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in the men's basketball team's mid-season rebirth. p14*

Unusual Teaching Methods

*Religious studies professor Norman Cornett returns to
McGill, the university that fired him seven years ago—this
time as the subject of a documentary. p13*

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A Front Row Seat to the 'Theatre of Learning'

Seven years after being fired by McGill, Professor Norman Cornett returned to the university on Thursday evening—not to teach a class, but as the subject of a feature-length documentary film and a special guest of Cinema Politica.

Professor Norman Cornett: "Since When Do We Divorce the Right Answer from an Honest Answer?" was released in 2009 and was filmed while Cornett was teaching at Concordia. Directed by award-winning Abenaki filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin, it opens with the professor leading students through a ren-

dition of Pink Floyd's iconic anti-establishment song "Another Brick in the Wall."

There are clips of Cornett at work, as he makes students listen to music blindfolded or write rambling stream-of-consciousness reflections while sitting in front of a painting in a gallery. These clips are interspersed with testimonial-like interviews with sympathetic former students and colleagues.

"He made me realize [...] that I had never had a good teacher before, and that I wasn't really engaged in quality education," said Sara

Gidding, one student interviewed in the film.

"It was almost, 'How long can this go on?' It was almost like a secret. You didn't want anyone in the administration to find out how wonderful these classes are, because they'll take it away from you," said another student, Leon Mwotia.

"It's like a slumber party, you know. Sooner or later the parents are going to knock on the door and say, 'Okay, that's it, enough. Everyone pipe down. It's done.'"

► Continued on page 7.



Photo Trevor Morgan

CONCORDIA PRESENTS STANCE ON CHARTER

Concordia officials had to answer some tough questions about the university's position on the proposed Charter of Values at a parliamentary committee last week. **P5**

CSU ORIENTATION OVER-BUDGET

The Concordia Student Union went over-budget on this year's Orientation but expects to finish the year in the black. **P8**

ART THAT MAKES SCENTS

Norwegian "scent artist" to give her two scents in Montreal lecture. **P11**

INDIE WITH AN EDGE

U.K. rockers Lanterns on the Lake bring their soulful melodies and political messages across the pond on tour. **P12**

BEEES IN ACTION

Stay up to date with all your Stingers action from this past week. **P15**

PANIC! AT THE NEWSPAPER

Find out if you won this week's Fringe Giveaway, two tickets to see Panic! At the Disco. **P13**

TIME FOR SOME STRIKE LEGISLATION

A legal right to strike would only strengthen future student movements. **P16**



THE LINK ONLINE

H-110 RENOVATIONS DELAYED

A ruptured pipe has halted the revamp of the Hall Building amphitheatre; find out more at thelinknewspaper.ca.

A LUKEWARM FEST

A Link reporter reviews Igloofest—and gets left in the cold.

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STINGERS CAN'T GAIN GROUND

The Stingers women's hockey team drops both weekend games to the top two teams in the country.

SITTING COMFORTABLY

The Stingers men's hockey team won both its weekend games, helping secure playoff positioning.

LINK RADIO

Tune in to CJLO 1690 AM from 11 a.m. to noon every Thursday to hear our newest episode of Link Radio. Missed our last show? Check out thelinknewspaper.ca. Now with Sex & Pancakes' Melissa Fuller!

Webster, Meet Digital Culture

Concordia Library to Undergo Major Renovations Amid Shrinking Book Borrowing

by Michael Wrobel @michael_wrobel

Guylaine Beaudry, the chief administrator for Concordia's two libraries, says the Webster Library is stuck in the past—but upcoming renovations aim to bring it into the digital age.

"The current library we have is really based on the model of the mid-19th century library," said the interim university librarian, who was director of the Webster Library from 2009 until June of last year. "We think that, with this shift from print to digital culture, it is time to revise our brick-and-mortar space."

Preliminary plans for the renovation of the Webster Library are now complete, and a consultation process will soon begin to hear what students and faculty members would want from a modernized library.

"[The preliminary plans are] the representation of a vision," said Beaudry. "The planning of the project is not complete, but we felt [it is time] to announce the project because we want to start a consultation phase with students, with faculty members, and it's not when the final plans will be done that it'll be time to start the consultation."

Assuming the final plans are approved by the university's Board of Governors, the bidding process to determine who will be awarded the construction contract could take place in September and construction could begin in January 2015, according to Beaudry. At a rate of approximately one floor per year, all of the renovations are expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

Beaudry said a lot of time, energy and

money have been spent since 2000 on building the library's digital resources and the university must now look to "create an intellectually stimulating space that will also promote discourse and critical thinking."

According to Beaudry, 675,000 books were borrowed every year on average at Concordia's two libraries until the end of the 2000s. Since then, she says, the annual average has dropped to 450,000, mirroring similar trends at academic libraries across the country.

Beaudry insists the library is "not giving up on print." Still, she says the next-generation library is "a space for active and collaborative learning, an on-campus social learning environment." One of the goals of the renovations will be to make the library more comfortable, quiet, bright and convenient for students to study or read in, according to a university document provided by Beaudry.

Beaudry says student surveys suggest many are dissatisfied with the amount of study space at the Webster Library and that many students also feel the library is too noisy. The noise is probably related to the lack of space, according to Beaudry.

"In 1992, when we opened the building, [Concordia] had 16,000 students, compared to 46,000 now, so you don't have to look very far to understand what happened," she said.

The preliminary plans for the renovations call for the number of seats at the Webster Library to double and then some, from 1,500 to 3,300. The library will also be expanded to include the fifth floor of the

J.W. McConnell Building that houses it, increasing its space by 27 per cent.

In terms of square footage, Concordia's Webster and Vanier libraries currently offer the lowest amount of space per student compared to other Canadian university libraries, according to university documents provided to *The Link*.

"The numbers are telling us that, yes, it's a good decision to invest in the expansion of the library," Beaudry said.

The angular walls seen in the architectural renderings of the renovated library plans were inspired by origami, according to Beaudry. There will be a variety of study spaces, including classrooms, silent study halls, social areas, group study rooms and even rooms where students can practice for oral presentations by filming themselves and playing back the recordings to see how they can improve.

Beaudry said a new zero-noise room will be completely quiet since students won't even be allowed to use the room to work on laptops—after all, keyboards are not entirely silent.

Reserved rooms with a total of 80 seats will also be made available to graduate students, giving them a dedicated space in which to write their dissertations.

"It is a space that, I think, will be most appreciated," Beaudry said. "It is a time when the graduate students find themselves isolated because they have to work at home. Sometimes they don't have the best conditions at home to write their six pages every day."

Meanwhile, a "technology sandbox" will allow students in computer science to test

applications they've created on different mobile devices. There will also be 3-D printers and cameras.

"What we would like to take place in that space is interdisciplinary projects," Beaudry said.

As for the classrooms in the library, one of them will even use virtual reality to project renderings onto multiple walls.

Additionally, Beaudry said she hopes that new room-booking software will make it easier and faster for students to reserve group study rooms.

"My dream is to provide one [application] for all group study rooms on campus, and not only the libraries' ones," she said.

Beaudry added the library intends to get students involved throughout the renovations. In March, students will be invited to try out different furniture samples and share their comments, Beaudry said. Periodic project updates will keep the Concordia community informed about the progress on the construction.

According to Beaudry, renovations are taking place or have already been completed at many academic and public libraries throughout Canada, not just at Concordia.

"I'm very proud to be able to offer to Concordia students what they deserve," she said. "Twenty years ago, it was a major achievement to offer to the community the Webster Library, and now we're very lucky to be in a position to [...] improve the space, to make a difference."

Renderings courtesy of Menkès Schooner Dagenais Letourneux Architectes





A protester demonstrates against the proposed charter at a rally held in Montreal on August 14th, 2013

Taking Concordia's Stance to the National Assembly

Concordia Officials Explain their Opposition to the Proposed Charter of Values

by Michael Wrobel @michael_wrobel

The outside temperature may have been hovering around a frigid minus-20 degrees Celsius in Quebec City last Thursday, but the heat was turned up on Concordia officials at the National Assembly as they faced tough questions while presenting the university's stance on the Parti Québécois' proposed Charter of Values.

Benoit-Antoine Bacon, provost and VP Academic Affairs, and Roger Côté, VP Services, presented the university's position on the charter to the provincial parliamentary committee examining Bill 60, also known as the Charter of Quebec Values. Concordia is the first university to present at the hearings.

Bacon explained that Concordia opposes the charter because of the university's particular history and identity as a diverse institution, the anticipated impact of the charter on the recruitment and retention of students and professors and the democratic principle of academic freedom.

"It is true that certain elements of the bill—notably the affirmation of the principles of the secular state and the equality of men and women—elicit firm support from the Board of Directors and Senate," Bacon told the committee, reading from the university's official statement on the charter.

"We are, however, concerned about other key elements of the bill, such as the measures prohibiting employees of the university from wearing religious symbols, as well as the ministerial supervision of our policies on religious accommodation."

If passed, the charter would ban public sector employees—including those working for government departments, state-subsidized daycare centres, schools, colleges, universities, hospitals and municipalities—from wearing "ostentatious" religious symbols such as turbans, hijabs, niqabs, kippas and large crosses. Bacon said such a ban could hamper the university's ability to attract and retain talented students and professors.

"We worry that the negative repercussions of Bill 60 will impact not only those people who, in accordance with their religious beliefs, express their faith every day, but equally those who, for intellectual and moral reasons, would object to such restrictions," he said.

According to Bacon, Concordia's stance on the charter was the result of a "vast consultation" that took place with the approval of the university's Board of Governors and Senate, its senior academic body. He added that the university's official position has the support of 11 student associations and labour unions at Concordia.

"We talked a lot about the charter at Concordia during the fall of last year," said Bacon. "As of the initial presentation of the secularism charter in September, a number of our community's members let us know very, very quickly of their concerns."

The Concordia administration received over 200 email messages about the charter.

"Ninety-eight per cent of the messages that we received rejected the charter principally, predominantly—in fact, almost exclusively—because of the ban on wearing religious symbols considered 'ostentatious,'" he said.

Making a Case for Religious Symbols in the Classroom

During the question period that followed Bacon's presentation of the university's position, Democratic Institutions Minister Bernard Drainville asked Bacon and Côté to respond to comments sociologist Guy Rocher made at the parliamentary committee on Jan. 21.

Rocher had said there's been a "more or less general consensus" for a long period of time that university professors should refrain from promoting their political and religious beliefs in the classroom.

"It's not a step backward [to allow employees to wear religious symbols], it's the present-day situation," responded Bacon. "And for us, it's working very, very well."

Drainville pushed for an explanation,

adding, "It's not because a practice is in place that it's necessarily desirable."

"Minister, we all have a heritage; we all have convictions; we all have personal opinions that are discernible either from our appearance or very, very rapidly from our discourse," Bacon responded.

"Religious symbols that are considered 'ostentatious' are but one of the many indicators of our origins or opinions. Others can be the name of the person, their accent, the colour of their skin, the way that they choose to dress, what's scrawled across their T-shirt, et cetera. We can't dissociate the teaching from the person that's doing it."

Drainville next cited Martine Desjardins, the former president of the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, who led the organization at the time of the 2012 student protests.

Now a representative of the pro-secularism group Rassemblement pour la laïcité, Desjardins told the parliamentary committee on Jan. 21 that the problem with professors wearing religious symbols is that students cannot criticize a professor's religious beliefs as they might criticize political beliefs openly expressed by the professor to the class.

Asked to respond, Bacon said the proportion of university courses directly dealing with the topic of religion is "very, very small."

"There are large sections of knowledge in engineering, in business, in science that do not touch questions of religion at all," he said. "We can't say: 'There are certain symbols considered ostentatious that are not allowed; other symbols, those ones, we tolerate them.'"

"T-shirts of Che Guevara continue to be permitted. That doesn't stop people from talking about revolution or communism, and that doesn't stop students from criticizing them. Universities are about a plurality of points of view."

Asked by Drainville if Concordia students could write exams with their faces covered by religious headgear, Côté said yes, so long as the identity of the individual is confirmed first.

"We aren't comfortable refusing an edu-

cation to someone who has the capacity [to learn]," Bacon added.

There were more friendly exchanges between Concordia's representatives and two Liberal MNAs sitting on the parliamentary committee. Kathleen Weil—the Liberal MNA for the riding of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, which includes Concordia's Loyola campus—asked how Concordia deals with its diversity and the issue of state secularism.

"I believe that one of the successful elements of the harmony that exists at our university—it's respect, the respect of the individuals amongst us, recognizing our differences but recognizing that [this diversity] is a strength that benefits the learning process of [students] at the university," said Côté, adding that eliminating such diversity would "weaken the experience, the value of the experience at the university."

Asked by Liberal MNA Rita de Santis how much it would cost the university and other institutions to challenge the charter in court if they decided to do so in the future, Côté responded that the scenario was "perhaps a little hypothetical for the moment."

"We're taking advantage of the occasion and the invitation that we received [...] to come give our opinion, share our point of view. We hope to receive the attention of the government, and I think that we'll keep to that for the moment," Côté said.

Coalition Avenir Québec MNA Nathalie Roy asked Concordia's officials if the university has statistics on the number of employees who would be affected by a ban on religious symbols.

"Those types of statistics, we don't collect them. We don't ask employees of the university, when hiring them—nor students for that matter—what their religious affiliation is or other opinions," Côté answered. "So we don't have numbers. But experiencing Concordia, it's evident that there's a lot of diversity."

Photo Brandon Johnston

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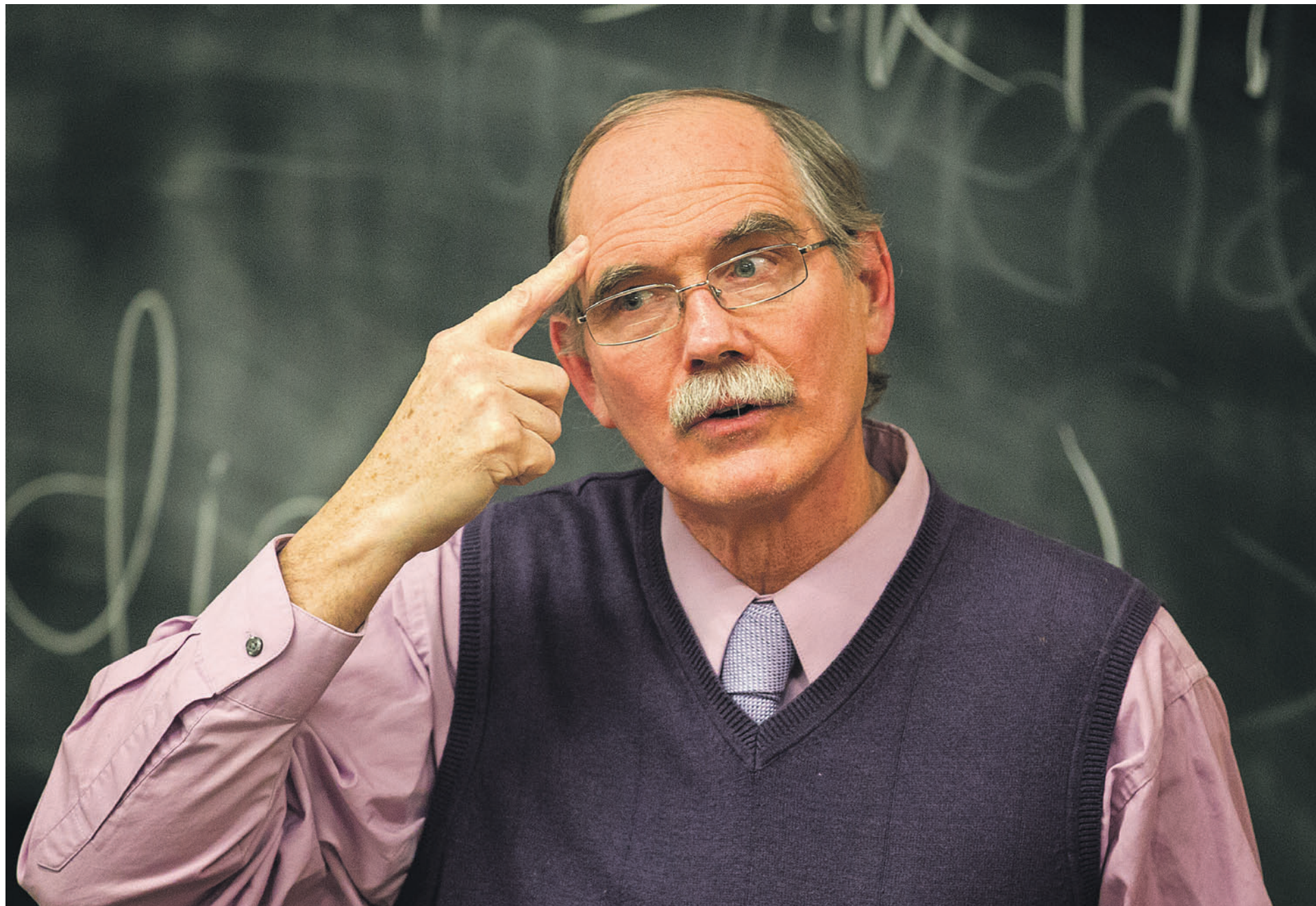
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CLOSER TO THE ART

FRINGE ARTS WORKSHOP

Trying to navigate the turbulent waters of the Montreal arts scene? This Friday, Jan. 31, our fringe arts editors will be imparting wisdom on interviewing musicians, the science—or art—of pitching stories, the differences in writing for print versus online, the value of puns and much more.

Join us this Friday at 4 p.m. in H-649 to realize your potential as an arts writer! You may even walk away with a free book or CD, courtesy of the fringe team.



Professor Norman Cornett answers questions after the screening of a documentary about his unorthodox teaching style on Jan. 23.

Not Another Brick in the Wall

Cinema Politica McGill Screens Documentary about Unorthodox Ex-Professor

by Jonathan Summers @jonathans_mtl

► Continued from page 3.

The axe did finally fall in 2007. After 15 years of teaching, the religious studies professor was unceremoniously ordered to pack up his things and get out.

According to Cornett, McGill never revealed the grounds for his dismissal. The administration's only public statement on the matter consists of an open letter in *Le Devoir* by then-Executive Vice-Principal Anthony Masi, who is now provost.

"Yes, we worked very hard, but how often are you going to get to go one-on-one with the prime minister of Canada, one-on-one with the premier of Quebec, one-on-one with Academy Award nominee Ethan Hawke?"

—Professor Norman Cornett

The letter, titled "McGill honore la liberté d'expression"—or "McGill honors freedom of expression"—did not explain why Cornett was let go but denied allegations that it was because of "the controversial debates on the Middle East conflict that he organized in his classes."

In an interview with *The Link* after the screening, Cornett said his firing had surprised him. He also defended his some-

times-demanding teaching style.

"I think it's important to point out that all of the classes I taught were electives," said Cornett. "Nobody had to take the classes and, at the very first day, I made it clear this is unlike other courses. But the payoff is unlike anything you've ever experienced."

Aside from his unorthodox method of conducting his "theatre of learning," Cornett was also remarkable for both the quantity and quality of guests he had managed to bring in to speak to his students while at McGill: former prime minister Paul Martin, former Reform Party of Canada leader Preston Manning, former pre-

mier Lucien Bouchard, jazz pianist Oliver Jones and Obomsawin herself, just to name a few.

"Yes, we worked very hard, but how often are you going to get to go one-on-one with the prime minister of Canada, one-on-one with the premier of Quebec, one-on-one with Academy Award nominee Ethan Hawke? And we did this not just every year, not just every semester; we did this every week," he said in a characteristically dramatic tone.

"And that's why people of this calibre came in, because they realized that what was happening happens nowhere else."

After the screening, during a question-and-answer session that ran longer than the film, Cornett remarked that the purpose of education is not to help students get a job, but to help them "get a life."

"University education as originally conceived was [...] certainly not vocational," said Cornett. "The undergrad degree is aimed at informing and forming the well-rounded citizen."

"In fact, I refer to the goal of undergraduate education as, what I call, acquiring peripheral vision," he continued. "That's learning to see, what I call, the big picture."

At one point, Cornett said he was looking forward to an upcoming "commission" on higher education to be overseen by Pierre Duchesne, Quebec's minister of higher education, research, science and technology.

When asked to clarify, Cornett responded that he had meant to say "consultation" instead of "commission," although no major reassessment of university education has been announced since last year's Summit on Higher Education, which resulted in tuition fees being indexed to the annual rise in Quebec families' disposable income.

Nevertheless, Cornett spoke fondly of the 2012 student protests, likening it to his own experience at the University of California, Berkeley in the 1960s. Over that decade, the university

was home to student protests for civil rights and free speech, and against the war in Vietnam.

Cornett said the Maple Spring was a step in the right direction, but insisted a lot of work to be done.

"I believe the Maple Spring was the beginning. It was the 'presenting problem.' But if we're really going to make a difference in Quebec education, we've got to go *ad fontes*, we've got to go back to the sources," he said.

"We've got to look at renewal and reform from root and branch, from the beginning right through to higher education."

Lately, Cornett said he has been keeping busy as a guest lecturer at schools all over Europe and North America. He also writes, translates and continues to offer his trademark dialogic sessions to the public when he is in town.

And, of course, he hinted that he may have some big names lined up to join him.

"For me, it became very important to continue the dialogic tradition of bringing the very best to the [greatest] number of people," he said.

For more of the interview with Professor Norman Cornett, tune in to Link Radio this Thursday at 11:00 am on CJLO 1690 AM.

Professor Norman Cornett: "Since When Do We Divorce the Right Answer from an Honest Answer?" is available for viewing on the National Film Board website.

Photo Leslie Schachter



The Concordia Student Union's fall Orientation went over budget due to federal taxes on foreign musical acts and buying last-minute supplies.

Orientation Over-Budget Once Again

Unexpected Costs Thwart CSU Pledge To Meet \$155,000-Budget

by Andrew Brennan @Brennamen

In spite of announcing an anticipated surplus and the first potential profit ever for Reggie's student bar, another promise made by this year's Concordia Student Union won't be kept as the fall Orientation was over-budget, again, by almost \$19,000.

"The best way to explain why Orientation was so over-budget is because we had a lot of students turn out," said VP Finance Scott Carr.

Carr delivered a report to CSU council last week on the financial state of the union, indicating the union was projecting a surplus of \$591,527 over 2013-2014.

However, despite telling *The Link* multiple times since last June that Orientation would not go over budget like years past, he also admitted unforeseen costs and taxes on international entertainment acts—discovered after the budget had been set—made this impossible.

"We had a lot of buffers, but there are a lot of things that just aren't planned for, which comes

from a lot of students coming out and a lot of things that we need to then account for because we don't have enough stock," he said.

Financial records obtained from the CSU list Orientation as costing \$173,190, whereas it was projected to cost \$155,000 at the beginning of the academic year.

According to Carr, the two-week welcome-back extravaganza also generated \$127,448 in revenues, largely from tickets sold to Froshapalooza—the festival-style electronic and dance music concert in Parc Jean-Drapeau headlined by artists Dada Life and Tommy Trash.

But because of high attendance, employees had to work longer and more food and supplies needed to be purchased at the last minute, explained VP Student Life Katrina Caruso, who oversaw Orientation plans.

"We didn't entirely realize how much we were spending while we were doing it, because it's hard to keep track of everything," said Caruso. "It wasn't like Scott was sitting at the of-

fice crunching numbers."

Federal taxes on foreign entertainment artists were also not known nor factored into the budget upon booking Dada Life and Tommy Trash, Carr and Caruso also said.

"The overall cost of the artists was expensive and then we add taxes on top of that which make it more expensive, and those are large costs we need to incur," said Carr. "So that led to a large part of the budget [being taken up] but it was also the fact there were a lot of people that came [to events]."

When asked how the tax on international artists was not accounted for—the union usually books headliners from around the world every year for Orientation—Carr said his upcoming six-month financial review is looking at addressing such oversights so this can't happen again.

As for Caruso, she says that in retrospect she would have considered booking only one headlining artist from outside Canada instead of two, and also would have looked

to cut costs by trimming down Orientation in other ways.

"I think, in general, Orientation could be a few less days and that would have saved us some money," she said.

"It ran for two weeks [...] but some people, myself included, feel that Orientation could be more successful if it's just one week," she continued, adding that it would allow the union to do away with less successful events and focus only on activities that appeal to more students.

However, Caruso added she still thinks spending more is worthwhile when students are coming out to reap the benefit.

"I think it's worth it. I think ideally, costs attributed to Orientation are worth [spending] because the CSU can reach its members," she said.

"You know, last minute extra stuff happens, and it was worthwhile [to incur the expense] to keep all the events running smoothly."

Photo Brandon Johnston

BRIEFS

by Erin Sparks @sparkserin

Sovereignist Group Criticizes Charter

A sovereignist group known as Indépendantistes pour une laïcité inclusive, or Sovereignists for an Inclusive Secularism, has criticized the Parti Québécois' proposed ban on religious symbols for government employees, the *Montreal Gazette* reported Sunday. According to the group, the PQ's Bill 60 does not promote gender equality and, if passed, would punish Muslim women in particular. The group has called for modifications to the proposed ban, saying that the article specifying who cannot wear religious symbols should apply only to judges and police officers. They added that, for the most part, wearing such symbols does not threaten the state's religious neutrality.

N.D.G. Calls for Vendôme Tunnel

Russell Copeman, borough mayor for Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, is calling for a tunnel connecting Vendôme metro station to the superhospital under construction nearby. According to CTV, the current plan for the facility requires people to walk outdoors from the metro station to the hospital, and the provincial government has not granted permission to construct a tunnel connecting the two. Copeman is also hoping to restructure how roads are repaired in the borough, but officials from Transport Québec have not acknowledged the proposed changes.

Alleged Sexual Assault at Boxer Jean Pascal's House

Police are investigating allegations of sexual assault at the home of Quebec boxer Jean Pascal, the *Montreal Gazette* reported. A 25-year-old woman was reportedly assaulted over the weekend during a party at the boxer's house, and was later taken to hospital for an examination. The alleged assault occurred at Pascal's house, but at the present time police are unsure of his involvement. On Monday, police said Pascal is cooperating with the ongoing investigation.

Weekend Explosion in Snowdon Area

An explosion Friday night at an under-construction gas station led to the evacuation of residents in the area, CTV News reported. Firefighters blamed the fire on a leaking propane tank at an Esso station closed for construction on Decarie Blvd. Construction workers were using portable tanks as a source of heat during the construction. However, Benoit Brouillard, chief of operations for the city's fire department, said it is too soon to be certain what exactly caused the explosion. Firefighters contained the blaze quickly, and no buildings were damaged.



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Photo by Leslie Schachter

A participant in the 54th Annual Macdonald Campus Woodsmen Competition chops through a log at McGill University's Macdonald Campus on Saturday, January 25, 2014, in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC.

Submit your photos to photo@thelinknewspaper.ca



Sieging the Servers

Worldwide Feminist Wikipedia Edit-a-thon to Take Over the Web This Weekend

by Verity Stevenson @vestevie

On Feb. 1, Wikipedia is getting a makeover—or is it a reality check?

At 22 locations across the globe, from Wisconsin to Australia, individuals across the net will tackle the lack of feminist content as well as the lapses in art pages on Wikipedia, and Montreal will be one of these hotspots of Internet activism.

Eastern Bloc, an “exhibition and arts production centre dedicated to New Media,” along with Studio XX, .dpi and Skol will be hosting Montreal’s own Art + Feminism Edit-a-thon in solidarity with the other cities around the world also participating.

The event will be a gathering of editors who will update Wikipedia’s current art and feminist content, which, according to its organizers, is seriously lacking.

“You’ll have five pages of text on a *Lord Of The Rings* costume and then you won’t be able to find a famous artist’s page because it just isn’t there,” said Amber Berson, in charge of organizing

Montreal’s Edit-a-thon, citing artist Adrian Piper as an example. Piper’s Wikipedia page was just recently built.

The initiative brings to mind one by Guerrilla Girls, an anonymous group of female artists who work to “expose sexism and racism in politics, the art world, film and the culture at large,” and wear gorilla masks to disguise themselves.

They formed in 1985 following the Museum of Modern Art’s 1984 exhibition “An International Survey of Recent Painting and Sculpture,” which featured only 13 women of the 169 artists whose work was showcased.

This time, the issue is online and will be handled across the globe—not from behind gorilla masks, but behind computer screens.

“It’s definitely somewhat similar,” said Berson.

The organizers have posted a list of female artists to either create pages for or add more content to.

“It’s like a book report, but on art and it’s more about knowing where the sources are,” said Jacqueline

Mabey, who shares the project as her brain child—conceived over dinner—with Siân Evans, Michael Mandiberg, Laurel Ptak, Richard Knipel and Dorothy Howard, who all work for various organizations and galleries in the United States and Canada that often combine art projects with feminism.

The project’s Wikipedia meet-up page lists a roster of sources to refer to when editing, but participants are encouraged to reference books as well. Good sources and citations are crucial in preventing content from being taken down, according to Mabey, who says feminist content is sometimes flagged or removed on the site.

“Absolutely anyone” can participate, but women are encouraged to be a part of the event as the Edit-a-thon not only takes on the shortage of female artists on the site, but is also a reaction to a 2010 study by Wikimedia that found that only 13 per cent of its editors—the people who create and correct the site’s self-regulated content, which is open for anyone

to do—self-identify as female.

Berson says the number of female editors may be higher, but they might not all be identifying as such for various reasons.

“You have to come out with more of a strong voice when you self-identify as a woman, as an editor,” said Berson. “There’s a devaluation of the way women express themselves and their opinions.”

“I would also say that the more that women hear Wikipedia, tech, whatever is a ‘man’s world,’ the more alienated they feel from it,” she added.

Aside from the gender gap in the tech world, another reason for the lack of self-identified female editors may be that “women have less leisure time,” often caught up in managing work and life at home, which may include children, Mabey said.

The lack of women in the Internet and tech world is well known. From gaming to Twitter, from the companies’ CEOs to the clients, Silicon Valley has often been called a “boys’ club.” Indeed, women make up only about

a quarter of the industry’s workforce, according to nonprofit feminist media organization *Bitch Media*.

By addressing those issues concretely, the edit sprint encourages people to contribute to the online open encyclopedia they may only be used to consulting—something Berson herself said she was terrified of because of a coding class she took in university.

To make the process easier, more experienced editors will be on the spot to give tutorials and tips along the way. As well, experienced editors will be paired with experts in art and feminism. Child-care and snacks will also be available for free at the event so women can “come, stay, edit and have fun,” said Mabey.

Art + Feminism Wikipedia Edit-a-thon // Feb. 1 // Eastern Bloc (7240 Clark St.) // 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. // Free admission // More info at artandfeminism.tumblr.com

.....
Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams



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Smelling is Believing

Norwegian Scent Artist Sissel Tolaas to Tantalize Concordia with Hexagram Lecture

by Jayde Norström @n_jayde

For humans, our not-so-keen sense of smell is often overlooked in favour of the more popular senses—seeing a red-and-purple-splashed sunset, or hearing a complex, brilliant symphony. But for Norwegian scent artist and “professional in-betweener” Sissel Tolaas, our sense of smell is her bread and butter.

This Thursday, the Hexagram-Concordia Centre for Research-Creation in Media Arts and Technology continues its Distinguished Speaker Series in collaboration with Conversations in Contemporary Art with a lecture by Tolaas. With experience in multiple fields, including chemistry, linguistics and visual art, Tolaas’s work lies somewhere between researcher, artist and consultant.

“I’m not just an artist, I’m not just a scientist, I’m not just a facilitator, I’m beyond that,” she said. “People always ask you, what do you do, what do you call yourself, so I had to come up with something and that’s the word that I found the most proper for my position, for the way I think.”

In addition to working on her own olfactory artistic projects, she has worked with companies such as Comme des Garçons and Chanel, and her research lab in Berlin is sponsored by International Flavors & Fragrances, the world’s largest producer of fragrances.

“She works with industry, she works in the art world, and then she does these interdisciplinary research projects,” said Chris Salter, director of Hexagram-Concordia and coordinator of the upcoming event.

“I think that is very much in the spirit of Hexagram [and] interdisciplinary work in general. You’re moving between different work, different worlds, different people, different kinds of practices and it demands that you really have this openness.”

Beginning with a lecture from Tolaas, the event will transition into a “Hexa_Out” session—a roundtable discussion between Tolaas and other artists and researchers whose work deals with the senses and animal perception. The panel will be moderated by David Howes, a Concordia professor of anthropology and director of the Concordia Sensoria Research Team, whose work deals with the senses in relation to culture.

Salter described why it is difficult to discuss scent in an artistic or academic setting.

“Smell is very interesting because we don’t have a strong language for it. We have all sorts of words for vision, but we don’t have a lot of words for smell,” he said.

Scent, said Salter, is considered a lower sense in western society, along with touch and taste. Sight has been the predominant sense in the art world for a very long time, with

manifestations like painting and sculpture, which are passive artworks. Scent, on the other hand, is active—it enters your body and you experience it as a part of the work, rather than stepping back and simply observing.

Tolaas believes there is a lack of education surrounding the senses, especially smell.

“I’m trying to put smell back on track and say, ‘Listen, we have amazing software in our bodies and it’s called our senses, and we primarily program and use one of them, which is seeing,’” said Tolaas. “I think there has to be a balance. There was always meant to be a balance between the senses.”

Tolaas explained that by not teaching people to understand their sense of smell we are losing a part of our personal and cultural identity.

“We all have a smell ID as unique as our fingerprint, but when do we find it out?” she asked.

She also decried the sterilization, deodorization and perfuming of the world—that by removing or covering up natural scents we also remove important information from the world.

“I’m not [saying], ‘We need dirty humans, we need dirty cities.’ That’s not what I’m saying. But there’s no need to camouflage everything,” she said.

The first step towards training the underused sense is overcoming scent prejudices.

“You know the first time you smell a smell is

the essential moment,” said Tolaas. “If that moment is positive or negative emotionally, your relation to that smell is that for the rest of your life.”

For Tolaas, scent is a medium like any other. Her research lab houses countless scents, from Moroccan rose to stinky socks, and synthetics, extracts and physical samples harvested from around the world.

“I try to relate to smell intellectually or rationally rather than emotionally,” she said.

Human Cheese, an ongoing project of Tolaas’s in collaboration with biologist and artist Christina Agapakis, explores the notion of good and bad smells. In the latest installation of the project, a lab was set up where participants could donate various bacteria from their bodies that were then used to ferment actual cheese.

If cheese has a strong odour it’s considered a positive thing, Tolaas explained, but the same isn’t true when it comes to the body. The project aims to showcase the importance of our bodies’ bacteria in a tangible way.

“It’s more food for thought than food for eating,” she said.

Sissel Tolaas Lecture and Hexa_Out Panel //
Jan. 30 // VA-114 (1395 René Lévesque Blvd. W.) // 6 p.m. // Free Admission

Photos Trevor Morgan

To Drink and Sing on the Breadline

British Indie Outfit Lanterns On the Lake Bring Warm Vibes to Montreal



by Jake Russell @jakeryanrussell

A creaky wooden hall in the middle of nowhere with the bitter cold creeping in through every crack sounds better suited for the setting of a horror movie than a place to make a record.

For British five-piece indie post-rock group Lanterns on the Lake, spending a month recording their second full-length album *Until the Colours Run* in such a hall in the snowy woods of Newcastle two years ago indeed made for a harrowing experience—but it was also a unifying one.

“We hired this big old school hall in the countryside—in the winter, which was freezing—and played the music as live together as we could and recorded it kind of like a live album,” said Hazel Wilde, the band’s leading vocalist.

“It feels like all the songs fit together and sound like they’re from the same time and place, whereas on the first record, the songs came together over a number of years.”

Wilde explained that for their first record, *Gracious Tide, Take Me Home*, the band recorded all their own instruments separately and stitched together each song like Frankenstein’s indie monster.

“The first record that we made, it was done in quite a fragmented way. One or two of us would come up with song ideas and record it at home, and different people would record different parts, in our houses, really,” Wilde said.

“It was all done outside of work and day jobs and in the evening, trying to fit it all in. It took quite a long time.”

But the band was determined to remedy that for their second record—even if their congregation place was out in the boonies in the dead of winter and they had to make up for the loss of vocalist and guitarist Adam and bassist Brendan Sykes, brothers who left the band in 2012.

Joined by new bassist, Andrew Scrogam, the band’s unity on *Until the Colours Run* can easily be heard in the album’s atmos-

pheric and graceful vibes, with the songs overflowing with warmth.

Opening tracks “Elodie” and “The Buffalo Days” launch nostalgic post-rock guitar licks over a foundation of violins and piano to guide listeners home, while slower tracks like “The Ghost That Sleeps In Me” and “Green & Gold” have a rustic, vintage veneer, with Wilde’s faint echoing vocals confessing haunting tales over folksy piano melodies.

The old-timey aesthetic of *Until the Colours Run* was no accident—the band engineered the sentimental sound through a medley of creative techniques.

“We try to sample a lot of natural sounds, Wilde said. “Some of the crackle you can hear is the fire that Sarah [the violinist] has in her house. We just recorded the sound of the fire crackling; it just kind of gives it that warmth we were after.”

“We ran it through a tape player and stuff like that,” she continued. “We just wanted it to feel warm and close and quite natural.”

The group record all their music themselves—guitarist Paul Gregory takes the lead on production and the rest “chip in,” Wilde says.

We’re Not Gonna Take It

Although the sound is often sugary sweet, *Until the Colours Run* is not simply a flowery record about the beauty of the world. At its calloused core is a stabbing critique of the state of England.

“This album was recorded at a time that was quite difficult for us. We had no money, and we were struggling a bit in terms of wondering what was going to be happening to the band and the future, and how long we could last,” Wilde said.

“At the same time, where I live in the northeast of England there are a lot of problems with unemployment, and at the minute the politicians and the government in the U.K. are really not acting very morally in how they’re treating people in the country, especially in the north,” she continued. “A lot of that is fed into the lyrics.”

When asked why she was interested in incorporating sociopolitical commentary into her music, Wilde replied with a question of her own—how could she *not*?

“I’ve never sat down and said, ‘I’m gonna write a protest song,’” she said. “It’s just things that naturally feed into the music. It’s slightly a political record, but it’s not just that, it just reflects what’s going on at the time.”

“It naturally sinks into it,” she continued. “I can’t really see how people can’t be influenced by what’s going on around them. I find that more strange.”

Until the Colours Run was released in October of last year in the U.K. and on Jan. 14 in North America. The band is currently on tour, heading to North America after stops in such European cities as Berlin, Zurich, Paris, Milan and Amsterdam.

Lanterns on the Lake + Elliot Maginot // Feb. 3 // Divan Orange (4234 St. Laurent Blvd.) // 9:30 p.m. // \$12 + fees advance

FRINGE CALENDAR JAN. 28 TO FEB. 3 by Riley Stativa @wileyriles

MUSIC

1 Ethnic Heritage Ensemble:
40th Anniversary
Feb. 1
Casa Del Popolo
(4873 St. Laurent Blvd.)
8:30 p.m.
\$13
Are you a big fan of jazz? This event might be able to trump(et) all others, featuring the Ethnic Heritage Ensemble, a trio of talented musicians busting out saxy jams led by famed composer and multi-instrumentalist Kahil El’Zabar.

THEATRE

2 Wild Heart Acres:
An Improvised Mini-Series
Jan. 30
Montreal Improv
(3713 St. Laurent Blvd.)
8:30 p.m.
\$8, \$5 with Montreal Improv Student Card
Pioneering a new take on live theatre, this improvised mini-series will run in five parts over five months, with the finale taking place in May. It’s centred on widower Moses Stanley and his two daughters, Hazel and Lottie, as they settle in the frontier township of Wild Heart. Follow their trials and triumphs, and don’t forget to wear your raccoon-skin cap, Davy Crockett style.

ART

3 Beaux Degats #15
Jan. 29
Foufounes Electriques
(87 Ste. Catherine St. E.)
7 p.m.
\$5
This art battle will feature six teams of artists and street artists, aiming to bring back the essence of community, independence and kinship that are so often neglected in this age’s corporate-powered art scene. Winners are decided by audience vote and losers get their work crossed out by the victors.

LITERATURE

4 Ant Colony Launch
Jan. 30
Librairie Drawn & Quarterly
(211 Bernard St. W.)
7 p.m.
Free admission
Ant Colony, the debut graphic novel of Michael DeForge, follows a colony of black ants under attack by a neighbouring colony of red ants. It’s a story about human feelings under the magnifying glass—loneliness, apathy and love, channelled through the tiniest of insects. DeForge will be in visiting the colony, er, Montreal for the launch of the book.

PARTY

5 No Pants No Problem
Feb. 1
Il Motore (179 Jean Talon St. W.)
10 p.m.
\$10 with pants, \$5 without pants
There’s a party not in your pants, and you’re invited! This event invites attendees to strip to their skivvies and then bust out their dance moves. Couple that with burlesque dancers and a kissing competition, and you’ve got one way to start February on the right foot. Yes, there will be a pants check on site.

CINEMA

6 Valentine Road
Feb. 3
D.B. Clarke Theatre
(1455 de Maisonneuve St. W.)
7 p.m.
Free admission (donations accepted)
This doc follows the shooting of 15-year-old student Lawrence King by his crush, 14-year-old Brandon McInerney, that took place in Oxnard, California in 2008. Examining not only the sensationalist media coverage which surrounded the story but also the system and the society that produced such a tragedy, Valentine Road puts questions of accountability, sympathy and deviance in the spotlight.

OTHER

7 Thick Skin: Reflections on Race, Gender and Political Resistance
Jan. 30
School of Community and Public Affairs
(2149 Mackay St., CI-104)
6:30 p.m.
Free admission
Join Leila Bedeir, activist, humanities and women’s studies professor at Vanier College and founding member of the Collective des féministes musulmanes du Québec in a discussion about Islamophobia. The talk will touch on Islamic feminism as it is manifested in Quebec as a response to the Charter of Values, the portrayal of Muslim women in the media and more.

T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
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	3	4		5		
		7				6

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thelinknewspaper.ca/calendar

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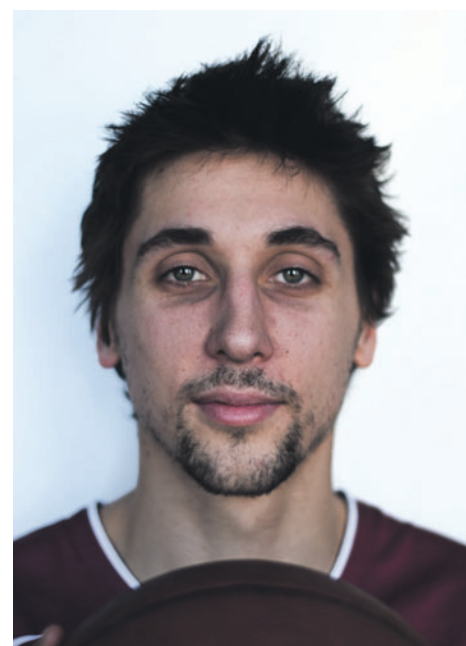
TWO TICKETS TO SEE
PANIC! AT THE DISCO

Congratulations Julian Amorelli, you’ve won two tickets to see alternative rockers Panic! At the Disco, courtesy of Evenko and Greenland Productions.
The show is Jan. 31 at 8 p.m. at Métropolis (59 Ste. Catherine St. E.) with math pop band The Colourist opening.
Thank you to all who entered, and be sure to like The Link on Facebook, follow us on Twitter (@linknewspaper) and pick up our issue every Tuesday to catch our next Fringe Giveaway!



"To me, he's the best point guard in the conference. He plays hard; he's playing smarter. As Adam goes, the team goes. He makes our guys that much better."

—Stingers head coach John Dore



RISING TO THE OCCASION

'The Best Point Guard in the Conference' Has Stingers Back in the Playoff Race

by Julian McKenzie @therealestjmac

A 6-foot-tall point guard, the Stingers' Adam Chmielewski was overshadowed in more ways than one last season by teammates Kyle Desmarais and Evens Laroche.

Standing at 6-2 and 6-4, respectively, Desmarais and Laroche didn't only overshadow Chmielewski physically—they were also All-Canadians, the faces of Concordia's men's basketball team. Each finished with a team-high 15 points per game. Chmielewski, despite leading the team in minutes played, averaged just 9.2.

One year later, there is no more Desmarais and Laroche, who both left at the end of last season. The new face of the Stingers is that of Chmielewski's, who currently leads the team not only in minutes played, but also in points scored, free throws scored, rebounds and steals.

It has all helped see the Stingers bounce back from a terrible 0-3 start to the season to get back in the playoff race as they now sit in third place in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec conference with a 6-4 record.

But with a bigger role come bigger responsibilities in the less tangible side of the game for Chmielewski.

"More is asked from me in terms of leadership," he said. "I have to always be focused, to make sure other guys are focused."

Entering Saturday's game, Chmielewski was the only player in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport to average 15 points, five rebounds and five assists per game. His play has drawn great praise from his coaches.

"He's a Division I talent and he's showing it this year," said Stingers assistant coach Rastko Popovic. "The potential was always there, and [his] confidence and belief are there now. [Adam] has been tremendous on and off the floor for our team."

Stingers head coach John Dore took his praise one step further.

"To me, he's the best point guard in the conference," said Dore. "He's having a really good year. He plays hard; he's playing smarter."

"As Adam goes, the team goes. He makes our guys that much better," he continued.

A Montreal native, Chmielewski played three seasons at Champlain College Saint-Lambert before heading to St. Francis College in Brooklyn for a season, taking on the likes of Boston College, Davidson College and the University of South Florida in 2010-2011. Chmielewski averaged 2.2 points a game and 12.7 minutes a game as a reserve in his one year at St. Francis.

"The competition was tough and highly physical," said Chmielewski.

"It definitely helped to play in the States in terms of playing with high intensity."

While Chmielewski added that he enjoyed

the numerous trips, including playing at Madison Square Garden, he says personal reasons, notably his studies, were what brought him back to Montreal.

"I wasn't sure what I was studying [at St. Francis]," Chmielewski said. "I really went there for basketball. I found what I needed to study [at Concordia]."

Chmielewski took up a degree in economics at Concordia and joined the basketball team in 2012, where he came across a former rival and Champlain College teammate in now fifth-year guard Jean-André Moussignac.

The two had played against each other for years before becoming teammates at Champlain, where they both competed for starting spots at guard.

"I always liked playing against him, it was kind of hard to not be able to compete against him," said Moussignac.

Playing with and against Chmielewski for as long as he has, Moussignac has gotten a feel for what type of player Chmielewski is on the court.

"He's a competitor," Moussignac said. "He tries to do the right thing and tries to compete all the time, but sometimes he just worries so much about everything that he takes himself out of the game."

"All in all, he's a good basketball player," Moussignac continued. "He just has to stay focused and not overreact."

Off the court, Chmielewski's seriousness transcends the hardwood and spills into his studies, but it doesn't take away from his everyday personality.

"He's a serious student," said Dore. "[But] he's a good guy off the court; no problems, well-[maintained]. He's a pleasure to be around."

"It's kind of hard to separate 'Basketball Adam' and 'Life Adam'," Moussignac said. "As we're growing older, we have more passion for the game. It's kind of hard to separate both of them."

Chmielewski will graduate this spring but hasn't decided on whether he will return to the team for next season, as he still has two years of eligibility. With his degree, Chmielewski has expressed an interest in the field of economics and says he'd like to work in a bank.

"I like economics because I'm good at it, in some ways, and it's really interesting," Chmielewski said. "I just like that economics influences everything in society, money, circulation and banks."

For now, however, it's Chmielewski who's doing the influencing.

"I'm just trying to be more assertive [on the court] and [become] a better leader," he said.

Photo left Ion Etxebarria,
photos right Brandon Johnston

Sports Briefs

The Latest News on Your Concordia Stingers

by Yacine Bouhali @mybouhali

Men's Basketball

Despite trailing 41-28 at halftime in Thursday's game against the McGill Redmen, Concordia's men's basketball came back strong in the last two periods to upset the Canadian Interuniversity Sport no. 7 ranked team 69-67. However, Concordia wasn't able to duplicate Thursday's results versus the same Redmen on Saturday. Scoring only nine points in the first period while giving up 23 to their opponents, the Stingers' six-game regular season winning streak came to an end as they lost 70-49. With a 6-4 record, Concordia currently sits in third place in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec conference, behind Bishop's and McGill. The Stingers will be back in action on Feb. 7 at Bishop's.

Men's Hockey

After two lopsided losses in a row, Concordia's men's hockey team bounced back with two important wins this week, starting off with a hard fought 3-2 shootout win on the road Friday night versus the Nipissing Lakers. The next day, the Stingers travelled to Sudbury, Ont. to face the Laurentian Voyageurs, who they easily defeated by a score of 6-2. Sitting in sixth place in the Ontario University Athletics East Division with an 8-10-3 record, the Stingers will have a busy week in front of them. They'll first face off against the CIS no. 6 ranked Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières Patriotes on Wednesday night on home ice before receiving the no. 10 ranked Queen's Gaels on Friday night. They'll play their last game of the week on the road Sunday versus the no. 7 ranked Carleton Ravens.

Women's Hockey

Concordia's women's hockey team faced perhaps the greatest challenge of all Stingers teams this past week, going head-to-head against the CIS no. 2 ranked Université de Montréal Carabins on Friday night and the and no. 1 ranked McGill Martlets on Sunday. After being overwhelmed 6-0 on Friday night by the Carabins, the Stingers competed harder on Sunday, but it wasn't enough as the Martlets won 3-1. Fifteen games into the season, Concordia sits in the fourth place in the five-team RSEQ conference with a 4-11 record. This week the Stingers will play two games in front of their home crowd when they receive McGill on Saturday and Carleton on Sunday afternoon.

Women's Basketball

Facing the undefeated CIS no. 6 ranked McGill Martlets on both Thursday and Saturday night, the Concordia's women's basketball team showed that they're not to be taken lightly, beating the Martlets in both games by a score of 63-53 and 49-47, respectively. With the wins, the Stingers now stand on top of the RSEQ conference with a 7-3 record. The team will be back in action on Feb. 7, when they'll take on the Bishop's Gaiters, who are still looking for their first win of the season.

Photo Matt Garies



BOXSCORES

WEEK OF JAN. 20 TO JAN. 26

Sunday, Jan. 26	Women's Hockey—Concordia 1, McGill University 3
Saturday, Jan. 25	Men's Basketball—Concordia 49, McGill University 70 Men's Hockey—Concordia 6, Laurentian University 2 Women's Basketball—Concordia 49, McGill University 47
Friday, Jan. 24	Men's Hockey—Concordia 3, Nipissing University 2 (SO) Women's Hockey—Concordia 0, Université de Montréal 6
Thursday, Jan. 23	Men's Basketball—Concordia 69, McGill University 67 Women's Basketball—Concordia 63, Université Laval 53

UPCOMING GAMES

THIS WEEK IN CONCORDIA SPORTS

Wednesday, Jan. 29	7:30 p.m. Men's Hockey vs. UQTR Patriotes (Ed Meagher Arena)
Friday, Jan. 31	8:00 p.m. Men's Hockey vs. Queen's Gaels (Ed Meagher Arena)
Saturday, Feb. 1	2:30 p.m. Women's Hockey vs. McGill Martlets (Ed Meagher Arena)
Sunday, Feb. 2	3:00 p.m. Women's Hockey vs. Carleton Ravens (Ed Meagher Arena) 3:00 p.m. Men's Hockey at Carleton Ravens



Ending the 'Boycott'

The Legal Right to Strike Isn't a Death Sentence for Future Movements

by Erin Sparks @sparkserin

During the 2012 student strike the word "boycott" was thrown around by those opposing it, in contrast to those who saw the legitimacy of student action and referred to it as a strike. The language surrounding the movement was used as a way to undermine the actions of striking students, and headlines were splashed with phrases condemning the action.

The student movement born out of the planned \$1,625 hike in tuition fees brought to light once again the fragility of the supposed right for students to strike in Quebec. The right to strike as it stands now is largely the result of decades of social consensus that it is an appropriate action for students to take if circumstance requires it, meaning that it is not specifically codified in the law.

This creates a dangerous situation where the right for students to strike exists in a sort of legal limbo—it's legal because there is nothing explicitly outlawing it. Further, the injunctions some students chose to have issued when their classes were blocked show the lim-

itations of student associations that do not have legislation specifically permitting them to strike.

Quebec student associations fall under Law 32, legislation that outlines the rights and responsibilities of students and how they are represented, but this legislation fails to include any information on the right to strike.

Similarly, the Act Respecting the Accreditation and Financing of Students' Associations outlines the responsibilities of student associations, and includes sections that clarify that the role of an association is to promote the interests of students and represent them.

While this suggests that if students were to vote for a strike an association would be mandated to follow that directive, this act also lacks information on the right for students to strike.

The 2012 student movement saw legitimate concerns on both sides about the manner in which the general assemblies that determined whether or not an association would strike were carried out. Questions about the method of voting (a show of hands, in many cases), as well as

the quorum of the assemblies, were raised by both those supporting and those against the strike.

The Quebec Labour Code specifies that a strike may only be declared provided that a secret ballot has determined by majority vote that it is what workers want. The same should go for student associations.

If the right to strike is to be defined in the legal sense, as it should be, then student associations in the province need to universally move beyond hand-raising to show support—or lack thereof—for something like a strike.

Creating a legal framework for the right to strike would likely require a majority vote in order for action to be taken, but for Concordia this would mean that close to 18,000 students would have to vote in favour of a strike. History has shown that getting that many students to get out and vote at all, let alone for the same thing, is simply not possible.

Thus, what should instead be necessary is a majority vote by the quorum required for student government elections. In the case of Concordia, this would be 2.5 per

cent of undergraduates.

While this represents a small fraction of the student population, it is also a more realistic goal that would not leave student associations crippled by legislation that makes strike action utterly impossible due to forces outside of its control, like the continuing problem of voter apathy on campuses.

During the 2012 student movement, critics of the word "strike" pointed to the fact that, unlike paid labourers, students do not necessarily produce goods or services for the public in the same way, and as a result the word "boycott" is more appropriate for the actions of students.

Students and labourers should not necessarily be lumped together into the same category because they are not the same, and legislation outlining the right for students and workers to strike should take into consideration the intricate differences between both groups.

However, just like workers, students are vulnerable to changes and can be taken advantage of; the legal right to strike protects them from being exploited and gives

them power that can be used to ensure their well-being.

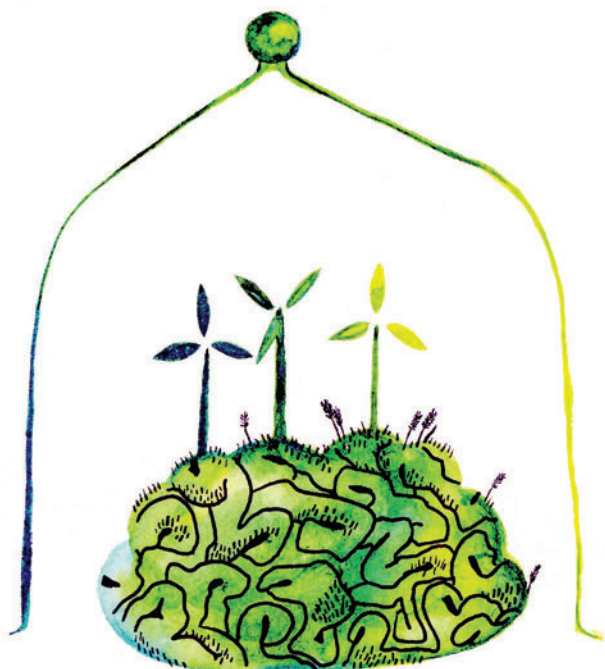
Like with a union, student associations are the representatives of individuals at an institution. It is imperative that they are able to adequately advocate for accessible education, and that if there is a threat to this accessibility appropriate actions can be taken.

Creating the legal right for students to strike would not necessarily do away with those who refused to respect the decisions reached at general assemblies across the province, but it would go a long way in further legitimizing student strike actions.

Strikes are complicated and often divisive, and even with legislation granting students the legal right to strike there will still be those who refuse to recognize the democratically reached decisions of their peers.

However, by creating a set of laws defining the right to strike, one more safeguard will be put in place to ensure that students are not taken advantage of and that accessible education remains a priority.

Graphic Flora Hammond



Sustainability Issue Brain-Hurricane

The corporate buzzword "green" has almost become synonymous with "groan" at this point—the public perception of sustainability has undergone radical change in the past decade.

As fossil fuel debates rage on, sustainable and renewable energy sources are being used around the world, whether in a DIY fashion or on a grand scale; the future in the media is depicted more and more as a dystopian wasteland where human civilization has collapsed under our own hubris. So where does the key to lasting sustainability lie?

Join *The Link* as we discuss the nuances of this complex topic for our upcoming Sustainability special issue. The brainstorm will be held Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 5:30 p.m. in our office, H-649. All are welcome!

Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 5:30 p.m.
The Link's office
H-649 (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.)

Graphic Flora Hammond

All About Anal

What are the best safe ways to have anal sex?

-Bum Conundrum



This is a great question. People sometimes assume that the preparation, execution and risks with anal sex are the same as vaginal sex, but there are some significant differences between penetrating the anus and the vagina.

The major difference is that the vagina is designed for penetration. It's self-lubricating to facilitate it and its walls expand naturally during arousal to accommodate it. The anus does neither of these things. It offers no natural lubrication, does not naturally expand to accommodate penetration, and is designed to push things out rather than let them in.

That being said, many people love anal penetration, and there are definitely ways to make it safer. Before we get into that though, I also want to point out my use of the word "safer" instead of the "safe" you used in your question.

This difference in language comes from a harm reduction perspective, which puts emphasis on reducing

possible harmful consequences of behaviours (in this case, STIs and other infections) rather than on eliminating the behaviours themselves (in this case, anal sex).

Basically, there's no such thing as "safe" sex when it comes to any kind of sex with a partner. All sex comes with some level of risk, whether it is physical, like STIs and pregnancy, or emotional and interpersonal. So it would be misleading to call any sex "safe" or imply that there's a way to make it so.

This isn't meant to scare you or keep you from having the kind of sex you want to have; it's meant to acknowledge that sex comes with a certain amount of personal risk management and we all handle it differently.

It's up to every individual to decide the level of risk they're comfortable taking on and where they draw the line. The safer sex practices associated with different activities are a great way to minimize these always-present risks.

Which brings us to the first step to safer anal sex:

- ▶ 1. Only do it if you want to be doing it. This goes for all kinds of sex, but receiving anal penetration requires some muscle relaxation and trust in your partner, so it helps to be calm and sure of your decision.
- ▶ 2. Limit exposure to fecal matter by clearing and cleaning the area beforehand. Fecal matter can carry a risk of infection, so having a bowel movement before sex to clear things up, and cleaning the area afterwards can help minimize exposure during sex.
- ▶ 3. Relax and warm up. As mentioned in the first step, relaxing is key to easier anal penetration because you don't want tense muscles. Working your way up to anal penetration rather than diving right in can help with this.

Starting with touching and fingering can help you become comfortable with the sensation first. You can also start by experimenting with smaller penetrative toys to work up to the

penetrating partner's penis size.

If the receiving partner has no experience with anal penetration, using their fingers or toys during masturbation alone or with a partner can help them prepare.

▶ 4. Protection and lube are key to safer anal sex. Since the anus doesn't produce its own lubrication, there's a high risk for irritations and micro-tears in the anus during penetration, which can then serve as an entry point for STIs. This is why unprotected anal sex is considered a high-risk activity for STIs.

Lube helps reduce these risks by making penetration smoother and easier, while condoms offer effective protection against STIs.

▶ 5. The receiving partner should be the one in control of penetration, at least until they're comfortable. Controlling penetration can help with relaxation and comfort since it allows them to stop quickly if something doesn't feel right.

It's really important to listen to and be aware of your body, and es-

pecially not to force anything when having anal sex. If penetration is difficult or painful, stop and take a break, or go back to warming up with other activities. Anal sex shouldn't be painful, so listen to your body if it's sending you signals that something isn't right.

Many of these steps can be applied to any penetrative sexual activity since they centre on awareness and checking in with yourself and your partner. Knowing the risks and safer sex strategies for the kind of sex you want to have is the first step to making sex safer, and in turn making you more comfortable.

—by Melissa Fuller @mel_full

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

Got a quick health question? Just need a resource? Text SexEd at 514-700-0445 for a confidential answer within 24 hours!

Ain't Nothing But a Crossword Thang



by Liana di Iorio @MsBerbToYou

ACROSS

- ▶ 3. One of the most influential figures in the genre, this rapper's feud with Biggie was the focus of the East Coast vs. West Coast hip-hop rivalry.
- ▶ 5. A recent collaboration with country duo Florida Georgia Line has brought this rapper back to the lime-light, but his street cred is still missing.
- ▶ 7. This rap group of three MCs from New York City actually started out as a punk band (2 words).
- ▶ 10. Jan. 28 is this bearded rapper's 38th birthday. His real name is William Leonard Roberts II but we know him as ____ Ross.
- ▶ 11. A Grammy Award winner and Academy Award winner, this MC often raps about troubles with his mom and his ex-wife Kim.
- ▶ 12. Jay Z, one half of hip-hop's royal couple, calls himself by this godly name.

DOWN

- ▶ 1. This female rapper and former American Idol judge was accused of "swagger-jacking" by Lil' Kim. (2 words)
- ▶ 2. This rapper/singer took the hip-hop scene by storm following the release of his critically acclaimed album *Channel Orange* and his revelation that his "first love" was a man. (2 words)
- ▶ 4. This fresh prince is sometimes the butt of hip-hop jokes due to his clean, family-friendly rap. (2 words)
- ▶ 6. The latest hip-hop success story, this rapper—and his producer, Ryan Lewis—skyrocketed to fame with hits like "Thrift Shop" and "Can't Hold Us."
- ▶ 8. He probably doesn't know his way around a stethoscope, but this rapper calls himself "doctor" nonetheless.
- ▶ 9. It's safe to say that Mr. West has a god complex, given that one of the songs on his newest album is titled "I Am a God," and the album itself is titled ____.

Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams

POWER THEATRE COMIC ALEX CALLARD

ME AT A BAR WATCHING SPORTS



QUÉBÉCOIS 101 COMIC PAKU DAoust-Cloutier



Lendemain de Brosse: “Prendre une brosse” means to drink until intoxication. The “lendemain de brosse” is the morning following the drunken evening. In short, it can be translated to hangover.

FALSE KNEES COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



NAH'MSAYIN?

All Aboard the Dream Shuttle

I had seen it off in the distance—the tall mirage rolling down Sherbrooke St. with the word “Skycar” along its side. When I hopped aboard, I was a little worried I’d wind up in Dorval.

I’m in my fourth year at Concordia and have had classes at Loyola almost every semester, but this month was the first time I’d ever stepped on a Concordia shuttle that didn’t feel like an STM reject.

But this semester I may just have the magic schedule, granting me *every single ride* aboard this majestic diesel beast.

I’ve been deprived of this luxurious ride for too long. On this mysterious coach you ride above car

level, like a king being chauffeured off to a higher education. The seats are comfy—like nap-worthy, better-than-any-of-my-furniture comfy.

I’m considering abandoning my lease, or at least registering for eConcordia and contently doing all my class hours aboard this dream vessel.

Make my fantasy a reality, Concordia. Forget those giant LCD screens with make-believe shuttle coordinates—let’s get some Wi-Fi up in this piece.

Xzibit, you’re my only hope.

—Colin Harris,
Editor-in-Chief



Graphic Caity Hall

Editorial



UNITED AGAINST THE CHARTER

Though it took them a while to get it off the ground, the administration has done an excellent job of standing up for Concordia's values.

Provost and VP Academic Affairs Benoit-Antoine Bacon and VP Services Roger Côté represented our university at the National Assembly last Thursday, deftly handling the frequently obtuse, if polite, questions leveled at them by Bill 60's author, Democratic Institutions Minister Bernard Drainville.

They were there to present Concordia's stance against the Charter of Quebec Values, in the public hearings to take the pulse of Quebec society on an issue that has been subject to a consistently polarizing tone—even for Quebec.

Although Concordia could have come out with its official position sooner, their long deliberation process has made their argument

nearly airtight. The administration says they received about 200 emails with an opinion on the proposed charter—with about 98 per cent rejecting the ban on so-called "ostentatious religious symbols," according to Bacon.

Students, faculty, employees and various groups at Concordia have been vocal with their concerns about such a ban since plans for the charter were announced last fall. Concordia listened to those concerns, and Bacon and Côté communicated them to the government with poise and confidence.

Bacon seemed quietly intent on dispelling the myth of the angry, unreasonable student, an image that has unfortunately haunted the idea of student opposition in Quebec even before the 2012 strike. In keeping with this attitude, he and Côté repeatedly refused to play

into labelling games, saying that they didn't know how many students or staff bore so-called ostentatious religious symbols.

We don't have any reason to keep such data. As the two told Drainville, it's irrelevant—the university has never received any complaints over religious symbols on campus.

Concordia is a model for the peaceful functioning of a diverse community, spanning a wide variety of countries of origin, faith, generation and ideology—something that Drainville would have known had he bothered to show up to the planned charter debate last semester.

Bacon and Côté hammered home the point that "diversity is our strength," and that we are not in the business of denying anyone an education who has the capacity for it. Concordia's history is one of a diverse student body, and con-

tinues to be. That nearly half of Concordia students are the first in their family to go to university according to Bacon, and that our academic community has about 150 different countries of origin, attests to this fact.

Religious symbols are but one of many signifiers of our identities, and to single out symbols that you are part of a religious minority does nothing to create a more equal society—it does just the opposite.

When MNA Françoise David mentioned she was opposed to a teaching environment where niqabs are allowed—ostensibly on the basis of feminism—Bacon read from an eloquent message the Simone de Beauvoir Institute sent to Concordia's Board of Directors shortly after the charter was formally introduced, calmly exposing the flaws in her reasoning.

In its message, the Institute exposed the fact that a charter that dictates what women can and cannot wear, and that further marginalizes disenfranchised women, cannot be called feminist.

Taking care to continuously bring voices from the Concordia community to the commission's attention—rather than relying solely on the administration's point of view—Bacon and Côté demonstrated that students, faculty and the higher-ups can in fact band together.

It's not only a heartening change from Concordia's administrative history, it's also a demonstration of how Concordia can handle assaults on its essential character in the future—calmly, compassionately and resolutely.

.....
Graphic Graeme Shorten Adams

THE LINK

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