether it knows it or not," said Bottenberg. "Often inadvertently it taps into some very deep, truthful things about the human experience."

Whether or not the venture brings them financial compensation, Bottenberg said the bottom line for both artists is the sheer thrill and satisfaction of being the creators of their own creationist tracts that don't purport to be anything more than tall tales.

"It definitely feels like *Lost Myths* is my life's work, that this is what I bring to the table [that] no one else is bringing," said Lalumière.

Lost Myths is updated with a new myth every Thursday at www.lostmyths.net

Having a Gas

• ISADORA ARREDONDO

"We are, all of us, after a myth, I think," Peter Dubé says in his new book *Subtle Bodies: A Fantasia on Voice, History and René Crevel*.

"Every one of us scribbling our weird tales, or drawing incongruous pictures, hopes for something that is both vital enough and subtle enough to walk away from us and into the lives of multitudes."

Montreal writer and critic Dubé has chosen to unveil such a myth by imagining in fiction the life—and death—of surrealist writer René Crevel.

Doing justice to one's favourite authors is not an easy task. *Subtle Bodies* is Dubé's fictional tribute to the entropic mind of Crevel and his struggle in the intellectual revolution of the thunderous '30s in Paris.

Dubé attempts to evoke the tone of life in a society corroded by a profound demoralization, with a body of surrealists nursing their apathy through the Freudian process of psychic automatism and limitless expression.

The story is divided into three parts: *Bodies of Speech*, *Bodies of*

Desire and Bodies of Power.

The first two are an insight into Crevel's intellectual and emotional experiences, as he fights with oppressed feelings towards his best friend André Breton and explores the powerful nature of language in symbiosis with his mind.

The third part is his inevitable encounter with a hypocritical body of politics and the disassembling of his ideals as they come into increasing contact—and conflict—with reality.

Crevel's story is certainly a frantic and controversial one. His battle with tuberculosis and his dismissal from the Surrealists—due to his homosexual inclinations and his "too Communist approaches"—bring him to an abyss where his own death becomes the ultimate solution.

Accordingly, the plot is centered on all those incidents that bring him to commit suicide by inhaling gas, specifically his thoughts as he takes in his last gasps.

In terms of a biographical mapping, Dubé does a good job. In a shade more than 100 pages, he is able to capture Crevel's dilemmas and their culmination in an accessi-

"Claude is essentially channeling the fireside storyteller, which is at the root of the dissemination of mythology," said Bottenberg. "For all the new media aspects of



The surreal death GRAPHIC DAVID BARLOW-KRELINA

ble language. Whether he is able to render visible Crevel's inner turmoil is perhaps more up to discussion, however.

Dubé will be reading from *Subtle Bodies* at Casa del Popolo (4873 St. Laurent Blvd.) on Oct. 18. at 7:00 p.m.

Lit Events

Rencontre avec le poète Fernand Ouellette

With Madame Michèle des Trois Maisons and featuring edible books

Oct. 12
7:30 p.m. onwards
Maison des arts de Laval,
1395 de la Concorde
Blvd. 0.

George Wall
Shakespeare
Lectures: The
Tragedies

Antony & Cleopatra

Oct. 13
11:00 a.m. onwards
The Atwater Library
1200 Atwater Ave.
Admission \$20

Local Legends
Reading Series

Featuring Louis Rastelli
Reading From *A Fine Ending*

Oct. 13
7:00 p.m. onwards
Concordia Community
Solidarity Co-op
Bookstore
2150 Bishop St.
Pay What You Can
(\$2 donation suggested)

FOOTBALL



The Stingers will have to work on their ball carrying abilities if they are to defeat the Sherbrooke Vert et Or this Saturday away from home. PHOTO JOSEPH STE MARIE

see story, pg. 22

schedule

MEN'S SOCCER v Sherbrooke 8:30 p.m. FRIDAY v Laval 3:00 p.m. SUNDAY
WOMEN'S SOCCER v Sherbrooke 6:30 p.m. FRIDAY v Laval 1:00 p.m. SUNDAY
MEN'S BASKETBALL 7:30 p.m. @ St. Lawrence College Tournament @ Wilfrid Laurier University THURSDAY TO SATURDAY
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Tournament @ University of Manitoba FRIDAY TO SUNDAY
WOMEN'S HOCKEY @ U de M 7:00 p.m. FRIDAY v Ottawa 2:30 p.m. SATURDAY
MEN'S HOCKEY @ Carleton 3:00 p.m. SATURDAY v Ottawa 3:00 p.m. SUNDAY
FOOTBALL @ Sherbrooke 1:00 p.m. SATURDAY
WOMEN'S RUGBY @ McGill 1:00 p.m. SUNDAY
MEN'S RUGBY @ Sherbrooke 3:00 p.m. SUNDAY

scoreboard



BASEBALL

W 10-1 v JAC	thurs
W 13-3 v McGill	fri
W 15-2 v McGill	fri
W 9-1 v Ottawa	sat
L 5-6 v Ottawa	sat
W 14-5 v Ottawa	sun

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

L 4-7 v McGill	fri
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WOMEN'S RUGBY

W 15-10 v Laval	sun
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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

L 54-88 v UNB	fri
W 57-45 v Dalhousie	fri
L 56-60 v Calgary	sun

MEN'S BASKETBALL

W 85-80 v Winnipeg	fri
W 73-72 v NYIT	sat

MEN'S HOCKEY

W 7-4 v Ryerson	fri
W 8-5 v Queen's	sat

FOOTBALL

W 21-11 v McGill	sat
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McGill Extends Winning Streak

Tough First Period Costs Women's Hockey Team in Season Opener



Concordia has now lost 34 straight games to the Martlets. PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

• ALEX DI PIETRO

McGill 7

Concordia 4

The Quebec university women's hockey season opened on Oct. 8 at McConnell Arena, with an action-packed game that ended 7-4 in favour of the McGill Martlets over the visiting Concordia Stingers.

"Obviously McGill is the team to beat and they've got a lot of veterans when you look at the age of some of their players," said Concordia head coach Les Lawton, whose team conceded five goals in the opening 20 minutes.

"I'm really proud of the way the team responded after being down

by such a big score [at the end of] the first period."

Veteran goaltender Audrey Doyon-Lessard saved 47 of 54 shots. Scoring for the Stingers were forwards Erin Lally, who notched a brace, Maggie MacNeil and Emilie Bocchia.

Amazingly, it took four powerplays for the Martlets to finally capitalize with an extra player—an aspect of the game McGill coach Peter Smith thinks will improve with time.

"I just didn't think we shot the puck enough," he said. "We got a little bit too fancy and should have gotten more pucks to the net on the powerplay."

McGill opened the scoring just 30 seconds into the game when Martlet Leslie Oles fired a shot into

the top right corner. Sniper Ann-Sophie Bettez, defender Caroline Hill and forward Katia Clément-Heydra followed up with three more goals before the Stingers were awarded a power-play opportunity with 1:48 left in the first.

Unfortunately, Concordia got caught in the offensive zone barely a minute in, which allowed for Martlet Lainie Smith to exploit the left side and beat Doyon-Lessard to her right for an unassisted short-handed marker.

But exactly 20 seconds later, Lally scored with the man-advantage to make it 5-1 after the first period.

"I told them, 'listen, there's nothing we can do about what's happened. We didn't get any breaks at all in the first, but if we

keep working hard, we'll get some breaks,'" Lawton told his players during the first intermission.

The Stingers came out at the start of the second period looking a lot better than they did in the first—until getting into more penalty trouble.

After the Concordia penalty-killers did another fine job of stifling the McGill attackers during a penalty issued to MacNeil, they would break down with only one second left in a penalty to forward Hayley Boyd just eight minutes later. The Martlets' newly appointed captain and powerplay quarterback Cathy Chartrand blasted a slap shot from the middle to make it 6-1 for McGill.

The Stingers doubled their tally when rookie Shannon

O'Reilly's soft shot on net was eventually put over the line by MacNeil 12 seconds from the end of the penultimate period.

Doyon-Lessard made a flurry of stops in the third period and allowed just one goal by Gillian Ferrari, while the Stingers made the most of their three shots as Bocchia and MacNeil each scored to narrow the deficit to three goals.

"The beginning [of the game] wasn't great," said Bocchia, who also recorded an assist on the night. "But we picked it up in the second and definitely won the last period, which I thought showed a lot of character."

The women's hockey team will visit the Université de Montréal Carabins Oct. 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Is CrossFit for Concordia?

A Deeper Look Into the Workout Routine's Used in Montreal



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

• SHAWN MCCRORY

Some think CrossFit could be a way to get Concordia's student athletes to the next level of performance, while others think it's an invitation to injury.

In 2001, CrossFit founder Greg Glassman, known simply as "Coach" to his disciples, adopted a new definition of fitness that includes 10 categories: cardiovascular and respiratory endurance, stamina, strength, flexibility, power, speed, coordination, agility, balance and accuracy.

Glassman developed a program to increase an individual's work capacity across the 10 categories in order to facilitate the performance of all physical tasks.

"[It's] a strength and conditioning program based on high-intensity and functional movements to get in shape," said Simon Belzile, an instructor at the Abattoir, a CrossFit affiliate located in the Plateau.

The "Workout of the Day", or WOD in CrossFit lingo, is freely available online. This approach

created a global online community where people discuss and compare results.

CrossFit has grown to include over 1,500 affiliates, including nine in the Montreal area. L'Abattoir counts some 90 members.

The training involved is not about building bigger muscles or looking good—you won't find a mirror in a CrossFit gym. According to Belzile, "[CrossFit is meant] to [help] prepare for life."

Workouts are built around highly-functional exercises to stimulate as many muscle groups as possible. Some movements are based on traditional Olympic lifts involving barbells, while others simply use body weight as resistance.

The workouts consist in circuit training and have two basic structures: perform the prescribed number of repetitions of each exercise in the circuit as quickly as possible, or as many times as possible, within the given time.

Aside from low-tech fitness equipment and one's own body

weight, all that is required is a timer and a whiteboard to record the results.

Performance is a matter of public record. This method allows people to compete for the best times and bragging rights.

"In CrossFit, it's always a competitive setting," said Belzile, who believes CrossFit's competitive dynamic may allow ordinary people to feel like, and perhaps become, elite professional athletes.

Some people, notably members of the National Strength and Conditioning Association—a long-standing exercise authority, criticize CrossFit's "cavalier" attitude towards technique and injury. Critics point to the potential for a variety of injuries.

"I've applied most of their stuff and it works," said Joel Forbes about the NSCA. Forbes is a personal trainer at Concordia's Le Gym.

"When you deal with complex movements like that and you do them excessively, there's a huge risk of injury," he said.

Evan Ross, a Concordia graduate and a former student athletic therapist for the Stingers' football team, thinks CrossFit has potential, but is also concerned that it might be dangerous.

"It's not for everyone. The fact that it's on a website is dangerous for newbies. People need supervision to do that kind of stuff safely," said Ross. "It is the next step. People are finding an outlet to be creative with exercise. It is one of the highest levels of fitness training out there."

Ross currently works as a personal trainer and studies osteopathy. He believes that, for many, the risks outweigh the benefits. But for a select few, like the Concordia Stingers, the rewards are obvious.

"For a high-level athlete, that's the kind of training they should be doing," said Ross.

Some contend that CrossFit's generalist approach is not well suited to the highly-specialized needs of athletes.

"You really have to concentrate on one thing at a time," said

Forbes.

Some see CrossFit as a sport in its own right.

"Like in any sport, there's a risk of injury. There are many more injuries playing hockey or just running," said Belzile. "For some of us it's a sport, [and] when I present CrossFit to people, I like to present it as a sport."

Many people feel the same way as Belzile. In 2007, the inaugural CrossFit Games were held to provide "The ultimate proving grounds of the world's fittest athletes." It brought together elite crossfitters to compete for cash prizes.

The annual event has grown in size and scale. The Games are limited to a small number of participants, with 13 regional qualifiers held around the world to select the 2010 finalists.

Starting to fill a competitive void between qualifiers and finals for crossfitters in Quebec, the first ever CrossFit circuit du Québec will take place Oct. 23 at CrossFit Montréal at 4850 Saint-Ambroise St.

Baseball Team Beats John Abbott, Notches Playoff Wins

• DAVID KAUFMANN

Concordia 10

John Abbott College 1

Concordia's men's baseball team clinched a playoff spot on Oct. 7 with a 10-1 win over the John Abbott Islanders at Trudeau Park.

"What's happening now is that the team is finally starting to gel. I think we're finally starting to show some discipline," said Stingers manager Howard Schwartz.

Schwartz believes his team's success lies within his pitching. "I think we have the pitching to win it in a short series. I think we have

three solid pitchers who can shut down. I mean, one is lights out, and a couple of others are there," he said.

Stingers outfielder Alex Lusk, who scored a late run in Thursday's game, had a similar opinion.

"If the hitting comes around in the playoffs, we're going to have a good shot to win the first round and probably even more," he said.

Lusk would turn out to be right, as Concordia promptly followed up the win versus John Abbott with victories over the McGill Redbirds and defeated the Ottawa Gee Gees in a best-of-three playoff series over the weekend.

The Stingers got to John Abbott pitcher Martin Gagnier early as

Mark Nadler, Andre Lagarde and Richard Leibovitch all scored to put them up 3-0 in the top of the first.

In the bottom of that same inning, the Islanders snuck a run in after Stingers pitcher Matt Cuffaro allowed one too many players on base. That run would be Cuffaro's only hiccup in an otherwise nearly-perfect game.

The Stingers continued their destruction of John Abbott, as Kevin Shelton stole a base and was later driven home by Marc-André Fleury for a 4-1 lead.

After a short fourth inning, the Stingers pounded more points out in the fifth as both Shelton and Lagarde added their second RBIs of the game.

Shortly after, Islanders relief pitcher Patrick Coyle hit ConU's Marty Chambers with a pitch. Chambers eventually found his way to home plate. At that point, the Stingers had a commanding 8-1 lead. The Stingers closed out the game with two additional runs, effectively ending the Islanders' season.

While the Islanders were playing against a more skilled Stingers team, manager Marc André Côté was in a kind mood, deciding to play his entire roster.

"If you talk about the results of the games, tonight everybody was playing. The result for us is that we knew we were out already. We wanted to be fair to every player

who played for us this year and made sure everyone got into the game," he said.

The game marked the end of an era for Côté, as he and assistant coach Dale Bradley have called it a career after 15 seasons.

"It was a special thing tonight to end our coaching career against these guys," said Côté.

Meanwhile the Stingers were ecstatic with their victory.

"It always helps out a pitcher when your defence and bats come out to play," said Cuffaro.

With the win over the Islanders, the Stingers are confident that they can repeat last year's national championship win with the team they have.



Fourth Quarter Madness

After trailing by three points heading into the final quarter, the Stingers took full advantage of the mistakes made by the McGill Redmen. PHOTO JOSEPH STE MARIE

Football Team Scores 13 Unanswered Points for Victory over Redmen

• ALEX DI PIETRO

Concordia 21

McGill 11

The Concordia Stingers' football team prevailed in a 21-11 defensive battle with the McGill Redmen on Oct. 9 at Concordia Stadium, notching more points in the fourth quarter than the entire first half combined.

"We're playing playoff level defence, but our offensive line was subpar today and I don't even want to talk about all the balls our receivers dropped," said Stingers head coach Gerry McGrath. "That's not university calibre football from our receivers today and I'm pretty upset about it."

There were at least three or

four opportunities throughout the game where the Concordia receivers couldn't come down with the ball after quarterback Terrance Morsink supplied seemingly-catchable passes.

"That stuff happens," said Morsink. "I misread sometimes and I'm sure that's frustrating for them when they're wide open down the field and I don't see it."

The win gives the Stingers some security as playoff contenders—they currently sit fourth in the Quebec University Football League standings.

The same cannot be said for McGill, despite the fact that the team recorded 371 yards of total offence to Concordia's 183.

"Our team is and will not be capable of winning games when we commit turnovers," said Redmen coach Sonny Wolfe, whose team has not won a game this

season. "Concordia played hard and won the game justly, but we helped them a little bit."

After a scoreless first quarter, McGill took the lead early in the second. Putting an end to a drive that included 43 rushing yards from Redman Taylor Kuprowski, kicker Austin Anderson powered a field goal through the uprights from 18 yards out.

Concordia then went down 5-0 after conceding a safety. Deep into the second quarter, Morsink decided to take matters into his own hands to score the game's opening touchdown.

Following an incomplete pass to Michael Harrington on 1st and 10 from McGill's 19-yard line with 1:47 to go, Morsink elected to run on 2nd down and found space on the left side for a 16-yard gain. Running back Edem Nyamadi was then stuffed on the

line before Morsink, absorbing a huge hit, punched the ball into the end zone to give Concordia a 7-5 lead at halftime.

Kuprowski would regain the lead for his team at 9:11 of the third, accepting the handoff from QB Ryne Bondy and finishing his team's drive with a 1-yard touchdown run into the end zone. McGill went for the two-point conversion, but Bondy rifled a pass right into Stingers cornerback Kris Robertson's arms.

Concordia punter Dumitru Ionita put his team within three points minutes before the third quarter ended, as his long punt crept through the end zone for a single.

The Stingers took over in the fourth quarter, as linebacker Alex Lemire recovered a fumble by Kuprowski at his team's own 29-yard line. Morsink then ran on

2nd and 10 and once again came up with another 16-yard gain. He then completed the drive with a 13-yard touchdown pass to Harrington, but kicker Rene Paredes had his convert blocked.

"He missed a lot of things today that he's got to get better at," said McGrath on Morsink's performance. "I appreciate his leadership, courage and resourcefulness at times by making plays with his feet, but he's got to get through his read progression much more quickly and efficiently."

Concordia running back Michael Donnelly made his mark on the game, recording a seven-yard touchdown run to cap a late drive with 5:58 left.

The football team's next encounter will be at the Université de Sherbrooke Oct. 16 at 1:00 p.m.

Nike Tournament Glory

Men's Basketball Team Regains its Title, Uses Tournament as Preparation

• BADR BENASSILA

The men's basketball team erased memories of last year's defeat to Wilfrid Laurier University by winning the annual Concordia-Nike Tournament 73-72 over the New York Institute of Technology Bears Saturday night at Loyola Gym.

This year's installment of the tournament involved the Stingers, NYIT Bears, Ryerson Rams and the Winnipeg Wesmen.

En route to the final, the

Stingers had to overcome the Wesmen in the first round, which they did with a 85-80 result.

Throughout the first quarter of that game, the Stingers employed an aggressive style on defence by stripping the Winnipeg players of the ball on several occasions and countering with points at the other end.

The next two quarters were dominated by the Wesmen, thanks to a better strategic organization that ended up being disrupted by the Stingers during the last quarter.

"We ended up coming out on the losing side," said Wesmen head coach Mike Rimbault. "[There were] a lot of positives, as well as things to clean up."

Rimbault said he found the game very instructive since it highlighted what the new players had to improve before starting the 2010-2011 season.

Stingers head coach John Dore said he was happy that there was chemistry between the new additions and more experienced players.

"We should be improved from

last year," he said. "We had some turnovers but showed we could come back."

Decee Krah and Kyle Desmarais led the Stingers in points with 24 and 22, respectively in Friday's game.

"As long as we focus on our game and work hard, we'll get better," said Krah, a 4th-year marketing student who played at Cathedral High School in Hamilton, Ont.

Desmarais recently transferred to the Stingers from Cen-

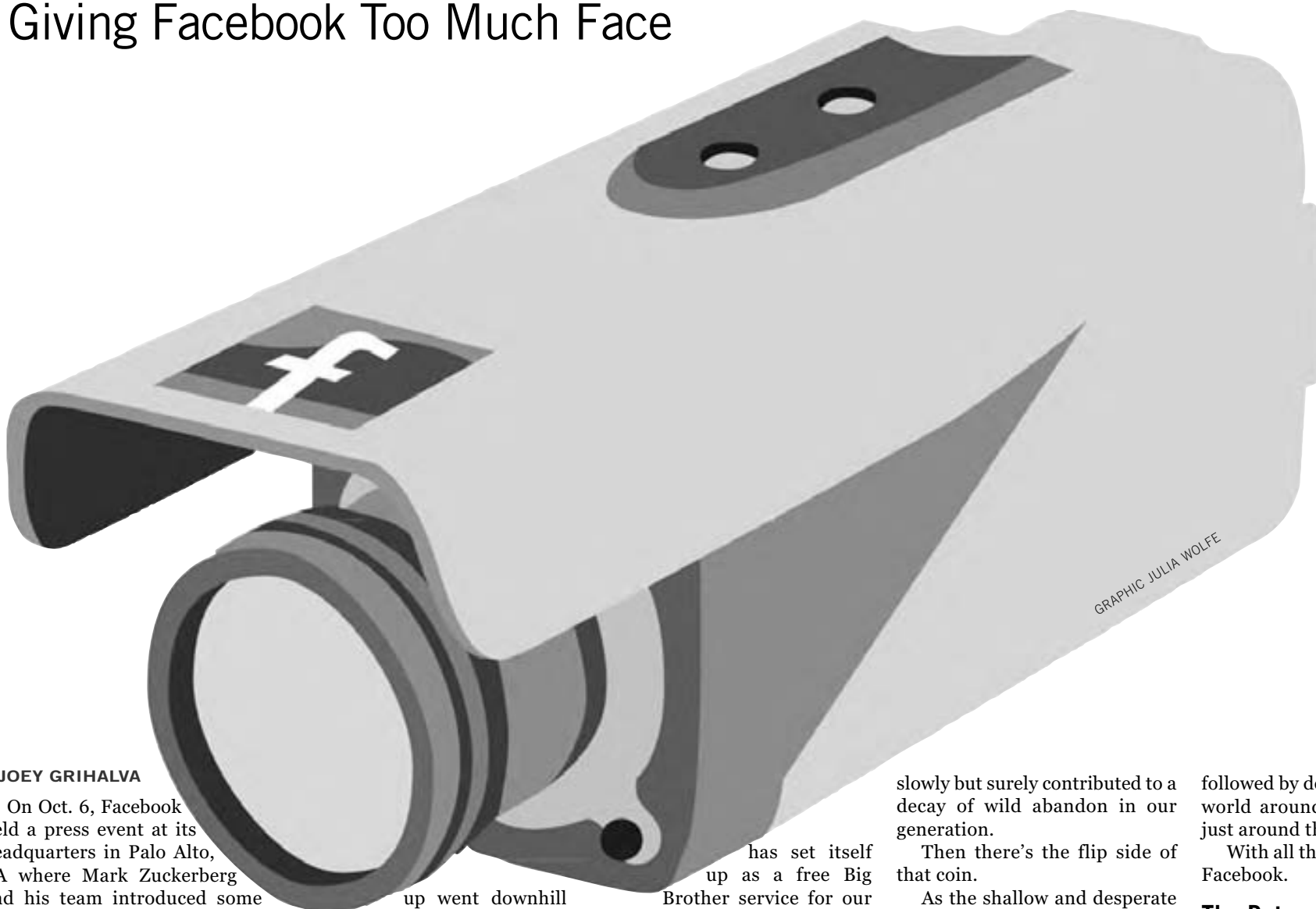
tral Connecticut State University, where he played against first-division teams such as Rhode Island, Boston College and Arizona State of the NCAA.

He is set to play as a point guard this year and has been training to improve his left hand and dribbling.

The men's basketball team will be in Kingston on Thursday to face the St. Lawrence College Vikings in exhibition play. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m.

Proprietors of Our Privacy

Giving Facebook Too Much Face



• JOEY GRIHALVA

On Oct. 6, Facebook held a press event at its headquarters in Palo Alto, CA where Mark Zuckerberg and his team introduced some new tools: Download Your Information, a feature that allows users to transfer their data in a .zip file, and a revamped version of Facebook Groups that allow group chats, e-mail lists and document sharing.

Zuckerberg seems to think that these things are going to address “the biggest problems with social networking” because they allow us to interact beyond an online, one-on-one basis.

I disagree. The biggest problem with social networking these days is, well, the act of social networking. Let me explain.

The Obvious

Facebook is the greatest time-waster ever. Enough said.

The Scary

I excitedly joined Facebook during the glory days in Spring 2005, when it was a fun and easy way to stay in touch with old friends and an innovative way to connect with new friends in university.

It was simple: there were no status updates, news feeds or advertisements. There were no fan pages, and definitely no parents.

Zuckerberg’s dorm room start-

up went downhill when it became a highly profitable company, since the cornerstone of any for-profit company is expansion. In Facebook’s case, it began with letting in high school kids and it wasn’t long before your grandmother had a page.

All the while, the Facebook team kept adding new ways for us to share our lives and spend more time on their site. A number of these changes were met with resistance, as the program was called out for data-mining and its use as a tool for identity theft. But despite the controversies over the years, Facebook maintains its following—there are over 500 million people using it today.

For all the press releases and posturing, it seems security and consumer satisfaction have never been serious priorities for Facebook—and you can expect this behaviour to continue. The article “How Facebook is Redefining Privacy” by Dan Fletcher in *Time Magazine* this spring made it pretty clear that the modus operandi of Facebook is to get us sharing as much as possible so that they can someday control the universe.

In playing all these privacy games with its users, Facebook

has set itself up as a free Big Brother service for our governments. If you are like me and you disagree with the state on a number of issues, you have to watch what you say online. Facebook will give your information to anyone, be it greedy capitalists or their enablers in the government. I hate having to jump out of the way when someone pulls out a digital camera at an anarchist bookstore event, but I will.

The Subtle

We have essentially become our own paparazzi, which has a significant cultural impact.

Ashley Parker touches on this phenomenon briefly in the *New York Times Magazine* article “All the Obama 20-Somethings” about the young folks working in the Obama Administration who have to be extra guarded in their personal life, so as not to embarrass their bosses in the White House.

Professional people, and those aspiring to work in a professional setting, can’t risk dancing on top of a table at a house party or making out with a co-worker at a nightclub because photos of it might end up on someone’s Facebook page. As such, the site has

slowly but surely contributed to a decay of wild abandon in our generation.

Then there’s the flip side of that coin.

As the shallow and desperate among us become more aware of Facebook’s role as a pseudo-media outlet, some might see an opportunity for temporary celebrity. Alongside YouTube, this aspect of Facebook has helped advance what has been called a “performative” culture.

I’m talking about that person who jumps into your pictures and videos, or broadcasts every detail of their life via a steady stream of Status Updates, Wall Posts and poorly-written Notes.

Use It, Don’t Abuse It

It’s easy to forget that technology is, at its essence, a tool. That’s probably because a lot more money can be made when it’s used as a toy, as another commodity to profit off of.

There’s an army of start-ups vying for funding every day that can attest to this and surely David Fincher’s new film *The Social Network* will inspire even more.

I like to think that Facebook was created to help us connect and share with the people in our life, not cut them out and mediate our communication through machines. Increased engagement with digital technology is usually

followed by detachment from the world around you, with apathy just around the corner.

With all that said, I’m back on Facebook.

The Return

It came to my attention that an effective 21st century journalist must be on Facebook. The ubiquitous social networking site has replaced the white pages and I cannot afford to deny myself access to the most detailed digital directory available.

I was forced to reactivate my account after a very pleasant six-month hiatus, but no, I will not help you grow potatoes on your fake farm, nor will I join your Justin Bieber fan page. If I want to join a cause, I will attend a meeting and get involved.

I privatized my profile, but not because I’m a hermit. If you want to shoot the shit and get to know each other I’m always up for a tea or a round of beers. I just don’t trust the jokers who run Facebook and I worry about where social media is taking us.

When I deleted my Facebook, they prompted me to give a reason for my choice. I clicked on “Other” and in the blank space, I wrote: “Our technological development has dangerously surpassed our moral development.”

Don’t let the screen suck out your soul.

The Link's Media Democracy Issue

New Media, Old Format

Check out our special insert Oct. 19



How does independent, community based reporting survive? Can newspapers survive on Internet advertising alone? Can independent media sources survive without government or private funding?

How we gather news says a lot about the state of our democracy. In an ever-evolving media landscape, some important questions remain to be answered.

The Link probably can't answer them all, but watch us try in next week's media democracy special issue.

THE LiNK

2010-2011 BYELECTION

Byelection

**October 22, 2010
4:00 p.m. H-649**

The following positions are open:

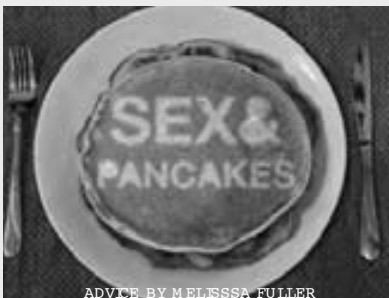
- Literary Arts Editor
- Student Press Liason
- Online Editor
- Graphics Editor

The following contributors are eligible to vote and run for any of the open positions: David Barlow-Krelina, Pierre Chauvin, Ray Corkum, Sebastien Cadieux, R. Brian Hastie, Daniel Johnston, Julia Jones, David Kaufmann, Vivien Leung, Alex Manley, Christopher Olson, Jasmine Papillon-Smith, Daryna Rukhyadeva, Joseph Ste. Marie, Natasha Young.

Note: there is *one* week left to contribute before the election cutoff.

The following contributors need one more contribution to be eligible to vote and run for any of the positions: Rob Amyot, Esther Bernard, Jeff Bush, Ozgur Veyssel Demirtas, Megan Dolski, Alessia Faustini, Colin Harris, Faiz Imam, Erin Jasiura, Stephanie La Leggia, Matt Marotti, Shawn McCrory, Sam Slotnick, Joel Suss, Nicholas Ward, Megan Wohlberg, Andrea Zoelliner.

Applications for the positions must be posted by **Friday, October 15 at 4:00 p.m.** in *The Link* office, Hall building, H-649. Applicants must have contributed to at least four (4) issues this semester as of October 19 and must include a one-page letter of intent, as well as three (3) contribution samples. For more information email: editor@thelinknewspaper.ca or call 514-848-2424 ext.7407



Dear Melissa,
I love analingus, but sometimes when I ask for it, my partner is hesitant. I want to tell them everything is going to be just fine, but I actually don't know. Is it healthy? Are there any risks? I want the truth about eating ass.

*Sincerely,
Shooting off the rim*

Dear Rimshot,
I'm sure a lot of people just let out a sigh of relief because someone was brave enough to ask this question. For some reason, analingus is still somewhat taboo, though I'd like to think Concordia students are pretty sexually enlightened.

Analingus—also known as anal-oral sex, ass eating and rimming—is a sex act that can involve kissing licking and/or sliding the tongue in and out of the anus.

To make sure you get everything you need, I'll assume you're doing all of the above, but the joys of analingus come with the risk of STIs just like any other sex act. Herpes, gonorrhea, HPV, hepatitis and HIV are the main ones you need to worry about here.

Now, we all know what our asshole is primarily used for, so there's also the risk of passing on different bacteria and parasites from traces of fecal matter.

The easiest way to protect yourself during analingus is with a dental dam. A dam is a sheet of latex that you put over the anus during analingus, or lady parts during oral sex. You can buy dams at any sex shop, or at Concordia's own Health Services for \$1.

If you have a condom handy, you can even just cut the end off and then cut lengthwise to make your own dam. You can also put lube on the receiving partner's side of the dam to make it a little more comfortable.

Cleaning up with a moist soft towel before analingus can also help reduce your risks of STIs, bacteria and parasites. Be really gentle and don't use anything that could irritate your skin since small cuts and scrapes give bacteria and infections a place to enter.

For the giving partner, brushing your teeth or chewing a strong minty gum can irritate and create entry points in your gums. Also, don't have oral sex after analingus or go back and forth because bacteria can enter your urethra (where you pee) and cause a urinary tract infection.

Finally, the best way you can be safe is to avoid having too many sexual partners. If you and your partner aren't fooling around with anyone but each other, you should get tested for STIs before doing anything unprotected. After all, do you really want to feel responsible for passing on an STI you didn't even know you had?

The bottom line is analingus, like any other sex act, is as healthy and safe as you make it. Despite the reputation, there's no reason to see sexual acts involving the anus as an unhealthy or dirty thing.

So keep on lickin'!

Animal Sacrifice

Why Science Makes Animal Testing Ok

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

It's tough to oppose animal cruelty—the surest sign of aberrant and antisocial behaviour you're ever likely to find outside of cruelty to one's own kind—and yet still support animal testing. But that's exactly how I feel.

Animal sacrifice never went away; the superstitious reasons for animal martyrdom simply gave way to the scientific method.

The way we so totally control their lives—and the way we decide when it's time for them to die—repulsed me. And yet it was never out of my mind that I was acting humanely.

So while it may now be unwise to, say, slaughter 15 cows because the weatherman forecasts clear skies and you need to plant your crops—their predictions are always wrong, anyways—it's accepted wisdom that if you want to have any hope of finding a cure for cancer or a cure for AIDS in our lifetime, it pays to cut short the life of livestock.

Animal martyrdom in the name of science has probably never had such an effective PR campaign as it did during the space race. The sacrifice of animals in the name of conquering Earth's gravity and touching the face of god—our god, not that it's ever been proven that non-human species have deities—was portrayed in the media in the most anthropomorphic of representations.

Portraying chimps as willing collaborators in their almost assured destruction could either have been born out of an unconscious sense of unease with the rigours and eventual

rigor mortus we were inflicting upon them, or in earnest admiration—perhaps even jealousy—that the privilege of being the first species to be launched into space wouldn't belong to Earth's star pupil, man, but to its dimwitted cousin in the chimp clan.

Heroic is a word we reserve for those who have some choice in the matter—anyone who agrees to have themselves launched into space tied to a gigantic rocket should be commended for their bravery—but the sacrifice of an animal is no less beneficial to lives around it, nor should its tragedy affect us less, just as when a human pays for their bravery.

That said, I love, without any sense of irony, my pets like they were a member of my own species.

I recently held in my arms a pet I had known my whole adult life—her name was Ribbon—as her body became as limp as a dishrag while the tranquilizer took from her the last fleeting moments of her consciousness, before a second needle would take her last, fleeting heartbeats. I owe her a lifetime, measured in my own, and not just her considerably shorter lifespan, for the companionship she provided.

The way we so totally control their lives—and the way we decide when it's time for them to die—repulsed me. And yet it was never out of my mind that I was acting humanely.

So I don't fear the obvious charges of cognitive dissonance as I say it should be a priority to limit the pain and suffering of animals just as we continue to exchange our suffering for theirs in the pursuit of life-saving sciences.

To the wiseass who asks, "Would you sacrifice the life of one innocent to save a dozen more?" I might add, "Would you sacrifice an animal if it could spare every human being who is ever born with Huntington's disease, or MS, or any of a thousand deadly condi-

tions?" I can only roll my eyes with the ugly implications of the question, and then reluctantly answer, "Yes."

It may be a poor coupe-de-grace in support of an argument to compare one's position—favourably, I might add—to one of obvious and clear disrepute, but is it any less awful to sacrifice animals to the god of science than it is to our guts?



GRAPHIC JULIA WOLFE AND ALEX MANLEY

Nah'msayin?

Stinger on Steroids

Why does the Stingers mascot have bulging vascular biceps? Never mind the fact that he's a bee who has arms and wears a sweater, what I'm concerned about is the necessity for him to be absolutely ripped.

Can he even use those pythons for pollination? I seriously doubt he can perform his most basic duties as a bee if he insists on hitting the bench press five times a week and slamming down spoonful after spoonful of creatine each day.

It's not just the guns, though. The bee has also extensively worked his lower body out. How does he do it exactly? Can bees lift weights with their stingers? The entire thing seems completely implausible.

—Christopher Curtis,
News Editor

Notice something that just doesn't make sense? Got an axe to grind? Send in a rant to Nah'msayin? 300 words max.
opinions@thelinknewspaper.ca



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG



Letters @thelinknewspaper.ca

Polarized Polaris Prize

You'd figure that the president of the Canadian University Press would know how to write a non-biased article; unfortunately, it seems like Erin Cauchi has to take a few more objective journalism courses next semester.

Trivializing Karkwa's win of the Polaris Prize by implying that the Francophones on the jury were so small-minded as to only consider French artists for the prize is idiotic. Yeah, the fact that three out of the eleven grand judges were French must have been why Karkwa won. Anglophones must somehow be above that kind of prejudice, right?

I guess it's understandable that some would consider such a band to be "random." They've made quite a name for themselves during the past 12 years that they've been active, collecting three Félix Awards and multiple notable references in *Voir*. I find it to be a shame that certain individuals don't delve into the Francophone music scene more than they do—maybe then they wouldn't resort to writing insulting and immature passages in articles if their favourite band didn't win a particular prize.

—E.C. Willard,
Independent Student

Voting Matters

As young adults trying to make our way through university, we are constantly overwhelmed with obligations and commitments that consistently push us to the limit. As a result, many students find it convenient to remove themselves from student politics and concentrate on their studies. While understandable, I believe that a strong student democracy improves student life, and that responsibility starts with you.

Every year, every student pays hundreds of dollars in fee levies that support various student groups and associations at Concordia. Student associations, such as ASFA, are in-

cluded in these fee levies. In return for our support, they provide us with a vibrant campus life that adds to the Concordia University experience.

Who are these people, you might ask? They are students like you, elected by the students, and work very hard to make Concordia student life the best it can be.

Despite their hard work, however, these individuals need to be held accountable. Their ideas are and should be debated amongst the students, and everyone should have input as to what the priorities of student government should be. While the newspapers at Concordia play a part in such accountability, each student plays the most important part through their vote.

Voting is not only your right, but also your responsibility. Every student has a stake in Concordia student life, and students should not forfeit their voice because it's convenient to do so.

These associations have budgets ranging from thousands to millions of dollars in student money, and it's vital that you have a voice in how it's spent. When students choose to ignore this responsibility, they give up the opportunity to demonstrate the power and strength of this amazing student body we have here at Concordia.

I highly encourage all students to learn more about the various candidates and to make their voice heard on Election Day next week on Tuesday, Oct. 12 and Wednesday Oct. 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

See what these candidates want to accomplish in ASFA and how these ideas ultimately affect your university experience. Be strong and active. Don't let others silence your voice because you chose not to vote. Together, we can start turning Concordia student democracy into a pillar of student life that we can all be proud of.

—Nicolas Cuillerier,
ASFA Chief Electoral Officer

The Link's letters and opinions policy: The deadline for letters is 4:00 p.m. on Friday before the issue prints. *The Link* reserves the right to verify your identity via telephone or email. We reserve the right to refuse letters that are libellous, sexist, homophobic, racist or xenophobic. The limit is 400 words. If your letter is longer, it won't appear in the paper. Please include your full name, weekend phone number, student ID number and program of study. The comments in the letters and opinions section do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board.

**DON'T LIKE WHAT YOU READ?
SEND US A LETTER.** 
send your letters and opinions to
letters@thelinknewspaper.ca 

Defining our humanity in a technological age

• OUSSAMA D. HAMZA — THE
BRUNSWICKAN

FREDERICTON (CUP)—How long would it take a monkey on a typewriter to produce the complete works of Shakespeare? Presumably long enough for any of his progeny to evolve into Shakespeare.

But what if the monkey were replaced with the legendary Google code and a lot of humans on the Internet?

Here's another one: In a library of libraries does the book of books exist? While classical thinkers used this as proof that God or the universe is necessary, some modern computer scientists would like to argue that it is proof that computational methods can, in theory, solve every possible problem, provided we could muster the processing power.

Now there's an interesting thought.

But what does it mean for science, for humanity?

Has the Information Age exhausted or infinitely expanded possibility? Let us take God, as an example. God is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. He can answer any question, solve any problem. As Augustine put it: "With God, all things are possible."

To me, this is starting to sound a lot like Google.

Could it be that Google is the onset of a great "God-project" we've undertaken by utilizing the collective consciousness of humankind? Think about it: Google in principle, as a symbol, represents omni-information. Not only can it answer any question, but if you play 20 questions with it, it seems it can even read our minds!

Could it be that Google is the evolving mind of God? I would love to ask God to confirm on Facebook, but it's hard to tell him apart from the idiots online who pretend to be him. I'm guessing, for now, that Heaven and Hell aren't connected, or that they aren't allowed to share information with the lower world.

I mean, just picture standing in front of a God-computer that told you you'd wave in the next 10 minutes. Oedipus would be fu-

rious: "I so won't!"

The Matrix projects a vision of a world where a theory of consciousness and corresponding technology can produce any kind of experience. In this fictional world, souls can live on forever by preserving themselves in the "Downloads" folder of self-sustaining cognitive engines to escape, or even prevent, the cold death of the universe.

Still, I always thought a theory of consciousness was question-begging: "Am I a butterfly in a dream or a butterfly dreaming?"

If we could simulate anything—i.e., have such a theory and eat it too—then the facing mirrors would be infinite; the brains in vats would be endless, if you catch my flow. After watching *Inception*, I'm thinking perhaps Christopher Nolan has the answer.

In my boredom, I have compiled a list of some of the stupid questions I would ask a God-computer, among them: Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Can a strongman able to lift twice his weight lift himself? Is there such a thing as a point in space? Am I wasting my time asking these questions?

More interesting to me is the question of the scientific and human consequences of technology as we struggle to define ourselves as not machines or computers, which, I think, is becoming more and more difficult since we're so helpless without them.

The problem with modernity is precisely the "moronism" our ignorance of technology combined with our initial self-ignorance entails. It seems to me as if the more we depend on machines, the more we become machines, and the more machines come to replace us in our various life-functions.

Is man irreducible or a process of mechanical functions? Will the very empirical science that produces simulation devices be replaced by simulations? Will even art and genius be replaced by the art and genius of Google?


Just remember that for every question Google—the ever-expanding library of libraries—has an answer, unless nothing will satisfy you. But I guess for now the speed of light is the limit.

Beardo and the Bear




Chess Master


Legend




The King
The king can move in all directions, but one space at a time.



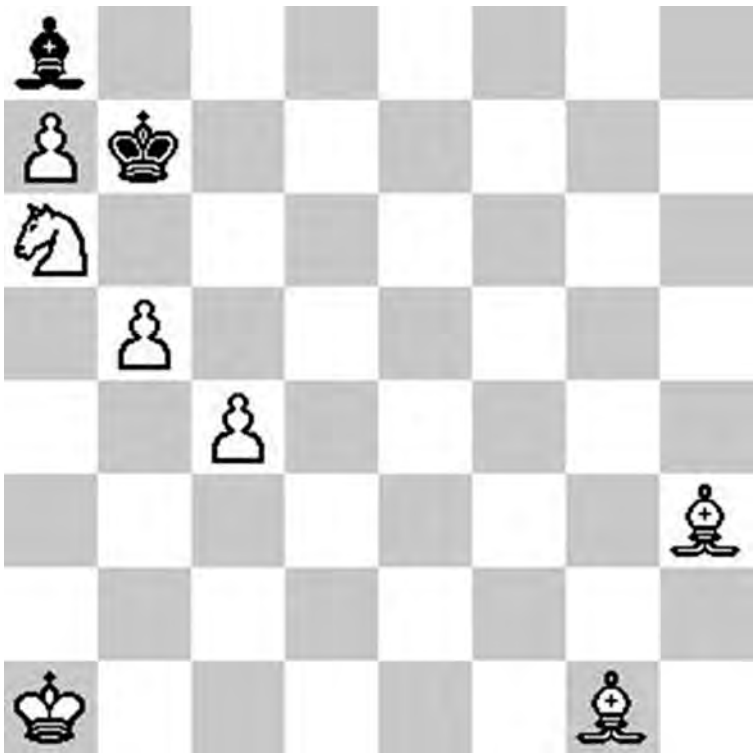
The Bishop
The bishop moves in diagonals only.



The Knight
Can jump over other pieces. Moves in L's; two squares horizontally or vertically, and then turns at a right angle to move one more square.



The Pawn
Only moves forward, except for capturing an enemy piece. It can only capture another piece by moving one space diagonally.



Puzzle and graphic by Dylan Fraser

Difficulty: EASY

How to Play: Play White One Move. Checkmate the Black King.

Puzzle provided by:  **Want to submit a puzzle? Or learn how to play chess? contact the Concordia Chess Club.** <http://chess.concordia.ca>

Editorial Cartoon



"Thanks to the patch, we're able to control our cravings for social networking and regain control over our lives!"

ARE YOU ADDICTED TO FACEBOOK?
The Socialite-ette® Patch is a discreet, easy-to-use, once-a-day solution to help you deal with the cravings and withdrawal symptoms associated with quitting Facebook.

Go to Socialite-ett.com

GRAPHIC JEFF BUSH

editorial

Criminalizing Academia

The traditional Canadian deference to the legal system, if that stereotype ever truly existed in practice, needs to come to an end.

It's clear that our lack of clear guidelines in certain areas of criminal law is now being abused to erode certain basic human rights.

Unsettling precedents are being set by isolated courts of law across the country. In Ottawa and suburban Toronto, two decisions were made last week that criminalize debate and revoke the rights of citizens.

This is a dangerous situation.

Alex Hundert, an organizer arrested during the G20, was rearrested by the Ontario Provincial Police on Sept. 18 after speaking at an event at Ryerson University. At the time, the police argued that Hundert had violated his "no demonstration" bail condition by speaking at a university.

On Oct. 8, the justice of the peace at the Scarborough Courthouse ruled that Hundert had violated his bail by engaging in the same kind of behaviour that he had displayed during the run-up to the G20.

In other words, the fact that Hundert spoke at a university as an invited guest of a professor—as part of an advertised panel, no less—was not only a demonstration, but showed a level of conspiracy dangerous enough to deprive the man of his liberties.

Hundert has been in jail since he was rearrested on Sept. 18. As of last week, speaking at a university is a crime in Scarborough, Ontario. I hope no one reproduces this editorial on the campus of the University of Toronto in Scarborough; they may find themselves sharing a cell with Hundert.

If the criminalization of academia wasn't a large enough corruption of Canadian law for the week, the Supreme Court of Canada decided to join in on the same day.

As of Friday, any citizen arrested by the police no longer has the right to a lawyer while they are being questioned.

The latest development in the long, steady erosion of criminal rights in this country, the court ruled that the accused could consult with counsel before being put into an interrogation room, but counsel could not follow their clients in.

By empathizing with the interrogator in a state that recently arrested 1,100 of its citizens and locked them away for up to three days in holding cells, this sends the wrong message.

The rights of the accused and the accusers are already skewed towards the latter. This ruling makes the situation worse.

This last week has clearly shown the direction Canada's legal system is taking, as well as the dangers of staying quiet.


In the past, our deference—with notable exceptions—had been rewarded by our criminal justice system, as our legal system grew into a seemingly more tolerant, open-minded entity.

It seems those innocent days are over. Canada's past, of a vague and unwritten criminal law, where the majority of citizens operated in a comfortable grey area, appears to have passed. Our deference is now being punished.

—Justin Giovannetti,
Editor-in-Chief

issue 08 solutions

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CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Material appearing in The Link may not be reproduced without prior written permission from The Link. Letters to the editor are welcome. All letters 400 words or less will be printed, space permitting. The letters deadline is Friday at 4 p.m. The Link reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length and refuse those deemed racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, libellous, or otherwise contrary to The Link's statement of principles.

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