

AUSCARITY



Trick-or-treaters were looking for more than candy bars this Halloween. Upset about cuts to public services, thousands protested in the streets. **P. 4**

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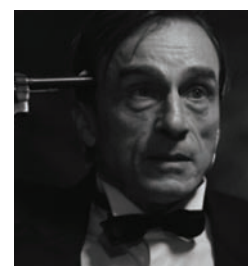
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ABCs of DEATH 2
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November 6 at 7:30 PM
THE TRIBE
 By Myroslav Slaboshpytskiy
 with Yana Novikova and
 Grigoriy Fesenko



November 7 at 7:30 PM
WHITE BIRD IN A BLIZZARD
 By Gregg Araki
 with Shailene Woodley
 and Eva Green



November 10 at 7:30 PM
HARD TO BE A GOD
 By Aleksey German
 with Leonid Yarmolnik



November 4 at 9 PM
BROTHER ALI
 With Bamby and MaLLy
\$35 advance tickets
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November 8 at 8:30 PM
TANYA TAGAQ
 With Doomsquad
\$21.25 (taxes and fees
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November 21 at 6 PM
DEE *The Space Between Us*
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 FOR ART IN ALL ITS FORMS

current affairs

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Over 10,000 people prowled Montreal's streets on Halloween, protesting austerity measures.

6 INVIGILATORS ONE STEP CLOSER TO UNIONIZATION

Concordia's exam supervisors are inching towards better labour conditions with a vote on a bargaining unit.

7 FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There's no more shortage of local and organic food options at Concordia. This is why.

PRETTY OIL PAINTINGS

A local activist group engages students in creating art with the goal of sparking discussions about the Energy East pipeline.

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POETRY FOR PALESTINE

Author Remi Kanazi melds art with activism to spread message about oppression in Palestine and the world

NO MORE BABIES

Local writer finds inspiration from Finland circa 1980's, proposes a reproduction strike by ecofeminists to fight climate change in Canada

fringe arts

8 CARIBOU PLAYS THE SENTIMENTAL DJ



Dan Snaith finds his voice on the lush, dancey *Our Love* LP.

9 THE STAGE BECOMES A LABORATORY

Concordia students provide an annual dose of theatre with Short Works Theatre Festival/SIPA.

CHIEF SQUAD TAKES ON BEAUX DÉGÂTS #25

Beaux Dégâts, put on by Fresh Paint Gallery at Foufounes Électriques, featured a fresh-faced team of three Concordia undergraduate students.

sports

10 THREE'S NO COMPANY



The Concordia Stingers men's hockey team have now lost three games in a row following their loss to Queen's University this past Saturday.

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WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

Catch up on the Concordia Stingers' past week through our online recaps.

11 GET YOUR SHRINE ON



The Concordia Stingers football team won the 28th annual Shrine Bowl with a 30-28 victory over the McGill Redmen this past Saturday afternoon.

thelinknewspaper.ca

SPREADING DISCORDIA

You might have heard loud talk of sex, climate change or body positivity outside the Hive Café last Thursday evening.

FOR BETTER OR FOR MUSIC

Canadian singer-songwriter Jon Davis launches his new music video "Better" from his second album, *Open Shore*.

weekly calendar

CURRENT

Standpoints: Art and Innovation
Wednesday, Nov. 5, 6 p.m.
Tanna Schulich Hall, New Music Building, McGill University (555 Sherbrooke St. West)
Free

Standpoints is hosting a discussion on art and innovation in the 21st century, their first event of the academic year. This conference is part of the McGill Innovation Week and focuses on innovation in both classic and contemporary art. Speakers include Stéphane Aquin, curator of contemporary art at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, and Philippe Demers, co-founder and managing director at MassivArt.

Immigrants with Disabilities in Canada: Discrimination, Segregation, Suicidal Deportation
Thursday, Nov. 6, 11 a.m.
Students' Society of McGill University (3480 McTavish St.)
Free

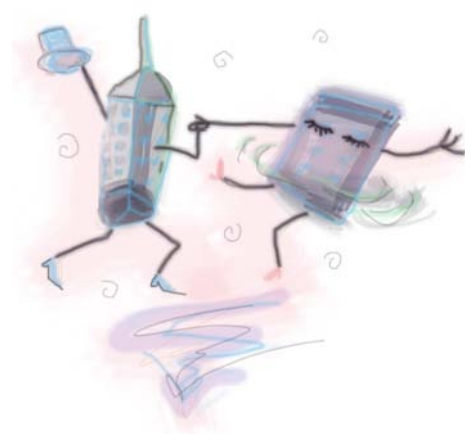
Looking at discrimination against people with disabilities in Canadian immigration policies, this conference will examine the inconsistencies between Canadian laws and practiced immigration regulations. The event is part of QPIRG McGill's annual Culture Shock series dedicated to exploring the myths surrounding immigrants, refugees, Indigenous peoples and communities of colour. The workshop will take place at the Madeleine Parent Room on the 2nd floor of the Students' Society of McGill University Building.

PERFORMANCE

La Chambre Blanche
Friday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m.
Circuit-Est Centre Choréographique, Studio Jeanne-Renaud (2022 Sherbrooke St. East)
Free

Mixing dance and architecture, Atelier Pierre Thibault's installation vernissage focuses on an evolving ephemeral performance that reflects on the aesthetics of the built environment of the 1990s. La Chambre Blanche showcases several ephemeral installations in a five-room circuit, all related to the theme of delicacy.

4



ART

Exposition Vétérans sans-abris de François Pesant
Tuesday, Nov. 4, 12:15 p.m.
Centre for Sustainable Development (50 Ste. Catherine St. West)

Montreal's Centre for Sustainable Development is holding François Pesant's vernissage of the "Vétérans sans-abris" photo exhibition, which looks at the reality of homelessness among American veterans. A panel on "Breaking the Homelessness Taboo by Social Innovation" will be held on that occasion at 12:15 p.m. The event will be held in collaboration with the Société de développement social de Ville-Marie and *L'itinéraire* magazine.

Sessions 7: Vincent Bonin
Wednesday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m.
Dazibao (5455 de Gaspé Ave.)
Reservation via e-mail at expos@dazibao-photo.org

As part of the Sessions series at Dazibao, Session 7 showcases the 1993 autobiographical documentary *Fast Trip, Long Drop* by Gregg Bordowitz, a writer, AIDS activist and filmmaker. The screening, presented by independent curator Vincent Bonin, explores the relationship between HIV/AIDS and personal history.

CINEMA

Concerning Violence
Monday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.
Concordia University, Room H-110
Free

This week's Cinema Politica screening examines the conditions of African decolonization, based on Frantz Fanon's foundational 1961 text *The Wretched of the Earth*. Elaborated through archival research, the film reflects on the consequences of neocolonialism and the reactions it ignites.

OTHER

MTL à Table
Thursday, Oct. 30 to Sunday, Nov. 9
Tickets available at www.mtlatable.com

MTL à Table's third edition, held in collaboration with Vins de France, includes a list of over 135 participating restaurants. Get a taste of some of the best restaurants in Montreal, offering menus ranging from \$19 to \$39.

Neither Candy nor Public-Sector Funding for Angry Trick-or-Treaters

Over 10K March in Halloween Protest Against Austerity



by Noelle Didierjean @noellesolange

An estimated 10,000 disgruntled zombies, witches, students and public sector employees took to the streets of Montreal Friday to protest austerity measures imposed by the Quebec government.

"In the past few months, the government has taken us 30 years back with all of these regressive measures. We're talking cuts in education, health, environment, culture—they're [calling into] question the whole social system on which Quebec was built," Camille Godbout, secretary of internal relations at Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante and student at the Université de Laval, told *The Link*.

A contingent of students left from Concordia University at 10:30 a.m. to join the main demonstration at the corner of McGill College Ave. and Sherbrooke St., in front of Quebec premiere Philippe Couillard's offices.

Fuelled by vegan muffins and coffee supplied by the People's Potato, students walked from the Hall building to the administrative building via the connecting tunnel.

"Whose revolving doors? Our revolving doors!" the students chanted jokingly as they passed through the doors in question on their way to the EV building.

Representatives from a variety of student groups were at the protest, from Sustainable Concordia to the Students of Philosophy

Association and the Students Association of Graduates in English at Concordia University. Both of the student associations voted to join the strike.

According to the movement's official website, printemps2015.org, there were 82,409 students across the province on strike for the day.

"Students are especially touched by austerity as it applies to the public education sector, so it feels like a responsibility for not only my fellow students, but students that come after me, to make a stand," Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis, councillor at the Concordia Student Union, told *The Link* from beneath her disguise as "sexy Stephen Harper."

Francine Tremblay, part-time professor of anthropology and sociology at Concordia, told *The Link* that she was forced to cut back on the number of assignments given to her students and that she's struggled to give any constructive feedback due to growing class sizes.

"Students need a lot more help than I can give them," she told *The Link*, adding that the budget cuts had diminished job security for part-time staff.

"There's not a single person in Quebec that does not know that [sacrifices must be made]. The problem is, who will make the sacrifice?" she asked. "It's not the people that make the most, that could let go of their raise."

"I think that at the end, it may very well

be the student that will pay the price," she concluded.

According to David Macdonald, a senior economist at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, although austerity may seem like a positive value, it can have negative effects on low-income households.

"What austerity practically means [...] is that you're seeing services cut, to veterans for instance, services cut to food safety, services cut to the unemployed—so that you can reduce taxes for rich people," he told *The Link* by phone.

"It's not a problem that governments run deficits when times are slow, it's actually exactly what should be happening. And if you rapidly cut back on spending, by cutting services to low-income households, in a variety of ways, you slow the recovery and you also hurt those families."

Concordia walked to the main contingent via Sherbrooke, joining the many student and labour unions on strike that were present.

At least 40 buses came in from outside the island of Montreal to bring people to the protest, said Veronique Laflamme of the Coalition opposée à la tarification et à la privatisation des services publics, an organization against the privatisation of public services.

"They can't have us believe there aren't other solutions than to cut programs and public services for 99% of the population and

give gifts that privilege only a minority in our society," she told members of the media.

Protesters representing other organizations echoed the sentiment.

"These [austerity] measures would undo all the social programs that we have. [We need] social justice and a better distribution of wealth in Quebec," André Grandchamps, general secretary of the Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec, told *The Link*.

"Today is the first in a series of actions," he continued. "We doubt that the government is going to adopt [our demands] today. But we won't give up, we're going to continue."

At around noon, the demonstration—which was declared illegal by police because it did not announce its route in advance—made its way down St. Catherine St. to the Old Port, stopping in front of the elite club 357c.

Afterwards, a few hundred protesters wound their way up to the upper Plateau before going back downtown from the intersection of Mont-Royal Ave. and St. Laurent Blvd. The crowd fizzled out around 3:30 p.m., with the last of the protesters standing at the intersection of Berri and Ste. Catherine St.

top left and bottom photo Erin Sparks, top right photo Brandon Johnston

Round Two Against Austerity

Smaller Nighttime Anti-Austerity March Ends with 1 Arrest



by Michelle Pucci and Jonathan Cook

Anti-austerity protests resumed Friday night at Place Émilie-Gamelin, where hundreds gathered to denounce austerity. One person was arrested at the end of the march through downtown Montreal.

Although light in comparison to the march that drew thousands to McGill earlier that day, Friday night's crowd grew slowly, and by 9:30 p.m. hundreds of protesters were marching up Berri St.

Julien Grenon, one of the many young protesters present, said he wanted to denounce the attacks to services that make Quebec a social state, although he couldn't make it to the earlier demonstration.

"I'm part of the middle class; I don't necessarily need the services," said Grenon, a student at Cégep de Jonquière. "But even if I don't use services other than the hospital, I want us to keep them, because you don't know what can happen."

The leaders in the front of the march held a banner which read "Résistance Tabarnak," or "Resist, for fuck's sake." They led their followers through multiple streets, including St. Laurent Blvd., St. Denis St. and up and down Berri St.

The police anticipated the protest's movements and diverted traffic early on many streets, creating empty lanes to march through. At points, though, protesters attempted to disrupt police order.

The heaviest traffic was on Ste. Catherine St. East as an impromptu direction change saw marchers weave through stopped vehicles. Police in riot gear intervened at an intersection with René-Lévesque Blvd. East.

As the crowd lost its momentum and most of its numbers, police began controlling the path of marchers. They were led along René-Lévesque Blvd. and St. Denis St.

A man was pushed to the ground by three police officers in riot gear after fighting back as remaining protesters

were forced onto sidewalks and dispersed by themselves.

There was a minor arrest and the protest was otherwise peaceful, says police spokesperson Ian Lafrenière, who didn't have more information on whether the man was charged or released.

A vigil was held in Place Émilie-Gamelin hours before the protest, in memory of an activist and citizen journalist.

Martin Tremblay, who was active in Montreal's summer protests in 2012, committed suicide in his home on Oct. 23.

David-Maxime Samson, a photojournalist present at the vigil, said Tremblay's suicide highlighted "the suffering of an activist."

"Often an activist, after a big protest is very depressed," Samson said. "It's a mix of anger and frustration and a sense of wrong towards society."

"Martin felt it more strongly, and used his medication to commit suicide."

Tremblay had been seropositive for a

degenerative disease for 26 years, said Martin Sauvageau from La Brigade des Anges de Montréal, who organized the vigil. Sauvageau did not feel comfortable detailing Tremblay's medical history.

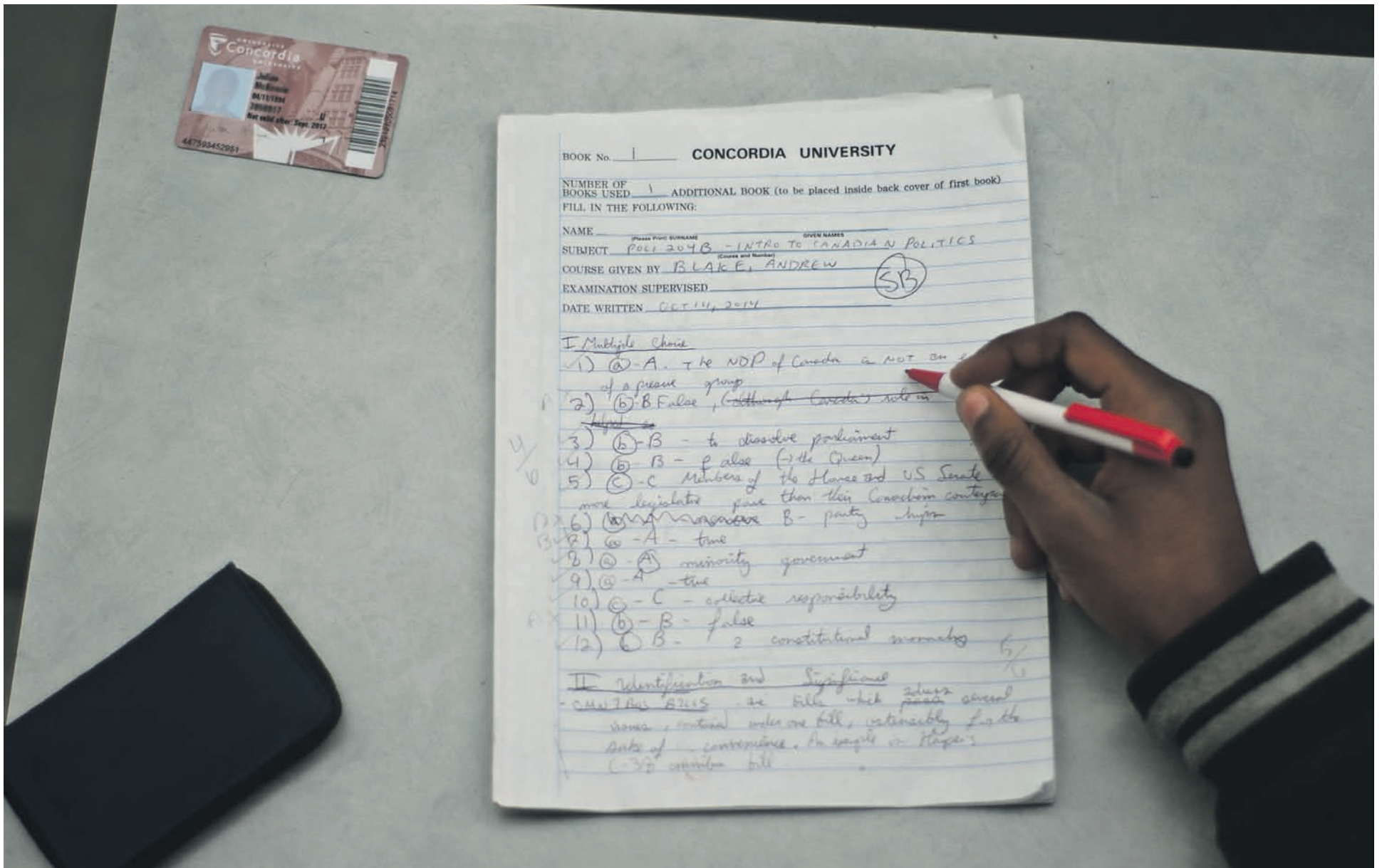
Some of the people there held candles, despite the strong wind. Sandra Cordero participated in the vigil as well as both protests Friday.

"If there are more, if I have to move around, then I'll do it again," she said.

Cordero works with elderly people as a home-care worker through L'Agence, an agency that coordinates with Quebec clinics. She says she often meets people that have difficulty with social services like unemployment and welfare, many of whom can't afford current food prices.

"This week, someone told me that for their birthday they bought a can of maple syrup," Cordero said. "That's not normal as a gift."

top photo Erin Sparks,
bottom Michelle Pucci



Invigilators One Step Closer to Unionization

Exam Supervisors to Vote on Forming Bargaining Unit

by Jane Gatensby @JaneGatensby

In the latest development in a months-long dispute with the university over pay and working conditions, Concordia's invigilators will vote in November on whether they want to form an official union.

The vote will take place by mail-in ballot between Nov. 10 and Dec. 8. If a majority is reached, a new invigilators' union will gain certification from the province and the university will be obligated to enter into negotiations with the employees who supervise Concordia's exams.

Invigilators hope that unionization will lead to improvements in what they see as unsavoury aspects of the job, including minimum-wage pay, the lack of a formal hiring process or system of seniority and poor treatment by supervisors.

"They seem like minor things, but they actually add up to a stressful environment," explained Bob Sonin, VP Mobilization of Teaching and Research Assistants at Concordia, in an interview with *The Link*. Involved in the unionization campaign, Sonin organized an initial union drive during the winter exam period.

The invigilators' grievances were first raised by the Graduate Students' Association early in the winter semester of last school year. When talks with Concordia on the issue proved unsatisfactory, the GSA reached out to TRAC to help with the unionization process. Because invigilators are often graduate students, many already belong to TRAC, a Public Service Alliance of Canada local that represents Concordia's teaching and research assistants.

According to Sonin, collective bargaining is the most effective way to improve conditions for invigilators.

"Organize a union and then you'll have a leg to stand on for complaints, a much more transparent hiring process, a better grievance process and better pay," he said.

With approximately 180 union cards signed during the drive, the invigilators' certification request was submitted to the Commission des relations du travail, Quebec's labour tribunal, in May of this year. However, the process was stalled due to a disagreement between TRAC and Concordia over which invigilators should be allowed to participate in the vote.

TRAC initially considered the regular invigilator workforce to be made up of about 300 people. But the list of invigilators that Concordia provided to the commission in the lead-up to the vote included everyone who had worked as an invigilator throughout the entire year, even if only for a few hours. Concordia's list more than doubled the number of votes needed to certify the union.

Concordia and TRAC (represented by PSAC) went before the tribunal several times to argue over the criteria for voting.

Sonin considered the university's position to be unreasonable, saying that many of the invigilators on Concordia's list had worked too few hours to be representative of the workforce as a whole. He suggested that Concordia's insistence on a longer list was a tactic to make the vote less likely to go through.

In an email to *The Link*, Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota refuted this allegation, saying the administration believed that

"all invigilators should have the right to be involved in this decision."

"Invigilators are not a homogenous group," she continued. "It includes graduate students, retirees and others, who work a different amount of hours for a variety of reasons."

Finalized on Monday, the official list of electors comprises approximately 210 invigilators, who will receive their ballots by mail in November.

The Road Ahead

Of course, a "yes" vote is only the beginning. If the union is certified, its bargaining unit will be tasked with advancing the invigilators' cause in a time of austerity and strained labour relations at Concordia.

TRAC bargaining officer Isabelle Johnston, who plans to lead the unit, told *The Link* that her first steps will be to research the wage issue and consult with invigilators to determine their main priorities.

"The goals are up to the invigilators," she said. "This is their bargaining unit."

Johnston was adamant that the university's invigilators deserve more respect.

"Concordia needs to realize that invigilators are performing a necessary function," she said. "These are people who are accountable for students' exams."

Current invigilator pay, which is at or near the minimum wage, is "unacceptable," said Johnston. She added that since many invigilators are international students with few other employment options, the wages paid by Concordia are "a bit exploitative."

Concordia, for its part, stated that it "pays

appropriate wages for work performed at the university and respects the labour standards act with respect to payment of wages."

When asked whether she was optimistic about invigilators' prospects for achieving their aims, Johnston hesitated to give a definite answer.

"I'm very excited that they are forming a union," she said. "I think that whatever comes of this, it will bring great changes for the invigilators."

TRAC in Transition

In order for the vote to go through, TRAC will need to make sure that the invigilators who signed union cards in April know that the vote is taking place and make the effort to send in their ballots.

But internal tensions within TRAC could make getting out the vote a challenge.

The union's executive committee is experiencing a schism, the yearly budget has not been established and access to funds is blocked.

Normally, Sonin said, TRAC would use its cash reserves to hire organizers to get out the vote by making phone calls and visiting offices and labs. But the local's current situation will make funding such efforts difficult.

"You can't do anything if you can't hire people and you can't pay them," Sonin said, adding that he and the other organizers may not even be able to print posters or buy coffee to serve at meetings with invigilators.

"TRAC is sort of dead in the water right now," he concluded.

photo Brandon Johnston

Feed Your Head—and Your Body

Student-Run Farmers' Market Brings Local Produce to Concordia



by Michelle Pucci

Stressed-out students aren't known for making responsible food choices, but a new student-run initiative at Concordia is set to make those choices easier.

Last Wednesday Alejandra Melian-Morse and Kasha Paprocki, with the help of six volunteers, set up the Concordia's Farmers' Market to bring food directly to students and staff.

"Did we mention it's all local and organic?" Paprocki asked.

From noon to 6 p.m. every Wednesday, anyone on campus can stop by the Green Space at H-224 to pick up fresh organic fruits and vegetables, chutneys, tomato sauces, at least six different kinds of honey, fresh bread and pies.

The initiative started in a 3-credit internship course called "The Social Economy of Food" supervised by Satoshi Ikeda, a research chair and professor in the department of sociology and anthropology.

"We started by seeing what people were interested in," said Melian-Morse. "We

gave out surveys and tried to get input from students on campus."

The first market was so successful that the sustainable foods it gathered sold out by 3 p.m. The Concordia Greenhouse had homegrown tea and sprouts for sale, the City Farm School sold produce and honey from their beehive and the rooftop garden project behind JMSB had kale and lettuce. Another group of Ikeda's protégés, The Cooking Club, sold soups in jars.

Ikeda helped out by making smoothie samples from Concordia garden greens and selling all their produce.

Eric Laflamme from Ferme les Petites Écores said there were a lot of curious students wandering in throughout the day. His family-owned farm produces caramel, cinnamon and dark chocolate honey as well as sea-buckthorn and apple butter.

"There are a lot of things that you don't find easily like local honey and fresh fruits and vegetables," he said of why markets like these work.

One student, Laflamme says, was looking

for what he called "parasites" found in beehives that look like spider webs.

"He was like, 'can you bring me some, because I use it for cooking?'" Laflamme said. "It's something it seems can be cooked. I think he's also using it for his class."

Ferme des Arpents Roses, Les Jardins Épicés and Multi-Ferme were also present, along with Aux Gourmandises de Soulanges bakery. Melian-Morse and Paprocki are hoping to get a wider variety of goods by bringing dairy and meat products to the market, so students can get most of their shopping done at once.

"The goal is just to encourage local and organic food, but apart from that we have no limitations in terms of meat or dairy or bugs," said Paprocki.

There has been a farmers' market at Concordia in past summers, said Ikeda, but never in the winter or fall.

The biggest challenge, Melian-Morse and Paprocki said, was contacting farmers. When visiting similar markets at Université du Québec à Montréal and McGill, they spoke

with the farmers there and got advice from organizers on running a successful market.

Now that the UQAM and McGill markets are closed for the season, Concordia will have the only on-campus farmers' market in Montreal.

"That was one of the reasons we wanted to pursue it at this time of year, to have something that's going on even throughout the winter," said Paprocki.

To overcome the lack of variety as the cold kicks in, they'll have to coordinate with greenhouses to find a way to continue to offer fresh fruits and vegetables on campus.

Finding funding for the project is also in the works. Melian-Morse and Paprocki have applied for funding from the Sustainability Action Fund, but if the Concordia project is successful they're hoping to become a fee-levy group, move to a bigger location and maybe hire a part-time coordinator.

The next farmers' market is Wednesday—and there may be insects.

photo Shaun Michaud

Of Oil Spills and Oil Paints

Whalebone Collective Uses Guerilla Art to Raise Awareness of Energy East Pipeline



by June Loper @Loperjune

Lines of string resembling clothing lines held together monoprints and drawings from hundreds of students responding to the question, "What does Energy East Pipeline mean to you?"

The structure was part of eco-activist group Whalebone Collective's presentation of guerilla art making in Concordia's Hall Building, raising awareness and opening dialogue about the highly controversial Energy East pipeline.

TransCanada recently submitted an application for the pipeline that will transport oil from Alberta's tar sands to eastern Canada.

After engaging with the student body, Molly McGregor, project head and creative director at Whalebone Collective, realized that many students were not very informed about the pipeline.

Looking for creative ways to make the conversation more accessible, McGregor came up with the idea of a collaborative

piece as a way to create a safe space where people could share thoughts and ask questions about the issue.

"Because the Harper government does not want this information to be publicized, a lot of people don't know how terrible this pipeline will be if it's passed," McGregor said.

Supported by the Concordia Student Union, Divest Concordia and the Mob Squad, the piece includes collages, screen-printed sheets and various semi-abstract drawings—one of them by McGregor shows a man falling into an abyss.

More than 300 creations have already been collected. Glue, tape, crayons, markers and plenty of craft-making materials are available for everyone to draw and be creative.

"We want as many diverse opinions as possible," said McGregor. "We're just looking for an accurate reflection of the student body and we hope to educate them and get everyone aboard against this pipeline, because it is so detrimental to our environment."

The collected monoprints will carry on into

an evolving gallery at the Hive cooperative as of Nov. 9—the day of the fossil fuel divestment conference at Concordia. The collective will then build puppets to showcase during the protest against the Energy East pipeline on Nov. 15.

The artists running this project will design their own pipeline, which they will carry on their shoulders during the march. Following a narrative performance the protesters carrying the pipeline will use music, homemade instruments and different theatrical devices, including stop signs, to lead the progression forward.

Starting with a song, a first group of protesters will praise the beauty of the Canadian national identity by throwing an array of maple leaves into the air. In stark contrast a second group will follow, singing a funeral song emphasizing the weight and the darkness of the pipeline.

Since it first started, the project has proven to be a great platform for dialogue and quite a joyful place for interaction.

"People also have been just chilling, bring-

ing their lunch down, drawing a picture. It's been really sweet; there's been a lot of finger painting, which is fun," McGregor said.

"So often it gets quite gloomy in activist interventions but what we're trying to do is recognize the gloom, work with the gloom but also see that solidarity is a beautiful, pure form of love."

Activist art-building workshops will be held on Nov. 4, 11 and 13 and will involve banner-making, songwriting, slogan-inventing and puppet-building activities. The workshops are open to anyone who wishes to get involved and will take place on the seventh floor of the Hall building, across from the People's Potato.

"We need to show solidarity as a community. We need to show that there's more—that people care," said McGregor. "This place should be full of people. We need to get people helping us because our plan with this is to get everyone involved."

photo Shaun Michaud



CARIBOU PLAYS THE SENTIMENTAL DJ

Dan Snaith Finds His Voice on the Lush, Dancey *Our Love* LP

by Colin Harris @ColinnHarris

Accessibility is a tough art to master. Writing music with universal appeal can come off as pandering, or just outright bland.

But Dan Snaith didn't rely on cliché to reach the masses, even if his latest Caribou LP is all about love. The love he's singing about is complex and human, not some pre-packaged romance.

Our Love is an exercise in Snaith getting outside his own head, sharing his most personal music to date with his voice no longer buried under samples.

"I think it is a confidence thing," said Snaith. "The consideration of ego is to say, 'let's put in as many things as possible to kind of prove to people that this music has enough going on to justify its existence.'"

Snaith's latest is brimming with confidence even at its most vulnerable, managing to create a sense of space on *Our Love* that had always escaped him before. He's shaken the insecurity of people hearing him singing, a byproduct of playing hundreds of shows since the release of his last LP, *Swim*, including a tour with Radiohead.

But Snaith says there's always a bit of doubt as to whether he can do it again, despite the mounting acclaim over the course of his last three Caribou releases.

"It hasn't really made it easier," he says. "I still put in long, long hours making loads of tracks that don't get used, trying to figure out something new and exciting that could form the basis of the sound of this record."

"One thing that confidence and experience helps with is I kind of know I just need to keep working and something will happen."

Though he's been based in London, England, for the past decade, the Dundas, Ont., native brought on two fellow Canadians to

collaborate on *Our Love*. Owen Pallett's violin can be heard on "Silver" and Jessy Lanza is featured heavily on "Second Chance." But their impact on the record expands beyond that, Snaith having sent them—along with his friend Kieran Hebden, better known as Four Tet—early demos to get their input.

"A big part of what made the record so special is their input. When I hear those songs, I'll always remember them," Snaith says.

Snaith first collaborated with Pallett under Snaith's club moniker Daphni. They were both in Toronto at the time and Snaith proposed the two try and make some dance music.

"I said, 'let's just book a studio and see what happens.' And we had so much fun. We got in there and I was just hitting buttons and jamming away on things, and he was getting out a piece of paper and writing everything out on a score," he said.

Snaith, who has studied classical piano, says it's more than Pallett's training that makes him such a great musician, capable of bridging gaps between the classical world and the pop or dance music worlds.

"He has a different way of picturing what's going on," says Snaith. "There are plenty of people with classical training but Owen's one-of-a-kind. His take on music is very idiosyncratically his own."

With Caribou growing out of home recording experiments for the past 14 years, Snaith is at his most intimate on *Our Love*, singing about his own experiences and those of his close friends.

He's pulling from what he says have been the happiest years of his life, while also having friends go through divorces and losing friends from his generation and his parents. "Julia Brightly" is named after his friend and sound engineer who passed away in May.

On this record, Snaith builds an appropriate space for this kind of soul-baring. The record is largely warm, soft and pulling from one of the most sensitive musical styles—R&B.

"The first thing that was aesthetically exciting for me was the production sounds in contemporary R&B. Glassy, synthesized things where everything is very manufactured and glossy [...] with a synthetic frame for a human voice," says Snaith. "I thought the record would be much more in that way."

But at the most tender moments of *Our Love*, like the slow crescendo "Back Home" and album closer "Your Love Will Set You Free," it's the classics that come to mind. Playing Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye records for his daughter crept into Snaith's writing in an unexpected way.

"Those records were doing what I wanted this record to do, which is to be warm and generous, to share my personal life," he said. "Those records are the epitome of that, feeling the presence of the person who made the record in the room when you listen to it."

"Mars," the closest thing to a typical club song, is the outlier. Originally written a couple days ahead of a Boiler Room set he did with Jamie xx in 2011, there was something about the track that made him want to keep it off his Daphni debut *Jiaolong*. The treat of being able to hear its propulsive, syncopated drum line played by a live band is reason enough.

DJ-ing gave Snaith a chance to completely base his set off the audience, choosing tracks on the fly and being easily able to interact with the crowd. It's the polar opposite of what he does live with Caribou, where he's an avid multitasker—especially since touring with the more electronic-based *Swim* LP.

"There are some points in songs when we're playing live when I can't pay attention at all to

what's going on in the audience," he laughs.

"I have to be making eye contact with Brad [Weber], who's playing drums, and John [Schmersal], who's playing bass, and Ryan [Smith], stepping on this, pushing this button, singing, making sure the timing is right."

Since the release of *Swim* in 2010 they've been playing more dance music festivals too, where they're often the only act hauling guitars onstage. With two hybrid drum kits and a bunch of other tools, they're able to turn Snaith's layered studio compositions into something that can only be experienced at his shows.

They change things on the fly, grouped close together no matter how big the stage as images are projected onto their white t-shirts. What they're able to accomplish live is a testament to how well they know each other musically. Dan has been playing with Ryan since they were 13 years old, with Brad since 2007, and John since 2009.

Having finished the record in April, Dan says the last few months have been filled with eager anticipation, waiting for the world to hear the record. And with the glowing reviews piling up, he has nothing to worry about as far as public opinion is concerned.

"That moment when it's coming out and you're just starting to do shows you get this instinctual read of how they like the music, whether they need some time to absorb it—it's a really exciting time," he says.

"It's kind of a fulfillment moment of all those things that you've been working on for the last four years."

Caribou (with Jessy Lanza) // Nov. 10 // Métropolis (59 Ste. Catherine St. E.) // 7 p.m. // \$27 to \$30.55

photo courtesy of Merge Records

Concordia's Own Chief Squad Makes a Fine Mess Indeed



Artists Battle at Foufounes Électriques to Cover Its Walls with Graffiti

by Dori Julian

Last Wednesday, Foufounes Électriques was invaded by a hoard of graffiti artists that covered the walls of the venue with their canvases. Created by Fresh Paint Gallery, Beaux Dégâts is a project that aims to promote and encourage the practice of graffiti and street art. The latest edition featured a fresh-faced team of three Concordia students.

Naming themselves Chief Squad, the team is composed of Alex Leonard, a.k.a. Chilly Mac, Nada Moharam and Heather Holland, known as P3zz. They were the first team of students to participate in the monthly live art showdown.

Since they knew each other before the event, Chief Squad gelled as a team almost effortlessly.

"If one of us needed a change of pace or a change of workspace we could easily swap," said Chilly Mac.

"We played to each other's strengths," added P3zz.

Beaux Dégâts offers a laid-back environment for artists of all backgrounds to come together and create murals based on a theme chosen by a draw. The teams have thirty minutes to brainstorm and sketch their ideas on paper. When prep time runs out the real competition begins, leaving teams two hours to complete their works of art.

Chief Squad didn't let the pressure get to

them. "Once we had the brush to the canvas, we were in the zone," said P3zz.

The public voted by putting their empty beer cans in their favourite team's recycling bin, with the winning team returning for the next month's battle. The teams with the most amount of wins throughout the year will repaint the entrance of Foufounes Électriques during the upcoming Under Pressure Festival.

"We were super nervous in the beginning because we've never done something on that scale before," said P3zz.

"Being stressed about it made me go faster," added Nada.

Once the initial nervousness of competing against more experienced artists had passed, Chief Squad pulled through and collectively made the mural their own.

The members of Chief Squad made sure their personal styles shined through as they incorporated elements of collage and mixed media into their piece. They deliberately played with humour to contrast the dark images that steadily filled their canvas.

For this Halloween edition of Beaux Dégâts they decided to go "towards a comic book/cartoon sort of style," said P3zz.

"In the end, I love how gory it got," added Chilly Mac.

The artists were blown away by the openness of the people at the event and found it to be an

incredibly supportive learning environment.

"We had lots of random people come up and talk to us and ask us about our art and that was so cool," said Nada.

"It was stressful how many people were behind us but also very encouraging," added Chilly Mac. "You constantly feel like there are so many people watching your process but at the same time we did have a lot of our friends there supporting us."

The team raved about Beaux Dégâts' ability to bring all kinds of people, who aren't usually involved in the art scene, together to experience art in a fun, not-so-serious way.

When asked if they would like to participate again, all three teammates responded without hesitation.

"I would love the opportunity to come back again because now we know what to expect... I'd be down to do it again in a heartbeat," said Chilly Mac.

"We would kill it next time," added P3zz.

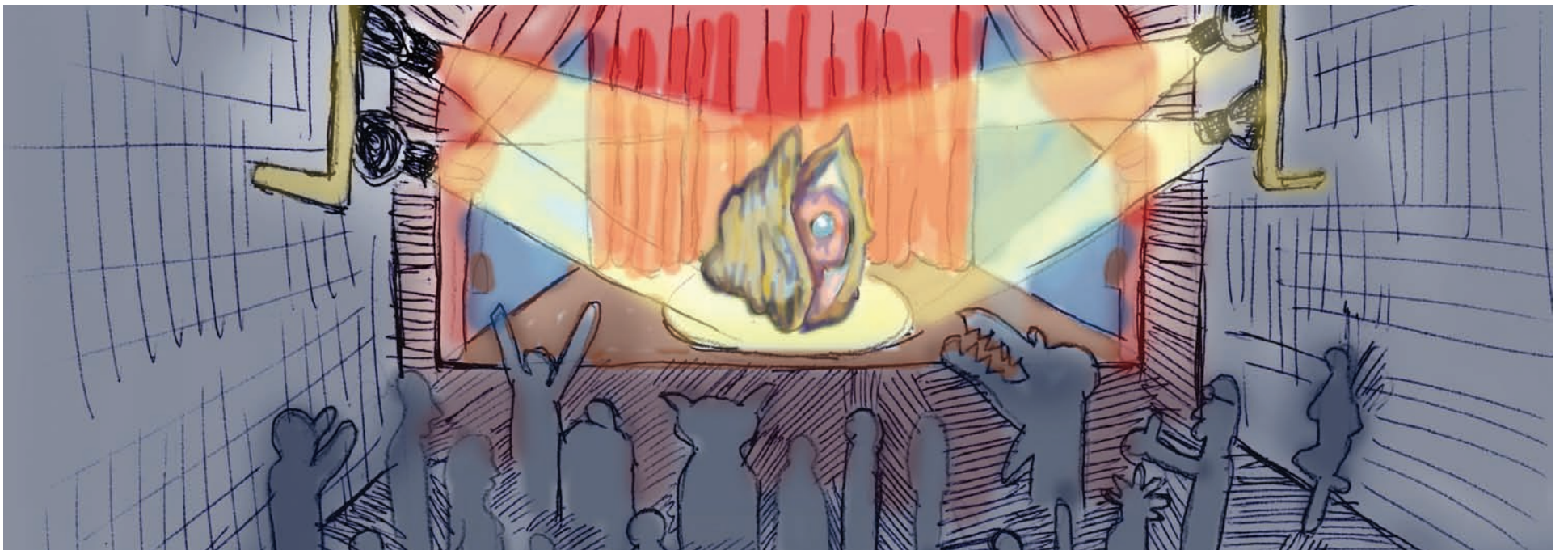
Chief Squad finished proud of their work and were voted third place out of six teams.

Beaux Dégâts #26 // Foufounes Électriques (87 Ste. Catherine St. East) // Wednesday, Nov. 26 // 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. // \$5

photo Dori Julian

The Stage Becomes a Laboratory

Concordia Students Provide Annual Dose of Theatre with Short Works Theatre Festival/SIPA



by Emily Carson-Apstein

From Nov. 6 to Nov. 9, the Cazalet Theatre at the Loyola Campus will be enveloped in a dramatic frenzy. Five student groups from Concordia's theatre program will be putting on a weekend's worth of shows interspersed with interactive gatherings and art installations.

"There's something really cool about the atmosphere of this festival," said Peter Shaw, co-director of the play *Oyster*. "Everybody kind of comes together for the weekend and we're all in this basement space at Loyola. It's very much driven by the students."

The Short Works Theatre Festival is a product of the Student Initiative Performance Assignment, a class in Concordia's theatre department that includes an exchange with the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg in Germany. Each of these student-crafted plays run under an hour and this year five plays will be showcased.

The plays cover topics ranging from gender and societal expectations to fame, relationships and loneliness. *Cockroaches*, written and directed by Dimitri Kyres, is an exploration of fame and violence and how these themes often go hand in hand. Julie Foster's *Hide Fox* is a dark absurdist comedy about murder, madness and method acting. *Four Storey Suite*, a collective creation by Veronica Baron, Jonathan Mac Donald, Cooper McGinnis and Alexandra Petrachuk, tells the story of four young adults living in an apartment complex.

The Short Works Theatre Festival/SIPA gives theatre students a chance to experiment and take risks that might be discouraged in a traditional theatre setting.

Shaw's *Oyster*, written and co-directed by Alicia Segura, tests the boundaries between performers and the audience. It's an experimental play that explores themes of femininity, love, self-esteem and loneliness.

"For about four weeks now we've had a presence on YouTube as well as Tumblr," said

Shaw. "We're still kind of exploring how that fits into the show and how the audience perceives it. It really is this experimental ground for students."

For the students themselves the festival is the culmination of months of hard work, from the initial script-writing to the set design to publicity.

Simon Banderob collaborated with students from the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg to explore gender in the play *In[bodied]*.

"People always expect something strange and weird to come out of the Germany exchange and we hope to hold that up," said Banderob over the shouts emanating from the rehearsal space nearby.

In[bodied] is divided into three acts. The first and most representational act is about gender as spectacle, while the second is about the deconstruction of that spectacle. "In the third act we try and see if it's possible to have a human exist beyond gender, or without gender," said Banderob. "We really do want

people to talk about it, and to wonder."

Running in conjunction with the SIPA-produced plays is OffSIPA, the component of the Short Works Festival not connected to the Concordia class. OffSIPA will showcase Manouchka Elinor's one-woman play *Post-Mortem* and a large-scale multimedia art installation, curated by Tyson Houseman, called Laniakea.

For the broader Concordia community the festival is a chance to witness some unique, innovative and affordable theatre, as well as to interact with playwrights, directors and actors.

"It's a great way to see a lot of different theatre for really cheap," said actor Katie Keca. "If you need a dose of theatre, that's the place to do it."

"It's this really great way to see what students are doing in theatre, this big expression in the Concordia fine arts community," said Shaw. "It'll be a grand old time."

graphic Sam Jones



The Concordia Stingers men's hockey team lost their third game in a row this past Saturday evening, losing 4-2 to the Queen's Golden Gaels at Ed Meagher Arena.

Buildup to Nowhere

Stingers Allow Four Unanswered Goals in Loss to Queen's Golden Gaels

by Daniele Iannarone @DanIannarone

It was difficult to watch the utter shock and disappointment on Olivier Hinse's face. The Stingers men's hockey captain had given his team a 2-0 lead against the Queen's Golden Gaels on Saturday evening and Concordia was seemingly on its way to a fourth victory this season.

But it wasn't meant to be. The Stingers built up a 2-0 lead in the second period only for the Gaels to respond with four unanswered goals, resulting in a 4-2 win for Queen's. The Stingers have now lost three straight games for the first time this season.

This result comes after the Stingers blew a 2-1 lead at Queen's just two weeks earlier, resulting in a 3-2 loss. Hinse could not hide the disappointment from his voice after his team blew yet another lead. "Played hard. Bad bounces. Gave up," Hinse said. "That's not the attitude we want.

We've got to step up our game when it's hard and just keep grinding. We're a team with a lot of skills but we've got to work. If we don't work, we don't win."

The Stingers had an early advantage in the second period. First-year forward Marc-Olivier Brouillard scored his first goal of the season 2:57 into the period, and Hinse scored on a beautiful breakaway goal 64 seconds later while his team was shorthanded. Unfortunately, the Stingers couldn't add to their lead.

"I think we just got too comfortable," said Hinse. "We just let them play and that's not the attitude we want, that's not the kind of game we want to play. We just have to change our mindset."

Following Hinse's shorthanded marker the Gaels scored three goals in the period, including the eventual game-winning goal from forward Brett Foy with less than four minutes to play in the period.

As the Stingers were on the penalty kill, the Gaels chipped the puck into the Stingers' zone. The puck made an odd bounce off the boards and deflected off Stingers goaltender Robin Billingham's back before Foy buried the puck in the net, resulting in a fluke goal that put the game out of reach for Concordia.

"I don't think they gave up, [but] I think they got a little discouraged after the third goal," said head coach Kevin Figsby, who was visibly crushed by the collapse of his team. "I thought the third goal was kind of a soft goal and that kind of took the wind out of our tires because we were really going hard, but that's part of the game, those kind of goals happen in a game."

The Stingers showed little life in the third period. Despite putting up 11 shots on goal, they surrendered the insurance goal early and were unable to generate any sort of quality offense.

"[Going into the third period] I told them the third goal was a tough goal, but they had

to change their body language," said Figsby. "[After we gave up that third goal] one or two guys had a discouraging look on their face instead of a 'take-charge' look. We've got to get more guys with a take-charge look on the bench when these things happen."

Hinse agreed with his coach's assessment. "In some games, that's what we noticed," he said. "Some of the younger guys getting a little discouraged seeing those goals instead of stepping up, stepping their game up, they panic a little bit. It's the sign of a young team and we've got to get over that kind of stuff."

The Stingers have now dropped three straight games and have a 3-7 record after playing 10 games. They sit eighth in the Ontario University Athletics East division and will play back-to-back home games against the Nipissing Lakers this coming Friday and Saturday.

photo Rosalie Masella

BOX SCORES

WEEK OF OCT. 27 TO NOV. 2

WEDNESDAY

29

Men's Basketball—Concordia 60, Ottawa 82

FRIDAY

31

Men's Hockey—Concordia 3, UOIT 6

SATURDAY

1

Football—Concordia 30, McGill 28
Men's Hockey—Concordia 2, Queen's 4
Men's Basketball—Concordia 57, Vermont 80

SUNDAY

2

Women's Hockey—Concordia 4, Carleton 2

UPCOMING GAMES

THIS WEEK IN CONCORDIA SPORTS

THURSDAY

6

6:00 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. Laval Rouge et Or (Ed Meagher Arena)
8:00 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Laval Rouge et Or (Ed Meagher Arena)

FRIDAY

7

10:30 a.m. Women's Hockey at McGill Martlets (McConnell Arena)
7:00 p.m. Men's Rugby vs. UdeM Carabins (Concordia Stadium)
7:30 p.m. Men's Hockey vs. Nipissing Lakers (Ed Meagher Arena)

SATURDAY

8

2:00 p.m. Women's Hockey at Carleton Ravens (Carleton Ice House)
2:00 p.m. Men's Hockey vs. Nipissing Lakers (Ed Meagher Arena)



The Concordia Stingers ended their regular season with a win over the McGill Redmen this past Saturday in the 28th annual Shrine Bowl at Concordia Stadium. The Stingers finished their season with a 5-3 record and a fourth place finish in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec standings.

Get on the Good Foot

Stingers Avoid Upset Against McGill in Shrine Bowl Thriller with Late Field Goal

by Shane Wright @shanewright26

Graced by the presence of former Montreal Alouettes quarterback Anthony Calvillo, the Stingers entered the 28th annual Shrine Bowl game against the winless McGill Redmen looking to snap a three-game losing skid and get themselves back on the right foot before the playoffs.

The Stingers were down for most of their regular season finale, but were saved by the right foot of their kicker, Keegan Treloar, resulting in a 30-28 victory over McGill.

"It's a good win for us coming out of a stretch of losses," said Treloar. "It showed our team had the character and the determination to come out on top. That will help going into a tough game against Laval."

Treloar won the game for Concordia with a 45-yard game-winning field goal in the fourth quarter with 27 seconds left to play.

"It was a tough kick but I just did my normal routine," said Treloar. "Getting 'iced' by McGill didn't get into my head as it let me focus and once I hit it, I knew it was good."

"It was great to help get the guys a win."

The Stingers win means the team will end

the season with a 5-3 record, finishing fourth in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec standings. Concordia will meet the Laval Rouge et Or in the RSEQ semi-final playoff game on Saturday, Nov. 8 on the road.

The Stingers relied heavily on Treloar to put up points. He scored three field goals on Saturday while the Stingers could only muster one offensive touchdown, with a three-yard run from fullback Olivier Dupont in the second quarter. Despite the return of slotback Jamal Henry from injury, the Stingers' offence didn't produce enough points.

"We [had] some good drives, but it's been the same story the entire year and it's just us not finishing in the red-zone," said quarterback François Dessureault, who completed 18 of his 38 pass attempts and was sacked three times on Saturday. "We mount good drives with great running and great passing, but we are just not finishing in the red-zone and we need to."

"We need to continue doing what we are doing, but just finish," added Dessureault. "We need to stop shooting ourselves in the foot and play football."

"We still had too many mistakes," added

head coach Mickey Donovan. "We have to execute more, become more disciplined and create more turnovers if we want to win more games."

The Stingers began the game down 8-3 after the first quarter and faced a 13-point deficit in the second quarter before a safety and Dupont's touchdown made it 18-14 with less than a minute before halftime.

Fortunately for Concordia, on the ensuing kickoff, Stingers first-year halfback Jordan McLaren recovered a loose ball that was fumbled in the end zone by McGill, resulting in a touchdown. Following a rouge kicked by Treloar in the final minute of the second quarter, the Stingers had a 22-18 lead heading into halftime.

The Stingers came out of the break and forced two huge interceptions by defensive backs Kris Robertson and Michael Asare that slowed McGill's momentum, but the Redmen eventually retook the lead thanks to a one-yard touchdown run from quarterback Joel Houle. Following a safety, the Stingers were down 28-22 entering the fourth quarter.

In the fourth, Treloar hit the second of his three field goals before Concordia forced

McGill into giving up a safety, putting the Stingers within one point of the lead.

Concordia began their game-winning drive on their own 35-yard line with 2:30 left to play with a balanced rushing and passing attack, before Treloar was called upon to win the game with his 45-yard kick.

The Stingers will now turn their attention to their playoff game next Saturday against Université Laval, a team that lost this past Saturday to the Université de Montréal Carabins 13-9, their first regular season loss since 2012. In the Stingers' previous meeting against Laval, the Stingers lost 32-16, but held the Rouge et Or to their lowest offensive output of the season at the time.

"We've just got to go to work and be a family and we'll be ready go," said defensive back Michael Asare. "This game showed us the character we've got and we need to use it against a team like Laval."

"This game showed we have a lot of character and that we can beat any team, we just have to finish in the red zone and keep believing," said Dessureault.

photos Mariana Voronovska



THEY DRANK THE KOOL-AID

The Link held by-elections last week. Here are our new masthead members, represented by their spirit animals.

EDITOR IN CHIEF
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MANAGING EDITOR
CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR
NEWS EDITOR
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR
FRINGE ARTS EDITOR
FRINGE ARTS ONLINE EDITOR

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VINCE MORELLO*
SHAUN MICHAUD
LAURA LALONDE*
GRAEME SHORTEN ADAMS*
MADELEINE GENDREAU*
NOELLE DIDIERJEAN*

*NEWLY ELECTED

THE FOOD AND SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE

The Link is cooking up its Food and Sustainability Issue, which hits the stands on Nov. 18. We'd love for you to be a part of it!

We want to hear your thoughts, ideas and stories on sustainability and food sovereignty. Maybe you'd like to write something about the newly-established student-run Hive Café? Or how about looking into Le Frigo Vert? The People's Potato? Urban agriculture? Waste management? Lay down the dirt because everything's on the table!

Join us at our brainstorm meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 5 p.m. at The Link's office in room H-649 in the Hall Building.

graphic Graeme Shorten Adams





BDSM Is About Consent

BDSM is a type of sex play that involves acts of bondage and discipline, dominance and submission, and sadism and masochism. Some people derive pleasure directly from pain or violence, but for many, the excitement comes from the manipulation or subversion of power dynamics within relationships.

BDSM requires a sophisticated set of communication and relationships skills, and it requires a level of trust that is difficult to casually achieve.

Consent is at the core of BDSM and if done properly, miscommunications about consent are not commonplace. Above all, BDSM requires an education and a commitment to your partner's well being.

BDSM has seen a recent surge in popularity throughout mainstream pornography and popular fiction. It's exciting to see the portrayal of alternative sexual interests becoming mainstream, but these depictions rarely give an accurate image of BDSM.

They leave out the parts where people establish consent for acts they want to do, and they don't show the required relationship-building. They don't show us the work, negotiation, boundary-setting, verbal and non-verbal communication, checking in, and aftercare that are left out.

They only show us the doing of BDSM, thus leaving us with the idea that BDSM is

purely violence or dominance. In a time when most people are getting their sexual education from porn, this becomes the representation to which we are most exposed, and which we later replicate with our partners.

Engaging in BDSM practices with such a simplified idea of BDSM is dangerous. It can pave the way for people that commit sexual assault in order to normalize their actions as a particular kink that their partner wasn't into; using it as a pretext to cover the fact that actions were non-consensual and crossed boundaries.

The reality is that most people who commit sexual assault don't think that they committed sexual assault. For the most part people who have abused, assaulted and raped often don't think of themselves as having done so, and they certainly don't identify with labels like rapist or abuser.

Typically, they feel like they have a right to do what they want to someone else, a perspective enabled by mainstream depictions of alternative sexual practices that omit the need to establish consent.

Part of why rape culture is so difficult to dismantle is that it's far more complicated than people being just plain evil. Often, a lack of awareness and education regarding how one's actions constitute abuse is a major factor.

This is important because people who commit sexual assault are not likely to police their own actions and do the things we say "rapists" or "abusers" should do differently if they don't identify with these terms.

In shifting the dialogue around assault towards teaching people not to rape, we also need to acknowledge the fact that some sexual assailants do not realize the significance of their own actions.

Our challenge, then, is in finding new ways to discuss assault that actually reach the people who assault, rather than just those who are assaulted.

The work we do to support victims is important and necessary, but the work we do to reach those who assault must also be considered since it has the most potential for change.

The balance between channeling one's efforts towards supporting victims and addressing perpetrators is precarious and I don't necessarily have a solution or know how to achieve it.

It's difficult, but I think part of it will involve creating everyday spaces that encourage the education and reflection of those who might commit sexual assault, while continuing to offer support to the victims of these assaults.

It will involve discussions about how to

best approach those who aren't seeking this reflection. There are places on campus to have these conversations and work towards these goals, such as the Sexual Assault Resource Centre and the Centre for Gender Advocacy. I encourage those of you interested in finding this balance to approach them and to get involved.

Finally, the most important work to do is inner work. We all have a responsibility to examine our own behavior and reflect on whether we are ever the perpetrators of sexual assault.

Looking at oneself in this way takes a level of self-awareness, courage, and willingness that is not always easy to uphold, but very necessary if we ever hope to encourage others to do the same.

—Melissa Fuller @mel_full

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

For more info on the Sexual Assault Resource Centre, visit them on the SGW campus in room GM-300.27. For more info on the Centre for Gender Advocacy, visit them at 2110 Mackay St.

Nah'msayin?

A PSA Addressing the Philosophical Dilemma of Social Networking

Mark Zuckerberg, I get it.

You revolutionized Internet communication forever blah blah blah. That first flame from high school that you weren't ready to move on from and were supposed to gradually disconnect from during university—yeah, you stalk their latest party pictures on Facebook. Human interactions are now seemingly disposable without a subsequent friend request.

As you're probably painfully aware of, haters of your website are plentiful. But there's one plea I implore you to hear, Marky Mark—remove that damn checkmark from Messenger.

The "seen" checkmark, accompanied by the date and the timestamp, creates a certain emotional insecurity that is scientifically proven to cause PTSD, among other insensitive mental illness references.

Personally it doesn't bother me, because I've reached the maturity level of a wise sage. No, I'm writing this for the sake of future generations of mindless newsfeed scrollers. Yes, continue loading that shit, Facebook.

Let's allow the excuse of "Oh, I didn't see your message..." to become applicable once again, Zuckerberg. Everyone involved—messenger and receiver—will have one less worry. What's wrong with blissful ignorance? They were probably just busy and didn't have time to check their Facebook. A God exists too, right?

—Jonathan Cook,
Assistant News Editor

graphic Caity Hall







Editorial

Despite a Climate of Budget Cuts, Exam Invigilators Deserve a Union

Anyone who's written an exam at Concordia has probably noticed just how bizarre their circumstances are. In a dreary, silent room with most of your belongings confiscated, the tension is palpable for students and exam invigilators alike.

Under pressure, some individuals might try to trade their honour for a desirable grade. Imagine if only a minority of a class is unprepared and ready to cheat—10 students scattered around a lecture theatre that can seat 100 is still difficult to keep track of.

This is the job of an invigilator, and the ones working at Concordia are being paid the least out of all Montreal's universities for their stressful work. Understandably, they want to form a union.

Although the university claims to be working in good faith with invigilators assisted by Teaching and Research Assistants at Concordia, TRAC suspects that administrators are deploying stalling tactics to avoid having to deal with unionization as budgets are slashed.

It's another kink in Concordia's complicated relationship with union rights.

Two years ago, the labour climate at Concordia left much to be desired. Last Sep-

tember, over half of Concordia's 13 unions were without contracts. Union leaders described Concordia's strategy as "delay, delay, delay."

Fast forward a little over a year and we've seen considerable improvement in the labour climate at the university. The Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association reached an agreement in principle with the university in October, leaving the branch of the Public Service Alliance of Canada representing research assistants and research associates who are not Concordia students as the only union currently without a contract. All other Concordia unions now have tentative or ratified agreements in place.

However, given the capricious nature of the university's budget situation and recent austerity measures implemented by the provincial government, the university and its labour unions have made many of these contracts short-term.

The university's contracts with its support staff, library employees, teaching assistants, research assistants and part- and full-time faculty members will expire at the end of May 2015. By next September, part-time faculty at

the Centre for Continuing Education will be added to the list of those without a contract.

That'll mean a whole new round of collective bargaining just a year or two after the last contracts were ratified. The university has just started to reestablish good faith with the unions and both parties will have to enter these new negotiations with a willingness to move on their demands and find common ground, lest we go back to a time of labour strife.

As the university has been scrambling to deal with provincial budget cuts, long-term planning has fallen by the wayside. Not only has the university opted for short-term contracts with its labour unions, but it has also put off developing a new strategic plan.

But it's not like Concordia is facing an untamed frontier—there are already several models it could look to.

McGill's invigilators have been unionized since 2010 under McGill's graduate student teaching union and ratified a collective agreement early last year. Their agreement sets the salary for invigilators at \$10.65 an hour (\$11.08 with 4 per cent vacation pay) and a paid 15-minute break for every four hours worked.

Although McGill's wages are far from ideal—the unionized invigilators had hoped to reach \$15.25 an hour during negotiations in 2013—they have had a union for invigilators for four and a half years. Their agreement guarantees paid overtime and training and includes standards for the application and hiring process, priority for applicants with experience and information on working conditions like the length of shifts and sick leave policies.

Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota was completely correct in saying that exam invigilators make up a diverse demographic—but this doesn't mean that forming a union wouldn't make sense. For a diverse workforce, many of whom are practically exploited, a union would be a major step towards a more dignified working life, especially as austerity tightens its grip.

The fact is that invigilators are part of the Concordia community too. Their struggles mirror our own, and they deserve our attention, compassion and support.

graphic Madeleine Gendreau

THE LINK³⁵

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The Link reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length and refuse those deemed racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, libellous, or otherwise contrary to The Link's statement of principles.

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The Doug Leslie Bursary



CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1980

The labour of love at a student newspaper provides a wealth of training and connections gained only through countless hours of volunteering, and is a necessary entry in the resumé of budding industry hopefuls.

However, the sacrifice of long unpaid hours serves as a deterrent for many looking to break into their field. To help young contributors in financial need, The Link Publication Society has decided to create a bursary in the memory of Doug Leslie, the first editor-in-chief to lead *The Link*.

Leslie was an English literature student who overcame financial difficulty to champion the newspaper through its teething stage as the two campus papers merged. He was coaxed into becoming the first editor; his first words in print as EIC were "Frankly, I never thought I'd be doing this."

According to his colleagues, Leslie left behind his reservations and began a column that became "the heart and soul" of the new paper, which was beset with short staff and other organizational issues in its inaugural year. Leslie also fought to keep the paper independent of the student council.

He died in August 2012, leaving *The Link* as his legacy.

The award will be available to a registered, returning student who is in financial need and is a staff member (reporter, designer, photographer, artist, etc.) of The Link. Staff members are defined as those who have made four (4) contributions to the newspaper in a semester. Contributions may be rolled-over from the prior semester before the applications are due.

The deadline for submission is Friday November 21, 2014 at 4 p.m.

Applicants must include a letter explaining their level of financial need, merit and motivation for the bursary, along with three (3) clippings from *The Link*.

The bursary recipient(s) will be announced the third week of January.

The following contributors and masthead members are eligible to apply:

Justin Blanchard, Mattha Busby, Alex Callard, Alex Carrière, Jonhatan Cook, Noëlle Didierjean, Matt Garies, Madeleine Gendreau, Caity Hall, Daniele Iannarone, Brandon Johnston, Laura Lalonde, June Loper, Athina Lugez, Julian McKenzie, Shaun Michaud, Vince Morello, Erica Pishdadia, Michelle Pucci, Graeme Shorten Adams, Ester Staussova, Verity Stevenson, Leigha Vegh, Mariana Voronoska, Shane Wright, Michael Wrobel.

The following contributors need 1 more submission to be eligible:

Robert Arzenshek, Bianca Gazinschi, Colin Harris.

The following contributors need 2 more submissions to be eligible:

Marco George Carriero, Michael Dorado, Justin Ferrera, Chanel Jacques, Jane Lakes, Jordan Namur, Alex Ocheoha, Erik Trudel.



JAN. 14 to JAN. 18, 2015

The Canadian University Press National Conference

OTTAWA, ONT.

Want to hear what the CBC's Diana Swain and Peter Mansbridge have to say about the journalism industry? Looking to get an insider's perspective on covering politics on Parliament Hill? Interested in having your writing critiqued by a professional journalist? Ready to party with *The Link*'s editors in the nation's capital?

If you've contributed to *The Link* this volume, you can apply to be sent to the conference as part of our delegation. Just come by our office (H-649) before Tuesday, Nov. 11 to tack up a letter explaining why we should send you!

ELECTIONS ARE ON FRIDAY, NOV. 15 AT 3PM

for more info, email editor@thelinknewspaper.ca

