

GOOD!
KEEP
READING

**DO YOU KNOW WTF IS
HAPPENING AT CON U?**

NO.

**NATIONALS
BOUND
PG 12**

YES.

ARE YOU
LYING?

**ASFA
PG 11**

YES.

NO.

ELECTIONS

**THE
STINGERS**

**TELL ME
MORE ABOUT...**

**CSU
PG 04**

THE STRIKE

**AM I ON
STRIKE?**

ARE YOU
IN FASA?

NO

SOPHIA?

NO

PSSA?

NO

GUSS?

NO

YES

WSSA?

YES!

PG 06

NO.

NO

This School is a Goddamn Mess

MILLION DOLLAR BABY

Concordia to Contract External Audit of Severance Packages

• JACOB ROBERTS

If you were an employee of Concordia University who left between September 2009 and December 2010, parting may have been a sweet sorrow.

Following an Access to Information Request by *Le Journal de Montreal*, Concordia's Board of Governors voted on Friday to publically announce that it will be hiring external auditors to look at \$2.4 million in severance packages and buyouts paid to five former administrators.

That amount does not include the total of \$1.7 million paid out to Concordia's last two departing presidents, Judith Woodsworth and Claude Lajeunesse, upon their dismissals, however.

Although Concordia employs internal auditors, university spokesperson Chris Mota said that, "[Concordia] President [Frederick Lowy] chose to recommend to the Board that we engage external expertise who specialize in this type of process review."

Concordia has not yet chosen an external auditor for the contract. Costing an estimated \$25,000, the audit should be completed by the end of June.

Concordia Student Union President Lex Gill, while supporting the external review, claimed that the large amounts paid to former employees is further evidence that impending tuition hikes are unjust.

"An external audit is absolutely necessary in these kinds of practices," she said.

"From my perspective, this is an issue of management and HR, and it getting away from people in an unacceptable way. It's shameful for the university to be asking the Quebec government for more money out of students' pockets when, in a 16-month period, they paid out \$2.4 million in severance packages and buyouts."

Two of the severance package recipients are Ted Nowak and Saad Zubair, internal auditors who lost their positions in September 2009 after concealing \$250 in meal expenditures that they had charged to the auditing department's expense account from then-president Judith Woodsworth.

Woodsworth, who was dismissed from the school in December 2010, was herself paid over \$700,000 in a severance package.

After filing a labour dispute, it was shown that Woodsworth herself had signed off on five lunches that were charged to subordinates' expense accounts. Nowak received over \$600,000, while Zubair was given almost \$640,000.

Board of Governors student representative AJ West considered it unfortunate the information wasn't released sooner, considering the BoG has made very public statements about their transparency efforts since December.

"It's disappointing that it had to come to an Access to Information Request [for] the university to release this information," said West. "It always looks better to have an external auditor."

—with files from Adam Kovac



Kenyan parliamentary candidate and women's advocate Flora Terah spoke at Concordia on March 2.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

Kenyan Parliamentary Candidate Flora Terah Talks Gender Equality

• COLIN HARRIS

The fight for Kenyan women to earn a place in the country's politics has been uphill, and one that parliamentary hopeful Flora Terah has paid for dearly.

It has been almost one year since the murder of her 19-year-old son Te in Nairobi, in what was believed to be an act of intimidation from the presiding government.

Terah was tortured and publicly humiliated for attempting to run for parliament in the Meru region of Kenya for the country's last elections in 2007, but—as she writes in her book *They Never Killed My Spirit, But They Killed My Only Child*—that is not stopping her work towards a free Kenya for all its citizens.

She spoke in the Hall Building as part of Concordia's Women's Month's "Empowering Women" speaker series on March 3, presented by Volunteers in Action.

After her speech, Terah talked with *The Link* about what's happening nearly five years after that election, and how her story helped change the course of Kenya's fate.

In regards to public discourse of women and sexuality in Kenya, what has changed since 2007?

We've realized that there's no way of addressing reproductive health without addressing sexuality. For the last 10 years now, we've been coming into primary schools; we've asked the Minister of Education to bring it as a lesson in primary schools so the girls and the boys can understand reproductive health, how their bodies are growing.

I was born in a very patriarchal society, in Meru. The community doesn't believe in women speaking, let alone sitting down and negotiating. There is not one tribe in Kenya that does not practice harmful cultural practices.

Some practice female genital cutting, some practice child marriage, others practice wife-sharing, and all these practices were entrenched in our constitution as cus-

tomary laws. There was no way for female leaders to challenge customary laws.

It was hard for me to see genital cutting for what it was, because I didn't know the harm in it, separate from the celebration of our culture. The women who get it done cannot talk about it, and if you don't know what it is, you cannot talk about it. [...]

I'm really getting annoyed, knowing I come from a community that advocates the worst oppression of women. To address the issue, you have to talk about what people do not want to talk about, you have to attack the community.

Genital cutting is a huge contributor to the spread of HIV and AIDS, because you're circumcising 16 girls using the same weapon.

How can citizens make change in Kenya with a disinterested government leading?

We need to start from the family foundations if we really want our country to change. Then we can get to the next level. We can't leave everything to the politicians, because they only talk about what suits them.

We've celebrated the first year of our constitution, but they already want to change it. It does not please them to have elections in August because many of them have not paid their income tax, and they need more money from the government to pay their tax, because they know half of them aren't coming back.

The constitution's clause that elections are held every five years means the election should be held Aug. 13 of this year, but they're already taking that to parliament to amend it.

We are under their mercy. If 222 members of parliament act against almost 38 million Kenyans, what can we do? Kenyans are the majority, but unless we have a coup, or go the Egypt way, [electing new lawmakers] is the only way they will understand.

But even if they push the election to December of next year, we are going to do away

with all this wrong. Enough is enough.

Do you expect a rise in the nine per cent of women members of parliament in the upcoming election?

We are 21 members of parliament. I say 'we' because I identify myself with them because most of them are very willing to change, but the number is so small they can't change anything.

The joy is that the new constitution gives women power. We're going to get more women running as senators, running as governors and running as members of parliament. What we're looking at is how to get 118 women into parliament. We're looking for quality women who cannot be compromised.

One thing is, we don't know how to get the 118, and time is running out. We're trying to get a consensus for bringing more women into leadership.

What actions can people take from far away against these injustices?

When we were fighting, the political class had their kids abroad in Europe and North America in prestigious universities.

The McGill Centre for Human Rights wrote them and said, "If you do not cease fire then you must take your kids back home so they can be part and parcel of those who are dying." Because they are the people instigating the violence, and their kids are abroad, they're disconnected. And that stopped the violence.

So with such steps and petitions that women are being attacked, children are being killed, people listen.

When the international community sits and watches us die, we are going to kill one another. Look at what happened in Rwanda, they just looked at Rwanda as they slaughtered one another. There was no intervention.

But the international community came in for Kenya, and they came in at the right time.

And So, It Begins

Lack of Council, Senate Candidates Marks General Election Kickoff



Candidates creep through the Hall building late into the night, posterizing their election campaigns under flickering fluorescent light.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

• COREY POOL

Fears of low participation in the Concordia Student Union general elections were realized on March 4 as the candidates for executive, council and senate were revealed.

It seems as though this election will be one of acclaim, as 15 candidates will compete for 14 Arts and Science council seats, three candidates are running for the three Fine Arts seats, and three candidates are running for Engineering and Computer Science seats.

Only three candidates are running for the six John Molson School of Business seats, as well, and there are no candidates running for the four Independent Student seats. Only one candidate is running for Senate.

CSU president Lex Gill said she believed the low turnout is a result of the growing strike movement on campus and not the new bylaws that came into effect on March 1.

Under the new bylaws, the slate system of years past was done away with, replaced with a system in which potential councilors and senators must run “individually and independently,”

while executives must run “individually” but can run in “association” with other executive candidates.

“I think the reason that we’re seeing less competition than usual is likely because traditionally the people who run in the CSU election are people who are involved in member associations, faculty associations, or who are organizers on campus,” said Gill. “Those people are obviously quite preoccupied right now.”

In an interview with *The Link* in November, Gill said she did not think the bylaws would affect participation when asked about problems during the previous years Arts and Science Federation of Association elections, in which a similar system was used for the first time.

CSU VP External Chad Walcott agreed with Gill, adding that Concordia was going through an important moment of change.

“We have to take into account that we are in an interesting climate at Concordia, and some people might be more concerned with what’s going to happen with these strikes, and not so concerned with being councilors on the CSU,” said Walcott.

However, neither Walcott nor

Gill are sure as to what extent the possibility of strikes might effect campaigning and the upcoming elections.

“With regards to the strikes, this whole thing is uncharted territory,” said Walcott. “It’s going to have to be dealt with day-to-day to see how it progresses and to see what effect it has on campaigning.”

What is typically a frantic start to two weeks of intensive campaigning by CSU hopefuls began with a relatively tame lottery for poster space on March 4. Along with the slate system, the traditional “poster night”—in which slates were unleashed on available wall space at midnight to cover the school in campaign ads—was eliminated this year.

“Poster night has been abolished in a way that it is not a run to claim your space [on poster boards,]” said CSU Chief Electoral Officer Ismail Holoubi. “It is more structured and systematic.”

Instead of the customary mad dash to claim poster space around campus, individual candidates drew from a lottery to receive packages that outlined where they could pin up their posters.

Poster space included all hanging posters in both the Hall and

Library Buildings, with special consideration taken into account concerning populated areas, and the sizes of boards.

“We had to come up with a package that included all types of boards and all locations to give everyone a fair chance at exposure on campus,” said Holoubi.

Current CSU VP Finance and JMSB councilor hopeful Jordan Lindsay thinks that though the change may seem foreign to some, starting campaigning on a more democratic note may in turn reflect positively in the following weeks.

“Poster night is notoriously the kick off of two weeks of crazy campaigning with an event that just pisses all the teams off against each other,” said Lindsay. “I’m curious to see if a lack of poster night and the animosity surrounding that event doesn’t create a far more civilized election overall.”

Candidates running for the executive council were given the opportunity to run together in teams. Two affiliations were formed, Concordia Could Be and A Better Concordia led by presidential candidates Melanie Hotchkiss and Schubert Laforest, respectively.

Council and senate candidates

who attempt to run together will face serious consequences.

“Running together without an official name is a violation of the bylaws and if such a thing happens, it would lead to an automatic disqualification,” said Holoubi. “Councilors must be running unaffiliated amongst themselves or with the executive.”

In terms of how the ballots will look to voters, Holoubi assures that affiliations, and all positions for each candidate will be made clear.

“Similar to last year’s council and senate candidates, we will have each position and the people running for that position, and if they are affiliated their slates title will be printed beside their names.”

As for finances, each council candidate will be reimbursed individually, whereas each executive team has voted to share its expense forms.

“Since they are technically running as a slate, they have the right to use the money and divide it amongst themselves, but I need to know the details,” said Holoubi.

Elections take place March 20-22. More info at elections.csu.qc.ca

Candid Candidates



Melanie Hotchkiss

Hotchkiss and Laforest Want Your Vote for President

• ADAM KOVAC

It's that time of year again.

Campaigning has begun for the Concordia Student Union's general election.

While the lack of candidates for council and Senate seats promises for a markedly less contentious election for those positions, the race for executive positions may be a different story.

The Link spoke to presidential candidates Schubert Laforest and Melanie Hotchkiss about their vision for next year's CSU, including what they see as their top priorities, how they will deal with being the sole voting undergraduate at Concordia's Board of Governors and what they've learned from their involvement in student government.



Schubert Laforest

A third-year student doing a double major in political science and the School of Community and Public Affairs, Hotchkiss is the presidential candidate for the *Concordia Could Be* slate.

A CSU councillor for the past two years, Hotchkiss is also a former president of the Dawson Student Union, as well as a former VP Communications for the SCPA Student Association and member of the ASFA Council. She currently sits as an appointed member of Concordia's Senate.

Hotchkiss expressed admiration for the current CSU executive team, noting the "significant groundwork" they laid in terms of policy changes. She said she would like to emulate this administration's relationship with council.

"An executive that is willing to engage Council, and is willing to put all their cards on the table and give all the information to Council, they're going to encourage councillors to want to get more involved," she said, noting that in her first year as a councillor, she was "not a part of a decision process."

"This year, it was different. Being on different committees, it was like, 'Wow, I'm actually being invited to do stuff. I'm allowed to criticize.'"

One of the tenets of Hotchkiss' campaign is "accessibility," which she defined as "not only about accessible information—and information people can actually understand—but also accessibility of student space.

"Stuff like the Hive project," she continued, referring to the oft-delayed student-run café at Loyola. "Trying to find some sort of alternative, because right now the plan is not feasible, which is why it's been on hold for so long."

In terms of the current hot-button issue on campus—a potential student strike to

fight tuition hikes—Hotchkiss said that while she supports a strike, "I do have a lot of concerns about making sure students are informed and feel like they're being consulted, but at the same time, I think it's the responsibility of all students to come to assemblies and voice their opinions and respect the decisions that are made."

Faced with the possibility of being the only representative of undergraduate students with a vote on the BoG next year, Hotchkiss promised to be a vocal advocate for student interests.

"I think that there's this culture in the university where administrators expect that students aren't going to talk, and I think that's something that has to change," she said, adding that she plans to coordinate with the VP Academic and student Senators to ensure that there is a consistent message.

As president of the DSU, Hotchkiss presided over its first year as a body independent of the school's administration. Several of her decisions proved controversial, including suing the school for immediate control of the DSU budget—\$280,000.

Under her watch, the DSU saw a string of resignations, culminating in her own. Hotchkiss said that her time at Dawson, while difficult, proved to be a source of numerous invaluable lessons.

"What strikes me the most about my experience there isn't the so-called controversies that other people never really heard my side about—and a lot of things that happened were misconstrued," she said. "My experience at Dawson was my awakening to getting involved in student politics."

"[It] was a great learning experience, in learning how to run a student union, and to walk into a student union that had no institutional memory, no foundation, nothing, and start from scratch."

A fourth-year student in honours linguistics, Laforest is a former VP Finance of the Linguistics Student Association and member of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations Council.

He is currently ASFA's VP Internal, as well as the VP Internal of the Concordia Pre-Law Society, and is running as part of the *A Better Concordia* slate.

In his role as ASFA's VP Internal, he was in prime position to observe the first strike (figuratively and literally) in this year's tuition battle, when ASFA held a one-day strike on Nov. 10.

While he spoke of a longer strike to protest tuition hikes as a "nuclear bomb"—but one he nevertheless supports—he said he would like to see less use of such drastic measures in the future.

"[My main priority for next year] is a more sustainable governance," he said. "I feel like there's this crisis of confidence in governance, not just at the student level, but at the administration level, all the way up to the Board of Governors."

"I want to implement measures that make us more efficient in our dealings," he continued, citing a closer, more consistent negotiation process between students and the administration as one way to accomplish this.

Laforest specified that despite the fact that the relationship between student leaders and administration might appear closer should he win, his plan would call for a "two-pronged approach" to dealing with the Concordia Board of Governors.

"Social change can be induced in two ways. There can be external pressures like a more militant, activist stances, and then there's a more institutional stance, which comes from applying that pressure internally. We can use both forms of applying

pressure in order to induce proper change."

Laforest spoke about his opposition to proposed changes to the CSU bylaws, which were voted on by students and ultimately passed in the November byelection.

"There were quite a few objections I had with the bylaws; the main one I had was the way in which they were passed. I don't think it was transparent or accountable enough," he said, adding that he thought the formal elimination of the Senate of Faculty Associations—a little-used body that was meant to be a check and balance on Council—was a mistake. He said he would try to create a similar body if given a chance.

"One of our points is to have some sort of CSU emissary program, where we'd have councillors appointed to go to other faculty associations and student groups and report to them on points that particularly pertain to their group, and have those emissaries come back to Council and report on what those groups' concerns are."

While some may enter a position such as CSU president with high hopes that may ultimately be dashed by the realities of day-to-day responsibilities and the internal pressures and politics of Concordia, Laforest said that his experience on ASFA has tempered those kinds of pie-in-the-sky aspirations, which will ultimately help him achieve attainable goals.

"I learned a lot of things, [at ASFA, especially] in regards to ambition. When I first came into ASFA, I thought I was going to change the world, and do this and this and this. It's really sobered my vision in the sense that I now have a more realistic perspective on what can be done."

STRIKE

CSU & GSA to Vote on Strike



Like a pawn taking its first square across the board, students block off the entrance to the VA building in the beginning stages of the strike.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

COMING
UP

SASU

March 6 at 5:00 p.m. CSU 7th floor

UPA

March 6 at 5:30 p.m. H711

CSU

Three locations, 3:00 p.m. March 7

Controversy Surrounds General Assembly Format

• JULIAN WARD

Months of protests, information sessions, Facebook arguments and efforts at mobilizing tens of thousands of students will come to a head this week as the Concordia Student Union and the Graduate Students' Association will both decide on whether or not to strike.

The CSU and the GSA are both hosting General Assemblies for their constituents, which executives are hoping will add thousands more students to the 100,000-plus currently on strike in Quebec over impending tuition fee hikes.

The CSU general assembly will take place on March 7 at 3:00 p.m. in the Hive at Loyola campus and in room H-110 and the seventh floor of the Hall Building at the downtown campus simultaneously.

"Interestingly, a GA at Concordia is probably the first time a lot of these people will have ever voted in their life," said CSU President Lex Gill.

There are some students who are uncomfortable with the way the assemblies are being run, however, and are calling into question the legitimacy of such votes.

"The voting process is unfair and unjust," said Jenny Ster on the

CSU's Facebook event page for the assembly.

Ster suggested that students be allowed to vote online. "Students who work full-time, live far away, have children or go to school part-time are usually busy at 3:00 p.m. in the middle of the week," she argued.

Gill said that voting by proxy explicitly goes against the CSU's bylaws and would be very difficult to pull off with such a large amount of students voting at one time.

The president explained that this is also the reason that a secret ballot is not being used—there's too much potential for the system to be exploited.

"In our bylaws, there are very specific referendum periods," Gill said. "There's November and the March elections, that's when we could have a referendum, hypothetically."

"I think it's logistically impossible [to have a secret ballot at the GA]," she continued. "Trying to make sure people didn't have [multiple] ballots or try to photocopy the ballots throughout the meeting. There are issues of that nature."

Another student, Howard St-Roy, was upset that students will vote by raising their hands, which

will lead to a mob mentality at the assembly.

Speaking of the Fine Arts Student Alliance vote, he said, "I'm going to miss a week of class because people don't want to be shunned by other judgmental fine arts students!"

Before the CSU and GSA vote, there will be a discussion moderated by a "neutral party" which will be livestreamed between all three voting locations. Students will have the chance to ask questions one at a time of either Gill or CSU VP External Chad Walcott. Security will be on hand at all venues to ensure the safety of all students, especially in the wake of allegations of death threats to students regarding their opinion on the strike.

"No one should feel intimidated, no matter how they want to vote," said Gill.

The CSU is currently looking into booking overflow rooms in case the capacity of 1,200 students that these three rooms represent is exceeded.

Others on the Facebook page are upset that only 1.5 per cent of undergrad students need to show up to reach quorum, and only half of those plus one are required to put the entire union on strike—which could be as few

as 226 people.

Graduate Students Vote Today

The GSA is also holding their general assembly today in room H-110 at 12:00 p.m. Graduate students will be voting on an open-ended strike to start on March 19. Students will meet at another assembly during the strike to determine whether to continue striking or not.

They will also be voting on a change to GSA bylaws that formally enshrines the General Assembly as the highest-decision making body of the organization and whether to join Le Coalition large de l'Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante, an umbrella Quebec student organization.

Bylaws for the GSA stipulate that one per cent of graduate students are required to make quorum—roughly 66 students.

"We're trying to have our membership there, so we can have an effective strike," said GSA Board of Governors' representative Erik Chevrier about the possibility of a small turnout.

"It's not an effective strike if we don't have [a lot of] our membership participate," he said.

—with files from Adam Kovac

Profs and Picketing



Striking students make a colourful exodus of Concordia to boycott class on March 3.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

First Strike Day Sees Cancelled Classes, Partial Compromise

• LAURA BEESTON

With six student-run faculty associations (and counting) officially adopting strike mandates on tuition increases following General Assemblies last week, the boycotting of classes at Concordia has officially begun.

And while picketing and other creative embargos are currently underway, some confusion has arisen between professors and students about the status of their classes.

To clear the air, the Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association sent out a communiqué concerning the student class boycott on March 3, detailing their continued support for students' mobilization against the tuition hikes and outlining a protocol of professor response to possible picket lines.

"The students are exercising their democratic rights, and we will respect their rights," said CUPFA Executive of Communications David Douglas in the statement.

"While you cannot support the student action by withdrawing your labour and not teaching your class, you can support them by other means," he continued. "You have the discretion to shift assignment dates so as to avoid penalizing students who are out."

Presently under contract, CUPFA members and professors are obligated to report to work as usual. The Concordia administration, meanwhile, has stated that the leniency exercised for the Nov. 10 protest, which saw over 35,000 students from across the province assemble against the hikes, will not apply in the event of a prolonged boycott.

"The Provost has made it clear he will not encourage professors to be flexible and exercise leniency in such circumstances," Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota told *The*

Link.

In early February, Concordia Provost David Graham said that the university will "continue operating as usual" and that professors should "conduct and manage their courses in accordance with previously communicated course outlines."

The Women's Studies Student Association, Fine Arts Student Alliance, Geography Undergraduate Student Society and Students of Philosophy Association had all successfully boycotted some or all of their scheduled classes on Monday by press time.

But not all the GA's have gone off without a hitch. Members of the Political Science Students Association, which voted on a strike mandate March 1, have complained they were not aware of their GA and are currently questioning its legitimacy.

Despite the individual departmental stances, those on the picket lines Monday agreed that continued communication at this point in the strike is crucial moving forward.

Women's Studies First to Strike

WSSA students were successful in blocking and boycotting all scheduled classes Monday, and will continue the strike efforts throughout this week.

Their actions came on the heels of some confusion after Simone de Beauvoir Institute Principal Geneviève Rail sent out an email over the weekend to WSSA students stating that, while they were against the hikes and morally support students in their struggle, the professors are not on strike and will be on site.

Earlier in February, the SDBI took official stance against the hikes, calling out the government for the disproportionate effects increasing tuition would have on women, children and minority

groups.

"Understand that there are some of us working in our offices who stand with the strikers. This is a striker-supported zone," Rail told the dozen Women's Studies and Sexuality students who had formed two picket lines in front of the Institute on Monday afternoon that prevented students and professors from attending regularly scheduled courses. "It's our future too."

The WSSA will be meeting with the SDBI on Wednesday after professors from the Institute discuss the ongoing boycott actions.

The meeting will be an opportunity for the Institute to "come to a feminist solution" on conflicting messages, according to WSSA reps, who said they anticipate a conversation on academic freedom.

The Show Must Go On

While FASA students successfully boycotted classes after their GA on March 1, theatre students in particular have been experiencing departmental pressure to participate. Since class attendance is mandatory, some students risk up to 15 per cent off their final grade, while others will have percentage points docked for each day missed.

Though there has been no official email from the theatre professors so far, the students are feeling support from their faculty, according to the Concordia Association for Students in Theatre Secretary Antonio Bavaro.

"What's going on, big time, and really affecting us is that there's been a lack of communication [between us and them]," said Bavaro, adding that CAST plans to have an information session and meeting on March 7 for concerned students in the department.

"In terms of FASA, there has been a motion passed for per-

forming arts students [...] for the strike not to be applied to rehearsals, studio time and performances. That is a very important thing for us," Bavaro continued. He added that certain professors have been open to using classroom space to cultivate creative protest ideas.

SoPhiA also used similar boycott initiatives, bringing strike actions into the classrooms by converting class time to conversations about ongoing student mobilization.

In the mean time, smaller general assemblies have also been formed within FASA.

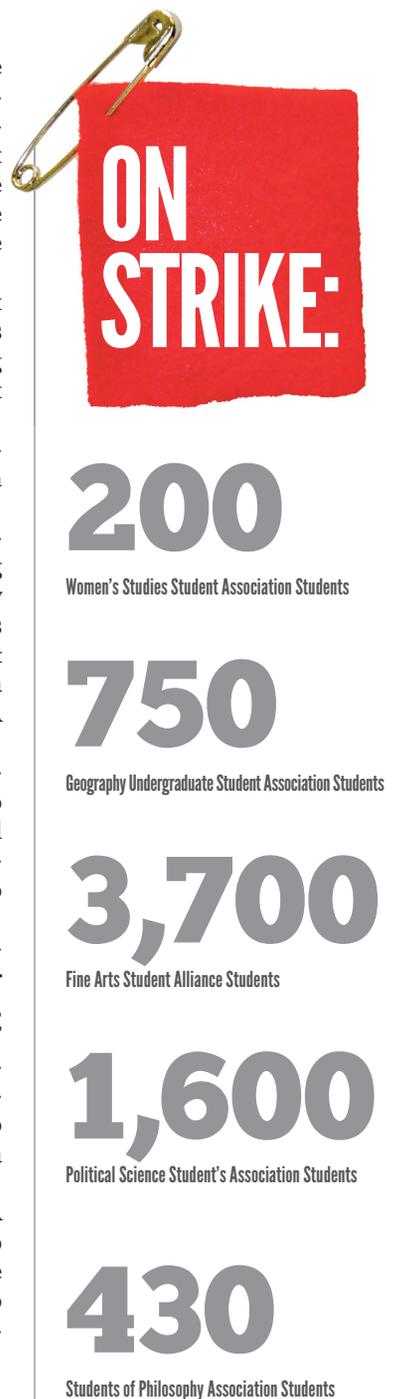
"We're in constant communication and we've had an amazing turnout at these GAs," said Andy Filipowich, member of Artists Working to raise Awareness & Knowledge about Education, a group that formed after the FASA GA.

FASA and AWAKE are also encouraging students to continue to engage with their art practices, and to contact their professors individually about their boycott politics to avoid academic penalty.

"A lot of profs have allowed students to hand in assignments after the strike and not dock marks, while others are being more strict," said Filipowich. "If students are experiencing problems, in any department, we encourage them to talk to the CSU Advocacy Centre to find a solution that works for everyone."

Both FASA and the WSSA will call GAs on a weekly basis to vote on whether to continue with their strike mandate and to vote on motions from their respective memberships.

For more information and links to the department strike organizations, check *The Link's* online departmental updates throughout week.



Too Many Cooks Spoil the Assembly

Dawson Strike Vote Changed to Referendum After High Turnout

• JULIA JONES

Dawson students are heading to polls once more to voice their opinion on the growing province-wide movement against proposed tuition hikes.

The Dawson Student Union held a Special General Assembly on March 1 where students were supposed to vote on whether or not to strike, but the meeting was adjourned before a consensus was reached due to a lack of space, and the show of hands was replaced by a referendum.

Voting opened on Monday and lasts until 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

Students can vote on if they'd be in support of a renewable one-week strike, a three-day strike, a one-day strike, or no strike at all.

With emotions running high at the CEGEP, allegations have arisen that the school interfered in the DSU's organization of the vote by corresponding with the "no" committee directly.

Dawson Communications Manager Donna Varrica admitted to having contacted the "no" committee, but only because students had come to her with questions she could not answer.

"I had people in groups of three, four, five, six students—and parents too [...] who were concerned that the people who wanted to vote "no" had no place to go get information," she said.

"Our first reaction was to send them back to the student union, and that's when [students] expressed their concerns that they didn't feel that the 'no' side had a voice, and that led me to [send an] email asking [the 'no' committee] what was their plan of action."

The "yes" and "no" committees were struck at the same time and the same number of representatives was elected for each. Both received the same budget of \$150 for campaigning and are overseen by the Chief Electoral Officer Simon Cousineau.

Léo Fugazza, VP Internal Affairs & Advocacy said that, despite allowing personal involvement in the referendum from its members, the DSU as an institution has decided to remain impartial with regards to the strike referendum.

"That may be what [the DSU executives] felt," said Varrica. "But it wasn't the understanding of the students who came to see

me. They felt that they were blatantly on the 'yes' side."

Varrica said that school's concerns with the way the DSU was organizing the vote were based on safety issues first, and respect for the democratic process second.

"It became clear to us early on that if there were more than 600 to 800 people present, there would be issues; that you needed to have a plan B, C, D—and we weren't convinced that that was happening," she said.

"[Based on] my knowledge of the school and its spaces, [I knew] that basically about 9,300 people would not be able to voice their opinion."

The room where the SGA took place has a capacity of between 600 and 700 people, and while the gym fits 800 people, Varrica said it is usually booked for intramural sports.

Fugazza said the DSU asked the administration for rooms with higher capacities from the beginning, but were told all other rooms were booked.

"We looked into getting [other rooms], such as the amphitheatre and the gymnasium, which was always a no," he said.

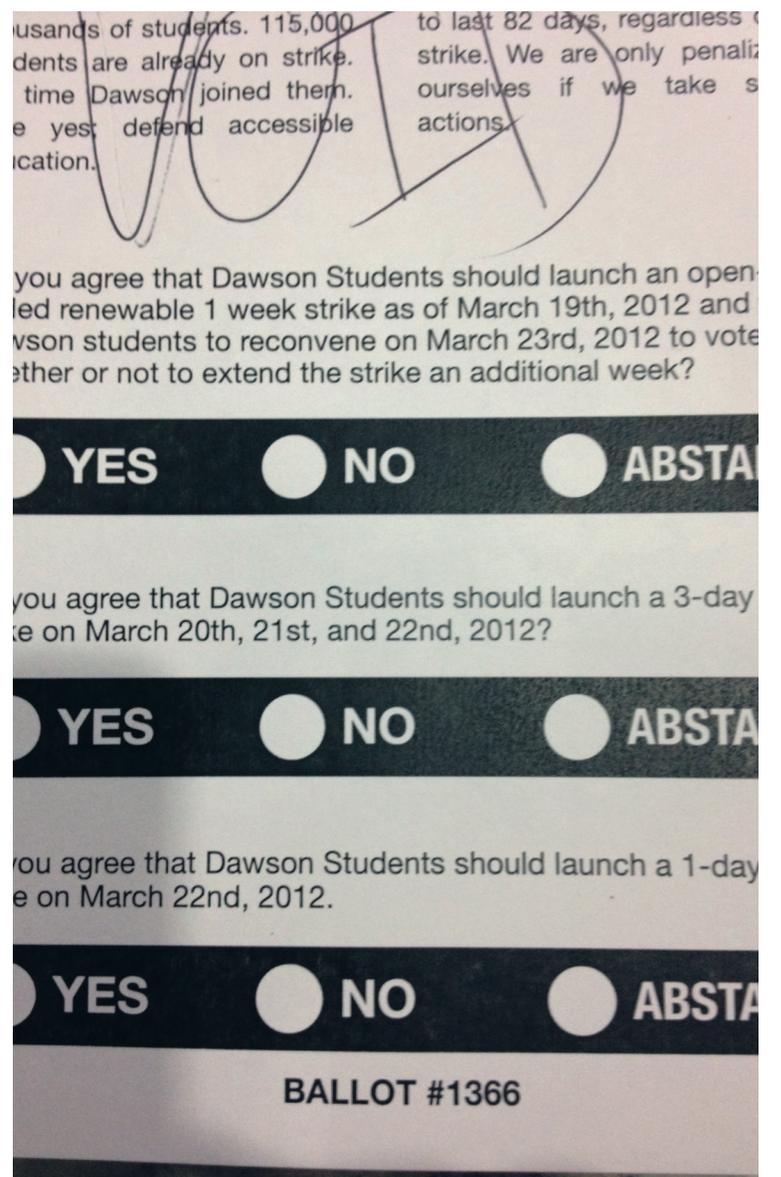


PHOTO JULIA JONES

"When they realized that many, many people showed up, they agreed to give us [a second room]. We tried to set up a contingency room last minute and looked into getting the other rooms that were supposedly not available when we tried to book them—and then they were."

The DSU is looking into having talks with the college to ensure that the school does not interfere in union matters in the future,

Fugazza said, adding that students don't resent the referendum form.

"It was just too crowded on Thursday and people were getting frustrated and tired," he said. "It wasn't a good situation to hold a vote on something as important as a strike."

Vote count will start as soon as polls close on Tuesday at 9:00 p.m., and an official result will be published on Wednesday morning on facebook.com/mydsu.

ISRAEL APARTHEID WEEK, INSIDE ISRAEL SPEAKER SERIES KICKS OFF

• JACOB ROBERTS

Concordia will be hosting two very different views on the Middle East in coming weeks, as eighth annual Israel Apartheid Week kicks off on March 5, followed by the inaugural Inside Israel Speaker Series.

"The Israeli government, as a project, has been systematically oppressing the Palestinian people in several different ways," said Doug Smith, a member of Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights and the spokesperson for IAW, which ends on March 13.

"The occupation is one of the clearest examples of that. We hope people walk away with a clearer understanding of Israel as an apartheid state, and also without a feeling of helplessness."

The IAW will feature speaking events, workshops, a concert and

exhibitions. Among those activities is a workshop on March 8 titled Pinkwashing Israeli Apartheid 101.

It explores an alleged propaganda campaign that targets queer youth and paints Israel as a gay-tolerant oasis in the Middle East.

As well, a concert, entitled Artists Against Apartheid XVIII, is scheduled for March 11 and features hip-hop by Rebel Diaz from New York City, the Haitian group Vox Sambou and Chilean musicians l'Ensemble Acalanto.

All these events are designed to foster discussion about Palestine and encourage analysis of the Israeli policies. This contributes to the oppression Palestinians have been living under, and which they are struggling against, according to Smith.

"Often what you see in the

dominant news media, in many ways—even in well-intentioned commentary—tends to frame this as an overly complicated, never-ending conflict [and] that's not true," said Smith. "However, there are major disparities of power."

A newly founded student group, the Concordia Students for Israel, is hosting the IISS, which begins with a wine and cheese on March 14 with the Israeli and Egyptian Consul Generals, the day after IAW ends, and will feature further events to be announced in the next week.

CSFI co-president Dana Remer told *The Link* that they specifically scheduled their events the week after IAW, with the intention of providing a different perspective on the situation without creating a combative environment.

"Me and my co-president Ehle Schacter thought it was time to create some kind of platform on campus for students to have constructive discussion about the Middle East, about Israel and about all these kind of things that they generally shy away from or that get turned into a one-sided kind of thing," said Remer.

Remer mentioned IAW as an example of this saying, "All you hear is, 'Israel is bad, Israel is an oppressor...' and you don't hear about any other thing on campus."

Remer noted the scheduling of IISS was handled with care, and, though it's meant to be a counterbalance to IAW, they wanted to respect the views of those who participate in the week's events.

"The first reason is that if we hold events at the same time,

we're going to draw attention to what they're doing and we don't think that what they're doing is a positive, constructive description of what is going on in reality," said Remer.

"We want to do this event, but we don't want to do it at a time when it can be perceived as an attack on their events or their position. We're letting them have their time, their space and whatever they need to do, and then we're going to do our thing."

Smith said that he didn't see a problem with the scheduling.

"I don't think it means too much. At the end of the day, pro-Israeli views are very available and very present in general," said Smith. "There's already a pretty strong solidarity in social justice circles for the Palestinian cause and what people do for IAW."

Signatures of Support



Student rallyers make a stand for a sexual assault centre on campus.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

2110 Rally for Sexual Assault Centre

• HILARY SINCLAIR

A group from the 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy rallied from the top to the bottom of the Hall Building March 5 to raise awareness, gain support and solicit signatures for a sexual assault centre on campus.

The proposed centre would support a 24-hour crisis hotline, support network and improve university policies on sexual assault.

With a core group of five people, advocates visited each floor in what Programming and Campaigns Coordinator at the 2110

Centre Bianca Mugenyi said was a successful initiative on Monday.

They added at least 150 signatures to a petition that is currently 1,000 names strong.

“The biggest obstacle at this point is a lack of funding from the university for sexual assault services, a space and someone to coordinate,” said Mugenyi.

There are also major problems with the policies that the university uses to deal with sexual crimes on campus. The use of inaccessible language and a lack of distinction between sexual harassment and sexual assault, coupled with the

absence of sensitivity training for security officers are among the policies that 2110 claims are in need of reform.

“We really need a section out of the policy that is directly related to sexual assault and clear avenues for where people can go to get advocacy and counseling,” said Mugenyi.

The group is currently working on drafting recommendations to the administration that will ensure university policies can properly address campus sexual safety.

While Mugenyi says that the rally came on a chaotic day with all

the strike actions kicking off, she was able to draw parallels between the fight for education and their campaign.

“It really struck me when I was walking through the Hall Building that what a lot of students are searching for is an accessible campus, a campus that they can afford to go to,” said Mugenyi. “Similarly, we want an accessible campus where people are safe.”

The group plans to hold more rallies in the future, with the goal of getting 5,000 signatures and getting more students involved.



DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

STRIKING OUT

There's a good chance you or someone you know will be on strike this week. Stay tuned for our coverage of the growing strike movement at Concordia and for results from the Graduate Students' Association and the Concordia Student Union general assemblies.

CSU ELECTION COVERAGE

Keep up to date on the CSU general election campaign, which just launched. The executive, VP, Councilor and Senate candidate profiles are coming, as well as updates on debates and all the rest of this seasonal madness.

BRIEFS

Once More, With Feeling

If you're reading this on Tuesday or Wednesday and are an Arts and Science student, you will be given another chance to vote in the Arts and Science Federation of Associations general election. At a special Council meeting held March 1, a vote was passed to ratify the dates of the new election. The original vote was called off on Feb. 16, the second day of polling, after the resignation of Chief Electoral Officer Christopher Webster.

Getting Chilled for Charity

The annual 5 Days for the Homeless campaign is set to kick off March 11, and Concordia's participants will be facing the elements with a familiar face. Former Montreal Canadiens enforcer Georges Laraque will take part in the campaign for the second year in a row. The initiative sees participants spend five days sleeping outside in order to raise money for Dans la rue, a community organization that works with street kids and at-risk youth. To get involved, send an email to 5days@casa-jmsb.ca.

No Confidence in Constables

Quebec's policy of having one police agency investigate major incidents at a sister agency—such as those involving deadly force—has been called into question by Quebec Ombudsman Raymonde Saint-Germain. While the government is currently considering forming an oversight body, the actual investigations would still be conducted by police officers, despite what some say is a practice of police protecting their fellow officers. Saint-Germain said that a better solution would be “a credible civilian board of investigation” and is advising the province to revamp a bill to create this bureau.

Steve's Music Founder Passes

Steve Kirman, founder and owner of Steve's Music, passed away on Saturday. He was 65 years old. Kirman opened the store on St. Antoine St. in 1965 when he was just 19 years old. The store has since become iconic in Montreal's music scene and now takes up an entire city block. In its 47 years of business, Steve's Music has grown to include successful locations in Toronto and Ottawa. The funeral will be held Tuesday morning, when Steve's Music will be closed to allow store employees to pay their respects.

BA-LE

Vietnamese restaurant Ba-Le, beloved by Concordia students for their soups, sandwiches and coffee, is at risk of closing down due to rent increases. Find out more from *Link* journalist Katie McGroarty who is speaking to the owner this week.

Equality: Are We There Yet?

THE ANNUAL WOMEN'S ISSUE

The Illusion of Post-Feminist Liberation
Femme Invisibility
Passing Privilege
The Burden of Birth Control
Reducing Women to Wombs
Extending the Life Span of Ovaries
Garment and Gender
The Post-Feminist Myth

THE LiNK
On stands March 13, 2012



Beginning To End

Eric Begin takes his usual position at the blue-line at the Ed Meagher Arena. The Stingers will miss his leadership and ferocious slapshot.

PHOTO DAVID MURPHY

Graduating Stingers Captain Reflects on Career

• ANDREW MAGGIO

Eric Begin was lost when he came to Concordia in 2007. Five years later, he's on his way to a career in education—and possibly professional hockey—after graduating from the Stingers this year as captain.

“I came to Concordia when I was 21 [...] and I didn't really know what I wanted to do in life or what I wanted to study,” said Begin.

“I just took a bunch of random classes. One of them was an education class and I liked it, so I decided to go into the [Teaching English as Second Language] program.”

He was also dealt the realization that hockey here wasn't at the same level as the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League standards he was used to after being drafted by the Hull Olympiques in 2003.

“It's so much more serious in [the QMJHL], and of course you still have that dream of playing in the NHL,” said Begin, “It was a definite transition to make. You're

going from a junior mentality to a university mentality, which is much more school-oriented.”

Now that school-first attitude has also give him pause when it comes to his dream of being a professional player.

Last week the St. Lambert native was offered two 10-day trial contracts with ECHL teams the Trenton Titans and the Reading Royals, affiliated with the Philadelphia Flyers and L.A. Kings, respectively. While this would fulfill a lifelong dream, Begin isn't sure he'd be ready to uproot what he has going in school for a chance to move up to the pros.

“I want to finish my semester before I go anywhere. I'm doing pretty good in school right now and I don't want to put my semester in jeopardy for a contract like the one I'd be getting down there,” said Begin, “Maybe next year, who knows? But I'd definitely like to go down for 10 days to see what I can do in the pros.”

Begin's success on the ice is

made even more impressive by what he's been able to do off the ice this semester. As well as carrying a full course-load, Begin took an internship as a student teacher in November at Ecole Gerard Filion in Longueuil and now works as a substitute in the Montreal area.

The experience of being in charge of a classroom might have helped him in the dressing room, too. Stingers assistant coach Marc-André Element, who was the team's captain for two seasons before Begin took over the role this year, spoke glowingly about his successor and how much he's improved and grown since first arriving at the school.

“He performed so well this year on and off the ice,” said Element. “When he came to Concordia, a few of us had to take him under our wings a little bit and this year he just took it upon himself to be the very best he could be.”

“He wanted to be the best defenseman in the league, he wanted to be the best player on the team, he wanted to be the leader of the

team and he accomplished all of that this season,” said Element. “It's not for nothing he had such a great season. He worked hard and he'll continue to work hard, and I know he has a good future as a hockey player.”

Begin says Element, former teammate Jesse Goodsell, current teammate Michael Blundon and coach Kevin Figsby (who convinced him to come to ConU from the QMJHL in the first place) are his biggest influences during his time at Concordia.

“Marc-André was great with me during my first four years at Concordia. He really helped me out. He's a good buddy of mine and will be forever,” said Begin. “Obviously, coach Figsby helped me a lot too, through school, life and hockey; he was great to me in every aspect.”

Overall, Begin ended the season second in scoring amongst Ontario University Athletics defensemen and earned a second team all-star nod. He also never missed a game during his five years at Concordia,

proudly asserting himself as the team's all-time ironman while racking up the most games played by any men's hockey player to don the maroon and gold.

“Eric is a great friend and a great leader,” said Blundon, who just completed his fourth season as a Stinger. “He was voted team captain this year by his teammates, which illustrates just how trusted and respected he is.”

Unfortunately, Begin couldn't complete his goals of winning the OUA championship and going on to a national championship during his tenure at Concordia, but he still has some fond memories of his time as a Stinger.

“The rivalry games against McGill,” said Begin, “were always intense, and we got to beat them a couple of times, especially the one time this year in their barn.”

“Even though sometimes they didn't end up the way we wanted,” he said, “It was always a good challenge and something I won't forget.”

—with files from David Murphy

»» NATIONALS



Concordia shot 18.2 per cent from the three-point range in a losing cause Friday night. They'll have another chance to get to nationals if they win two games at Regionals in Sask. this Friday.

PHOTO CELIA STE CROIX

DOWN, BUT NOT OUT

"The season's not over yet—we're going to the regionals next week."

—Keith Pruden,
Head Coach

Nationals Still a Possibility for Lady Stingers Despite Loss

• DAVID KAUFMANN

McGill's Love Competition Hall was the scene of a near-miracle last Friday.

The Martlets may never have trailed Concordia's women's basketball team in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec final, but the Stingers showed life in the second half, giving the Martlets a run for their money—but ultimately lost 56-49.

"We didn't play very good defence," said Stingers Head Coach Keith Pruden. "They played the way that they normally do, and we just gave them a lot of easy stuff off their screen-and-roll offense."

The Stingers opened the scoring off a jumper from forward Tina Mpondani, but the Martlets quickly closed in and opened up a 16-6 lead after just 10 minutes of play.

In the second quarter the Martlets built on their lead cour-

tesy of Annet Him-Lazarenko and Françoise Charest, who led the team in scoring with 17 and 14 points, respectively. By half-time they led 30-16.

The Stingers finally came to life in the third when, two minutes in, RSEQ MVP Kaylah Barrett sunk a shot from the three-point line. That kicked off a Concordia run that saw four players combine to score 10 points, including Natasha Raposo who came second in scoring for the Stingers on the night, followed by Barrett's 23 points.

However, with three minutes remaining the Martlets took over and distanced themselves from the Stingers, taking a 48-29 lead into the fourth quarter.

But even facing the daunting deficit, the Stingers didn't go down easy. The team sunk multiple shots from the three-point line and pressed hard until the end.

In fact, after a trey from Ra-

poso with 30 seconds remaining, the Stingers were within five points of their rivals. Unfortunately, they got themselves into foul trouble and gave Martlet guard Him-Lazarenko some free shots from the foul line, which she capitalized on.

Concordia's perseverance had Martlets head coach Ryan Thorne praising them after the contest.

"It's a good team, they made two really good runs at us, and we stood them," said Thorne. "I think they did a good job attacking the basket. [Barrett] is one of the best [in] the country doing that."

Even with the loss, Pruden is optimistic about his team's finish. "The season's not over yet—we're going to the regionals next week."

Since the Stingers lost in the provincial final, they automatically qualify for regionals along with three other teams, held at

the University of Saskatchewan on March 9. If the Concordia squad win their two games, they move on to nationals, which take place in Calgary from March 17 to 19.

But it won't be an easy task for them, as they'll be taking on the University of Regina Cougars, a team that finished with a perfect 20-0 record, who were surprised by the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds in Saturday's Canada West championship game, falling 78-59.

Should the Stingers pull off the upset, they'll take on either the Brock University Badgers, who finished second in the Ontario University Athletics West conference with a 15-7 record, or play hosts the University of Saskatchewan Huskies, who also finished second in their division.

The action takes place Friday at 8:15 p.m. in Saskatoon, and you can stream the game live at ssncanada.ca.

BOUND

MAROON & golden



Concordia Demolishes UQAM in RSEQ Final

PHOTO DYLAN MALONEY

• RICHIE DALY

After a string of buzzer-beating finishes in the semi-finals, Concordia's men's basketball team trounced the Université du Québec à Montreal Citadins in front of a sold-out Loyola gym in the RSEQ conference finals 77-47.

"We don't like to win at the last second, so we had a game plan and we carried it through. Defense was the key to this game. Our offense started with our defense," said Concordia's Head Coach John Dore.

The first quarter saw the teams exchanging baskets and misses, with the Citadins initially keeping pace with the Stingers.

However, the Stingers' full court defensive press made ball movement difficult for the Citadins, leading to a number of easy buckets for the home team. The Stingers' strong defensive play led to a notable stat: UQAM finished the game with 24 turnovers; the Stingers generating 22 points off those turnovers.

The second quarter proved

brutal for the Citadins as they scored only six points, finishing the half trailing the Stingers, 33-21.

Citadins head coach Jacques Verschuere was frustrated with the strong defensive play of the ConU squad, saying, "It was like Concordia put a cover on top of the basket."

"They were very aggressive defensively. We missed a lot of high-probability shots under the basket, which you have to credit the aggressiveness of their defense."

After being dominated in the second quarter, the Citadins started the third by applying some defensive pressure of their own.

Both teams were using a very physical style of play, with players exchanging numerous hard fouls. This led to an initial shrinking of the gap, but the Stingers' lead never dropped below 10.

The experience of the Maroon and Gold shone through as they managed to continue to disrupt the UQAM momentum by maintaining their athletically demanding, stifling form of defense.

Out-rebounding the Citadins 51-35 in the game, the Stingers made sure to deny all second-chance opportunities for the visiting team, too.

Rookie guard Jerome Blake capped off the quarter for the Stingers with a long-range three-pointer with .01 seconds left in the quarter, sending the sold out crowd into frenzy while seeming to kill off all forms of hope for the Citadins.

"We played great defensively," said Dore. "We forced them to shoot the ball from the perimeter and then we only gave them one shot by out-rebounding them. [...] We anticipated well and we were always there."

The same themes continued in the final quarter before the buzzer sounded to make official Concordia's third conference title in four years.

Up by 27 points with a minute and a half left, the starters were all subbed out. Two senior players—guard Decee Krah, who had 10 points, six assists and six steals, and forward James Clark, who

notched five points alongside six rebounds—received standing ovations from the packed crowd.

"Forget the basketball, they're really good people. They've been important parts of the program during their time here. This is their third time making it to nationals in their five years here, so hats off to them," said coach Dore.

A number of players contributed to the victory, with current RSEQ most valuable player Evens Laroche almost notching a double-double, finishing with 11 points and nine rebounds. Guard Kyle Desmarais also contributed with a team-high 13 points along with five assists.

With the win, the Stingers secured the number three seed at the national championships, and will face the St. Francis Xavier University X-Men on March 9 in Halifax.

"Right now, we just want to enjoy this. We'll start worrying about nationals on Monday," said Dore.

You can stream the game live at ssncanada.ca; tip-off is at 6:15 p.m.

"Right now, we just want to enjoy this. We'll start worrying about nationals on Monday."

—John Dore
Head Coach

THE LONG ROAD HOME

Finding Solo Inspiration With John K. Samson



John K. Samson sets out on his first solo tour.

PHOTO JASON HALSTEAD

• COLIN HARRIS

Though he's been on the Canadian music scene since the late '80s, this week marks a first for John K. Samson: it's the first time The Weakerthans frontman will tour with his name on the marquee.

He's crossing the continent in support of his new solo LP *Provincial*, a record that started out as a series of seven-inch demos about stretches of road in Manitoba. The demos soon took on a life of their own, tied together by the strange self-published history of a forgotten sanatorium in Ninette, MB.

Samson uncovered the stories at the library in his home town of Winnipeg, where he'd been writing more and more as his years with The Weakerthans went on.

"For the last Weakerthans record, I spent a lot of time writing at the library just because I found I couldn't focus at home with the Internet there," he said. "I think this was just a natural extension of that. I started reading about the things I was writing about, doing research in that way."

On *Provincial*, Samson takes

this research-heavy writing even further, travelling to small towns in the province to hear the stories of the people who live there, transcribing memories and weaving them into folk-rock frames with the care and intimacy he's become known for.

He reaches in by telling histories, lifting important places from our past; he appeals to nostalgia, adventure and solace throughout the record.

But while this may sound just like the formula for a great Weakerthans record, his fellow members are nowhere to be heard on this LP.

"To be fair to the other Weakerthans, I would have had to bring them in at an earlier date for their full input to be heard on the songs," said Samson.

"I don't think it was terribly conscious, it's just kind of the way it happened. I feel like the project dictated the way it should be handled."

Samson pieced together demos from the last two years and re-recorded them for *Provincial* last April, arranged with the help of producer Paul Aucoin. The resulting work finds slow, strings-and-

piano-backed songs alongside the up-tempo rockers and acoustic ballads. There's nothing radically new, but there's growth here—and it is definitely his most pensive record to date.

"I took a different approach for each location musically. [...] The varying instrumentation and arrangements give a sense of travelling to the record," said Samson. "I feel I've stretched myself on this record. Some people won't feel that at all, but I can only judge myself against myself as a musician."

For those itching for a new Weakerthans record, *Provincial* isn't that far off. But fans shouldn't fear—once this tour wraps up he'll be back with the band, where he still finds great comfort and inspiration.

"There's some kind of strange math going on," he laughs, in reference to the increasing number of years between Weakerthans records. "I don't think that's going to change, it might get even slower as we get older and all have different interests in different things in our lives."

"It's family in a way—you don't

always want to go to Thanksgiving dinner, but there are great and rare things about it, that you can only get with the accumulation of time and experience with other people."

Samson's words have always been at the heart of his music and that's no different on the album, whether it's in the form of a petition to induct his hockey hero Reggie Leach into the Hall of Fame or in a matured reprise to his infamous anti-Winnipeg anthem, "One Great City!"

"Often the music acts as a hook to hang the words on and I've always been grateful for that as a writer," said Samson. "I think I've always been a thwarted short story and poetry writer; both of those things seem forebodingly difficult to me because that structure isn't there."

"You can invent structures, but it's not like a song, where you have a frame laid out and you stretch things across it. I think that's one of the great traditions of folk music, which I guess is the tradition that I come from. Folk music that kind of turned into punk rock is where I learned to appreciate performance

and communication through the arts."

Samson played bass in Manitoban political punk band Propagandhi in the early '90s before leaving to pursue work in publishing, and soon after combined his love of music and poetry with The Weakerthans. While it's been more than two decades since his anarcho-vegan days on the four-string—and while the bpm is markedly lower now—he still has a lot to say.

"[With *Provincial*] I'd like people to recognize themselves and the place that they're from. It's the thing that we all have in common, that we're all from somewhere. Those places are all both universal and unique, and those unique things about a place are really important; I think they allow us to relate to other places," said Samson.

"I hope the record makes people think about their own house, their own city, their own town in a way that they hadn't considered before."

John K. Samson / March 9 / La Sala Rossa (4848 St. Laurent Blvd.)

A Cultural Institution in Crisis

Cinémathèque Québécoise at Risk of Bankruptcy

BY GUILLERMO MARTÍNEZ DE VELASCO



Montreal film buffs may soon be grieving the loss of one of the province's most important institutions

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

The Cinémathèque québécoise is set to commemorate its 50th anniversary next year, but monetary problems may mean a significant reduction in its activities—or even bankruptcy—before it has the chance to celebrate.

As a not-for-profit, the centre relies on donations and subsidies for at least 60 per cent of its annual operating budget. The money made from the Cinémathèque's activities is also reportedly irregular.

If the situation doesn't change soon, the centre for everything cinema is looking at no more than six months of continued operation, according to Cinémathèque's administration. The funds required to keep the Cinémathèque going have been estimated at between \$1.2 and \$1.5 million a year.

According to *Le Devoir* reporter Odile Tremblay, who has been following the Cinémathèque's plight and broke the news of its financial troubles Feb. 27, it isn't simply a matter of underfunding, but rather a series of interconnected issues that have gone neglected for decades.

"Just covering the bare minimum when it comes to salaries and operating costs is an enormous task," reported Tremblay.

The Cinémathèque was founded in 1963 by a group of cinephiles that saw the need to preserve and showcase films made in the province.

What first started as a small archive and a series of screenings around Montreal is now a full-fledged cultural institution. The Cinémathèque was quickly admitted to the International Federation of Film Archives, and an amendment to the Cinema Act in 1978 established it as the province's official agency for film preservation.

Since the '80s, the Cinémathèque consolidates all of its services into one building, on de Maisonneuve Blvd. E. near St. Denis St., which now hosts screenings, lectures and various film festivals.

In an article he wrote for *Canadian Encyclopedia*, former director Pierre Véronneau enumerated the Cinémathèque's impressive collection. "Its collections include 48,000 films, 29,300 posters, 600,000 photographs and 14,500 scripts, as well as extensive archives, costumes, equipment and soundtracks," he said.

"Its library on films and television is one of the most important in the world, with more than 46,000 books, over 100,000 newspaper clippings and 450 current periodicals."

Although the current situation is particularly tough, this is not the first time the Cinémathèque has faced financial problems.

Last year, the Daniel Langlois Foundation decided to donate its entire collection to the Cinémathèque in a move that many saw as both a gift and a curse. The addition of about 2,600 audiovisual elements en-

riched the library's collection, but also worsened the strain on upkeep costs.

In a political climate that is increasingly anti-culture on a federal level, relying on subsidies seems less and less feasible. According to Daniel Dubois of Québec Solidaire, the Cinémathèque is at the point of no return. He cites a lack of funding for the arts on the part of the provincial government as the main problem.

"The Cinémathèque's mission is twofold: to preserve Quebec's cultural heritage and to showcase it to its population. Without proper funding, where will films like [2012 Best Foreign Language Film Academy Award nominee] *Monsieur Lazhar* be safeguarded?" he asked.

Dubois said the problem doesn't lie with the Cinémathèque's day-to-day activities, but rather in a provincial administration that expects the institution to fulfill its mandate without the required funds. In his opinion, the Cinémathèque should become a government-owned corporation so that enough taxpayer money could be allocated to the institution.

New technologies are also proving to be a challenge for this celluloid haven. Keeping up with changing formats in the digital age is costly and much of the equipment the Cinémathèque has is quickly becoming obsolete. This prevents the institution from staying on par with comparable film archives around the world, according to Tremblay.

When compared to similar institutions, like Paris' Cinémathèque Nationale, the problems are evident.

"People are willing to take the metro to the edge of the city to go to [the Cinémathèque Nationale] because it is friendly, welcoming and engaging," said Tremblay. Why shouldn't a building located in the heart of Montreal be able to do the same?

For some, the institution's tasks are simply too numerous for it to handle on its own; some have suggested associating with other cultural centers, such as the Bibliothèque Nationale or the Museum of Fine Arts, would help ease the burden.

Catherine Vien-Labeaume, press liaison at the Cinémathèque, seems to agree. "The Cinémathèque québécoise fulfills the functions of a government corporation but with the budget of a non-profit organization. Its financial framework is totally inadequate: we have to find 40 per cent or more of our revenues from other sources.

"The Cinémathèque is operating below the subsistence level and is no longer able to fulfill its dual mission of conserving Canadian audiovisual heritage and making it available to the public," she continued. "The situation is urgent. We want to be considered a priority by decision-makers."

To continue to neglect the challenges faced by the Cinémathèque québécoise may result in its ultimate disappearance. In the meantime, the credits are rolling on one of the city's most valuable assets.

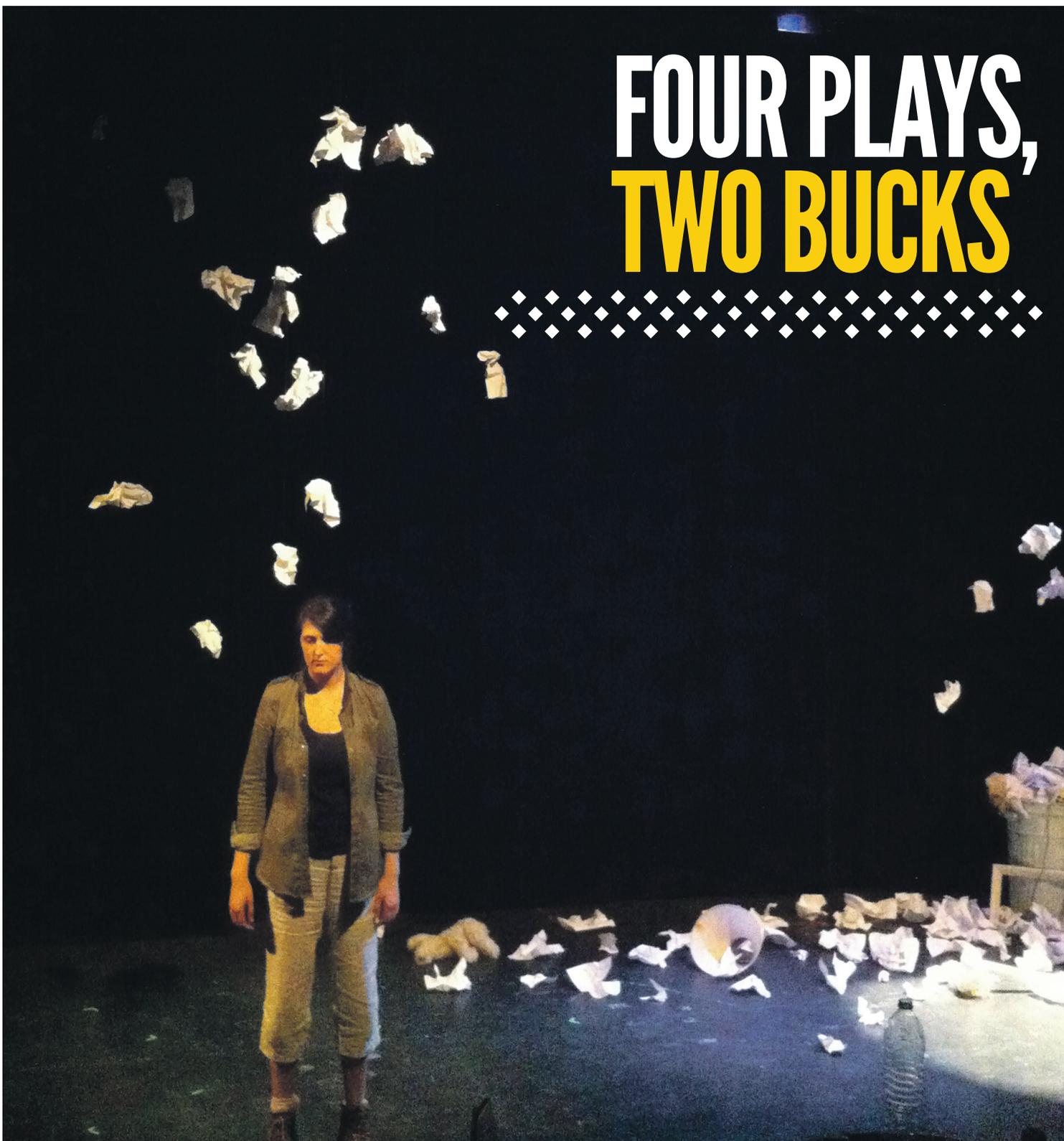
Vanessa Nostbakken is co-creator and performer in SIPA play *In Memoriam*

PHOTO MARIJA DJORDJEVIC

Students Call the Shots in SIPA Short Plays

• ELYSHA DEL GIUSTO-ENOS

There's a festival going on at Concordia this weekend, tucked in the back room of the Loyola Chapel basement. The theatre department's Student Initiated Production Assignments class will be performing their short plays in the Cazalet Studio March 8 to 11 for a Fringe Festival-style weekend.

"As an audience member, you get to bounce around all different kinds of shows," said Vanessa Nostbakken, performer and co-creator of the SIPA play *In Memoriam*. "It's a great opportunity for students to see what the theatre department does. People put a lot of hard work into these shows. And it's really affordable, only two dollars."

The SIPAs give students the opportunity to have complete creative control of their work. The plays are written, directed, designed and performed by stu-

dents.

"SIPA originally was conceived as such so that any student, regardless of the department, could participate in it," said SIPA coordinator Marija Djordjevic. "But it happens really rarely."

Greedy Graffiti is one show that includes students from the John Molson School of Business. Djordjevic said that *Graffiti's* creator had the show on her mind for nearly four years, seeking out people with personality types to match the roles she created.

Djordjevic reviewed the proposals, interviewed students and then submitted her recommendations to the head of the department for approval. She said that the interviews were an important component in choosing who was ready to take part.

"People may seem really solid and then when the time comes, they freak out," Djordjevic said. "It's hard. I look for passion be-

cause it will get you through. If you believe in your proposal, and what you want to do, it will give you courage and strength to push through stressful times. It will let you engage your team to work better."

Djordjevic was also looking for variety; the four shows in the festival range from very realistic to abstract. She mentioned *Anonymous Sin* as an interesting one-man show with two roles—a man and a woman who never speak to each other.

Naomi in the Living Room is the one play not written by a Concordia student, but by well-known contemporary American playwright, Christopher Durang. The show describes itself as a "family reunion from hell. Fifteen minutes of clown, comedy and masochism."

The students who wrote their own shows had to be on both sides of the process, as writer and actor, a challenge for theatre students whose primary training

is in acting.

"When we're writing we're trying to think of it from an acting perspective, so it's really difficult that way," Nostbakken said. "When you're not working with a set script you're worried that your peers won't see it the same way you want them to because you're not working with that outside eye."

Dealing with the creative and technical aspects of bringing their shows to the stage, the participating theatre students get an understanding of what they can expect when they graduate and start producing their own shows.

For the audience, Djordjevic said, "The shows are short, they're fun and they're very varied. Everyone who comes will see something they like."

SIPA Short Works Festival / March 8 to 11 / Cazalet Theatre (7141 Sherbrooke St. W.) / \$2.00 students, \$5.00 regular / goo.gl/1UDWY



DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

FRINGE FOOD

Well into the 19th century, the European village and neighbourhood bakery served as more than mere eatery or commodity outlet. Doubling as part-time "communal oven," it was a gathering point, a laboratory, a workshop—even a place of education.



WEEKLY SPINS



The Men - Open Your Heart

We spin the latest from Brooklyn rockers *The Men* on Sacred Bones Records. Catch them March 24 at Il Motore (179 Jean-Talon St. W.).

FRAME TO FRAME



We preview *Budrus*, the story of communities uniting to save a village caught in Israel's separation barrier. *Budrus* plays at Cinema Politica in the J.W. McConnell Building March 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Red Red Whine



FASA students show up in droves for their General Assembly March 1.

PHOTO JULIA WOLFE

Online GA Gripes are Misguided

• HILARY SINCLAIR

There has been a lot of griping and confusion lately about how “undemocratic” General Assemblies being held by the Concordia Student Union and other student associations are.

And while people may love hearing the sound of their own voices, one thing at this point in our historical apathy is pretty clear: most students don’t actually have the right to complain about the way the strike vote is being handled. They have not earned the right.

The last CSU election, for example, only saw 5.8 per cent of eligible students exercising their democratic rights. Now, I’m not trying to discount the importance of democracy or voting, but the GA’s are being held under unique circumstances.

We were formally introduced to this fight back on Nov. 3 when the Arts and Sciences Federation of Associations and the CSU held a joint Special General Assembly to vote on participation in the massive Nov. 10 province-wide Day of Action.

In that vote, students had to wait for nearly an hour to make quorum, with 98 per cent of those who bothered to show up voting in favor of protesting.

Then students were given another chance to voice their opinion on the matter during the three-day CSU November byelection that saw 1,288 students vote against the hikes. This represents 80 per cent of students who bothered to cast ballots—a clear and sweeping majority. Where were all these dissenting voices then?

Last week, seven student associations held GA’s to vote on individual strike mandates. Some of those associations could have done a better job at informing their students of voting perhaps, but the information was readily available if you took interest.

But instead of showing up to vote or rallying your student associations, many students have decided to post exasperated and uniformed things to the walls of various Facebook groups that are run by people who have been begging for you to listen to them for the last two months.

Here are some of the most common complaints, ripe with logical fallacies:

Getting to Vote

Students online are vocally upset that the process is “unfair” because they can’t possibly be expected to physically get to the vote and are angry that a vote-by-proxy is illegal under

CSU bylaws.

The thing is that most associations announced the dates for their GA’s at least one week in advance, which would give most individuals time to make arrangements to be there, and the CSU has been tooting their own GA horn since the beginning of the semester.

FASA, for example, also announced their voting date in an email to students on Feb. 20, which gave their membership nine full working days to make arrangements to be there.

For everyone else, if you talk to your professors and I’m sure you should be able to convince them this is important enough to miss a class.

Otherwise, the striking memberships have been doing everything in their power to get the word out through social media, emails and posters. Pay attention and you’ll have less to complain about, if anything at all.

Quorums & Referendums

Many students seem to be frustrated with a system that allows the minority to make decisions for the majority. This is an understandable concern, even if you have shown no interest up to this point. But if you voted in November you should have

seen this coming.

FASA quorum is set at 2.5 per cent, and yet the March 1 meeting attracted 465 out of 3,706 students—or an eight per cent turnout.

Passing motions in general assemblies means that you have 50 per cent plus one of those who turned up voting in agreement, meaning that the majority of those who bothered to show up were in favour of strikes.

Perhaps it’s not a bad idea that the students who have actually been paying attention by attending info sessions and are actually informed will be the ones making decisions on the behalf of the ignorant.

And why aren’t we having a referendum, you ask? Because the CSU bylaws dictate that a referendum can only take place with an election or byelection. If you were so concerned, you could have brought it up with council in November.

A GA is the next best option, and it’s our only option under the existing time constraints.

What’s the Point?

Sadly, some of us are not being given the chance to vote in a faculty GA, so the CSU vote is the only way to support or not support a strike vote. Having a

blanket vote for an undergraduate five-day strike allows for us to join supporters on the picket lines and boycott our classrooms. If you want to vote in a smaller arena, now is the time to rally your member association and make it happen. This is what they are being funded for.

The only valid criticism against the GA format at this point in the CSU’s approved mandate to fight the upcoming tuition hikes is that there has not been enough done within each association to alert their student membership to vote.

Apathy has got us to where we are as far as voting options go. Let’s not let apathy take away accessible education in Quebec.

It is ignorant to think that throwing more money into a broken system while plunging others into suffocating debt is something worth supporting.

But no matter how you personally feel about it, whether you are in favour or against, come out the GA on Wednesday and voice your opinion.

The CSU General Assembly is taking place downtown in H-110 and the 7th floor of the Hall Building, as well as in the Hive on Loyola. It will be live streamed and starts at 3 p.m.

A LAND APART



PHOTO DAN HALUTZ

Why Israeli Apartheid Week Is No Misnomer

• RANA SALAH

Israeli Apartheid Week aims to raise awareness about the nature of Israel as an apartheid state and give people the tools to put their education into action via the global Palestinian-lead Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.

IAW, which began in 2005, is an annual series of events organized by a coalition of social justice groups held in cities and campuses across the globe. Last year's IAW had as many as 97 cities worldwide that participated.

Israel is not the only country that has practiced apartheid. The term 'apartheid' derives from the Afrikaans word for apartness. The term apartheid was initially used for South Africa based on its system of racial segregation and legal discrimination.

IAW is about raising awareness of Israel's system of apartness or segregation between Palestinians and Israelis.

The first description of Israel as an apartheid state came in 1963 from Dr. Hendrik Verwoerd—the South African prime

minister who implemented the apartheid system.

There are many similarities between the treatment of blacks in South Africa and that of Palestinians in Israel; the segregated roads and settlements, unequal rights, restriction of movement and the ID cards and permits required to travel even short distances are but a few examples.

South Africa was criticized for its "Bantustan" regions for blacks that only took up 13 per cent of land even though whites were the minority. Palestinians in the West Bank are also placed in "Bantustans"—they live on 12 per cent of their original territory.

Critics of Israeli Apartheid Week stress the differences between South Africa and Israel. Of course, the situations are not identical. In fact, Israeli Apartheid appears to be more catastrophic—or at least, that is what the former South African Minister of Intelligence Services, Ronnie Kasrils, believed:

"The [Israeli] occupation reminds me of the darkest days of apartheid, but we never saw

tanks and planes firing at a civilian population. It's a monstrosity I'd never seen before," he said. "The wall you built, the checkpoints and the roads for Jews only—it turns the stomach, even for someone who grew up under apartheid. It's a hundred times worse."

When you have a political system that favours one ethnic or religious group over others, and these ethnic or religious groups live in separate regions at the same time, that is apartheid. Israel's family reunification law—which prevents reunification of Palestinian citizens of Israel with family members living in West Bank and Gaza—is also an example of this.

The reality is that Palestinians, even those that live within Israeli territory, do not enjoy the same privileges as Israelis.

Organizers of IAW draw their analysis based on the United Nations definition from the 1973 International Convention on the Suppression of Apartheid and the 2002 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. They both outline clearly in what ways a state can be guilty of apartheid.

Unfortunately, it is no exaggeration that Israel is an apartheid state, and that the most proven way to fight apartheid has been via a global non-violent campaign of pressure and isolation that changes the political condition in which apartheid is allowed to exist. The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign works to these ends.

Montreal's IAW will occur from March 5 to the 13. It will feature speakers such as Frank Barat, who will discuss the Russell Tribunal, the Vietnam and South America tribunal of the '70s and the Palestine tribunal that took place in Cape Town in 2009.

The week will also shed light on the oppression and struggles of others, that of the Syrian resistance and of systemic violence against First Nations women.

IAW is about seeking justice and equality, irrespective of ethnicity, religion or race. It is about raising awareness about a system of oppression and to giving people the tools to work in solidarity all around the world with Palestinians fighting against Israeli apartheid.

The reality is that Palestinians, even those that live within Israeli territory, do not enjoy the same privileges as Israelis.

Media Misinformation



• JAKE ROBERTS

The Link went to the Concordia Student Union sleep-in in the Webster Library and asked: Do you think that a sleep-in is an effective form of protest?

“Yes. It challenges people who aren’t protesting to see; it’s a really visible form of protest. It also encourages students to interact with each other and to participate in student initiatives.”

—Anne Petittler
School of Community and Public Affairs



“I think it is, because more people are aware of it. Especially, it’s at night, right? So when they know that people sleep in, they’re like, ‘Oh why are people sleeping in?’ It gets [the message] out there.”

—Prem Karthigesu
Political Science



“I don’t think so. I’m not actually [part of the sleep-in], I’m just here to have my coffee. I think it’s better to sleep at home, I don’t see why it’s so important to sleep here. I don’t see the point, actually. [...] You can protest with boxes that have something written on them, and say something. But a sleep-in? You don’t say anything, you just sleep.”

—Jenny Dolgova
Building Engineering



“The sleep-in allows students to sleep here and work around the clock on this. Some people are up until three in the morning working on pamphlets and sending out emails. It’s really allowed us to have a workflow that is needed to make this strike successful.”

—Anthony Garoufalis-Auger



GRAPHIC PAKU DAoust CLOUTIER

Lacklustre Reporting, Bias Damage Fight Against Tuition

• COREY POOL

The coverage of university issues in Quebec is getting increasingly one-sided as the mainstream media struggle to cover complicated issues without a glaring bias.

The Gazette’s intrepid university reporter Karen Seidman wrote an article on Feb. 28 titled “Concordia Tuition-Hike Protest a Real Yawner” about the recent Concordia Student Union sleep-in protest.

“Somehow jammies and hot cocoa don’t seem to go with student insurrection,” she wrote. “But the protest against rising tuition fees at Concordia University is getting soporific this week as students start a five-day sleep-in.”

Despite a heavy dose of opinion in the writing, the piece was published under the guise of news.

Over the past few weeks, an unfortunate majority of mainstream media in Quebec have dropped the ball on their coverage of university issues, specifically those related to the student movement against tuition increases.

Seidman has exemplified this trend with a series of articles that should only serve to embarrass her and her employers.

In her view, the students’

side of the tuition argument is exhaustingly simple.

“And the bedtime story they’ll be read goes something like this,” she opined in the article on the sleep-in. “The government is unfairly raising tuition fees and making a university education inaccessible, so next week you should vote for a one-week strike opposing the hike so we can all live happily ever after.”

This patronizing bullshit would only be acceptable on a few conditions. First, if Seidman wasn’t the newspaper’s university reporter specifically responsible for news coverage concerning university issues. It’s kind of tough to keep working a beat you so openly condemn though, isn’t it? It certainly should be.

Second, if it wasn’t published as news. The article was changed online to the opinions section after a day or two without explanation. Classy.

This isn’t to say that The Gazette hasn’t published a few decent articles on the issue, but even a provincial Ministry of Education spokesperson admitted to *OpenFile Montreal* that the media hasn’t exactly been asking the tough questions or getting to the bottom of this budget.

Perhaps Seidman should get the facts first, and leave the

opinion writing for when the Ministry finally explains how and why they need to spend more student money.

Unfortunately, Seidman is not alone. This trend of highly biased reporting runs deep into the mainstream media.

CTV’s Executive Producer Barry Wilson published an article on the CTV website titled “Postscript: Citizen Protest Succeeds, Student Protest Will Not,” following the recent student demonstration in which a small group of protesters blocked the Jacques-Cartier Bridge.

Wilson concludes his piece with a “memo” to students, “Give it up. You will not win, and no one really cares about student strikes over fees.”

No one? There are currently about 100,000 students on strike in Quebec, with more set to vote this week. The Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association just published a letter in support of striking students. Who is “no one,” exactly?

After leaning on the “lowest tuition in Canada” crutch, regurgitating that “iPhones cost more,” and asking that we all find jobs, Wilson wraps up this fine piece of work with a little backhanded sympathy.

“It would indeed be wonderful if we could provide free university for all. And perhaps

milk and cookies at recess, but we cannot. Someone has to pay,” he wrote.

In his defense, the article was published as an opinion. However, an ignorant and poorly written opinion from the Executive Producer of CTV Montreal, based on very little facts and a whole lot of baby-boomer angst, is a little unsettling.

There is a growing concern over the quality of coverage on this issue, and with good reason.

This is not good journalism. This is not honest, thorough, or balanced. Worst of all, this kind of reporting leads only to the misinformation of the public on an issue that is already so convoluted.

I’m not asking that everyone side with the students.

But before we scoff and dismiss the movement entirely, we need to offer both sides of the argument equally, dig deeper into the issue and ask the right questions to the right people.

As a concerned member of the media myself, I implore my colleagues to challenge themselves. Seek out better reporters, if it’s necessary. Do what you have to do, but we need to uphold a standard of professionalism before this gets out of hand.

We can do better.



Are You Experienced?

My current lover has had a lot of sexual partners before me. I, on the other hand, have only had sex with a handful of people. Every time I am pleasuring my partner I can't help but feel super self-conscious about everything I do because of the experience disparity. I really want my partner to think I'm the bomb, though! Help?

—Number Problems

It can be really easy to feel self-conscious when taking on the role of pleasuring your partner, since it involves putting yourself out there. It can also become somewhat of a vicious cycle because it's hard to feel confident if you're not feeling sexy, and hard to feel sexy if you're not feeling confident...

I want to start by saying that "a lot of partners" doesn't necessarily translate into a lot of good partners. I'm not sure what qualifies as "a lot" but I'm going to assume that includes some hookups and one-night stands, which aren't exactly situations where people are invested in working on their partner's pleasure.

That aside, this problem isn't really about how many people your partner has had but how you react to it. If you want your partner to think you're the bomb, you have to first find out what they think is the bomb!

We all want to think we're great in bed, but what might be great with one person could be the hugest turnoff to the next, so you never really know.

People who are considered good in bed are usually really good at communicating—either with words or nonverbally through body language. If you're paying attention, you can usually tell if someone really isn't enjoying something, but you also can't read your partner's mind, so if you're unsure, just ask.

Asking can be intimidating but it's all about *how* you ask. I'm not sure what the nature of the relationship is—whether it's completely casual, open, or monogamous—but that will also determine how much you want to invest in this process and what approach you want to take.

I suggest incorporating the question into your sex life since it tends to feel less awkward than sitting down to talk about it.

You can use dirty talk as a method, and ask your partner if they like something as you're doing it, or get them to talk about what they'd like to do with you or to you.

You can even frame it as a treat for them by saying it's all about them this time and that you want to be directed and told what to do. After just one time you should be able to get some idea of what they're looking for.

If all else fails, suck it up and ask directly.

Part of this all relies on your partner's honesty with you and there's only so much you can do there. If you show that you're open to feedback they'll be a lot more likely to feel like they can give it without hurting your feelings. Once that line of communication is opened you'll both feel a lot more comfortable asking for and getting what you want.

On that note, don't forget to get what you want, too, because this isn't only about whether or not they're satisfied. If you obsess too much over their past sexual partners you might just forget to have fun!

(Oh—and, however unromantic it seems, get an STI test, because you've now had sex with a lot of people by proxy!)

—Melissa Fuller

Send questions to sexpancakes.thelink@gmail.com and check out "Sex & Pancakes" on Facebook.

Bent Out of Shape



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

The New York Times and the Great Yoga Controversy

• EMMA CRAIG

Yoga rode into the lives of Westerners on a tidal wave of Lululemon pants and *Namastes* on Starbucks cups.

Like most endearing and exotic things, yoga became one of the trendier activities in North America, and rave reviews of the benefits followed.

While there have been some criticisms, warning practitioners of potential injuries or unfit teachers, the yoga practice itself hardly received any negative feedback. That is, until William Broad, a senior writer at *The New York Times*, stepped onto the scene.

This past week, Broad wrote "Yoga Fans Sexual Flames and, Predictably, Plenty of Scandal" in the *NYT*. He has also penned a book, *The Science of Yoga: The Risks and Rewards*, which, among other things, makes the claim that yoga could kill you, which caused a stir when it was released in January.

In what now appears to be a smear campaign against yoga, Broad holds a yoga injury he suffered in 2007 as the root of his disillusionment. The epilogue of his book, however, makes it clear that he's in favour of government regulation and medicalization of the practice. Perhaps this explains his public vendetta; public fear over health risks and sex scandals could lead to calls for regulation.

His latest piece addresses the recent stepping down of John

Friend, the founder of Anusara Yoga, amidst allegations of sexual relationships with fellow teachers. Broad writes that such sexual dalliances in yoga are not surprising and that "yoga teachers and how-to books seldom mention that the discipline began as a sex cult."

Well, they probably don't mention it because it's not true.

Broad's piece about yoga and Tantra is so ignorant, poorly researched, and sensationalized, it could be a joke.

He warns readers about the libido-raising effects of yoga, and how it "[produces] so many philterers." He makes all yoga practitioners seem like innocent lambs, wandering into the evil tantric clutches of yoga and its "enlightened facade" or "pretexts of spirituality."

Accusing ascetic Indian men of devising stretches to make people orgasm, Broad warns you might emerge from your weekly yoga class a sex fiend.

He mentions three sex scandals in the yoga community concerning Swamis (Hindu male religious teachers) and presents these stories as hard evidence, not as rare occurrences. Broad spins a web and capitalizes on the most deviant facets of a religious school for shock value, making the practice appear like a trick rather than spiritual Indian tradition.

But it is a spiritual practice that rose out of Eastern religion, and Westerners certainly don't need to be any more bigoted and ignorant

of other cultures than we already are.

Yoga originated in Tantric Shaivism, a Hindu sect centered on the deity Shiva, and the *Shiva* Tantras create the framework for Hatha Yoga teachings. The texts from which yoga emerged were ascetic texts, making sex irrelevant in the first place.

Although this sect of Tantra is known for more sensational varieties of practice, there are a plethora of rituals and practices. Sex rites were performed infrequently, only in fringe communities, and compose a small fraction of many rituals intending to enlighten.

Rituals were more likely to center on mandalas than vaginas.

Furthermore, any sex rites performed were done with the intention of awakening, not pleasure or orgasm. Orgasm was rarely a goal, and the practitioners did not "[seek] to fuse the male and female aspects" as Broad claims—they sought realization of unity and an existing fusion between self and other.

Broad ends on a sympathetic note, lamenting that if only "students and teachers knew more about what Hatha can do, and what it was designed to do."

Maybe if he had picked up one academic text on the topic of Tantric Hinduism, instead of "Cosmo's Top 20 (Culturally Misappropriated) Sex Tips", Broad would know what it was designed to do.

Wet & Wild

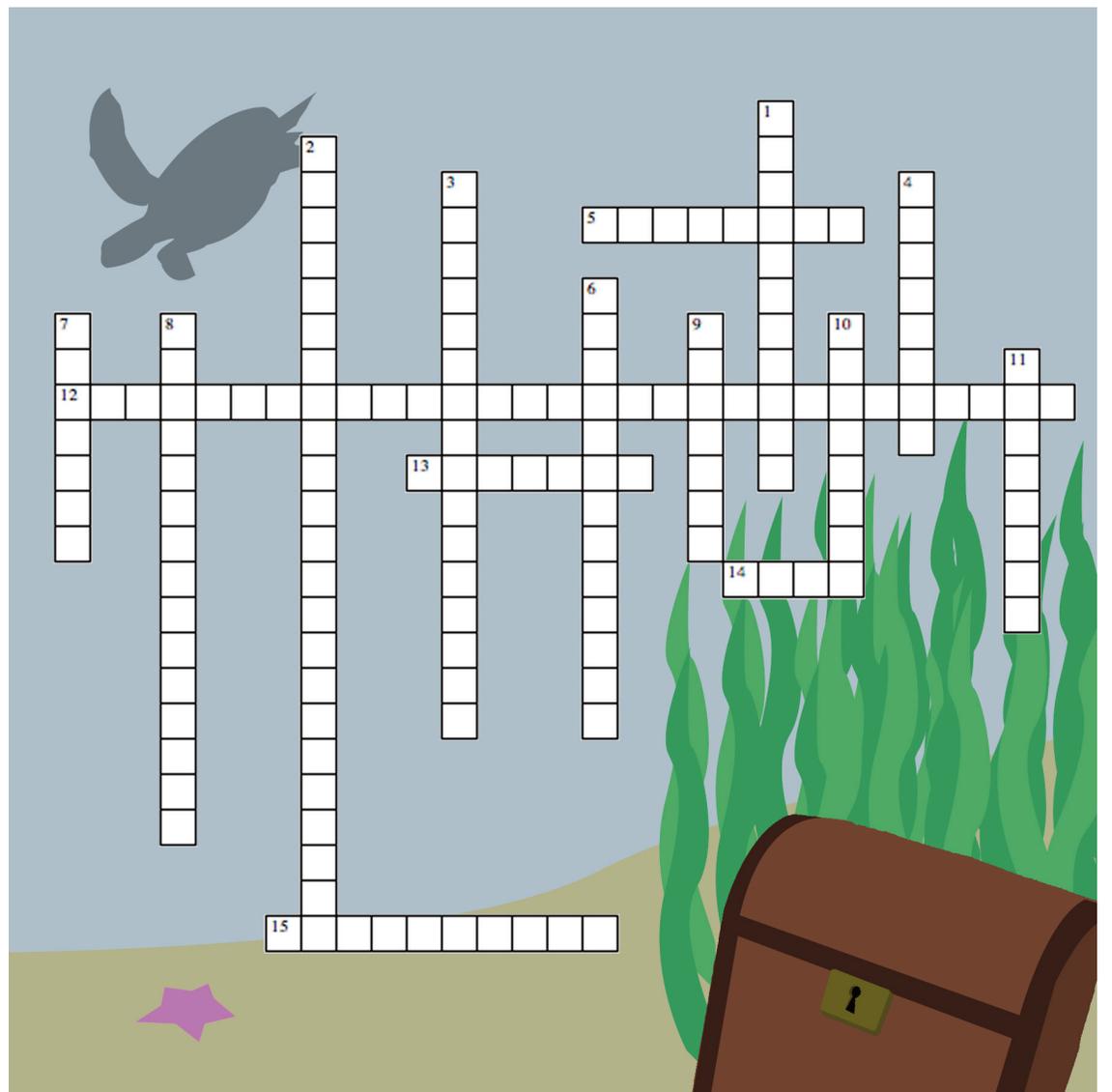
ACROSS

- 5. This Greek god is the lord of the seas and horses. He's known for his three-pronged fishing spear called a trident.
- 12. Due to licensing issues, Adidas never produced the awesome shoes that the crew of the *Belafonte* sported in this Wes Anderson adventure film. (6 words)
- 13. This gas giant, whose seasons last 40 years, is named after the Roman version of 5-Across.
- 14. Peter Benchley, the author of the novel that this '70s blockbuster was based on, said he would never have written it had he known how sharks actually behaved in the wild.
- 15. This 1995 film starring Kevin Costner is set in a dystopian future, where the ice caps have melted—maybe not so sci-fi, after all.

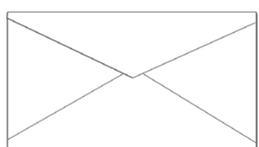
DOWN

- 1. The demand for clownfish skyrocketed after the release of this Pixar film. Ironic, considering that the whole movie is about a little fish trying to escape captivity. (2 words)
- 2. This Jules Verne classic has had a lasting influence on the sci-fi genre since it was first published in 1870. (5 words)
- 3. Ariel may have married the

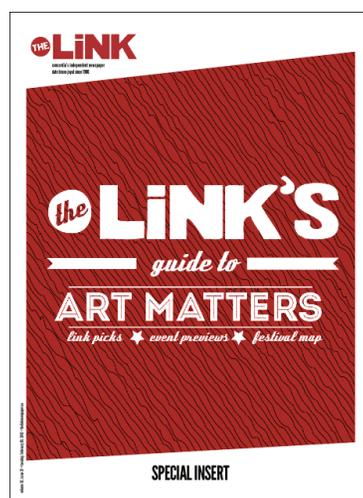
- prince and lived happily ever after in the Disney version of this tale, but in the Hans Christian Andersen version, she throws herself into the sea and dissolves into foam. Ah, romance! (3 words)
- 4. This infamous island sank to the bottom of the sea in "a single day and night of misfortune." Sounds like the average Concordia student's study habits.
- 6. This aquatic landmark is almost 11 km under the surface of the ocean, so deep that the pressure is 1,000 times as strong as it is at sea level. (2 words)
- 7. The year 2012 marks the 100-year anniversary of this deadly maritime disaster. And in memoriam, the film of the same name will be re-released in 3-D. Because James Cameron needs more of your money.
- 8. The Beatles would have you believe that they all live in this canary contraption. (2 words)
- 9. This '80s naval flick gets its name from the German word for 'boat'—it has nothing to do with winter footwear. (2 words)
- 10. This 1989 film portrays a diving team, searching for a nuclear submarine, who later find creepy aquatic aliens! (2 words)
- 11. This great American classic follows a vengeful sea captain on the hunt for a ferocious sperm whale. (2 words)



BY CHRISTOPHER TAN



LETTERS@THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA



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

GSA GA March 6

Dear Graduate Students,
At the moment, around 100,000 students are on strike in Quebec to defend accessible post-secondary education. Will graduate students at Concordia join them? That's up to you.
On March 6, at 12:00 p.m. in room H-110 of the Hall Building, the Graduate Students' Association will hold a General Assembly to vote on whether to join the student strike, and if so whether to join the Coalition large de l'association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante, a Quebec-wide student organization formed to coordinate the strike among different student unions.
Information will also be available for international students and students who are not taking classes.
Many graduates are also organizing info sessions and strike votes at the departmental level. If you'd

like to be one of them, contact info@gsaconcordia.ca.

—Holly Nazar
GSA Senator

Caroline Bourbonnière for ASFA President

Having known Caroline Bourbonnière since her first year at Concordia University, I can say (without reservation or fear of contradiction) that she is community-oriented, hard-working, a passionate advocate and one of the brightest Concordia students I have come across.
Caro is an exceptionally charismatic individual whose strength is her teamwork ability, whether she is in a classroom group setting, on the Arts Science Federation of Associations' communications committee, or acting as the VP of the Political Science Students' Association—an association that repre-

sents one of Concordia's largest (and most diverse) faculties.
Additionally, she has reached beyond her own department and has established a good working relationship with other faculties, such as the John Molson School of Business.
Furthermore, Caro is a highly effective advocate.
Whether her advocacy work is geared towards fighting to keep the tuition freeze or her role as the current president of Volunteers in Action, she has excelled in these roles with passion, superior organizational skills, teambuilding, and a diplomatic personality that leaves none offended in the wake of a decision that may not be unanimous.
With Caroline's extensive experience numerous student organizations, philanthropic endeavors, and academic projects, I fully believe that she is the clear choice for the next president of ASFA.

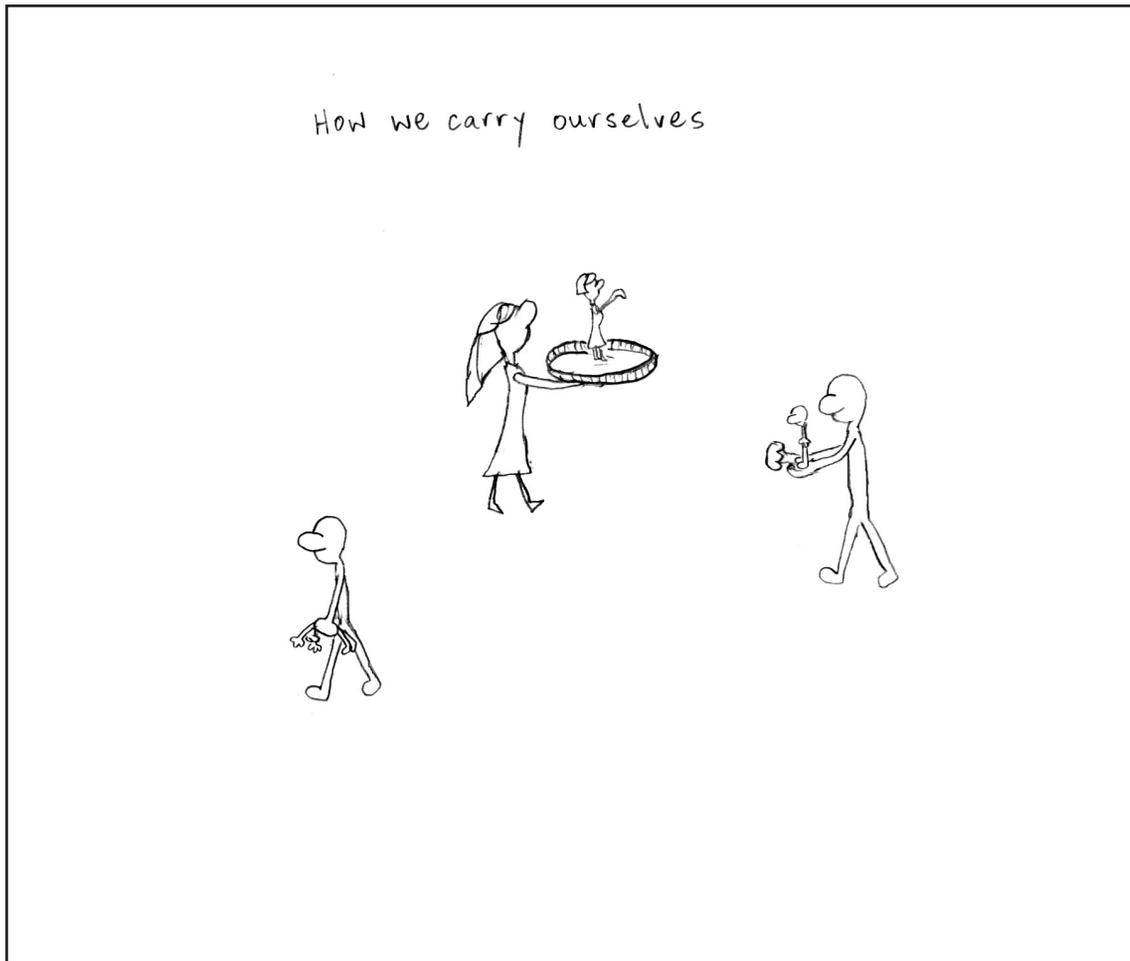
A student representative needs to possess unquestionable integrity, diplomacy, tact, teambuilding ability, a fiery passion, and a very capable mind. Caroline Bourbonnière is as close to an ideal type as you are likely to see.
—Brent Thomas Gerchicoff
MA Political Science
GSA VP External

Vote Caroline Bourbonnière

Hardworking and intelligent, this girl will run the Concordia ship like a pro with no question of leaving it (unlike a certain incident involving an Italian island and a boat).
She cuts the crap and is as honest as one can be. Sensitive and an amazing listener, she will be there to make Concordia a much more interesting and lively place!
Vote, vote, vote!
—Amina Joobar
BA Political Science

Barton Flats

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



Tremendous Tales

by Christopher Olson



With the bees no longer on his side, Anthony's hopes of rescue rested, unfortunately, with the common garden weevil.

False Knees

COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN

WAITED MONTHS TO BIRTH THAT PUN-BABY



Nah'msayin?

A How-To for Using the Stairs

It came to my attention last week, in the wake of the tragic death of the escalators in the Hall Building (*requiescat in pace*) that a certain number of Concordia students don't know how to use a pretty basic, time-honoured human invention—the stairs.

I know it seems pretty pathetic, but the truth is that going to class in the Hall has now become a commando mission: bet on a staircase, take it, dodge the self-centred clue-o-phobe speaking on the phone in the middle of the stairs, reach the door, and if you survive, arrive to class two minutes late, a sweaty, heart-pounding mess.

For those who were absent when they were handing out brains at birth, here are a couple of ground rules, if you will, regarding stair use:

Put one leg in front of the other. Walk upwards, or downwards, depending on where you're going. Those steps are pretty easy to master.

Here's where it gets tricky, however: often, there are people besides you running through the same insane rat maze, frantic looks on their faces. So:

Stay to the right, as per North American transport convention, so people can go both up and down at the same time and whatever you do, for God's sake, don't stop in the middle of the stairs.

For Canadian students, it may help to think of it like hockey: stopping in the middle of the stairs is like trying to cross the blue line with your head down—only the ice surface is a few floors away.

You're going to get hit and the commentators are going to tell the audience that it was your fault for not paying attention the '6'4" member of the Stingers wrestling team coming down the stairs one flight at a time. (We should probably be wearing helmets.)

Not to mention, headwear could protect us from other dropping things—in the case of the Hall Building, hefty chunks of asbestos.

So remember: hurry up, stick right, keep moving and you may make it out alive! Good luck, because next week, I'll be discussing the tricky "two-at-a-time" stair-climbing method for the more ambitious among you.

—"Pierre Poutine" Chauvin
Community Editor



GRAPHIC JOSHUA BARKMAN

editorial

STRIKE!

There are many reasons that over 120,000 students have already taken to the streets.

Starting this September, tuition will be increased by \$325 per year for five years—resulting in a 75 per cent increase in fees for students. Out-of-province and international students could potentially be hit even harder depending on the amount Concordia University choses to raise fees by.

Many argue that the hikes are justified because our schools are in dire need of funding. Our schools needing money is not in doubt. What is in doubt, however, is whether this increase will even have a chance at positively affecting students and the universities as a whole.

We think not.

The most popular claim for tuition increase supporters is that Quebec has the lowest tuition in Canada. It's partly true, but those arguments ignore the fact that Quebec residents are the highest taxed people in North America. Jean Charest simply cannot have his cake and eat ours too.

An interesting observation is that, while the government seems hard-up for cash, taxes on corporations have been in steady decline. From 2006 to 2011, \$890 million in business capital taxes were

phased out—that's over \$600 million more than the amount tuition hikes will rake in.

Not surprisingly, Charest's government has about as much foresight as a goldfish. In September, the government's Advisory Committee on the Financial Accessibility of Education released a report calling the hikes a "five-year experiment," recognizing the increase could overwhelm an already overburdened student financial aid program.

On top of all this, we're being asked to pay into a government that is infamous for its corruption. Public inquiries have even been set up to look into industries ranging from construction right down to public daycare. Why would students throw more money at an obviously broken government?

Like Quebec, Concordia University is also rife with corruption and prone to mismanagement of public funds.

The administration likes to claim the school is underfunded, but in one year alone they managed to spend upwards of \$2.4 million on padded severances packages—and that number doesn't even include the \$700,000-plus awarded to former president Judith Woodsworth and the \$1.3 million to her predecessor

JEAN CHAREST SIMPLY CANNOT HAVE HIS CAKE AND EAT OURS TOO.

Claude Lajeunesse, both of whom didn't even make it past the half-way mark of their terms.

And let's not forget the \$1.4 million interest-free loan to cover the cost of current ConU president Frederick Lowy's condo. Underfunded indeed.

The most mind-boggling misconception of them all, though, is that tuition hikes are an unavoidable reality. A quick look at the map shows that Canada exists on the same planet as Norway, Scotland, Sweden and Brazil—all of which have free or socially funded universities.

The University of Buenos Aires is free—even for foreigners—and Danes enjoy not just free education, but a monthly stipend from the state to help them focus on school. All this proves is that it can be done—but it's not even what we're asking for.

In the past two years, students have written letters to ministers, organized sit-ins, sleep-ins, occupations and

marches. Finally, frustrated by a political party unwilling to engage in dialogue or even listen, tens of thousands of students across Quebec are now on strike.

At Concordia, seven student associations are on strike so far, representing over 8,000 students. The rest of the 46,000-person student body—including both undergraduate and graduate students—have the opportunity this week to go on strike as well.

A vote is being held today for all graduate students and tomorrow for all undergraduate students.

The result of these votes will have an important effect on the success of the strikes in 2012, since, in the 44-year history of the student movement. The two strikes that failed were the direct result of a divided movement.

The strikes of 1968, 1974, 1978, 1986, 1996 and 2005, however, were successful because the students were united in their determination to defeat the government.

This year is no different—so long as you're in the fight. A province-wide united student body is a formidable political force, but if we let this one pass, it will set a precedent for more hikes to come.

IN SOLIDARITY,

— The Link's editorial board

Corrections

In Issue 22, Volume 32 *The Link* reported that the Simone de Beauvoir Institute did much of the planning for Womans Month, however Volunteers in Action actually spearheaded the event. *The Link* regrets the error.

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