



2011

**>> A YEAR
IN REVIEW** *page 4*

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SEE YOU IN 2012: CUZ GOD KNOWS 2011 HAS LEFT US NEEDING A BREAK • PAGE 4

Apocalypse Now?



"I've covered a lot of war," Dyer told The Link. "I've given up going to wars because it's quite dangerous and every war looks the same from up front, right?"

PHOTO JULIA JONES

Journalist Gwynne Dyer Talks Climate Change at Concordia

• LAURA BEESTON

Grizzled international affairs journalist Gwynne Dyer was the first speaker brought in for the Concordia Student Union Speaker Series this year.

Before captivating an unfortunately mostly-empty auditorium in the MB Building Dec. 5 with a speech that touched on, among other things, the weather-related future of military conflicts, Dyer briefly sat down with *The Link* to talk climate change.

The forecast, according to the veteran war reporter, isn't great.

The Link: What will it take for [climate change] policy to change drastically?

Gwynne Dyer: Oh, it's got to change in a different level entirely. See all this conservation stuff—you paint your roof white, you don't blast your air conditioning so much—this is cutting the power you used today, but [it will] get burned eventually if we go on using fossil fuels.

It's like a bucket; it'll fill up real fast if the tap is going full tilt, but even if the water's running slowly, it will eventually fill up and overflow. You need to turn off the tap. The long-term answer—the only answer—is to stop burning and

generating power with fossil fuels. That's it.

We used them to get where we are, they've done us a favour, but now we've realized the downsides, so we've got to stop. You've got lots of alternatives and, yeah they cost more, but would you like your planet raw or roasted? I'll take mine raw.

Is there any improvement under the Obama administration? I know you talked about the Bush years in your last book [Climate Wars] but...

Not a bit. Not one bit.

Okay, what do journalists do to stay informed, especially when there's some back-door stuff going on that we don't have access to?

What I tend to do is talk to retired generals. They won't talk when they're in uniform because they're not allowed to, because they're too busy, because they're too important and tell me, 'Go away, little man.'

But when they're retired—three to six months out after 40 years of everyone jumping whenever they said anything and saying, 'Yes, sir' on the way up—nobody listens to them anymore. So what do you do? You phone him up and he's so grateful to have someone to talk to, he'll talk.

And maybe he signed the secret contract act, but he'll skirt around that bit and [the journalists can] define what the problem looks like by the way he skirts around it.

How are reporters going to have to redefine how war caused by environmental devastation is covered? Does this complicate things?

Well, I've covered a lot of war, I've given up going to wars because it's quite dangerous and every war looks the same from up front, right? The real questions are why this war? What is this about? Do you believe in the goals? Can it succeed, or is it simply a waste of money and life and nothing will change?

That's the sort of thing you need to say about war, but you need to say it on the basis of facts, not just emotion and ideology. The same is true about climate.

You've spoken about geo-engineering as a possible solution to climate change. Isn't that a risky thing to advocate?

Well, sure, it's a risky thing to advocate, but not advocating for it could be riskier. Nobody would talk about it three or four years ago. Scientists who even opened their mouths about it would suddenly lose all their friends and be

ostracized by the profession.

It was what the industry called a "moral hazard"—if you let [people] know it could be done, they'll do it. The problem is, of course, we don't know what the side effects are. [...]

Only very recently people are coming out of the woodwork, and what they really want to do is set up some rules for open-air limited experiments. Rules so that you can't just go out and do it, you have to put your proposal before a board of scientists.

What about those people who don't want to print climate change stories, or put a lid on this? I know your column has been discontinued in Canada before...

Oh, [media moguls Conrad Black and Izzy Asper] put a lid on me because they didn't like what I wrote about the Middle East, but that was a long time ago.

More generally, I think if you're a freelancer, and I am and always have been, you just find an outlet that will use and pay you for it. I see no point in banging my head against the wall.

If Conrad Black doesn't want me in his papers, fine. What I did was I went out and sold it to all the alternate weeklies—they pay better anyways. You find yourself alterna-

tive outlets and you go on writing what you want.

I never actually consult with anybody before I write. If they don't want it, they don't have to use it, and if you hate my guts you can pull it entirely. No problem. I'll find someone else.

Your prognosis suggested that 2045 was the end-time date. That's a little apocalyptic...

No, no. It's very apocalyptic.

Okay, it's very apocalyptic. And a lot of people are feeling discouraged and asking, what's the point? Especially youth and university students who...

Oh, come on. This is mostly posing, to be frank. The line when I was [growing up] was, 'We have no future anyways, because we're all going to be blown by the bomb, so get on with it.' Today it's, 'We have no future because we're going to fry.' Well, really? [...]

That whole question of historical responsibility is completely alien to the conversation around here. Nobody says it, but everyone knows it in Brazil and China, I promise you. Everyone.

For the full transcript of this interview, visit thelinknewspaper.ca.

2011: A CONCORDIA ODYSSEY

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classes are over for the semester, which means 2011 is drawing to a close at Concordia University.

Thank God.

This has been one of the screwiest calendar years in the university's history, literally from start to finish. Students have been told at pretty much every level of governance that their opinions don't matter—in one case, even by their own student leaders.

We've had one president leave, and another come in, and both of them got a whole bunch of non-salary perks for their troubles.

We've had mind-blowing levels of mobilization, on two separate occasions.

We've been told that our school is suffering from a "culture of contempt," seen our administration deny it, and then seen it rear its ugly head over and over.

We've had attacks on the free press, on the democratic process, and on just plain old good taste.

Consider this an early effort to place 2011 in the context of Concordia history.

'Cause one thing is certain: while the year was at times fun, sad, scary, frustrating, inspiring, infuriating, compelling and even entertaining, there was one thing it never was: boring.



Former President Judith Woodsworth in better days. Her firing/resignation/whatever the hell that was set off a firestorm of questions about how the school is governed.



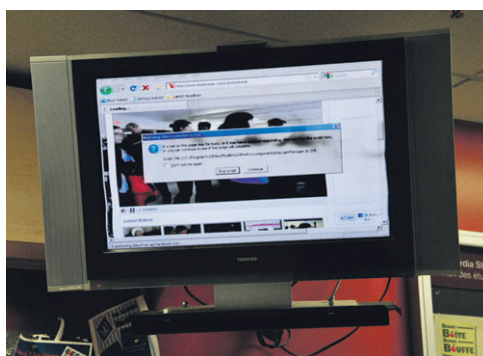
Concordia's Interim President Frederick Lowy, refusing to look at his predecessor Judith Woodsworth, even in a photo spread.



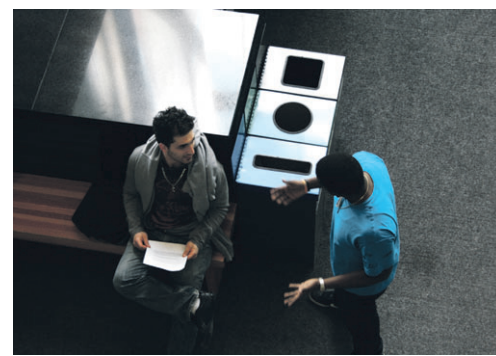
Arts and Science Federation of Associations President Alex Gordon won his position pretty much unanimously. That's because nobody ran against him, after reforms to ASFA's bylaws resulted in the abolition of the electoral slate system.



Beloved tyrant and former The Link Editor-in-Chief Justin Giovannetti was the subject of a protest outside our offices. The reason? Beats us, the protesters didn't seem to know either.



Ever wonder what happens if you run a magnet on a TV? Concordia's television station, CUTV, found out when a vandal damaged two of its sets in the Hall building during last year's general election.



A member of the Action slate tries to convince a voter to take just two friggin' minutes to come and vote. Last year's general election saw massive voter turnout, and massive amounts of alleged dirty tricks by both sides.

2011 started with students returning to class, but one member of the Concordia community was left behind.

While students had scurried off to wherever it is they escape to over the winter break, Concordia's mysterious Board of Governors had made the decision to fire former President Judy Woodsworth, after a lengthy, storied reign—of seven months.

Many reasons were thrown about in the days that followed, but her firing of two auditors without cause and an inability to get along with other members of the senior administration were the most often cited.

Whatever it was, it began a saga

that still has not ended, one that threw a spotlight on the BoG and its activities, and raised concerns over who really runs this school, and how.

Of course, Judy's departure opened the door for the return of a familiar face. Frederick Lowy, who had already served at the top from 1995 to 2005, was named Concordia's interim president.

While Woodsworth's mysterious dismissal has us searching for a new president, it has also led to what appeared to be a serious attempt at reform. The Board commissioned former McGill principal Bernard Shapiro to conduct a report into the governance issues facing the school.

The document he turned in over the summer accused the school of harbouring a "culture of contempt" throughout the administration—towards students, staff and faculty. It also proposed several reforms, all of which the Board voted to adopt, including shrinking the size of the Board itself.

While the reforms were lauded throughout the school, one particular became a sticking point. As the Board would shrink from 40 voting members to 25, students would see a cut from five voting members to two (with one non-voting "alternate" undergrad—whatever that means).

At subsequent BoG meetings, clashes between the student reps

and other governors, especially Chair Peter Kruyt, grew more and more heated, culminating in one meeting being cut short when Kruyt informed students simply, "We're done." The student reps walked out.

At another meeting, students were told that the reason other governors don't vote in favour of their motions is because they were "ticking people off." (The fact that the words "fucking pissing people off" weren't used could be interpreted as an improvement in that culture of contempt.)

Issues with governance were not limited to just the BoG, unfortunately. March's Concordia Student Union election became one of

A Somewhat Snarky Look at a Wild and Crazy Year *by Adam Kovac*



Sometimes the Reggie's terrace is so packed... no wait, that's the WHALE! Concordia students assembled for an outdoor Special General Meeting, calling for the school to come clean on governance, and reverse its stance on tuition hikes.



Current CSU VP Outreach, and former VP Sustainability & Promotions Morgan Pudwell caused a stir with her resignation last year. When Council met to discuss her reasons for resigning, students refused to leave, resulting in security being called.



At the council meeting where Pudwell's resignation was discussed, councilors became so upset that they just turned into paper cutouts. True story, brah.



The Faubourg, ain't she beautiful? This glorious piece of architecture, designed in the style of 'Post Modern Shit-Pile,' almost became our \$54 million student centre, until CSU Council voted against a plan that would have had students going kinda halvesies with the administration.



Former (and possibly future!?) Chief Electoral Officer Bram Goldstein was relieved of his duties at a Council meeting in early November—less than a month before the original date of byelections.



30,000 students from across the province of Quebec converged on Montreal's downtown for a march to Premier Jean Charest's office on Nov. 10, to protest tuition hikes. Apparently, something happened later on at the McGill campus. Oh right. It was a pepper-spray-filled shit show.

the most controversial in history. Accusations of dirty tactics, pre-campaigning, libelous posters and just general nastiness flew between the *Your Concordia* and *Action* slates.

Though *Your Concordia* would prove victorious, both slates were later disqualified by then-Chief Electoral Officer Oliver Cohen, citing improperly filed financial documents, before being reinstated by the Judicial Board and a vote at Council, respectively.

The drama behind that election even included a protest outside this newspaper's office. We'll admit it—we felt special.

Oh, and several TVs operated by campus station CUTV were in-

tentionally vandalized. It was that kind of election.

The Cohen saga did not end there. Revelations that he gave himself and his deputies very generous bonuses for attending short meetings and JB hearings prompted questions as to his competency. The fact that one of those deputies, Bram Goldstein, was hired as his replacement only complicated matters.

Council, citing errors in the hiring process by last year's politicians, later dismissed Goldstein.

While his replacement, Ismail Holoubi, ran the recent byelections, Goldstein's case is still floating around, as his "representative," former CSU councillor Tomer

Shavit, is accusing members of the JB of colluding with the CEO in Goldstein's firing.

Confused yet? There's more!

Student politics weren't exactly untroubled preceding the March election either, culminating in a mid-month Council meeting where former CSU exec Hassan Abdullahi repeatedly yelled at students, eventually calling on security to remove them when they would not leave for closed session to discuss the resignation of VP Sustainability and Promotions Morgan Pudwell.

Pudwell would go on to run on the *Your Concordia* slate and continues her nefarious reign of terror on this year's edition of the exec as

VP Outreach.

The CSU wasn't the only student organization that had problems. The Arts and Science Federation of Associations held an election, and nobody ran.

Well, not nobody, but following the abolition of the slate system, nobody bothered to run against Alex Gordon for the position of president, and the office of VP Communications was left hollow and empty.

In the new bylaws that passed during the most recent byelections, the CSU adopted a similar method of electing councillors and executives; whether that'll affect the spring's CSU elections in a similar manner remains to

be seen.

Of course, not everything was a disaster. Students attended the Wintery Hot Academic Love-In for Accessible Education, demanding the school reverse its policies on tuition increases and increased transparency.

Months later, thousands flooded the street against the Charest government's tuition increase plans during the Nov. 10 Day of Action, joining other universities and CEGEPs in the fight.

And oh yeah, after years of talking about a student centre, the CSU finally voted to put a kibosh on plans to use the Faubourg building.

Good times.

All Things Must Pass

Bylaws, Fee Levies and Candidates Approved in Byelection

• ADAM KOVAC

When the ballots were all tallied up a little past midnight Dec. 2, the new Concordia Student Union bylaws got a passing grade.

The bylaws weren't the only thing that Concordia students took favourably to, as everything being voted on passed, including four new CSU councillors, fee levies for two campus broadcast outlets, and two symbolic votes regarding student representation at the school and tuition hikes.

However, with a 749 to 655 total in favour, the ratification of the new bylaws was by far the closest tally of all the questions.

"I think it's difficult to inform students of all the small reasons behind some changes," said CSU VP Outreach Morgan Pudwell of the results.

"I think that in the future, we'll have to do an even better job of that. I don't think it's a sign necessarily that students aren't in support of the bylaws, but there was perhaps more communication needed," adding that there is discussion of coming up with an initiative to ed-

ucate students on the bylaws.

Not everyone was pleased to see the bylaws pass. Tomer Shavit, a former CSU Councilor who had expressed concern over several parts of the changed rules, said he thought students were not informed on what they were voting for.

"It's going to have huge repercussions for Concordia," he said. "It seems like a lot of the stuff that was changed was for the sake of change."

Another question that lowers the current \$2.00 per credit Student Centre Fund fee levy to \$1.50 and re-designates it the "Student Space, Accessible Education & Legal Contingency Fund" also passed by a margin of 1009 to 540.

Students voted overwhelmingly in favour of initiatives condemning the cut in representation for students on the Board of Governors, and confirming the CSU's stance against tuition hikes.

"It's good to see so much support for the current stance of the CSU [on the tuition issue]," said Pudwell.

"We were pretty sure there was that sort of support, but especially moving forward with other schools

in terms of planning [...] we just wanted to reaffirm the stance. As far as the Board of Governors goes, it's good to show the Board that there's actual support, and not just the few people who sit on the BoG."

Despite all undergraduate students being eligible to vote for the initiatives regarding the bylaws, fee levies and affirmations for governance and tuition, fewer than 1,800 actually did so. Pudwell attributed this to byelections generally seeing a smaller turnout than general elections.

"It would be great if there were more," said Pudwell, noting that the amount of students who voted was more than double that needed for quorum.

"The byelections very rarely have a very high turnout. There were only councillors running for independent students and [the John Molson School of Business] so there wasn't a lot of reason for [other] faculties to come out except for the more general questions."

The four new councillors, all of whom ran unopposed, are Eduardo Alves dos Anjos, Museb Abu-Thuraia and Yassine Chaabi, who will

represent JMSB, and Omar Abdulahi, who will represent independent students.

Also on the ballot were fee levy increases for CUTV and CJLO, Concordia's television and radio stations, both of which were successful.

"We're super happy, obviously," said CUTV station manager Laura Kneale, after CUTV saw their funding bumped from \$0.18 per credit to \$0.34.

"We are really grateful to Concordia students for voting yes, because they're supporting something that is really important to the Concordia community, but also to independent media's future."

Kneale said that while there is a general plan for how CUTV intends to spend the money—they campaigned on a promise to broadcast four hours a week on cable television, possibly as soon as January 2012—there would be no concrete plans until early in the new year.

CJLO program director Brian Joseph echoed Kneale's sentiments. The vote for the radio station's fee levy increase from \$0.25 to \$0.34 went through with 956 voting yes

and 670 voting no.

The station had run for the same increase last year but were denied, a result that Joseph has attributed to campaign materials not being made available at polling stations.

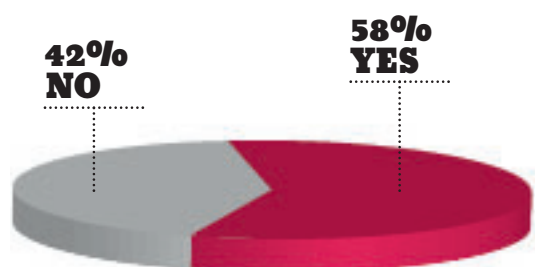
"We're ecstatic," he said. "I think the main thing we were saying last year was that it didn't come to the fact that we got voted no, but that it was so close, and that if students were truly informed, they would have voted yes."

Joseph said he didn't want to guess when the FM signal would be up and running, citing delays from when the station launched its AM signal, but said he personally hoped to see the new signal up in two years.

"We're working on the budget right now. We're going to start looking at [engineering surveys] to look at different buildings, the possibility of where the antenna can go," he said.

"It's a different type of antenna depending on the different type of building we end up on. We also have to have our consultant work with us so we can apply to the CRTC for a low-power signal [license]."

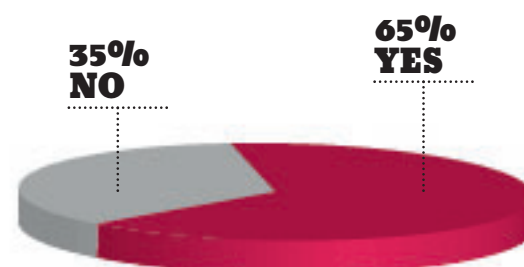
HOW WE VOTED



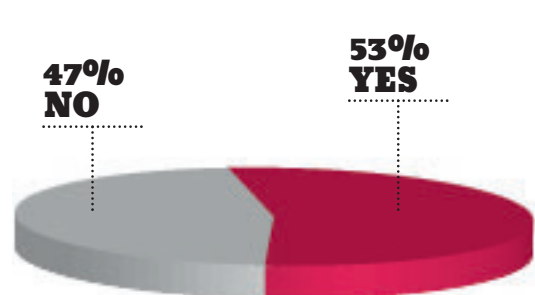
Do you agree to increase CUTV's fee levy from \$0.18 per credit to \$0.34 per credit, the fee would be used towards increasing CUTV services and programs as well as to help the station in its efforts to be fully licensed to broadcast on cable by the CRTC, applicable equally to all CSU members effective Winter 2012 and refundable in accordance with the University's tuition billing and refund policies?



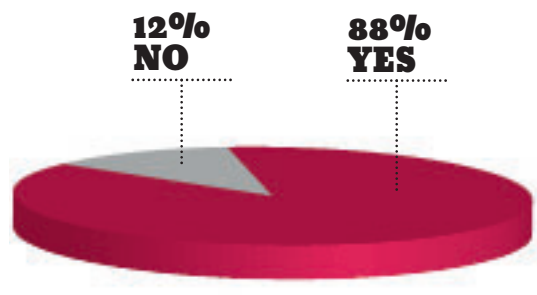
Do you agree to increase the fee levy for the CJLO, 1690AM Concordia University Radio by \$0.09, thereby increasing the current levy from \$0.25 to \$0.34 per credit for all Concordia Undergraduate Students, whereas the fee would be effective Winter 2012 and refundable in accordance with Concordia University's tuition and refund policy?



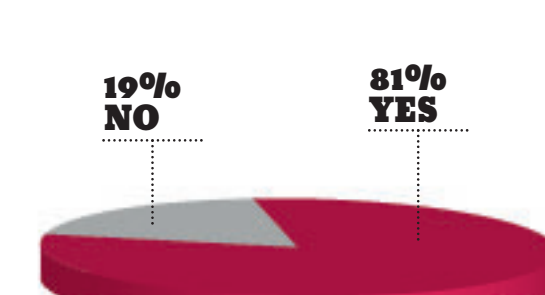
Do you agree to replace Special By-Law E, F and G with Special By-Law I: Levy of Student Union Fees, as approved by the Council of Representatives on November 3rd 2011? This replacement will result in a decrease of the Union Building Fund fee (currently at \$2.00 per credit) by \$0.50 per credit, to a Student Space, Accessible Education & Legal Contingency Fund of \$1.50 per credit, applicable equally to all CSU members and collected in accordance with the University's tuition billing and refund policy. Special By-Law I will be effective upon its ratification by the membership and the change in the fee will be effective with the Winter Semester of the 2011-2012 Academic Year.



Do you agree to ratify By-Law 2011-01, as approved by the Council of Representatives on November 3rd 2011, to replace all previous versions of the By-Laws of the Concordia Student Union, to be effective March 1st 2012, with the exception of the replacement of Special By-Law E, F and G with Special By-Law I which shall remain in effect, if adopted by the members?



We, Concordia University Students and members of the CSU, condemn the decrease of representation of undergraduate students on the University's Board of Governors. We believe in the value and input of student involvement at the highest level of governance in the University. We are requesting that the University immediately annuls the decision to decrease representation at the Board of Governors and we mandate our elected student representatives to continue to take the appropriate measures to ensure adequate student representation on the Board of Governors and all other University bodies.



Do you agree to reaffirm the CSU's position for accessible education and against the Quebec government's proposed tuition fee hike of \$1,625, which could be even more drastically increased for international and out-of-province students?

DOCTORS, LAWYERS AND BUSINESS EXECUTIVES, OH MY

Board of Governors to Welcome Three New Members

• JULIA JONES

Concordia will see the faces of three new members added to its highest governing body for the first time this Thursday. While the new members will be warmly welcomed, the contentious issue continues to be the Board of Governors' selection criteria.

Community-at-large representatives of the Board of Governors were approved in closed session on Nov. 17, the first appointments since the adoption of the recommendations in the Report of the External Governance Review Committee—the Shapiro Report.

In choosing its external members, the report says the Board should “strive for a reasonable balance among members with experience in business, non-profit organizations, the professions, fine arts, and the public sector.”

Undergraduate representative to the Board of Governors AJ West said the new Board members appear to be “very educated and involved people.”

“But the issue of diversity at the Board of Governors remains—especially considering the surprising number of external Board members who are literally rich,”

he said.

“Which isn’t to say that being rich makes them inherently evil, but there is a fundamental problem with the representation of the community that we’re serving at Concordia as Board members.”

Of the three new members, all come directly from CEO positions.

John Molson School of Business alumna Joelle Berdugo-Adler is the CEO of fashion company Diesel Canada, Jacques Lyrette is the CEO of Jacma Management, and Tim Brodhead retired as CEO of the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation—an organization that grants over \$90,000 in Concordia graduate awards per year.

Despite the differences between their CVs and the Shapiro recommendations at first glance, the Concordia administration was quick to assure that the changes proposed in the Shapiro Report have been heard and will be respected.

“These are the first three; there will be more to come,” said Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota. “The nominating committee will consider [the EGRC’s report] and the recommendations, obviously, and take that to heart, but it’s still going to be a process that is going

to take some time.”

Mota said the Board will be transparent in the steps taken to adopt suggestions from the Shapiro Report, such as reducing its size from 42 to 25 members.

“This is a whole new situation for the Board. We’ve never been renewing that many people that quickly, while also reducing the size of the Board,” she said. “I have no way of assuming how they’re going to do that, but they will make it public.”

After the BoG cut its student representation down to one undergraduate, one graduate student, and one alternate non-voting member, West said students are concerned their representation will be inadequate because they are part of a lower-income stratum of society, which, according to West, is often underrepresented.

“The students’ income bracket has historically been underrepresented,” said West. “Removing students from the Board is also emphasizing that, because not only were they representing student interests, but also the low-income people’s interests on the Board.”

Erik Chevrier, the Graduate

Students’ Association representative, is the only student to sit on the Governance and Ethics Committee, of whom will pick potential governors.

“There were a number of people who were brought forward,” said Chevrier. “I was able to bring people forward myself. The process was quite fair in that I participated like all the other members of the committee. Unfortunately, the people I brought forward didn’t make it into the final list.”

“The board perceives itself to be more representative of the community than the community does.”

—AJ West

*Board of Governors
Undergraduate Representative*

But West said there is still a disconnect between what students think a governor should be like, and the Board’s expectations.

“The board perceives itself to be more representative of the

community than the community does.”

He said the criteria for selection are based on privilege and exclude a large part of the community, one of which being ‘previous board experience.’

To West, representatives of other income levels and interests have no way of getting their voices heard, and it’s unreasonable to expect them to have board experience.

“By their very nature they cannot,” he said. “I only have board experience because I was elected and they were forced to put me on their board.”

Despite his criticism of the Board as an institution, West said he doesn’t think the newly appointed members will misrepresent students only because they are not in the same income level.

“Maybe they were struggling students back in the day and now they’ve made it and now they’re going to be super supportive of not increasing tuition. I guess we’ll just have to see.”

Send BoG community-at-large candidates’ CVs and cover letters to danielle.tessier@concordia.ca.

MUNACA ENDS THREE-MONTH LONG WALK-OUT

• JACOB ROBERTS

After almost three months, the McGill University Non-Academic Certified Association ended their strike with a ratification vote on a new collective agreement on Dec 5.

“I feel relieved because I was able to present this offer to [MUNACA workers],” said union President Kevin Whittaker. “I wanted them to understand the offer. We’ve been here since 9:00 a.m., so it was a very long meeting but I’m very happy [...] because people got to ask the questions that they felt needed answers.”

The vote showed 71.5 per cent of MUNACA workers were in favor of the new collective agreement.

“I wanted to ensure that it was the membership who got to decide the future of the strike and not be myself, sitting in a room deciding that for them,” said Whitaker.

A tentative agreement was reached on Nov. 30 between MUNACA and McGill administration through the use of outside mediator-conciliator Claire Tremblay. Tremblay was instructed by the

Minister of Labour in Quebec to propose a solution to the deadlock between MUNACA and McGill.

The ratification meeting, where the recommendation was put to a vote by all 1,700 members of MUNACA, took over six hours.

“Union and employer representatives have taken a commitment before me to recommend that this document be accepted by their respective organization as soon as possible,” said Tremblay in the preamble to her recommendation.

Whittaker was quoted in *The Gazette* as saying that the new agreement contains several of the main objectives that MUNACA was striking for and that it is “well over” the six per cent wage increase initially offered by McGill administration.

MUNACA has been in negotiations for a new contract for over 11 months, and since the strike began in September, they have been through 23 conciliation meetings, including a final session of ‘round-the-clock negotiations that lasted six days.

“It has been a long and difficult

battle. The members thought that they were not being respected by the university. In some cases their direct supervisors were very supportive and in others they were not,” said Whittaker.

“So it’s the ‘nots’ that will have more difficulty, of course. I think that the first few days will be the hardest. We want to make sure that we are there and that we’re able to give them the support that they need.”

No changes to the recommendation were allowed by either party. It had to be accepted—or rejected—as a whole.

The new five-year collective agreement includes a retroactive 2.2 percent wage increase across the board and a 1.2 per cent wage increase starting in June of 2012, which begins a 22-step conversion onto a new wage scale for MUNACA employees. As well, it projects subsequent increases, with the intention of moving MUNACA workers onto the new wage scale, in June of every year until 2015 when their contract will be renegotiated.

The deal also specifies that the



PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

university can no longer unilaterally reduce its contributions to MUNACA benefit plans, and mandates the assembly of a new Staff Pension Committee, which will be comprised of representatives from McGill and each employee group covered by the pension plan.

Any proposed changes and all relevant information must be submitted to the new Staff Pension Committee for review and consultation.

“It was the best deal that we can

get them today. After the three months it was the best that we could achieve and I wanted them to see it and decide on their own if they felt it was good enough and if they did not, if they were willing to continue the strike for a better deal,” said Whittaker.

“I’m very glad that they got the opportunity to review it and make their decision.”

McGill officials could not be reached for comment by press time.



DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

TALKING ANTI-COLONIAL
AST TURKEY

Over one hundred people feasted at the annual anti-colonial Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 30. The event, organized by the Quebec Public Interest Research Group, was held at the Native Friendship Centre, and featured discussions of political and cultural issues facing the Aboriginal community. (No turkey was served, as it was a vegan event.) Read about it in “Thanksgiving for Anti-Colonialists.”

AIDS DAY DAZE

Head & Hands held a rapid HIV testing clinic for World AIDS Day. A youth organization with a non-judgmental and holistic approach to helping people, Head & Hands provided the service for free, giving test results in minutes, rather than the two weeks of a traditional test. Read about it in “Rapid HIV Tests for World AIDS Day.”

OPINION OF AN
OCCUPIER

“Full disclosure, I’ve been living there four weeks,” wrote Occupy Montreal resident Jamie Klinger in the comments on the article “The End of an Occupation?” “And the biggest ‘camp issues’ were having to keep the city appeased so they wouldn’t shut us down. If we hadn’t had to deal with that on a constant basis, the in-camp issues may not have been nearly as troublesome.”



The CEO Saga Continues

Council Gives Holoubi Vote of Confidence at Meeting

• ADAM KOVAC

Amid accusations of bias due to unclear allegiances in last year’s Concordia Student Union general election, the CSU Council voted on Nov. 30 to maintain support for Chief Electoral Officer Ismail Holoubi.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss two separate motions regarding the CEO position, one of which called for a discussion of Holoubi’s role in last year’s general election. Former councillor Tomer Shavit had raised allegations that Holoubi had run on the *Your Concordia* slate, whose candidates comprise a majority of Council, as well as executive positions, which Shavit said would be a conflict of interest.

During the meeting in room H-762 of the Hall Building, VP Finance Jordan Lindsay pointed out that Holoubi’s name cannot be found on the *Your Concordia* website, and that there is no documentation showing Holoubi had been on the slate.

VP External Chad Walcott recounted a question asked in closed session during Holoubi’s job interview, where Holoubi explained he had aborted his bid for a Council seat due to prior commitments, thereby eliminating any chance of a conflict.

“Having chaired [the meeting where Holoubi was hired], I distinctly remember the question being asked, and I distinctly remember Ismail saying, ‘I submit-

ted my application to run; however, due to school and work, I had no time,’ which would explain the fact that there are no expenses to his name, and that he does not appear on any affiliation [forms] for either side,” said Walcott.

The confusion was the result of an unclear portion of the CEO report last year. Holoubi, who at the time of the special meeting was overseeing the byelections, which ended on Dec. 1, was named in the document, but his name could not be found among the unaffiliated candidates.

Holoubi confirmed he had intended to run and submitted paperwork, but ended up not campaigning. He maintained his independence from both the *Your Concordia* and *Action* slates.

“I wanted to be involved as a councillor, to serve and to have all the students’ voices heard,” he said. “But I didn’t want to be on any of the sides, because honestly, I had a lot of friends running on both slates, and both were amazing slates and amazing people.”

JUDGING THE JUDICIAL BOARD

Council also voted against overturning a recent Judicial Board ruling regarding the former CEO, Bram Goldstein. Goldstein had been dismissed by this year’s Council, who had determined that their predecessors last year had not followed proper hiring procedure.

On Nov. 2, the day after a Ju-

dicial Board hearing on the matter, that decision was upheld by the JB. The position was declared to be open, and Holoubi was hired at a Council meeting that night after several applicants were considered.

“Ceejay sent me an email saying that since the appeal talks about the character of one of the JB members, they think that it’s inappropriate for them to see it ... It’s as arbitrary as saying, ‘Let’s let *The Link* decide on the matter.”

–Tomer Shavit

Shavit, who represented Goldstein at that JB hearing appealing his dismissal, filed an appeal after JB ruled in favour of this year’s Council.

As part of his appeal, he had claimed that JB Chairperson Ceejay Desfosses had colluded with members of the executive to ensure Goldstein’s dismissal. JB referred the matter back to Council, asking for advice, a procedure that Shavit said is not mentioned anywhere in the bylaws.

“They sent me an email saying they received my appeal. But then Ceejay sent me an email saying that since the appeal talks about the character of one of the JB members, they think that it’s inappropriate for them to see it.

“She wasn’t following any code of procedures or bylaws when she was doing that,” he continued. “It’s as arbitrary as saying, ‘Let’s let *The Link* decide on the matter.”

In emails to Desfosses and other members of the JB, Shavit has suggested the JB members were guilty of violating bylaws, which say that the JB must try and meet within five days of receiving an appeal. Shavit had sent in his appeal on Nov. 11, but the Board only met to discuss the appeal on Dec. 4.

However, the reason for that delay was Shavit’s accusations against Desfosses, according to JB member Nadim Kobeissi.

“It took three weeks for two reasons,” Kobeissi said. “The first is that this whole issue is highly extraordinary in the sense that we were asked to evaluate and judge one of our own members. There is no clear rule for [how we should] do this. So we referred the matter to Council. Once Council got back to us, we actually did meet within five days.”

Kobeissi added that the other reason the JB hadn’t met was that its members were preoccupied with final exams. He also noted that the JB members will be meeting on Dec. 11 to discuss the matter further.

BRIEFS

Hit the Rhodes

A Concordia undergrad is heading to the United Kingdom next year after being awarded a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. Michael Noonan, a BSc student in Honours Ecology, plans to get a DPhil in Zoology with the scholarship, which covers his entire tuition for a minimum of two years, and most, if not all, living expenses and accommodations. The award is given out annually to the best and the brightest students around the world so they can study at the esteemed Oxford University. Noonan previously won an Undergraduate Research Award from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

Bring on the BIXI

Though BIXI bikes have been removed from the streets for the season, the company behind the popular and controversial public transit system is planning to expand next year. Residents of Longueuil will see seventy bikes installed at six stations. The projected cost to taxpayers over the next seven years is \$1 million. Still, this has not been a good year for BIXI—though it saw a 25 per cent increase in ridership, it had lower revenues than budgeted. Earlier this year, the city of Montreal gave a \$108 million loan to the company, \$37 million of which was to cover BIXI’s growing deficit.

Of Decorations and Dumbness

A ban on Christmas decorations in federal government buildings was quickly overturned on Dec. 2 after backlash from, well, pretty much everyone. *The Globe and Mail* reported that the ban was criticized even by the groups it was supposedly aimed toward. A couple hours after the memo to federal employees in Quebec was sent out directing them to hide their Christmas cheer from the public’s eyes, it was overturned by a federal minister. A statement was also issued by Service Canada telling employees that they can “celebrate Christmas or the holidays as they please. This includes decorations in Service Canada offices across Canada.”

Dirty Money, Dirty Diapers

Quebec’s new anti-corruption squad is now investigating another government entity: the province’s \$7.00-a-day public daycare program. Irregularities were reported by the province’s auditor general in the awarding of contracts for 18,000 daycare spaces. Some of the contracts allegedly went to people who had no history of working with children, but did have a history of donating to the party in power. The government-mandated squad was originally created to investigate the province’s notorious construction industry, but has increased its purview to deal with the large amount of alleged corruption in the province as a whole.

Inspiration in Isolation

Malajube Come in From the Cold With *La Caverne*



PHOTO MICHAEL MOREL

• KATIE MCGROARTY

The cover of Malajube's most recent album depicts a weird, glowing geometric house. Maybe not as strange as the lung-butterfly creature on the cover of their Polaris Prize-nominated 2006 album *Trompe-l'oeil*, but it's still a little odd.

Apparently, the skeletal dome-like structure is close to the band's heart—it's an illustration of where they recorded their fourth album, *La Caverne*.

In the grand tradition of musicians retreating to the middle of nowhere to record (see: Bon Iver; any band who cites "nature" as an inspiration), Malajube escaped to the woods of northern Quebec for their latest release.

"We rented this huge house, it was pretty inspiring," said Thomas Augustin, the band's key-

boardist, vocalist, and an ex-Concordia student. "It was a strange feeling, the house filled with our instruments, our gear and ourselves for two months in the middle of the woods."

Augustin describes their rented dome as something that once was made to look futuristic, although it was probably built sometime in the 1970s. Something, he said, that wouldn't look out of place in *A Clockwork Orange*.

"It's an experience," he said, "You're really living as a band and creating something. The time spent isolated there was part of the experience."

Prior to their stint in the 'caverne,' Malajube spent the majority of the past year on the road, touring across Canada and the U.S., but they admit that having their final show in Montreal is some-

thing that they're looking forward to.

After playing shows for audiences that were, for the most part, completely unaware of what their lyrics meant, coming home to Montreal means that people will sing along.

"People know the lyrics and the shows are a lot bigger," he said. "We almost feel celebrated every time; we don't have to convince anybody."

Unlike bands that stop writing in their native tongue after a few releases, Malajube has written exclusively in French so far. That hasn't stopped them from appealing to a wider market, but if you happen to go to a Malajube show outside of Quebec, there's one thing that's sure to help you break the ice: speaking to them in French.

"There's always a couple of

francophones scattered around and they seem to always hear about the shows," said Augustin. "For us, it's the same when we're away from home and we hear French. It gets our attention."

To those looking for a straightforward follow-up to 2009's *Labyrinthes*—which was also nominated for the Polaris—*La Caverne* isn't particularly comparable to the band's body of work thus far.

The album leaves behind the drama of their last album to embrace a more dance-friendly vibe, though it does leave their climactic orchestrations intact.

"We tried some weird recording techniques [for this album]," said Augustin. "A bunch of keyboards and a lot of guitars, either weirdly or badly tuned."

Replicating the same sounds live is usually a challenge, as it de-

pended on the physical space where they recorded *La Caverne*.

"There's a lot of melodies and details in our record," he said. "But there's only four of us. Personally, even if I had four hands, I would still be able to find stuff to play."

After their show in Montreal, the band will be taking a break before heading back on the road for a couple of shows in the new year.

As for resolutions, Augustin said that as long as they're able to keep creating new things, he'll be satisfied.

"I'm really proud of what we've done," he said. "But if we can keep doing something that's going to surprise people and still excite us—that would be a good deal."

Malajube / Metropolis (59 Ste. Catherine St. E.) / Dec. 14 / 8:30 p.m.



DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

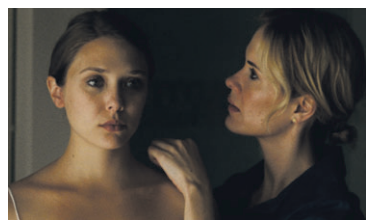
AN UNDERGROUND IDENTITY

"I found a lot less racism in the Hasidic community," said East Baltimore Hasidic Jew and hip-hop artist Y-Love. "The extent to which a Jew identifies as a white person from their country is to the extent to which they'll identify with the racism that goes with the construct of whiteness."



FRAME TO FRAME

Fear is the driving force behind Sean Durkin's debut feature film *Martha Marcy May Marlene*. Underneath the lush cinematography, hiding behind the ominous score by Daniel Bensie and Saundra Jurriaans and present in almost every glance and gesture Martha makes, lurks a fear that dominates the narrative and spurs the plot onward. It's also what keeps us glued to the screen.



FRINGE FOOD

A quasi-secret even to UQAM students, Café Aquin might well be the unofficial vessel of Hubert Aquin's legacy in his own building.

It's the type of thriving space that keeps political activities alive, that brings the students out of those long hallways of classrooms.

It also serves out several hundred cups of coffee per day.

Fringe for the Holidays

Local Craft Fairs Offer Up Unique Gift Possibilities

• ALEX MCGILL

The best parts of the holiday season are those things you can't quantify: decorating your house, visiting your family, digging into fantastic meals, playing in the snow. That nice warm, cozy feeling you get when you sit back and contemplate the things you have to be happy for.

That intangible holiday happiness is often beaten over the head by the extreme corporatization that is the Christmas season, though. It's a yuletide march that begins in earnest in Canada on Nov. 1—a month before any of the actual holidays begin.

Immediately after Hallowe'en, we're bombarded with

holiday paraphernalia—lights, music, decorations, with holiday deals attached to everything and anything.

By the time we're out of exams and ready to start celebrating, we're so sick of the holidays that they can completely lose their appeal. As much as there is to love about the season, the overwhelming materialism can get the best of the most starry-eyed of us—emotionally and financially.

But there are alternatives.

This year, why not take the time to not only buy your loved ones something truly special and unique, but to also support local artists and artisans?

Montreal hosts a variety of arts and craft fairs where you can definitely find the perfect gift for everyone on your list.

Holiday Pucés POP

Pucés POP returns with a holiday version of their DIY and craft fair, featuring 85 vendors of handmade art, craft and design. Clothing, furniture, jewelry, photography, books and much, much more will be on display and ready to purchase. There will also be fair-trade food and coffee available, as well as a kid's craft corner and a giftwrapping station provided by Hand & Hands. The weekend will end on Sunday with POP Bingo! A party with prizes, hot chocolate and empanadas. Dec. 10 and 11, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at St-Enfant Jesus Church (5035 St. Dominique).

Pop-Up Shop Super-Pressé Club

For all the print-lovers on your list, Le Super-Pressé Club—a collective of 14 members of the Montreal printmaking community—will be hosting a pop-up shop at Casa del Popolo (4873 St. Laurent Blvd.). Offering posters, art-prints, books, collages, accessories, cards, gifts and more printed goodness, the fair's hours are from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., Thursday through Sunday for the first three weeks of December, and 12:00 p.m. through 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday the week before Christmas.

The Plant Art Market

The Plant (185 Van Horne Ave.) put out an open call to artists of all kinds and talents to put their work on display in their first art market, happening Dec. 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The event aims to create a supportive environment in which artists can display and sell their art, as well as check out the art of others. Plus, there will be delicious food and drinks served all day! Artists can reserve space in advance by e-mailing theplantartmarket@gmail.com

CEASE

The CEASE art collective bring you their annual Holiday Flea Market at Under Pressure's Fresh Paint Gallery (180 Ste. Catherine St. E.). As usual, they will be offering a variety of handmade goods and local art, from clothing to jewelry to illustrations and photos at the market, which will take place Dec. 17 and 18 between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Old Skool Crafts Holiday Fair

Hosting over 110 artisans, this fair will showcase unique jewelry, beauty products, woodwork, clothing, toys and ornaments, photographs, illustrations, and much more! There will also be a kids craft area, as well as craft workshops for adults. You can bring non-perishable food items, toiletries and toys to donate to 7 local charities. The fair runs Dec. 10 and 11 at St. Michael's Church (105 St. Viateur St. W.) from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Cold in One

Strange Sport of Ice Golf Has Been Around for Centuries

• SEAN EVANS,
*THE CASCADE (UNIVERSITY OF
THE FRASER VALLEY)*

ABBOTSFORD (CUP)—Let me answer your first question: they use coloured balls to avoid losing them in the snow.

Your second question? The “green” is referred to as the “white.”

Ice golf has been around for centuries. It was first played, as far as we know, back in the 17th century in Holland. Originally called “kolven,” the game was played on frozen canals and players used clubs to get a ball into a hole in the ice—much like regular golf.

The World Ice Golf Championship is played every year in Greenland, weather permitting. What is so unique about the modern version of the sport is that it is played on icebergs in the fjord ice.

The World Ice Golf Championship’s website explains the process of how the course is made: “The real architect of the course every year is the ocean, which interacts with the weather and the formations of icebergs in January and February to create an external framework for the course.”

The course is played on during the winter months and “melts away in May.” As a result, each year the course is completely unique.

An obvious difficulty is the weather. Players are recommended to use golf clubs with steel shafts, as they handle the cold weather well. The length of the course is reduced by about 25 per cent, as golf balls are “less elastic in the cold,” the website states.

Probably the biggest challenge that the weather presents is to the athletes, as temperatures can drop as low as -25 C, but, the World Ice Golf Championship website states, “the cold feels less bitter than one might expect, due to the dry climate and the strong sunshine.”

A likely story.

Floridian Ramon Bernhard, who had “never seen snow before,” commented on his experience golfing in Greenland, on the World Ice Golf Championship website: “I was fascinated by the icebergs and the snow.” Indeed, the snow and icebergs would surely be fascinating. But, one has to wonder why anyone would be so inclined to play golf on an iceberg in 25-below-zero weather.

American Tom Ferrell gives

some insight. “Ice golf is all about survival. It’s about handling the elements.” Again, one has to wonder why. Why not just take a hike? But hey, whatever floats your boat—er, iceberg.

The official tournament is played in Uummannaq, Greenland, a mere 600 km north of the Arctic Circle. The tournament is a 36-hole competition, and is usually decided by who can figure out how to not lose their balls the fastest. The last tournament, held in 2006, was won by an Australian, Jason Cunningham—an unusual victor, considering the lack of ice in Australia.

The most unfortunate part of this story is the fact that ice golf’s days could be numbered. Yes, global warming is having a negative affect on the sport. The last tournament was played in 2006, as global warming and changes in the climate have caused the ice to be too thin to play on.

So, if dying polar bears and the thought of the extinction of the human race were not enough to motivate you to carpool, let this be your warning; if you don’t do your part and stop ruining the environment, ice golf may be no more. Consider yourself warned.



PHOTO MORTIN LIN

TWO MINUTES FOR REFFING: UNOFFICIALS CALLING INTRAMURAL GAMES

• DAVID KAUFMANN

Concordia’s intramural sports leagues may be lacking trained refs for students, despite the university charging up to \$240 in fees for many sports at Loyola campus.

Whereas referee training for ice hockey is mandatory, officials for sports like intramural basketball and soccer aren’t offered similar refereeing clinics by the university—and it’s a fact that’s felt on the field.

“The refs often change the rules,” said long-time intramural soccer player Mike Kairouz. “They invent rules, change them and it’s never really clear how it goes.”

This can be said for the outdoor and dome soccer leagues, as some don’t have the proper experience, though Concordia’s athletic director Katie Sheahan said a lot do.

“Well over 80 per cent of referees are indeed certified with FIFA,” said Sheahan. Yet not all of them are, because prior experience isn’t necessary to become an official.



GRAPHIC CHRISTOPHER TAN

Campus recreation coordinator Ray Kirkwood justifies this lack of experience, saying familiarization of the sport is key, and thus soccer officials don’t need training, though it would apparently only cost Concordia a small sum to hire someone to train potential refs.

“The first criteria is that the people that are hired need have at minimum an extensive knowledge in the sport,” said Kirkwood. “If the officials have an experienced background, are familiar with the rules, have officiated in the past,

then typically there may not be a clinic given.”

The same goes for basketball. “Their training is based on experience,” said basketball coordinator Decee Krah. “These guys play the game, so they know the game pretty well,” said Krah, referring to James Clark and Christian Kondo, two intramural basketball refs who have played alongside him with the Stingers.

“We’re trying to not only have people that have [a] knowledge of the sport at a high level, but we

also try where we can to insure that we can have students employed as well,” said Sheahan.

Currently officials make \$25 an hour for a period of four to eight hours a week of reffing.

And while these officials are familiar with their given sport, they can’t be held accountable if an injury occurs on the field or the court. “The referee is not liable. It’s a contact sport. It happens,” said Jay Kadam, who’s been officiating soccer for the past 13 years.

Many of the officials have first

aid experience, but it’s not a requirement either. If something happens, they report the incident to security, which then takes care of the issue.

The only sport where they are liable is intramural hockey, where the referee is required to enforce the usage of proper equipment, according to Hockey Canada certified official Brent Scheiss, who’s been working the ice for ConU for the past five years.

“The university takes it very seriously when it comes to training the [hockey] refs,” said Scheiss.

Kirkwood notes this is because when intramurals start up again after the winter break, some applicants are lacking part of the criteria it takes to become an official but have had experience playing hockey at high levels.

“For these officials we offer a one-day clinic to get them prepared to referee for the season,” added Kirkwood.

For some popular sports, however, it appears the leagues are still neglecting the public’s cry for adequate refereeing.



DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

WRESTLING

Michael Noonan of the Concordia Stingers wrestling team has been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to the University of Oxford in England for his work on fish-passage facilities in dams.

Look out for a profile on him coming up on The Link's website this week.

MEN'S HOCKEY I

STINGERS 7 CARLETON 2

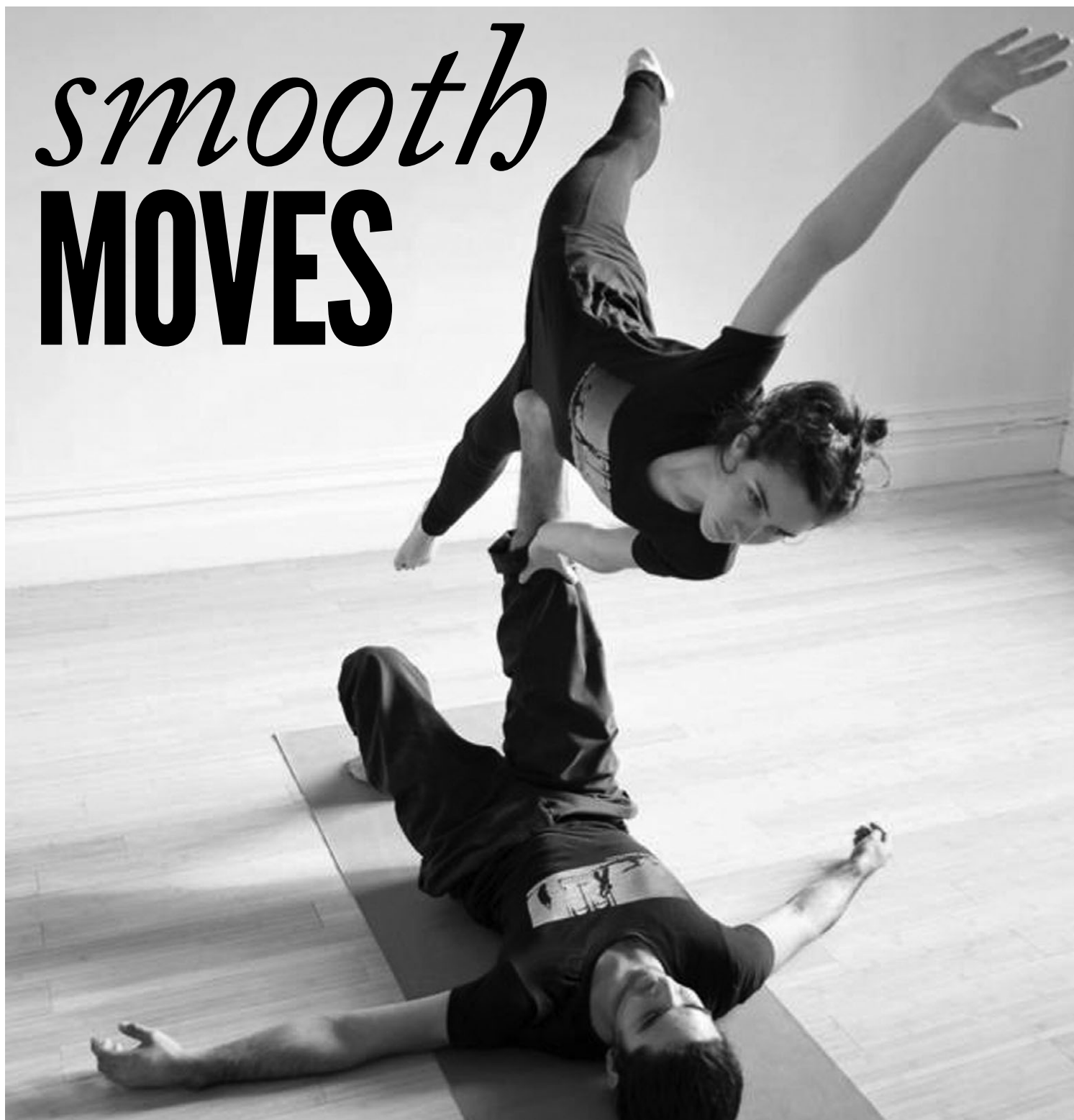
Concordia centre George Lovatsis scored a hat trick and goaltender Nicholas Champion made 36 saves to guide the Stingers to 7-2 thrashing over the third-place Carleton Ravens last Friday.

MEN'S HOCKEY II

STINGERS 3 OTTAWA 5

The Stingers couldn't ride their momentum into Saturday's game against the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees. After finding themselves down 4-0 after 40 minutes of play, they gave the home team a run for their money, scoring three in the third period, but ultimately fell short. ConU resumes play on Jan. 13 when they visit the Queen's University Gaels. The puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

smooth MOVES



Combining acrobatic yoga and Pilates can effectively improve martial arts skills needed for Russian Systema.

PHOTO ANDREW MIDDLETON

New Studio to Offer Martial Arts, Mind-Body Connection

• JACOB ROBERTS

Flow Space is a new, multi-disciplinary studio in Montreal offering to kick your ass in a variety of classes that work to stimulate the body and mind.

Andrew Gordon Middleton, the owner of the studio, is extensively versed in yoga, acrobatic yoga and Pilates, but his main interest is Russian Systema—a martial art developed in tenth-century Russia that was later adapted by Spetsnaz, an elite Soviet military unit.

“A lot of these [classes] are things that I am personally interested in and they are things that I think are complementary to each other. [Like] Systema and Pilates, [which] are very empirical systems,” said Middleton.

The theory is that different aspects of each discipline are not mutually exclusive and can be combined to achieve a greater effect, rather than studying just one discipline.

Middleton continued to ex-

plain how the physical conditioning of Pilates helps in Systema training, while the fluid nature of the movements in Systema help to loosen Pilates students.

“A Pilates cliché is that people walk around like ironing boards, they're all stiff and can't move,” he said.

“Systema is very much about the smoothness and fluidity of movement and adaptability, as opposed to some [martial arts], at least compared to Systema, [which] are very tense and very rigid,” said Middleton.

Middleton has been toying with the idea of a multi-disciplinary studio for quite some time, but in September of this year he finally amassed all of the people necessary for his dream to come alive.

According to him, the name Flow Space reflects the nature of Systema as well as the interdisciplinary mentality that they are trying to promote at the studio.

“I like the variety because it

keeps it interesting and it's a different challenge. A lot of what Systema is about is adaptability,” said Middleton. “The mind-body connection really develops well if you have to improvise with the movement.”

“Andrew's vision was really to have a place where people could come to not necessarily just practice one type of movement,” said Kate Stashko, a Pilates instructor at the studio.

Stashko was recommended to Middleton by another yoga studio in Montreal. It became apparent that Montreal's yoga community is pretty friendly.

“They're not ruthless cut-throats, they are trying to make a living but they also want to be supportive of other people who have the same approach to this,” said Michael O'Brian, the manager of Flow Space.

“Also because of the niche, there aren't necessarily a lot of places that would be competing in the things we're offering.”

Rhetta Parnas is a yoga in-

structor at the studio who met Middleton through the yoga community in Montreal.

“I was really excited about this project because I like the idea of different disciplines complimenting each other but I also like this idea that each teacher will have become quite specialized within their own disciplines,” said Parnas.

“We can explore [without] necessarily creating something new or entirely outside of this idea of traditions. So I like seeing how the traditions come from a common base of support of understanding about the human body or mind.”

Flow Space Studio offers classes in Russian Systema, yoga, Acro-yoga, Qi Gong and Taiko drumming. As well, Flow Space offers massage therapy and live performances from local artists on special occasions.

Flow Space is located at 429 Viger Ave. Visit their website at flowspace.org.

Big Brother Is Stalking Your Profile

Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, and the Problem of Control

• HILARY SINCLAIR

There's no online hassle more annoying these days as a Facebook redesign.

Not slow loading times, not the government taking down your favourite pirated movie website, not even an inability to find something despite literally an hour of Googling.

We're all familiar with the collective groan of frustration uttered (on Facebook) every time the world's most popular social media website's format changes. Each new tweak agitates its users, however; it also marks another step towards Facebook's ultimate goal—control.

Founder and CEO of Facebook Mark Zuckerberg's most recent blog post, entitled "Our Commitment to the Facebook Community," leaves no question as to what the company's goals are.

Zuckerberg uses the word "control" a whopping 18 times throughout 1,400 word post, and it's not accidentally conspicuous—he's using it in an effort to instill faith in the website's users that they have 'control' over the content that they upload and post to the site, that they get to decide who gets to see it, and how.

Last Tuesday's blog post was written in response to a recent deal between Facebook and the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. The FTC took issue with many of Facebook's practices—including the fact that the company has been selling information to advertisers.

"When I built the first version of Facebook, almost nobody I knew wanted a public page on the Internet," wrote Zuckerberg. "That seemed scary. But as long as they could make their page private, they felt safe sharing with their friends online. Control was key."

The agreement with the FTC is meant to force the company to be more transparent. Peter Pachal, writer for the popular news blog Mashable, said, "The message from the FTC to social media is now clear: if you put the desires of advertisers before the privacy of users, you will be stopped."

So, now we can all sleep easy knowing the government is watching Facebook. Phew! But wait; what about all that stuff that, while scary, isn't technically illegal?

Ben Parr, another Mashable writer, said, "Facebook's goal is to become the social layer that supports, powers and

connects every single piece of the web, no matter who or what it is or where it lives."

Why? It's simple—to make money. How? By making you feel emotionally attached to your profile. By getting your online social life to parallel, support—even supplant—your real social life.

And the terrifying part is that this strategy is working. We're hooked. Think about how, when and why you use Facebook. And—deep breath—what you would do without it.

Do you even remember what your life was like before it existed? How did you spend your free time? Imagine all the people throughout history who graduated from university without ever checking to see if their crush was on Facebook chat.

It's gotten to a point where the whole world seems to encourage us to use Facebook. In my journalism classes we are taught that we need to create and maintain profiles to forward our careers, and our friends constantly tell us that we need to use the site to stay socially connected.

Rather than policing our use directly, Facebook gets its users to encourage each other to spend more time interacting through it, making it all the more difficult to say no to.

Technology isn't much help either. Thanks to their brilliant deal that enables users to 'Like' things on pages all across the web, that familiar blue square is never far away.

And if I so much as type the letter 'F' into the URL field on my browser, Facebook pops up immediately, asking me to press 'Enter' and be transported for all eternity into a world of vitally important status updates and cat videos.

But if there's one thing I know, it's that I don't feel in control, Mr. Zuckerberg. I don't feel in control of your strange, shadowy transactions with advertisers. I have no power over them—and neither do any of your users. You want to control our online world, but should we give you the power?

If we opt out, we risk doing damage to our professional lives, to our social lives, and, perhaps worst of all, discovering how much we really miss the useless minutiae of everyone's lives.

I don't know if I should give in, but as of right now, I don't even feel like I'm in a position to even make a choice.





The Link's Holiday Card Cut-Out Extravaganza!

Here are some sweet, wintry-themed pictures to stick on the holidays gifts you send to your most loved of loved ones. They're intended to distract you from the fact that *The Link* is officially on holidays (or make that acid trip even trippier)! Please enjoy the albino penguin you've always wanted, the lasers and the ice-spider that are sure to add just the right touch to the bleak whiteness that will soon be upon us, and the lack of Tuesday excitement in your lives. We're back on the stands January 10. Thank Jesus!
Love, The Link.

Will Canada's Markets Get Monopolized?



PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

Maple Group's TMX Takeover Not Ready Yet

• CLAY HEMMERICH

Canada's capital marketplace is bound for a complete overhaul.

Just this past year, the London Stock Exchange called for a merger with Canada's exchange, TMX. The deal, had it gone through, would have combined the two stock exchanges, springing the Canadian marketplace into global eyes and attracting more foreign investment.

But, alas, the deal is dead. Shareholder interest wasn't high enough to make it happen. This could be due to a number of factors: LSE would have been the majority owner because they are the slightly bigger exchange, and

because another homegrown offer was brewing while the LSE deal was on the table.

The offer came via Maple Group, a group of investors mostly comprised of the four major banks in Canada, who sent out an aggressive, hostile bid that may have interested shareholders more than the LSE deal.

Maple Group wants to buy TMX for \$50 a share (\$3.8 billion). On Dec. 5, the stock quote was \$43.60 and some speculate that it will rise. After this, they want to buy Alpha Group, Canada's second biggest market exchange, and Clearing and Depository Services (CDS), a company that charges a fee to make

sure the stock buyer gets their money.

If Maple Group does acquire Alpha Group, the exchange would make up 80 per cent of the markets. But is this monopolization of Canada's marketplace healthy for the growth of the economy? This deal would inevitably smash the competition, and if competition fosters innovation, it will smash that too.

But this part of the deal isn't even solidified yet. When Ontario Securities Commission chair Howard Wetston asked Maple Group about the deal on Dec. 1, they said they'd get back to him in a couple of days, but CDS director Peter Virvilis noted that they'd

"been hearing that for about eight months."

But my cause for concern is Maple Group's plans with CDS, the network which clears trades and makes sure money gets from one side to another.

Traditionally, clearing companies in Canada are not-for-profit; but Maple Group wants to turn it into a for-profit company. This means higher fees per trade. And with a monopolized marketplace, there is no competition to stop the fees from becoming higher and higher.

According to *Globe and Mail's* Boyd Erman, Maple Group was modeling this new system after Deutsch Boerse, which charges 10

times more per trade than Canada's current fees.

I don't think Maple Group has a grand master plan to control the marketplace. Collecting all of Canada's assets under one roof is smart and may be good posturing for Canada's marketplace to become global if the LSE deal comes back. It could give more incentive for London to accept a 50/50 partnership with Canada.

But there are too many uncertainties for the bid to go through. If the bid succeeds, there needs to be strict regulations on CDS clearance fees. It seems like, right now, independent and small investors will take the brunt of the extra fees and charges.



for more jhrconcordia.com

Bill C-10: Incarcerating the Mentally Ill

• JESSIE MATHIESON, JHR TV CO-ORDINATOR

Stephen Harper's proposed blanket crime legislation inexcusably ignores a vulnerable portion of our population.

Bill C-10, otherwise known as the Omnibus Crime Bill or The Safer Streets and Communities Act, fails to address the mistreatment of mentally ill criminals. Instead, the legislation aims to put more people in prison.

Imprisoning people does not reform them—it institutionalizes them, and it makes them more likely to commit another crime.

A study by The Canadian Population Health Initiative found a strong link between the mental health of young people and their relationships to their families and communities. It also showed that negative mental health is directly correlated to delinquent behavior.

The CPHI recommends promot-

ing community-building programs as a method of preventing crime.

Lawyers and criminologists across the country have also criticized Bill C-10 for its archaic ideas that have already been tested and rejected by our neighbours to the south.

The Canadian Bar Association's Submission on Bill C-10 says, "many of the positive reforms of the past 30 years, reforms that have led to the humanizing of Canada's criminal justice system [...] would be imperiled with the passage of the Omnibus Bill."

The CBA suggests finding better ways to treat the mentally ill.

Despite these warnings, the Conservative Government is rushing the bill through Parliament. Justice Minister Rob Nicholson ignored questions Dec. 1 about how the bill would deal with the mentally ill, according to the Canadian Press.

The Conservatives also voted

down an amendment that would have allowed judges to take into consideration mental illness when handing down mandatory minimum sentences.

In *The Moral Landscape*, Sam Harris uses the example of the psychopath to argue for prison reform. According to Harris, many serious offenders are psychopaths. He says neurological studies done on psychopaths show that their brains have deficits in the regions that control things like impulsivity and self-control. If we really want to make Canada's streets safer, we must invest money in research to find out why people commit crimes.

We need to build institutions specifically designed to care for and treat mental illness.

Canada already has a poor record for the treatment of mentally ill criminals.

In 2007, 19-year-old Ashley Smith committed suicide while in

Corrections' custody. She had been diagnosed with borderline personality disorder.

Last year the CBC's *The Fifth Estate* aired an eye-opening episode entitled "Behind the Wall" that revealed what really happened to her.

In the video, Smith strangles herself to death while two guards watch and do nothing. Smith's story sheds light on the problems with how we treat mentally ill prisoners.

The New Brunswick Ombudsman also investigated her death, concluding in another report that this problem is systemic.

Harper wants to build larger prisons and implement tougher sentences, which leads to the incarceration of more mentally ill people and does nothing to address the problem raised by CBA, the New Brunswick Ombudsman and many others.

We need to treat these prisoners like sick people, not animals. If

Harper's bill proposed that we put money towards neurological research, better mental health facilities and social programs that promote individual well being within society, we could call it progressive.

As it stands, Harper is actually reversing the progressive efforts of previous governments—efforts that have already failed.

The Conservatives' plan for making our streets safer will actually increase crime and allow more mentally ill people slip through the cracks and into incarceration.

It must not pass.

Watch the full *Fifth Estate* documentary, *Behind The Wall* here.





A Year in Review

• SANAZ SUNNIE HASSANPOUR

Before *The Link* calls it quits for the winter break, we thought some good ol' nostalgia was in order. So, we took to the halls of Concordia to find out what struck students as the most memorable event of the year.

"The event that struck me the most was Steve Jobs' death, because he was someone with a great and innovative mind. It takes a genius to come up with ideas like that, they were revolutionary ideas."



—Prem Karthigesu
BA Political Science

"What sticks in my head is that Silvio Berlusconi is no longer the prime minister of Italy. It's nice because he was in power for too long and he was quite corrupt. I'm happy he's gone. But, the new government is not doing much to fix Italy's economic problems, which is disappointing."



— Christopher Chopra
Micheletti
BA Economics

"The Occupy protests—not only in Montreal and on Wall Street, but all around the world. The Internet really fuelled [the movement] and worked as a good medium for [protesters] to share their ideas and organize something. There was no formal leader, which was very interesting. It was more of a collaborative thing, which is something I'd never seen before."



—Jennifer Solman
BComm Co-op Human
Resource Management

"The tuition fee increase. This event is closely related to our everyday lives. A couple of weeks ago, students from many colleges and universities [in Montreal] went on a strike against the increase in tuition fees, but the government still wants to increase it."



—Yuan Shu
BComm Supply Chain
Operations Management

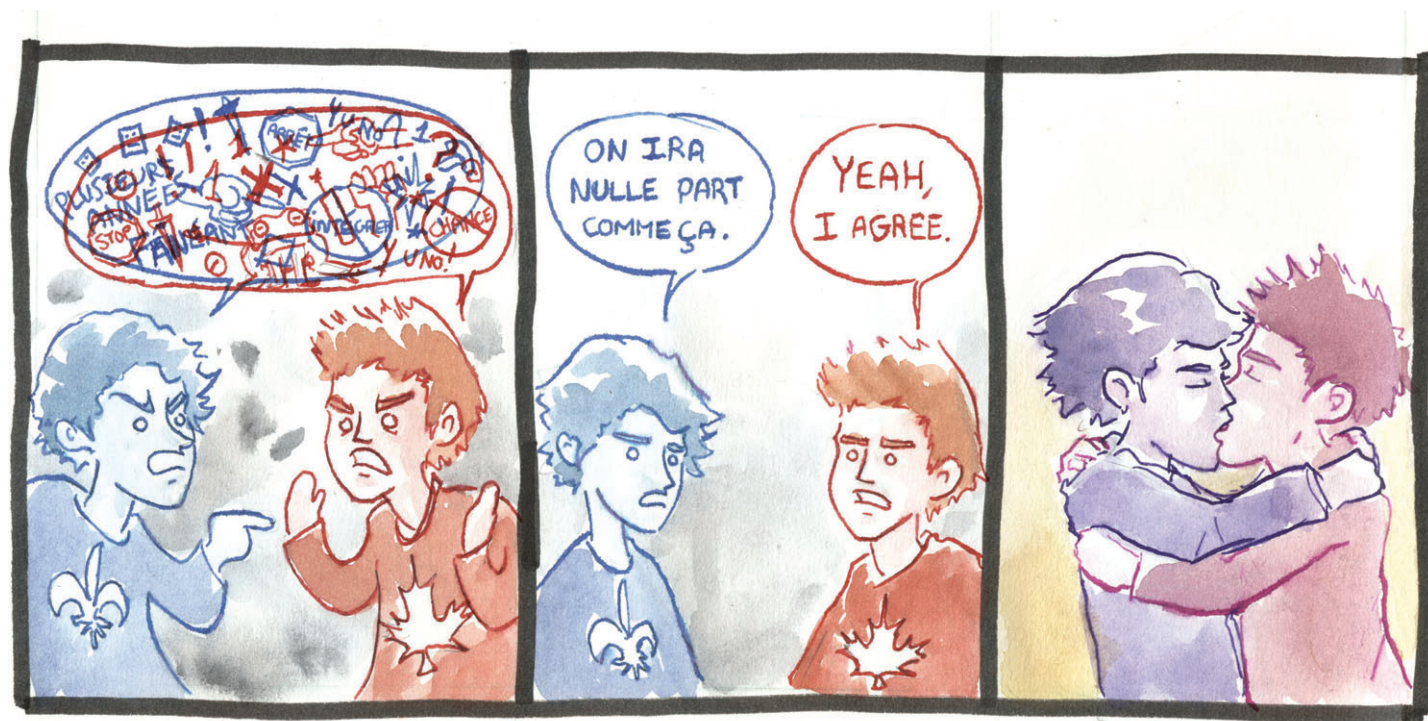
"Occupy Montreal, because it was people speaking up and doing something against the injustice that they see. It's been a grassroots movement for the people who decided to be part of it. The spirit of people all around the world, that's what I think is the most important event of 2011."



—Nadia Yotis
BA Political Science

French or Be Frenched

Discourse Surrounding Language Debate Needs to Change



GRAPHIC PAKU D'AUUST CLOUTIER

• LAURA BEESTON

Let me preface this article by explicitly stating that the only reason I moved to Montreal was to learn French.

If I were smart, I probably would have transplanted myself somewhere like Tadoussac where Anglos are like aliens, making up less than two per cent of the population.

In Montreal, however, Statistics Canada suggests that just over half of the 1.6 million people here are bilingual, and 18.5 per cent of us are Anglos.

But with two suitcases and a dream, I packed, got on a plane and enrolled in a class. I managed to charm a gang of French friends in the meantime, became known as "l'expériment du Winnipeg," and I practiced.

Four years later, I honestly still struggle to integrate. It is difficult, of course, but not impossible. You just need to want it, and work towards it.

But the reality is that not everyone does, or can. Even when you're trying hard, navigating budding bilingualism here can prove tricky. It requires a ton of effort, some luck, and you need to actively keep committed.

Even if you take a course, people are going to switch languages when they detect an accent. Get used to that—they're probably doing it to be kind, but explain politely that you are learning and they'll likely give you a chance.

That, or there'll be some awkward silence. Sometimes people are condescending about it, but they are the exception, not the rule.

Moreover, when you are in the early stages of the learning process you have to be psychologically ready to a) not speak all that much and b) sound like a total idiot when you do. God help you if you can't laugh at yourself.

My suggestion is to find patient French-speaking friends and lovers. This will help enormously.

The other thing about attempting French in Montreal is that you can get away with being lazy if you find it too difficult, have other things to do, or have no interest in learning. You can live in the McGill ghetto, the West Island or the Mile End and carry on with your life, school or personal projects.

Personally, I don't judge. Live and let live.

But if you don't bother or can't seem to figure out French, you should know you are one of the 260,000-plus Montrealers making up a so-called unilingual anglophone "trend" and you are currently at the very centre of a so-called "cultural controversy."

I'm not sure what happened in the news over the last few weeks (early warning shots of a provincial election, perhaps?), but someone has stirred the language pot.

After it was revealed in *La Presse* that a Vice President of the National Bank is a unilingual anglophone, talk show host Guy A. Lepage got into it, hinting at a boycott, on Radio Canada's *Tout le monde en parle*.

Just prior, CBC's *Daybreak* interviewed two anglo-only folks who have been here for decades, which garnered a huge reaction and set off *L'actualité* blogger Jean-François Lisée, and *Le Devoir*'s Michel David.

"We can easily get frustrated about the unwillingness, the lack of intellectual curiosity—the arrogance—of people who've been living in Quebec for years without having made an effort to learn French," David wrote in *Le Devoir* on Dec. 3. "Is that their fault, or ours?"

The Métropolitain managing editor Dan Delmar had a different take. Dubbing it "the unilingual anglophone witch-hunt," Delmar called the issue manufactured, and took the commentators to task for perpetuating a linguistic crisis that he believes is intellectually dishonest.

"The story is that there is no story," he wrote. "This isn't a bilingual pissing contest."

Either way, there's seems to be no sign of this 'us versus them' discourse slowing. You get strong media personalities talking about the French/English "solitudes" and ugly insecurities on both sides seem to fly.

On one hand, I think I can understand where the francophones are coming from on this: culture, history and politics—especially in Quebec—are a battlefield. There is a lot of baggage there, and a lot to lose.

Hemmed in on all sides by a nearly homogenous, English-speaking North American culture that seems to be growing close to home, it's understandable francophones are protective of their history and lifestyle. From

this perspective, it clearly must be difficult to deal with selective appropriation.

Anglos on comment boards and social media, meanwhile, are using the old 'xenophobia' card to respond to the French outlook, which isn't exactly constructive either.

From what I can tell, both 'solitudes' are essentially blaming each other for the same, blanket thing: perceived ignorance and a lack of accommodation.

However, I don't believe that this discourse adequately represents, or serves, anyone.

Because of our diversity, this tension is pretty unique to Montreal and is important to negotiate if we are going to move forward.

But the culture of debate around the issues has become its own entity—and it's pretty ugly and defensive.

Moreover, this two-sided dispute totally negates crucially important components and complexities that exist here.

Where do allophones fall in this equation and narrative? What about native language and culture, which is very seriously on the verge of extinction?

Listen, I'm not even trying to pretend that I have an answer to "the language issue" or claim to be expert on the cultural diaspora in Montreal, but there must be a better way of talking about language and framing the debate.

I highly doubt that the comparatively small population of unilingual anglophones in Montreal warrants an entire province getting into cultural-crisis mode, but it is worthy of conversation. The tone just needs to change.

Linguistic ability and language politics are incredibly personal and variant things. The individual exchanges you have with people—francophone, anglophone, allophone, alien—are going to be just as diverse.

If we get caught up in the recent rhetoric and play the blame game across the public forum, what's the trickle down effect going to be when we speak eyeball-to-eyeball?

This is a multi-faceted issue that requires a bit more mutual respect from all sides.

Only when we have that will we actually be talking to each other—regardless of which language we're using.

Across

2. A modern Ebenezer Scrooge, but of questionable taxonomy. Also, he should probably look into his heart problems. (2 words)

4. The story of a man that discovers he's led a terrible life and learns to be less of a jackass thanks to a super non-creepy troika of highly conceptual ghosts. (3 words)

7. I like to think that this Christmas character was created as the result of a poorly researched high school assignment on water precipitation and condensation. (3 words)

9. Magical pint-sized creatures that build perfect knockoffs of licensed merchandise. There's a political cartoon in here somewhere...

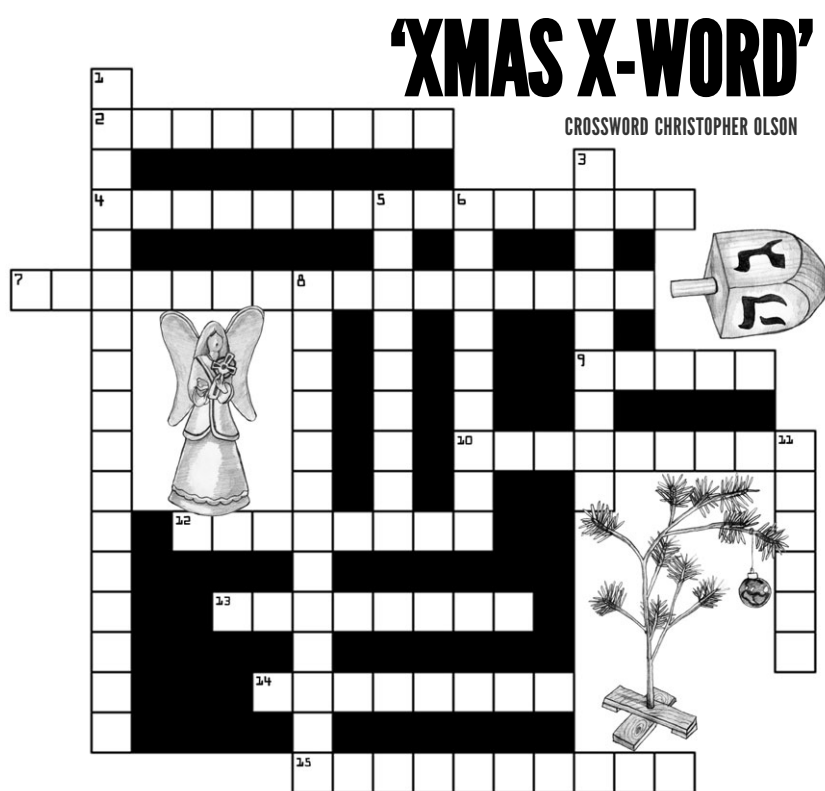
10. At the same time that I discovered the truth about Santa Claus, I discovered that this inhospitable locale was a real place. (2 words)

12. They might just ring your doorbell—but be warned, talent usually isn't a criteria to join their crew.

13. Even though penguins can't fly, at least they would serve as plausible alternatives to these woodland creatures.

14. Using a little basic math, one can easily determine that this holiday is eight times as good as Christmas. It's a wonder they don't get more converts.

15. Because parents hate accepting credit for the great things they do for their kids, they had to invent



a scapegoat. (2 words)

Down

1. A man discovers that he's led a fantastic existence and learns to stop taking it for granted. It's so heart-warming you should make sure to have a fire extinguisher on hand. (4 words)

3. Mom, why do we still have this 20-year-old dry macaroni that's been spray-painted gold? Sentimental

value? Oh, that makes sense.

5. Finally! A totally valid excuse for awkwardly kissing your hot co-workers.

6. Hung with glee. That's not a come-on.

8. This cheery-sounding greeting is the bullets in the War on Christmas. (2 words)

11. Getting smashed on eggs is so much better than just plain smashing eggs.

Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

Solving Stress

As the end of the semester approached, I found myself more fatigued than usual, with difficulty sleeping occasionally and more worry than I liked. Could it be that the stress of keeping up with my courses while working part time was getting to me? On the Internet I discovered a group called Mindfulness Meditation Training for Stress Reduction that meets near the university on Ste. Catherine Street.

I decided to give it a try.

I found myself in a small group including a doctor, a lawyer and two other students. I was not alone in feeling stressed and wanting to get back to a more relaxed state of mind.

That day the discussion was about how stress comes from a combination of triggers that are outside of us, and the way we react to those triggers.

We may not be able to control the circumstances that trigger our stress response, but we can learn to respond to them without panic.

Take deep breaths, and remember to do this when you feel harassed. Remember to smile to yourself; it helps you to take it easy. And DO NOT RUSH. Time pressure creates stress in a big way. Give yourself enough time to get to places and do things, so that you are not always behind.

I also got a lesson on the practice of mindfulness meditation. This kind of meditation is about being in the moment, being here and now. I found it very relaxing—worry comes from thinking about all the things I have to

do. It can be overwhelming! Even when I am with friends, I often think about the things I have to do next.

Here and now is the mantra of mindfulness, and the meditation period was a welcome break from my usual state of mind.

While I am still not able to meditate by myself, the evening gave me a new way to see things, and a way to deal with stress.

You can check out the group at mindfulnessmeditationcentre.org.

—Fleur Trubert
Études Françaises

Bad Karma

A terrible thing happened to me last week and I would like to vent a little.

My laptop was stolen from the women's washroom in the library. In a matter of minutes after realizing I had forgotten it I ran back, but it was too late.

When I got back to the washroom, a girl was using the stall I had left my laptop in. She told me there was nothing there when she arrived, but seemed a bit sketchy. In my moment of panic, I didn't question her further.

For all I know, she took it and lied to my face. I can't make any conclusions, but I will always wonder. In such a stressful circumstance everyone is a suspect.

The thief should be very ashamed. How selfish can someone be to think that the money they will make off selling it (or whatever they plan to do with it) carries more value than all of

my work and privacy?

The stolen sleeve not only contained a laptop, it also had a stack of important paperwork with all my study notes for finals, as well as irreplaceable information and artwork.

It is so disappointing that one cannot even trust a fellow student to be honest. Admittedly, it was in an area with no surveillance, but that should not constitute automatic deceit.

Whoever the culprit is, I hope you know that you totally fucked up my state of mind—I feel violated knowing someone has access to all of my personal files, pictures and information. Oh and also, you totally jeopardized the end of my semester. From one student to another, you have done something horrible!

We are *one week* away from finals—any mature individual would know how crucial this time of year is, and the fact that you chose to disregard this by taking all of my things is *very* disappointing! It is rude. It is dishonest. It is so sad.

You clearly have no respect for others and I sure hope karma comes around. Let the message be made *clear* that students should be very *careful* because there are thieves *everywhere!* Even the *library!*

I do not wish this upon anyone.

I really doubt that the guilty party will grow a conscience and return my stuff, but there's always hope!

—Elpida Gianopolous
BA Sociology

[Editors Note: If you want to clear your bad karma and drop off the laptop in H649, no questions will be asked.]



Royal Family Jewels

I was fooling around with a guy I kind of like the other night and things were going great, until I realized that he has a Prince Albert piercing. I'm actually scared of his dick; I don't want to touch it and I don't want it in me. He says it's perfectly safe, but what are the actual risks when it comes to with having sex with him?

—Afraid of Albert

Genital piercings can be pretty intimidating, so I definitely understand your fear. For those of you who don't know, a "Prince Albert" piercing involves a ring that is inserted through the base of the penis head and comes out through the urethra. Sounds like a fun time, right?

Right! While getting your dick pierced or seeing your partner's dick pierced might not sound awesome, it's done for a reason. The piercing increases sensation for the pierced partner and can also create new sensations for the penetrated partner.

Think of it as an ultra-ribbed penis tip. So while your initial reaction is to freak out, you might actually really like his Prince Albert in the end.

Like most piercings, the risks are minimal if it's cared for and was initially done correctly. With this in mind, it's good to know how long your guy's had the piercing and if it's all healed up.

In terms of oral sex, your only real significant risk is discomfort. Since it's a ring, there shouldn't be any sharp edges to the piercing, and it's always good to make sure the piercing is securely in place before getting started.

With this type of piercing, you should absolutely use a condom, not only to prevent STIs, but also since, depending where he is in the healing process, a piercing is essentially a healing wound—so it's extra vulnerable and is an opening between you and your partner.

If you're planning on giving him head, just go at your own pace and see what you're comfortable with.

For penetrative sex, you should again make sure there's nothing potentially sharp, and that the piercing is secure. This is also definitely the time to use a condom. If used properly, a condom isn't likely to break, but if a regular one fits too snugly with the piercing, consider using a bigger condom.

You should also have lube on hand because, depending on the size of his ring, it might be a bit difficult at first. If he's had penetrative sex with it before then he probably has an idea of how it will go down. Which brings me to my next point...

Talk! Talk about your fear with him before doing anything. Sure, it might seem unsexy to talk about it, but are you going to feel comfortable and safe doing this if you don't?

He must also expect that not every partner will be super eager to just stick it in right away. He might even be a little nervous the first time someone sees it—so remember that while you might be freaked out, this is his dick. Don't judge or be rude, and whatever you do, don't cock your head to the side and say, "Ewww."

It's also fine if you never become eager to do it. So you "kind of like" this guy. Big deal. If you're not down to try this out, then there's nothing wrong with that. Just let him down nicely—don't tell him it's 'cause you're scared of his dick.

—Melissa Fuller

Submit questions anonymously at sex-pancakes.tumblr.com and check out "Sex & Pancakes" on Facebook.

The Bible & the Bud

One of the most mind-boggling objections of the oxymoronic The Safe Streets and Communities Act (“It Could Get Worse,” Vol. 32, Iss. 14) that doesn’t get mentioned is the fact that roughly half of all Canadians believe the relatively safe plant cannabis (marijuana) should be legalized and regulated.

The notion “This is Old-Testament, fire-and-brimstone justice they’re calling for” must be weighed against the fact that God, the Ecologician indicates He created all the seed-bearing plants, saying they are all good, on literally the very first page of the Bible (see Genesis 1:11-12 and 29-30). The only Biblical restriction placed on cannabis is to accept it with

thankfulness (1 Timothy 4:1-5).

Caging responsible adults for using cannabis is anti-Christian, vulgar and is an act of the heathen.

—Stan White
Community at Large

Rubber Stamp Council

The latest development in the CEO-gate scandal was a Special Council Meeting held to discuss overturning the Judicial Board decision. Three councillors called this meeting and it was in accordance with the recommendations of the policy committee.

The meeting was called to discuss the conduct of JB Chairperson Ceejay Desfosses—accused of collusion with Concordia Student Union President Lex Gill. Al-

legedly, Gill broke the JB code of procedures and the CSU bylaws.

Collusion accusations aside, Council was supposed to discuss the fact that the JB chair broke the code of procedures and the bylaws and decide whether this should warrant any action against her—or an overturn of the original JB decision regarding the CEO (which resulted in the previous JB chair resigning from her post).

These are serious allegations regarding the highest decision-making body in the CSU.

Yet, instead of a serious discussion regarding the JB’s decision and the conduct of Ceejay Desfosses, the meeting can be better described as a “rubber stamp council.”

CSU Councillor Kyle McLoughlin droned on about how “the JB did its job and they did it well.” Then, VP External Chad Walcott spoke about how the JB did its job and did it well, and then CSU Councillor Melanie Hotchkiss called to question. Three speakers total.

The CSU failed to address the fact that Ceejay Desfosses was supposed to meet with the JB within five days to discuss my appeal and it has been almost three weeks. The CSU also did not address the fact that Ceejay broke the bylaws and invented her own procedure by sending the appeal to Council for “deliberation.”

The bylaws state that the JB cannot do that, especially not in this particular situation since the CSU Council is a party in the case!

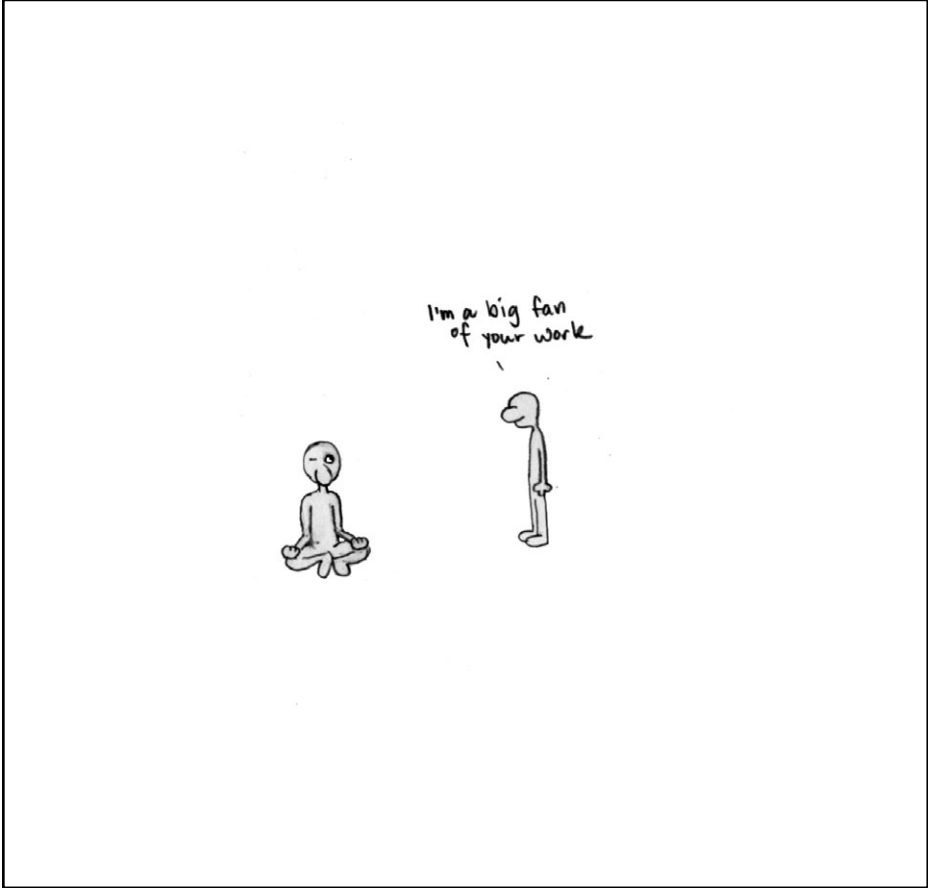
To Kyle and Chad I would like to say this: the JB is not mandated by God. They are not beyond reproach and criticizing them is not a slight against all that is good and decent. They are just students. They can be guilty of not being impartial and they can make mistakes.

The point of accountability is that people pay a price for their mistakes. Ceejay Desfosses is guilty of dereliction of duties and she needs to be held accountable for her actions, or lack thereof.

—Tomer Shavit
BFA Computation Arts

Barton Flats

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



False Knees

COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



Nah'msayin?

Bombarded in the Bathroom

Everybody needs to chill the fuck out when it comes to swinging doors open to get into the washrooms.

Last week I was abruptly smacked on my invaluable writing hand by someone entering the bathroom as I was leaving, and if it hadn't been for my partially blow-dried right hand (those things never get them completely dry, but that's another story) shaking with pain, I might have thought about returning the favour.

Who do these people think they are, swinging doors open like George Clooney in *ER*, rushing through hospital corridors? You're not about to perform heart surgery on an attractive housewife, so take it down a

notch.

If you're rushing because you can't make it to the washroom in time, wear a diaper. If you're in a hurry to finish your already-late first-year psych paper, don't worry, you're going to fail that anyways, so kindly settle down.

Be courteous to others already relieved and relaxed as they exit the poopers. It's finals time, everyone's stressed, so don't expect compassion from anyone else not being able to put up with your hurriedness.

Walk into the washrooms slowly and don't swing the damn doors open—or you might be seeing something swinging at your face in return.

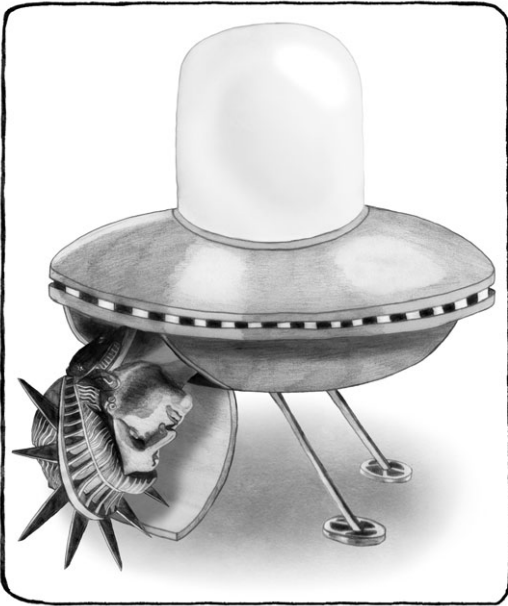
—David Murphy
Lifestyle Editor



GRAPHIC JACOB ROBERTS

Tremendous Tales

by Christopher Olson



“Take me to your huddled masses,” said the 150-foot tall, copper-coloured alien.

New Year’s Resolutions for Concordia

editorial

It is, I’m told, that time of year again. There’s a chill in the air, twinkly lights line the houses and blood is actively pouring from the ears of anyone who works in Christmas-friendly retail. And while most of us will finish finals and begin the inevitable self-reflection that comes with a new year, those most deserving of coal could probably use a little guidance.

So we at *The Link* have taken it upon ourselves to nudge some of our friends in the right direction.

This year, we’re giving Concordia the best gift (besides working escalators) of all: a pre-packaged, ready-to-go list of New Year’s resolutions. And this one’s not like the Shapiro Report, guys—so don’t pick and choose.

To our Administration:

— Finish what you started. From water fountains to escalators, many of last year’s promised plans ought to be further along by now. Bottled water, for example, should be gone from vending machines by the end of the year. Where are the new water fountains we were promised?

— Get us to class on time. This year has seen a significant increase in shuttle bus wait time, which means long lines and late students. It also doesn’t help that

many drivers seem to prefer the scenic route no matter what time of day it is. Does anyone else wonder why they leave the Loyola campus, drive around, and fifteen minutes later pass by it again? And while the Turcot’s not Montreal’s best asset, it does cut down travel time quite a bit.

— Overhaul the food system. It’s really gross and is losing you money anyway.

To our Student Union:

— Do something. You promised to fight tuition hikes, and halfway through your mandate, not much has been accomplished on that front. Instead, internal drama has taken centre stage and we’ve lost a ton of the momentum since Nov. 10. It’s time to make uncomfortable decisions and move forward as a union. At the start of her term, CSU President Lex Gill said “failure is not an option” in regards to the tuition battle. It’d be nice to see some of that resolve in action.

— When you do something, make sure it matters. Having students agree in a by-election that tuition hikes suck is great, but doesn’t change much. It’s not about symbolic gestures and overuse of the word ‘democracy’ anymore. We need strategic planning that actually takes into account how difficult this fight is. It’s going to take a lot more than 1,288 stu-

dents checking a “yes” box to force Charest into, or out of, anything.

— Follow through on the rest of your mandate. Where is the student space committee, new food options and real-time online budget updates? Get ‘er done.

— Play your part. You are a big deal at this school, control a lot of money, have a lot of power and have the potential to make big changes that have a huge impact. Don’t let it get to your heads. Your relationship with students, the administration, the public and the media matters—take it more seriously and present yourselves properly and professionally.

To our Board of Governors:

— What good set of New Year’s resolutions would be complete without a promise to hit the gym more? Only in this case, it’s a metaphorical gym where the fat is the top administrators’ bloated salaries and the treadmill is a reasonable Board of Governors cutting back on that.

— Find a president that will last more than two years and has a bit of vision. It would also be nice if this school could stop handing out millions of dollars in severance packages. Let’s find someone who won’t cut and run. Deal?

— Play nice. Concordia has a terrible reputation. And whether we like it or not,

bad governance has a lot to do with that. I know that students are “ticking you off,” but it might not be so terrible to listen to their ideas once in a while. Filming meetings and allowing larger audiences might actually show people outside this school that the Board is working on that whole contempt issue we have.

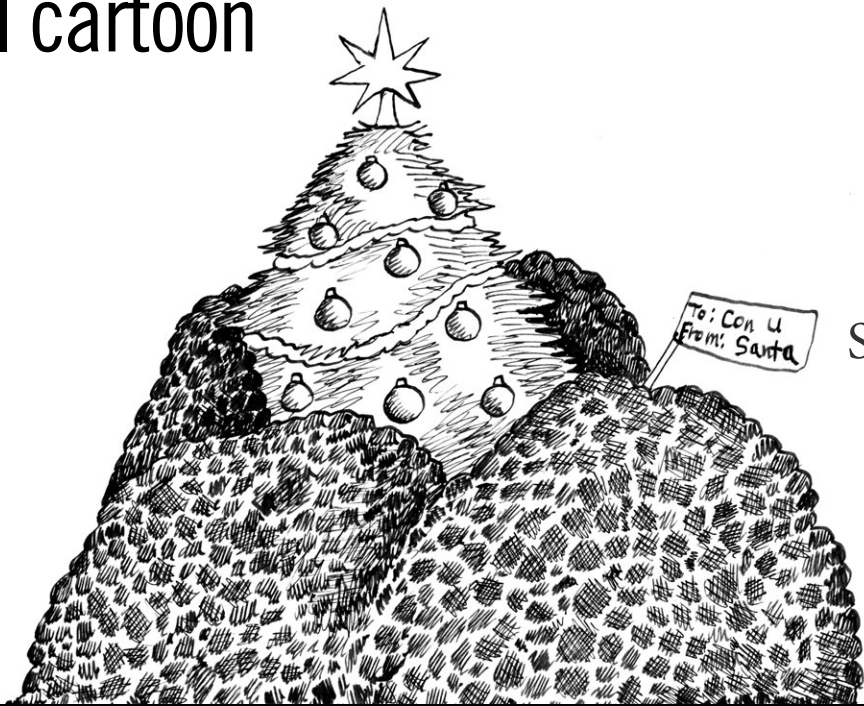
— Just get rid of the Chair; it will seriously make everything work better. Peter Kruyt is *the* source of contempt on high and everybody knows it, which is why there was a unanimous call for him to step down last year. He agreed, so he should get moving. Soon.

It’s been a turbulent year for Concordia, and next year might shape up to be just as crazy. And while 2011 is coming to a close, we are only halfway through the academic calendar and still have the opportunity to shape up and do some pretty amazing things.

It all depends on our friends at the top, and what they do (or don’t) follow through on. So if the presidents, the BoD, the admin and the union don’t want be crushed under a coal avalanche, it’s about time for them to do what they’ve been elected or appointed for.

—Julia Wolfe
Managing Editor

editorial cartoon



Someone Was Naughty This Year..

GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

ISSUE 14 CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS



THE LiNK

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