



This is Not a Student Protest • Page 23

Vindicated Candidates

JB Reinstates Laforest, Gallardo for CSU Election



• ADAM KOVAC

Two heads, as they say, are better than one.

In that spirit, students will have more choices than expected when they vote in this year's Concordia Student Union general election, as the CSU Judicial Board voted to reinstate *A Better Concordia* presidential candidate Schubert Laforest and VP Academic and Advocacy candidate Lucia Gallardo on March 16.

"We're happy," Laforest told *The Link* after the hearing. "We're happy that we've finally been officially reinstated, so we're not in this awkward grey zone of worrying about whether we can campaign."

Gallardo and Laforest had been disqualified by CSU Chief Electoral Officer Ismail Holoubi on March 5, though the disqualifications were only made public on March 10.

In an email to *The Link* on that day, Holoubi stated that the two, as well as Council hopeful Ulyana Stefashkina, were not eligible to run, due to not being registered students at Concordia.

Stefashkina did not appeal the

ruling against her.

After nearly a week of confusion over the issue, the decision by the JB was reached quickly.

"We didn't receive any evidence that they were not students from the respondent," said JB member Shannon Thomas.

Both Laforest and Gallardo attributed their disqualifications to bad timing and confusion with paperwork over their visa status in Canada.

"I had an [old visa], and then I got a new one, but it hadn't been fully processed yet," said Laforest. "Therefore Student Accounts put a block on my account. Once I got proof that that document existed, there was an issue with my loans not coming in, [which caused me to pay my tuition late]."

In Gallardo's instance, she said she had two visas, both of which were valid. When the Dean of Students office checked on her status, the paperwork had not yet been refilled with the information from the right one.

"I have two visas, and they overlap. One of them expires in June, and the other one starts in March. They wanted the long-term visa, which goes from March

[2012] to March 2017, which is the one they wanted on record," she said.

Gallardo had submitted the visa information on Sunday, while the verification took place on Monday.

"It took me by surprise, but at the same time, it's part of being an international student and I think this has helped raise awareness of international student situation, so I'm actually kind of happy in a way that it happened."

While Gallardo thought that the issue had hurt the *A Better Concordia* team's campaign effort, Laforest said that it wasn't yet clear if the issue had hurt their chances.

"I personally feel like it hurt, because I wasn't able to go full-force and campaign like I would have liked to, and neither has Lucia," he said.

"However, we did get a lot of recognition as to what actually happened to us, and the story got out there and got people more interested in what was going on in the elections."

Though the reinstatement is official, the JB has yet to issue its full written decision. Thomas said

the document will include recommendations for the future.

"[We'll be recommending that] people be more aware of their student status," she said.

"I know that people don't check their MyConcordia portal every minute of the day [...] I know it's tough to check every two minutes on your visa, but the recommendation is just for people running for important positions in the future to keep abreast of their situations."

While the JB hearing got heated on several occasions, with Gallardo at one point accusing Holoubi of "smearing" her character while questioning her on the chronology of events, both candidates expressed confidence that it will not affect Holoubi's ability to run the election.

"I think the CEO is still on top of these things," said Laforest. "He may have been offended by the decision, but at the end of the day, he's doing his job and I think that he will just continue to do that and whatever his personal feelings are won't get in the way of administrating this election."

Holoubi did not respond to *The Link's* emails by press time.

"It hurt, because I wasn't able to go full-force and campaign like I would have liked to,"

—Schubert Laforest

CSU presidential candidate

KNOW YOUR REPS:



A BETTER CONCORDIA

LUCIA GALLARDO, VP ACADEMIC & ADVOCACY

A Honduran native, Lucia Gallardo has spent time at various academic institutions throughout North America, including Princeton.

Though she has not held political office at Concordia, she has been involved in such clubs as the Latin American Students Organization and Concordia's chapter of the group Humanitarian Affairs.

"Politics has always been more like, I'm interested, but from afar," she said. "You can't spend all your time criticizing the political system and not wanting to jump in, so that's what got me to run."

She would like to make it easier for students to access financial aid through a multi-pronged approach.

"I think it's something that is really a problem at Concordia. I want to centralize all the grants and bursaries that are available, because there are so many that students don't know exist. One of the other things we want to work on is using student life to increase the amount of bursaries that the CSU offers," including using revenue from cultural nights to fund those bursaries.

One of her initiatives is to establish a sexual assault centre on campus, a project that has been talked about, but has gained little traction with the administration. Gallardo said she would like to work closely with the 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy to push the project along.

"I think it needs momentum, and the CSU can provide that with all the resources it has available. The policy needs to be made better, and there needs to be training for security officers and counselors."

—Adam Kovac

SIMON-PIERRE LAUZON, VP EXTERNAL & MOBILIZATION

Already having had the privilege of being an Arts and Science Federation of Associations Councillor this year, Simon-Pierre Lauzon says he is running for VP External and Mobilization because he believes "the world is not going in the right direction, and as far as I see, there's a job to do, and I have the ability to do it."

A fifth-year Concordia student currently completing a second BA in political science after already completing one in psychology, he has been involved with the policy and external committee, as well as being involved with the anti-tuition campaign since last June.

"I'm not blindly ideological. I'm concerned with facts, and good facts, and objective facts to back up what we're doing," he said.

Having also been involved with a number of national student associations at Concordia, Lauzon added that he brings a great level of passion, creativity and ambitious ideas to his work.

"I'm a very energetic guy; I've sacrificed a lot for the activism of this school," he says. "I think we can do a lot with it, and I want to go forward. I want to bring activism to the next step."

—David MacIntyre

ANDREW ROBERTS, VP SUSTAINABILITY

Andrew Roberts is an environmental sciences student who wants to improve the sustainability of all aspects of Concordia. A man who lives what he preaches, Roberts wants to change the dialogue on sustainability on campus. This past year he served as president of the Geography Undergraduate Student Society.

"I feel like I'm in a really good position to give back to the school and I saw this as a great opportunity to make some good stuff happen at this school," he said.

If elected, he said he will work to bring together the various environmental groups on campus in order to achieve the greatest amount of perspective to make Concordia as sustainable as it can be.

Another plan of Roberts' is to work with faculty and students to create research projects that further sustainability efforts on campus and court for credit for students.

He will also be continuing negotiations with the Société de transport de Montréal in order to have a further-reduced transit fare available for students.

Finally, he also wants to "bump up the literacy" at Concordia by holding info sessions and getting

people talking about what sustainability can mean, both on campus and in everyday life.

—Julian Ward

KENNY TOTO, VP FINANCE

In his second year at Concordia, Kenny Toto is working on a degree in business administration. The current co-president of the Concordia International Students Association, he promised that as VP Finance, he would make the CSU's finances more transparent by making quarterly financial reports available to students.

"Instead of releasing reports at the end of the year, I would like to do it on a quarterly basis so students could know exactly where their money is going, so they could criticize and make suggestions," he said.

While the CSU's profit-making wing, CUSACorp, is notorious for running deficits because of the operations of Reggie's Bar, Toto said he has a few ideas for how to reduce that number.

"There's a lot of research that needs to be done, but in my opinion and from the people that I spoke to who were directors of CUSACorp, they tell me it's a management issue," he said.

"You have people getting free drinks and coat check. [...] I also think Reggie's isn't well advertised, they aren't really present on social networks, and you don't see much posters for events.

"We'd like to encourage associations to have events inside Reggie's," adding that he'd like to see the bar host events during June's Euro Cup soccer tournament.

—Adam Kovac

STEFAN FAINA, VP LOYOLA

A fifth-year psychology student, Stefan Faina has lived a bit of a globetrotter's life, having been born in Romania, and lived in Switzerland and Toronto. Perhaps that pedigree is why he is running to be VP for the Concordia version of a trip abroad—the Loyola campus.

His ideas for Loyola include taking what has become the campus'

marquee event over the past two years, the orientation week concert, and making a similar event in a Loyola music festival, with the help of corporate sponsorship.

"I want to get local bands, but also something special, so there might be a big name coming to Loyola," he said.

"Two years ago, during the 2010 Winter Olympics, they had a winter festival called Loyola on Ice. In the quad, they had a bunch of winter-themed events like ice sculpting, *cabane à sucre*-type activities for all Loyola students who wanted to take part."

The current president of the Concordia Undergraduate Psychology Association would also like to see an expansion of the People's Potato-esque Loyola Luncheon.

"I want to create more diverse recipes, bringing in different ingredients to make people have more of a choice. It's still in the formative stage, but I would like to bring that food to more places on campus."

—Adam Kovac

ALEXIS SUZUKI, VP STUDENT LIFE

With first-hand experience gained in organizing events at Concordia, as well as having taken on the social portfolio as VP Communications at the Arts and Science Federation of Associations, Alexis Suzuki knows a bit about being VP Student Life.

The art history and studio arts major said taking on such a role has helped her understand both the social and student life portfolio, not only in terms of planning, but also how to work within a budget.

"You have to plan all your events; it's not just about one event that comes up," said Suzuki. "You have to plan out your whole year. You really have to be conscious of everything that you're going to want to do throughout the year, and whether or not it's feasible."

After having run for the ASFA exec this year, Suzuki said that being involved in these elections can "enhance your university experience exponentially," and

called herself a passionate, understanding, and approachable candidate.

"I really try to listen to the needs and wants of students. I think that being an approachable student leader is extremely important," she said.

"I feel that people really need to be able to feel comfortable if they have any questions or concerns or ideas, and that a student leader really needs to be receptive to the ideas and needs and wants of the people they're representing."

—David MacIntyre

NADINE ATTALLAH, VP CLUBS & INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Nadine Attallah is an independent student at Concordia who wants to strengthen what she considers a fundamental part of this university in her bid as *A Better Concordia's* VP Clubs and Internal Affairs.

"I find that clubs are really the backbone of student life," said Attallah. "It's really a nurturing experience that all students should have."

"Students that aren't members of clubs are really missing out on experiences that are really incredible and unique. Student life is about more than just going to class, drinking coffee and going back home."

Attallah sat on Council throughout this year as an independent student representative, while sitting on the policy committee and the equity committee.

A few of her major platform points include more presence for student clubs, workshops for club executives, and a more direct democracy in student politics in the form of regular general assemblies, and referendums for things like strike votes.

In the next few months Attallah plans to continue communication with clubs and prepare for the next year.

"I think the most important thing will be to constantly reach out to these clubs, and to different services for students on campus and find out what it is they want from me next year, and how can I be an effective VP."

—Corey Pool

A WHO'S-WHO OF CSU EXECUTIVE CANDIDATES



CONCORDIA COULD BE

STÉPHANIE BEAUREGARD, VP FINANCE

Using her experience in finance and management, Concordia Student Union VP Finance candidate Stéphanie Beauregard wants to make Reggie's Bar profitable.

"Being a regular, I feel as though I have a good understanding of how the bar functions," said Beauregard.

She said she has already done preliminary research and looked over Concordia's rules and regulations on Reggie's.

Beauregard said she wants the union's decisions to be based on research and that students need to be "properly informed and encouraged to get involved."

Her job experience includes bookkeeping and accounting. She also worked as a project manager for Crystal Math Music Group for touring bands, such as Metric, The Envy and The Midway State.

Beauregard is currently registered as a sociology student, but she wants to switch over to Management at John Molson School of Business, after two years of taking courses there—enjoying accounting above all.

Currently sitting on the CSU's Events Committee, she makes it a point to attend as many campus events as possible.

—Brian Lapuz

JONATHAN BRAZILLER, VP LOYOLA

Jonathan Braziller wants to represent you at Loyola as part of *Concordia Could Be*. He gained experience for the job as co-president of the Applied Human Sciences Student Association—a position in which he says he "learned the true importance of collaboration and accessibility."

"As a student taking five courses, working 20-30 hours a week and being a part of my student association, I bring to the table a real understanding of what it is to be a part of a true student experience," he said.

If elected VP Loyola, Braziller plans to grow the CSU presence at

Loyola. This means giving students improved access to the Housing and Job Bank, the CSU Legal Info Clinic and the CSU Advocacy Centre. He also wants to improve the Loyola Luncheon, the Loyola version of the People's Potato.

The key to achieving these goals, he said, is to establish a fully functioning CSU office at Loyola so that more services available downtown are available to all students, regardless of which campus they frequent.

"I believe I embody all [that is needed for the job], and therefore I know deep down what Concordia could be!" he said.

—Julian Ward

CAMERON MONAGLE, VP EXTERNAL & MOBILIZATION

After successfully winning a place on the CSU Council last year, VP External and Mobilization candidate Cameron Monagle said he knows how the union is run, and what aspects of it can be improved.

"The CSU has a history of not being very well-managed and well-run, and I just think it's really important that we get really good and strong people who will do a great job running it next year, because students deserve to have an efficiently and effectively managed union," he says.

Originally hailing from the United States, the History major/French minor brings to the table a number of assets through his involvement on campus.

Thus far, he has helped organize the Alternative Spring Break program, worked and lived in the Hingston Hall residence, and been involved with Concordia's Mob Squad, in addition to his role with the student union and Board of Governors.

"Sitting on the CSU Council, I've sort of seen a lot more about how the CSU is run, and it's something that I'm really passionate about," said Monagle.

"I believe that the CSU has an incredible role that it can play for improving student life and I think

that, moving forward, it's really important that we have a CSU that represents students better and that is more accessible to students."

—David MacIntyre

LINA SAIGOL, VP STUDENT LIFE

Having already experienced life on the CSU after winning a seat in last year's election, Lina Saigol knows a thing or two about how the student union works, as well as how things can be improved for next year, should she win VP Student Life.

"I believe that the CSU has to be a more supportive element to associations on campus," she said.

"Having worked on the committee this year, I have that aspect of being able to see how the CSU should be planning things, and that to me is a very supportive role, not trying to take the role of a leadership away from associations or member associations or group that knows its constituents so well."

Originally from Islamabad, Pakistan, the political science major and self-proclaimed "sports fiend" is in her fourth year and says one of the reasons she is running is because of how the CSU can bring students together.

"I've always really loved that idea of having the social aspect in something like the union or an association, because it's such a great way to get the word out that people are there," she said.

"It's such a good way to get exposure and really does link students together, and that's something I really love to see."

—David MacIntyre

CHUCK WILSON, VP ACADEMIC & ADVOCACY

Chuck Wilson, Concordia Student Union VP Academic and Advocacy hopeful, said he's "really interested in academics" and referred to himself as a "nerd" because of it.

"I love talking about educational policy both with students and with faculty," said Wilson.

Currently sitting on Senate, Wilson said issues related to academics are on the CSU's backburner.

"I'm really passionate about education," Wilson said. "I really want to see it play a big part in the student union's existence."

His criticisms also extend to the CSU's representation and decisions. According to Wilson, most engineering and computer science, as well as John Molson School of Business students, "feel completely alienated" from the CSU.

"Too often their campaigns and rhetoric are solely focused on Arts and Science and Fine Arts students, leaving everyone else feeling completely uninformed," said the engineering and computer science student. "I think that's simply unacceptable."

Having worked for Concordia's Instructional & Information Technology Services, Wilson said his understanding of learning technologies would be an asset for the union.

"Working for IITS has also given me an insight into what professors and students are looking to get from classroom teaching technology," he said.

—Brian Lapuz

MUSEB N. ABU THURAIYA, VP CLUBS & INTERNAL AFFAIRS

As the current president of the Muslim Students Association, Museb N. Abu Thuraia feels he has a good grip on what clubs at Concordia really need.

"I know what it is to be a club at Concordia, and I know a lot goes into managing these clubs, but at the same time I know there are deficiencies within the system," said Abu Thuraia.

One of the main problems he plans to address is that of collaboration and communication between clubs.

"It was really not feasible at all

to collaborate with other clubs, given that communication between clubs was very minimal, and even knowledge of other clubs on campus was limited," said Abu Thuraia.

As a JMSB student majoring in marketing, he also feels that he has an advantage in helping promote clubs and bridging the gaps between club and student.

"My education being marketing gives me an edge in terms of promotions of clubs and marketing different clubs to students and reaching out to people," he said.

"I'm not in this for dirty politics or the games. I'm here to serve the students and I think I can do a decent job given my experience and my studies."

—Corey Pool

IAIN MEYER-MACAULAY, VP SUSTAINABILITY

As a current member of the Sustainable Action Fund's Board of Directors, Fine Arts Student Alliance Councillor Iain Meyer-Macaulay feels ready to take on the portfolio of VP Sustainability.

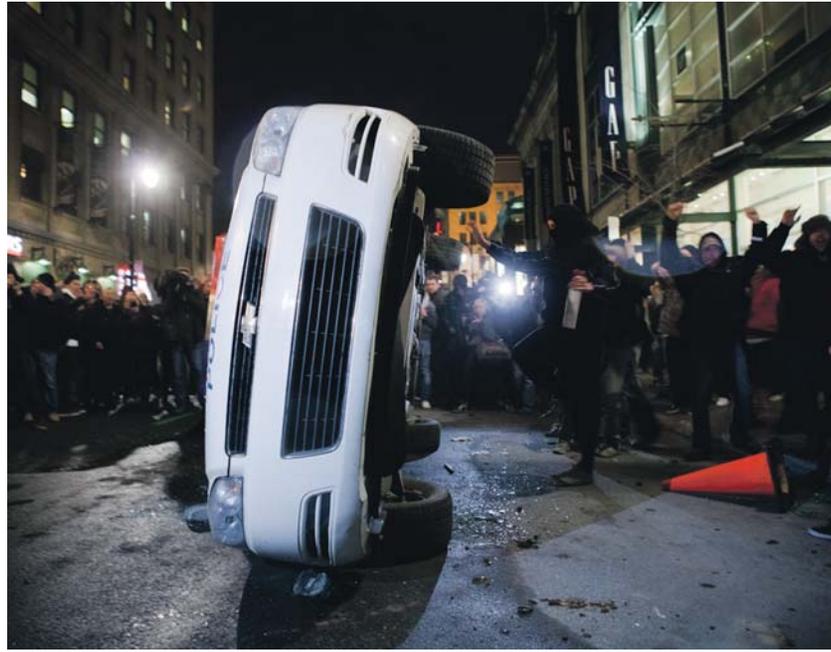
"I was interested in doing the sustainability portfolio because I knew there was a lot of good that could be done there and I wanted to give it a good shot," said Meyer-Macaulay. "I thought if I could take this role I could be a sort of liaison between the people looking for help and the information that they needed."

Meyer-Macaulay said he's gained a lot of experience in his time as a CSU Councillor, and has a good vision for how changes could be made from an executive standpoint.

"It really comes down to the triple bottom line of 'people, planet, profit,' and trying to make sure that the things that we engage in, as well as the way that we act, really have to take into consideration the effect that we have on the planet in terms of waste and ecological impact," said Meyer-Macaulay.

—Corey Pool

INSANITY IN IMAGES



- A riot cop guards the kettle on the intersection of Berri St. and de Maisonneuve Blvd.
- Rioters overturn a police car in front of the Eaton Centre on St. Catherine St W.
- A protester raises a sign after the march was declared illegal.
- A protester stands atop the overturned police car.
- Masked faces were in abundance during the march and subsequent riot.
- Police checking bags at the entrance to Berri-UQAM metro station. Without consent or probable cause, police are not permitted to search personal belongings.
- Rioters leap on top of a police cruiser, minutes before it was overturned.



[CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT] PHOTO ERIN SPARKS, PHOTO RODRIGO LOZADA, PHOTO VINCENT YIP, PHOTO SAM SLOTNICK, PHOTO DYLAN MALONEY, PHOTO ERIN SPARKS, PHOTO SAM SLOTNICK



ANARCHY IN THE STREETS

by Julian Ward

Riot police have become an all too familiar sight at the annual Anti-Police Brutality March.

PHOTO RODRIGO LOZADA

Rocks were thrown. Windows were smashed. Flash-bang grenades were launched. And the age-old battle of police versus protesters continued on March 15, as the annual Anti-Police Brutality March ended as it so often does: in mass arrests.

A crowd of roughly 2,000 protesters gathered peacefully for the 16th edition of the march in the late afternoon at Place Émilie-Gamelin outside Berri-UQAM Metro station. Around 6:00 p.m., protesters set off north for Sherbrooke St. without telling police which way their march was headed—as is the custom for the event.

The march erupted into violence before the crowd even made it on to Sherbrooke St., when a couple of protesters with bandanas covering their faces hurled rocks at police cars, one of them smashing the backseat driver-side window of a cop cruiser.

The first standoff between protesters and police took place outside of McGill's Schulich School of Music building, where riot police lined up to block protesters from going any further west.

Protesters threw more rocks, paint bombs and fireworks at police, all to yells from the crowd of "No justice, no peace. Fuck the police!" before being forced down to Ste. Catherine St. W., where the violence really escalated.

One particularly dangerous moment occurred when police opened up the side of a police van and drive-by pepper-sprayed the crowd. Those who weren't blinded by the irritant attacked the van,

forcing it to drive off down the street.

Shortly thereafter, another cop car on Ste. Catherine St. was attacked by angry demonstrators, who surrounded it on all sides. The officer driving the car spun the vehicle around and drove off quickly down the street, giving bystanders and protesters little time to get off the street. Luckily, no one was injured.

With the police presence gone, one squad car parked in front of the Eaton Centre that had been hit with paint bombs and had its windows smashed was flipped over by a handful of masked protesters.

As onlookers took in the spec-

tacle from inside the mall, pedestrians walked by and some posed for pictures in front of the trashed vehicle. Service de police de la ville de Montréal officers armed with video cameras captured the scene from windows in the shopping centre.

"Under the circumstances, the officers did a very professional job and were able to manage the event as best as possible, even though there was a lot of agitation," said Montreal Police Chief Marc Parent at a press conference the day after the event.

"What I want to insist on is the need to hold demonstrations in a peaceful manner in collaboration with police organizations [...] primarily to ensure the safety of the demonstrators and the other individuals."

Though few present were willing to discuss the protest at the time, reactions to it were mixed.

"I think it's fucking stupid," said one bystander who walked out of Chapters bookstore after hearing the crowd on the street. He wished to remain anonymous for safety reasons, but added, "It's ridiculous that these people are protesting against police brutality by being destructive themselves."

On a few occasions, arguments

broke out between the protesters.

In one instance, two demonstrators got into a fight after one of them smashed a window of a retail store on Ste. Catherine St W.

"Our fight is with the police," the protester told the window-smasher. "Not with these people."

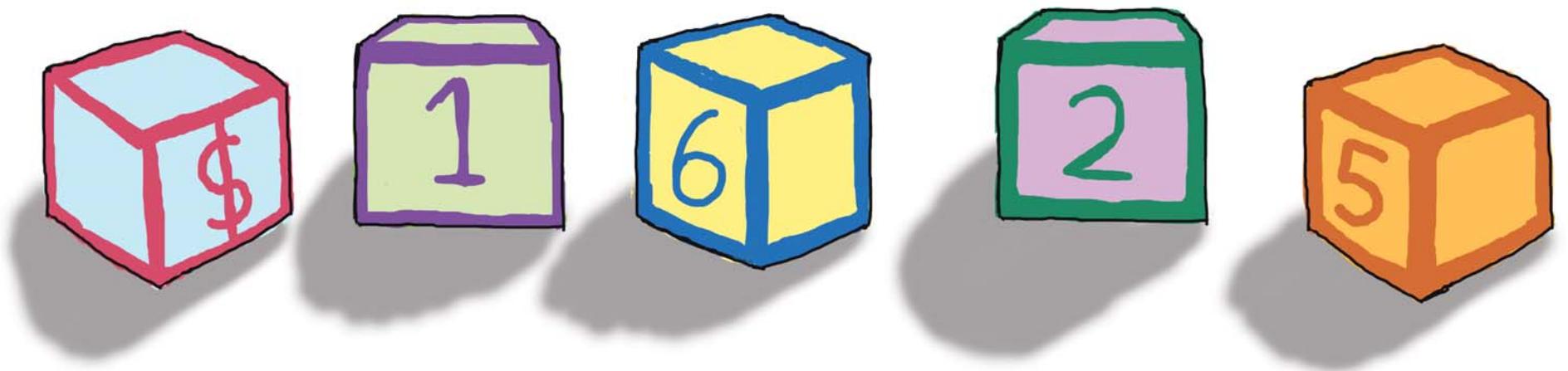
The night ended with protesters marching back toward Place Émilie-Gamelin around 9:00 p.m.

The police and riot cops quickly cordoned off the park on all sides giving protesters the opportunity to leave or get caught in a kettle—a tactic used by police to corral people together for a mass arrest.

In the end, 226 people were arrested. Seven police officers and two civilians were injured. One hundred and ninety of the people arrested were caught in a kettle outside of the Bibliothèque nationale, which took a couple of hours to clear up.

It's still unknown what the financial cost will be from what essentially became a riot that worked its way through the Montreal's core.

But Mayor Gerald Tremblay has said his patience has run out for the anti-police brutality protesters and is promising to take action to see that the events of last Thursday don't repeat themselves.



An Education in Parenting

Strikes, Hikes and Students With Children

GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

• ADAM KOVAC

Not too far away from the annual ode to public drunkenness that is Montreal's St. Patrick's Day parade, a very different kind of procession was going on.

Green novelty hats and "Kiss Me, I'm Irish" t-shirts were replaced with red felt patches and signs denouncing tuition hikes as the Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante held a family-oriented march from Parc Lafontaine to the Minister of Education's office.

The two events shared one thing in common, however: both had a large contingent of families pushing baby strollers.

While those toting tots were by and large parents concerned for the affordability of an education that is more than a decade away for their young ones, a few in the crowd had a dual concern: while they want their kids to have affordable university options, they themselves are currently

students.

"I'm here because I'm a student, and a parent also, and I'm studying education," said Valerie Boisvert, whose son Edouard munched on nuts while sitting in his stroller, eyeing the numerous dogs running around the park. "I think it's important to demonstrate, because we need to make sure the next generation has access to higher education."

While Boisvert's opinion was the prevalent one at the march, it's not a black-and-white issue. Boisvert acknowledged that she will be graduating in two years, so the hike won't directly affect her as much as it will others, as the full \$1,625 hike is scheduled to be rolled out incrementally over five years.

Some are not so lucky.

Most student parents are at school part-time, both because of the need to work to support their families, and also because of the taxing effort involved with child-care.

As with all students, any provincial financial aid is decided on a case-by-case basis, though there are certain policies that show the Quebec government recognizes the challenges facing student parents.

These include offering loans and bursaries to single parents, taking into account parenting costs, offering full-time loans to part-time students, and exemptions from repaying a loan during pregnancies or following birth or adoption.

However, as with other forms of financial aid, the government has not yet revealed how the tuition increase money will be allocated for those seeking loans and bursaries.

Higher tuition will make paying for school harder, and missing weeks of class is not an appealing option either. Sumaiya Gungat is the coordinator for the Concordia University Student Parent Centre. She thinks it would be extremely hard for

someone with children to get actively involved in a strike.

"They're not just taking care of kids, but taking care of the house, working on their studies, and now they have to work on something more," she said. "So I think it's challenging, and I think a lot of parents give priority to their family."

That's a sentiment reflected by Concordia graduate student Orzu Kamolova. Originally from Tajikistan, the mother of a 3-and-a-half-year-old named Richard is working on a master's in educational technology, as well as working on an internship with eConcordia—all this while also working part-time.

Though she's recently separated, she has a good enough relationship with her former partner that she can often rely on him to watch their son, as well as using publically funded daycare.

Even so, she doubted her ability to find the time to take part in any strike activities. (*The Link*

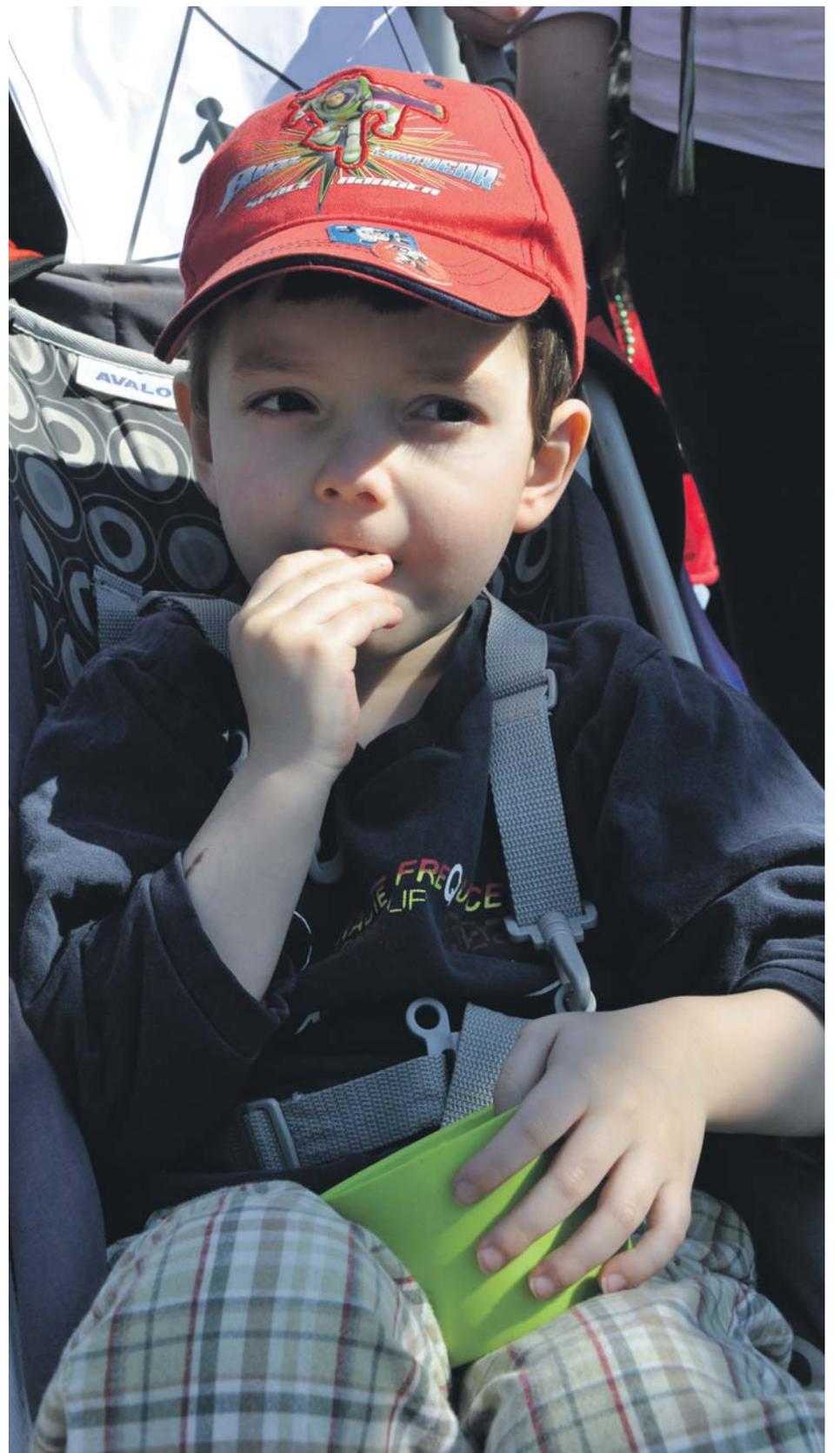
spoke to Kamolova before the Graduate Students' Association voted for a general strike on March 6).

"I'm so tired. I have a child, I have social work, I have community work, studies and an internship. Personally, I cannot go on strike. And most of the student parents, it's not that they don't care, it's that they have so much else going on in their lives that it's not their first concern."

It's hard to tell how many student parents will be affected by tuition hikes. The Concordia Student Parent Centre estimated that around 400 people came through their doors this year.

According to a study from the University of Guelph, published in the Nov. 3 issue of the *Canadian Journal of Higher Education*, between 11 and 16 per cent of students who enrolled in post-secondary institutions in Canada between 1976 and 2005 had children at the time.

Many are older than the aver-



Will the children at ASSE's March 18 event be able to afford university tuition? Stay tuned.

PHOTOS ERIN SPARKS

age student. While 90 per cent of post-secondary students were between the ages of 15 and 29, 65 per cent of those with kids were between 30 and 44.

CUSP deals a lot with the problems specific to being a working, single parent who is also in school.

While Gungat will gladly rattle off the lengthy list of services that CUSP offers, which extends from printing services to a parent-oriented version of the Concordia Student Union's Swap Shop, she noted that there is one key service that she isn't able to offer: daycare services, the most sought-after service for those who walk into her office.

Gungat will refer parents to Quebec's famous public daycares, which cost \$7.00 a day. The drawback? The wait-time to get in can be as long as two years, though she did add that some parents are eligible to be reimbursed if they enroll their children in private daycare until a

spot becomes available. Still, that's money required upfront.

While the fact that student parents are generally older is not surprising—that so many of them are female might be. The University of Guelph study estimated that as many as 71 per cent of student parents are women. A large portion of them are only able to study part-time.

"A lot of them are part-time, and a lot of them are women," said Gungat of the people who come to CUSP. "A majority of them are single mothers. I would have to say as a parent, it's hard to take full-time courses."

What often makes things harder for those who come to CUSP is that they are new to the country. Kamolova, a former VP Finance for the Concordia Student Parent Association—a club based around some of the people who use CUSP's services—said she has "never seen Canadian-born student parents coming for help.

"They have their parents or social network. Mostly people come to CUSP to be listened to. They just want to speak out about what's going on with their lives."

Two weeks before the strike, Gungat said nobody had come to her to talk about it, or the tuition increases.

"I know that a lot of student parents who come here support the strikes and demonstrations," she said. "They don't really come here to complain to me, and I think they know that we're a service that's provided by the university, so they're not going to come here complaining about it. That's the feeling I'm getting."

However, Kamolova expressed sympathy for future students, though she noted that she won't be as affected as some.

"I'm graduating this April. It would be selfish to say it's not going to affect me, [that] it's not my problem anymore. From a systematic approach, of course it's going to affect the newer gen-

eration.

"It's not going to affect just one field, our education," she added.

"It's going to affect our morale, our family situation, our social lives, our environment as a whole, if we have to pay another \$300 for education, or \$240 for daycare, of course that's going to be challenging, unless the government increases my child support, but they are not going to do that."

It takes sacrifice to raise a child.

While that can come in many forms, from giving up anything resembling a steady sleep schedule to the huge financial investment for two decades of dependency, it can also come in the form of a strike so that child can have the same opportunities as you.

On Sunday, roughly 10,000 people marched and chanted—or were rolled and gurgled—to make that point.

"It's not going to affect just one field, our education. It's going to affect our morale, our family situation, our social lives, our environment as a whole. If we have to pay another \$300 for education, or \$240 for daycare, of course that's going to be challenging."

—Orzu Kamolova

MAKING CENTS OF THE STRIKE

CSU Sets Aside \$9K for Strike Fund

• COLIN HARRIS

During the Concordia Student Union Council meeting on March 14, councillors voted to allot \$9,000 for striking student associations to spend on events and demonstrations against tuition increases. The decision will allow every department with a strike mandate a proportional cut of the funds.

“On Friday we spoke with the different groups that are going to be receiving the funding. They’re required by their GA to find duly elected liaisons to be responsible for making purchases on behalf of the organization,” said CSU VP Finance Jordan Lindsay.

All expense requisitions will be overseen by Lindsay to make sure the money is being spent on strike-related activities.

A ‘floater fund’ also exists to cover striking students whose departments have not adopted a strike mandate, to be managed by the CSU.

With student mobilization often happening at the departmental level, this approach aims to be a more direct way of supporting students against the government’s proposed tuition increases.

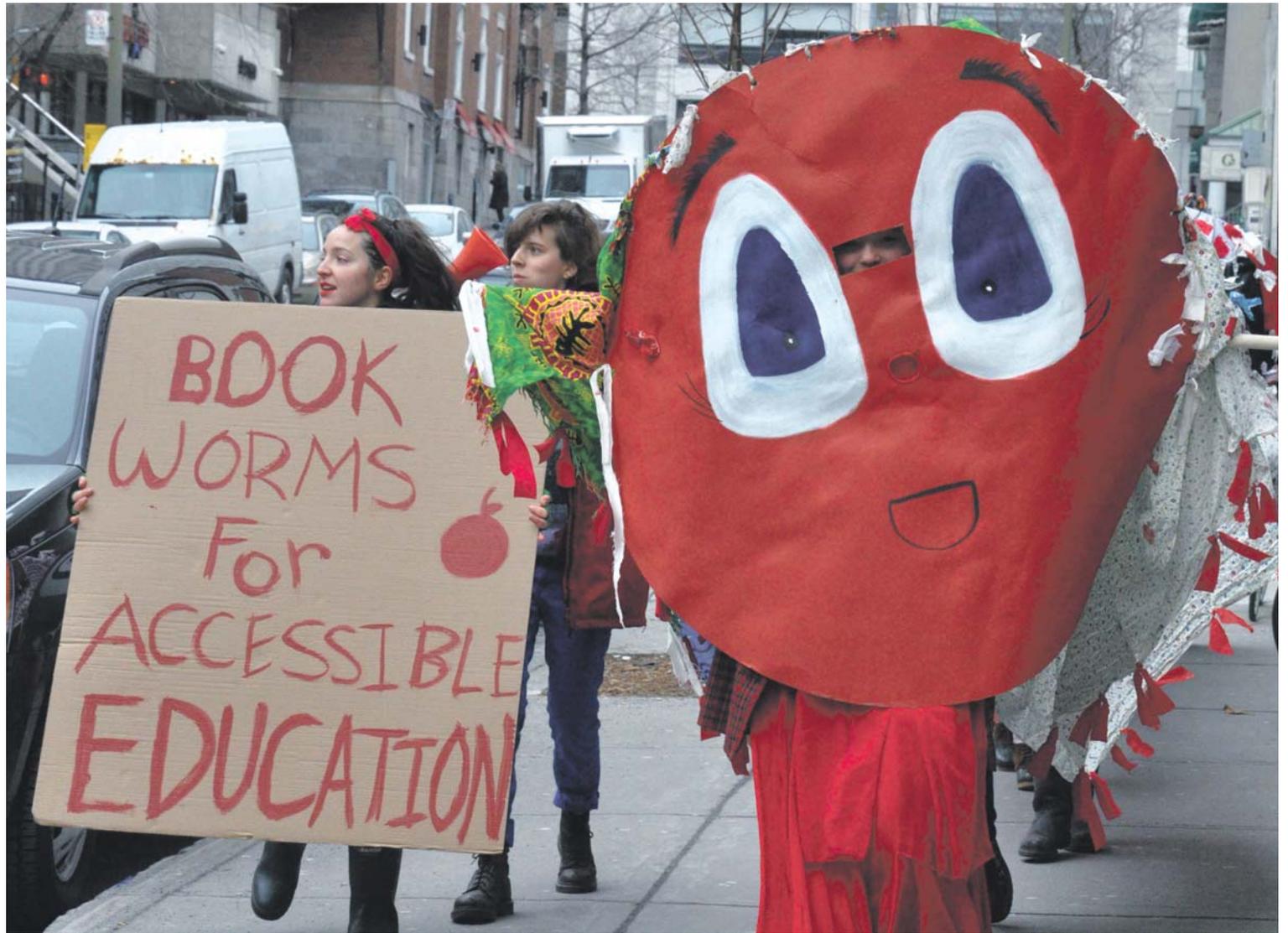
“We realized that, for this strike to be as effective as possible, it would be ideal [to fund] the grassroots movements of the strike,” said Lindsay. “It’s hard for them to do things when they’re essentially paying out of pocket, so we’re trying to support them.”

The vast majority, if not all of the allotted cash will come from the CSU’s campaign budget, along with some taken from the office supplies budget line for tape and markers used during the strike.

Costs incurred by the CSU throughout the strike will also come from the campaigns budget, but are separate from the \$9,000 reserved for the student associations.

“CSU has made some purchases, but they haven’t really spent a lot of money on campaigns,” said Lindsay. “It’s usually more action-oriented than spending-oriented. [...] We still have quite a bit left.”

Boycott the Boycott



Anti-tuition protesters walk down Mackay St. on March 15. Not every Concordia student agreed with their pro-strike stance.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

Faculty Associations Turn Out Against the Strike

• COREY POOL & JULIA JONES

Over the past two weeks, many faculty and member associations have held separate General Assemblies allowing their members to vote on joining the strike movement against raising tuition.

Of those who voted, many have joined the strike. Only a few associations have chosen to boycott the boycott, including the Engineering and Computer Science Association, the Commerce and Administration Students Association, and the Students of History At Concordia.

Engineering a Failed Motion

Over 400 engineering and computer science students were present at the ECA GA on Thursday afternoon to decide on the faculty association’s official stance on the student strike.

Students voted overwhelmingly against both presented motions—for a one-week ‘student protest,’ and for participating in the Day of Action on March 22. Over 200 students were against the strike, while a mere 43 were for it, with eight abstentions. Numbers were only slightly better in regards to joining in on March 22, as 136 voted for it, 65 against it, and 31 abstained.

ECA student Chuck Wilson, who is running for VP Academic and Advocacy in the upcoming CSU general election, said the high turnout is a sign that students care about their education, no matter what side they stand on.

“Engineers historically are thought to be quite apathetic, but when it’s a really important issue they actually come out and vote and want to have a voice,” he said.

Business (Students) as Usual

On March 14, members of the John Molson School of Business and the Commerce and Administration Student Association voted against joining the one-week strike mandate approved at the Concordia Student Union GA on March 8.

Out of 7,500 undergraduate students, 843 participated in the vote. Of those, 123 students agreed with the motion to join the strike movement, 710 opposed, 9 abstained and one ballot was spoiled.

At an informal GA held on March 13, members of JMSB voted to amend the wording of the motion to include the phrase “the formal protest commonly referred to as a strike (though technically a boycott).”

“The consensus we’ve received thus far is that students [at JMSB], regardless of how the vote went for the CSU, are against the strike,” said CASA VP Academic Daniel Shakibaian. “Many of the tactics and ideologies that the CSU has and employs don’t necessarily fit the average student here, and that’s why we have to represent them on a separate level.”

CASA’s strike vote resolution, a document sent to *The Link* by the CASA exec after the vote, explained that many students in JMSB were displeased with the results of the CSU General Assembly, and so CASA chose to hold their own vote.

“Democracy has taken its course and JMSB undergraduate students have voted overwhelmingly against protesting the tuition hikes,” the document said. “From here on, as representatives of JMSB students, CASA-JMSB’s adopted stance is that we are not in favor of protesting the tuition fee increases.”

Strike Vote is History

The Students of History at Concordia held a Special General Assembly on March 15 in which they voted against joining the one-week student strike voted on by the CSU on March 8.

Of the approximately 600 students that SHAC represents, roughly 62 students voted on two separate motions.

The first motion was in regards to joining a one-week strike from March 15 to 22 with the opportunity of renewing that strike at the end of the week. Of the 62 students that voted, 21 students voted in favor of joining the strike, 40 students opposed, and one person abstained.

The second motion was in regards to opposing the Liberal government’s planned tuition increase of \$325 per year over five years. Of the 58 students that voted on this motion, 30 were in favor of opposing the tuition increase, 12 were opposed, and 16 abstained.

“Basically, we established that history students are opposed to the tuition hikes, but they are also opposed to the strike,” said SHAC VP Finance Aaron Green.

Though SHAC maintains a neutral stance on student politics, executives felt it necessary to facilitate a GA after a petition began circulating calling for the association to address the issue.

“We felt that we wanted to give history students the opportunity to express themselves,” said Green. “One of the main complaints levied against the CSU was that yes, we voted in favour of going on strike, but there wasn’t enough information given to students at the General Assembly regarding what that strike would look like.”

ANOTHER PETITION, ANOTHER GA

Students to Vote on Extending Strike, Minimum Agreement

• LAURA BEESTON

It's back to the assembly for Concordia students next week.

Last Friday, undergraduates received notice from the Concordia Student Union that a Special General Meeting will be called for March 26 at 2:00 p.m. on the Reggie's Terrace, pending the approval of the space from the university.

The second meeting was called after the CSU received a petition—organized by students Tram Bui, Eloise Landry and Gabrielle Provost—to hold another vote on continuing the strike mandate currently in effect.

The agenda for the SGM also includes a call for students to vote on the Minimum Agreement—a series of clauses concerning student solidarity in Quebec.

At last week's CSU Council meeting, a vote on the MA was shot down for the second time in a matter of months after another round of extensive debate.

Members of Council were essentially split on whether or not to adopt a position that includes a series of provisions that bar signatories from speaking out against the actions of other student groups, refuse to enter negotiations with the government unless all student groups are welcome to the table, and prevent the umbrella groups—which include the FEUQ and ASSE—from making decisions on behalf of its members.

The sticking point for many Concordia Councillors was the

non-denunciation clause specifically, where the national student associations agree not to condemn the actions taken by any of the organizations.

Many on council argued that the CSU could not support any violent or illegal acts committed by others, should they occur.

"Regardless of my opinion, students have the right to vote on it," said CSU President Lex Gill of the MA making the agenda next week.

Previously, students Cassie Smith, Anthony Garoufalos-Auger and CSU Councillor Irmak Bahar had begun circulating a similar petition, but retracted it after speaking with Gill about GA participation at various department and faculty levels.

"Our position is that if the strike continues, it should happen on the faculty level. Renewable GAs seem the like the best way for us to logistically continue the strike," said Gill. "But we are doing our best to honour the petition we've received."

Gill admitted that the MA specifically is "marginal in the context of broader discourse in the student movement" and that it "doesn't seem that a huge chunk of students are talking about it—[while] a large part of the student body is talking about the strike."

Landry and Bui—who'd received nearly 200 signatures on their petition within the first day and a half—agree. The minimum agreement and extending the strike is a decision they maintain



PHOTO ERIN SPARKS CSU VP External Chad Walcott leads a march on the first day of the undergrad-wide strike. The strike may continue if the vote passes on March 26.

needs to be taken up by all students.

"It is important for students to have a position on [the MA]," said Landry, adding that the GA could act as a forum for students to discuss the contract if they don't know enough about it. "It needs to be up for debate so the GA can have the last word."

Landry and Bui hope that this time around, the GA will also be better executed, as it will take place in one location, but are unsure how

many participants to expect.

"It depends on the students and their motivation to keep being involved in this broader movement," said Landry.

"This GA was brought up because we heard a lot of students say [this movement] was not [reflecting] democracy, and that they wanted to express themselves and discuss strategies about what will be the most efficient way to block the tuition increase. That is our common goal."

For the CSU's part, they claim to have learned from the first GA's logistical mistakes, and have had meetings to solve some of the problems that led to student frustrations the first time around.

"We've been brainstorming solutions to ensure this meeting runs more smoothly, and there's this consensus that if it's all going to happen in the same place [...] that will hopefully allow people the ability [for more students] to speak," said Gill.

BRIEFS

No More Pencils, No More Books

Concordia's administration announced on Monday that it would be shutting down the entire university on March 22 for the province-wide protest against increasing tuition fees.

Between 15,000 and 20,000 students and faculty are anticipated to begin the march from the downtown campus.

All classes, labs and studios will be closed on Thursday and faculty and staff members have been instructed not to report to work. The announcement also stated that there would not be an extra day added to the semester to make up for any classes missed on March 22.

"Yes, the university will be completely closed, and no one can have access to the buildings," said Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota prior to the communiqué being issued to all students.

ASFA, Y U No GA?

The Arts and Science Federation of Associations will not be holding a General Assembly to vote on a strike because, "ASFA wants to avoid holding Member Associations against each other," according to a press release sent out on March 19.

Despite the majority of students who voted in favour of a general strike at a Concordia Student Union GA on March 7, ASFA feels that many faculties are not on the same page and does not wish to group them together.

ASFA represents approximately 17,000 undergraduate students.

"ASFA has encouraged their MA's to hold their own GA's, has had a very good communication line open and has been guiding MA executives logistically," said the communiqué.

The press release extended an invitation to all ASFA members to speak to VP External Paul Jerijian or ASFA President Alex Gordon about their options within individual faculties.

I'm Feeling Lucky, Punk.

Students surrounded 1253 McGill College Ave. on March 19, where Premiere Jean Charest was having a press conference for the opening of the new Google headquarters in Montreal.

Around 500 protestors, many of whom were Concordia students, flooded both entrances to the building and made it impossible to get in or out. They chanted, blasted air-horns and generally made as much noise as possible.

At around 3:30 p.m. the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal pepper sprayed into the crowd at the front entrance.

"Students were absolutely peaceful. I was pretty disheartened to see the police respond the way they did. [...] Using pepper spray," said Concordia Student Union President Lex Gill.

A Peace Served Cold

To answer questions about Egypt's post-revolution treaty with Israel and facilitate a discussion, both the Israeli and Egyptian Consul Generals came to ConU on March 14.

"I think that that is a really big step for Concordia. I don't know of any previous events, at least recently, when an Arab and an Israeli club got together. They're sending one message of peace," said organizer Dana Remer.

A handful of students created a disturbance by yelling at the Consul Generals during the question and answer period. Most left immediately after they had had their say, without allowing for an opportunity for their concerns to be addressed.

"I was very surprised by the reactions I saw during that evening. [...] I think they were not listening to what I was saying, they were coming in with pre-conceived ideas, that this is about normalization of relations," said Egyptian Consul General Amin Meleika.



WOMEN'S MONTH GETS

edgy

A RUNDOWN OF THE FEMME FESTIVAL

• ELYSHA DEL GIUSTO-ENOS

From the Jazz Fest to Just for Laughs to POP Montreal, festivals in this city run the gamut as far as size and style—but few feature a deeper purpose the way the Edgy Women Fest does.

Taking place over the second half of Women's History Month, the festival, produced by arts centre Studio 303, features shows, workshops and conferences with a feminist slant—and a bit of a twist.

"With the festival I'm trying to provide points of view that are not traditionally associated with feminism," said Miriam Ginestier, artistic and general director of Studio 303, who works to promote the development of live artistic practices.

The festival has five shows, two conferences, an artist meet-and-greet and an "edgy hockey" game. Along with public activities and performances, Ginestier's seeking

to create a community within the festival where people of various backgrounds can meet and share viewpoints.

"That's one of the things I want to do with the festival—bridge academia, arts and activism," Ginestier said. "I'm trying to get those people to hang out."

Edgy Women has existed for almost 20 years, and what started as a single night soon exploded as the producers took advantage of new funding opportunities. The festival now runs for over two weeks.

The lineup of events includes Toronto artist Evalyn Parry's *Spin*, a performance that blends music and theatre in celebration of the bicycle. The show takes its audience through the early significance of the bicycle as an emancipator of women to its social relevance today.

Approaching stripping as the most marginalized performing art,

Je baise les yeux has three ex-strippers reflecting on their experiences while being interrogated by a moderator.

For a bit more physicality, there's *In succube*, which consists of one circus performer and one burlesque performer playing Incubus and Succubus—the devil in male and female form—for a piece of theatre and contortion.

Rounding out the list of shows is *Les demimondes*, which uses dance, film, song, and movement.

Read our profile on Alex Tigchelaar, aka Sasha Van Bon Bon, on page 13 about a performance she hosts as the physical embodiment of Prostitution herself.

On March 25, in collaboration with UPop Montréal—a non-profit organization offering free educational activities—there will be a Conference Edgy-UPop at Casa del Popolo, led by Barbara Legault.

"She's really smart, entertaining

and very provocative. I'm really excited about it," Ginestier said of Legault. "I invited her because I took her feminist Université Populaire course last fall and was completely inspired."

Legault will host the talk show-style event while artists and activists discuss, and the audience will be invited to join the conversation in the final hour of the event.

Ginestier selected shows for the festival based on whether they would be able to stand out, but also be able to work well as an ensemble. She also sought to bring together various forms of feminism.

"[Feminism] is sort of comfortable in its complexity," Ginestier said. "A lot of people, if you say, 'feminism,' will correct you and say, 'feminisms.' [...] I think it's really different for everybody."

Ginestier wants to show these varied takes on feminism, since, despite their common hopes for

equality, they may see the root problems and solutions very differently.

Social feminists believe that oppression is psychological, social Marxist feminists see dismantling capitalism as the way to liberate women as an oppressed class, while reformist feminists believe that inequality can be undone with legislative changes. And, at the edge of spectrum, extreme radical feminists think that a total break from male society is necessary for equality.

"The implication of us having a Black History Month and a Women's Month is that the rest of the year is white-man month," Ginestier said. "That's why we have these things—because we need to."

Edgy Women Fest runs until April 1 / Check out the opposite page sidebar and edgy-women.ca for more info.



BURLESQUE GETS BRAINY

• KATIE MCGROARTY

"I don't understand why the job is illegal—there's just something about that that drives me fucking mental," said sex worker, activist and performer Alex Tigchelaar.

Her cabaret-style multimedia theatre production, *Les demimondes*, which debuts March 30, aims to show you why.

"I cannot, for the purposes of supporting myself, use my own body to do that? Sure, I can go and become a construction worker, or a lawyer and I can use my body and my brain to generate income—often, in those cases, fairly unethically—but I cannot use my body to generate my own income? What the fuck is wrong with that picture?"

After being unsatisfied performing what she describes as "pretty traditional burlesque," Tigchelaar is now combining her frustration with

the media's misrepresentation of sex workers with her own brand of performance activism to bring some truth to the cabaret—for your viewing pleasure—at the Edgy Women Festival.

"I mean yes, putting a bunch of woman of different sizes and gender presentation on stage, that's [minimally] revolutionary, but let's get those people telling their stories," she said.

"Seeing a woman of size or a transsexual performing, that's just one thing, but now that we have the opportunity, let's go deeper than that. We got on stage taking our clothes off, and then we opened our mouths."

Tigchelaar takes on the role of Prostitution Herself, a variety of sex workers wrapped up into one archetypal "trickster-type" character who, along with other dancers and actors, recounts stories often untold in everyday media.

"Sex workers speak though [Prostitution Herself], in a way, that is the kernel of truth in this whole thing," she said.

"Underneath all of those personalities and people is the truth, which is: 'It's my body, I have agency over it—not you.'"

Tigchelaar wants people to question their image of sex workers and how cultural mores can alienate those who live outside them.

"What I've realized is that people become quite angry when they're faced with these stories, they're much happier listening to the stories of women being victimized," said Tigchelaar.

"That says they're right by thinking that everyone is a victim within sex work when, in fact, that's not sex work—that's trafficking, which is completely fucking different."

Given the theme of the play, it's easy to imagine a sombre performance, but Tigchelaar says that's not

what the audience should expect whatsoever. Making people laugh is a top priority for the actors, with past performances often leaving the viewers in hysterics.

The performance encourages the audience to re-evaluate their perception of sex work, to build it beyond a stereotype. Tigchelaar wants us to look at this persistent taboo with keener and more open minds.

"That's my goal, and I love entertaining people with stories, because as sex workers, we are also entertainers; I have a compulsion to entertain people. I do think that if I entertain people with these ideas, eventually it may loosen their guard."

Les demimondes / Studio 303 (372 Ste. Catherine St. W.) / March 30, 8:00 p.m. / March 31, 6:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m. / April 1, 4:00 p.m.

EDGY WOMEN EVENTS

J'ACTE

Groupe Intervention Video
March 20, 7:00 p.m. - La Centrale (4296 St. Laurent Blvd.) *Free*

SPIN

Evalyn Parry (Toronto)
March 22, 8:00 p.m. - La Sala Rossa (4848 St. Laurent Blvd.) \$15.00 advance, \$20.00 at the door

JA BAISE LES EUX

Gaëlle Bourges (France)
March 23, 8:00 p.m. - La Sala Rossa (4848 St. Laurent Blvd.) \$15.00 advance, \$20.00 at the door

IN SUCCUBE

Andréane Leclerc & Holly Gauthier-Frankel
March 24, 8:00 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. - La Sala Rossa (4848 St. Laurent Blvd.) \$15.00 advance, \$20.00 at the door for the 8:00 p.m. showing, \$10.00 advance, \$15.00 at the door for the 10:30 p.m. showing,

CONFÉRENCES EDGY-UPOP

March 25, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., - Casa del Popola (4873 St. Laurent Blvd.) *Free*

MEET EDGY ARTISTS

Guest artist: Alex Tigchelaar from The Scandalles

March 29, 10:00 a.m. - McGill Arts Dept. (853 Sherbrooke St. W., #230) *Free*

EDGY HOCKEY

March 29, 11:00 p.m. - Aréna Mont-Royal. (4365 Cartier St.) *Free*



DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

FEATURE FORAY

Making a film is an incredible task at the best of times. Making a feature film is nothing short of monumental. We catch up with a crew of Concordia film students who made a movie spanning 7,000 km.



LEISURE SOCIETY



Through comedy and tragedy, the value of a product-driven, picture-perfect life is explored in *Infinithéâtre's* *The Leisure Society* with questions like, "Is sex in a pool dangerous?" and, "How many people before you have to call it an orgy?"

WEEKLY SPINS



BADBADNOTGOOD – BBNGLIVE2

Any band that can pull off covering Gucci Mane and James Blake in the same set deserves some serious respect. Include the fact that it's done in a dirty, hard jazz style and it becomes a must-listen.



Fringe Food

Plus qu'un aliment

• JOSH DAVIDSON

What's in a bite of cheese? Biodiversity, economic sustainability, artistry and pleasure, according to Léa Lehmann.

Lehmann grew up in Switzerland and Lac-St-Jean amidst a family that has been making cheese for four generations.

"The more complex the taste, the more people ask questions, the more opportunity for discussing where—for example—the cows or sheep grazed; what they ate," she said.

After finding herself in Montreal five years ago, Lehmann hoped to find a way to perpetuate her lifelong bond with artisanal cheese-making. She was surprised, she said, to find a near-endless supply of enthusiasm for artisanal production and local food here in the big city.

"Sure, it's still the case that food is simply a necessity. We visit the store, put food in our basket, go home and eat and that's that," she said. "But here in Montreal, there is also a real hunger for local products, for having personal relationships with producers."

It was this observation that sparked her recent gastronomical experiment: *Sur un plateau*. The service, whose name plays off the French term for cheese platter, *plateau de fromages*, is both nutritive and educational.

Rather than opening up a store, Lehmann chose to act as an independent source of information, using her deep roots with small-scale provincial producers to construct stimulating platters of rare Quebec cheeses—many of which are impossible to find anywhere else in the city.

"Producers are often dispersed throughout the regions of Quebec, and don't have the opportunity to come visit Montreal very often. I serve as a link between these producers and the consumers, who are usually centred in cities"

Lehmann says that small-scale cheese-makers are gradually beginning to give the industrial producers a run for their money in the province, and it's happened quickly.

Outside of Quebec's widespread production of cheddar, her family's small Fromagerie Lehmann was—just 10 years ago—one of the province's lone

family-run dairy operations to also manufacture its own special cheese.

Now, she says, there are upwards of 15 such independent farms in the Lac-St-Jean region alone.

While she regularly creates cheese discovery platters for organizations as diverse as L'Université du Québec à Montréal and Équiterre, Lehmann says her services often go far beyond "just delivery."

Her passion lies in accompanying the tastings with lectures and in leading discussions. To this end, she has also begun offering workshops for anyone interested in learning more about cheese craftsmanship, bio-diverse cheeses, and the practice of tasting (which, to hear her talk, seems just as accomplished an art as wine-tasting).

"Though the cheese plate is not as deeply embedded in the culture here as it is in France," she says, "it's nonetheless very important for Montrealers. Cheese tasting is about learning the story of a particular place, about these incredible family businesses that often provide direct and indirect em-

ployment to a whole rural area."

So what kind of fromago-innovations should we look out for in the next few years?

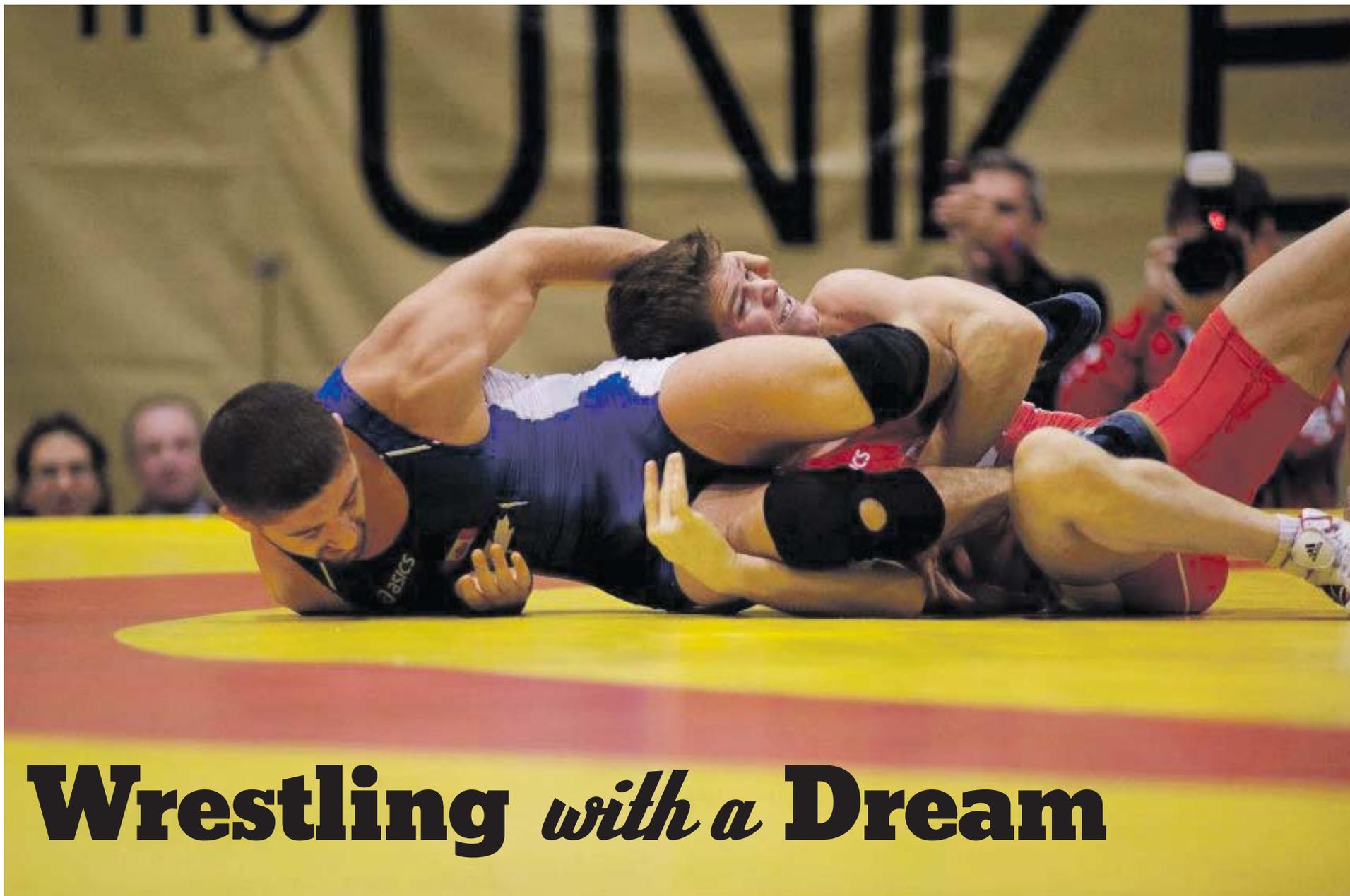
"Hard crust" cheeses, such as Europe's famous gruyère and comté, are apparently in the works here in Quebec, and Lehmann says that new varieties of sheep and goat cheese continue to be popular.

"Cheese is more than just an aliment," she said.

"To have a good cheese you need good milk, and to have good milk it means your cows, goats or sheep need to be well fed—it's really a whole chain that starts in the soil.

"If the soil is well-cultivated, then the animals are in good health, and you end up with something with a higher quality, both gastronomically and for your health. For me, this is what artisanal cheese is all about"

To learn more about the importance of artisanal cheese to the province's health, environment and economy, check out surunplateau.biz for courses, events and cheese suggestions.



Wrestling *with a* Dream

David Tremblay (red) hopes to take down his opponent in similar fashion at the Pan-American Games in Florida later this month.

PHOTO MONIQUE SMITH

Concordia Wrestler Hoping for Olympic Chance

• TYLER FINIGAN & ASHLEY COUILLARD

Weighing in at only 130 lbs, 24-year-old wrestler and Concordia student David Tremblay has a lofty dream much bigger than his 5'5" stature.

On March 23 Tremblay will wrestle in Kissimmee, FL, at the Pan American Olympic games. If he places first or second, he'll have earned a place in the 2012 London Summer Olympics.

While he may not look like the average wrestler, this featherweight certainly has the dedication, considering he trains three times a day.

One of the top wrestlers at the university level, Tremblay's won four national medals in the 61 kg division. He's been part of two Concordia championship teams, but he's about to wrestle in one of the most important matches of his life.

"I'm very close to realizing my dream. To make it to the Olympics would be amazing," said Tremblay.

The tournament will follow standard International Federation of Associated Wrestling rules and is

split into two days; the first is a weigh-in day where every wrestler's weight is checked and confirmed for their weight class.

Tremblay says that it's common for wrestlers to "cut" weight before the weigh-in date.

"I laugh a little when people tell me they want to lose a little here and there," he said—the most he's ever lost for a weigh-in date was around 15 lbs.

The second day is competition day. It's split into three rounds: qualification, elimination and finals. A qualification round will kick off the day, cutting the number of wrestlers down to sixteen.

Then the rest is elimination. Wrestlers bout for three rounds, with the winner of the most rounds eliminating the other wrestler from the competition until finals.

"The first step is to qualify. While you're there there's about 22 athletes. It goes with random draw; if you pick a good number, there's always a chance to medal there," said Martine Du Grenier, Concordia's assistant coach and former Olympian.

"He's still young; it's going to be his first experience at the Olympics," said Du Grenier. "The Olympic Games are pretty big, [but] everything is possible. I think, for him, it would be a really good experience and a big motivation to keep going after."

Born to a wrestling family in Ontario, his father, also named David, used to coach teams in and around Ontario and brought his son to a wrestling tournament at the age of 13 to compete with no training experience. Astonishingly, Tremblay went on to win first place, sparking an interest in the sport that would last a lifetime.

A couple years later Tremblay went on to be Ontario Provincial champion for three years straight under the coaching of his father.

He was then noticed at a Collegial level by Victor Zilberman, who is now his coach at Concordia. According to Tremblay, Victor is the main reason he moved to Montreal.

"If it weren't for Victor, I wouldn't be in university," Tremblay said. "I owe a lot of what I've accom-

plished to him. He believed in me and made me the wrestler that I am today."

Alongside Tremblay at Concordia is his brother, Noel Tremblay, a rookie this year. An accomplished wrestler in his own weight class, Noel says his brother is the reason he wrestles. When he was younger, Noel once asked his father for a new pair of "shiny" shoes because they'd "help him win."

"David took me by the shoulder and said that it wasn't the shoes that made the wrestler but the wrestler wearing the shoes," Noel said. "For some reason, that has stuck with me to this day."

While other students may worry about exams, papers and tuition hikes, David Tremblay hits the gym, trains, wins wrestling championships and hands in psychology papers. Tremblay's confident, not easily bothered, and an organized thinker.

"He an excellent role model," Du Grenier said. "He shows everybody that everything is possible and hopefully he'll make it onto the Olympic team this summer."



PHOTO MONIQUE SMITH



PHOTO JARRON CHILDS

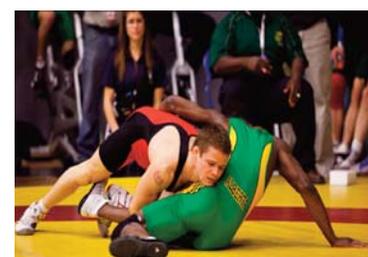


PHOTO JARRON CHILDS

The Penalty Shot Shivers



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

How To Conquer Your Fears From The 12-Yard Line

• ERIC WHITE

Karim Haroun, centre midfielder for the Stingers, knows how to take a penalty shot—he converted four out of four penalties during the fall season.

His approach, however, seems much more deliberate than psychological.

“I avoid eye contact with the keeper. [...] When the ref blows the whistle, I just take my time, take a deep breath, and go for it,” he said. “I choose my spot and hit it hard and precise.”

Scoring penalty shots, however, is a bit of a mystery.

Some, like Haroun, have it down, but, though the task is essentially simple—akin to hitting the side of a barn from only 11 metres away, and the goalie has to choose where to jump in advance, since the penalty doesn’t allow enough time for a reaction—many choke under the pressure, and not just college or amateur players.

During the 2011 Copa America, South America’s international tournament, Brazil, ranked

within the top five teams in the world, went to penalties with Paraguay, but their kickers missed all four shots taken.

Although Haroun’s penalty-taking style is pretty relaxed, it’s still not a simple task for him either.

“You have to be really focused while taking the penalty kick,” Haroun said. “Otherwise you’re going to be stressed out and you’re probably going to miss it.”

Despite only looking at the ball and avoiding eye contact with the keeper in order to maintain concentration, he still gets involved in his own mental games.

“The number-one stress concern for a penalty kick taker is the fact that ‘all eyes are on him or her’ to score in a situation where there’s a high percent success ratio,” said Lloyd Barker, head coach of Concordia’s men’s soccer team. “In other words, everyone’s watching me about to attempt something I should succeed at.”

Even with a skilled keeper, a well-placed shot from 12 yards out into any of the four corners is almost a guaranteed goal.

According to a study referenced in the Science of Soccer Online—a blog by Dr. Jay Williams—an exercise science professor at Virginia Tech, 85 per cent of penalty kicks shot on target result in goals. However, penalties are much more complicated and stressful than the statistics reveal, according to Montreal sports psychologist Lior Doron.

“There are many outcome-related factors that create stress in a penalty kicker, [such as] the outcome of scoring, winning, and particularly being the centre of attention since everyone is watching the specific play,” said Doron.

“As athletes move up in the competitive realm [...] the psychological factors become even more important, as much as 90 per cent or more,” said Doron.

Doron, after receiving psychology and sports administration bachelor’s degrees at Concordia and a master’s in sports psychology from the Université de Montréal, started Flow in Sports, a company that works with athletes of all ages and competitive levels.

“I teach athletes to focus more on the process rather than the outcome,” he said, adding players have much more control over the process.

Doron noted numerous ways to mentally prepare for the pressure of a penalty kick.

“Emphasize what needs to be done,” he said. “Have a plan; create a ‘what if’ scenario. Each player should develop a short list of unique moves; the more detailed the strategy, the better.”

Both Doron and Barker said a player must learn to cope with the stress of a penalty kick.

“Getting over nerves is not possible,” Barker said. “Managing and controlling nerves is the key. There are breathing exercises that help to control that adrenaline rush.”

“Rather than worrying about having this nervousness, just allow it to go through your body; embrace the moment,” said Doron. “We all have these butterfly moments but the idea is to actually want to get them rather than avoid them.”

In the second-to-last game of

the season against the Université de Sherbrooke, the Stingers were down 1-0 when Haroun stepped up to the spot with only five minutes left on the clock.

Despite having gone to the left in all of his previous penalty kicks throughout the season, after the ref blew the whistle, he made the gutsy decision to direct a low, hard shot to the right.

“Later in the game, you’ll have more stress taking a penalty, but you just have to manage it,” he said. “That was the most stressful penalty I took last year.”

Doron notes that even if a penalty-taker does everything right, there are sometimes factors out of his or her control.

“The truth is that the player only needs slight adjustments. [...] Changing one per cent of the thinking [can mean] that the outcome can be totally different,” Doron said.

“Other times you just need to give credit to the other player or the team and the fact that with the exact same mindset, the outcome might turn your way the next time.”



A woman rides her bike near Mont Royal parc Monday afternoon. Temperatures are expected to reach up to 24 degrees celcius in Montreal this week, ideal for outdoor sporting activities.

PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

To the Maxwell

Top Recruit Joins Stingers Football team

• ANDREW MAGGIO

Jordan Maxwell had plenty of motivation to come to Concordia University, but one of the main reasons was family—ConU offered him the chance to throw touchdown passes to his stepbrother, current Stingers wide receiver Jamal Henry.

Maxwell listed his brother Jamal as one of his role models and a big reason why he decided to make the move.

“I was really happy because this has been a dream of ours for a while. The last time we played together was when we were really young,” said Henry.

“Especially since he’s playing quarterback and I’m a wide receiver, he’ll be throwing the ball to me, so I’m looking forward to that a lot.”

Though he was always considered a talented athlete and a good football player overall, something was missing for Maxwell. He’d tried a number of positions and, while he was good at all of them, he never truly stood out—until he decided to try his hand at quarterback.

“I had always liked throwing and I was good at it,” said Maxwell. “So when the opportunity to play quarterback came up I jumped at it and haven’t looked back since.”

Today, he’s glad to have made the change. A Montreal native about to graduate from St. Joseph’s Catholic High School in Ottawa, Maxwell signed a letter of intent to join the Concordia Stingers football program last week.

Maxwell credits his success to his years spent living in Dallas, TX, where he honed his craft playing in a rigid, disciplined environment, as well as attending quarterback camps run by experienced football minds.

“Texas is definitely the most unique state in America,” said Maxwell. “Pride is a huge thing there and we love our football in Texas. Everyone is committed to getting better and there’s a lot of hard work and heart put into football down there.”

Stingers defensive coordinator Phil Roberts, who does a lot of the team’s recruiting, had high praise for Maxwell and his abili-

ties.

“He’s extremely athletic, has great footwork and a great arm,” said Roberts. “For a guy coming out of high school, he’s got an excellent knowledge for the game. Jordan brings us a different dimension at quarterback. With his running ability, he reminds me a lot of [former Stinger and current Hamilton Tiger-Cat] Liam Mahoney and [2010 Canadian Interuniversity Sport football player of the year] Brad Sinopoli.”

Maxwell is also familiar with a couple of his new teammates, as he played with current Stingers defensive backs Nathan Taylor, who he’s known since his early days with the LaSalle Warriors, and Kadeem Vaillancourt, who he trained with this summer in Ottawa.

“He’s a young quarterback who’s showed me that he’s eager to learn,” said Taylor. “His greatest asset right now is his athleticism. He’s tall and fast, and it’s rare that you find that in a CIS quarterback.”

Maxwell understands his education will be his primary focus



Quarterback Jordan Maxwell, far right, gets ready for the hike. He’ll be playing for the Stingers starting next year.

PHOTO JOHN MCNAMEE

when he moves to Montreal next fall. He’ll be studying human resource management at the John Molson School of Business, but he also hopes that with some more hard work, he can help the Stingers get to a championship in the next four years, while paving the way to a professional football career.

“In terms of education, I want to eventually get my master’s in

business administration,” said Maxwell. “As for on the field, I want to help grow this program and make it well known like some of the big CIS programs around the country.”

“I definitely have aspirations to go pro—I know I can do it and I just have to keep working hard during my time at Concordia and keep improving with every passing day.”

Striking Failure



PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

Student Leaders Fail to Effectively Organize

• BRIAN LAPUZ

As of last Thursday, members of the Concordia Student Union started a weeklong strike against tuition hikes.

This is historic, not only for Concordia University, but also for the Quebec student movement. It's the first time an entire anglophone campus voted in favour of an open-ended general strike. This strike has the potential to make Concordia a big player in the fight against the Charest government's proposed increases.

But there's a catch that undermines the effectiveness of the strike we voted to participate in—the CSU isn't committed to a hard picket.

"Be it further resolved that students will not make a line to prevent students and teachers from entering buildings to teach or learn," read an amendment

that was voted in without a discussion.

Essentially, if students still show up to class, other students who want to respect the strike vote are being penalized for missing lectures.

That amendment should have been called out of order right after it was proposed.

Unlike the labour unions, we do not have an anti-scab law (a gain from past labour movements) to enforce our strike mandates, which means student unions are responsible for organizing picket lines to enforce the vote.

At the Special General Meeting, CSU VP External Chad Walcott said, "It's logistically impossible for the CSU to block every Concordia building."

That statement is false.

Why is it that other campuses with many buildings and entrances, such as the Université

du Québec à Montréal, are able to have a successful strike? Is it because francophones are born with picket signs? Or is it because anglophone students are apathetic or unaware about how to properly strike?

If Concordia students can't organize a successful strike, there is no one else to blame but the student leadership.

Last Tuesday, after a session of CSU executive-bashing at the de facto student strike committee, CSU President Lex Gill said that she is "not the CSU." There's some truth to that.

At the end of the day, leadership isn't just about the individual in the highest political position, it's the collective grouping of all leadership positions—from departmental association executives, to faculty association councillors and executives, and the CSU councillors and executives.

Having gone through the steep learning curve of student politics, it is the responsibility of students in these positions to represent the students of today and tomorrow.

The tuition hike could have been predicted two years ago when Quebec's debt-to-GDP ratio grew to 94 per cent, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

In March 2010, the provincial government sought to eliminate its debt by 2014, not by taxing the banks and huge corporations that hoard the wealth created by society, but by passing an austerity budget to cut the social wage.

In protest, 40,000 students under the umbrella union of the Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante held a one-day strike on April 1, 2010.

If that didn't send a clear enough signal, the 75 per cent tu-

ition increase in universities passed in last year's budget. Student leaders should have prioritized the education of their members and the mobilization for the inevitable unlimited general strike, a highly effective last-resort tactic.

This is not to say that there aren't any good student leaders out there, because many of them should be commended for their courage and determination. But when the government wages an ideological war to convince students to accept the tuition hikes, the student leadership needs to retaliate.

With proper mobilization for hard pickets last week, students could have completely paralyzed the institution, truly lending their numbers to the province-wide unlimited general strike.

There are still three weeks before classes end. Let's make it work.

SPARE THE VOTE & SPOIL THE BALLOT



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

Why I Won't Vote For Either Slate

• JULIA WOLFE

It's sort of an awkward time for the Concordia Student Union.

Almost a quarter of a million students are on strike, Montreal is splashed with post-St. Patrick's Day green vomit and regular protests/riots have turned this city into a warzone.

But amidst all this hullabaloo, the next batch of CSU hopefuls is attempting to gain our attention—and votes—with cutesy posters and fire-centric videos.

It's unfortunate timing, to say the least.

Honestly, it's too bad. CSU elections matter quite a bit. Whoever wins will control almost \$2 million and represent roughly 35,000 people—which is more people than the entire population of the Yukon Territory.

They will organize our health care and represent us on the Board of Governors. What they do—or fail to do—next year could affect students for years to come.

It's in that context that I'm trying really hard to care about a slate right now. I've spent time questioning who uses the word "transparency" better, or which team commits more to democracy and finally catching Joseph Kony.

But it seems like the two options this year are neck and neck in a race to the bottom, and there are more troubling similarities than the fact that their names are almost indistinguishable from each other.

Melanie Hotchkiss, the *Concordia Could Be* presidential candidate, has the unhappy distinction of having been asked to resign as president of the Dawson Student Union by her fellow execs near the end of her term after a fraught year that saw her repeatedly clash with fellow executive members and Dawson administration.

Her competitor, Schubert Laforest of *A Better Concordia*, may have forgotten to send in some visa-renewal requests on

time, nullifying his student status.

Not exactly a confidence-inspiring duo.

There are, of course, members of both teams I wouldn't mind seeing in power, however.

Concordia Could Be's Cameron Monagle has proven himself this year as a committed and capable councillor, and Alexis Suzuki, *A Better Concordia* candidate, spent her last year as an Arts and Science Federation of Associations VP while also maintaining a strong presence in the fine arts community.

I'm sure that other individuals from the teams could, given the opportunity, also make impressive execs. But on the whole, neither slate is really bringing much to the table.

While *Concordia Could Be* is (allegedly) a continuation of this year's CSU exec, and their counterpart is (allegedly) the neo-baby of the *Vision/Fusion/Action* dynasty of years past, neither carries the charisma or benefits of their supposed predecessors.

In last year's election, we were asked to choose what mattered more: student life or student rights. And while local indie-poppers Stars *was* a little hipster for an orientation concert, we probably made the right call. I have trouble believing Concordia would have been as formidable an opponent to Quebec Premier Jean Charest had *Action* taken last year's election.

This time, I'm not entirely sure what I'm choosing between. At the debates, both "affiliations" seemed to agree on almost everything.

Like the two slates, I also value Loyola, want more transparency from my school and fully believe that together we can catch the poltergeist that has been haunting the Hive (that's why it's still not open, right?).

But obvious platform points aside, what are we actually voting on?

Admittedly, it's not unusual for slates to have almost identical content on their

handouts—that speaks more to the size of the posters than to the quality of their candidates, and it gets at the fact that CSU elections can sometimes seem like glorified popularity contests.

But once you looked past the garish promotions wallpapering the whole Hall Building, there was substance. Specific ideas were listed on each website. Teams would disagree on meaningful issues like the tuition fight and offer innovative solutions for everything from shuttle delays to bylaw reform.

Now, we have two barely functioning sites with no actual content. One has a vague tab for 'principles,' which includes a section labeled 'fun' but not much else. The other has nothing at all for platform points.

Bit of an oops there.

Our union is really going to matter next year. Concordia will have a new president, a Chartwells contract to renegotiate and BoG Chair Peter Kruyt, the university's resident creature of darkness, will finally be replaced.

So it's terrifying that I'm not feeling very confident in either slate right now. We're looking at a future run by students who campaigned with no specific information and displayed little innovation.

If these teams plan to govern the same way they campaigned, they won't do a very good job.

Luckily, the new voting system gives us more flexibility. We no longer have to vote for a slate as a whole. I plan to take advantage of this system to send a message to our new executives—whoever that may be.

But I won't vote for either slate in its entirety, and I'll probably spoil my presidential ballot.

I'll do it because I want the incoming executives to know that their campaign wasn't good enough. As our union, they'll have to do more.

And I hope—for the future of Concordia—that the winning candidates live up to the challenge.



You Striking?

• SANAZ HASSANPOUR

Are you planning to support the strike and how are you participating?

"I'm for the strike. I'm going to do what they tell us to do. I'm more passive, but if they say, 'Don't go to school,' I don't go [to school] to support them.

I didn't vote. [Strikers] are not very aggressive. I was at UQAM and [the strike] is very aggressive there. When there is a strike, they just don't let you go to school. Here, it's not well-organized."

—Yuna Kersalé

BFA Design



"I am not planning to support the strike. I don't believe in it. We already [have] one of the cheapest tuitions in Canada and one of the cheapest in the world, so I don't think that's a good idea.

I think raising prices is normal—it can keep you competitive. With more funding, you can also get better teachers. That's a severe lack in our school. I find we have a lot of teachers who don't know how to explain. So, I'm opposed to the strike. I don't think it should be going on."

—Daniel Ahmarani

BComm Finance



"Well, I am currently not going to my classes. Well—most of them, except one that is not cancelled. That's pretty much how I support it. I am not participating in any protests. I respect the decision of boycotting classes and I respect democracy in general.

So, I'm not going to classes, but I'm not particularly for the strike... I think some of the actions should not be happening. Some things are not working and we know and they are still doing it; that, for me, doesn't work."

—Catherine Gelin

BFA Film Production



"All I am really doing is not attending class. I am not very active. I am not protesting. I am actually not 100 per cent sure about the tuition [dilemma] in general. But I do think once you've voted to do a strike, you need to take a decisive action.

I didn't vote. My reason is that I don't think that I'm knowledgeable enough on the subject to weigh in whether the tuition hike is a good or a bad thing."

—Michael Wheatley

BFA Film Animation



"Well, I have been already on strike for two weeks now and I have been to lots of meetings, [wearing] red clothes, doing a lot of crocheted products with red fabric. [I've been] helping people to express themselves and get out their stress with crafts, picketing, and going to a lot of meetings and protests."

—Casey Stainsby

BFA Theatre & Development



Violence Breeds Violence



Rioters get violent at Anti-Police Brutality March

PHOTO SAM SLOTNICK

Anti-Police Brutality Day Plotline Plays Out Predictably

• LAURA BEESTON

It's pretty clear that this year's Anti-Police Brutality demonstration on March 15 was absolutely brutal, and will go down in the books as one of the most needlessly aggressive protests many of our reporters have ever witnessed.

But now that the overturned garbage has been swept from the streets and the burning, chemical smell of tear gas has lifted from singed nostrils, there remain some important questions about what, exactly, happened on Thursday.

And, perhaps most importantly, *why*.

This was Montreal's 16th Anti-Police Brutality march, which essentially means both the organizers and the Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal had over a decade's worth of experience and understanding of this particular event to predict what was about to happen.

To a degree, you'd think, there exists potential to stop the violence and destruction before it even started—if peacekeeping was truly a priority of both parties.

The annual formula is pretty straightforward and this year was no exception: It starts with good intentions in a public gathering, a demand for justice and a moment of silence to reflect on those victims who are killed by police in this town with impunity, and for survivors who are racially profiled, intimidated and harassed by the brotherhood on a daily basis.

Then the march sets out and, in all but two instances so far, it ends

in violence.

There is also always speculation as to who started it.

Within a matter of blocks, things get shove-heavy. Someone pushes, someone else pushes back. Clashes take place, followed by a police kettle, followed by hundreds of arrests and an example made, again, of the 'thugs and vandals' terrorizing our city and thousands of dollars in property damage.

Or so the narrative, however accurate it may be, typically goes, year in and year out.

But since this has been going on for the better part of two decades, you might assume (or at least hope) experience would make it that an unfortunate broken-glass ending could be avoided.

So why does it keep getting more violent?

Chief of Police Marc Parent admitted at a press conference the morning following the riot that they had anticipated "lots of agitators and demonstrators who were there just to get their message out with acts of violence."

And when you consider there were two helicopters accompanying hundreds of trained cops dressed and armed in full riot gear to 'keep the peace,' you would think taxpayers would demand it be kept.

The fact that they can't sniff out and stop a few dozen protestors they perennially identify as bad seeds responsible for delegitimizing an otherwise democratic crowd is troubling, as they are paid generously from the public

purse to be our best and brightest at crime prevention.

While the chief lauded his army of riot cops for doing a "very professional job" on the streets and their level of organizational tactics to "divide and conquer" went generally uncontested as being "effective," anyone who was there knows that this protest in particular did not unfold so neatly.

It was four hours of chaos, of cat-and-mouse kettles and tense, terrifying standoffs in highly public spaces, often involving total innocents.

Centre-Ville, for all intents and purposes, became a sacrificial lamb of sorts.

As *The Gazette* reporter Monique Muise noted, "There didn't seem to be any cops anywhere. Until they were everywhere." But then they disappeared again—right in the heart of the downtown shopping district.

Why and how the SPVM could allow an increasingly agitated mob they were otherwise controlling with flash grenades, rushed lines and firm shoves to take over one block is beyond logistical rationale. By all accounts, they had it on serious lockdown—and then they didn't.

Suddenly, the same forceful tactics that had worked on Aylmer St. and later at Berri Square seemed to evaporate in front of the Eaton Centre. And unsurprisingly, windows were smashed and an opportunity to destroy the conveniently unattended cop car that was left there was taken.

Of course the easy, kneejerk re-

action might be to look at your TV and think, 'Damn disrespectful kids,' but what responsibility was there on the police to have never let it get into the downtown core in the first place, or to ever get to that point of needless destruction?

Ostensibly, they should have had the manpower and maneuvers to stop it. They certainly have the money.

Yet there we were: watching a cop car get flipped without any police presence in sight. If we believe the SPVM's version of events, it doesn't really make sense.

So remains the (almost) burning question: why would the SPVM leave the car knowing what they do about this riot each year? Why wouldn't they intervene when a dozen active 'vandals and thugs' did what they said they had expected them to do, and deployed hundreds of police to stop?

The symbol of a burning cop car, whether fairly attributed or not, is synonymous with anarchy; it's a calling card of dissent. This is also an image that serves the SPVM quite well, when you think about it.

Predictably, it makes the front page of all the papers (including our own) and is the first story up on the evening news. It justifies the police's numbers, their often aggressive and increasingly armed protest tactics, and secures them a sizable operating budget.

But more critically, the cop-car calling card perpetuates a narrative many on the ground who see it with their own eyes know is more complicated than black and

blue: it depicts both sides as either hooligans or heroes, depending on your politics.

Judging by online comments, it worked. Again.

Perhaps, though, the greatest tragedy of what we have come to expect on March 15 is that it undermines so many of the values that make the day important to celebrate and organize around to begin with.

So long as Anti-Police Brutality Day is recognized as an "Institutionalized Violence Day," it moves a necessary call for peacekeeping reform further away from the public discourse and takes attention away from the heart of the issue.

Imagine what might happen if the police decided to delegitimize what they see as an unfair assessment of their jobs anyways—that they brutalize people—and weren't present for this protest at all, or had less of a presence? What if they sent mediators to have an exchange with organizers and left the pepper spray off the streets?

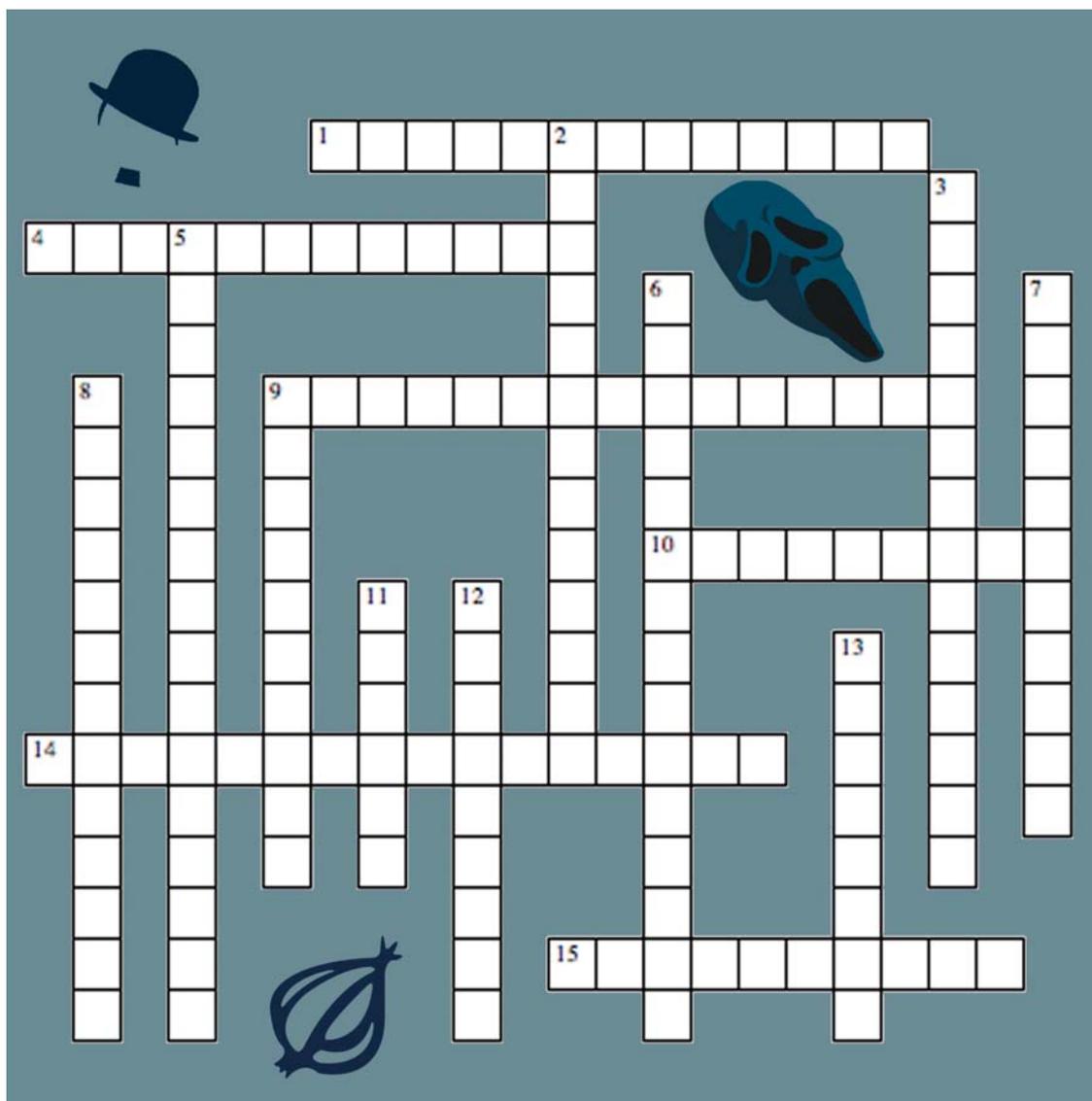
Tough to say exactly what formula might work, but something is going to give if the formula doesn't change.

Montreal has been doing this war dance for 16 years and, as March 15 demonstrated, it's still not working to affect meaningful change. It hasn't curbed police brutality or made many gains in public opinion.

There must be other methods to avoid excessive force from both sides that only add to the chaos and anger.

There must be a better way.

Satirical Miracle



BY CHRISTOPHER TAN

ACROSS

1. The titular character of this blaxploitation spoof is super cool—and he knows kung fu. (2 words)
4. Mike Myers made a movie franchise poking fun at the James Bond films and novels. His international man of mystery first faced off against adversary Dr. Evil in 1997. (2 words)
9. Unfortunately for this comedian, his characters Borat, Ali G, and Bruno got so much limelight that potential targets became wise to his act, ruining a lot of potential material. (3 words)
10. This fictional heavy metal band can boast 15 studio albums. Unfortunately, 12 are only part of their fictional discography. Still, the three real ones rock—when you crank them up to 11! (2 words)
14. You can catch this guy playing a fictionalized version of himself every weeknight, right after *The Daily Show*, the program that he spun off from. (2 words)
15. This raunchy film satires many horror films, drawing a lot of its plot and characters from 11-Across—and while it may not be as smart, it's pretty much a masterpiece in comparison to all of its sequels and spin-offs. (2 words)

DOWN

2. This film, or: *How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* currently holds a 100 per cent Fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes. It's been hailed by Roger Ebert as "arguably the best political satire of the century." (2 words)
3. Even though this film was made as a parody of the zombie genre, I'd say that it outshines almost all of them. It's my top pick for best zombie film ever. (4 words)
5. Charlie Chaplin kept his iconic toothbrush moustache when filming this satire of Third Reich leader Adolf, the only other person anyone can remember sporting one hence the term 'Hitler 'stache.' (2 words)
6. This Jonathan Swift essay embodies everything we know and love about good satire: Dry delivery, tons of irony, but also an opening of readers' eyes to society's shortcomings. (3 words)
7. This troupe of English comics has brought us satirical masterpieces such as their films *Life of Brian*, *The Holy Grail*, and *The Meaning of Life*. (2 words)
8. A movie about a movie, this film was met with some controversy after the casting of Robert Downey, Jr. as a white actor playing a black character, as well as Ben Stiller mocking the portrayal of the mentally handicapped by non-disabled actors. (2 words)
9. This film spoofs many of the tropes found in modern sci-fi movies such as *Star Wars*, *Star Trek* or the *Aliens* series.
11. This meta-movie's success as both a box-office and cult hit changed the face of slasher films to come. "What's your favourite scary movie?"
12. When Matt Stone and Trey Parker's controversial show was described as "nothing but bad animation and fart jokes" in its early days, they decided to one-up themselves by creating "Terrence and Phillip," a show-within-a-show that was composed of nothing but that. (2 words)
13. While this satirical newspaper's stories are obviously farcical to most, they are taken as real journalism by some folks once in a while. The most recent example of this was when Congressman John Fleming linked a story about a proposed \$8 billion "Abortionplex." Always check your sources, kids. (2 words)



Consequences of Public Sex

The question of consequences for public sex has come up a few times lately so I decided to check with three different sources: the police, Concordia University and a movie theatre in the downtown core—who, for reasons that'll become clear, wished to remain unnamed.

The Service de police de la Ville de Montréal came first. I decided to email the three police stations closest to Concordia and, surprisingly, they all answered within a week—but only one of them had anything useful to say—a link to a website outlining offences under "Cybersex, Nudity, Indecency, and Prostitution."

The only section related to sex in public is about the legality of two consenting adults having sex in a municipal park, to which the SPVM answered, "It depends."

Their definition of an indecent act is anything "that exposes people or society in general to some sort of prejudice (nuisance or harm) that is incompatible with the smooth functioning of society."

Its conclusion was that "it is a criminal offence for a person to participate in sexual activity in a public place in the presence of one or more people," and that you can face up to six months in prison as a consequence.

Basically, this entry gives the impression that it's not the public sex itself that's illegal, it's the fact that other people may be present and subjected to you gettin' down and dirty, or that people may be prevented from using the area you're occupying in the way they typically would.

If you hadn't already guessed, yes—a cop in your presence counts as "one or more people," so you could be, well, fucked if a cop finds you fuckin'. They don't really give any clear indication of what else can happen, aside from jail time, but I'm sure a ticket or a warning is much more likely to happen.

Now, the one we really want to know about: Concordia. The Office of Rights and Responsibilities seemed to pass my email around quite a bit before finally deciding on who should answer it.

It came pretty close to being the director of media relations

for Concordia University, but since she's out of town, the advisor from ORR, to whom I'd initially directed my email, replied instead.

Students, faculty and staff are all bound by the Code of Rights and Responsibilities at Concordia and there are several things that can happen if you're caught getting naughty.

For starters, the code states that any illegal activity that happens within the university is considered an infraction, so a complaint can be filed, after which you would have to attend a hearing to determine the sanction placed.

A sanction can be anything from a written reprimand to something more serious like recommendation for suspension or even expulsion.

Since it's also illegal outside of the university, Concordia security "may be summoned and/or the police called." The advisor was also sure to mention the potential discomfort or embarrassment felt by a person who stumbles upon two people having sex.

Now imagine working in a movie theatre and being that person. What would you do?

The movie theatre employee that I spoke to has seen it happen a few times and, if it's after the movie is done, they'll usually turn on the lights to send a message to the couple—or kindly ask them to leave, if necessary. Police would only be notified if there was a refusal to leave or something really obscene was happening.

What does this all tell us? Basically, it's an embarrassing situation for everyone, and no one wants to be that person who catches people having sex.

So, it seems that no one really has a strict protocol on how to approach it. It's usually awkward for those involved, so if you're going to have public sex—try to do it somewhere you're less likely to get caught, for your sake and for the sake of the poor security guard who might find you!

- Melissa Fuller

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

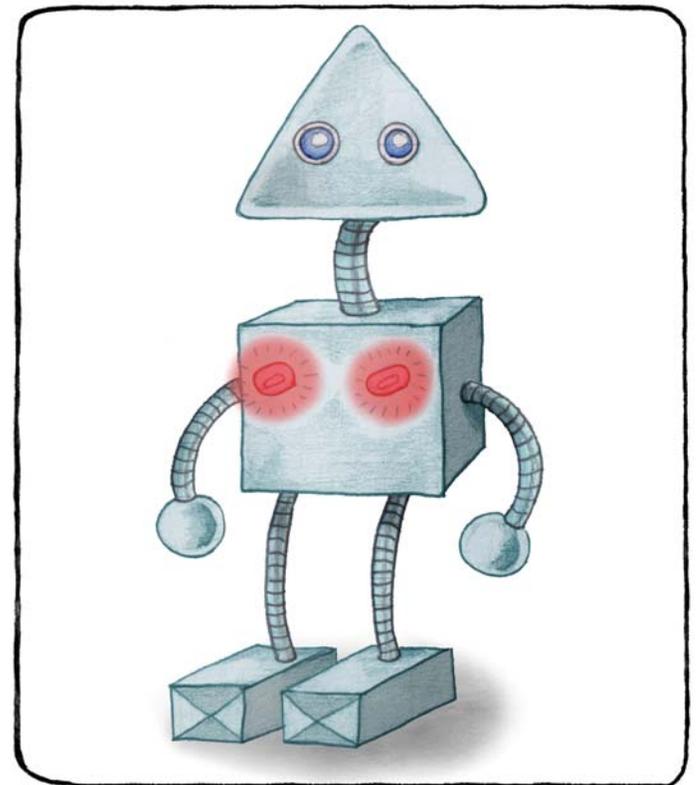
Barton Flats

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



So So Stories

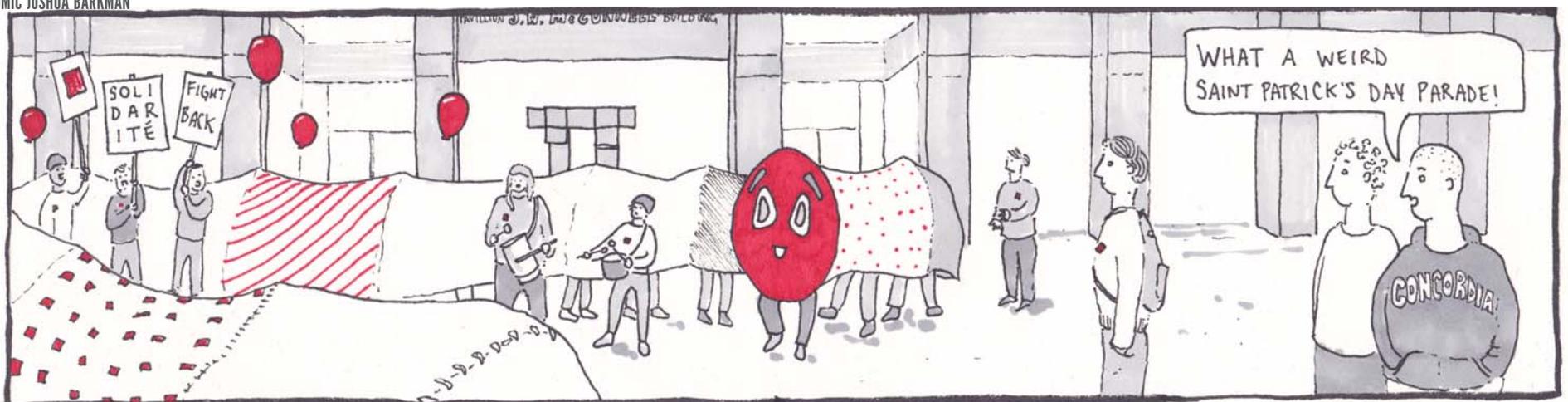
by Christopher Olsen



In the end, it took a robot to teach man the true meaning of love. If only it would learn to stop flashing people.

False Knees

COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



Nah'msayin?

The Mean, Green, Brain-Destroying Machine

Ed.'s Note: The Nah'msayin? is usually reserved for a rant of some sort about a not-too-serious subject. This week, we decided to go a different route and ask our Current Affairs Editor to write one after a night of heavy drinking on St. Patrick's Day. This is the sad, sad, unedited aftermath.

Ok, St Paddy's day. It's cool, and all. Really. I'm not Irish, not even close, but damn i think it's fun to pretend cuz what the hell.

So they asked me to write a drunken rant and I have auto spell check but it only seems to work half the time. Fuckin buck-

owski had a typewrite and managed to write so good on him, know what I mean?

Green is a cool colour, but it's a bit monotone today. The gay pride parade has it right full rainbows and all that. Very colourful, good for them.

Punchline punchline punchline, I'm not going to dance for all of you.

NOW THAT'S HOW YOU WRITE A GODDAM NAHM-SAYIN, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

Cool, see you next year.

-Adam Kovac
Current Affairs Editor



"Whoa, wait... I'm a really good drawer"

GRAPHIC JOSHUA BARKMAN

editorial

Guilty by Association?

There were a lot of fast facts and assumptions flying around last Thursday's Anti-Police Brutality March among the pops of concussion grenades and clouds of pepper spray, but the worst among them was that the student movement against tuition hikes was somehow responsible for the mindless destruction of our city.

But the reason for the larger-than-average student turnout to the march this year was to rally against the kinds of tactics that caused 20-year-old CEGEP student protester Francis Grenier to take a flash bang grenade in his right eye while he sat peacefully playing a harmonica.

Lately, you can literally smell the cops coming—good ol' pepper spray is their very favorite tool these days.

While the annual anti-police brutality event has arguably been getting more brutal in recent years, somehow the red square became something of an accidental mascot for Thursday's destruction this time around—at least as far as national coverage is concerned.

The Globe and Mail managed to fit a tidy quote into their story from the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal Chief Marc Parent saying that the force was "already overwhelmed with the nearly daily protests by striking students protesting tuition hikes."

There was also a "feature" on the history-making Concordia strike that was syndicated by Global News and its Postmedia family across the country that was bookended with the mention of the notoriously anarchic Anti-Police Brutality March matched to images of peaceful student protests under a single headline: "Montreal Anti-Police Brutality March Quickly Turns Violent as Protesters Smash Cop Car and Throw Projec-

tiles."

Linking two radically different marches just because of a high youth turnout does more than just misinform Canadians (which is bad enough), it very intentionally and insidiously undermines the entire student movement.

It's no big secret that the illusion of violence can seriously destroy the legitimacy we're already being told we don't have.

And while most media has been slow to actually analyze the many facets of the issue, this sensationalized reporting is actively working damage the student cause.

It leads viewers to equate red letters spelling "grève" and an overturned cruiser—putting all the more pressure on police to crush the allegedly militant student masses.

It's also more than a little ironic that Education Minister Line Beauchamp would not condemn police intimidation and aggression at peaceful protests while attempting to promote a \$6-million-dollar anti-bullying campaign, as was evidenced during her interview on French talk show *Tout le monde en parle* Sunday night.

Bullying in schools is obviously an important issue, but how she can brush aside the SPVM's habit of shield-tapping scare tactics and increasing force against student demonstrators is baffling.

And while the given picture is that Baby Boomers don't support the struggle of Generation Y, we just saw 10,000 people gather in solidarity for a family-friendly march on Sunday that would suggest otherwise.

There are reams of people sharing in the ideology outside of our age bracket, but being unfairly labeled as violent im-



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

beciles will serve to hurt that essential support.

Is that the point of the erroneous connection of violence to a greater cause?

The condescension dripping off the coverage of students is a battle that cannot be won with smashed glass and paint bombs. We know that, but it seems to have proven impossible for some of the biggest media players in our country to distinguish the red-square toting students with the individual destructive tactics of a few dozen shit-disturbers who likely don't have a stake in the tuition issue at all.

There are notable exceptions, however: last week *La Presse* filmed a student demonstration that saw participants surround Black Bloc mem-

bers, pulling the reins on their destructive tendencies.

That is what we're about here.

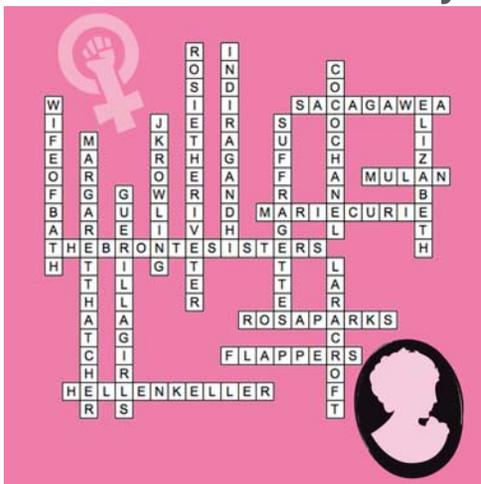
If anything, students should see the dogged determination by the media to pair fighting for accessible education with Thursday's car-rolling lunacy as a sign. We need to take extra care when it comes to our manifestations, as frustrating as this misrepresentation is.

Despite coverage that has painted protests with broad strokes, we need to move forward regardless.

As long as our mobilization stays non-violent, we'll have the truth on our side—and the truth will set us free.

- Hilary Sinclair
Opinions Editor

International Women's Day



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