



LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

NOT JUST YET.

How a group of students and their supporters went to war to move Quebec. But what are we moving towards?

- “Let’s face it, this is a victory.” PG04
- It’s not over ‘til it’s over. EDITORIAL27
- + The Netanyahu Riot 10 years later. PG08

Deconstructing ConU

New Round of Renos Clogs Up Concordia Buildings



"The escalator project has been a sort of running gag. It's particularly difficult in an occupied building to forecast a budget like this. We never know what problems we might discover, especially when there is asbestos."

—Jean Pelland, Concordia Project Director

PHOTO SAM SLOTNICK

BY COREY POOL, @COREYRIVER

Inside and out, Concordia University is in a seemingly perpetual state of construction.

This week is no different, as crews began a new phase of the decade-long Quartier Concordia initiative on Monday by shutting down and tearing up de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. from Bishop St. to Guy St.

The section will be closed for the next three weeks for leveling and re-asphalting of the busy road. Although this stretch of de Maisonneuve has been in fluctuating states of disrepair for the better part of a year, not all of it has been on Concordia's hands.

"Our part is done now," said Concordia's Project Director Jean Pelland, referring to the sidewalks that run along the front entrance to the Hall Building. "We paid the city to do our part, and it's done. Really the rest is running a bit late, but they're doing their best."

That part of the project also included replacing the membranes and waterproofing the Hall and the Library Building.

All told, the city project rings

in at \$2.7 million, of which Concordia paid \$450,000 to have their part completed.

In 2003, the city launched Quartier Concordia, a massive initiative in conjunction with the university and architectural firm Groupe Cardinal Hardy that is aimed at redesigning and reclaiming the Sir George Williams campus.

The Quartier is bordered to the north and south by Sherbrooke St. W. and René-Lévesque Blvd., and to the east and west by Bishop St. and Guy St.

The total cost of the initiative has been estimated at nearly half a billion dollars, and has been responsible for the creation of Norman Bethune Square and the underground tunnels that run between Concordia's buildings, among other projects.

A new phase of the plan is set to begin in the spring on Bishop St. and Mackay St., although the project's budget has yet to be approved.

Navigating the Blue Fence

The timing of all this concrete smashing is less than ideal, how-

ever, as thousands of students flood the campus in time for the beginning of the semester.

The university, however, is taking some steps towards lessening the blow of what could be a hectic and confusing first week of classes for students unfamiliar with Quartier Concordia.

Organized by the Dean of Students office, a group of yellow-shirted volunteers—appropriately named the Welcome Crew—are out on the streets guiding students through these awkward times.

The Welcome Crew is in its third year, but this time around has been a bit different.

"In the first week, we got a lot of questions because a lot of people were confused about the construction," said Welcome Crew volunteer Zoya de Frias Lakhany.

"Even second- and third-year students were confused. In the second week it's been less, and we're getting more questions like, 'Where can I get my student ID,' and, 'Where can I see an advisor?'"

University spokesperson Chris Mota suggested that students looking to avoid the chaos on the street level head underground.

"The university didn't build tunnels for the sake of building tunnels," said Mota. "That's one of the main reasons they were built—to move pedestrian traffic underground [...] The more people we can move underground, the better."

The Escalator Project

In the winter of 2010, Concordia embarked on a long-awaited project to replace the decrepit escalators that have plagued the Hall Building since what seems like time immemorial.

"The escalator project has been a sort of running gag," said Jean Pelland, explaining the long and arduous process the university had to undergo to obtain a government grant to begin the project.

"It's particularly difficult in an occupied building to forecast a budget like this," he said. "We never know what problems we might discover, especially when there is asbestos."

The escalator removal project was budgeted at \$14.7 million and includes four phases comprising the replacement of 17 escalators.

Though the university community has been inconvenienced by the gutting of one of the oldest and most-used building on campus, Pelland said that the project is exceeding expectations.

"We are below budget and ahead of schedule," said Pelland. "If we want to teach a class on how to run and manage a project, this is the one we'll have to share with the students."

According to Pelland, the project is currently four per cent under budget, and three of its four phases have been completed. The fourth phase, which includes the escalators between the sixth and seventh floors, is expected to be completed by December.

"The original schedule was to complete the entire project by March 2013," said Pelland. "We're almost three months ahead of schedule. Why? We overlapped phases three and four this summer."

With the final escalators in place, Pelland says all that's left will be touch-ups to the granite in the lobby and finishing the ceilings around some of the escalators.

An End in Sight



PHOTO SAM SLOTNICK

“LIKE TALKING TO A WALL”

ConU Scrambling to Prepare for Cancelled Tuition Hike

HILARY SINCLAIR,
@HILARYSINCLAIR

Patrick Kelley, Concordia's Chief Financial Officer, has been tasked with putting together the jigsaw puzzle that is the university's budget—but the Ministère de l'éducation, du loisir et du sport is holding the final pieces.

The Parti Québécois has vowed to cancel the \$1,625 increase in tuition fees instituted by Premier Jean Charest's Liberal government in 2010, but they haven't an-

nounced when, or how.

“Budgeting at Concordia is sort of like giving birth to a small elephant,” admitted Kelley.

Quebec's post-secondary institutions have now been thrust into financial limbo. With Premier-Elect Pauline Marois slated to be sworn in on Sept. 17, university budgeters across the province will have to wait until at least then to get any directions from the Ministry.

“With budgets, there is a constant process of revising because it

is what it is,” said Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota. “Right now we need to get the absolute clarification of what we have coming our way this year. [Kelley] will do what he is expected to do. He will advise accordingly.”

The only indication of impending tuition talks has come from Marois, who promised student groups that a summit would be scheduled within the first hundred days of the PQ's term.

With tuition fees due on Sept. 30, Kelly is forced to base his fi-

nancial plan on numbers that are set to become irrelevant.

“It's like talking to a wall,” Kelley said of trying to communicate with MELS.

The CFO has managed to keep ConU's books in the black for three years running, but faces a new challenge in continuing the streak.

“The goal is to avoid a deficit. How that will be done is being examined right now, so they're looking at scenarios,” said Mota.

She also assured *The Link* that

quality of education will not be affected by the subtraction of the funds that they were slated to receive from the hike.

“The one thing that is definitely a commitment from the senior administration is that academic activities and student services should not be negatively affected. That's the commitment. So what will be the effect elsewhere? That's not clear, but the goal is to certainly not negatively impact those two areas.”

GENTLEMEN, START YOUR TUITION PLANS

MATTHEW GUITE

With the dust finally settling around the political landscape of Quebec following a blistering election campaign, the subject of the much-discussed tuition increase is back on the table.

Pauline Marois and her newly elected Parti Québécois minority government are making headlines with their declaration to do away with the Liberal Party's \$1,625 tuition hike.

Striking students have reason to celebrate, but it may be a little early for them to throw their hands in the air and declare a victory just yet.

If the money promised by the Liberals to the Ministry of Educa-

tion is to be taken back from universities (after having accounted for it in their annual budgets) then there remains a serious lack of funding for higher education in Quebec.

The PQ has indicated plans about a forum for discussion and a “slight” increase—for tuition to be indexed to the cost of living. However, for the moment, nothing is set in stone.

In light of this vacuum, it seems as good a time as any to present the various proposals that have been offered by students and politicians alike over the past few months.

Whatever happens now, students will do well to know what is on the table and what options they have.

Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec / Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec

The Proposal:

Creation of a committee to oversee the management of universities, an analysis of the relationship between universities and private enterprises and a five-year moratorium on the construction of a new campus at the Université de Montréal.

A two-year moratorium on all university spending, including tuition fees, until other avenues of financing for higher education can be identified.

The Upside:

Provides time to analyze how education could be better funded without increasing tuition fees, could help with the poor management of administrator salaries and retirement packages.

The Downside:

No guarantee that better means of funding would be found, no information on how the committee would oversee university management or how they would punish mismanagement, a freeze on all university spending could hurt students as well as universities.

Liberal Party of Quebec

The Proposal:

A tuition fee increase of \$254 per year over the course of seven years, totaling an increase of \$1,778. An increase to the loans and bursaries system of about \$39 million to help students deal with the tuition hike.

The Upside:

Would bring in a significant amount of money (upwards of \$850 million) for higher education in Quebec; students would retain one of the lowest tuition fees in Canada and pay for roughly 17% of their total education.



PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

Tuition Hike Questions Remain

PQ Solution Still Unclear to Students

• JULIA WOLFE, @JURUWOLFE

There's been a lot of talk about victory since Premier-Elect Pauline Marois announced her plan to freeze tuition in Quebec. And while student leaders call this a win, they're not calling it the end.

"I don't think [the tuition debate] is over, but it's dramatically going to change," said former Concordia Student Union president Lex Gill. During her term, Concordia voted to go on a weeklong strike, and several member association strikes continued in the weeks and months afterward.

"Let's face it, this is a victory," Gill said. "It's just not the way we thought it would happen; it's not the way we thought we would win."

Marois' announcement was brief and without much substance. Both the hikes and Law 12 will be repealed, said the new premier,

but little is known about how or when that will happen.

Marois will most likely strike down both with a ministerial decree sometime between taking power on Sept. 17 and appointing a cabinet two days later. What's unclear, however, is how her new education minister will handle the budget shortfalls.

Universities, Concordia among them, will continue to bill students at the increased rate—\$325 more than last year's tuition. Until they receive an official directive from the Ministère de l'éducation, du loisir et du sport, they don't really have a choice. As far as their budgets are concerned, the amount owed to MELS hasn't changed.

If Marois follows through with her plan, Concordia will face the logistical nightmare of then returning money to its student population. It's not likely there is a

solution that will not be costly, timely or both.

There are also 26 students at Concordia facing charges for actions during the strike, and a lot of fresh scars from seven months of action that won't heal easily.

Gill feels that while the community can learn from the movement, there's no easy fix to what she refers to as a "simultaneously violent and bureaucratic crackdown on student organizers."

"It's the result of a system that is unable to handle a true democratic process," she said. "I don't know if that's something you can legislate out because it's part of the legislative process."

One way the new government plans to address some of these lingering issues is during a proposed academic summit, a process that Marois promises to start in her first 100 days in office.

"[The Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec] will be at this summit. We've been asking for a summit on universities for a long time," FEUQ President Martine Desjardins said. "It's a golden occasion to evaluate the system. We will not miss an opportunity like that."

Moving forward, Desjardins is optimistic but cautious. "We can say 'mission accomplished,'" she said, adding that FEUQ feels "there aren't any more reasons to continue the strike."

Like Gill, however, she recognizes there are no easy fixes, and this summit will require lengthy dialogue between all parties.

"We're going to work with the rest of the academic community to ensure their support. That's how we will manage to bring important points to this summit," she said.

"We cannot rely on govern-

ments or parties to do it, but on our allies within the academic community."

The problem with that, of course, is that within the academic community there is little to no consensus on what should be asked for.

"The student movement has always been splintered, not in two but in a thousand little pieces," Gill said. "And that's normal and healthy for a big movement."

Ultimately, however, Gill is "not really worried."

"There are so many fantastic student organizers," she said. "I'm happy being part of the old guard, but I don't think the responsibility is totally on our shoulders now. There's a new generation of students who need to pick up the fight."

—with files from Pierre Chauvin and Justin Giovannetti

The Downside:

Could negatively affect low-income students and make it harder for struggling students to pay tuition; total cost after the increase would be about 75-85% higher than current fees. There has been no study or investigation yet done to examine how this increase would affect access to education.

Parti Québécois

The Proposal:

Cancel the Liberal tuition increase, hold a forum to discuss access to higher education, and plan for an increase to tuition fees indexed to the cost of living.

The Upside:

Could help avoid harmful effects of dramatic tuition increase on low-income students, promote discussion of financing and management of education; indexing increase to cost of living could help spread out tuition hikes to a more manageable level for all students.

The Downside:

No concrete plans as of yet, and no mention of the amount that students would be asked to pay or that universities would receive.

Cancelling a tuition hike after universities have already accounted for it will leave a hole in their budgets, and indexing the increase to the cost of living fails to take into account students whose wages do not

increase at the same rate and could still hurt low-income students.

Coalition large de l'Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante

The Proposal:

Free education by 2016 funded by capital tax on financial institutions, scrapping major infrastructure projects, freezing salaries of top administrators, and reducing amount spent on publicity and on research.

The Upside:

Free education for all Quebec students, less spending on administrators' salaries and publicity, while

allowing easier access for low-income students who want to attend university.

The Downside:

Less money available for research. There has been little discussion yet of the viability of this plan by any government or institution

Québec Solidaire

The Proposal:

Free tuition paid for by increases to corporate tax rates, high royalties on mining and water use by large companies, cracking down on tax evasion and buying medicine in bulk.

The Upside:

Free tuition allows for easier access to higher education for all students, allows students to focus more on studies and less on working to make ends meet and theoretically increases the number of students attending and graduating university.

The Downside:

Increases to taxes and royalties could scare away businesses and hurt economy; items like 'crack down on corruption' and 'go after tax evasion' are easier said than done and might not yield as much money as expected.

STRIKING BACK

Foundation 1625 Looks to Support Student Lawsuits

PIERRE CHAUVIN,
@PIERRE_CHAUVIN

On Aug. 30, Kim Laganière and Mihai Adrian Draghici launched a class action lawsuit against 25 CEGEPs and universities asking for compensation for the strike's impact on their studies.

On July 4, Laurent Proulx, Alexandre Meterissian and Marc-Olivier Fortin created Foundation 1625, a non-profit association aimed at raising funds to help support Laganière and Draghici in fighting their case's way through the legal system.

"Those two students found that there were several damages that the students affected by the strike had to live with, so they got some legal advice, and obviously that advice is not free and this is not a simple case," said Laurent Proulx. "This is where Foundation 1625 entered the game."

Proulx, who made headlines in April after successfully winning an injunction to attend his class at Laval University despite the student strike, was also a columnist for *The Prince Arthur Herald*, a blog created by McGill University students that claims to be the "largest student-run national newspaper" in Canada, despite not publishing a print edition.

Alexandre Meterissian is the Herald's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, and

Marc-Olivier Fortin is its Chief Communications Officer. According to his profile on the Conservative Party of Canada's website, Fortin is also the president of Foundation 1625, whose name is a reference to the \$1,625 tuition hike.

"We've also received some financial help from individuals who gave us cheques," said Proulx. "We're a fully legal and registered non-profit organization. We are allowed and able to receive donations."

However, he says the lawsuit is not directed at students opposing the tuition hike.

"You have to understand that this action has nothing to do at all with the tuition hike," said Proulx. "The fact is that people have the right to fight against tuition hikes. People have the right to protest and express themselves."

"The only problem we have with that is that the tuition bill that the students receive is a contract between each student individually and the university, and when the universities and colleges choose to recognize the validity of a strike vote, they expose themselves to a lawsuit because it's a breach of contract," said Proulx.

"The fact is that we were involved with [the Herald] before Foundation 1625 and we did not create the [Herald] to make propaganda about it, except the day of the deposit of the request—and yes, we

did an informative column on this, but there is no link between those two organizations," said Proulx, when asked about potential conflict of interests.

While *The Link* wasn't able to find any articles on the Herald's website regarding Foundation 1625, the Herald did use its Twitter and Facebook accounts to promote the foundation.

"As any other CEO at any other media company, I'm engaged in a host of different activities," said Alexandre Meterissian, comparing his situation to that of Quebecor owner and businessman Pierre Karl Péladeau.

Meterissian added that, as CEO, he didn't deal with "the journalistic side" of the Herald.

When asked whether he had any effect on the editorial content of Herald, he said, "No, none at all."

The Coalition large de l'Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante co-spokesperson Jeanne Reynolds thinks the class-action lawsuit by Foundation 1625 is "very individualistic," and warned of the long financial commitment.

"On several campuses there are solidarity funds—as well as food baskets—that were created for people in need, and for us, it's an approach that is more solidarity-based than the one done by [Foundation 1625]," Reynolds said.

—with files from Corey Pool

"The fact is that we were involved with the Herald before Foundation 1625 and we did not create the Herald to make propaganda about it, except the day of the deposit of the request—and yes, we did an informative column on this, but there is no link between those two organizations."

—Laurent Proulx

Prince Arthur Herald Columnist & Foundation 1625 Co-Founder

THE LINK Call for Columnists

If you are someone who is generally mad about things, has excellent grammar and can meet deadlines like a boss, The Link wants your number. We are looking for bi-monthly columnists to fill the pages of our opinions section with sophisticated prose that is dripping with sarcastic distain—or positivity, if you can pull it off.

Email opinions@thelinknewspaper.ca if you want to chat.



A DECADE AFTER

A Look Back at the 2002 Netanyahu Riot



Demo leads to mixed reactions

continued from page 1

It's a mistake for the University to allow this speech."

Yves Engler, VP Communications of the Concordia Student Union, was also of this opinion. "He shouldn't speak at our University," he said. "Students should have a right to demand their money back for missed classes."

ularly bothered by the violence she had witnessed. "I just saw a flag being burnt. It's sad," she said. "Everyone has so much hate."

"I hate to see the violence here with police," said John Park, an Urban Studies student. "They should protest verbally and peacefully. Not this physical stuff."

anonymous said, "Universities are about expanding the mind." A thought echoed by many.

When the participants were finally allowed to exit the conference room where Netanyahu's speech was to take place, some students expressed their annoyance.

"It's irritating to go through all this

Protest shuts Police and activists

BY PIERRE CHAUVIN,
@PIERRE_CHAUVIN

On Sept. 9, 2002, for the first time in 30 years, riot police were deployed around the Sir George Williams campus of Concordia University to contain a protest.

Around 1:00 p.m., protesters smashed two windows on the Hall Building's ground floor. Within minutes, the building filled with pepper spray and tear gas as the riot police dispersed the crowd.

The protest, despite what you may think, wasn't about tuition fees.

Jewish student organization Hillel had invited then-former (and now current) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to give a speech, and pro-Palestinian students and supporters decided to gather in front of the Hall Building to protest the speech.

Confrontations between both sides escalated, leading to the police intervention and ultimately, the cancellation of the speech.

The event, since known as the "Netanyahu riot," made headlines throughout the world the following days and for several weeks.

Mounting Tensions

The events of Sept. 9 happened in the context of rising tensions between both communities.

At the beginning of the previous academic year, the Concordia Student Union had faced criticism—within the university and at the national level—for its controversial agenda.

The controversy wasn't due to their political maneuvering, however, but rather the 2001 edition of the free day-planner the union traditionally makes available to students at the start of the fall semester. This particular one was called "Uprising," and featured a distinctly pro-Palestinian stance.

The 320-page agenda combined a "student survival guide" with opinions pieces on a host of topics ranging from sexual orientation, police brutality and student activism to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"Intifada. Out of our houses and into the streets," read the agenda introduction. "Take arms for revolution."

The agenda, which was handed out in the weeks preceding the Sept. 11 attacks, also featured a page with planes crashing into a room filled with businessmen, titled "This is not

an agenda called Uprising. It is an agenda for uprising."

Understandably, the reaction was strong. "Is this a blueprint for Osama bin Laden's youth program in North America?" B'nai Brith Canada Executive Director Frank Dimant asked at a press conference on Oct. 2.

On Oct. 11, the Concordia Thursday Report noted, "For the second time in a month, *The Gazette* published an editorial denouncing the CSU as a 'personal playground for a bunch of radical professional activists.'"

Students started circulating a petition to trigger new elections, gathering 3,000 signatures. Before it was submitted, then-CSU president Sabrina Stea resigned, citing the administration's interference as her reason for stepping down.

"The administration [...] has steadily played a direct and manipulative role in seeking to undermine the student union by downplaying the mandate we had won from the student body," wrote Stea.

Concordia's Response

Despite minimal property damage, as noted in Concordia's report—the only serious concern at

the time was the pepper spray circulating through the ventilation system—the events of Sept. 9 had a lasting impact on Concordia and its image.

During a Board of Governors closed session on Sept. 18, a special policy was adopted stipulating a "cooling-off period at Concordia University."

The policy put a ban on all Middle East-related activities, and a ban on groups tabling on the first and second floors—for any activities.

After heavy criticism, including Amnesty International sending a letter to Rector Frederick Lowy denouncing the measure as excessive, the ban was only partially lifted two months later, and tabling was still prohibited except for CSU elections.

Then-president Lowy was also granted the power to expel students in "exceptional cases"—a power usually reserved to Academic Hearing Panel and student tribunals.

Mediation between the two student groups did not yield effective results.

"We did what we could to mediate between the groups with the assistance of then-Dean of Students

Donald Boisvert," said Sabine Friesinger, CSU president during the Netanyahu riots and current reporter for Concordia University Television, in an email to *The Link*.

"It will be easier to communicate with each other when the mediator isn't so biased," however, said then-Hillel president Noah Sarna to *The Gazette* in 2003, when the mediation process was still ongoing.

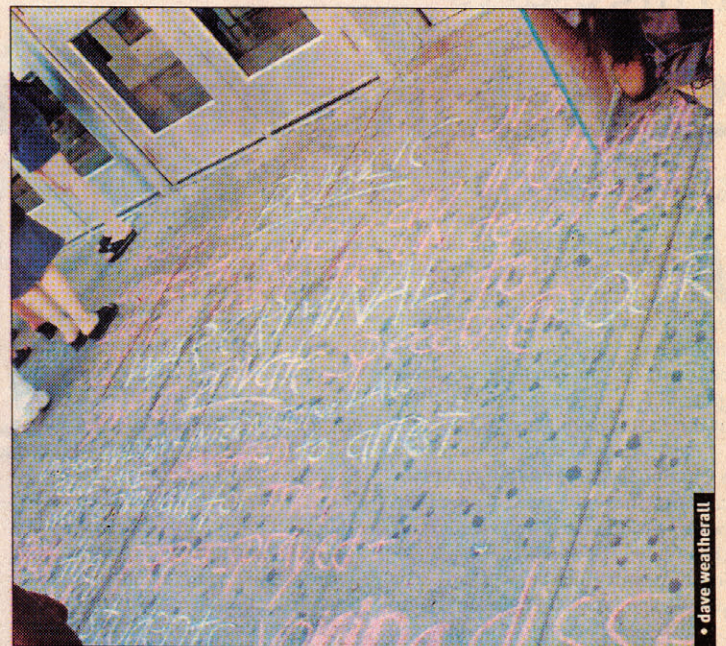
The university ultimately identified 19 people who participated in the violence on Sept. 9. Out of the 19, 11 were students and were charged by the university. Under Concordia's policies, the identities of the charged students were not released.

To date, only a few of them have been identified, including Yves Engler, CSU VP Communications in 2002, who was suspended for five years.

Risk Assessment Committee

In the wake of the Netanyahu riot, Concordia established a Risk Assessment Committee. Little was known about it until Concordia student David Bernans' request to hold a reading for the launch of his book *North of 9/11* at Concordia was denied by the committee in 2006.

THE DISCORD



down Hall Building have violent confrontation in lobby

Netanyahu slams "rioters"

by Patrick Lavery

Shortly after his lecture at the Hall Building was cancelled, former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed a group of journalists assembled on the second floor of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel on

ers. "The Arab students organize a lecture," he said. "I promise I'll go. Let them have another meeting, with anyone they want in."

The former Prime Minister felt that the issue at hand was very black and white. "Don't be moral relativists. Some things are wrong and some

Bernans filed an Access to Information request to learn more about the denial, which was itself denied. While his appeal at the Commission d'accès à l'information was rejected, documents received by the commission showed the ad hoc committee existed, and Concordia's VP Services at the time, Michael Di Grappa, was overseeing it.

In 2004, the university decided to not allow former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak to speak on campus after consultation with the committee.

Its operating model and members remain unknown to this day—the commission rejected Bernans' appeal partly on the basis that it wasn't capable of dealing with matters beyond accessing documents.

"There is no Risk Assessment Committee to oversee events on campus," said Concordia University spokesperson Chris Mota in an email.

"That was a short-lived initiative proposed in response to the Netanyahu events and it quickly became clear such a committee was not required."

Mota recognized, however, that "service and support units do in fact assess operational requirements and potential impacts for events

held on campus with a view to ensure effective coordination of activity in support of the success of the events."

"The Risk Assessment Committee was a bureaucratic and Big Brother-like attempt at clamping down on activism at Concordia, but clearly it was a failure," said Friesinger.

Student Activism

"Universities became spaces where issues of public relations and image were more important than the pursuit of knowledge and deeper understanding of issues that affect our society and the communities that gravitate around the universities," said Friesinger.

"I think that in any conflict situation, more discussion and more debate is needed. A ban on discussion always serves the status quo and can never lead to a better understanding or to any kind of desirable change," she continued.

"As the student union president, I always insisted and fought strongly for the rights of students to fair trials. I hope the student union this year will be doing the same when it comes to the students who are in trouble over the strike activ-

ities."

Despite student mobilization at Concordia last spring to protest the tuition fee increase, many feel student activism has not been the same since.

"Concordia's downsizing of everything from postering space to student newspaper boxes is sending a clear message, as is the sterile design of the new buildings: this is a serious place of learning, not a social laboratory," wrote former *The Link* editors Justin Giovannetti and Terrine Friday in 2009.

"Student activism, conflict and churning debate are no longer welcome," they concluded.

"The university re-examines its practices and policies on a regular basis to ensure members of the community can conduct their activities freely and with respect," said Mota when asked whether such events could reoccur at Concordia today. "That being said, policy can't prevent behavior."

—with files from Steve Faguy

To learn more about the 2002 Netanyahu Riot, watch the NFB documentary *Discordia*, made shortly afterward, at nfb.ca/film/discordia.

"Concordia's downsizing of everything from postering space to student newspaper boxes is sending a clear message, as is the sterile design of the new buildings: this is a serious place of learning, not a social laboratory. Student activism, conflict and churning debate are no longer welcome"

—Justin Giovannetti & Terrine Friday

NO COMMENT

A Letter From the News Desk

He has at least two cell phones, two email addresses, and an office phone, but Concordia Student Union President Schubert Laforest is nowhere to be seen.

Last week, *The Link* learned that, despite being elected by his council at a CSU meeting in June to represent undergraduate students on the university's Board of Governors, Laforest's name was missing from the BoG list.

The Board is the highest governing body at the university, and student representation there was already cut from four voting members to one last year. In a situation where Laforest should be trying to do the job of three students, he is doing the job of none.

Yet after repeated attempts to contact him, and repeatedly being ignored, misled or otherwise deflected, Laforest has ultimately shirked his responsibility as CSU president and chosen not to comment.

One week later, there is still no word from Laforest.

The fact is, he is not doing his job, and this is

extremely disconcerting.

This, folks, is your student leader. This is your president. You elected him to lead your union, to represent you, and to answer to you. You pay his executive salary, and you are technically all his bosses.

Though this is just university politics, it is not a game. This is serious, the stakes are high, and running a student union like a high school experiment is inappropriate and irresponsible.

Laforest's status at the university—that is, whether he is technically a student or not—has been called into question on more than one occasion, and these recent developments are not working in his favour.

But by keeping mum about the questions that surround him, and by ignoring *The Link's* repeated attempts at conversation, Laforest is by extension ignoring the students.

To be fair, his mostly vacant executive has not done much better.

VP Student Life Alexis Suzuki has ignored and avoided tough questions by our editors concerning

the missing Orientation concert headlining act and the missing student agendas, claiming to be too busy. VP Advocacy Lucia Gallardo has done the same, screening phone calls and not responding to important emails.

At a time when students need them the most, a handful of their elected VPs have proven themselves to be nothing more than hollow representations of the promises they made while campaigning in the spring.

In many ways, *The Link* is a liaison between the rest of the university and its students. We do our best to hold these people accountable to the student body and to report what is important to the community.

However, when the CSU reps put up walls, lock their doors, refuse to answer their phones and stop doing their jobs, we cannot do ours.

—Corey Pool,
News Editor

BRIEFS

• NICK LAUGHER

The Price of Protest

Student leaders, including Martine Desjardins of the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, are reporting that the overall cost of the tuition protests clocks in at over \$200 million—more than the province had hoped to recoup via the hikes in the first place.

The Quebec government reportedly only paid the city of Montreal \$15 million to help alleviate the costs.

Desjardins remains optimistic, however, claiming the students had achieved their goal of unseating the Liberals and freezing tuition with the protests.

Burger Week Wrap-up

Montreal's first annual burger week, which ran from Sept. 1 to Sept. 7, was a delicious success. With over 30 participating restaurants and hundreds of salivating patrons, the gourmand event included such decadent concoctions as Burger Bar Crescent's monstrous, monolith Hangover Burger, topped with a poutine and an egg.

Marois Needs to Smooth Growing Tensions

An online survey says three-quarters of Quebecers believe that Premier-Elect Pauline Marois should meet with English-speaking leaders as soon as possible. The poll says 57 per cent of Quebecers are worried about growing language tensions in the province.

Marois has previously expressed interest in policies such as withholding citizenship rights from non-francophone immigrants.

Into the Unknown

Quebec astronaut David Saint-Jacques will embark on a bizarre, weeklong mission that will take him not into the depths of space, but to underground caves in Sardinia. Part of the European Space Agency's CAVES program, the initiative attempts to mimic the strangeness and isolation of space as a preparation for the real thing.

THE RACIAL SPECTRUM

Metachroma Seeks Colour Balance Onstage



TAMARA BROWN IN *RICHARD III*

BY ELYSHA DEL GIUSTO-ENOS,
@ELYSHAENOS

Theatre has an interesting idea of what's normal. For centuries, women's roles were played by men, and for the past few decades having one actor of colour in a cast was considered progressive.

Metachroma Theatre, a new company that tackles the issue of under-represented visible minority actors in Canadian theatre, is one company addressing the situation.

"In the past seven or eight years, you'll see at auditions, on the bottom of the audition notice, 'We encourage diversity in casting and everyone is welcome to audition regardless of ethnic background,'" said Jamie Robinson, a member of Metachroma who stars in their upcoming production of Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

"Now, are theatre companies actually implementing that? It varies from company to company, and I think our company, Metachroma Theatre, takes that seriously. Everybody's welcome."

Because of its plot, *Richard III* was the perfect point of departure

for the new company. As a sequel to the *Henry IV* plays, issues of succession are prominent—and heightened by the diversity onstage.

"All these battles have been happening for years and years," Robinson said. "And by the time you get to *Richard III*—who's the legitimate child? So in our company, you'll see a palate of all different colours, and everybody's accusing everybody of being a bastard in the monarchy and claiming the crown."

Of course, change rarely appeals to all members of the status

quo, and Metachroma's mandate is no exception. There have been rumblings that *Richard III* shouldn't be approached the way this new independent theatre company is presenting it.

"I've heard about it," *Richard III* director and Concordia theatre professor Joel Miller said of the controversy. "But I think it's a small minority. [The] whole point is people forget about that. These are actors, in roles, playing situations."

Robinson added that since such a large portion of Canada is mixed race, diversity onstage

makes a lot more sense than hegemony.

Although there do exist in Montreal—and elsewhere in Canada—theatre companies mandated to cast along culturally-specific lines, Metachroma's approach towards casting in a non-culturally-specific way stands out.

Even in the past 10 years, casting based on talent rather than along the lines of race has caused controversy in North America.

In 2005, a high school production of *Big River*, the musical based on Mark Twain's novel *Huckleberry Finn*, was set to star actors who were not the same race as their characters, and the company that held the rights to the musical banned the school from performing it.

Bert Fink, a spokesman for the Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization, which had decided to withhold licensing rights, told Ylan Q. Mui of the *Washington Post* that casting that way "[is] taking a liberty that one could argue is not appropriate to what the authors of that musical are trying to convey about the novel.

"To ignore the racial compo-

ment of *Huck Finn* does a disservice to the story."

When it comes to how a story's narrative might change depending the race of the actors, Robinson said that although certain plays are culturally specific, if they were cast with actors from different backgrounds they would make just as much sense, just in a different way.

It would allow the audience to take away something different than what the original casting directions would have conveyed.

Although Robinson wouldn't comment on what shows Metachroma was thinking of presenting after *Richard III*, he said that they already had a few ideas.

"A lot of people are backing us," he added. "The future's ours."

***Richard III* by Metachroma Theatre at The Segal Centre for the Performing Arts / Sept. 19 to Sept. 30 / (5170 Côte Ste. Catherine Rd.) / \$18.00 student, \$28.75 regular (Pay-what-you-can Sept. 19 and 2-for-1 Sept. 24) / For more info visit metachroma.com or segalcentre.org.**

"All these battles have been happening for years and years. By the time you get to *Richard III*—who's the legitimate child? So in our company, you'll see a palate of all different colours, and everybody's accusing everybody of being a bastard in the monarchy and claiming the crown."

—Jamie Robinson, *Metachroma* player

IN-HOUSE ARTISTS

BY KATIE MCGROARTY, @KATIECMCG

Someone who obviously never brought their textbooks to the bar once said something like this: You have three options during university. You can get enough sleep, have a social life, or get good grades—but you can only pick two of them.

And while it's easy to forfeit sleep for an all-night cram session (or staying out until last call), these four students are racking up extra-curricular cred in filming, sculpting, acting or computing by taking their work to the streets.



Gina Haraszti



Laura Hudspith

MFA Film Production

The final undertaking of any MFA student is a public exhibition, where they can showcase or screen their thesis for the public.

Gina Haraszti is taking hers to the Concordia's J.A. de Sève Cinema, where she'll screen her thesis, two experimental films and one from 2010 that toured and premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.

"They are all inspired by personal events and they are all about loss and grief, and basi-

cally losing a beloved person," said Haraszti. "My most recent film, *Rei*, is about a shut-in who doesn't leave her apartment for years and it follows her state of mind before a big decision she has to make."

During the screening, cast and crew will be there to answer questions and give away DVDs.

Public Thesis Screening / J.A. de Sève Cinema (1400 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., LB-125) / Sept. 22 / 8:00 p.m.

BFA Ceramics

To add to her time spent in the VA Building as the manager of Café X, Laura Hudspith is now displaying pieces in Gallery X, the student-run art space on the same floor. The majority of her work is ceramics-based, but it often incorporates metal, glass and fibers.

In her fifth and final year at Concordia, Hudspith had high praise for the program,

which she credits with having contributed to her trajectory.

"It pushes me to produce conceptual and high quality work, and help me figure out where I can go [after graduation] and how to get there," she said.

Staff Show / Gallery X / 1395 René-Lévesque Blvd. W. / Sept. 11 / 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Adam Capriolo

BFA Theatre

"I can't emphasize enough how proud I am of this show," said Adam Capriolo, who plays the role of Ray, the caregiver to a paralyzed girl in Double-Spaced Theatre's production, *Bea*. *Bea* approaches the politically charged topic of assisted suicide, but raises the stakes: the character requesting the service a 25-year-old woman.

A recent graduate of Daw-

son's Professional Theatre program, Capriolo just started his first year at Concordia. In addition to performing in *Bea*, he's in the ensemble for the Segal Centre's production of *Guys and Dolls*.

Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Montreal / 4750 Henri-Julien Ave. / Sept. 12 to Sept. 15 / \$12.00 - \$17.00 / 8:00 p.m.



David Silveira

BFA Computation Arts

Working in photography, video and design—among other mediums—David Silveira knows aesthetics. Although he admits to preferring film, his design skills have helped him score enough clients to pay his way through three years of full-time studying.

"I learned a lot more about the process and why to

use certain colours, why I'm doing certain things [through Computation Arts]," said Silveira. "It actually made me work a lot faster because I knew why I was doing something, not just playing around and hoping for a good result."

To see some of his multimedia work, check out davidsilveira.com.

BEST OF THE WEB

Montreal Opera

The Opéra de Montreal opens their season with *La Traviata* and is offering special rates for students. Read about why it's worth diversifying where your entertainment dollars get spent.



Where the Blood Mixes

Where the Blood Mixes is opening this week and explores the lives affected by residential schools and the struggles within Native communities. Teesri Duniya Theatre is putting on the play as part of their work to create socially and politically relevant theatre that supports a multi-cultural vision of society.



Metachroma Video Interview

Check out the webpage on *Richard III* for multimedia content featuring lead actor Jamie Robinson discussing the play and Metachroma Theatre's unique place in the Canadian theatre scene.

THE LONG CON

The Link Breaks Down Comiccon 2012 to Manageable Size

For a convention that's only turning five, this year's Montreal Comiccon has a hell of a line-up. And like any festival that's worth its salt, it can be a bit dizzying to pick out the must-see events. We did a bit of the groundwork for you and sniffed out the stuff that will make you the hit of your next Yu-Gi-Oh! tournament/"Once More With Feeling" viewing/LARPing extravaganza. All events are at the Palais des Congrès (1001 Jean-Paul-Riopelle Pl.).



COMPILED BY JULIA WOLFE, @JURUWOLFE

Friday:

The Arts of Steampunk, Gadgets and Gizmos

5:30 p.m., 511C
There is so much awesome steampunk love at this year's 'con, everything from costume contests to schmoozes in your best gears will be represented. On Friday afternoon, catch steampunk designers Daniel Proulx, Roger Wood and Adam Smith's talk on how to make your own steampunky goodness.

Battle-Com, Nerd and Geek Improv Battles

6:30 p.m., 511C
The organizers say this event promises "a fast-paced comedy performance show which combines the speed and attitude of MTV's *Yo Momma* battles and unlimited comedic potential of HTP's *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*" Read: all-out hilarious nerd war. 'Nuff said.

Where Are the Queer Superheroes?

7:00 p.m., 511C
Queer nerds and their allies unite on Friday evening in an open panel discussion of LGBT portrayal in the mainstream comic world, or lack thereof.

James Marsters Concert

9:30 p.m., 210AB
If you have a soul, there's no way you can miss this *Buffy* veteran's awesome Spike-turned-singer show. The organizers claim he'll be playing his own material, but fans will probably demand at least one rendition of "Rest in Peace."

Saturday:

Create Your Own Comics With Kelly Tindall

11:00 a.m., 511C
Join Montreal-based cartoonist Kelly Tindall as he breaks down the comic-book process from character sketches to production.

Le Parkour: Gravity is my Enemy

2:00 p.m., 511F
The talk that will probably be responsible for several broken bones later in the week, Le Parkour promises to explore every aspect of this awesome art form while trying to "convince you that gravity is just a suggestion."

Assassin's Creed: Building and Sustaining a Big, Credible and Consistent Universe

3:30 p.m., 511DE
One of the most awesome companies in Montreal, Ubisoft, will discuss the process behind *Assassin's Creed*—talking artwork, story creation and the spine-tingling plans for future releases.

Masquerade

5:30 p.m., 210AB
It's just not a Comiccon without a tremendous Masquerade. With Montreal's bursting creativity and infamous good looks, it's pretty much a guarantee that we'll meet that objective.
If you're good with a needle and want to strut your stuff, check the entrance rules on their website. Don't forget to check out the award ceremonies on Sunday at 12:00 p.m. in 511F.

DC's New 51

5:00 p.m., 511 DE
DC's comic re-launch last year left a pretty weird aftertaste in the mouths of many longtime comic fans. Change is hard, and as a group, comic fans are not typically receptive

to the trashing of beloved universes. Now, we can look back at a year of new beginnings and decide if this time, change was worth it.

Sunday:

This Ain't Your Granddaddy's Archie

11:00 a.m., 511C
Since artist and writer Dan Parent joined the Archie comic team, things have been a little different at Riverdale High. Parent's additions, including Archie's first openly gay character, are slowly changing the notoriously homogenous gang. Parent will speak about his vision for the comics and how he's implemented that over the years.

Costuming: The Frilly, the Poufy and the Elegant

2:00 p.m., 511F
For the 18th-century fashion fanatics, this is your Mecca. Learn the painstaking process behind each poof and frill, while also discussing the implementation of the style in modern dress. Don't forget to bring your petticoats.

PHOTO LAURA BEESTON

FILM

1. M60: The Montreal 60 Second Film Festival
Sept. 13 to Sept. 15
Cinéma Excentris (3536 St. Laurent Blvd.)
Doors 8:00 p.m. / films 9:00 p.m.
\$8.00

THEATRE

2. Blue Light Burlesque
Sept. 15
Café Campus (57 Prince-Arthur St. E.)
\$20.00 advance / \$27.50 door
3. *Bea* - A Double-Spaced Theatre Production
Sept. 12 to Sept. 15
Conservatoire d'art dramatique (4750 Henri-Julien Ave.)
\$12.00 student / \$17.00 general

VISUAL ART

4. Comiccon
Sept. 14 to Sept. 16
Palais de Congrès (1001 Jean-Paul-Riopelle Pl.)

MUSIC

5. Mt. Eerie
Sept. 12
La Sala Rossa (4848 St. Laurent Blvd.)
8:30 p.m.

PARTY

6. Drink With *The Link*
Sept. 14
Brutopia (1219 Crescent St.)
9:00 p.m.

See more listings at
thelinknewspaper.ca

FRINGE CALENDAR

AUG. 11 - SEPT. 18

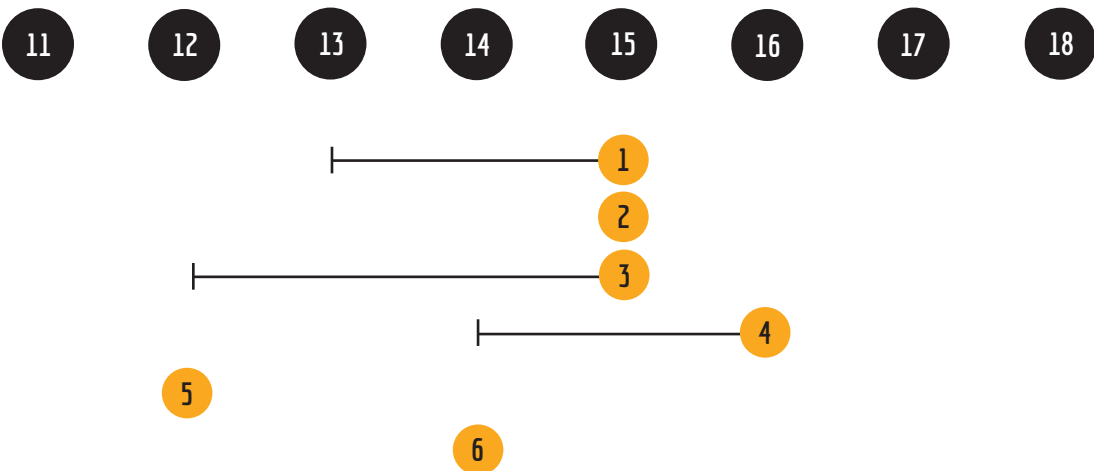


PHOTO OF THE WEEK



PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Some of the world’s most renowned cyclists convened in Montreal this weekend for the third edition Grand Prix Cycliste de Montréal. One of the only two stops in North America for the International Cycling Union (UCI) World Tour, the event featured some of the biggest names in the sport, including Andy Schleck, Thomas Voeckler and Canadian Ryder Hesjedal, the most recent winner of the Giro D’Italia. Hesjedal finished 23rd on Sunday, while former Norwegian champion and Team Sky member Lars-Petter Nordhaug claimed the top spot on the podium, earning his team’s 100th UCI event victory in the process.

BOXSCORES
WEEK OF SEPT. 3 TO 9

SUNDAY, SEPT. 9

Baseball - GM1: Concordia 5, Ottawa University 4
GM2: Concordia 8, Ottawa University 9
Men’s Soccer - Concordia 2, Université de Québec à Trois-Rivières 0
Women’s Soccer - Concordia 2, Université de Québec à Trois-Rivières 0

FRIDAY , SEPT. 7

Men’s Rugby - Concordia 13, Université de Sherbrooke 14
Baseball - Concordia 7, McGill University 5
Women’s Rugby - Concordia 80, Université de Sherbrooke 0
Football - Concordia 10, Université de Montréal 48

THURSDAY, SEPT. 6

Men’s Soccer - Concordia 0, Université de Montréal 5
Women’s Soccer - Concordia 0, Université de Montréal 5

MONDAY, SEPT. 3

Women’s Soccer - Concordia 3, Middlebury College 2

UPCOMING GAMES
THIS WEEK IN CONCORDIA SPORTS

12

7:00 p.m. Men’s Rugby vs. McGill Redmen
7:30 p.m. Baseball at McGill Redmen
9:00 p.m. Women’s Rugby vs. McGill - Kelly-Anne Drummond Cup

14

6:30 p.m. Men’s Soccer vs. McGill Redmen
7:30 p.m. Baseball vs. John Abbott Islanders
8:30 p.m. Women’s Soccer vs. McGill Martlets - Erica Cadieux Memorial Game

15

12:00 p.m. Football at St. Francis Xavier X-Men

16

12:00 p.m. Baseball at McGill Redmen
1:00 p.m. Women’s Soccer vs. Bishop’s Gaiters
1:00 p.m. Women’s Rugby at Carleton Ravens

STINGER STORIES

BY ANDREW MAGGIO, @AJMAGG19

Men's Soccer

The Concordia Stingers men's soccer team started their season on the wrong foot with a 5-0 loss to the Université de Montréal Carabins on Thursday night, but rebounded nicely in their home-opener on Sunday afternoon at Concordia Stadium, picking up a 2-0 win against the visiting Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières Patriotes. Andrew Bryan and Claude Diesse provided all the scoring Concordia needed in the 61st and 90th minutes respectively.

With the win, the Stingers improved to 1-1 on the year, and will play their next game Sept. 14 at home against the McGill Redmen.

Football

The Concordia Stingers football team hung on for as long as they could, but it wasn't enough as they fell 48-10 to the Université de Montréal Carabins on Friday night at CEPsum Stadium.

Carabins quarterback Alexandre Nadeau-Piuze threw two touchdown passes and ran for another, pacing the UdeM offense, combined with a solid ground game thanks to strong efforts from running back Rotrand Sené and Nicolas Dubeau.

The Stingers had several opportunities throughout the contest to tie it up, and even take the lead, but a lack of cohesion among players led to too many mistakes and miscues.

The Carabins stormed out of the gates, buoyed by a wild crowd of 5,100 home fans, taking a quick 14-0 lead as the Stingers tried to find their footing.

Concordia was unable to muster anything of significance until a horse-collar penalty on a Carabins defender fired up quarterback Reid Quest and the Stinger offense. Quest heaved a deep throw to receiver Jamal Henry for a 57-yard touchdown pass, cutting the lead in half.

That's as close as the Stingers would get, however. The offensive line had a rough night, unable to create many seams for Concordia backs Mike Donnelly and Raul Thompson, while Quest was seemingly picking himself up off the floor every couple of plays from being hit or sacked by the relentless Carabins pass rush.

Kicker Keegan Treloar had a rough outing of his own, making only one of his four field-goal attempts, with two misses and one blocked attempt.

The Stingers head to St. Francis Xavier University for their next game against the X-Men on Sept. 15.



GRAPHIC PAKU DAOUST-CLOUTIER

Men's Rugby

The Concordia Stingers men's rugby team suffered a tough loss at the hands of the Université de Sherbrooke Vert et Or Friday night at Concordia Stadium, falling 14-13 in a game that went down to the wire.

The Stingers had the game in the bag, but with 13 minutes remaining and Concordia leading 13-7, a yellow card for punching gave Sherbrooke a man advantage, and they did not disappoint.

Only three minutes later, they forced their way to a try to pull within one point. Their kick, from a bad angle, was perfect and they led 14-13. Despite taking an 8-7 lead into halftime and scoring again on a Sherbrooke giveaway deep in their own territory, the late yellow card proved too costly for the Maroon and Gold.

The Stingers play their next game Sept. 12 against the McGill Redmen.

— Seth Galina

Women's Rugby

The Concordia Stingers women's rugby team were too powerful for the Sherbrooke Vert et Or in their home-opener on Friday night at Concordia Stadium, crushing Sherbrooke 80-0 for their first win of the year.

Highly touted newcomer Bianca Farella took control of the game from her center position, scoring five tries, while third-year flanker Cara Stuckey added three tries of her own to pace the Stingers' attack.

Head coach Graeme McGravie described this season as a rebuilding year in an interview with stingers.ca, but if his team contin-

ues to put up performances like this, the Stingers could be on their way to a very successful season.

The Stingers play their next game on Sept. 12 against McGill, a notable match-up since it marks this year's Kelly-Anne Drummond Cup game.

This year will mark the eighth iteration of the game, which is named in honour of Kelly-Anne Drummond, a former Stinger who died after her boyfriend stabbed her through the neck, severing her brain stem, in October 2004.

Women's Soccer

The Concordia Stingers women's soccer team also had a rough opening game Thursday night against the Université de Montréal Carabins, but they came out strong on Sunday afternoon at Concordia Stadium to bring their record back to 1-1 with a 2-0 win over the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières Patriotes. Gabriela Padvaikas scored the game-winner in the 53rd minute, and Shauna Zilversmit added an insurance marker in the 57th minute.

The Stingers move to 1-1 on the year and play their next game Sept. 14 at home against the McGill Martlets.

Baseball

The Concordia Stingers men's baseball team pulled out a 5-4 victory in extra innings in their first game of their double-header against University of Ottawa Gee-Gees on Sunday, but fell 9-8 in the second game of the afternoon.

The Stingers' bats, which finally came alive in a 7-5 win Friday against the McGill Redmen, kept producing, putting to rest the memory of the hitting issues they'd experienced in their first two games of the season, both losses to Carleton University.

Concordia managed to collect 11 hits in the game, and a strong pitching performance by last season's Canadian Intercollegiate Baseball Association Pitcher of the Year Alex Kechayan had the Stingers sitting pretty in the seventh inning.

His relievers, however, were unable to finish the job, as the Gee-Gees were able to tie the game with three runs, sending it to extras.

The Stingers finally put the visitors away in the ninth inning, earning their second victory of the young season.

The second half of the doubleheader did not go as well, as the team didn't approach the game with the right mindset, according to head coach Howard Schwartz.

"I thought we came out and were a little tentative," said Schwartz. "We made some mental mistakes and we didn't make some of the plays that we needed to."

The two sides exchanged the lead numerous times, but by the end of the second game the absence of some of the Stingers' important hitters and a lack of reserves ultimately wore the team down, despite a solid effort to keep the game close.

The Stingers will get a chance to double down on their win against McGill in the team's next game on Sept. 12, when they face the Redmen again.

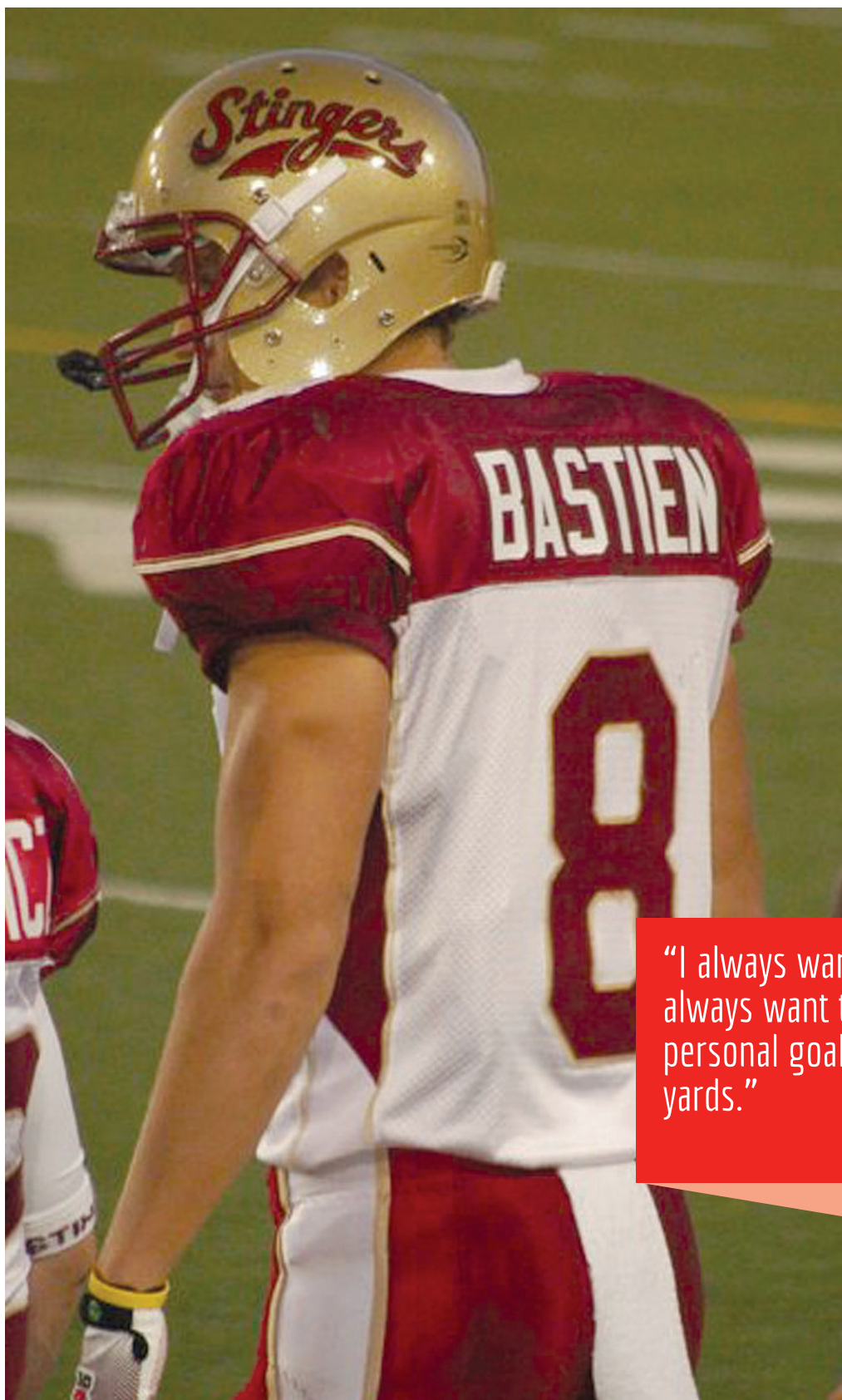


PHOTO VALERIE MCLEOD

THE GREAT EIGHT

Stingers Receiver Setting Lofty Goals

"I always want to do better than the year before. You always want to be improving as an athlete. My personal goal is to finish first in Canada in receiving yards."

—Kris Bastien, Concordia Stingers receiver

BY ANDREW MAGGIO, @AJMAGG19

Kris Bastien could have followed the dream he shared with countless young Canadian boys: pursuing a career in professional hockey.

Instead, he was introduced to something that once upon a time was considered unconventional in this province. These days, though, football is all the rage.

"I was originally a hockey and baseball player," said the 22-year old St. Lambert, QC native. "But when I came into CEGEP, I tried a year and it went well, so I thought that maybe I had a chance to play university football.

"I find for my body type it was good, too, because I'm more of a taller, athletic player with some strength. It's a sport that's really growing in Quebec and was something that always interested me."

Bastien, who is enrolled in Leisure Studies while looking to transfer into the John Molson School of Business, fit right into his role as a receiver, so it shouldn't have been a surprise to anyone when head

coach Gerry McGrath came calling to have him join the Stingers.

He credits a lot of his success with the team to McGrath and receivers coach Dave Spence.

"I came from a CEGEP where we played in a lower division, so I didn't know what to expect when I came to Concordia," said Bastien.

"It was a big step up for me. The coaches were great to me though, Gerry McGrath has increased my football knowledge and Dave Spence has been helping me with the receiver aspects, so it's been great."

McGrath has said that Bastien is as good as any receiver in the country, and Bastien has set lofty goals for himself that, should they come to fruition, will justify his coach's high praise.

"I always want to do better than the year before. You always want to be improving as an athlete," he said. "My personal goal is to finish first in Canada in receiving yards."

Bastien is on pace to do just that. De-

spite missing Friday night's game against the Université de Montréal with a shoulder injury, Bastien's massive first game alone has him second in receiving yards across Canada with 242.

Bastien caught six passes in the season-opener against Bishop's University, the most notable being a 103-yard touchdown catch-and-run in the first half.

In his search for a receiver to mould his game after, Bastien kept it local, looking to Montreal Alouettes receivers Jamel Richardson and S.J. Green for inspiration—two of the best in the Canadian Football League.

"I look at Richardson and Green, those big inside receivers with strong hands. Personally, I'm not the shiftest guy, I'm not that elusive, but I feel that with my physical presence I can be good, so I try to watch them and be as much as I can like them."

Bastien has also been able to draw inspiration from the people closest to him.

"My dad has always been a training freak, and even though he doesn't come

from a football background, he always pushed me to train the hardest and to be prepared," said Bastien.

"I've also spent a lot of time training with Steven Holness, who used to play for the Alouettes. He gave me the opportunity to go train in Miami with [National Football League players] this summer. The past two summers he's taken my game to a whole other level.

"There's also my coaching staff [at Concordia], they just took me from being a really raw talent to being a polished one, and they've just been making me a better football player in general."

Bastien has very real aspirations to play professional football after university, and in an era of football where the passing game has evolved into the main facet of many offenses, the demand for receivers like Bastien will only continue to rise—which is definitely good news for him.

"I think it's very possible," he said of a potential future in the pros. "And it's something I'm working on every day. I definitely hope it happens."



MEET GREET & DRINK WITH

THE

LINK

Wanna be part of this handsome team? Come by the office for our annual Meet & Greet with masthead.

Friday, Sept. 14
4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Hall Building, H-649

Wanna be part of this team but too nervous to meet us sober on account of our extreme handsomeness? Come Drink With The Link!

Friday, Sept. 14
9:00 p.m. - ?
Brutopia (1219 Crescent St.)

FIGHTING

The Real Language Issue Isn't Anglo/Franco—It's a Question of Tone

WORDS

BY COLIN HARRIS @COLINNHARRIS

On the night of Sept. 4, all eyes were on Pauline Marois, joyously giving her victory speech, and her every word seemed to spark loud conversation, in the bars and online.

And then, in an instant, there was chaos.

Marois was being pulled offstage by security and Radio-Canada was cutting to a feed outside of a man pinned to the ground by police—and that long-barreled gun.

What happened outside the Metropolis was a tragedy no one could have expected, committed not by a political movement, but by a sick man with access to weapons.

Not 48 hours after the horrific event, however, in response to the shooter's cries of "Les anglais se réveillent!"—"The English are rising!"—the Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste came out to blame English media for divisive editorial content about language politics fostering an environment where such a tragedy can happen.

SSJB President Mario Beaulieu believes the English media is responsible for the province's "climate of fear."

And despite the biting irony that this was shouted by a group whose members include Front de libération du Québec bombers, there's a point made that warrants consideration.

Did we foster an environment that allowed this senseless act of violence to happen? And if the media is in part to blame, what can be

done to make things better? After all, the shooter wasn't raised in a vacuum, even if the alleged assailant spent most of his time in a fishing lodge.

An easy answer—with a complex execution—is censorship. But this is dangerous territory; driven on the premise that, as individuals, we cannot critically digest the information we're constantly consuming.

And if pundits can share the blame for a political climate where an unstable person can see indiscriminate murder as an answer, then by the same logic, thousands of peaceful protesters share blame for creating an environment that includes the most violent acts of the *printemps érable* committed by a small minority.

It's an argument that was put forward by many supporters of Charest's Special Law, but if the huge resistance to that legislation taught us anything, Quebec will not tolerate limitations to free expression simply in the name of maintaining order.

And while many column inches were used in the *National Post*, *The Globe and Mail* and *The Gazette* to stoke old fears of Quebec's secession and language policing, the blame can't solely be placed on the English media.

As psychoanalyst Nicolas Lévesque said in an interview with *Le Devoir*, "The psychologist in me is certain that this man's delusion would not have taken this form if Quebec was a place

where we could truly discuss."

He writes that the reduction of politics to emotional responses and forced polarization puts us all at least somewhat to blame for what happened.

But unlike the SSJB, Lévesque criticizes the sensationalism, the alarmism and the straw men at work in both languages, going on to criticize the likes of *Voir's* Richard Martineau and the *Journal de Montréal's* Stéphane Gendron for their polarizing tone.

The point both Lévesque and the SSJB are making—albeit the latter hypocritically—is that violent words beget violent action.

But it's not just the English media, or even media in general, that can be held responsible. If a "climate of fear" is even marginally responsible for the shooting, then the tremendous prevalence of the secession rhetoric on the campaign trail by all major parties has to be examined.

Like Stephen Harper's claim to power through a platform of economic stability and growth vs. scary uncertainty, Jean Charest campaigned on the point that his Liberal Party was the answer to avoiding calamity; in his case, the only surefire defense against a referendum. But unlike the infamous Rest of Canada, Quebec didn't take the bait.

Marois, perhaps necessarily, campaigned with much time spent on the identity issue. And while some would call her tactics defen-

sive, hinged in the protection of a culture surrounded by difference, others see it as an offensive, targeting Anglophones, First Nations and immigrants.

Because, as Radio-Canada reporter Aurélie Lanctôt blogged, "Us francophones worried about our 'survival' have a habit of closing ourselves in a solipsistic view of Québécois society."

And it's true that it is quite easy to forget that Quebec's richness of culture is a product of an interaction with a greater environment, when its distinctness is seen so immediately.

So, to give columnists in the *National Post* some credit, talks of a conditional citizenship (like Marois has discussed) are worth sounding the alarm.

But positing an anglo exodus from *la Belle Province* as a rational option is doing a disservice to its readers. It makes the unstable cognizant of an inaccurately portrayed black-and-white issue that they equate to their personal struggle.

To the English media, of which perhaps I am especially critical of because I see myself as some small component thereof, it would do everyone good to shelve any talks of border patrols in Gatineau and some kind of French-language take on the *The Warriors* becoming the rule of law.

Even if it makes for an entertaining read, going to extremes won't help solve anything.

And if pundits can share the blame for a political climate where an unstable person can see indiscriminate murder as an answer, then by the same logic, thousands of peaceful protesters share blame for creating an environment that includes the most violent acts of the *printemps érable* committed by a small minority.

REMEMBERING EVERETT M. PRICE

• LEX GILL, @LEX_IS

Everett M. Price, a professor and a member of the Concordia University community, passed away peacefully on Aug. 19, 2012 at the Montreal General Hospital, in the presence of his family.

He was 71 years old, and had taught at Concordia since 1972, when he began as an associate professor in the Canadian Studies program. Price was both the first chair of the Political Science Department and the founder of the Master in Public Policy and Public Administration program.

He developed various internships and partnerships, as well as a joint Master program with Grenoble University.

Price will be deeply missed by family and friends, but was also particularly loved by the countless students lucky

enough to have known him as a professor and academic advisor. He will be remembered by these students for his generosity, integrity and kindness most of all.

Those in the department were always grateful for his mentorship, attention and insight. Price was widely known as remarkably proactive for the rights of his students and genuinely dedicated to their learning.

In return, they had nothing but deep respect and admiration for him. The impact he had on these young people is evident in the dozens of journal entries, posts and group messages made online in recent days, with former students trying to find comfort in shared memories.

"He believed in us," was a common refrain, and even decades later many cite his support as an instrumental part of

their success in university and beyond.

There are plans to establish a scholarship in his name for graduate students pursuing an MA in Public Policy and Public Administration.

Price is survived by his loving wife Maria Peluso, who continues to teach in the Political Science department and serve as the president of the Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Union, as well as his children Kursteen and Roy John, and grandchildren Vaughn, Nadia-Jane, Finley, Manan, and Maella.

No service was held, but a memorial celebration of his life has been planned at the Loyola Chapel for 12:00 p.m. on Sept. 30. Well-wishers are encouraged to leave their thoughts and memories on the Kane Fetterly Funeral Home's website at <http://goo.gl/RrD4r>



Skewed Election Results Expose Flaws in Quebec's Democracy

LET'S GET PROPORTIONAL

BY MICHAEL WROBEL,
@MICHAEL_WROBEL

After last Tuesday's provincial election produced a slim victory for the Parti Québécois, it seems the time has come to re-start the conversation about electoral reform.

Since being posted online on Aug. 25, a petition on activism website avaaz.org demanding that Quebec move towards a mixed-proportional electoral system has already received over 12,000 signatures.

The signatories have a point. Proportional representation is a change that is not only long overdue, but necessary for the preservation of our democracy.

Much like the 2011 federal election, which gave the Conservative Party 53 per cent of the seats and 100 per cent of the legislative power, even though they received only 39.6 per cent of the popular vote, our latest provincial election has revealed the weaknesses of the

Westminster parliamentary tradition we inherited from Great Britain.

Our electoral system rewards the large parties at the expense of smaller ones.

Despite only a 0.73 per cent difference in total votes between the PQ and the Liberals, the PQ walked away with four more seats. Although over 27 per cent of voters chose the upstart corruption-crushing Coalition Avenir Québec, you wouldn't know that from their distant third-place finish with a meagre 19 seats.

The smallest of the major parties—Québec Solidaire and Option Nationale—will be severely under-represented in the National Assembly, with two and no seats respectively, despite the hundreds of thousands of voters who supported them.

The final seat count may suggest resounding endorsements of both the PQ and the Liberals, but, in fact, neither of these parties increased their share of the vote this

election. Voters flocked to new ideas and new faces in droves.

If our National Assembly actually represented the democratic will of the electorate, each party's share of the seats would equal their share of the popular vote. Under a system of proportional representation, the PQ would have gotten 40 seats, not 54, and the Liberals would have gotten 39, not 50.

More importantly, the CAQ and Québec Solidaire would have had 15 and 6 *additional* seats respectively, which they rightfully earned. Instead, our current electoral system perverted democracy by artificially recreating a two-party system.

And the end result of this "democratic" process is a government with the lowest level of popular support in Quebec's history—31.9 per cent.

Under a proportional system, the PQ, with only 31.9 per cent of the seats, would have had to reach out to other parties to form a coalition, resulting in a consensus-

building government with a stronger mandate. Instead, we now have an inherently unstable minority and an election to look forward to in two years' time.

In the 1970s, René Lévesque tried to get the discussion going on proportional representation. But in the 1980s, successive governments argued over the finer details of electoral reform and no real change ever came about.

Since then, our MNAs have allowed the issue to fall by the wayside. After all, electoral reform would eliminate the false majorities that make their jobs easier.

For many anglophones, the hidden silver lining in the PQ's election victory is its plan to allow citizen-initiated referendums. Citizen-initiated referendums have their flaws; we needn't look any further than California's anti-same-sex marriage Proposition 8 to see how citizen-led referendums can allow the majority to strip minorities of their rights.

However, as PQ candidate

Nicolas Girard admitted at a local debate during the campaign, our last hope for meaningful electoral reform may well be a citizen-initiated referendum, considering the lack of political will to change the electoral system.

While we wait for the PQ to pass new legislation on referendums, we must keep the conversation going on this important topic. With any luck, Quebec may finally become the first province to ditch its antiquated electoral system, paving the way for the rest of the country to follow suit.

Quebec has traditionally been fertile ground for progressive ideas.

It is, after all, the province where juries again and again refused to convict Dr. Henry Morgentaler for performing abortions in defiance of anti-abortion laws in the 1970s. Province by province, the rest of Canada followed suit. It's now time for us to show the rest of the country how electoral reform is done, too.

Why Women Participating in Society is Suddenly a Problem

ME AND FIRST

The assertion that women are becoming the new men usually follows a fear that maltreatment traditionally directed at them will now flow the other way. Somehow this makes both genders uncomfortable.

People look at women gaining ground, and men losing it, and they draw an easy line between the two. But social change is complex, and making these correlations is irresponsible.

ELYSHA DEL GIUSTO-ENOS,
@ELYSHAENOS

Society is a competition. Or so the recent onslaught of pundit-pieces that coddle menfolk would have us believe.

We're suppose to think that success doesn't happen for those who work towards it—it happens to one class and one group at a time. Success is a zero-sum game. So whoever is seen to be climbing the ranks is only able to do so by knocking others down as they go.

Just because women are more present in the workforce than before doesn't mean we are responsible for the "mancession."

The Globe and Mail ran an article this Saturday about a new book by Hanna Rosin called *The End of Men*. The book is a dialogue between the author and two writers discussing how men's place in the world is changing.

"Arrests of women are rising, while violent crime perpetrated by men—including rape—is dropping," said the *Globe's* Zosia Bielski as part of the conversation, under the headline "Heel, boy."

"The shift in gender roles may see women turning violent, with women acting more like stereotypical men."

The discussion included contemporary men articulating their feelings in ways they weren't able to before and putting forward the notion that, while women are taking men's jobs—and, apparently, violent traits—men are becoming society's emotional and sensitive class.

The assertions that men are more open than before were based on statistics drawn from online dating profiles. Apparently, on the webpages of singles hoping to attract a mate, men are posting that they want to get married, whereas women are posting that they don't.

This is seen as an example of shifting attitudes, but it's really one of many ways in which statistics lie. Online dating profiles are meant to make the individual as

appealing as possible to whomever they hope to attract. Both genders are posting what they think the other will want to hear. Seen that way, our society hasn't changed much at all.

The article is part of a trend in the media that focuses on how women are excelling and becoming the primary breadwinners of the household. But the issue of women succeeding is usually cast as an undermining of men's ability to do so.

In 1990, 15 per cent of men and women between 25 and 34 had a university degree. By 2009, it was 34 per cent of women and 26 per cent of men. Both genders

are pursuing higher education more than they used to, but with women outnumbering men, men must be losing out.

In 2009, the National Bureau of Economic Research in the United States reported that women made up 49.9 per cent of the workforce—an all-time high. This was blamed on the recession eliminating male-dominated jobs. But even with all that social fear-mongering going on, women still weren't fully half of the workforce.

And while it's not nearly as splashy, the women snapping up those percentage points aren't corporate glamazons, they're often low-income workers. Seven out of ten women in the bottom 20 per cent income bracket earn as much or more than their husbands.

Women are still far from outpacing men when it comes to the corner office.



GRAPHIC PAKU DAOUST-CLOUTIER

But just the fact that women are in the game at all seems to be too close for comfort for the mainstream.

Even though men's participation in the workforce has been on the decline, that decline has been for full-time work, while women's gains are more in part-time positions.

And despite any gains, statistically, women still earn 15 to 40 per cent less than men working the same jobs. Articles that focus on that sad fact are apparently too cliché to tackle.

The assertion that women are becoming the new men usually follows a fear that maltreatment traditionally directed at them will now flow the other way. Somehow this makes both genders uncomfortable.

People look at women gaining ground, and men losing it, and they draw an easy line between the two. But social change is complex, and making these correlations is irresponsible.

Women aren't working in the male-dominated industries that are losing

ground, such as the manufacturing sector; they are largely in growth industries.

According to Statistics Canada, women only outnumber men in the service industry and health care. If men want to serve coffee and take care of our aging population, there's plenty of room for them to do so.

In the *Globe's* article, *Esquire* columnist Stephen Marche summarized the problem: "The kind of men who think that being a nurse is embarrassing are not going to make it."

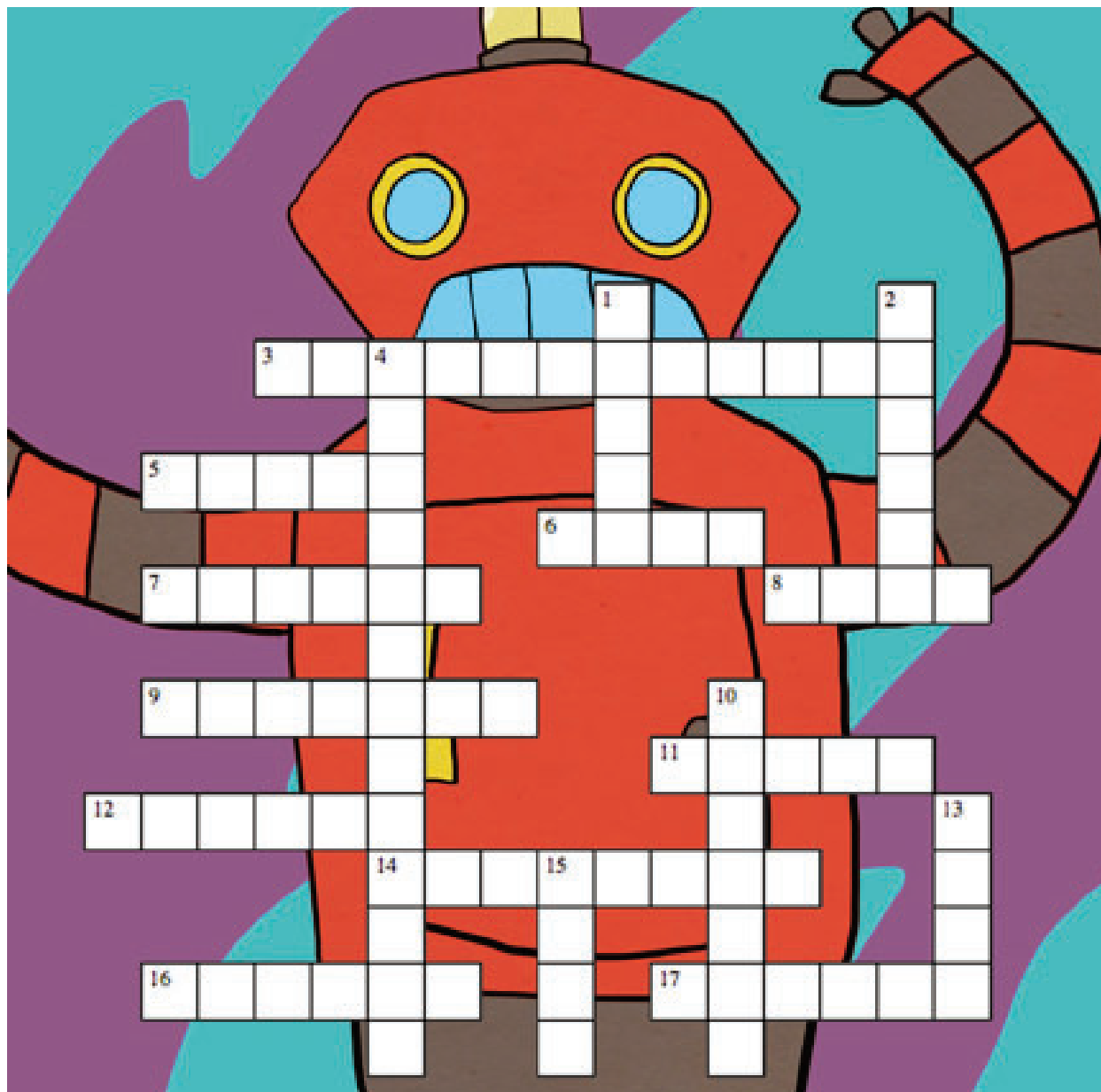
Men aren't going into these growth industries yet though, and that can hardly be considered women's fault. Articles on the subject tend to ignore this fact and cast women's gains as an approaching—or already present—matriarchy. But how can that be when gender equality is still so far off in so many regards?

Let's dispense with the gender hysteria. As the stereotypical coppers of old used to say, "Just the facts, ma'am."

GRAPHIC PAKU DAOUST-CLOUTIER

ROBO-BOOGIE

CHRISTOPHER TAN - @CHRISVTAN



Across

3. Leader of the Autobots, this Transformer's idea of blending in is turning into a giant, bright-red freightliner cab. (2 words)

5. This little Pixar robot is possibly an example of the Theseus Paradox, with the implication that he has replaced every part of himself over the years.

6. How is it possible that Keanu Reeves is even stiffer than this completely silent robot in the remake of *The Day the Earth Stood Still*?

7. If you take this foul-mouthed *Futurama* robot at his word, his different compositions would add up to well over 100 per cent.

8. While *Knight Rider* was still in circulation, Pontiac was swamped with requests for Trans Am Firebirds matching the appearance of this automotive automaton.

9. Getting his start in 1987, this blue bot from Capcom has sold over 29 million

copies as of 2011. (2 words)

11. This mechanical maid can be found zipping about the Jetsons' apartment in Orbit City.

12. This paranoid android from *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* is said to be 50,000 times smarter than a human—or 30 billion times smarter than a live mattress.

14. The first anime to be broadcast, an estimated 40 per cent of Japanese television owners watched it at the height of its popularity in the '60s. (2 words)

16. This antagonistic bot from the *Portal* series is in charge of running tests for Aperture Science. Her appearance is based on the shape of an upside-down suspended woman.

17. Don't underestimate these modern-day equivalents of 11-Across. They may be cool but it's only a matter of time until they bring about the rise of the machines!

Down

1. This Honda android is named not for sci-fi master Isaac, but rather for an acronym. The similarity is just a coincidence.

2. Mike Myers goes head-to-head with these buxom bots as Austin Powers in the film of the same name.

4. Known for the line "I'll be back," this robot shouldn't have returned after *Judgment Day*, if you ask me.... (2 words)

10. The suit that Peter Weller donned to play this titular justice-crazed cyborg was so hot and heavy that he would lose three pounds a day during filming to water loss. The suit eventually had to be equipped with an A/C unit.

13. *Star Trek: The Next Generation* featured this android to offer an outsider's view of humanity, reminiscent of *Star Trek's* Spock. Off set, like with Spock, he also became a sex symbol, with actor Brent Spiner receiving many romantic letters from female fans of the character.

15. This little astromech droid is an example of comic relief done right in the *Star Wars* universe. The prequel trilogy wasn't so lucky. (I'm looking at you, Jar Jar Binks).



No-Strings Fling

I am in a relationship and very happy, I should also mention I am a male. I also have a friend who is a female, and she is also in a happy relationship. We are very good friends and I would love to have no-strings-attached sex with her.

Is it wrong for me to bring the topic up with her? We would both maintain our very happy relationships, but just have like a one-time hook-up.

—Mission Impossible

So, you're concerned about whether or not it's wrong to ask your attached female friend to have no-strings-attached sex with you, but you're not at all concerned about you and your friend both lying and cheating on your respective "happy" relationship partners?

Because regardless of whether it's a one-time thing, and no matter how you want to frame it, that is what you'd be doing if your partners were unaware of this little hook-up.

Rather than bringing this up with your friend, you should be bringing it up with your partner, who you claim to be very happy with. Yeah, it might be weird, but how would your partner feel if they found out you had a one-time hook-up with this person behind their back? I'm guessing they wouldn't feel so great, so how would this be fair to them?

If you truly care for your partner and want to continue a relationship with them, then they should be your first concern and I don't suggest giving them a great reason to never trust you again.

On another note, has your friend given you any reason to believe this is something she might want? If not, I'd be extremely careful in approaching her on this because you're making strong assumptions that she might not appreciate, and if she is a good friend of yours then she may not be after this.

Consider the fact that people, especially ones in relationships, tend to put their guard down a bit more around other people in relationships because they might feel safer thinking they won't accidentally lead them on.

Just so we're clear, I don't think there's anything wrong with wanting sex from someone else when you're in a relationship. It's totally normal and healthy to be attracted to someone else, but acting upon it behind your partner's back—a partner who has likely developed some high-level trust with you—is disrespectful.

If you want to act on this and you want to remain in this relationship, then I suggest starting a dialogue with your partner about outside sexual relations. Be prepared for this to take time, as it's usually a process for at least one partner to become comfortable with the idea.

Also be prepared for it to simply never be an option with your current partner, because they may not be into it. Either way, it should be a decision that both of you are in on. If you can't handle that then don't be a jerk—either get over it and stay with your partner, or break up with them and have all the consensual sex you want with other people.

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

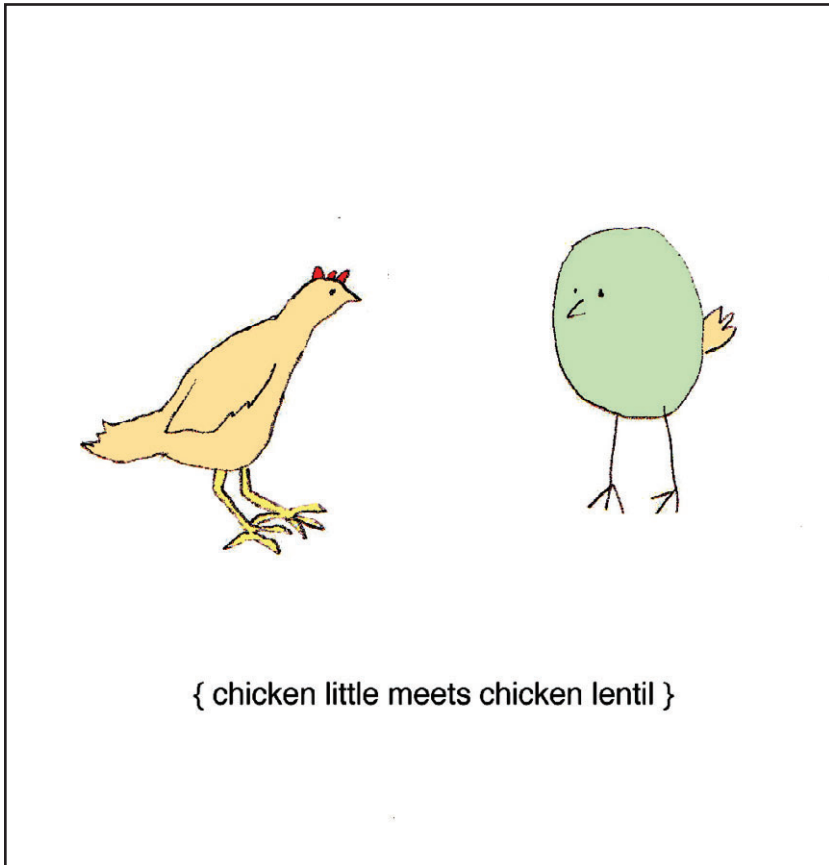
Need some extra help? You can always contact Concordia Counseling & Development at 514-848-2424 ext. 3545 for SGW and ext. 3555 for Loyola.

Got a quick health question? Call info-santé at 8-1-1 from any Montreal number.

—Melissa Fuller

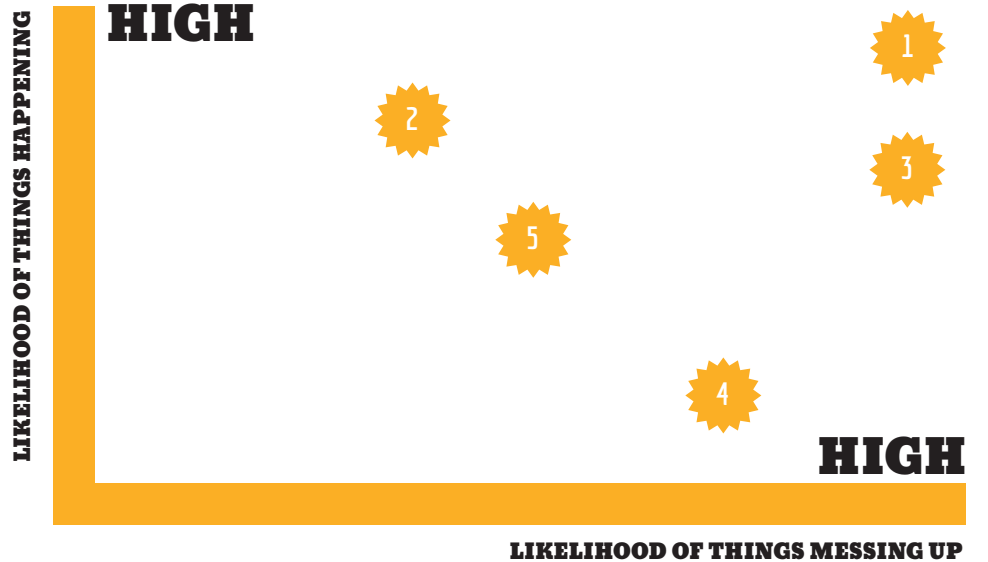
BARTON FLATS

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



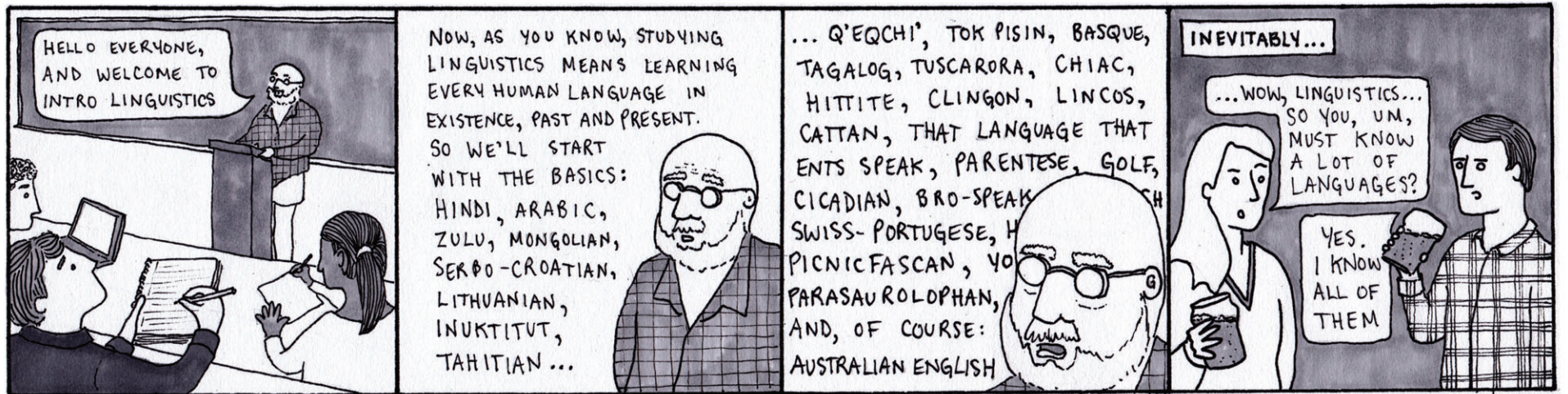
LINKOGRAPHY

1. THE CONSTRUCTION ON DE MAISONNEUVE FINISHING
2. THE CSU AGENDAS ARRIVING
3. THE CSU CONCERT HAPPENING
4. THE PRESIDENTS LASTING THEIR FULL TERMS
5. CONCORDIA REFUNDING YOUR TUITION



False Knees

COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



NAH'MSAYIN?

Addressing the Problem

Alex Lewis Manley, if you're out there, this means war.

I'm sick and tired of you, Alex Lewis Manley. You live, I have deduced, in Swansea, England. (I Facebook-stalked you.) You're 18, or something, and you like to order things on Amazon.co.uk. Stupid things, like iPhone covers, and jeans and beads. Lay off it, already, Alex Lewis Manley.

I know all these things because you told Amazon.co.uk that you were reachable via my email address. Let me tell you something, Alex Lewis: You are not. Only I am reachable via that email address. That's usually how email addresses work, I think.

Whatever email address you have is a different one, and I really have no idea how you confused it with

mine. They insist that you enter your email address *two* times when signing up for stuff like this *for the exact purpose of preventing things like this*.

Do you know what that means? It means that all of the rest of us are typing out our emails two times *for no reason*. Because the people that feature is supposed to ferret out are immune to the good intentions behind it, apparently, too dumb to even know what their own email addresses are.

You'd think something—like the lack of confirmation emails for, like, any of his purchases ever—would have tipped him off by now. I suppose not.

What a fun life he must lead—he orders a product, like a pair of G-Star 5620 3D Tapered Men's Jeans

Medium Aged—and it magically arrives, without anything in the interim. It's like he time-traveled back to the '50s.

Now I am many things, but I'll be God-damned if I'm a man who's typing out his email address two times whenever he signs up to order things off the Internet so that another man can flaunt the basic underlying logic of that debilitatingly frustrating gruntwork and make the whole affair seem ridiculous.

Alex Lewis Manley, you and your personalized iPhone cover spam can stuff it. Next time I get an email for you I'm going to sign up for Amazon.co.uk and start sending do-it-yourself Vajazzling kits to your house.

—Alex Manley
Copy Editor



Editorial



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?

If you spent any of the past year with a red square pinned to your lapel, then you're probably feeling pretty damn proud right about now.

To the dismay of those who supported the hikes—many of whom still haven't stopped calling the protestors whining children—the students' tactics yet again proved successful against tuition hikes. After months upon months of hard work, it's hard not to feel a sense of victory this week.

Not 24 hours after her victory—and an attack on the Parti Québécois's victory party at the Metropolis that left one dead—newly elected Premier Pauline Marois called the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec.

Marois wanted to assure the association that the PQ would indeed uphold their promise to abolish Law 12, Jean Charest's emergency legislation limiting the

right to protest, and cancel the tuition hikes planned by the Liberal Party.

The PQ reached out in the same way to the Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec, whose former president Léo Bureau-Blouin won his riding of Laval-des-Rapides for Marois's party.

And with such announcements, it certainly feels like cause for celebration. But, as they say, it ain't over 'til it's over.

It would be unfair not to give Marois a chance to rule her minority government before writing her off, and that is by no means our goal here. But we need to be careful not to be used as political tools for the new premier's favour.

This change of government that, if Marois is true to her word, will radically change the direction this province has been going for the past near decade, owes its as-

cension to power to the *printemps érable*—whose heart has always been the student movement.

While Marois's decision to contact student leaders before anyone else is a show of good faith, it's also a political necessity. She has enough battles ahead of her without betraying her most vocal allies.

Though students can't be given all the credit for Charest's loss, they were certainly the impetus for change. The elections were called after deadlock in negotiations between the government and student leaders, in the words of then-Education Minister Michelle Courchesne, letting voters decide how the conflict would end.

But by that time, Quebecers of all stripes had been sounding their casseroles the whole province over in defiance of the Liberal attempt at quashing protests, the collective goal of ousting Charest became

the glue that held together unions, lawyers, teachers, parents, grandparents—and students.

If Marois can't keep students off the streets, however, then she'll become the same demonized figure Charest is faster than you can hit a pot with a spoon.

So perhaps the ones to watch most closely after Marois is the Coalition large de l'Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante, with their aspirations of universally free tuition—an ideal they share with Québec Solidaire. Because what remains to be seen is whether any factions will now push to go further than what Marois has proposed.

Hikes have been blocked before, but the flat-out annulment of tuition, or even a substantial rollback of the share students have to pay, would be unprecedented.

A left-leaning government like the PQ may entertain the idea,

maybe through the still-vague “national discussion on education” that's expected to take place, but with a minority government, such aspirations would put immense stress on an already precariously arranged National Assembly.

Some are predicting another election within a year, and Marois hasn't publicly stated her party would even support a continued tuition freeze, just the cancellation of Charest's hikes. It's no secret that the PQ has supported the idea of tuition indexed with the rate of inflation.

When Marois is sworn in on Sept. 17, needless to say, she'll be inheriting a multitude of opposing viewpoints in her “house,” as both Marois and Charest affectionately call their home province in French. And needless to say, we'll be watching.

GRAPHIC PAKU DAOUST-CLOUTIER

THE LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

The Link is published every Tuesday during the academic year by The Link Publication Society Inc. Content is independent of the university and student associations (ECA, CASA, ASFA, FASA, CSU). Editorial policy is set by an elected board as provided for in The Link's constitution. Any student is welcome to work on The Link and become a voting staff member. The Link is a member of Canadian University Press and Presse Universitaire Indépendante du Québec.

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Board of Directors 2012-2013: Justin Giovannetti, Clare Raspopow, Laura Beeston, Adam Kovac, Julia Jones; non-voting members: Rachel Boucher, Julia Wolfe.

Typesetting by The Link. Printing by Hebdô-Litho.

Print contributors: Josh Barkman, Laura Beeston, Pierre Chauvin, Melissa Fuller, Lex Gill, Justin Giovannetti, Nick Laughner, Valerie McLeod, Riley Sparks, Christopher Tan, Jonathan Woods, Michael Wrobel

Cover by Clément Liu

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Volume 33, Issue 3
Tuesday, September 4, 2012
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