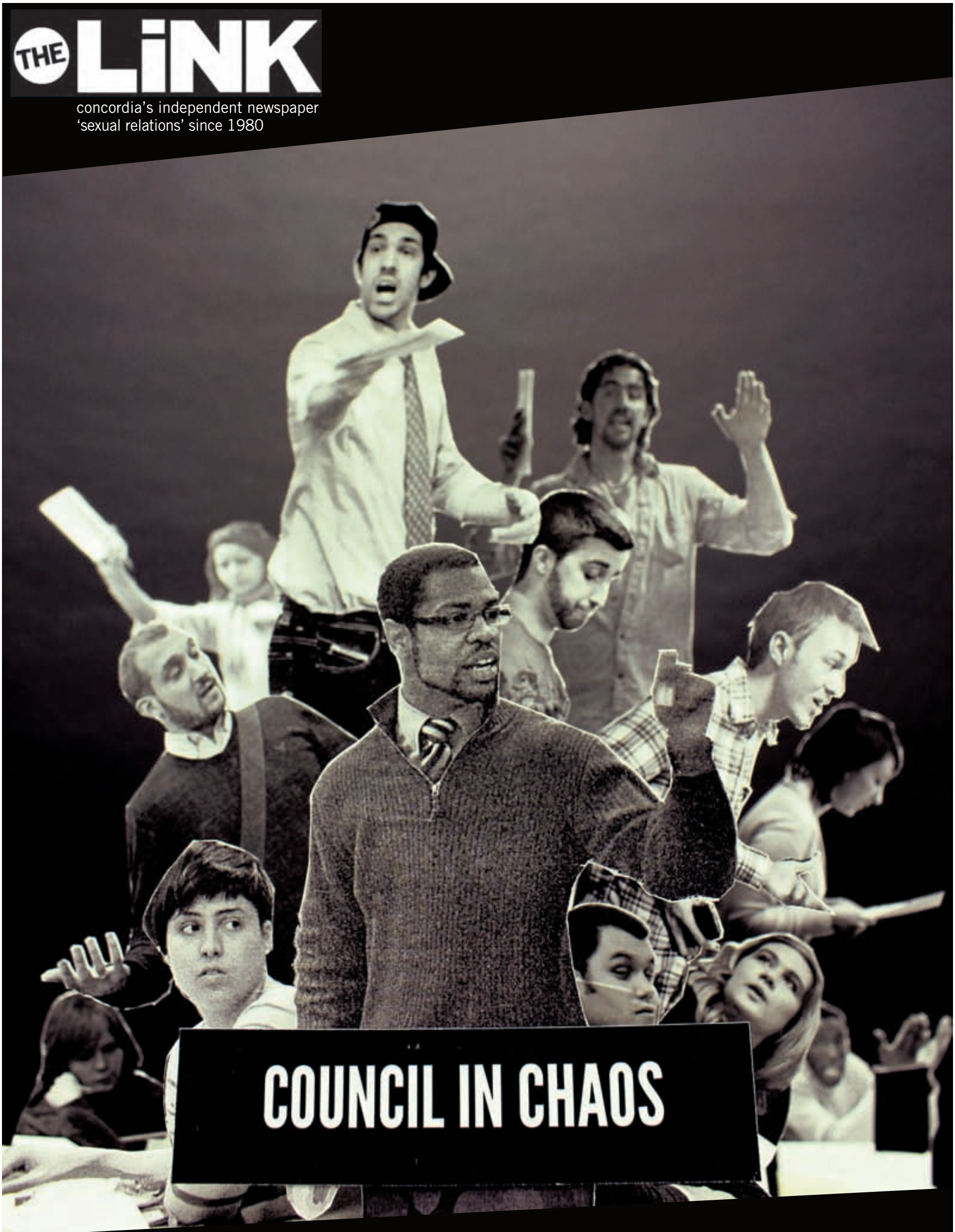
THE LiNK
concordia's independent newspaper
'sexual relations' since 1980



Student Union VPs Call for Security to Squash Student 'Mutiny' • News 3

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"We were ready to talk about everything [Pudwell] accused us of but because students refused to leave, we had to adjourn the meeting," said CSU VP Hassan Abdullahi (second from left). PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

'Call Security:' Student Union VPs

Chaos Takes Hold as Council Grapples with Resignation Fallout

• THE LINK

As one of the most heated Council meetings in Concordia Student Union history degenerated into chaos on March 9, two CSU executives called for security to remove the 80 students in attendance.

Packed into a small conference room in the Hall building, the student union executive was confronted by angry constituents when President Heather Lucas called for the Council to go into closed session. She claimed her executive needed secrecy to deal with the resignation of former VP Sustainability & Promotions Morgan Pudwell.

"This is bullshit," said student Alex Matak. "I'm not leaving, and you can physically carry me out, Heather Lucas."

Facing accusations of financial wrongdoing, intimidation and political patronage, Lucas claimed she needed privacy to discuss personal issues surrounding Pudwell's resignation.

"It's ridiculous for a group that appeals to the buzzword transparency on a weekly—if not daily—basis, to advocate to go into closed session," said Councillor Michaela Manson after the meeting.

After a short debate, Council voted to go into closed session, igniting tempers in the crowd. As students refused to leave, the meeting devolved into a shouting match between the majority of Council who sided with the president and the students sitting around councillors.

Councillor Tomer Shavit accused Pudwell of stacking the room with her friends to cause a ruckus.

"Hey jackass, those 'friends' are your constituents," yelled one student from the crowd.

An impassioned plea by Councillor Stephen Brown for Council to listen to students and minimize the items discussed in private went largely ignored. CSU VPs Ramy Khoriaty and Hassan Abdullahi called on Chair Marc-Antoni Tarondo to have security forcefully remove their constituents.

Security, attracted by the yelling and volume of students, refused to enter the room, telling students that they did not have the right to remove them.

"Would calling security have resolved anything?" asked Tarondo. "Look how many students were at the meeting; they wouldn't have been able to remove them."

Unwilling to call security, and with the yelling continuing, Tarondo adjourned the meeting.

"My hands are tied," Tarondo told a room that had descended into what one councillor described as a "mutiny."

"We needed security to enforce the rules," said Abdullahi after the meeting. "We were ready to talk about everything [Pudwell] accused us of but because students refused to leave, we had to adjourn the meeting. We have nothing to hide."

Hassan's request to call security didn't sit well with most students at the meeting.

"It was absolutely disrespectful to the voice of students, it was militaristic and the willingness of the executive to do that was embarrassing," said Manson.

The outcome of Wednesday's meeting was likely the worst-case scenario for the union's executive, who have been in damage control mode since Puwell's resignation.

Khoriaty claimed to have prepared a series of financial documents to refute Pudwell's allegations that he had presented union executives with falsified budget reports in early February—a violation of Section 108 of the Quebec Companies Act. However, because the meeting was adjourned early, councillors and students didn't see a single budget line.

Pre-Campaign 2011

Councillors Menachem Freedman, Alex Gordon and Brown drew ties between Wednesday's chaos and the CSU general elections, which began just days after the meeting.

"It's going to be very interesting to see who is running on what slate next year and what side they were on [tonight]," said Brown.

"I think that anybody who is here knows that a certain amount of this is showboating for elections. You have to respect the rules against early campaigning," he continued. "Shooting accusations back and forth, if campaign points come out and personal vendettas between the CSU and Morgan Pudwell come out in front of a massive audience, it could be a violation of early campaigning rules."

Nick Cuillerier served as the Chief Electoral Officer in this year's Arts and Science Federation of Associations general elections. He said he doesn't buy Brown's argument.

"The reasoning is flawed here," said Cuillerier. "If you announce your intention to run before the campaign begins—whether in open session or in closed session—it's a violation of the CSU's standing regulations. Because, even in closed session, you're campaigning to your fellow councillors who have a vote."

Notably absent from the meeting was CSU CEO Oliver Cohen, who could have clarified the issue to Council.

"I'm not criticizing Cohen," said Cuillerier. "But if I were him, I would have been here tonight."

As students filed out of the packed conference room on Wednesday, a collective sense of frustration lingered. Pudwell's resignation has caused many to question the union's financial, political and professional practices. And although the union's executive have repeatedly claimed they are open to question, the failure of Wednesday's meeting represented the third aborted attempt by Lucas' administration to have a meaningful discussion about Pudwell's resignation with the general student population.

With the CSU General Election campaign underway, any rescheduling of the meeting will happen during campaigning—a time when tensions will only be higher.

"The CSU dropped the ball," said Cuillerier. "They had a chance to take on this promise of transparency and failed."

#CSU2011

Action Takes Aim at the BoG

Slate's Presidential Candidate Speaks to *The Link*



Students dash through Concordia's Hall building to spread their slate's message. PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

• ADAM KOVAC

While talking about the *Action* slate's priorities should they prove victorious in the upcoming election, presidential candidate Khalil Haddad gets right to the point.

"The two most important issues are [reforming] university governance and the fight against tuition hikes," he said while sitting down with *The Link* in the heavily-postered LB lobby, shortly after the conclusion of poster night.

He listed the exit of former administration VPs Michael Di Grappa and Kathy Assayag, as well as the behavior of the Board of Governors in the wake of the controversial dismissal of president Judith Woodsworth as causes for concern.

"I think the way the Board of Governors acted wasn't transparent at all, and that tarnished the reputation of the university," he said. "We think the university's reputation is extremely important to students, because at the end of the day, we want to get a job."

Among the ways to repair the fractured relationship between students and the Board, Haddad suggested a committee of students who will study the Board of Governors bylaws in order to come up with arguments to bring in front of them. He also urged the 16 governors who have stayed beyond the two terms of the three-year limit to step aside.

In regards to tuition hikes, Haddad acknowledged the importance of the issue to students, as seen by the large turnout at the Feb. 14 WHALE assembly and March 12 rally. He suggested that the Internet might be used even more extensively to mobilize the Concordia community.

"We're thinking of creative ideas to engage students," he said. "When you say protest, a lot of them feel alienated, they don't know what it means and they get scared. Social media plays a very important role in the 21st century. Many of us are connected on Facebook and Twitter, so I think that's the best way to go to get students together to engage them in a creative way."

Responding to a question about the abrupt ending of a CSU meeting last week following a motion to go to closed session, he suggested that more financial transparency might help to avoid such situations in the future.

"We want to educate [councillors] and inform them on how the CSU works in terms of its funding and what are the different services," he said. "I think by informing councillors, they'll have a better idea, and won't go to accusations before going through all the facts."

Haddad also mentioned the controversy surrounding the proposed increase to the student centre fee levy that was defeated in a referendum. While he did not list a centre as a priority, he did say that would like to hold consultations with students to find out how they want the CSU to advocate for student space, whether that's in a student centre or not.

"One of the main things we want to bring to students is to reclaim student space," he continued. "There were a lot of clubs that belong to the CSU that lost their offices this past year. We want to make sure we find space for them. The mezzanine was a student space at the beginning. It was a place where students got to debate ideas beyond the classroom. We want to be able to have that space again."

Blue Walls

• ALEX DI PIETRO & ADAM KOVAC

Heavy with political experience, the Action slate dashed back and forth between the Hall and LB buildings, holding posters and sporting matching blue t-shirts during the opening hours of the Concordia Student Union electoral campaign this morning.

"It was pretty crazy, and honestly, unexpected," said Khalil Haddad, who's running for president on the *Action* slate. "The CEO changed the rules this year. I think it's for the better because I've heard of many things that happened in previous years and I wasn't happy with it, which is why I didn't know what to expect from it."

Running two CSU councillors, two Arts and Science Federation of Associations executives and a Concordia senator on its executive, Action represents the political status quo at the university.

From start to finish, *Action* team members showed their organizational experience, wasting no time in seizing as much poster space as was available. Current members of the CSU's executive also shadowed the group.

There were many times where the *Action* team stood at the foot of the escalators, with VP Clubs & Promotions candidate Leslie Reifer chanting the name of his slate.

Aaron Green is a current CSU councillor and president of ASFA. He is running for election as councillor and as president of the Political Science Students Association.

"I've always wanted to be involved with the PSSA," he said. "I think they do a lot of great stuff. For that reason, I hope to remain an Arts and Science councillor at the CSU."

Tomer Shavit, another current CSU councillor, is running for Senate on the politically seasoned slate. In the weeks leading up to poster night, Shavit actively campaigned against *Your Concordia's* Morgan Pudwell on Facebook and *The Link*'s message boards. A number of candidates from *Your Concordia's* camp defended Pudwell, in what could be construed as pre-campaigning by both parties. Shavit also acknowledged inviting several people to a secret Facebook group that called for the resignation of The Link's Editor-in-Chief Justin Giovannetti.

"I didn't hide from the fact that there's stuff going on at *The Link* that I don't approve of, and I felt there was nothing wrong with inviting five or six friends," he said. The Facebook page for a group called "Free *The Link*" shows Shavit to have invited 16 people.

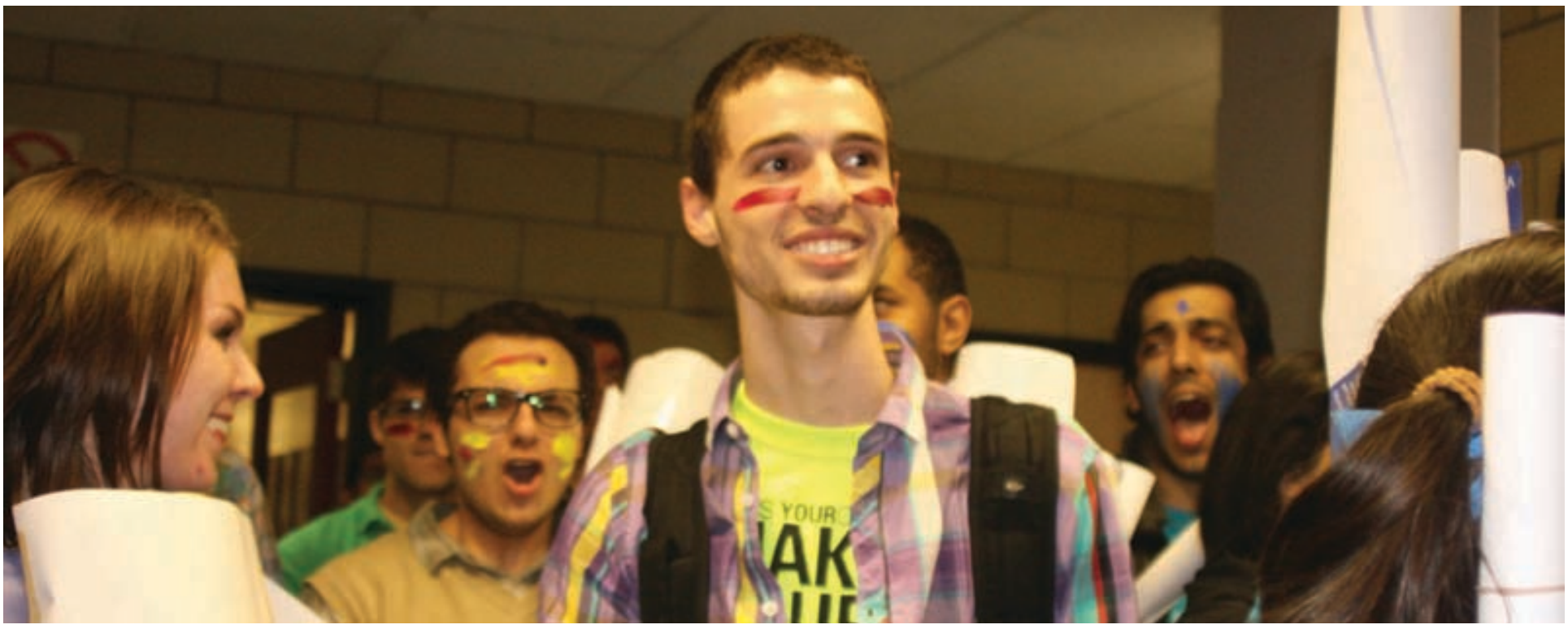
Though bickering over the positioning of posters was not uncommon, the only major potential campaign violation was by Action CSU councillor candidate Ari Dabora.

Dabora was photographed at a protest last week in front of The Link's office, which could be considered early campaigning, as the protest attacked the character of Your Concordia presidential candidate Lex Gill.

#CSU2011

Running With Staplers

Action and *Your Concordia* Slates Duke it Out on Poster Night



"There were a lot of elbows being thrown out there," said Your Concordia VP Loyola & Student Space Candidate. PHOTO JULIA JONES

• SIMON LIEM

Over 70 students scrambled around the downtown campus early this morning as this year's Concordia Student Union campaign season officially kicked off.

"There were a lot of elbows being thrown," said Gonzo Nieto, the candidate for VP Clubs & Student Space with the *Your Concordia* slate.

Students yelled for tacks and staples. Campaigners from *Your Concordia* and Action —the opposing slate—rushed up and down escalators in the Hall building trying to find the best space for campaign posters. In the Library Building, both teams were hammering on cork boards with staplers when one of the participants was heard yelling, "I need adhesive materials!"

"I think a lot of students vote on posters, sadly," said Nieto, commenting on why there was such a sense of urgency around the event. Nieto said he would be in favour of abolishing the poster night practice for safety reasons. "I think that the better way to do it would be to give [posters to] impartial members of the university."

Nieto accused members of the other team of running even when the Chief Electoral Officer asked all participants to walk, but also admitted by the end of the night he was running from building to building.

There were some allegations of pushing and shoving throughout the night, but most said that the event was orderly.

"It's a lot more organized this year," said Solomon Elbaz, who was helping to supervise the event with the CEO.

In previous years, people had their wrists and arms broken from stampedes of students. Until last year, slates often recruited members of the football and rugby teams to help secure poster space.

Kyle McLaughlin, who is running for Council with the *Your Concordia* slate, said that the night could have been arranged better for fee levy groups.

"I switched one of our own posters up so they could put a CJLO one up," said McLaughlin. "Because it's not right that we dominate anything or that the other team dominates anything. Either team dominating anything isn't good."

Over the course of the night, each slate led chants attempting to drown out the other side. At one point, however, all present were chanting "C-J-L-O!" The referendum for increasing funding to the university radio station appears to be a point of agreement for both slates.

As the energy drink buzzes began to wear off, it appeared the night was bound to be a mostly civil affair. The Hall, LB and MB buildings were hastily plastered with campaign posters. Over the next few days, candidates will go back through the buildings to clean up their posters.

"It's a super tough two weeks," said Jordan Lindsay, running for VP Finance for *Your Concordia*. "You really have to keep up your energy."

Members of the cleaning staff watched as students tore down old posters in order to put up their own and joked that it looked like nothing more than a competition to see who could put up more posters.

"Poster night is always a bit of a toxic experience," said Lex Gill, who is running for president with *Your Concordia*, but noted that 2011's Poster Night "actually seems a lot better than in years I've done it before."

DOWN WITH TUITION INCREASES, BOTTLED WATER AND BAD CONTRACTS

• JULIAN WARD

The *Your Concordia* slate was out in full force early this morning in the first official hours of the 2011 CSU general election campaign. *Your Concordia*, led by Lex Gill, is comprised of some of Concordia's most well-known and outspoken activists.

Three main points came up in discussions with *Your Concordia* members: bottled water, student space and tuition hikes.

"We want a good deal or no deal," said Gill of the controversial student centre proposal rejected by students twice over the past two years. "The current student centre contract is poorly written at best and exploitative at worst.

"I'm not going to promise anyone a building. I can promise people a fair contract. I can promise people getting out of a contract that's exploitative. And I can promise broadly that we have a mandate to protect, invest in and create more student space."

Your Concordia also supports a ban of bottled water on campus.

"We are committed to working with [Facilities Management on campus] to ensure the abundance of clean, safe and free drinking water," said Gill. "You shouldn't have to walk around for ten minutes to find a water fountain. That's silly. Water is free. I should be a right."

Gill was also strong spoken about the need to keep tuition fees down, not ruling out the possibility of a general student strike if the government does not back down.

"We will work in solidarity with other student unions in Quebec and in the world. If it appears necessary, and if we feel we have the democratic support of our membership, then yes [we will strike]," she said.

"In our mind, a strike is not something you do lightly. You have to do it with a lot of consideration for your members."

Gill also spoke about Morgan Pudwell, the recently resigned VP Sustainability & Promotions of the current CSU, who is running for VP Advocacy & Outreach for *Your Concordia*.

"I think it's important to frame [Pudwell's] resignation as a resignation of protest," she said.

"She could no longer work with the people who are currently executives of the CSU. I think her allegations are all things that need to be addressed. Instead of addressing them, people have turned it into 'let's talk about Morgan Pudwell.'"

Pudwell briefly commented to The Link about her resignation and then spoke about why she is running again for the CSU not even two weeks after quitting it.

"After I resigned, I was approached by some of these student and they thought that I had shown a lot of integrity in that decision and they asked me to run," said Pudwell.

Of her time on the CSU this past year, she said, "I spent a lot of time reaching out to groups that often felt like they were cast aside by the CSU or groups that didn't think that they had any representation at the CSU."

"I found that working with those groups brought a lot to the CSU," she said. "If you look at the WHALE, it was organized by a lot of students and groups that don't usually work with the CSU. I'm interested in building those relationships and representing the whole community at Concordia."

Reinforcing their dedication to their *Your Concordia* "transparency" platform point, slate members handed out pamphlets outlining their campaign expenses in detail.

#CSU2011



LEX GILL

Your Concordia Presidential Candidate Lex Gill is in her third year at the School of Community and Public Affairs. She is a longtime member of überculture, a Concordia group that actively resists corporatization on campus.

Gill made her foray into Concordia politics when she headed the university's No to the CFS campaign in 2009-2010. During the campaign, Gill worked to end the CSU's membership in the Canadian Federation of Students—a national lobby group accused of meddling in student politics and embezzling student funds.

She is also a councillor for the Fusion slate but has largely been critical of her party, opposing the controversial Student Centre fee levy motion and railing against Council for not taking a hard enough stance against the Board of Governors' firing of former Concordia President Judith Woodsworth.

Gill is also an published writer. Her work has appeared in *Maisonneuve* Magazine, *Adbusters* and on Rabble.ca.



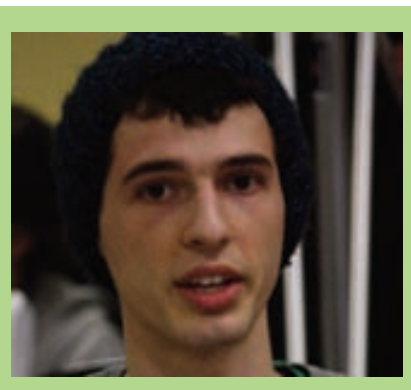
LAURA BEACH

Hustling signatures of support from nearly every department and faculty on campus last summer for a water-bottle free campus, Laura Beach is one of the founding members of TAPthirst Concordia—a coalition group of students against the privatization of water.



CHAD WALCOTT

Political Science student Chad Walcott is currently serving on the ASFA as VP External and Sustainability. Over the last year, Walcott has organized the ASFA Green Week and the "Ask Why" tuition consciousness-raising campaign.



GONZALO NIETO

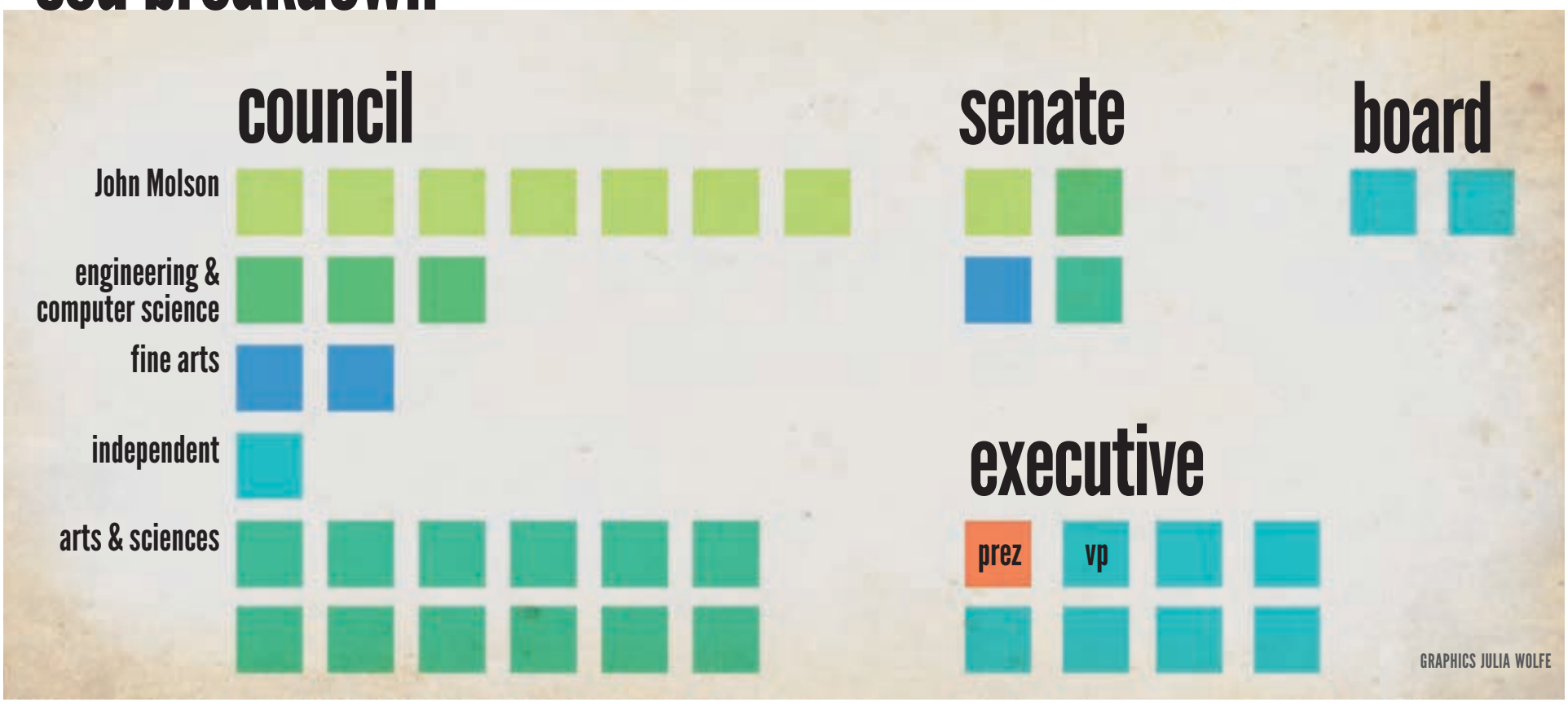
Gonzalo Nieto independently ran an unofficial "No" campaign against the Student Centre proposals that were defeated last year. He is an executive for überculture, a group that is "committed to resisting the corporatization of campus and public space."



MORGAN PUDWELL

Pudwell successfully organized WHALE—a rally against tuition increases—which became the most attended CSU political event in a decade. She was VP of Sustainability and Promotions at the CSU until two weeks ago when she resigned citing widespread political misconduct.

csu breakdown



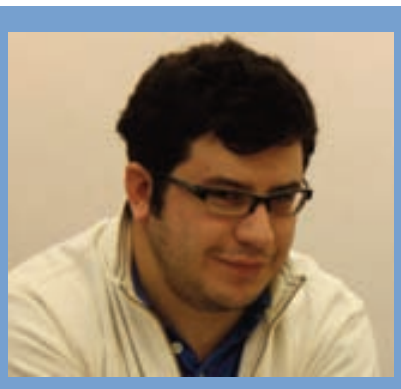
#CSU2011



KHALIL HADDAD

A self-described moderate and pragmatist, Khalil Haddad has spent his time at Concordia pursuing an undergraduate degree in psychology. He got his start in student politics in 2009 as the Vice President External for the Concordia Undergraduate Psychology Association. He also sat on ASFA as a councilor.

In 2010 he became the Chief Executive Officer of the Sustainability Action Fund, a fund which was designed to promote environmental causes on campus by offering applicant students portions of its aproximately $160,000 annual budget to fund sustainability projects. One example would be the Green Wall at Reggie's, which was installed in August.



GEORGES ALEXANDAR

Alexandar was elected to represent the Fusion slate on senate this year and is currently the student union's communications coordinator. He helped organize Concordia's Day of Action to protest tuition increases. He has worked for the Canadian Liberal Party.



RASIM HAFIZ

Hafiz is currently the president of the Muslim Students Association, a Sustainable Action Fund Board Director and Library Fund Board Director. He is an advocate for Muslim prayer space at Concordia and supported the vote for additional fee levies to purchase a Student Centre.



NATASHA LAUNI

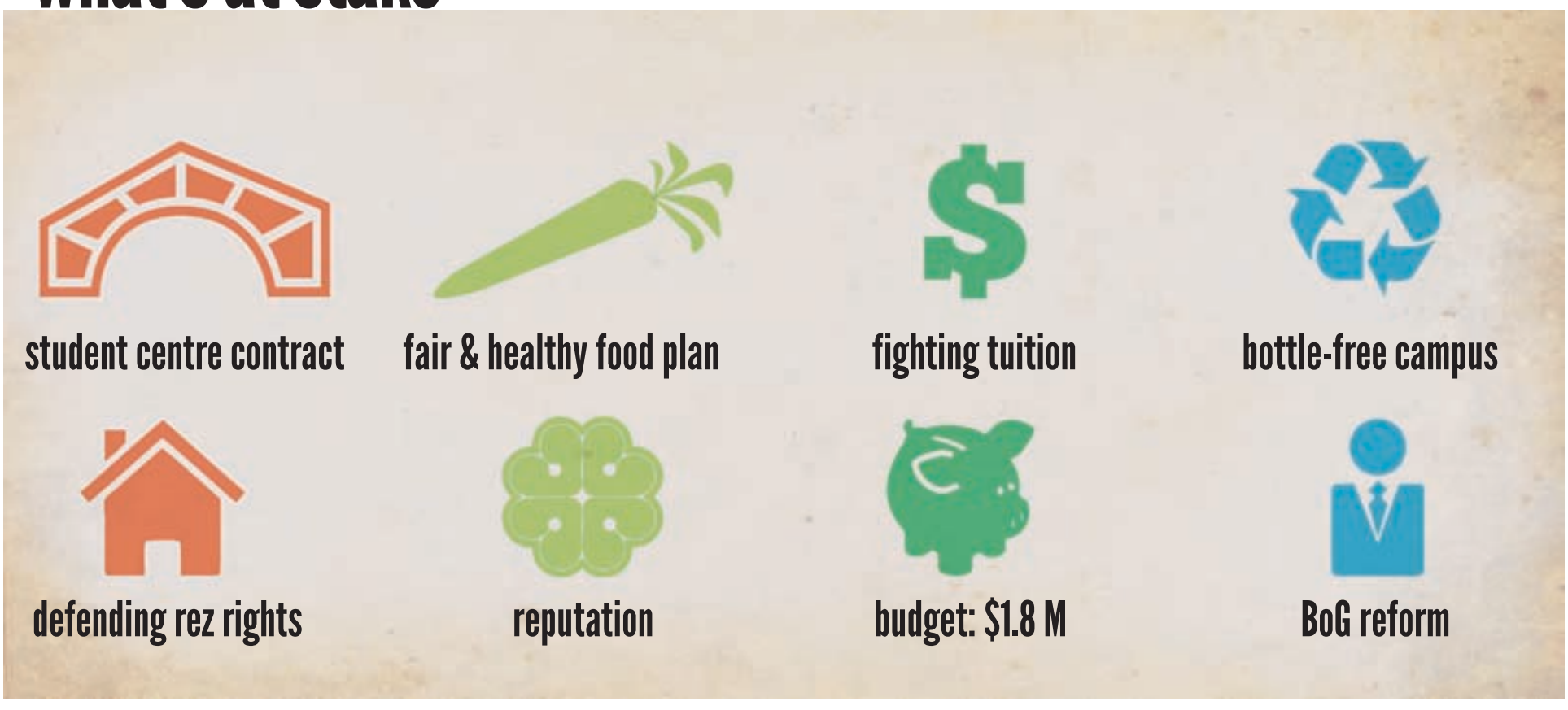
Launi is currently the VP communications at ASFA. She is an experienced photographer and graphic designer and has interned at CBS television Studios and Astral Media. The communication studies major is opposed to tuition increases.



TERRY SEMINARA

Seminara is currently serving as ASFA's VP Academic and Loyola Affairs. She is a member of Liberal Concordia and a CSU Councillor for Fusion. Seminara voted in favour of a motion calling for the resignation of 16 resignations on the university's Board of Governors.

what's at stake



50,000 Rally Against Tuition Hikes

Ten Arrested Before Protest, Charged With Conspiracy



Over the next decade, tuition is expected to increase by 140 per cent. PHOTO ERIN SPARKS



PHOTO ERIN SPARKS



PHOTO SAM SLOTNICK

• SIMON LIEM

Over 50,000 students, union members and activists from all over Quebec marched through downtown Montreal on Saturday afternoon to protest proposed austerity measures in the upcoming Quebec budget.

Police arrested 10 people before the march began. The six men and four women—aged 20 to 25—were detained and scheduled to appear in court on Monday to face charges of conspiracy. According to police officials, the protesters possessed weapons and intended to use them.

Several police officers on horseback entered the crowd on Rue de la Cathédrale, where people were preparing to march. The police then separated a group of people—dressed in black with their faces covered—from the crowd.

A few people in the crowd tossed snowballs at the police as they were leaving.

Aside from that incident, the protest went smoothly.

The march, organized by La Coalition opposée à la tarification et la privatization des services publics and Alliance Sociale, began at Place du Canada and was thick with people for over six city blocks. Protesters crowded René-Levesque Blvd. and Ste Catherine St. before making their way to the rally on McGill College Ave.

Tuition hikes, the $200 "health tax," increased user fees and cuts to public services were some of the grievances voiced by protesters. Those measures are expected to appear in the 2011-2012 Quebec budget, which the Charest government is tabling this week.

The government has proposed measures that have angered many in an effort to balance the budget by 2013.

"We want to send out a clear message that hikes in tuition fees are not acceptable [and will not be accepted] by the Quebec society as a whole," said Louis-Philippe Savoie, the president of the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec.

Students from universities and CEGEPs around Quebec were out in full force Saturday. Many had painted red handprints on their faces to signify their anger at the proposed hikes. People held signs saying "L'éducation, c'est pour tout le monde" and "Charest eats kittens." Buildings and monuments around Place du Canada were peppered with "Charest dégage" graffiti.

Arwen Fleming was also at the rally holding a placard that said "I can't afford to pay anymore."

The day before the protest, Fleming, 27, found out that she was accepted to Concordia for the master's program in media studies.

"At first, I was really excited. There's a professor there who's perfect for me to study with and it's a really interesting department with innovative research," said Fleming. "The more I have been thinking about it in the last day, the more I'm feeling that it's not possible for me to go."

According Robert Sonin of Free Education Montreal, most master's degree in Quebec costs $3,150 annually in tuition. Quebec has the lowest tuition fees in the country.

It is expected that the Charest government will try to raise tuition to the national average over the next three years, which would amount to a 140-per-cent increase. This would eventually mean an additional $4,500 for students like Fleming. Those figures do not include additional ancillary fees, which vary depending on the department.

Fleming says she already has $20,000 in debt from her undergraduate degree from the University of Alberta. According to her, unless she receives enough funding from grants or the university, she will have to choose between going to school and adding to her debts or trying to work full-time and pay them off.

Fleming has been in Quebec for four years. She works two part-time jobs at the Atwater Library as a part of its Digital Literacy Project, a program that helps community groups become computer literate and use technology to create their own media. Her project for her master's degree is also focused on local Montreal neighbourhoods,specifically with the documentation of the destruction of community monuments in working class spaces in Griffintown during the 1960s.

"I moved to Quebec [...] feeling that it was the one place I could go to receive a high quality education and still be able to afford [it]," said Fleming.

Many students on Saturday expressed concerns that they and their colleagues will have to make the choice between going to school or avoiding large amounts of debt. It is a decision that Fleming is not looking forward to making.

"I can't even fathom that right now. It makes me really depressed," she said, trying to laugh as tears welled up in her eyes.

Three Years Without Oversight

No Audit at the Graduate Student Association since 2008

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Due to an inadequate filing system that seemingly involved stuffing receipts into brown envelopes, Concordia's Graduate Student Association hasn't undergone a full financial review since 2008, as auditors have lacked proper documentation.

"Our auditors have been working on a statement that everything has been audited for the past three years," said GSA President Adnan Abueid. "Every time we ask them to finalize the audits, we have been told that they are missing information."

With Abueid committed to having a successful audit at the end of the GSA's fiscal year—coinciding with when he steps down as president in June—the university's graduate representatives have overhauled their financial accounting system.

"This year, I will be comfortable having an audit," said Abueid, as he described the GSA's use of Excel to maintain records. "However my financial manager has told me that to have an audited year, the previous year must have also been audited.

"So I'm not too sure what is going to happen."

Erik Chevrier served as the GSA's VP External during one of the years when an audit was not completed—he couldn't explain the oversight by the graduate association.

"I'm not sure how the books were kept; I know that someone was keeping records, but I don't know exactly what wasn't kept well," said Chevrier, who served as VP External from 2007 to 2009.

Unlike the Concordia Student Union, whose budget is nearly $2 million, the GSA has only $250,000 at its disposal. Due to the association's limited financial means, it has been unable to hire a permanent employee to keep track of expenses.

"We are working on hiring a full-time staff member. Currently, we have five part time students working one day a week," said Abueid. "This has created problems with communications and proper file-keeping."

Some minor steps were taken by this year's executive to help rectify the problem. The contracts of the GSA's part-time employees were changed to cover the period from July-to-July, overlapping with the June-to-June terms of elected representatives.

"It will cost us something like $50,000 to hire a salaried employee and we are looking for where to find that money," said Abueid. "The main issue is not whether we need a full time employee or not; its where we will find the money to pay him. Everybody agrees that we need a full-time employee."

Abueid said that he might need to cut money from the GSA's other budget lines to pay the employee, a painful process which could lead to cuts in the amount of money given to each departmental association.

According to CSU VP External & Projects Adrien Severyns, the hiring of a full-time employee would be important for the association's legitimacy.

"No matter how much money you make or how many donations you receive, it's important to track how much money goes in and out," said Severyns.

The CSU VP confirmed that he had heard some concerns about the perceived lack of an audit from undergraduate students who worked with the GSA.



GSA President Adnan Abueid has vowed to complete an audit of the association's finances from 2008 to present. PHOTO CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Student Groups Back on the Ballot

The Void and Queer Concordia to Appeal to Students for Fee Levy

• ADAM KOVAC

Students will be able to put their two cents in—literally—at the ballot box when it comes to fee levies for Queer Concordia and *The Void*, as both groups were reinstated by the Concordia Student Union for the upcoming election.

> **"We're going to run a good campaign and hopefully prove to students that improving sexual diversity is an important thing,"**
>
> *—Joey Donelly, Queer Concordia Member*

"It was a good feeling when I woke up this morning and looked at the CSU elections website and found our referendum question there along with [the others]," said Queer Concordia member Joey Donnelly. "We were quite pleased with that."

Both groups had gotten their applications to appeal to students for fee levy status approved by Council, but were informed by Chief Electoral Officer Oliver Cohen that they would be stricken from the ballot due to not being incorporated as non-profit organizations 25 days before the vote.

Both groups had that deadline extended to the date when the ballots were printed by council, but Cohen was not made aware of this due to an error in the minutes taken during the meeting. A letter from Cohen was read out loud at Council in a successful bid to set the record straight on what would be expected of the two groups.

"A special note has to be made to Cohen, a great deal of gratitude for writing that very thoughtful series of motions that pertain to us and *The Void* magazine," said Donnelly.

The Void's editor Cole Robertson was unable to attend the CSU meeting, but was informed by one of his colleagues of what occurred.



Void editor Jack Allen was visibly frustrated at the CSU Executive for losing his 750 signature petition. PHOTO JULIA JONES

"Our staff member Jack Allen told them that once we handed the petition over to them—which [was taped by] CUTV video—it's not our responsibility, at which point the students who were there for Morgan Pudwell's resignation burst into applause," said Robertson. "Essentially, the CSU just [decided] to accept the petition, because I don't think they can hold us responsible for getting another since they lost ours."

Although Robertson was not in contact with the CSU to confirm *The Void's* eligibility, their name is up on the CSU's election website, and he noted that Cohen "seems to be fine with everything."

While both groups are happy to be back on the ballot, they still have another fight ahead of them—convincing students to vote for the levies, which will each cost every undergraduate student two cents per credit.

"We're just confident we're going to run a good campaign, and hopefully prove to students that improving sexual diversity is an important thing, along with safe sex," said Donnelly.

Robertson shared his optimism

"We're only asking for two cents. We've been around for a long time, and we're the only bilingual magazine. I think there are a lot of good reasons to vote for us, and I hope that everyone does come out to vote."

Hitting the Streets

Concordia Students Sleep Outdoors; Raise Money for the Homeless

• JACOB ROBERTS

A growing concern in this country will have students living outdoors and sleeping on lawns and cold concrete on campuses across Canada this week to raise awareness for homelessness.

The five-day event, from March 13 to 18, gives students a taste of life on the street. They are allowed a sleeping bag and a backpack for the entire five days, and must rely on donations of food to survive. Students are not permitted access to showers or facilities permitted to them by their student status. They are expected to attend all classes.

Thomas Prince is returning this year as one of six organizers of the event.

"The homeless here in Montreal and Canada really get pushed to the margins and are largely excluded from society," said Prince. "I think for some people who end up on the street it's actually a reflection of how frustrated they are, trying to find their sense of identity."

Prince's biggest concern this year is the wet weather sweeping Montreal. He advises participants to pack as many dry clothes as they can, especially extra socks and long johns.

All of the money raised by Five Days for the Homeless is donated to Dans La Rue, a community based organization that helps at-risk youth and youth on the streets to get back on their feet.



For five days, students will sleep outside the Hall Building in hopes of raising upwards of $40,000 for Dans la Rue. PHOTO CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

"Some people are pushed into [homelessness] more than others, like in the case of children, some are leaving a broken home situation—they might be fleeing domestic abuse or an unstable or dangerous living situation," Prince said.

Sylvia Cornez spoke on behalf of Chez Doris, a women's day shelter.

"There's certain programs that help them get their lives back together and those are the spaces that are needed, they are full, and because of the lack of apartments that are affordable, the women that are in these programs can't find an apartment and it becomes a vicious circle.

"You need to find solutions that are creative and you have to develop these solutions. There's very little money for development for these solutions," she continued.

Extra beds are added to homeless shelters to accommodate people during the winter, but conditions are cramped and in the summer not everyone can get in.

The city of Montreal proposed a resolution to combat homelessness in October. The resolution cites 11 acts, including more homes for the homeless, a 24-hour respite center and a new approach to intervention adapted for the city's poverty-stricken Inuit community.

Five Days for the Homeless is an initiative started by Business students at the University of Alberta in 2005. This year 22 campuses across Canada will be participating to reach a shared goal of raising $200,000. The ultimate goal, according to their website, is to create a society where all homeless individuals are given access to opportunities for success.

Concordia has raised more than a combined $100,000 in its four years of participation with Five Days for the Homeless. Expenses are covered by the Commerce & Administration Student Association and the John Molson School of Business.

Student Union Opposes Conflict Minerals

Minerals Used in Phones, Electronics Often Come From War Torn Congo

• JULIA JONES

The Concordia Student Union passed a motion supporting a petition to make Concordia a conflict-metal-free campus last Wednesday.

The petition, organized by the Concordia Initiative for a Conflict-Free Campus, states that Concordia recognizes the war in the Congo and that the university plays a part in this war by purchasing electronics that contain conflict minerals such as coltan.

Even though alternatives to these products are not yet available, the petition, which is non-binding, states that the University would have interest in purchasing these conflict-free alternatives once they enter the market.

Menachem Freedman, the councillor to motion for the petition to be presented at the CSU meeting, supported the initiative.

"The war in Congo is known as Africa's first World War," he said. "There's been a horrendous amount of violence there […] and we are, in a sense, implicated by the electronics we buy, and the least we can do is support this petition and hopefully it will be signed by the Board of Governors."

Initiative members plan to present the petition to the Board of Governors in their next meeting on March 31.

Aidan Pine, one of the initiative's organizers, said that the petition would also state that "[Concordia wants] to help out by taking that power that they have as someone who buys millions of dollars in electronics every year to tell those companies, 'Hey, I don't want to buy products that come from conflict areas anymore—I want to buy conflict-free products.'"

Coltan and other minerals used in the production of electronics are known to be major sources of income for the military occupation of the Congo. According to Pine, there are no official records on the exploitation of coltan in the Congo.

"Sixty-four to 80 per cent of the world's supply of coltan is estimated to be in the Congo," he said, "but that doesn't mean we're using that percentage."

Pine said that estimates on how much Congolese coltan is used in the manufacturing of electronics are conflicting. "The U.N., for example, will estimate that less than 1 percent [of the coltan we use] is coming from the Congo."



Aidan Pine helped organize a petition to oppose conflict minerals. PHOTO JULIA JONES

A second step for Pine would be for the BoG to follow the example of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations, which put forward a motion to amend their purchasing policy with a clause stating that if a conflict-free product does come out, and its price is no more than 10 percent higher than that of the product they were previously purchasing, ASFA is obligated to purchase it within the year.

The initiative will also be hosting the first Concordia International Forum on Conflict Minerals, with the Danish filmmaker of the documentary *Blood in the Mobile* Frank Poulsen, Canadian MP Paul Dewar (responsible for Bill C-571, the "Trade in Conflict Minerals Act"), Canadian Author of Noir Canada Alain Deneault and Congolese activist Kambalé Musavuli.

The Concordia International Forum on Conflict takes place at the DB Clarke Theatre in the Hall Building, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. March 22 , 7 - 10 p.m., free admission

Briefs

Local Japanese Alarmed

Thousands of Montrealers are struggling to reach family members in their native Japan, which was struck with a devastating earthquake last week. Over 2,000 have died as a result of the quake. The death toll is expected to increase to 10,000 by the end of this week. To donate to the relief efforts, call the Red Cross at 1-800-418-1111 or get online to redcross.ca.

Legal Clinic

The CSU's Legal Information Clinic is offering an additional eight hours of free legal consultation each week. The clinic, which often deals with issues of immigration and consumer protection, is now open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursdays.

School Closures?

A report released by the English Montreal School Board's planning committee outlines a list of 20 schools, largely in and around Montreal's Southwest borough, which may be closed or merged by 2012. School board commissioners will vote on whether or not to consider the report's changes on March 30.

Body Found in St Lawrence

An autopsy will be performed on the body of a man found in the Saint-Lawrence river near Old Montreal. Constable Simon Delorme of the Montreal Police says the autopsy will help determine the man's age, his cause of death and the length of time his body had been in the river.

Rally Against the NHL

Enraged by the NHL's inaction over a hit that left Montreal Canadiens forward Max Pacioretty with a severe concussion and a broken vertrebrae, one Habs fan has decided to take action. Victor Henriquez is organizing a protest outside the Bell Centre tonight, where he will circulate a petition for the NHL to adopt firm rules outlawing hits to the head.

Student Union Responds to Pudwell's Allegations

CSU Addresses Media for First Time Since VP Sustainability Resignation

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Over the past 12 days, the Concordia Student Union saw a fourth executive resign and witnessed a Council meeting erupt into chaos as a result, yet kept silent about the departure.

On Monday, the union broke its silence about former VP Sustainability & Promotions Morgan Pudwell's resignation and denied allegations of financial wrongdoing and political patronage put forth by the former VP.

"There was never financial mismanagement," said CSU VP Finance & Clubs Ramy Khoriaty. He also took exception with Pudwell's claim that she had been presented with fabricated financial documents in February.

"Fabricated is not the right word, the word is 'projections,'" he said. "We do projections to see where our budgets are going and at the point when we met, the projections weren't very accurate. That's why I wasn't very comfortable talking to outside people without talking to [Council]."

Yesterday, Khoriaty presented reporters projections that had the CSU ending its fiscal year with a $57,908 budgetary surplus, nearly $3,000 above previous projections.

The VP Finance could not present any detailed figures to the press but promised to do so at a special CSU Council meeting tomorrow night. Khoriaty was supposed to make the presentation at last Wednesday's meeting, but could not because of the meeting's controversial early adjournment.



"There was never financial mismanagement," said CSU VP Finance & Clubs Ramy Khoriaty. PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

Finally, Khoriaty denied that Pudwell's budget was ever kept from her and claimed she did not keep a close enough eye on her finances.

"Each executive is responsible not to go over budget, [Pudwell] went over budget, she incurred all the expenses and she is responsible for this," said Khoriaty.

In February, Khoriaty presented *The Link* with each CSU executive's budget projections. At the time, half of the executive was over budget—Pudwell along with VP External & Projects Adrien Severyns and VP Student Life Andres Lopez. Back then, Khoriaty said that Pudwell's deficit was of little concern.

CSU President Heather Lucas then addressed the concern that former union president Amine Dabchy was still heavily involved in the CSU's internal politics.

"If [Dabchy] ever told me to call a meeting," said Lucas. "I would tell him to fuck off."

While Lucas denied she had ever been secretly planning to run a slate for this year's elections, she did admit to having met with Cinema Student Association President AJ West in December to encourage him to run for office.

"I was elected to serve," said Lucas. "I want to get people involved with the CSU."

When asked about West's claims that Dabchy was involved in a process to vet and run a team of candidates for the election, Lucas told reporters to "Talk to [Dabchy.]"

Dabchy refused to comment to *The Link* about West's allegations.

Lucas also spoke to the charge that student representatives on the university's Board of Governors were not fulfilling the obligations of their duty. According to CSU bylaws, each student representative on the BoG must submit a written report to Council after every BoG meeting.

Until March, no student representative had submitted a written report from the BoG meetings.

"Traditionally, BoG representatives present their reports to Council orally," said Lucas. "If it's that important to students, we'll ensure that all BoG representatives submit a written report to Council."

Lucas also apologized for not speaking out against the BoG's firing of former Concordia President Judith Woodsworth at the last meeting, even though over 1,000 students at Special General Meeting mandated her to do so in February.

"I take responsibility for that," said Lucas. "I was late and a professor had eloquently presented the motion better than I could have. I supported that motion [...] I also sent all of the CSU's statements and where we stood to [BoG Chair] Peter Kruyt. I also met with Concordia President Frederick Lowy and asked him if he stood by the Board or independently from the Board and he refused to answer."

The CSU executive will not be fielding questions about the Pudwell resignation at tomorrow's Council meeting.

"It's time to move on," said Lucas.

They maintain their claim, however, that they will keep an open door to questions from any student in the future.

A Mix of the New and the Old

Former Student Union Leaders Sell Conference Across Province

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Using a Rolodex built up over a decade, four former Concordia Student Union executives exhausted their contacts to sell tickets to the Youth Action Montreal conference.

With David Suzuki, Stephen Lewis and Kofi Annan slated to take the stage on April 28, students from Concordia, McGill, Dawson, Vanier, l'Université de Montréal, Bishop's and Marianopolis will be in attendance.

Between the main speakers, the Youth Action lineup will include a mix of young speakers who are currently involved in the Montreal community.

"Unlike the previous conference in 2007, we decided to go beyond Concordia and McGill," said Peter Schiefke, the co-founder and president of Youth Action Montreal. The CSU VP Student Life in 2005, Schiefke went into great detail describing the effort to sell thousands of tickets.

"We started off at the CSU, pretty much because everybody that is working on the Youth Action Montreal team is a graduate of Concordia," he continued.

Along with Schiefke, former CSU Presidents Mohamed Shuriye and Amine Dabchy helped organize the conference. Former VP Stephanie Siriwardhana and current employees Georges Alexandar and Tay-Son Nguyen also joined the organizers.

When contacted by *The Link*, Current VP Finance & Clubs Ramy Khoriarty confirmed that both Alexandar and Nguyen were not helping organize the conference as part of their paid employment with the student union.

"We pitched them the idea where the CSU could purchase a certain number of tickets at $20 and they would then have the choice of reselling them at $20, selling them at $10 or giving them away for free," said Schiefke.

The same option was given to all the schools.

According to Khoriarty, the CSU purchased 1,000 tickets with money from the budget of VP External & Projects Adrien Severyns. *The Link* reported on Feb. 15 that Severyns' Speakers budget, where the money for the tickets was found, was 208 per cent overspent.

"We are selling the tickets for $20 so the $20,000 we get back from students will go a long way towards getting that budget line under control," said Khoriarty, explaining that the CSU's commitment to Youth Action was "cost neutral."

The Speakers budget is currently $48,747.51 above what was expected.

"All the tickets that have been sold to student unions right now number 3,000," said Schiefke. "Another 2,000 need to be sold to the general public at $50 a ticket, that's what offsets the cost for students to be able to buy at $20."

All of the event's finances were made available to the student unions that were partners, each of which could also appoint one representative to the Youth Action Montreal Organizing Committee.

Furthermore, each of the student unions was given the opportunity to nominate one youth speaker for the conference.

"The concept of Youth Action Montreal is organizing large-scale events that bring thousands of students together while addressing their issues of concern," said Schiefke.

With the intended purpose of helping launch a cause or promote ideas that might need more funding, time or energy, Schiefke said he hoped to inspire students.

"The theme of the conference is 'Leave Your Legacy Now.' We want students to realize that they don't need to wait until they are 60 and retired to make a difference," said the organizer. "They can start now."

Student Union Fires Back

Councillors Accuse Former CSU VP of Neglecting Duties on Women's Caucus

• ADAM KOVAC

Hours before former Concordia Student Union VP Sustainability & Promotions Morgan Pudwell read her letter of resignation to a packed council meeting on March 9, 14 of her former colleagues released a letter of their own.

The letter, which was also signed by two senators, accused Pudwell of a variety of transgressions, most related to her ineptitude as chair of the women's caucus. In an interview with *The Link*, Pudwell denied ever being the sole chair of the caucus.

"I was actually the co-chair," she said. "[CSU President] Heather Lucas was the co-chair with me."

"I tried to hold, I think, three meetings, and those were either not attended, or the emails weren't approved by the administrator in time, and it wasn't sent out until after the meetings had been set," she continued. "[Lucas] never sent out one message, even though at the February council meeting she specifically said she would be sending one the week following. She never sent out any other emails or calls to hold a meeting."



Pudwell is being accused of neglecting her duties as chair of the CSU's women's caucus. PHOTO JULIA JONES

At a press conference on March 14, Lucas denied ever being co-chair, saying she was only "helping out." Women's caucus member and CSU councilor Teresa Seminara said that this claim is not quite accurate.

"Absolutely," she said when asked if Lucas was named co-chair of the caucus. "If I can just make it clear, at the beginning of the year, when we were appointing councillors on the women's caucus, Morgan was very enthusiastic to take the role of the chair. Heather asked to be the co-chair to help her out. It was to my understanding that she wanted to be appointed as chair so she would be primary contact. Heather was helping her out."

As evidence that she wasn't negligent in her duties, Pudwell pointed out several women's week activities she had presented to members of the caucus, including Seminara. They included participating in a Women's Day march, a presentation on women in social movement, a queer community celebration and a gender neutral bathroom information seminar. Seminara claimed that she had never been consulted on most of these events.

"Wow, that is so disappointing," she said. "I've actually never heard of these events. This is so sad, I can't believe it, because I was never informed of these things. The one thing I know Morgan did was propose to go to the women's march. That was pretty much it."

The letter accused Pudwell of not responding to emails or phone calls, a charge that she vigorously denied, saying the one phone call she didn't return was when she was in New York City for the CSU trip in February, and didn't want to rack up long distance charges. However, one of the key organizers of women's week, Nancy Salama of Volunteers in Action, disputes this.

"Morgan Pudwell, I only heard from her on Feb. 28," she said. "By that point in time, we pretty much had everything done in terms of figuring out what projects we could pull off with my team of seven executives."

The first activities for women's week began on March 1.

ASFA Clashes with Math Students Association

MASSA's Fight for Independance Continues

• LAURA BEESTON

"Unfortunately, we've come to an impasse," said Arts and Science Federation of Associations VP Financial Alexa Newman. "I don't want to kick out math students, but we haven't been able to make a resolution. Either way, our bylaws need to change, or theirs do, or we don't accept them as a member association."

This was the discord in discussion at the Arts and Science Federation of Associations Council meeting last week, as conflicting bylaws remain at the centre of a dispute between ASFA and the Math and Statistics Student Association.

MASSA is actively seeking accreditation to become legally recognized by the Quebec government as a corporation. Their students voted overwhelmingly in favour of this process at the beginning of the month.

At the Thursday meeting, a closer inquiry into the new MASSA bylaws, specifically concerning their financial relationship to ASFA, was discussed for over an hour before being motioned back to yet another assessment from the policy review committee.

"I agree that the bylaws conflict on some points, but at the moment I think this is made out to be a much bigger issue than it really is," said Bruno Joyal, a MASSA executive at the forefront of the push for accreditation.

"Although we are challenging the bylaws, we're doing it in a constructive way that might just make ASFA a better and stronger organization if the challenge is taken up," he continued. "I think that a constructive endeavor would be a better thing to do than just kick MASSA out of ASFA, which I think is radical and unnecessary."

On Feb. 8, the math students passed two motions at a special general meeting, one to recognize the new non-profit as the association and approve its new bylaws, the other to suspend the financial policy until it is reviewed.

Specifically, section 3.1 and 3.2 in their financial policy are at the centre of the disagreement, as it reads that MASSA "shall adhere to the financial policy set forth in Annex B of the ASFA bylaws, except for these policies that contradict the present bylaws or the Companies Act, or that prevent the association from conducting its affairs."

"To me, that's a notwithstanding clause," said VP Internal Nicole Devlin. "That means they don't want to go by the rules, so do you guys [council] want to accept that? Do you want a member association on ASFA that doesn't have to obey the rules that you do? I just want you to think about that; should an association have special privileges over the others?"

Well into their accreditation process, the clash between executives was complicated further when members of the ASFA exec began questioning MASSA's referendum process.

At the meeting, an email to Newman from two students complaining about the procedure was passed around council—with their identities blacked out. Newman also asked Joyal for the ballots to see voter documentation and the sign-in sheet from the SGM, which he—and his accreditation agent—refused to disclose.

Though a hard stand was taken by the ASFA executive, the councillors in attendance expressed an interest in moving forward "through the right channels."

Melanie Hotchkiss, an MA from the School of Community and Public Affairs, was eventually appointed to the policy review committee, who were mandated to meet by April 7—a week before the next council meeting.

JMSB Dean Headed to Vermont

• ALEX DI PIETRO

John Molson School of Business Dean Sanjay Sharma decided Feb. 28 that he'll be leaving Concordia in late June to accept deanship at the University of Vermont's School of Business Administration.

"I am the kind of guy who likes to build things, and I have the opportunity to build a world-class school in Vermont," Sharma told The Link. "That's my mandate, and that's what I'm excited about."

His wife Pramodita Sharma is currently a management professor at the JMSB, but will join her husband to hold the Sanders Professorship at UVM beginning in September.

Sharma said he had not been searching for other opportunities but that UVM presented him with a good offer and that it just happened to be located in one of his family's preferred areas.

The dean has made several breakthroughs during his four-year term. He led the JMSB's MBA program to rank 96th worldwide, according to a 2010 survey by The Economist, and emphasized that students apply their theoretical knowledge in case competitions, which resulted in over 110 podium finishes.

"It was very easy as a dean to delay decisions or to say that he would do something another way," said Alan Hochstein, the associate dean of the JMSB's graduate programs who has worked closely with Sharma during his tenure. "But I think Dean Sharma placed his trust in the people who worked with him, and because of that, the school was successful."

According to Concordia Provost David Graham, the Sharmas' departures aren't "anything exceptional."

"It's a truism in the field of human resource management that you should never hold good people back when they see a great opportunity somewhere else," he said. "Nothing that Dean Sharma has said to me offers any suggestion whatsoever of a connection [to the discouragement over governance at Concordia]."

Graham said the search for a new dean is underway, but that he is "not in any position to start identifying" candidates.

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THISH... THISH ARTICLE... I LOVE IT, MAN: I WSA DRNK WEHN I WROET THISH TEASER

Gimme That Guinness



GRAPHIC MYRIAM ARSENAULT

A Beer With a Cult Following Prepares for its Day in the Spotlight

• NATASHA LUCKHARDT

"Guinness is not poured, it is built," reads a poster on the wall of the famous Montreal microbrewery, Brutopia. The bar, adorned with Guinness Beer memorabilia, is gearing up for its St. Patrick's Day crowd on March 17.

St. Patrick's Day isn't just about the act of drinking Guinness; it's also about the ritual of pouring it. The process is often considered something of a science, which many are eager to try for themselves. So what is the equation for the perfect pint?

The beer is made of water, malt, hops, yeast and barley, roasted to give it its dark complexion. Its presentation, however, is just as important as its ingredients.

"The first pour goes to about here," the manager of Brutopia, George Bajoris, explains, indicating the glass's three-quarter mark. "You wait a minute or so 'til it settles and then you top it up and when you finish, there should be a little dome on top of the glass."

The dome that Bajoris is referring to is the crest at the top of the head, which should be about two centimeters. While it may seem hard to calculate for those with their beer goggles on, many Guinness fanatics have an eye for perfection.

"If you get a lot of head on your beer, they'll send it back right away," Bajoris says. "They're very picky about their experience."

Conan Wakely, an Ireland native and Guinness enthusiast, explains that the wait is part of the ritual. "Taking your time to pour also whets the appetites of those watching and waiting for their beer," he says.

Further north on Crescent Street, bedazzled with green ornaments, sits Hurley's Irish Pub, which is also known for providing a great Guinness experience. Hurley's bartender Micheline Durivage says that the perfect pint starts with the glass angled at 45 degrees and ends with the beer a temperature of 45 degrees—Fahrenheit, that is.

"A lot of places don't really master it," she says. "A lot of places have a lot of nitrogen in their gas." The more nitrogen there is, the more bubbles are formed at the head, a faux pas that Durivage says is commonly made in the U.S.

Steve Paul, who hails from Chicago, pipes in and says, "It's better off to get it in cans in the U.S. If it's on tap, it's too cold." As he drinks his third pint of Guinness, he reminisces about a trip he made to Hurley's 10 years ago.

"Back in the day, the waitresses, they'd give you 'the look,' like 'Are you ready?' so they could start the next one," he recalls.

While signaling Durivage to pour another pint, he says that it's not about the perfect Guinness, but the normal Guinness. Pointing at Durivage, he says, "She's the perfect one. Twenty years from now she'll be pouring it the same way."

At 37, Durivage says that pouring the perfect pint has become second nature to her after working at Hurley's for 15 years. Yet she says the best one is always the one she pours for herself after work.

"I love the taste... It's a very light beer, it's lower in alcohol than most beers; it's only 4.6 per cent. It doesn't have a lot of gas so it doesn't fill you up. It's also very light in calories, despite what people think," she says. Despite Guinness' calorie count (210 per pint), customer Doug Miller, who brews his own beer at home, says he knows guys who call it their dinner.

While Guinness is probably not the best meal substitute, it is rumoured to have some health value. Ireland-born Jonathan Lynn is a strong believer in Guinness' healing powers.

"My granny was prescribed a half pint a day in her old age, and this was a common practice [for] pregnant women [as well]," he says.

He also recalls old Irish nicknames for Guinness such as "a pint of plain," "a scoop" and, his personal favourite, "the blonde in the black dress."

Health or otherwise, "everything in moderation" is definitely not the motto for St. Patrick's Day. Both Crescent Street bartenders say that St. Patrick's Day is usually bigger than the day of the parade, all the more intimidating since Bajoris says he sold five times the usual amount of Guinness during Sunday's parade last year.

"On the parade day, everybody wants to be Irish for the day," says Durivage. "Everybody wants green beer, everybody does the 'Kiss me, I'm Irish'... On St. Patrick's Day [itself], it's more Irish people."

Montreal Irishman Robert Mane plans to cruise Crescent Street on St. Patrick's Day. After living in Montreal for two years, he says that Montreal has one of the best beer cultures in the world—high praise, considering he's been working in Ireland bars since he was 15.

"A perfect Guinness is poured with love," he says. With the loving touch of the bartenders and the luck of the Irish, the Guinness experience is sure to be a charming one this year.

CUT LIKE A KNIFE: EDGY WOMEN ROLL INTO TOWN TO MARRY THE SNOW

Over the Edge

The 18th Edgy Women Festival

• LAURA BEESTON

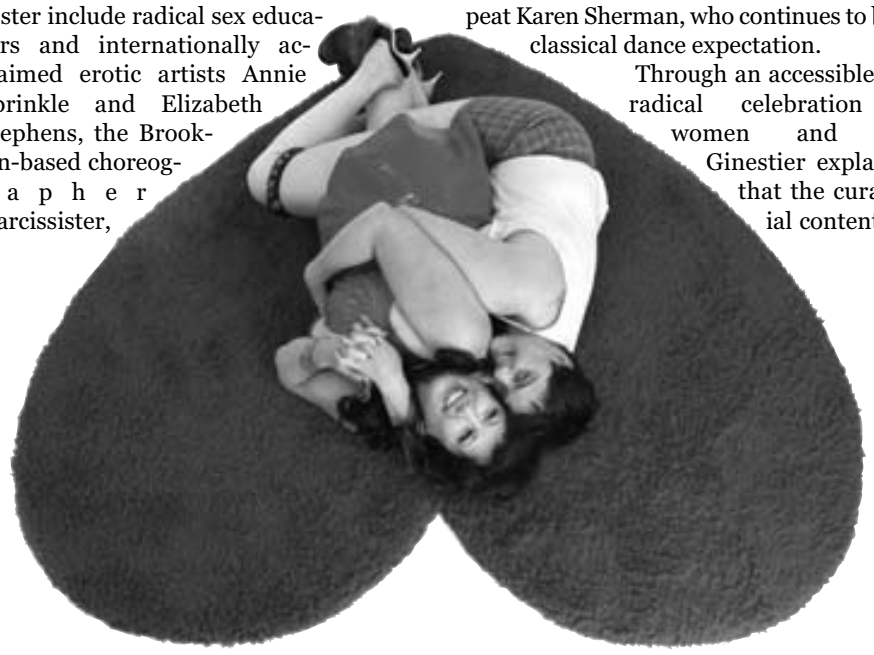
By the end of this week, expect Montreal to get edgier.

Not in the obvious, chain-smoking, nervy way people get when they're stressed, but through fierce, female-driven performance art that will descend on this city for the 18th edition of the Edgy Women Festival, running March 19 to April 2.

"This year is smaller, but it's really juicy," said Miriam Ginestier, the founder, artistic director and 'organisatrix' behind Edgy. "It's really exciting when work is artistically strong and political at the same time. And it's not easy to find that combination."

Bringing together diverse works from the local, national and international performance art scene since 1995, this year's femme fest will showcase truly signature aesthetics.

Some of the Edgy Women on the roster include radical sex educators and internationally acclaimed erotic artists Annie Sprinkle and Elizabeth Stephens, the Brooklyn-based choreographer Narcissister,



who has described herself as a "post modern, post feminist sex artist" and Edgy repeat Karen Sherman, who continues to buck classical dance expectation.

Through an accessible and radical celebration of women and art, Ginestier explained that the curatorial content addresses more than simply "women's issues," offering many levels and opportunities for the community to connect and exchange.

"I think there's a real misconception that anytime art is about a women's issue that it's going to be dour, didactic and dreary," she said. "That's not the case here. It can be really exciting, really humanist [...] in a very visceral way. Edgy is about bringing together the thought-provoking and fun."

Edgy afterparties, a university speaker series and a Sidewalk Sex Clinic are also running in tandem with the performance art schedule, and programming partners this year include "Gallerie Powerhouse" La Centrale.

For more information about the artists and extras, check out edgywomen.ca

The Art Of Love

Two Edgy Women Bring Marriage Project to Montreal

• LAURA BEESTON

"We're trying to imagine ways that might open people's minds and hearts. We're proposing poetic and metaphoric ways of thinking about the problems that humans are facing right now. There are so many different ways to heal our Earth and...wait, is someone peeing?"

There's a pause on the line.

"They don't call me Sprinkle for nothing, honey."

Landing the interview with former-porn-star-turned-Ph.D Annie Sprinkle and her "dyke professor and playboy" partner Elizabeth Stephens is certainly unlike any conference call I've made to date—and if the content of the conversation is any indication of what to expect from their headlining performance at this year's Edgy Women Festival, you may just pee yourself from excitement.

I'm told it's no small miracle to have the two San Francisco-based radical sex performers and academics on the line at the same time and what starts as a cold-call turns very warm, very fast.

"We love you," they giggle, immediately inviting me to their 7th art-performance marriage ceremony in Ottawa, where they plan to wed the snow.

"Love is so powerful," says Stephens. "We're always interested in exploring that complexity, you know? We're not just new age, woo-woo healers here."

"But nothing against them!" Sprinkle interjects.

"Oh no! We love the woo-woo, too," Stephens laughs. "But our work is not too, too woo-woo.

"Woo-woo with an edge, maybe."

Sprinkle and Stephens have travelled the world since 2005, promoting their marriage project "Seven Years of Love as Art." Each annual queer wedding distinctly incorporates colours and themes from the seven Hindu Chakras, and each feature elaborate costumes, performance work and special guests. They have already married the moon, the mountains and the sea.

The project started as a response to violence, war and the anti gay marriage movement in the States, but has evolved to currently include elements of environmentalism and the founding of what they call "ecosexuality."

> **'We're not just new age, woo-woo healers here.'**
>
> *—Elizabeth Stephens*
> *Interdisciplinary Artist*

"We're trying to reclaim love from Hallmark," explains Stephens. "What I've learned [from these weddings] is that people really need a public space to gather and celebrate whoever they are and whatever they love [...] so they can envision different realities."

As self-proclaimed lovers with the Earth, Sprinkle and Stephens say they are attempting to change the metaphor from "Earth as Mother" to "Earth as Lover"—a distinction they believe could revolutionize how we interact, and nurture our deteriorating planet.

"When we started out this work, it was about being in love with each other, but from that it's grown into a love of the mountains, the sky, the moon. It just keeps growing," explains Sprinkle. "Love can grow to universal proportions! [...] By the end of our talk, most people will probably come out as ecosexual, or at least ecosensual."

Vowing to love, honour and cherish the Earth until death do they part, Sprinkle and Stephens plan on going headlong into the field of sex ecology after the final wedding.

"We really feel like the environmental issues are what we want to deal with for the rest of our lives," says Stephens. "We're really marrying those."

Taking place in the 800-seat SAW Gallery in Ottawa, the last wedding of their seven-year project will take place on March 26.

If you want to catch the pair in Montreal prior to the nuptials, they are performing "The Adventures of the Love Art Lab" on March 19 at the Sala Rossa and hosting a Sidewalk Sex Clinic open to the public at La Centrale on March 21.

"The beauty of sex is that you can always learn more," says Stephens. "[These projects] are ways of opening up space for certain things that aren't ordinarily discussed in public."

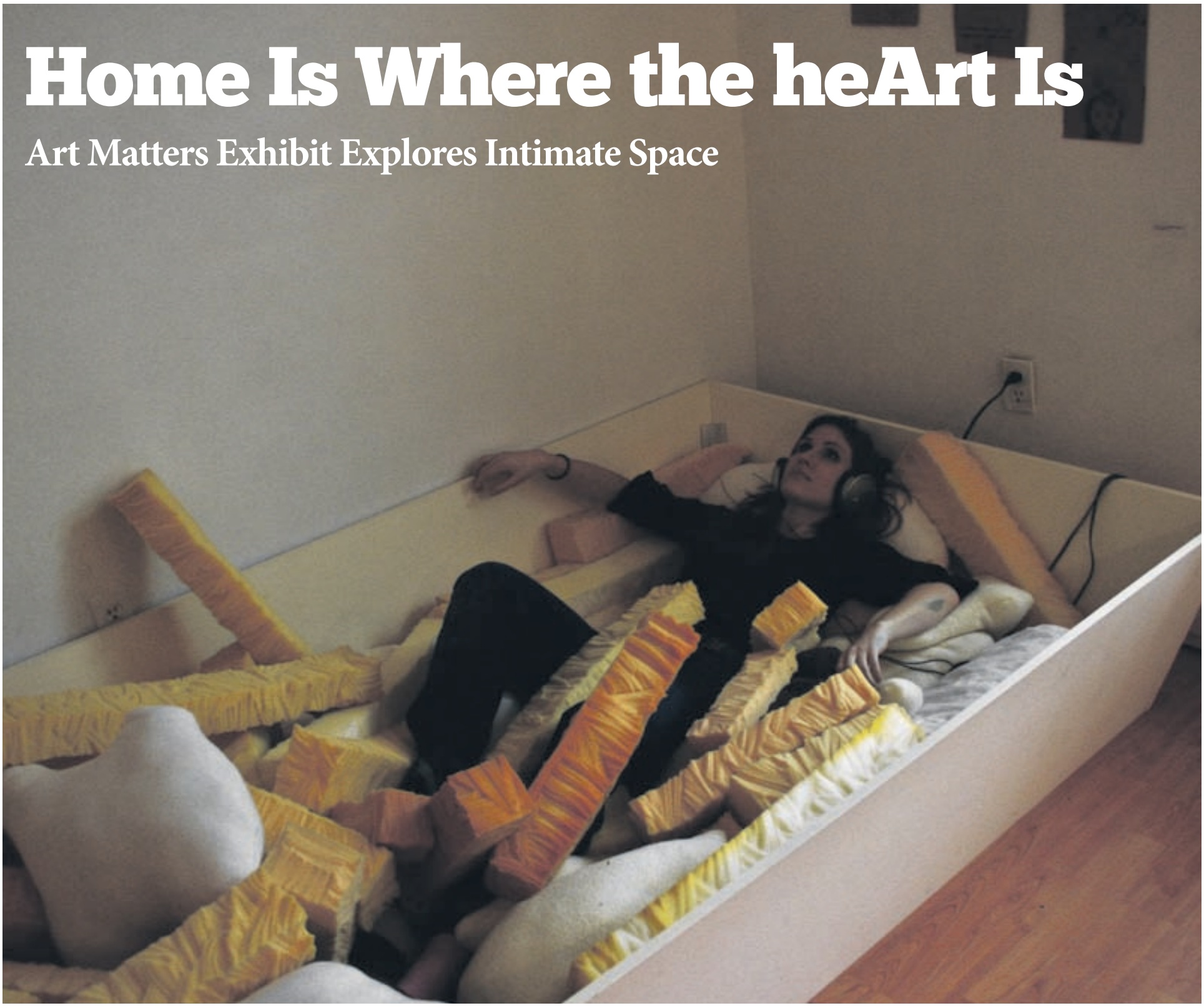
Suddenly, something fluid happens on the other end of the phone.

"My girlfriend is totally turning me on with all these liquid noises," says Stephens, inattentive to my last question. "There's an experimental water piece on the other line. We should run."

The Ecosexual Wedding of Elizabeth Stephens, Annie Sprinkle and YOU to the Snow / SAW Gallery / 67 Nicholas St., Ottawa / March 26 / 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. / Attendees are asked to dress in white

Home Is Where the heArt Is

Art Matters Exhibit Explores Intimate Space



Home, Paralleled *is a multi-disciplinary response to the idea of 'home' and its varying definitions.* PHOTOS PIERRE CHAUVIN





• CAITLIN LEROUX

What makes a home? Is the definition of home required to incorporate shelter, consistency and residency? Are there limitations to how one should define a home?

CTRLLAB, in affiliation with Art Matters, presents *Home, Paralleled*. The exhibit, curated by Dan Smeby, provides a multi-disciplinary portrayal of the ever-personal conception of "the home." The exhibit proves that a home is not necessarily restricted to the confines of a roofed space.

There are two immediate parallels provided within the space of *Home, Paralleled*. The first is the housing of 22 works of art that touch on the abstract concept of what constitutes a home, familiarity and belonging.

The second is the living space that is attached to the gallery, where the artist in residence, Katie Pretti, will be spending the remainder of the month living while creating similarly-themed artwork.

The entrance asks visitors to remove their shoes and enjoy perusing the gallery in their socks. The comfortable and inviting space provides a lounge area that accompanies Jia Chen Cardy Lai's work "Comfort Food." Lai's contribution to the show is essentially one version of a home, or a space to retreat to.

The work is a bed frame filled with a mattress of foam fries and cheese curds, creating a bed of poutine that visitors are invited to nap in.

Artist Genvieve Labrie nailed her shoes along with an accumulation of her possessions to the wall. Her personal belongings were taken from inside her portable home—her backpack. Her version of a home chronicles her travels, providing a timeline of her possessions that marks the furnishing of her backpack and the inconsistency of the space she refers to as home. She even included her Blackberry in the collection.

In contrast, artist Tara Chartrand's work challenges the assumption behind the theme, as her art portrays the idea of losing one's home to a flood. Her work illustrates the chaos that can emerge when one's home is destroyed or lost. Chartrand points out the importance of the show's title and emphasizes how many of the works contribute to the theme of paralleling and even deconstructing the traditional home.

The array of one, two and three-dimensional works showcased in this space invite viewers to understand the connection between the artists and what makes them feel at home.

The variety of interpretations provided are both evident and paradoxical, providing a unique compilation of works which attempt to describe the four letter word that seems so complex that it is virtually indescribable.

***Home, Paralleled* / CTRLLAB: Montreal Art House / 3634 St. Laurent Blvd. / runs until March 19 / FREE / Catch Katie Pretti's continuation of *Home, Paralleled* later in the month with *Reckless Abandonment*.**

MAKEOUT SKIDEOTAPE

Vancouver Pop Tarts Move the Party to Montreal



Lock your doors! Makeout Videotape have invaded Montreal. PHOTO ROBERT FOUGERE

• ALEX MCGILL

When I get to Mac DeMarco's apartment to talk to him about his band, Makeout Videotape, I wake him up. It's 11:00 a.m. on a Monday and he greets me in his underwear. He's obviously living the young dude-in-a-band lifestyle.

Fresh from a cross-country move from Edmonton, DeMarco is currently living in a loft space with his girlfriend and four other guys.

Signed to the Toronto indie label Unfamiliar Records (Japandroids, Brasstronaut), Makeout Videotape released their first full-length album last December.

DeMarco said that they have played with the idea of releasing new music again soon. "We [just independently] released Ying Yang on a cassette. We might release it with our label on vinyl," he said. "But I'm already kind of sick of it; we were making it for like a year and a half. So yeah we'll probably have something new in like a month," DeMarco laughed, showing his gapped front teeth.

Makeout Videotape is comprised of front man DeMarco and Alex Calder. They have been playing together since they were both 15 and growing up in Edmonton. They have only recently come together as a band. Two years ago they released *Heat Wave*. Their fun-loving, garage-pop sound and their spontaneous performances have earned them a following in Montreal.

After living in Vancouver briefly, the duo moved back to Edmonton before deciding to move east. When I ask DeMarco what prompted the move, he's hesitant. "Why did we move to Montreal? You know, I don't know. A lot of people ask me that. It's cheaper than Vancouver. I like coming here. It's nice and close to Toronto, New York [and] Chicago," he said.

When I ask if he thinks Montreal will influence or change their sound, he's a bit more sure. "I found [that] when we went to Vancouver, it didn't influence [our music] at all. All the bands we were hanging out with were all like new punk, screaming and stuff. Not that there's anything wrong with that because I love that stuff, but we didn't sound like that," DeMarco said. "I think right off the bat here [in Montreal] we kind of sound a little bit more like other bands that are around. There's a lot more poppy music. That's in Vancouver too, but here they just seem to suck less."

Their current sound is often classified as lo-fi, a genre that DeMarco agrees with. "People call us lo-fi music. And that's good, because when I first started making music, I was in another band, and we were kind of trying to sound like Yo La Tengo, or Pavement or something—nice, clean, indie rock in Edmonton. We did these nice recordings and it took a super long time. And then I realized that all my friends were into these really crappy recorded bands. And I was like, man, I could write this really good song and record it really shitty. And I did. And people really started liking us, like really fast.

"Now I can kind of put out whatever I like. I'm just trying to be like Jonathan Richman or um... yeah, pretty much just Jonathan Richman."

DeMarco writes all of the songs and often records them himself as well. "Sometimes Alex records with me. The songs that actually sound like they're recorded by someone who knows how to record—it's usually him. But yeah, usually it's like more of a bedroom thing, especially back home in Edmonton. I mostly recorded in my mom's basement."

I ask him where he's planning to record in Montreal and he points to a corner of the apartment that's filled with miscellaneous musical instruments and speakers. "Um, probably in that corner right over there. We talked to the Arbutus guys about renting some space. I don't know, we don't really practice, we just kind of record."

We should definitely expect to see a lot more from these guys in the future. For now, DeMarco is just focusing on making new music (they have a couple of shows coming up in April), and navigating the Montreal employment market. "Yeah if anyone knows where I can get a job, they should email me."

Dance Macabre

Salem Brings Witch House to the Stage

• COLIN HARRIS

Salem is one of those bands that would rather no one know their face. The Chicago-based trio has been making internet waves with their 808 clapper-heavy electronic darkness, and seem to make an effort at remaining aloof.

Their sound is a combination of decelerated hip-hop, juke house, and the kind of mood you'd expect from a Slowdive record—a mix that will suck the joy right out of the room.

"None of us think of music as a social outlet," said percussionist/MC Jack Donoghue. "We make music together, but how we experience music, even our own, is very personal."

And it shows, at the very least on their disinterested faces in videos of their live shows. The singing of Heather Marlatt and John Holland is shoegaze to a tee, buried in the mix with inconsequential lyrics. The music is an emotional setting, evoking the darkest possible kind of bliss.

Salem are something like the electronic equivalent of Black Sabbath, and not just in their obsession with crosses. Salem create downer music for the depressed kid who just wants to dance.

Their 2008 EP *Yes, I Smoke Crack* showed promise in its down-tempo haze, and September's professionally produced King Night made Witch House sound bigger than ever before. Salem became even better at extracting serotonin through your ears.

Since the hype around King Night the band has been playing more live shows and are gradually finding comfort in their live show. The Salem on record comes from working in front of a computer, and as such it's taken the band a while to find their performing legs.

"Like anything, you get more confident the more shows you do," said Marlatt. "I feel like we're in a pretty good place with our show, but we're always trying to be better."

As for the imposed labels of Drag or Witch House, the band isn't sure what to make of them.

"I'm not really sure what that means, since drag means slowed down. People have been doing that for a long time, maybe DJ Screw first made it popular," said Holland. "I don't really know if there's a scene or not. Me and Heather live in the woods in Michigan and I don't think Jack pays attention to that in Chicago."

Regardless, a culture of blogs and message boards have birthed micro genres of music. Salem's name is commonly written online in Leet speak.

Leet, or "1337" is an alternative alphabet for the English language that is used primarily on the Internet. It uses various combinations of ASCII characters to replace Latinate letters. For example, leet spellings of the word leet include 1337 and l33t.

But, fortunately for them, a lot of people are paying attention to Salem. They've added a light show to their live setup and are working on new material, so with a bit of luck the group may end up being more than just a passing trend. It's better than the alternative for John Holland at least, who was reportedly turning tricks in Chicago cabs to support a heroin addiction before forming the band.

"I want them to feel something so strong, or to be changed after listening," said Holland.

Salem / Le Gymnase / 4177 Saint-Denis St. / Fri., March 18 / with Silk Flowers and Prince Club / Door $15.



Save The Bees

Cinema Politica Doc Explores the Global Bee Crisis and Why We Should Care

• CORRENTINE RIVOIRE

Beekeepers have witnessed an alarming increase in the number of bees disappearing. The worst part? No one knows where they are going.

Cinema Politica's next film screening, *Vanishing of the Bees*, directed by George Langworthy and Maryam Henein, investigates this phenomenon. Through testimonies of some of the most devoted beekeepers in America, the documentary reveals dramatic questions on the earth's vital need for bees.

I was far from imagining the importance of bees in our food chain until I saw the film. In a nutshell, the fruits and vegetables that we eat on a daily basis depend on the insects or the wind for them to grow. It is through pollination that vegetation grows, making bees an important tool for the production of food.

It is estimated that $15 billion worth of food depends on insects to pollinate the crops. What is extremely disturbing is that bees are disappearing in large numbers in countries like the U.S, France, Argentina, Italy and elsewhere. Perhaps even more disturbing is that no one seems to know where they are going, as very few are found dead around the beehives.



Where do bees go to die? Food growth is dependent on their pollination. Toxic pesticides are to blame. What will we eat?

Through the testimony of a long-time beekeeper David Hackenberg, the film highlights the severity of CCD, or "Colony Collapse Disorder." Characterized by the death of a colony without any pathology diagnosed, and no dead bees to be found, CCD has preoccupied both commercial and organic beekeepers.

Although scientific research is currently being conducted to further understand the issue, many blame intensive monocultures as the main reason.

The use of toxic pesticides has been proven to affect bees by inflicting harm on their brains, which weakens their immune system. Agriculturalists say that fewer bees are found in monocultures because there is very little to eat in the non-diversified environment.

The disappearance of bees is believed to hold dramatic consequences for the future of food production.

Other explanations for the disappearances focus on the exploitative commercial practices inflicted on the bees. Some harmful measures discussed include the artificial insemination of the queen bee, the killing of the queen bee for her replacement by a younger bee and the substituting of bee's honey by sugar-extract, making them more vulnerable to pesticides.

In France, beekeepers won a battle against the Gancho pesticide that was revealed to be the cause of the death of beehives.

The priority in European agriculture has been placed on safety and cautionary measures. On the other hand, Hackenberg criticizes the lack of prevention in the U.S. The Environmental Protection Agency has been unsuccessful in determining the risks of pesticides used in agriculture, and beekeepers are calling for more precautionary measures.

This issue could be more complex than any scientist can measure, but it is not a mystery. Research has shown the link between our intensive agricultural practices and the disappearance of bees.

The screening is organized in collaboration with the Concordia Food System. All proceeds from the door will go towards the beehive project at Loyola.

***Vanishing of the Bees* / H-110 / Mon. March 21 / 7:00 p.m.**

Three Years for Radical Queers

Politics and Playtime at the Third Radical Queer Semaine

• LAURA BEESTON

The space at 90 de la Gauchetière St. has transformed.

Clusters of queers gather around a hearty-looking, dumpster-dived spread at the table, while others lounge on couches and in corners, chatting together. Near the back of the room is a corridor that leads to a lofty exhibition space, ornamented with charged bodies. A group is participating in a spoken-word, film performance hybrid, involving an ancient looking camera. The space is warm, safe, politicized. Its strong sense of community seems to emanate from the walls.

This is just one moment of the over 40 events, workshops and parties on the docket of Radical Queer Semaine, running until March 20.

Jordan Arsenault, one of the dozen-or-so in the RQS organizing collective, has been planning since November to make this 10-day community queerfest come to life. Though he expects between 450 to 1,200 folks to pass through the space over the next week and participate in the epic events and dance parties, he is quick to say that this space is about building something that is stronger than their "mega film, mega workshop" programme or a revolution on the dance floor.

"When it comes down to it, these kinds of events and this kind of community-building, art-making and space-sharing are useful—this isn't only about having a good time, even though you'll have a good time. [We are] building a social resistance core," he said, emphatically. "Because you just never know when any of the things that have been gained [for queers] in the past will be threatened again."

For the first time this year, he explained, RQS has a beneficiary. That person is Elias Dean, a transman taking on the l'État civil du Québec in a court challenge over the constitutionality of their requirements for legal sex designation. Anything the collective makes beyond next year's start-up fund will go towards this court challenge and the potential precedent it may set in Quebec. Dean will also be backed-up beyond the beneficent with RQS solidarity.

Via RQS, Arsenault explained, the community will be there. "We would always come out and help people who are in need of support because of systematic repression," he said. "Maybe not necessarily with our money every time, but [by] making noise and making people feel like they're supported. That's the power you feel when you [participate in RQS] and sit in a room with your community—you're building something that is stronger."

This, he explained, is what makes, and keeps, it radical.

Though getting folks from across the island together to build solidarity may seem like a challenging objective, the plurality in RQS's programme certainly lends itself to the cause. It's extensive, to say the least—and its awesomeness includes sexy Fuckjitsu, the annual STALLE queer performance night, surprise film screenings, Queer Divination (Tarot reading for beginners) and smutty storytelling, to name a few highlights.

The week wraps up with their now-notorious Monster Ball—a massive queer dance party with performances, DJs and VJs.

"I know we're supposed to tell you what's the 'best' thing to do [this week], but we just have so much plurality," laughs Arsenault. "There's just nothing like it."

For the full Radical Queer Semaine schedule, check out radicalqueersemaine.org.

THE GHOST IS STRONG WITH THESE ONES: THE SPIRIT OF IRVING LAYTON LIVES ON AT CONCORDIA

Laytonest of the Best

Finalists Revealed for the Irving Layton Award for Poetry

• ASHLEY OPHEIM



GRAPHIC DOMINIQUE CÔTÉ

Four emerging writers from Concordia's Creative Writing program—Nick Comilla, Jason Freure, Candice Maddy Fridman and Emma Healey—read from their poems shortlisted for the Irving Layton Award in poetry last Friday.

The reading took place on the 11th floor of the EV building. The writers read in front of floor-to-ceiling windows, thrown against the horizon of Montreal's downtown and a landscape of sky. As the city lights began to make their mark on the emerging night, the writers, too, made their mark on the small audience with the language of poetry.

The poetry jury for the 2011 Irving Layton Awards consisted of English department staff Mary di Michele, Sina Queyras and David McGimpsey.

Comilla, a fourth year creative writing, English literature and philosophy student, read from his poem "Pure Form," a poem that has been revised five to seven times over the past two years.

"The hardest thing with this poem is that it started off completely differently than how it ended up, besides the repeating words and [...] phrases here or there," he said.

"The poem went from being sexy fun to being philosophical [and] conceptual to actually having issues with the subject matter and not just celebrating it."

Di Michele said that Comilla's poem shows a master of form. "'Pure Form' is a poem that doesn't leave the body behind," she said. "[It is] a poem that is both fully dressed and naked."

"Sometimes the form is as important to me as the words," Comilla said. "The form takes the words or the refrains and reinvents them, shows every side to them."

Fridman, a third-year creative writing student, read from her piece "Marie Reine du Monde After A.M. Klein, or, Notes on Ecclesia Triumphans by a Wandering Jew on a Bixi."

While Comilla's poem concerned itself primarily with questions of form, Fridman concentrated instead on the powers of language in her piece.

"I have a bad habit of liking a particular word, wanting to build a poem around it, being quite unwilling to sacrifice the word to spare the poem," she said. "I'm learning."

Her shortlisted poem was noticed by the jury for its blending of the French and English languages while maintaining a sense of play, a cultural engagement and an expansiveness of thinking. Di Michele called the piece "contemporary and daring."

Fridman composed the first draft of the shortlisted poem while daydreaming in an Italian language class. "We were learning the diminutive form. This was the second class—the first being art history—where a professor had mentioned that Marie-Reine-du-Monde on René Levesque is a 1/5 scale model of San Pietro, in Rome," she said. "There's this fascinating political story behind the construction of it.

"Also, I had been reading a lot of A.M. Klein and thinking about his Franglophone vocabulary and his obsession with Joyce and his Wandering Jew."

Freure, an English literature student and member of the Montreal Slam Poetry Collective, read from his piece "St-Laurent Boulevard." A poem, as di Michele explained, polyphonically takes the reader up and down the Main, calling it, "a poem that sustains its language pulse."

Freure read from a section of the poem—the section that he described as being the catalyst for the larger body of the work.

"It started with one section, the section I read, which came pretty quickly," Freure said regarding his writing process for the poem. "When I read it to Chris Clarke at Argo Bookshop he said, 'But that's only one part of the street.'"

Realizing Clarke was right, Freure edited the poem, adding new sections and details that better encompassed the sprawling Montreal street.

Closing off the readings, Healey—a second year English literature, creative writing and philosophy student who was last year's recipient of the Irving Layton Award for poetry—read from her autobiographical poem "Everything Is Glass."

"Everything Is Glass" exhibits a "joyful command of language," according to the judges of the award.

According to Healey, the poem was written in about three hours while sitting in her kitchen.

"This poem was weird—usually I take ages to work an idea into anything that's even vaguely intelligible or useful or whatever.

"It's sad that things that happen that way are often the things that turn out to be your favourites—you want to believe that all the agony and revision is always toward something, that it's a pain but at least it's the most effective method," she said.

"But sometimes good things just happen."

Healey described her writing process as being physically akin to attempting to pull her own spleen out through her eye sockets.

"Probably this is unnecessary and only means I am doing it wrong but I haven't yet figured out another way," she said.

The winner of the Irving Layton Award for poetry will be announced at a ceremony honouring the English Undergraduate awards winners at 2:00 p.m. in LB-646 on March 25. Also, be sure to check out next week's Lit section for some coverage of the Fiction finalists.

Lit Events

Jaswant Guzder 'Dialogic' Lecture

Prof. Norman Cornett to Interview Writer, Psychoanalyst and Collaborator With Concordia's Art Therapy Program, Jaswant Guzder

MARCH 19
12:00 P.M. TO 2:00 P.M.
GALERIE SAMUEL LALLOUZ
1434 SHERBROOKE ST. W., SUITE #200
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The Incongruous Quarterly Reading

Online 'Unpublishable' Lit Mag Hosts First Montreal Reading, Featuring Mike Chaulk, Emily Falvey, Jon Paul Fiorentino, Cole Robertson & Jacob Spector

MARCH 19
7:00 P.M. ONWARDS
THE DEP[ART]MENT
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Featuring Mike Chaulk, Klara DuPlessis, Laura Freitag, Emma Healey, Livingston Miller, Ari Resnikoff, Jacob Spector, Gleb Wilson in a Literary Intra-Varsity Deathmatch

MARCH 20
7:00 P.M. TO 10:00 P.M.
THE SPARROW
5322 ST. LAURENT ST.
$5 AT THE DOOR

Shortlist Writ

Marie Reine du Monde after A.M. Klein, or, Notes on Ecclesia Triumphans by a Wandering Jew on a Bixi

• CANDICE MADDY FRIDMAN

O San Pietronino,
Maderno minuscule,

Apotheosis of Ecclesia Francophans—farcical
Finial Français in the quartier Anglophonic,

Your belittled baldacchino bravely framing
Counterpoint Catholique to not ninety-two

But resolution *singulier*—
Henglish hérétique, how

Your glory architravic is reduced
To pedimented pejorative: trap touristique.

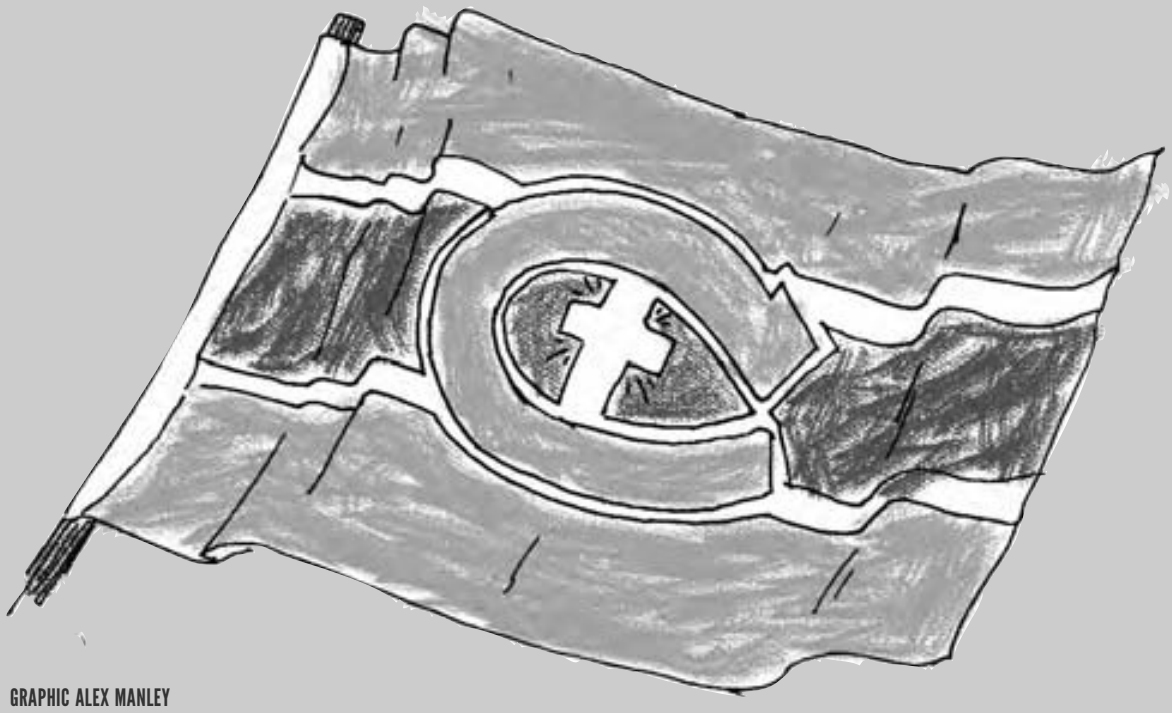
Relic heart of the centre-ville
Exsanguinated by true habitant house of worship:

Centre Bell, whose crown of jerseys apostolic
Inspires beatitude beyond Bernini bronze compare

Alas! Your nave is no center-ice
Chère Cathédrale,

Forever forced to face your cruciform
Quotation with PVenmity. Quel ennui

Pei's pared down Place paraphrasic must present
After all these years!



GRAPHIC ALEX MANLEY

P.S. Check out a story about Concordia's bilingual literary mag THE VOID in News this week on page 10

2011 Announcement of Candidates

General Election

March 18, 2011 4:00 p.m. H-649

The following candidates conform to *The Link's* bylaws and will be put to the newspaper's electorate:

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
LAURA BEESTON

COORDINATING EDITOR
JULIA JONES

MANAGING EDITOR
JULIA WOLFE

NEWS EDITOR
ALEX DI PIETRO
ADAM KOVAC

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR
JULIAN WARD

FRINGE ARTS EDITOR
COLIN HARRIS
ALEX MCGILL

SPORTS EDITOR
DAVID KAUFMANN

CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR
ADAM KOVAC

CULTURE EDITOR
ALEX MCGILL

LIFESTYLE EDITOR
CHRISTOPHER HAMPSON

OPINIONS EDITOR
MEGAN DOLSKI

PHOTO EDITOR
JULIA JONES
ERIN SPARKS

GRAPHICS EDITOR
ERIC BENT

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
CLEMENT LIU

COPY EDITOR
ALEX DI PIETRO
DAVID KAUFMANN
ALEX MANLEY

COMMUNITY EDITOR
PIERRE CHAUVIN

Eligible To Vote

Myriam Arsenault, Laura Beeston, Eric Bent, Pierre Chauvin, Dominique Côté, Christopher Curtis, Alex Di Pietro, Megan Dolski, Melissa Fuller, Justin Giovannetti, Colin Harris, Christopher Hampson, Julia Jones, David Kaufmann, David Barlow Krelina, Adam Kovac, Simon Liem, Elizabeth Lee, Vivien Leung, Clement Liu, Dylan Maloney, Christopher Olson, Alexander Manley, Alex McGill, Ashley Opheim, Erin Sparks, Julian Ward, Julia Wolfe.

THE LINK
It's Good For You

WORKOUT: THE ART OF THE SPOT

BASKETBALL



Concordia forward James Clark voices his frustration. PHOTO GREG MASON OF *THE CHARLATAN*

CARLETON DROPS CONCORDIA IN NATIONALS

Concordia Takes a Hard Loss to Carleton in CIS Nationals

• CHRIS TSE

In the week leading up to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport Final, Concordia head coach John Dore said that going up against the "mighty Carleton Ravens" in the first round would be the toughest challenge for his team in Halifax. Carleton was stronger, more skilled and more experienced.

After Friday's quarterfinal matchup between the Ravens and the Stingers, the only assertion the Ravens can lay claim to is the last one.

The number-two seed was pushed to the brink by a determined and disciplined Concordia squad, and it was only some veteran poise down the stretch by the Ravens that kept the Stingers from pulling off the upset of the tournament. Despite an off-night from star Kyle Desmarais, the Stingers were in a good position to challenge Carleton before eventually falling 73-66 in a fast-paced game filled with fouls and turnovers.

Concordia came out motivated to prove it belonged in the national championship after being written off by every sports analyst in the country as a first-round Carleton casualty.

> 'I feel we did everything we could do and had a chance to win down the stretch.'
>
> *—John Dore, Stingers Head Coach*

Fourth-year guard Decee Krah hit a bevy of deep threes early and off-balance runners in the lane to keep the Stingers close to the Ravens. Despite winning the battle of points in the paint, Carleton didn't seem to be comfortable offensively at any point throughout the game.

"I feel we did everything we could do and had a chance to win down the stretch," said Dore. "I'm really proud of what this team has accomplished this year."

Concordia did a good job of protecting the key against Tyson Hinz and Aaron Chapman and dared the Ravens to beat them from range. Sinking big baskets normally wouldn't be a problem for the top three-point-shooting team in the country, but since the OUA conference playoffs, Carleton has been on a long-ball slump, shooting 11-51 over the past three games.

However, the Ravens stuck in with a strong showing on the offensive glass, scoring 40 points in the paint off of second-chance opportunities.

"We had 21 offensive rebounds and that saved us," said Ravens coach Dave Smart. "If we don't work that hard and get to the offensive boards, we'd have no chance in that game. We just shot the ball very poorly."

Dore said that despite Desmarais' offensive woes, the team is excited for its young guard's future.

"With Kyle [Desmarais], it's his first year playing point guard," Dore said. "Things are just going to get better. He's improved throughout the year. He's second-team all-Canadian, his first year with us. We expect big things for him in the future."

—with files from Julia Johnson of The Charlatan

Scoreboard

Men's Basketball

L 66-73 v Carleton fri

L 65-76 v Dalhousie sat



A flying defence from Stinger Kyle Desmarais. PHOTO GREG MASON

CIS Consolation Loss to Dalhousie

Stinger's Thirst for Tiger Blood Unquenched

• JULIA JOHNSON

The Dalhousie Tigers captured their first-ever Canadian Interuniversity Sport Final 8 victory on March 12, bringing down the Concordia Stingers 76-65 in the consolation semifinal.

Each team had a visible star netting the baskets.

Tiger Simon Farine led the game in scoring and rebounds, with 21 points and 10 rebounds in 38 minutes. He played the most minutes any player in the game.

Farine's numbers could have been significantly higher if he had made any of the six three-balls he fired.

At the other side of the court, Concordia's DeCee Krah kept the Stingers in the game, sinking six of the 10 treys he attempted. This season, Krah made 49 of 116 shots from beyond the arc, a 42 per cent average.

Krah had 21 points overall, higher than his season average of 16 points, and three rebounds.

Kyle Desmarais, the 2011 Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec co-MVP, also helped Concordia stay in the game. He racked up 13 points and three boards. Zach Brisebois had 12 points and seven boards.

Dalhousie's Joseph Schow had 14 points and nine rebounds. During the regular season he was sixth in the country in rebounds, averaging 9.8 per game.

The Tigers will play the Lakehead Thunderwolves in the consolation finals March 13 for fifth place overall.

THE ESSENTIAL AND RARE ART OF A GOOD SPOT

• ALI TUSERKANI

A good spot is an essential commodity for any weightlifter. Let's forget about good and bad spots for now. A spot itself is an essential component of any weightlifters regimen.

Hence, the spotter has a lot of responsibility, one that allows no room for mistakes. A bad spot will not be forgotten. Because of this, it is an art in itself to find a good spotter.

You must be able to filter through the many types of spotters. First, "The Grunter." You're working out, but they are doing all the grunting, and sweating—"Come on! One! One! More! Argh! Ya?!"

Second, "The Spotter Who Doesn't Want to Share." They don't support you when you need it, but rather try to do the reps for you—"You want a turn buddy?"

Third, the "Never Spotted Before." They look at you with a smile while on your last rep the bench bar is lying flat on your chest, and your face is turning blue. They look at you confused, with a face that ponders, "Should I take it now?"

There is one other category, of course: "The Good Spotter."

> **"A good spotter makes it all about the other guy. There has to be trust, otherwise someone could get hurt—that's why your [spotter] is there, right?"**
>
> *—Jordan de Lima, Personal Trainer & President of Mind Body Soul*

"A good spotter makes it all about the other guy. There has to be trust, otherwise someone could get hurt—that's why your [spotter] is there, right?" said Jordan de Lima, personal trainer and president/founder of Mind Body Soul. "There's nothing worse than a bad spot and nothing better than a good one.

"You can really push yourself [and] its instant confidence, the confidence that lets you lift 100lb dumbbells, getting you closer to your full potential [and] finishing all your reps; that is the point, and when you get that, you're on top of the world," continued de Lima.

This spotter should first be observant and focused on you.

Second, they should know how much help to give; two hands aren't always necessary, and a good spotter could give you a good spot with just one finger.

Third, they sort of need that gift—which might just be a matter of experience—but they need to focus and take on that supporting actor role.

A good spot, with its instant boost to your confidence, and that sense of security, is looking like an obvious benefit to any weightlifter's progress. But how do you find one?

"I've been personal training for around five years, and its gym code. You can tell, you look around, you see their own form, how they're working out—you might have no choice sometimes and have to settle just so you can finish your sets, but with selection, usually you can tell," said de Lima.



GRAPHIC DAVID BARLOW-KRELINA

With all of this said, it seems like when you find a good spotter, buy them a protein shake, give them your banana.

Whatever you do, don't burn that bridge—they are a critical factor in your success, and will make all the difference in reaching your full potential.

Disconnected

Students In Residence Deserve An Explanation



GRAPHIC DOMINIQUE COTE

• AJ WEST

Concordia's Instructional and Information Services have been disconnecting students in residence from the Internet, leaving them without access to the web for days on end.

They want to know why.

For the past several months, students have been cut off, and given various explanations.It seems that IITS at Concordia gets phone calls or letters from American film companies claiming that a student is conducting "illegal downloads." Other explanations are that students are "using too much bandwidth" or "conducting potentially illegal activities."

As a result of these actions, Concordia Residence Life is in search of a clear policy regarding Internet usage of students who live in residence.

The Internet in Concordia Residences is operated by IITS. Rolled into each resident's rent is an Internet/phone fee that grants them access through a voip phone in each of the Grey Nuns' 245 connections and Jesuit Residence's 52 rooms.

Legalities aside, IITS blocked the MAC address of the accused student's computer without verification, without warning and without accountability.

As students, we have been crying out to IITS, including Ziyad Almbasher, Senior Network Security Analyst, for clear rules and a residence access policy.

Despite our efforts, Concordia Residence Life has seen no such policy and multiple meetings planned to discuss the issue have been cancelled by IITS.

"I was disconnected by IITS for 'using too much bandwidth' in one day," said Michael Mercer, a Resident Assistant at Grey Nuns Residence.

When Mercer asked IITS Helpline Supervisor Kathyrn McDonell for documentation outlining how much bandwidth is "too much," no answer was provided.

To date, no such documentation been presented to students or Residence Life.

As students, we don't know how much bandwidth is "too much," and we have not signed or agreed to any terms or conditions regarding our Internet access. Our problem is simple: we need a policy—and we have desperately been trying to make one for months.

Other students in residence have received emails that link to Concordia's Policy on Computing Facilities, which was last updated in 1999. The standard response to ticket inquiries is an email that says, "The volume of uploads seen from this station generally indicates that your computer is acting as a server to other users from outside Concordia which is contrary to the acceptable use policy of IITS."

It continues to say, "We ask that you remove the bit torrent from your computer and assure us that you will not participate in similar activities in the future. When we receive written confirmation of these two requests, we will re-instate Internet access for your system. Please be aware that a second incident carries much more severe sanctions."

This policy contains no information regarding any of the reasons that have been cited for the disconnections. The policy in effect was drafted roughly six years before torrents were even invented.

Students in residence use the Internet the way you use it: downloading movies, watching porn, playing games and to do our work. But now we have to do it all with the added complexity of walking on IITS' opaque rules while they hover their fingers over the kill switch.

Torrent files have been blocked from the Concordia network since late 2009. This doesn't mean that torrents "won't work," it just means that users of the Concordia network have to find other ways of downloading the initial .torrent file.

More recently, Concordia IITS has instituted a block of all popular torrent trackers, meaning downloads start slower as it is harder for torrent clients to find "seeds." It should also be noted that using torrents is not illegal in any country, nor does it violate any of the current policies at Concordia University.

In short, IITS is literally censoring the Internet for students in residence, even though we aren't doing anything legally wrong.

The process begins when a student finds that they can't get online. They are then eventually referred to the IITS Helpline at Concordia. The student is then informed that they have been disconnected for copyright infringement or other generic violations. They are asked to email IITS a statement.

Janice Robinson, Administrative Coordinator at IITS, sent one student an email that said, "We need your confirmation that you will not use any torrent software on the Concordia network." Until the student complies with this request, their MAC Address remains blocked and their computer continues to be unable to access the Internet.

This process, while it is less common in the following scenario, does happen to students who use the wireless connections on campus—the difference being that they can simply disable your Concordia NetName and password, essentially disabling every computer that you own.

The process for recovering your connection remains the same, but sometimes requires the student to visit the IITS Helpdesk to ensure that there is no torrent software on the computer.

There is a concerning insensitivity to the nature of Concordia Residences. We're students, but more than that, we're students who live on campus with IITS as our only service provider. When the Internet is disabled from a student without warning, it takes a minimum of two days before it is reactivated, and if the student doesn't know that they've been disconnected, they end up troubleshooting for a day or two before asking about it.

Students may be left without an Internet connection for an entire weekend, simply because there is nobody at IITS to receive our phone calls. This creates serious problems for studies, as every student requires the Internet for courses. IITS has been referring students who have eConcordia courses to the library for the duration of their outage.

This isn't fair and it isn't representative of a technologically progressive university. We want a meeting and a policy.

Misdirected Anger

Tuition Hikes Should Be Used, Not Fought Against



PHOTO SAM SLOTNICK

• JEAN-FRANÇOIS BELANGER

The fight against tuition hikes has been a constant in the life of every Quebec university student for the last few years. Since 2007, when the tuition freeze ended, the government has attempted to raise tuition on multiple occasions—and the students have fought back every single time.

It seems that there is almost no student voice in agreement with the tuition hike, or at least there hasn't been in the popular media and university newspapers. But I believe that the fight against tuition hikes is misguided.

Universities all over Quebec are in dire need of money. The level of education provided by our universities is directly affected by lack of funding, yet we refuse to acknowledge the elephant in the room: right now tuition is simply too low.

Concordia is already seeing the flip side of underfunding. Everyday we lose professors to other universities with better funding for research and facilities. If we aren't capable of attracting the best of the best because they are receiving better offers elsewhere, what does that say about the level of education we are receiving now? And what does it says about the prospect of our future education?

Our buildings are crumbling (with the exception of the new John Molson and Engineering buildings—thank you, private funding). Our lack of facilities is flagrant. Just try counting the number of computer labs at Concordia with decent computers, or try counting how many escalators are working at the same time on your way up the Hall building.

The problem is more perfidious than simply losing professors: we also can't hire any. Take the Political Science department, the largest department at Concordia (representing 1,900 students, or around eight per cent of the total student population). Despite its sizable student population, the department only employs 36 full-time professors, five of whom are on limited-terms appointments.

The current number of full-time, tenured or tenure track professors isn't going to grow anytime soon. It has been confirmed on multiple occasions: there is not enough money to hire any more tenure track professors.

This means that our current professors are going to continue being overburdened with no end in sight, and that any great candidates the department could potentially attract are going to go elsewhere. There is simply no money for them here.

This is why I say that the fight against tuition increase is misguided: we should not fight against a tuition increase that appears to be necessary; instead, we should be fighting to ensure that the government and the university administration make sure students have the necessary tools to continue to afford their education.

In a recent study demonstrates that 44 per cent of students have parents that cannot help them with their schooling. This fact needs to be taken into consideration. If the government wishes to increase tuition, the loans and bursary programs needs to be similarly adjusted at the same time. It should be doable, considering the federal government just approved a transfer of $275 million to Quebec following the demise of the Millenniums Program.

This would be a good start if it is all reinvested in loans and bursaries. Concordia also needs to put its house in order, to reduce its level of bureaucracies, to stop giving golden parachutes and to effectively deal with student money. (Take a look at your transcript to see how much fees you are paying in bureaucracy alone if you're not convinced.)

Concordia needs to develop a solid scholarship program so that it stops losing good students to other universities at the graduate level.

This problem isn't confined to Concordia; universities throughout Quebec are affected by it since none of them have any kind of funding for graduate students. A quick look at Ontario universities, where tuition is higher, will show you quite a different picture.

This is why I say the fight is misguided. At the moment, the government wishes to increase tuition without doing any work and without increasing the necessary funding options. Rather than fighting the increase outright, we need to open the debate with the Quebec government and ensure that the increases are going to be directed towards what is needed. This shouldn't be a one-way street.

Students and faculty alike should be able to express and guide how the money is spent. The bottom line is simple: our fight should be about the quality of the education we are receiving, and I think we need to start being pragmatic about it.

Le CSU a-t-il peur des etudiants ?

• PIERRE CHAUVIN

Mercredi dernier, lors de l'assemblée mensuelle du CSU, les étudiants ont pu voir le vrai visage de leurs représentants. L'assemblée (dont le vidéo est disponible en intégralité sur le site de CUTV) s'est vite transformée en un maelström de hurlements après qu'une motion pour entrer en session fermée ait été adoptée, par 26 voix contre 4. La motion, proposée par la présidente Heather Lucas, visait le débat sur la démission de Morgan Pudwell. J'étais présent à l'assemblée, et le comportement des exécutifs du CSU et de nombreux conseillers m'a révolté.

Plus de 80 étudiants s'étaient présentés pour pouvoir entendre ce que le CSU avait à dire sur la démission de Morgan Pudwell, anciennement une vice présidente du CSU. Tous avaient fait l'effort de venir un mercredi soir pour obtenir des explications. Malheureusement, Heather Lucas, les VP du CSU ainsi que les trois quarts des conseillers n'ont pas jugé nécessaires de leur en donner.

Mais au fait, pourquoi élisons nous chaque année des représentants au CSU, dont certains siègent dans les plus hautes instances de l'université ? Sûrement pour demander une session fermée quand des questions gênantes sont posées. Ou pour critiquer les rares réussites, comme par exemple WHALE. Bref, passons.

Une fois la motion pour la (session fermé) validée, on a pu observer deux types de comportement : l'apathie d'une part, l'agressivité de l'autre. Après le vote et jusqu'à l'ajournement de la session, on a pu voir Heather Lucas et Adrien Severyns, inertes, en train de contempler les étudiants demandant des explications.

Lucas n'avait pas l'air de comprendre que les étudiants, ceux qu'elle représente, puissent lui demander de s'expliquer. Aux dernières nouvelles, Lucas étudiait en science politique. De l'autre il y avait Hassan Abdullahi vociférant à en faire une crise d'apoplexie, au premier qui essaierai de lancer un débat. Non, ce n'est pas une blague (voir à 1:49:10 du vidéo de CUTV.) Encore plus grave que ça c'est le fait que Hassan Abdullahi et Ramy Khoriaty, voyant que les étudiants étaient décidés à ne pas se faire dicter leur conduite, ont fait tout ce qui étaient en leur pouvoir pour que la sécurité vienne et fasse usage de la force pour faire partir les étudiants.

Aujourd'hui à Concordia, quand des étudiants demandent des explications sur l'utilisation de leur argent et le comportement de leurs représentants, on appelle la sécurité. Heureusement le mot le plus utilisé par le CSU reste toujours 'transparence' et 'responsabilité'. Cherchez l'erreur.

Il ne faut pas non plus oublier les conseillers qui se sont distingués par leurs contributions indispensables au débat. Tomer Shavit est le grand vainqueur de cette assemblée. Entre attaques personnelles et remarques désobligeantes, il mériterait une médaille.

J'espère qu'un maximum d'étudiants ira voir la vidéo de l'assemblée. Il y a certaines choses que l'on ne peut pas laisser passer. Le comportement de la majorité des conseillers et des VP du CSU lors de cette assemblée en est une. Malheureusement rien ne changera tant qu'une majorité d'étudiants n'exprimera pas son indignement face à un tel comportement.

Oman's Comfortable Revolution



PHOTO MYLES DOLPHIN

• MYLES DOLPHIN

After spending forty days and forty nights in Oman, I attended a sit-in in front of the Majlis ash-Shura (Consultative Council) in Muscat.

The lack of response from leader Sultan Qaboos hasn't hindered the steady increase in protesters arriving on the scene.

I expected to share this experience with members of the international media, or at least with some Omani journalists, but neither were to be found on either night.

Their absence would explain the immediate attention I drew upon my arrival. People surrounded me and asked who I worked for and why I was there. The mood was extremely peaceful, almost serene, as over five hundred angry Omanis from all walks of life voiced their concerns over how their beloved country was run.

I first spoke with Basma al-Kiyumi, a lawyer and activist who was adamant about the key demands the Sultan had yet to address.

"We want our corrupt ministers sacked and replaced by members of the Shura, who've been elected by the people," he said. "Many of them have been in power for a long time and have filled their pockets with funds that should have been redistributed amongst the people."

A constitution is also highly important for Omanis, she added, as it would ensure a separation of powers that do not presently exist. She scoffed at the reshuffling that took place last week, likening it to a game of chess, as ministers swapped positions instead of simply being sacked.

Various people mentioned this to me over both evenings. People absolutely adore the Sultan and recognize his achievements for Oman, but are fed up with the rampant corruption exercised by various ministers.

Basma is part of an ad-hoc committee that was supposed to fly to Salalah today, a city in southern Oman. 20,000 people gathered there last night in an impromptu show of solidarity.

Basma was to be joined by Mohamed al-Harghy, an Omani writer and poet who had once been imprisoned for over a month due to comments made about the Sultan. Their plan is to ensure coordination between the cities, and to gather all of the demands before submitting them to the Sultan at a later date.

Al-Harthy highlighted the fear that reigned in all Omanis until a few weeks ago. "People felt paralyzed, unable to complain about the smallest issues because they would have been taken away and imprisoned," he said.

When asked if the protests in Tunisia and Egypt had influenced the decision of Omanis to speak up, Al-Harthy replied, "Of course—an older gentleman I spoke to earlier was in tears because he was finally able to share his story in public without fear of reprisals."

Although the minimum wage was bumped up to 200 Omani rials last week, people told me it wasn't nearly enough.

"It should be 300 or 400 at least," explained Nasser, an executive with the National Bank of Oman. "If companies complain that they can't afford it, the government should step in and subsidize the rest. Our basic fundamentals are not being addressed, and that's all we're asking for."

Clearly, these feelings have resonated within Omanis for quite some time, but strict laws preventing gatherings and freedom of expression have hindered their ability to be heard.

Omani newspapers continue to emphasize the pro-Sultan rallies rather than focusing on the sit-ins, which are anything but anti-Sultan.

Contrary to other Arab revolts, the leader here is adored, the demands are straightforward and reasonable and there is no sectarian split to fuel violence. With the exception of the sporadic clashes in Sohar, demonstrations around Oman have been peaceful and well organized.

A week ago, an Arabic text message was sent to my phone in the middle of the night. It claimed that the riots in Sohar had been incited by "paid foreigners and spies from the United Arab Emirates." A spy row between these neighbors has severely strained relations, but mediation by Kuwaiti leader Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah seems to have cooled off both parties.

Al-Harthy explained to me that many Omanis living near the UAE border work there, which would explain the high ratio of UAE license plates in Sohar and the reason why Omani Intelligence would try to lay blame on UAE nationals for the violence.

Last night the mood was festive, as several people mentioned how the psychological wall that divided people from government finally collapsed, and citizens were free to express their stories and experiences with each other.

A doctor's march made its way to the Majlis ash-Shura in the early evening and brought people to their feet upon their arrival. I asked Ahmed al-Mukhaini, an independent researcher for human rights, about the progress that had taken place since last Sunday.

"We're very optimistic about the outcome", he said with a smile. "The number of people attending the sit-in has consistently increased, and we are seeing real plurality amongst the crowd. There is unison in our demands and requests, and we are moving towards nationalistic reform while shying away from individual needs."

At the time of writing this article, the Sultan had just established a new anti-corruption task force, and four ministers have been sacked. Clearly, Omani voices are being heard, as proven by the timely decrees issued by the Sultan during the past few weeks.

With steadfast determination, Omani protesters are certainly leading by example. Policemen have virtually disappeared from the streets of Muscat and the ones protecting the Majlis as-Shura are so laid back, they display the envy that comes from not being able to take part in their nation's historic event.

One certainty remains: the benevolence and generosity that transcends every Omani makes me root for them, and, just like your typical Hollywood story, we hope the good guy emerges victorious in the end.

Dolphin is a Montrealer that recently graduated from Concordia in English with a Minor in Arabic. He is currently living and working in Muscat, Oman.

‘I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.’



PHOTO TED SWEDENBURG

• ADAM KOVAC

I’m Jewish, I’m a Zionist and I completely support Israeli Apartheid Week.

This may seem like a bit of a contradiction. I believe that Israel, though a flawed country, is still a democracy and the best example of one in the Middle East.

I believe that a Jewish state has every right to exist, just as the Vatican can be a Catholic state and other countries in the region can be Islamic states—even though Iran is the only official Muslim theocracy. While I don’t always, or often, agree with Israeli defence policy, I do believe that a state has a fundamental obligation to defend its citizens from physical attack.

So how do I reconcile these beliefs with my support for Israeli Apartheid Week, an event that calls for “boycotts, divestment and sanctions?”

It’s simple. This isn’t an argument about Israel. This is an argument about Canada. This isn’t an article about Palestinian rights. It’s about our human rights.

Defenders of Israel often point to its freedom of expression and press. Those are rights that we enjoy in Canada, as protected in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. As section 2B reads, everyone can enjoy “freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication.”

Recently, *The Link* office was visited by a small group of protesters. Among their complaints was that the newspaper was anti-Zionist and even anti-Semitic.

As a proud member of the Jewish community, I won’t even dignify the anti-Semitic accusation with a response. All I will say is those who make such accusations do no favours to themselves or their cause. They cheapen the actual acts of anti-Semitism that occur throughout the world every day. They should be properly ashamed of themselves.

The charge of anti-Zionism seems to stem from an article published on March 8 regarding an IAW demonstration. The fact is that *The Link* is a newspaper and a mass demonstration of any kind is newsworthy. Reporting on that is not anti-Zionist, but even if it were, I would zealously defend the story—and here’s why.

There’s a quote, commonly attributed to the 18th century philosopher Voltaire, but actually written by author Evelyn Beatrice Hall, that goes “I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”

I disapprove of Israeli Apartheid Week. I think it is counterproductive, in that it serves to alienate the Israelis whose support is needed to establish a lasting peace.

I think it is misguided, in that it demonizes the best functioning democracy in the Middle East, a country with over one million Arab citizens, and the only country in the region that grants equal rights to gay and lesbian citizens. However, it is the right of those who choose to take part in IAW to do so, and to publicize their beliefs before, during and after the fact.

I totally disagree with the principles behind Israeli Apartheid Week, and that’s why I think it’s so important to defend it.

Capitalism, Austerity and Oppression

Study In Action Conference

• MATTHEW BRETT

We are bearing witness to the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. The crisis is now shifting to public hands in Canada, and the need for sustained and intelligent resistance is overwhelming. The Study in Action conference at Concordia this weekend was a springboard for the kind of work that needs to be done.

Some context is necessary here. When a system of power faces a legitimate threat, this system will generally lash back violently. The vulgar display of power by Libyan “leader” Colonel Muammar Gaddafi is a clear example, but similar cases exist closer to home.

The G-20 Toronto summit last summer marked “the most massive compromise of civil liberties in Canadian history,” according to Ontario Ombudsman André Marin. “War measure” legislation was put in place that allowed for “extravagant police authority.”

This extravagant authority led to hundreds of police arrests, including people like Amélie Châteauneuf, a Montreal-based organizer fighting for improved social assistance in Quebec. Amélie was one of the keynote speakers at the Study in Action conference.

This “extravagant police authority” indicates how deeply troubled our so-called leaders are as their system of power is brought into question. Following this massive economic recession, neoliberal capitalism faces the most significant legitimacy crisis in its history.

Notable about this legitimacy crisis is that it is taking place in the West.

It was easy to neglect profound misery and injustice when it was being imposed upon the global poor, but the perils of neoliberalism have now come home to roost.

This offers a compelling window of opportunity for fundamental and necessary change, and the Study in Action conference took place in precisely this spirit.

As the conference mission statement states, “we seek to foster ties between undergraduate students and the broader Montreal community in order to strengthen the spirit of social and environmental justice.”

Among the topics addressed were queer community organizing, food insecurity and anti-terrorism legislation. In short, participants were developing the basis for a more just society.

The end of this fifth annual Study in Action conference really highlights the kind of engaged research and activism that is necessary at this critical time.

With a growing Canadian police-state and looming austerity budgets, the words of Karl Marx are worth recalling: “What the bourgeoisie [produces], above all, are its own grave-diggers.”

With each cut to social and environmental spending, our supposed leaders are creating a stronger resistance. They are digging a grave for neoliberal capitalism.

Our responsibility is simply to pick up a few more shovels to help them dig faster.

It’s time we bury the beast and create a more just and free society. The challenge is immense, but so are the opportunities.

Letters

@thelinknewspaper.ca

Counter-Productive

Last week's Concordia Student Union Council meeting was an astonishing display of contempt for student democracy and parliamentary procedure.

All undergraduate students enrolled at Concordia are welcome and are encouraged to attend CSU Council meetings as long as they respect the rules in place and the authority of the Chairperson.

Council voted in favour of going into closed session to discuss the serious allegations put forth by ex-VP Promotions & Sustainability Morgan Pudwell.

The parliamentary procedure of "in camera" closed session meetings should be used sparingly and only when absolutely necessary.

CSU Councillors take their jobs very seriously and constantly strive to best represent students while respecting the integrity and reputations of others. Do not be fooled by those who would tell you that the last council meeting was a victory for anyone.

It was in fact an unfortunate loss for all undergraduate students.

Because the Council meeting was adjourned prematurely, we were not given the opportunity to address the allegations of financial mismanagement and barely covered half the points on the agenda.

Both the CSU's VP Finance and the General Manager had gone to great lengths to prepare a comprehensive presentation of the CSU's operating budget in order to ensure full financial transparency. Presentations on topics from five days for the Homeless and the CSU Legal Clinic were not given nor were students able to learn the details of the CSU's pending lawsuit with the Canadian Federation of Students.

Councillors work hard for students and we want you to know that we are always willing to open a dialogue and are always open to constructive criticism. Disrupting Council meetings is ultimately counter-productive and does not accomplish anything meaningful.

We plead with undergraduate students to please respect Roberts Rule of Order in the future and allow us to have civilized meetings with productive discussions and resolutions.

If you want to contact any of the councillors, their contact information is available to you online at http://gov.csu.qc.ca

—Aaron Green,
CSU Councillor

The Real Feminist Drag

For those involved in the queer community, it is no secret that Mado's has somewhat of a monopoly on the drag market here in Montreal (and drag is very much a thriving commercial industry and heralded as an inherent part of Montreal and Quebecois culture).

If you're a queen, you either try to get into the "girly-boys club" at Mado's, or work for some branch of the Greek Mafia at one of the other big box clubs in the Village.

The reality is that there really isn't much difference between the two. The racism, sexism and other forms of prejudice are rampant and accepted as the norm in these places.

Where is the female presence in the Village? I have only seen drag kings advertised a couple of times at Mado's since moving here two years ago. Other than at Le Drugstore, I rarely see a welcoming presence for women in what Google Maps now calls "Le Village Gai."

When you watch drag shows in the Village, they are perpetrating the image of sexualized and idolized women like Lady Gaga, Katy Perry, Madonna, etc... but what about presenting women as real people?

Is a man with a gorgeous, chiseled body in a skimpy outfit doing justice to positive female body image? Do audiences want to see reality in drag performances or do they want to see the tried, tested and true formula of gender stereotypes? Is a woman dressed up like a drag queen still in drag?

If you want the real skinny on what feminist drag looks like, you'll need to step out of the very commercial, franco-phalo-centric Village and explore Radical Queer Semaine, Meow Mix, Faggity Ass Fridays and Up Yours—to name a few events.

There is much more to the Montreal drag scene when it comes to feminism, but it seems it's easier to call up Mado's than do some in-depth research as to what actual feminist representation in drag looks like.

—Antonio Bavaro,
Theatre & Development

Concerning *The Link*'s Integrity

If the Concordia Student Union executive team are North America's leaders of tomorrow, I'm glad I moved to the Eastern hemisphere.

As the former Opinions Editor of *The Link*'s 2010–11 team, I've had to deal with a lot of bullshit.

First, it took me almost a full year to get a proper CUSACorp financial statement from former VP Finance Zhuo Ling, let alone an answer to my calls and emails. And when I printed false information that he fed to me on the record (see: ATMs Keep CUSACorp Afloat [Vol. 31, Iss. 06, Sep. 21]), we received some nasty mail comparing us to a newspaper in Communist China.

Then, there was the Faubourg. The YES campaign that they imposed on Council and 30, 000 students. The official NO campaign that didn't exist because they didn't tell anyone that the option was open. The plethora of cringeworthy PR letters, written by executives, that I had to edit and endure. The alleged political espionage that *The Link*'s coverage on the matter created. All ridiculous.

And now this: a group of "anonymous" students knocking on *The Link*'s door with some ridiculous accusations about who's doing who; one of their most active VPs, Morgan Pudwell, quits; a slew of serious accusations involving another one of their most active Council members, Lex Gill, and none of them have a comment.

But hey, it's *The Link*'s fault for commenting on this, right? Screw that. I personally take offense to the fact that the integrity of the paper has been questioned so many times. I've had the privilege to work with the most talented and driven team I ever had in my life, who care so much about the paper and the truth—as absolute as it can get—to the point where basic human needs are neglected (e.g. malnourishment, hygiene, broken relationships, the works).

All in all, everyone's just doing their job. Everyone needs to challenge everyone—that's how we get better at our crafts. So when you're front and center-stage, it doesn't mean you can act like a deer in the headlights and run for cover. If you close the curtains, people are going to notice. And if this were real life, you'd probably get the cane.

—Clay Hemmerich,
Former Opinions Editor for The Link

Boycott Israel, Boycott God

An article published in *The Link* (Vol. 31 Iss. 25, Pg. 24) is completely erroneous. I must take issue with statements about Israel made by Aaron Lakoff.

Israel is in The Word of God, in The Sacred Bible, the inspired Word of God, and as with The True Messiah, it is the whole focal point of what God is truly saying to us, if only we would believe and be saved, to be with Him forever.

Israel is not just a country; it is a people, the Jewish people, chosen by God to be His People as a nation, Israel, AND THIS IS FOREVER.

When God makes a blood covenant WITH ANYONE, it is forever, that is all. God is sovereign in the matter, and He chose Israel to represent Him on this earth. Boycott Israel, boycott God, simple as that!

If you become an enemy of Israel, you have become an enemy of God. God blesses those that bless Israel and curses those that curse Her. Very simple, also, from His Word.

Israel has today nowhere near the land of Promise given to Her FOREVER by God, and described in full, complete detail over and over again, just where SHE is, and what She will do, God loves Israel so much that He speaks of Her always throughout His Word, letting us know of His Great and Everlasting Love for Her, yes, but also for everyone of us, whom He has made.

He calls to us constantly, without fail, seeking us all day and night greatly through Israel, which has preserved His Word and promoted it.

Israel is the vine and we are the branches, who love and accept The Messiah portrayed through The Bible. Israel is the land of beauty, holiness and prophecy—absolutely everything is foretold about Israel, there is no lack, we cannot turn our back—

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,

For Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,

Till her righteousness shines out like the dawn,

Her salvation like a blazing torch. —Isaiah 62

Who would dare to speak such trash of Israel, The Beloved Nation of God, His Home for the Jewish People? Nothing is occupied, not an inch, nothing is taken from anyone, but only from Israel Herself. These borders today are not even close to the land of Promise.

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—Elizabeth-Ann Paterson,
Independent student

Support Pudwell

The article "All is Not Well" (Vol.31, Iss. 25 pg.03) was quite shocking.

I especially find the Concordia Student Union wanting to know where their executives are at all times disturbing. A student government should trust their executives, and right now things are not stable in the CSU.

I find Pudwell's decision to resign to be a good choice, given that she had no freedom and people were suspicious about her talking to other students. I also find it disturbing that the CSU president didn't even want to comment on the story. The president of a student government should support their executives and motivate them to do a good job; this is clearly not the case here.

I support Pudwell's decision to be a voice for the students on the outside. I think it's best this way, given the circumstances of the CSU.

—Elsa Jabre,
Economics Major

'Flabbergasted'

After watching some of CUTV's footage of the Concordia Student Union meeting that took place on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, I feel obliged to say something. This is not an attack on any individuals nor is this is a defence of any of the executives or council members.

First of all, I am certainly disappointed in all the executives that resigned this year, with the exception of those who did so for job/scholarship reasons. I voted for you, I followed your campaign and I supported you. To see someone resign so close to the end of his or her term tells me that my vote did not matter. If there were deep-seated issues to be addressed, they should have been addressed with more than four weeks left in the semester.

Secondly, I am flabbergasted at the way the students sitting in on the meeting behaved. Interrupting the Chair, under any circumstances, is (at least to me) uncalled for. Regardless of whether or not I agree with the vote that was passed to enter a closed session, I disagree with the means that opposed it.

There were important issues on the agenda, which will now have to wait. That is unfair to the majority of students who were not in attendance of this meeting.

Thirdly, do not forget that most of our representatives are not paid. They donate countless hours for you, for me and of course for themselves. On top of this, like you and me, they are students with exams to study for and essays to prepare.

There needs to be a level of mutual respect, and if that cannot be upheld then student politics at Concordia are, pardon my rashness, pretty doomed.

If the current union is so corrupt, and I am not arguing one way or the other, then it is a good thing their term is almost up, right?

Let us allow cooler heads to prevail on this one, ladies and gentlemen. If a similar situation arises with next year's Student Union (and can be properly justified), let us not wait until the last month of their term to call them on it.

To do otherwise is unfair for everyone, and will solve nothing.

Lastly, and most importantly, this makes it more important than ever to be active in the coming elections. Make your vote educated, make your vote count.

It's in our hands, Concordia.

—Sarah Holden,
Political Science

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

Snack Attack

Students Should Be Allowed To Eat in the Library



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

• ELPIDA GIANOPOULOS

I must vent.

As a student of Concordia and an occupant of our library during cram sessions, I feel the need to vent about how irritating the library staff is when it comes to reinforcing the food/beverage regulations.

It is totally understandable to tell a student "no food" or "no eating" if someone pulls out a cheeseburger and poutine live in the 4th floor silent zone. I get that it would totally distract everyone by the noise, smell and garbage.

However, circulating the premises and nitpicking at the smallest Ziploc bag of cookies or Tupperware container of fruit is really irritating and unnecessary.

I understand that people can be pigs and leave their stupid wrappers and coffee cups lying around, but this is a library, so I doubt that it looks like a cafeteria by the end of the day. A cleaning staff ensures that the library's kept tidy on a daily basis. If we're not making messes in the first place, what are we even paying them for?

Doesn't the establishment understand that eating snacks while studying is helpful and productive? Since they're so adamant that we use nothing but water bottles and eco-cups, these regulations are simply inconvenient to students in the zone. Who wants to have to break concentration to get up and leave the library just to have a snack?

Even worse, there has been a crackdown lately on coffee cups. Security is at the front entrance, monitoring students as they enter, checking what type of mug their coffee is in.

Coffee is inseparable from the student lifestyle, and a substantial amount of students drink coffee while studying. Those that do not own eco-mugs but want to study in the library with their coffee have to wait until they drink it before entering, or have to chuck their freshly purchased coffee because they aren't allowed in.

One could say that it is the students' fault, because the rules are clear and they shouldn't try to enter the library with their coffee in the first place, right? Paper cups aren't allowed because they could make a mess.

Yes, well, maybe we should be giving our student body the benefit of the doubt, regardless of eco-mug or paper-cup. I think we have enough respect to avoid spilling liquids anywhere. If you think about it, more likely than not, if we were to spill coffee, it would land on our books before anything else. So we'd be ruining our property before theirs.

I don't see the need for such strict enforcement. If the library's allowed to charge a $10 late fee, then we should be allowed our coffee and snacks.

We'll keep it tidy, we promise.

Nah'msayin?

Rez High

It's a pretty sad sign when university students can't make the distinction between an apartment building and a residence building.

I get it. I did the res thing. It was cool to knock on people's doors at all hours, have zero personal space, stumble home drunkenly screaming every night of the week (weekends are for suckers). But there is a one-year window for those shenanigans.After that, you should know better.

This past Wednesday, my roommate was awoken at 2:30 a.m. by our belligerent female upstairs neighbour. She knocked on our door so urgently and for so long that my roommate thought perhaps someone was dead or dying.

Once she opened the door, the inebriated girl leaned against our doorframe and slurred, "Do you have any rolling papers?" Prompting my roommate to reply, "Are you fucking kidding me?" before slamming the door in the girl's confused face.

The following night I was awoken to her yelling in the hallways about how high she was, giggling with some sort of male companion and trudging up and down stairs like an elephant at 4:30 in the morning.

To all of this, I must respond: party your asses off every night of the week if you want, I don't give a shit. But girl, you have never met me before in your life. This isn't residence anymore; I could have been an 80-year-old man for all you know. Or you could have woken up someone who surely would have punched you straight in your drunk-out-of-your-mind face.

I'm really only putting this out there for your own good. Also, while we're on the subject, you should know that you listen to shitty music and I can hear it through my ceiling.

—Alex McGill,
Studen Press Liasion



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

Notice something that just doesn't make sense? Got an axe to grind? Send in a rant to Nah'msaying? 300 words max. opinions@thelinknewspaper.ca

TIRED OF READING



"It's normal to be nervous on your first day of school, son, but if the other kids say you're just a brain in a jar, then you tell them what the square root of one hundred and two is."





Women have relied on the pill as their go-to method of birth control for decades. Today it's still the most popular and commonly used form of birth control, aside from the condom.

But is it really the best option for everyone?

I know I've struggled with remembering to take that pill every day at the same time, and I'm sure others have, too. After screwing up my pills for several months in a row, I decided it was time to look into alternatives because no matter how effective the pill may be, it stops being effective when you forget four pills in a row, every week.

There are some really awesome and accessible alternatives out there that don't get as much attention, so here's the rundown on three other hormonal methods:

The Patch: The birth control patch (Evra) is a small beige-colored sticker that you can apply to your butt, stomach, back or upper arms. It works by releasing estrogen and progestin into your bloodstream.

The patch needs to be changed once a week, for three weeks. On the fourth week you get your period. The patch can be worn in the shower, has great staying power, and is great for someone who can't remember something every day but can handle a weekly responsibility. Side effects are similar to the pill, but there's also a risk of skin irritation wherever you place it, so it's good to change where you put it from week to week.

The Ring: The ring (NuvaRing) is a flexible plastic ring you insert into your vagina for three weeks each month. It works the same way as the patch —by releasing progestin and estrogen. It takes getting used to because it is much more "hands on" than the pill or the patch since you need to insert it. But using the ring means you only need to think about your birth control once a month! It's safe during sex, and you shouldn't be able to feel it once inserted. Side effects are again, similar to the pill, but often more effective since people hardly forget it.

Intra-uterine system (IUS): The IUS device needs to be inserted into the vagina by a doctor. It can last up to five years, but can be taken out early if you want. It's more than 99 per cent effective, and is basically a small "T" shaped device that releases the hormone levonorgestrel.

Many women experience lighter periods and less cramping. Some women even stop having their periods, so this is a good option if you don't want to get your period. An IUS is completely reversible and doesn't affect fertility.

Please note that NONE of these options protect against sexually transmitted infections, so keep that in mind. These methods are used mainly for pregnancy prevention, period regulation or to alleviate PMS symptoms.

Its also best to give any method (including the pill) two to three months before deciding if it's right for you and, as always with medication, be sure to know potential side effects so that you can recognize them.

Many people who I've spoken to are surprised to find out how easy these alternatives are to get because the pill is often the go-to method. Check them out if you've been less than satisfied with the pill and want to explore different options.

—Melissa Fuller

CLSCs offer all of these methods and their youth clinics can advise you on each one. CLSC Metro: 1801 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. (Corner St. Mathieu) Send your dirty little secret sex-related questions or qualms to sexpancakes.thelink@gmail.com



GRAPHIC DAVID BARLOW-KRELINA

You Lookin' at Somethin'?

editorial

An Attack On Democracy?

Before getting into the various reasons that we need to address issues relating to political transparency, dedicate a significant amount of coverage to alleged political wrongdoing and defend our reputation as a newspaper from cynical and unwarranted attacks, a little perspective is needed from all sides.

The truth is that most people at this school are not particularly invested in student politics. We don't think this comes as a shock to anybody. The recent Special General Meeting, called by some the most successful student demonstration in a decade or more, managed to inspire a little over 1,000 students to show up.

That represents a whopping 3 to 3.5 per cent of the undergraduate population.

Even the last CSU election got just seven per cent of students to even bother to fill out a ballot. That means at least nine in 10 students don't vote or participate in the school's governance system, and likely don't care to.

Having said that, it is still our duty as a Concordia newspaper to report on this system, since the actions of those elected by that minute fraction that cares to engage in school politics affect everyone else at this school. We are not out with pitchforks looking to burn someone at the stake because we have a vendetta against the student union. We don't think they're evil. We're just trying to keep them honest. We're just doing the job that students need us to do.

The same, unfortunately, can't be said for many of the people sitting on Council and the CSU executive. To the several dozen in attendance at last Wednesday's Council meeting, the decision to call for closed session right before discussing former VP Sustainability & Promotions Morgan Pudwell's resignation—the primary reason many showed up in the first place—smacked of arrogance and a desire to avoid having to deal with Pudwell's resignation and the questions surrounding it in an open forum.

The reasons given by the executive for taking the meeting into closed session were insufficient at best and intentionally misleading at worst.

First, Pudwell's resignation was deemed a human resources issue. The implication being that the executive collectively acted as Pudwell's boss. One student quickly refuted this argument, correctly arguing that the students were indeed the bosses of the entire executive, including Pudwell.

This salient point didn't stop them, and Council eventually settled on the argument that pre-campaigning was illegal, and thus any discussion of the potential political implications of Pudwell's decision needed to be made in private.

This, in essence, is what is wrong with our idea of student politics.

The fact that Council does not consider discussing the next election with each other "pre-campaigning" is a troubling matter. What does or does not constitute pre-campaigning? Is the executive not comprised of students with votes like the rest of us? Why are they privy to the inner workings of our school's political system while the students in attendance get security called on them?

And why did the school's security, whose employer is a private company, have more respect for the right of students to attend the Council meeting—security guards refused to enter the room, let alone to clear it of students unwilling to leave—than the councillors and executives both elected and paid by students?

Finally, with a chance to amend this decision and let students actually witness the whole meeting that students took time out of their lives to attend, the assembled councillors instead treated the crowd of their bosses as so hostile that they could not possibly envision the meeting proceeding.

The crowd was dismissed as just a collection of "Morgan's friends," and treated like an undesirable group of ruffians loudly disrupting the democratic decision of 26 people. The CSU called it "an attack on democracy" on Twitter later that night—never mind that their decision to silence the voices of nearly 80 students eager for a little bit of transparency and accountability—values the CSU claims to uphold—could hardly be considered democratic itself.

After the meeting was adjourned, though the yelling stopped, the tensions receded little. Nobody on the executive would discuss Pudwell's resignation on the record afterwards, and that was after four days of telling *The Link* to "wait for the meeting" to get a response on the subject.

The CSU's negative reactions to negative coverage is only worsening the situation. We complain they're not transparent? They vote to go into closed session right before getting to an issue that most everyone at a highly attended Council meeting came to discuss. We assert that some of Pudwell's complaints may be merited? They refuse to discuss this matter on the record with us, even in front of their own constituents.

The real tragedy is that this blatant political maneuvering takes attention away from the CSU's ample capacity to spearhead honourable initiatives, such as the bursary for volunteer work abroad, proposed by Councillor Menachem Freedman, and the unanimously adopted initiative to press Concordia to opt for conflict-mineral-free alternatives where possible.

That those two motions were dwarfed in importance and coverage by the CSU's refusal to be open and accountable with its constituents and the student press is as clear a sign as any that things have gone seriously wrong. But as long as Council consistently flouts the desire from the students they represent for more transparency and accountability, we have to cover that too.

—*The Link*

issue 25 crossword solutions



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editor: (514) 848-2424 x. 7405
arts: (514) 848-2424 x. 5813
ads: (514) 848-2424 x. 8682
fax: (514) 848-4540
business: (514) 848-7406

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Contributors:

Myriam Arsenault, Eric Bent, Matthew Brett, Dominique Cote, Sylvain Côté, Pierre Chauvin, Myles Dolphin, Melissa Fuller, Elpida Gianopoulos, Julia Johnson, Vivien Leung, Simon Liem, Natasha Luckhardt, Marlee Macmillan, Candice Maddy Fridman, Greg Mason, Tash McCammon, Christopher Olson, Jacob Roberts, Sam Slotnick, Ted Swedenburg, Chris Tse, Ali Tuserkani, Julian Ward, AJ West

Cover By:
David Barlow-Krelina & Julia Wolfe

editor-in-chief
JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI
news editor
CHRISTOPHER CURTIS
features editor
ADAM KOVAC
fringe arts editor
ASHLEY OPHEIM
literary arts editor
ALEX MANLEY
sports editor
CHRISTOPHER HAMPSON
opinions editor
MEGAN DOLSKI
copy editor
DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ
student press liaison
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photo editor
ERIN SPARKS
graphics editor
DAVID BARLOW-KRELINA
managing editor
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layout manager
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online editor
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