



LiNK

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THE END IS NEAR

Halfway Through, What Has Your Union Done for You? • 3



Whoa, We're Halfway There



PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN



PHOTO ADAM KOVAC



PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

Accomplishments listed in the mid-mandate report include revamping the CSU logo, surveying students on how they feel about the shuttle bus, opening the Hall building Swap Shop, and more successfully marketing Reggie's.

Mid-Mandate Report Light on CSU Criticism

• ADAM KOVAC

The school year is only halfway through, but the Concordia Student Union executive have still taken part in the tradition of taking stock at the beginning of a new year, releasing their mid-mandate report to Council at a meeting on Dec. 14.

The document points to what CSU President Lex Gill and her fellow executives felt were notable accomplishments, but Gill acknowledged that it is short on potential failings, as well as in-depth analysis of what had been done in the previous months.

"It was tricky writing this document, because it was prepared for Council as a sort of 'here's where we're at' document. The level of detail we wanted to include isn't there. [...] What I would have liked to see was more reflection and criticism from ourselves."

Gill said the various goals and analyses in the document were compiled by comparing the executives' activities with campaign promises still listed on the *Your Concordia* website, the political slate they headed in last year's election. When asked about what external oversight the authors of the report had, Gill pointed to the various committees that councillors sit on.

"I think if we were reporting things in this document that weren't true or accurate

to the work we're doing, then the External and Campaigns Committee would call us out.

"This month, we'll be speaking to Council about places where we need to improve."

One of those places may be in strategies to represent students at the upper levels of school governance.

She admitted that the biggest weakness of this year's student government was not forming a more aggressive strategy when faced with a reduced student presence on the Board of Governors, due to proposed reforms set to go in place on July 1, 2012.

The reforms include shrinking the board from 40 voting members to 25, and will see undergrads go from four voting members to one voting member, and one non-voting member.

"Looking back, I think that direct action would have been more appropriate as a tactic. While we were trying to negotiate and reason with people, at some point, people were not going to listen.

"We should have been holding sit-ins or occupying that boardroom because in the end, if the results weren't going to change, [we could have] at least built a movement out of it."

Gill contrasted that failure with what she considered the year's biggest success thus far—mobilizing students.

"How do we create a renaissance in real student organizing and real student life on campus? How do we bring that to the ordinary student?"

"How do we bring real, political issues to the ordinary student? I think that's been a really critical success," said Gill, pointing to the results of a November bylaw question regarding tuition increases, which saw students overwhelmingly voice their disapproval.

Independent Student Councillor Nadine Atallah agreed that the mobilization of students, particularly on the Nov. 10 Day of Action, was impressive but wished that the credit in the report had been spread around.

"I'm tremendously proud of the results that we got on Nov. 10 [but] I thought it lacked the extensive human reasons that went into all this mobilization. There were so many students who were working for months and weeks to get the students out, and I don't think it talked enough about the work that was done before Nov. 10."

In addition, Atallah pointed to the lack of attendance at the CSU Speaker Series as a failing that was not given proper mention in the mid-mandate report.

When journalist and historian Gwynne Dwyer spoke on Dec. 5, attendance in the 600-person capacity H-110 was limited to a

few dozen students. Gill attributed the small crowd to VP External Chad Walcott being overloaded with Nov. 10 planning.

"I'm really impressed by the fact that Chad stood up [at the council meeting Dec. 14] and he totally took responsibility for it. He said 'It's not because of the quality of the speakers, it's because I didn't put my heart into it and I was too busy with Nov. 10, and just burnt out afterwards.'"

Among the other accomplishments that Gill pointed to was the passing of Special Bylaw I during that byelection. The bylaw clarifies the process by which the CSU can give consent for the school to raise fees known as frais institutionnels obligatoires. These fees can currently only be raised by \$25 each year.

However, until November, the school was able to raise the fees beyond that with consent from the CSU, though what that meant was not defined in the bylaws. The passing of Special Bylaw I stipulates that undergrad students must vote on a proposed raise in a referendum.

"It's basically a backdoor tuition fee increase," said Gill. "We felt it was really important we define what consent meant [...] It means it's not impossible that students could say, 'We do want to fund student services more than our tuition already does.' But they need to make an informed choice."

CSU WON'T COMMIT TO STRIKE, PROMISES ACTION

• COREY POOL

It's been almost two months since students from across Quebec gathered on Nov. 10 to protest impending increases to tuition. While the Concordia student body's elected leaders are promising further action, it's still up in the air whether or not they will push for a general strike.

"The CSU will not necessarily be getting on that bandwagon," said Concordia Student Union VP External Chad Walcott.

According to Walcott, it's all a matter of timing.

"Some schools will go on strike earlier, some will go later," said Walcott. "We still need to poll our students, see where we stand and rebuild our momentum—one month just won't be enough time to do that for us."

Though no official decisions have been made on whether a strike will happen or not, the CSU has planned at least one more Day of Action.

"March 22 will be the next major demonstration," said Walcott. "We're going to see how far we can push a Day of Action and whether or not strikes will be warranted if it comes to that."

"We're going to continue to give information about the tuition increase, as well as a parallel information campaign about what a strike is, what the benefits are and what the consequences could be," said Walcott.

The CSU is currently working on a document that will be presented at the next council meeting on Jan. 11 that outlines the steps it plans to take throughout the semester.

"From there we will be able to move forward, depending on what is approved," said Walcott. "Big decisions will have to be made at every level of Concordia's student politics and governance [this semester.]"

The Graduate Students Association is planning its own moves with regard to striking, and making sure its members are informed and represented.

"As a GSA representative, I'm going to have to see how members feel about student strikes," said GSA VP External Holly Nazar.

"[The GSA] has decided over the next couple months to go department by department and hold special general meetings. If people wanted to go on strike they can decide that on a departmental basis."

"I think [Nov. 10] was really successful as a first step," said Nazar. "But I think it would be a big mistake to think that what is going to change a government's mind is just the demonstrations. This is going to take some real fighting."

In the weeks following the Nov. 10 Day of Action, the issue of tuition fee increases dominated Quebec Parliament, as well as local and national media.

The day following the demonstration, the Quebec Ministry of Education launched a website devoted to outlining the advantages of a tuition increase. The ministry also reportedly spent \$50,000 buying up Google keywords and the acronyms of student organizations to ensure top hits in a Google search.

To some members of the student movement, these reactions are a clear sign of progress.

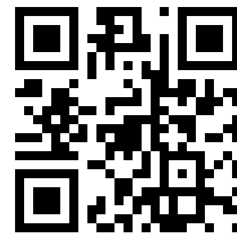
"Look at the impact that we've had," said Walcott. "We may not have won the battle, but we did make the government react, and we made them spend \$50,000 as a response. [...] A failure would have been no reaction at all. Support is starting to build, and there is still momentum, but there is a lot left to be done."



MARCHING AGAINST MINERALS

Tech and phone companies were the targets of a demonstration on Jan. 7 that saw roughly 200 people take to the streets in protest of Canada's involvement in mineral mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

PHOTO COREY POOL



read more online at thelinknewspaper.ca

CHARTER TROUBLES

Senate Weary of Changing Charter at Provincial Level

• JULIAN WARD

Members of Concordia's Senate—the highest academic body at the university—are often left powerless next to the Board of Governors, the ultimate authority of the school that has veto power over all Senate decisions.

The most recent example of this dynamic occurred over the winter holidays when Concordia staff had to be back at work on Jan. 3, earlier than other universities in the province. The Senate had voted to return to work on the Jan. 4, but the Board of Governors ignored their stance, forcing employees back to work early.

This subordinate nature of the Senate has left senators looking for ways to move away from a hierarchical system, which has established the Senate as subordinate to the Board, to one where the two bodies play on a more level field.

The Board endorsed the idea of a bi-cameral system when it voted to adopt all the recommendations of this summer's External Governance Committee Report, which investigated issues in the school's power hierarchy. One of the report's recommendations was more equally distrib-

uting power between the BoG and Senate.

"The only way to really truly empower the academic community at the university is to change the charter of the university," said Concordia Student Union President Lex Gill, referring to the document that acts as a "codification of the laws governing the incorporation" of the school.

The idea has been met with mixed reviews from senators, said Gill. Some want to open the charter immediately, some want to wait and some are completely uncomfortable with the idea.

A concern for some senators is that any reforms to the charter would need to be made by the provincial government in the National Assembly away from the purview of the Senate.

"If there is a government that exists that wants to make [additional] changes to the charter, there's nothing we could really do to stop them from making those changes," said Andy Filipowich, a Fine Arts faculty student and undergraduate Senator representative.

"There's a group of people who say 'Do we really want the charter opened up in front of the National Assembly so that the Quebec government can decide what an

English university should look like and how it should be governed?'" said Gill.

Gill, for her part, doesn't see things the same way. "The university needs to find a bit of courage, think about the process carefully, develop a draft, create committees, and deal with it," she said.

At the Dec. 9 Senate meeting, Provost David Graham presented an eight-page report on the pros and cons of opening the Charter. No decision on opening the Charter was reached at the meeting, and there is currently no timeline for reaching such a decision, says Filipowich.

"The gears of democracy turn slowly at Concordia, when they turn at all, but it's our absolute hope that it's dealt with sincerely and urgently and with the amount of gravity that it deserves," said Gill.

Another one of the upcoming initiatives senators will discuss this year will be the new name project, which advocates are hoping will help bring major changes to the way students are identified at Concordia.

Proponents of the name project want students to be officially identified by their chosen name, instead of their legal name, which is currently the case.

The next Senate meeting is Jan. 20.

Occupy the Living Room

Victoria Square's Former Residents Move On



Occupy Montreal has taken on a much different look since being evicted from Victoria Square on Nov. 25.

PHOTO ADAM KOVAC

• ADAM KOVAC

In the living room of a cozy duplex in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, a small group has gathered to discuss politics.

Their discourse rambles on, touching on numerous subjects ranging from the authenticity of farmers' markets to the role of world banking organizations in geopolitics to the practicality of the online peer-to-peer cash-transfer system BitCoin.

As recently as a month and a half ago, these debates would have required a talking stick, hand gestures and a word-by-word recitation of each person's point of view in order to reach all the people amassed.

Instead of a dimly lit room near Cavendish St., the participants would have been gathered in Victoria Square, the heart of Montreal's financial district. But in late November, after an edict was passed down from City Hall, the Occupiers were evicted.

Now, the movement has gone small in an effort to go bigger.

Since the eviction, what was once a movement centered in one geographic location has split into multiple groups spread across the city. The website occupymontreal.org lists over 20 current or planned en-

claves, ranging from Occupy Montreal-North to Occupy Westmount, each with its own Facebook page.

"I wouldn't describe it so much as splintering because the breaking off into neighbourhood groups was intentional," said Occupy activist Paul Bode.

That lack of a physical epicenter has made the online presence that much more important. During the Occupy NDG meeting, former Occupier Jamie Klinger outlined the benefits of the new web platform Open Atrium, which will allow the various neighbourhood and work groups to coordinate via a smorgasbord of functions.

In addition, the thrice-weekly general assemblies are being live-streamed on the Occupy website, with a new function allowing those watching to interact and vote on motions. Even the small NDG gathering was broadcast online, with two webcams and a microphone capturing the goings-on for anyone interested.

"It's about coordination," said Klinger. "If we can't properly coordinate, we're going to break apart."

Still, some volunteers insist that a physical space has become a necessity. While the Darling Foundry on Ottawa St.

is being used for the general assemblies, "it's not a place we can really use as an [official] work space," according to Dan Parker of Occupy Plateau.

A few activists are envisioning a commune similar to what existed at Victoria Square, and other locations are being considered that would provide just a physical workspace.

One space that has come up as a possibility is Café L'Inconditionnel on Papineau Blvd. While plans are still only in the preliminary stages, Parker hypothesized that any partnership with the café would be based on mutual benefit.

"There's all sorts of proposals on the table, but the idea is that we would be helping out in terms of renovations and making the space work better. It wouldn't be a rental situation, more an exchange of services."

While Victoria Square hosted workshops, discussions, a media centre, and all the other activities of a political and philosophical nature for which Occupy has been noted, it was also an actual home to many, and with that came all the mundane activities of day-to-day life.

While the famed Occupy kitchen is still somewhat operational, Bode said that his goal with a fixed location would be a

more focused effort to support Occupy causes.

"Basically [my hope is] that people will be able to get together and work. Even if our online communication tools were completely up to speed, there are certain advantages to getting together in the same physical space and doing work," he said.

"One of the things that is unfortunate is that we have a ton of people that are really eager to work, but they're sort of waiting for that opportunity to do it in an organized way," he added.

Tasks that need to be addressed include those associated with organizing the general assemblies, working on finding financial support, working on the 99% newspaper and figuring out the logistics of a potential new physical occupation in springtime.

While a new, legal and centralized occupation may be here before the snow is gone (assuming it ever really falls, that is), Occupy Montreal is soldiering on.

While Victoria Square may seem conspicuously empty, the movement lives on around the island—in cyberspace, in living rooms and general assemblies. The 99 per cent aren't going anywhere.

ORIENTATION, TAKE TWO

CSU Announces Partial Line-Up For Winter Orientation

• MADELON KIROV

It's back to school for all and the start of a new semester. Students are preparing to take on new courses and responsibilities, and Concordia Student Union VP Student-Life Laura Glover is hoping to help ease the way into winter with this year's edition of the Winter Orientation Week.

"Our aim is to provide events that are sort of refreshing," she said. "You come back, it's cold, you just had this break, [so we want to help you get] back in the flow of things."

O-Week is scheduled to begin on Jan. 23 with a Welcome Back Coffee and Snack event that will be held in the downtown Library Atrium throughout the day. Here, students can meet their peers and any questions can be answered.

Jan. 24 has been deemed Outdoors Day at the Loyola Campus. The shuttle-bus will be running every twenty minutes between the two campuses. Outdoors Day, in collaboration with the Arts and Science Federation of Associations will host sports, serving coffee and hot chocolate to those on the sidelines. The evening will host a Cultural Night and the CSU will be working with the International Ethnic Associations Council who represents a number of cultural clubs on campus under the Dean of Students.

"We are really reaching out and trying to network with other groups on campus, and have events consistently over the next two months," said Glover regarding the cooperation across student groups.

On Jan. 25, the CSU will be co-hosting the Many Tastes and Clubs Fair at the Hive Café on the Loyola Campus with the Quebec Public Interest Research Group. QPIRG will be holding some of their own events here as well, as part of social justice day where a few guest speakers are slated for Jan. 26.

Glover declined to name any of the speakers, citing a lack of confirmation, but did say that a schedule would be available next week. In the evening, students will be able to enjoy Thirsty Thursday's at Reggie's.

Igloofest tickets will also be available during the week at a discounted price. The annual electronic music festival takes place in the Old Port and lasts four weeks.

For more information, go to the CSU's website at www.csu.qc.ca

SFU SETTLES WITH CFS

Out-of-Court
Agreement May
Have Implications
for CSU

• LAURA BEESTON

Over the winter break, Simon Fraser University's student union officially left the Canadian Federation of Students after a lengthy legal dispute.

"The agreement was motivated by a desire on the part of all parties to resolve all outstanding issues," read the joint statement between the Simon Fraser Student Society and the CFS, issued Dec. 23. "As part of this resolution, the membership has ended."

The SFSS settled their case with the CFS out of court and both parties agreed to make no further public statements regarding the matter.

The case reportedly cost the SFSS over \$450,000 in legal fees.

In a 2008 referendum, 67 per cent of voters at the Burnaby, BC university opted to leave the CFS. The national student organization contested the referendum's legitimacy, and a court date had been set for Feb. 12 of this year before the dispute was settled out of court.

The news comes as Concordia Student Union is also attempting to leave the CFS after a 2010 referendum that has yet to be recognized. On March 17, 2011, the CSU officially became the eighth student union in Canada to attempt to sue their way out of the organization.

Former CSU President Heather Lucas predicted at the time that the lawsuit could last at least two years and would cost the union a minimum of \$220,000. Concordia's Graduate Student Association filed a similar lawsuit at the same time as the CSU.

The CFS also claimed the union owed them \$1,033,278.76 in unpaid fees, despite both the CSU and Concordia University finding no proof of outstanding dues.

For the CSU, the out-of-court decision is a good sign.

"Congratulations to [the SFSS]. They're troopers. They've been at it for years," said CSU President Lex Gill of the settlement. "It's also reassuring that they managed to set the tone of what could be a really lengthy court process. [...] Depending on what happened there, maybe we can go in that direction too."

Gill explained the CSU is currently in the process of implied undertaking with the CFS, wherein requested documents are sent between the two parties. There is currently no court date set for the CSU.

"It's a long process," said Gill. "But things are on schedule and moving forward."

—with files from David Dyck,
The Peak.

McGill Riot Report



The report issued by Jutras looked into the events of November 10th when riot police used excessive force on students.

PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Sixty-Page Security Scrutiny Released

• PIERRE CHAUVIN

Almost two months after the events of Nov. 10, when riot police physically dispersed students on the McGill University campus after the anti-tuition hike protests, a report on the incident authored by Dean of Law Daniel Jutras has been released.

In the 60-page report, Jutras suggested revisions to McGill security policies and procedures, a strengthening of the relations with the Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal and an open discussion with students and faculty to "discuss the meaning and scope of the rights of free expression and peaceful assembly on campus."

The report gives some new insights about the riots as well as the McGill security's reaction. According to the report, McGill security tried to lock down some of the buildings to prevent further occupation, with mixed results.

"The lockdown created several problems for people in more remote buildings, and prevented access from people who were seeking assistance after having been pepper-sprayed."

Jutras questioned the effectiveness of communication during the event, pointing out that most students and faculty members who were in class at the time were not given any clear instructions about the lockdown.

The Automated Emergency Notification System "was not activated to warn the McGill community that the situation in James Square had escalated to a potentially

violent confrontation."

"Many students did not know where to go when they had been pepper-sprayed or been hit with batons by the riot police. They couldn't get in the buildings because they were on lockdown, [so] there was no obvious place to go," said Students' Society of McGill University President Maggie Knight. "It's alarming and disturbing."

The report ends by encouraging "McGill authorities [...] to obtain from police authorities a better understanding of the conditions that, from their perspective, led to the presence of the Intervention Group on campus on Nov. 10."

Though the report includes a timeline of the events and six main recommendations, responsibility for the police response is not assigned, as McGill Principal Heather Munroe-Blum specifically instructed Jutras in an open letter on the McGill website "not [to] make findings about or assign blame to specific individuals."

According to Sgt. Ian Lafrenière, a media relations agent with the SPVM, the presence of the riot police on the McGill campus was caused by an initial scuffle between bike police and a small group of individual throwing "projectiles" at the officers.

The officers used their bicycles "to protect themselves and retreat," but the confrontation was also facilitated by the fact that "the Intervention Group was at the corner of the street, dealing with the [Nov. 10 Day of Action] demonstration."

Citing questions regarding the impartiality of Jutras' investigation, an independent

inquiry was launched by a group of McGill students, producing a preliminary report on Dec. 1.

The 24-page report was co-authored by 10 students, and features numerous testimonies and recommendations.

"I think that the most frustrating thing was that so many administrators and staff refused to speak with us," said Allison Cooper, one of the co-authors of the report.

"We definitely shared other people's concerns about it being an internal investigation," said Knight in reference to SSMU's position on Jutras' impartiality. "That being said, it was certainly not a concern about [Jutras'] personal or professional integrity, but rather [that] the structure perhaps is not going to give everybody faith in the process."

Knight added that the authors of the student inquiry had presented their findings to the student council and SSMU had provided a space for its authors to conduct interviews.

The McGill administration refused to comment on the report, as Munroe-Blum announced she and Jutras would be discussing the report during the Jan. 18 McGill Senate meeting.

Students and faculty can view the report and submit comments at mcgill.ca/dean-jutras-report.

The Independent Student Inquiry preliminary report, as well as testimony from students and faculty, is available at independentstudentinquiry.blogspot.com/

Briefs From the Break

December News • December News • December News • December News

• COMPILED BY LAURA BEESTON

Metro Reno

The St. Mathieu St. entrance to Guy-Concordia Metro is slated for an overhaul and will undergo renovations from March to August, according to a Concordia University announcement made on Dec. 19.

The construction, which will

happen at night, will include the installation of new doors, floors, ceilings, lights and walls. The electrical and sprinkler systems will also be improved and four new turnstiles will be installed. It'll be a welcome improvement for a place that reportedly hasn't seen a hammer

swing since 1967.

While the majority of the work will be done by Société de transport de Montréal, Concordia announced it will also be doing some renovations at the Guy St. entrance in the GM building once the St. Mathieu St. work is complete.



PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

ConU's First Rector Dies

Concordia University's first rector, John O'Brien, passed away at the age of 80 on Dec. 16.

O'Brien, who started his career at Sir George Williams University in 1954 as an economics lecturer, became an associate professor in 1961 and was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Arts in 1963.

O'Brien was appointed principal

of SGW in 1969 at the tender age of 38 years old, and stood his post until the merge with Loyola in 1974. He carried his term over and was the first rector of the new Concordia University, remaining until 1984.

When he left office, the John W. O'Brien Graduate Fellowship, a \$12,000 award open to all full-time graduate students without citizenship restrictions, was started in his

honour. He eventually retired from teaching in 1996.

"He had his eye on Concordia's long-term future as a leading comprehensive university, and he took on an extraordinary personal responsibility for making that happen," said current Concordia President Frederick Lowy, in a message issued from the president's office on Dec. 21.



PHOTO COURTESY CONCORDIA ARCHIVES

J-School Professor Dies

Concordia broadcast professor Ross "Coach" Perigoe died from a brain tumor Jan. 3.

Teaching in Concordia's journalism department for over 25 years, Perigoe also had a lengthy and active journalism career.

Perigoe was one of the youngest national current affairs radio producers on CBC. An estimated 6 million Quebecers tuned in to his

coverage of Quebec's 1981 election, and he was the Ottawa TV bureau station manager at the age of 32.

Many of his students and colleagues posted their shock and condolences on Facebook and Twitter when they heard the news. Student-oriented and passionate, it was clear Perigoe struck a chord with those he worked with.

"He lives now through everyone he touched," said Concordia jour-

nalism student Jessie Mathieson. "Students will take Advanced Radio at Concordia and never have met the man that created the department's best class. I am honoured to have had the opportunity."

Perigoe received the Michael Monty Award for excellence in broadcast teachings and mentorships from the Radio Television News Directors Association in 2009.



PHOTO RICHMOND LAM

New Treasurer Appointed

Marc Gauthier and a three-person team officially dubbed the 'Investment Responsibility Centre' have been appointed to manage Concordia University's assets and liabilities.

"Marc and his team will oversee the financial aspect of the university's benefit, investment, corporate risk, capital

and financing portfolios," said Concordia Chief Financial Officer Patrick Kelley in a NOW Concordia news release Dec. 15.

In his 22 years at Concordia, Gauthier has worked in both the financial and services departments. He was Executive Director of Finance and Business Operations in the Services Sector

over the last five and a half years, where his portfolio included services such as Hospitality Concordia and Campus Retail stores.

Gauthier has also held numerous positions in Financial Services, including senior financial analyst and director of restricted funds and finance.

Gauthier's Concordia career spans the last 22 years.



PHOTO COURTESY CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

JB Appeal Process Continues

The Judicial Board—an independent ruling body of the Concordia Student Union—has yet to set a date and hear the appeal filed by former-CSU councillor Tomer Shavit.

The drawn-out process began on Nov. 2 when former Chief Electoral Officer Bram Goldstein's position was terminated after the JB concluded last year's Council did not follow proper hiring procedures.

Ismail Holoubi was then hired to replace Goldstein, and ran the November byelection.

Shavit, representing last

year's Council, filed an appeal to overturn the JB's decision to fire Goldstein Nov. 11. He claims the JB has broken procedure for not treating his appeal in the requisite five days. Shavit also brought the case before the CSU on Nov. 30, but Council voted against overturning the JB ruling regarding Goldstein.

Ceejay Desfosses, who is currently the chair of the JB, explained that she is setting up a time to meet to address the issue of the appeal. She said the JB was unable to meet at the end of last semester due to final exams.



PHOTO ADAM KOVAC

WRITING ABOUT ART

Friday, Jan. 13
4 p.m. H649

Learn some tricks from *The Link's* Fringe team on how to cover visual arts, interview bands, review albums, shed light on lit and flex your creative writing skills.
Cliché's need not apply.

UPCOMING LINK EVENTS

SUSTAINABILITY SPECIAL ISSUE
Wednesday, Jan. 18
4 p.m. H649

Have a green thumb? Passionate about preservation? Sucker for sustainability? Come share your ideas for the greenest special issue yet at *The Link's* Sustainability special issue brainstorm.

NASH ME
Friday, Jan. 20
4 p.m. H649

Eight *Link* editors are off to Victoria, B.C. this week to take in the Canadian University Press national conference and learn the secrets of sustainable student journalism. We're bringing back gold and sharing what we learn.

PITCHING AND PUBLISHING IN THE REAL WORLD
Friday, Jan. 27
4 p.m. H649

So you want to be a journalist and contribute beyond the student press. Now what? *The Link* brings in special guest editors who are holding down jobs and making media work in 'the real world.' More details to be announced...

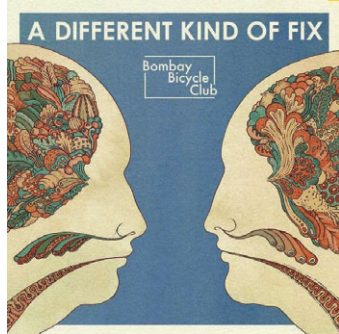
Link Picks: Best Music of 2011



► Architecture in Helsinki - *Moment Bends*

Architecture in Helsinki's fourth studio album is an indie-pop sensation that will have your head bobbing for weeks. With heavy synthesizers and high-pitched '80s choruses to go with their riffs, these Australians have one of the catchiest albums of 2011. You only need to go two songs deep ("Desert Island" and "Escapee") to start tapping your feet and singing along, and you won't stop 'til the album's done.

- David Murphy (Lifestyle Editor)



► Bombay Bicycle Club - *A Different Kind of Fix*

After their acoustic album, Bombay Bicycle Club retrieve their electric guitars to put together this beautiful album that will make you close your eyes and sway your head. You need to listen to this on your morning commute because it'll put the biggest smile on your face for the rest of the day.

- Clément Liu (Creative Director)



► Bon Iver - *Bon Iver*

I'm from Calgary, and the song of the same name on this phenomenal record isn't the only aspect of Bon Iver's latest that reminds me of home. It's full of wide-open spaces only interrupted by rocky giants that, layer-by-layer, rise up. It's an album that somehow sounds open and free but with richly layered ideas that have come together to dwarf all other albums this year.

- Hilary Sinclair (Acting Opinions Editor)



► Colin Stetson - *New History Warfare 2: Judges*

Colin Stetson, the Montreal-based saxman extraordinaire, dropped his second LP this year, and the resulting force is enough to knock the wind out of you. Moving, brooding and totally unique, the album blurs the line between noise and sound, intertwining Stetson's dynamic delivery of throat singing, reed-bending and circular breathing. You've never heard anything like this before.

- Colin Harris (Fringe Arts Editor)



► Crystal Stilts - *In Love With Oblivion*

A great and engaging blend of garage rock psychedelia and post-punk atmospherics, Crystal Stilts have delivered a sophomore effort that demands your attention. Songs like "Through the Floor" will get you dancing, while others like "Alien Rivers" will have you mesmerized by their dirge-y bliss.

- Eric Bent (Graphics Editor)



► Fleet Foxes - *Helplessness Blues*

The reason that most of us fell in love with Fleet Foxes was simple: their music is nonsense, feel-good folk rock, full of catchy melodies and blissful harmonies. *Helplessness Blues* complicates the sunshine of their debut with shadow, however. The resulting darkness—both lyrically and tonally—is rich, intricate, and a little bit more complex than the band's previous efforts. Fleet Foxes have grown up, but they haven't lost it.

- Alex McGill (Culture Editor)



► Frank Ocean - *Nostalgia, Ultra*

This is soul for the digital age, a Tumblr full of emotion, a tear-stained tweet. Stealing recognizable samples (MGMT, Coldplay... The Eagles?!) and crooning over them, Frank's lyrics are both heartfelt and deft, showcasing a knack for great details and a willingness both to hurt and be hurt in return.

- Alex Manley (Copy Editor)



► Justice - *Audio, Video, Disco*

French electro-house duo Justice are back, and while the group did take some (deserved) flak for *Audio, Video, Disco*'s classic rock sound (consider AC/DC soundalike "Newlands") songs like "Civilization" and the title track are just so damn catchy that it's hard to stay mad about a couple of guitar licks you may have heard before.

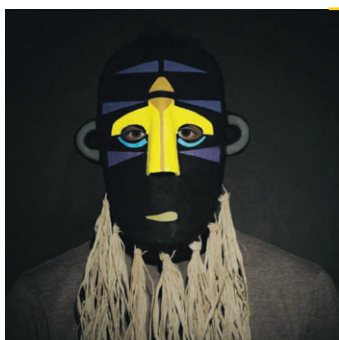
- Julia Wolfe (Managing Editor)



► Kurt Vile - *Smoke Ring for My Halo*

Smoke Ring for my Halo is an album of longhaired dudes playing fuzzy, sedate guitar, fingerpicking to their heart's content and making no apologies for their at times oblique lyrics. It's honest and unique, while still feeling somehow familiar, like being nostalgic for something at you can't quite pinpoint.

- Katie McGroarty (Contributor)



► SBTRKT - *SBTRKT*

Transcending the boundaries of dubstep and other electronic genres, London-based DJ/producer SBTRKT unites soulful vocals with electronic shimmer and dance-worthy beats on his first full-length studio album. Collaborations with a range of guest vocalists bring pop sounds to the contemporary bass music craze, making this debut one of the most innovative and charming releases of 2011.

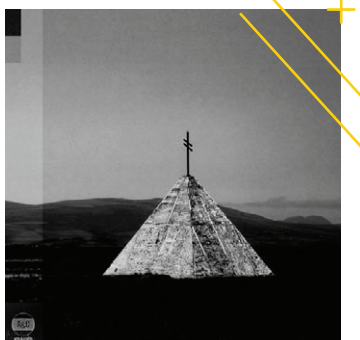
- Jesse Polowin (Contributor)



► Sloan - *The Double Cross*

They might not be the Fab Four, but Canada's Beatles, Sloan, are still the best power-pop group north of the 49th. *The Double Cross*, which marks twenty years (!) of Sloan, captures the group doing what they do best: catchy rock songs and ballads, with impeccable harmonies. They might not be the hip new thing, but there's clearly something to be said for experience.

- Adam Kovac (Current Affairs Editor)



► Timber Timbre - *Creep on Creepin' On*

Listening to *Creep on Creepin' On* is like taking part in a full-moon séance. The album feels like a forest, and sounds like a swamp. I think that Timber Timbre frontman Taylor Kirk says it best: "It's a bad bad ritual/ But it calms me down."

- Corey Pool (Contributor)

The Darcys Find Their Sound

Toronto Band Drops New Album, Remake Steely Dan

• ALEX MCGILL

Toronto rock outfit the Darcys' self-titled album, released this past fall and the catalyst for their upcoming North American tour, was one that even the band thought would never get finished.

"It was sort of surreal for the longest time," said drummer Wes Marskell. "We were working on [the album] and it never felt like it would actually get released. So I think we sort of just plugged away at it more as something to do."

"I still didn't believe it, even when we signed the deal and when it was announced and when we knew that it would actually come out. It seemed like something else horrible would happen to deter it from actually making it to the shelves."

The quartet, composed of Marskell, Jason Couse, Mike le Riche and Dave Hurlow has, in the past year, endured the loss of a lead singer, followed by numerous re-recordings of their album and trying legal proceedings before they were finally able to release their record this past fall with Toronto label Arts & Crafts.

The label's unconventional approach has allowed the band to release their album online for free, something almost unheard of in the world of large record deals.

"I think that when you make a record in this day and age there's so much competition in the rest of



the world to get your music out there and to get in the people's ears. [...] There's so much that's available for free, so to have a record label that says, 'Okay, we'll help you, we'll put this record out for free,' was really exciting," said Marskell. "People don't have any guilt about downloading it and sharing it with their friends."

The band also has the record available for purchase on vinyl.

Their new record isn't going to be their only unconventional re-

lease, though. The Darcys have another free online project slated to drop at the end of January. The band has recorded their own re-imagining of Steely Dan's 1977 record *Aja*.

"It's sort of weird, it's more like an art project. It's nothing whatsoever like the Steely Dan record, the only thing that is similar is the vocal melodies and the lyrics. Everything else is totally redone. So in a sense it's our own instrumental record with the Steely Dan

stuff on top," said Marskell.

"The way we looked at it was that we took the record and learned it in its entirety, and [then] we just tried to destroy it—the sheen of Steely Dan, the goofiness, the essence of what a Steely Dan record was. We tried to build it back up in our own light."

The band kicks off their North American tour on Jan. 12 in Montreal, to be followed by a trip to Austin's South by Southwest festival, and then to Toronto for

Canadian Music Week in March.

Constantly writing, working on new material and experimenting with their sound, Marskell predicts that their next record will be different from its predecessors—but can't predict what direction the Darcys will take for it.

"I'm as interested as anyone else to see what happens."

The Darcys / Jan. 12 / Casa del Popolo (4873 St. Laurent Blvd.) / 8:30 p.m.

LIVED SPACES & FRAGMENTED VOICES

Zohar Kfir's Multimedia Work Explores Collective Memory

• COLIN HARRIS

"Art is a futile act of generosity," said the famous existentialist Jean-Paul Sartre, in that the artist cannot guarantee his or her meanings safe passage to the audience.

But perhaps it's when the viewer is merely given elements to order and designate meaning that the most personal, artistic narrative can take shape.

Tel Aviv-born multimedia artist Zohar Kfir will be adapting her installation *PARA site* for an exhibit at Eastern Bloc's Data: Salon III January 11. Kfir developed the project for her MFA thesis at Concordia, which she completed last spring.

"The installation deals with storytelling, and how can it be transferred to the viewer through phenomenology. It's not about a narrative per se, but more about how people perceive the space," she said.

Soundtracks emerge with each of the 12 projections involved in the installation, allowing the viewers to seek out the next video to build their own meaning in Kfir's fractured pictures and sound.

"I work by collecting images, I walk around with a camera all the time," said Kfir. "For this project I was using a microscope camera, it's a small USB camera that can magnify everything. There's footage of a dying ant, and a mosquito drawing blood from my own body. I see [PARA site] as a collection of mine, an ongoing archive."

"They evoke some notion of memory or displacement, in a way that people can connect to, in a way they're very emotional."

The Data: Salon show provides a space for artists to help conceptualize their works-in-progress, as Kfir will do for her other show, *Ruins*.

This installation applies the

themes of fragmented narrative and collective memory to the Nakba, the commemoration of the expulsion of Palestinians from their homes following the 1948 Israeli Declaration of Independence.

She's been volunteering with B'Tselem and Zochrot, two Israel-based NGOs that work to bring the Palestinian narrative into Israeli-Jewish consciousness. The B'Tselem Camera Distribution Project, launched in 2007, distributing 300 video cameras to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, and collecting the footage every month or so.

It's a pretty empowering project, giving the Palestinian people a way of exposing abuses of authority. With *Ruins*, Kfir hopes to increase the visibility of this web-based citizen journalism.

"If the army is coming into people's houses, or if there is some problem with the settlers, the Palestinians can use the cameras and

document it as a self-defense mechanism," said Kfir.

"Today, everyone has cell phones to shoot video, but especially in Palestine where there's less technology, sometimes it's even difficult to find an Internet connection," she said.

She plans to integrate both of these archives into a larger-scope interactive map once she selects more footage from B'Tselem and Zochrot during a trip to Israel in March.

"The video installation will be a map of Palestine, a complete map built from sand which people could walk on, [activating videos depending on where they walk], and the illustrations will be on the floor," said Kfir.

Ruins is a large-scale interactive documentary project with no defined beginning or end, with freedom to navigate through the media given to the viewer.

In experiencing the installation, the audience brings their own interpretation and timing to it, a reflection on the problem of documenting objective history, especially when some groups would rather forget specific events in the last 100 years.

"In a lot of my single-channel work I always work with duration, so this is something that the digital medium allows me to do, to reverse the video, slow it down, more and more layering of elements on them," said Kfir. "So there is always an unexpected element in my work."

"I work with natural elements and time, so it's a tricky way to turn them into something else, something surprising."

PARA site & Ruins / Eastern Bloc (7240 Clark Rd.) / January 11 / 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. / Free

Dances With Warehouses

Montreal Choreographer Brings Winter to Life With *Janvier*



PHOTO MICHAEL REINHART

• LAURA BEESTON

The start of this calendar year has a special significance for Montreal-based choreographer Tedi Tafel, who brings *Janvier* to wintry life in an old railway building.

Season is the drive that dictates the pace of this sensual, site-specific performance piece. The relationship between body and the 6,000-square-foot space takes centre stage, transposed with light and movement.

This scene is the set of what Tafel describes as “dance created out of architecture.”

Janvier is the re-mastering of a work that was created in a two-and-a-half week residency a few years ago for a full-year project called *Calendar*. “My desire with the remount was to go deeper with the piece,” explained Tafel. “A chance to take it further for the people involved.”

Going back to the original site with the original cast, four dancers and two live electro-musicians combine their talents with a lighting director and video projector to replay nine different “movement events” that lead into each other.

The piece runs for three hours, looping circularly over time, and the audience is invited to come and go as they please, walk

around, and install themselves as close or far as they feel.

“I wanted to change the conventions of what is a performance and who is an audience, looking into how we respond when the usual criteria isn’t offered,” said Tafel. “It allows the audience to participate in a different way—they have choices. It makes them more active, more participating. It’s more than just sitting and watching.”

There is no pressure in the slow-paced production to run around from room to room to see everything, she continued, as *Janvier* offers a winter hibernating feel as the dance unfolds.

“It was important for me to revisit *Janvier* in January [...] as the piece itself speaks really about the beginning of the year,” said Tafel. “That time, the senses of life underground, that slowing down, that beginning.”

Tafel, who has taken many trips to immerse herself in the natural landscape—from the boreal forest to Mexico to Iceland—has been studying bodies in non-traditional and natural venues for the last two decades.

“Every single space will have a new discovery,” she said. “I can’t know what that is until we really get in the place [...] and start to see how one participates in the environment.

“I can’t hold tightly to my ideas because they need to be able to alter and transform once the dancer makes contact with the actual architecture, or the light, or the neighbourhood, or the sounds. The space is very alive. I love the interaction.”

Describing the connection between body and space as “dancing *with* rather than dancing *in*,” Tafel explained she looks for spaces with unique qualities, windows, as well as the presence or absence of natural space in the urban city.

“I’m always looking for the essentialized movement,” she explained. “I really feel strongly that dance should exist in the regular and daily spaces.

“It’s essential to understanding things about humanity that we can’t understand when we’re separated in the theatre,” she continued. “Theatre has amazing things to offer, but I’m mostly excited about what dance is as a language and what the relationship is to our surroundings.

“It’s about how dance can express this and inspire us to be more sensitive to where we are.”

Janvier / 661 Rose de Lima St. / Jan. 13 to 15 and Jan. 19 to 22 / 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. / \$20 at the door, \$15 pre-sale and students



DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

LINK FLICK PICKS

Check out our sequel-free Top 10 Films of 2011. Topping the list is *The Tree of Life*, Terrence Malick’s most ambitious and personal film about the childhood memories of a man who is trying to understand the death of his younger brother.



WEEKLY SPINS

If I am ever in the position to choose the backing music for a teen movie, this is exactly what I would want played when they all do drugs for the first time.

— Katie McGroarty.



POST VICTORIA

Grindhouse Wednesdays, a film and music event active since 2009, hosted an *Occupy Special* with musical performances, improv and film to raise funds for the movement.



Pucks Across

Not half the professional **hockey players** in the world can say they've experienced playing in an officiated outdoor game, let alone one nestled in the **Swiss Alps**—a mini European **Winter Classic** just three days before the NHL's version between the New York Rangers and Philadelphia Flyers.

MOUNTAIN PRESSURE

• DAVID MURPHY

This game, however, pitted the Concordia Stingers against the Swiss League's EHC St. Moritz. Although it wasn't captured by HBO cameras, like the lead-up to the NHL Winter Classic was for the four-part 24/7 series, a budding cinematographer on the Stingers made sure that the event didn't go unrecorded.

The game was part of a two-week stint in Europe, which some on the team called an experience of a lifetime—but special for some in bizarre and memorable ways.

Being on the Swiss-Italian border, some conversed in Italian, some English, some French, but they all understood the universal language spoken by players convening after an outdoor hockey game—beer.

"It was a tremendous experience that we couldn't have gotten if we stayed here and skated at a local tournament," said Stingers head coach Kevin Figsby.

There are a few plus sides to the outdoor venue in St. Moritz's Eisarena Ludains. For one, on a purely practical level, the players' body odour steams off into the fresh Swiss air.

There's also the fact that beyond the

rink lies a stunning mountain vista trimmed with European cabin-style houses, which are emulated around the world for their beauty. The first time Figsby saw this sight, he couldn't help but forget all about the game—for a moment.

"At the four-minute mark of the second period the snow stopped," said Figsby. "You couldn't see the other side of the rink because of the snow, but when it stopped we realized we were looking out at the playground of Europe."

"It was like Mont Tremblant on steroids," said Stingers left-winger Roberto Mormina. Though he's not in Concordia's film program, Mormina's passionate and brought his camera gear, which he strapped around players' chests and placed atop the goalie's helmet during the game so he could put together a documentary of the trip from the players' perspectives.

"There's five hours of footage from the game, the mountain, the events and activities that we did on this trip. I'm going to compile a montage so everyone can take it home in the next few weeks."

One player relying on Mormina to come through with decent footage of the Swiss game is right-winger Michael Stinziani—his jaw-dropping goal trumped the beautiful Swiss backdrop.

"Mike knitted the guy a sweater," said coach Figsby, praising Stinziani's needle-and-thread precision dekes. "He went from right to left, right to left, and then put it right through the goalie's legs. It's prob-

ably one of the prettiest goals I've seen in my 13 years of coaching at the university level."

Even Stinziani couldn't help but get brash, comparing it to the astounding playoff goal by the Anaheim Ducks' Bobby Ryan that hit highlight reels last April.

"I put [the puck] through his stick a couple times, it's probably the nicest goal I've ever scored."

To make it more memorable, he did it in front of a few familiar faces too.

"I had some family come watch. The last time I saw them was when I was eight years old, so it's nice to meet family that I might not see for the next 10 years," said Stinziani. "It was their first hockey game, so it was cool that I could score a couple goals in front of them."

Stinziani's Italian roots and knowledge of the language helped out when the skates were off, too. After the game, the Swiss captain invited the team to come into their dressing room for a few beers, something unheard of in the modern game.

Being on the Swiss-Italian border, some conversed in Italian, some English, some French, but they all understood the universal language spoken by players convening after an outdoor hockey game—beer.

"They just turned up the stereo and swapped stories. It was a wonderful moment for our kids from a life-experience perspective," said Figsby.

In terms of the scoreboard, the Stingers

eased through their two games. Facing a less physical opposition, they put that side of their game on hold, and took on the Swiss passing-and-skating game head-on. They still won comfortably, 5-3, and in Italy they routed a team from Bellinzona 12-8.

But just because the quality of the opposition wasn't up to the Stingers' standards doesn't mean that they didn't take anything from the team's European tour.

"We don't get those types of games here. What it did was allow us to say, 'Okay, there are things that can add to our game that can make us that much better,'" said Figsby. "I think you'll see a difference in our collective play now."

This focus on skill instead of physical play will give the players more confidence with their abilities, according to Figsby. Concordia are still sweating about finally winning a major trophy, given that their last one was in 1984.

They need to start showing this newfound confidence soon if they want to contend—the Stingers currently sit in sixth place in their division.

A mere 36 hours after a grueling flight from Europe it was business as usual, as the team was bag-skated in a decidedly body-odour-tinged Loyola rink right for their very first practice of 2012.

The team's next game is Jan. 13 at Queen's before returning home the following Saturday to face Royal Military College.

the Pond



PHOTO JAYMEE SHELL

National Squad Overpowers Stingers

• DAVID MURPHY

The women's hockey team didn't win one game on their Japanese tour this winter break, but looking at the opposition faced, their struggles are understandable.

The Stingers squared off against the Japanese national team, ranked 11th in the world, and came close to beating them.

They tied 1-1, lost 4-0, and then lost again 1-0 in Tokyo, and also played against Japanese club team SEIBU Princess Rabbits, again losing twice (by two goals) and tying once.

But the defeats weren't shrugged off as a case of nothing lost, nothing gained—the team wanted to do better.

"We got down on ourselves because expectations were high," said second-year right-winger Jaymee Shell. "We were representing the whole country against Japan."

Quite literally, the scoreboard read 'Canada' instead of Concordia, so a lot of weight was placed on the girls to perform, which is something coach Les Lawton is proud of the team for handling. The coach was quick to bring up where

the team fell short, though.

"We turned the puck over quite a bit, and they certainly could outskate us," said Lawton. "We didn't play poorly, it was just adjustments we had to deal with."

Adjustments like playing on an international ice surface (which is much wider than a North American rink), the distraction of being abroad in a different country and the pace of the game set by the national team's stringent fitness and conditioning.

"The Japanese team would play a game the night before, practice in the morning, and then run for half the duration of our practice," said Shell of the Japanese women's stamina.

Conditioning, however, isn't the only thing the Japanese team showed the Stingers how to do. On the last night of the trip their opponents took them out for karaoke and, being gracious hosts, they put on an artist with distinctly Quebecois roots—Céline Dion.

"We all sung the theme song to *Titanic*," said Shell. "Everyone was singing along, and we were all motioning with our hands out wide like we were in front of the

boat, like the movie. It was an experience I won't forget."

However, the karaoke probably wasn't the most stereotypical Japanese scenario some of the women faced on their time on the island. On the steps of Tokyo's Imperial Palace, something unusual for the Montrealers—but frightfully all too common for the Japanese—happened: an earthquake struck.

"On the steps one girl felt shaking and we just thought the steps weren't sturdy. But then we went onto the ground and it continued shaking," said Shell of the Jan. 2 quake, which measured 7.0 on the Richter scale. "It just completed our experience. We can now say we survived an earthquake."

Although the team's results were a little shaky in Japan, they learned some on-ice lessons that might be needed in order to survive the playoff race for the national championships.

"I think this trip served as a catalyst for a playoff push," said Shell. "Instead of being home on Christmas break, we played six times and practiced."

In fact, coach Lawton—the winningest

coach in Canadian women's university hockey—is both optimistic and confident heading into the second half of the season.

"The Japanese team would play a game the night before, practice in the morning, and then run for half the duration of our practice,"

—Stingers right winger Jaymee Shell

"It is realistic to win the CIS Championship," said Lawton. "It's really up for grabs, everyone's beating everybody and it's just about someone getting hot."

The Stingers sit 14 points behind first place McGill in the standings and need to finish in the top two to make Nationals.

Their first chance to start getting hot will come this Friday at Loyola when they host McGill, aiming to avenge the 6-2 loss handed to them by the Martlets before the winter break. The puck drops at 7:30 p.m.



DAILY COVERAGE AT
THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Concordia women's basketball team fell just short of glory this holiday season. They had a strong showing at their annual Reebok tournament, defeating the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds and Carleton Ravens, but they couldn't seal the deal, bowing out to the University of Alberta Pandas in the championship game.

BACK TO THE LEAGUE

They did improve their record to 4-0 in league play last Thursday after defeating the UQAM Citadins 74-55, however. The Stingers play them again this Saturday at the Loyola Gym. Tipoff is at 6:00 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Unfortunately, the men couldn't do any better in Halifax at Dalhousie University's 21st annual Rod Shoveller tournament.



ALMOST WINNERS

The Maroon & Gold defeated the host team and the St. Mary's University Huskies before falling to the St. Francis Xavier X-Men in the championship game.

BACK ON TRACK

Once league play resumed Jan. 5, the Stingers improved their undefeated record 4-0 as well with a 73-60 win over UQAM. The two teams will meet again this Saturday at 4:00 p.m. at Loyola.

Ex-Pro Tries to Fill Expos' Void

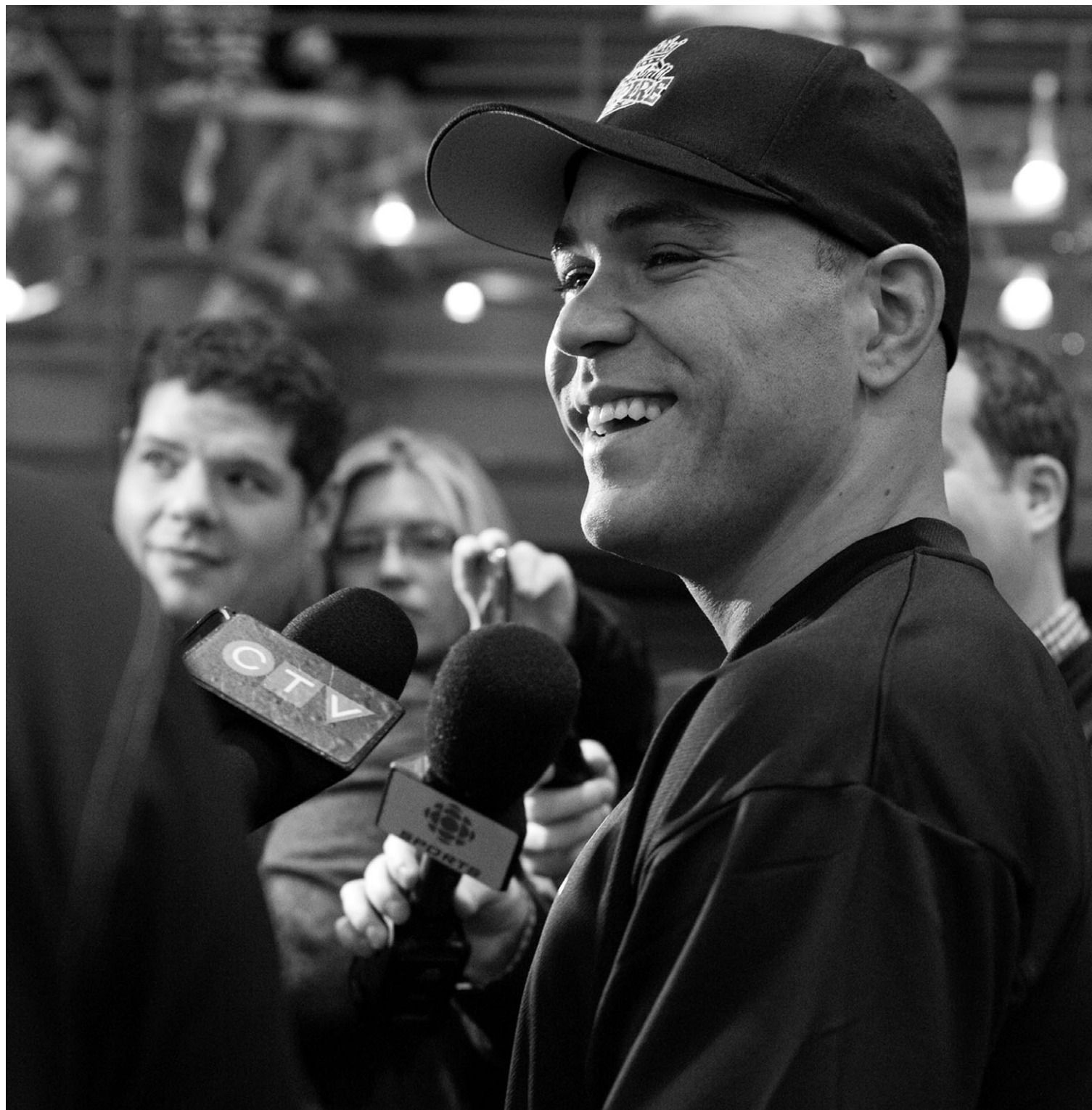


PHOTO AMANDA LAPRADE

Yankee Catcher Returns to Teach Montreal Kids

• DAVID KAUFMANN

On Sept. 29, 2004, the Montreal Expos lost 9-1 at home to the Florida Marlins.

It's been seven years and three months since the last pro baseball game was played in this city, but the sport received a shot in the arm recently thanks to some homegrown talent.

On Friday, the Montreal Canadiens' practice facility in Brossard was taken over by baseball pros and aspiring major-leaguers, as around 160 kids lined the halls of the Bell Sports Complex to learn tips from New York Yankees catcher Russell Martin, who played high school baseball growing up in Montreal.

The event was part of a camp hosted by Baseball Empire, a series of baseball camps directed at every type of player, which intends to aid players aged 7 to 16.

"This is the beginning of something big that may come in the near future," said Josué Peley, one of the camp's instructors, who also plays for High-A Salem, the farm team for Major League Baseball's Boston Red Sox.

The event—founded by Ivan Naccarata, formerly of the Canadian-American Associa-

tion of Professional Baseball League's Quebec Capitals—is meant to bring back to baseball's popularity in Montreal after Expos' departure.

"Baseball Empire is there to make sure the sport doesn't die," said Naccarata. He came up with the idea for doing a camp like this wondering what to do with his passion for coaching during a slow off-season.

"Whenever you're playing professional baseball, there's a period when you're not playing, and sometimes you have to find jobs," said Naccarata. "During the off-season I'll be able to create work for these guys right here," he said, referring to Quebec stars Jonathan Malo and Jean-Luc Blaquière of the New York Mets affiliate AA Binghamton, as well as Peley and other pros.

Naccarata happens to be good friends with ex-Concordia Stinger baseball player Vincent White and he called him up while planning the camp with Martin—the de facto star of the camp.

"We just thought it would be a fun thing to do, to use a bit of my popularity, get some kids together, and teach them some of my knowledge," said Martin.

For last Friday at least, they got the spark

they were looking for, as the camp sold out all of its spots. This is something that White, now communications manager of Baseball Empire, is ecstatic about.

"We got a huge turnout and we're very happy about it," said White, who explained the whole point of this camp is to give back to baseball's youth in Quebec.

One of the campers, Anthony Alluisi, 14, hopes to bolster his baseball skills after attending the event.

"I hope that I'm going to perform and learn something from Martin. [He's] one of my favorite players," said Alluisi. Taking on this camp is something that also pleased his mother, Nancy Crnich. "I think this is a good idea, to apply to this camp, because taking on sports is a good way to stay active," she said.

Thanks to the camp's success, White hopes more events of its kind will follow.

"The whole idea of Baseball Empire is to give a series of camps. We hope to have some in the summertime, and definitely some in the fall and the winter of next year."

For now, they'll have to enjoy the success of this camp that seemed to bring out every young baseball fan in town.

We Can Either Be Good, or We Can Be French

Canadiens Need to Choose Between Winning and Representing Quebecois Identity

• ADAM KOVAC

I was eight years old when I watched Patrick Roy take a victory lap with a large silver bowl hoisted over his head.

Being a young kid who was just beginning to appreciate hockey and, by extension, the Montreal Canadiens, I assumed that this was the kind of thing that happened a lot. The Habs winning the Cup didn't seem extraordinary. Eight-year old logic dictated that since this happened once, it was bound to happen again fairly soon.

That was almost 19 years ago. The hockey fans among you, especially the Montrealers, know my agony.

The Molson family has three goals to meet. It's a given that they're going to make money, so now they have to decide what's more important: culture or winning.

Unfortunately, winning another Stanley Cup isn't the only goal for my team. From what I can tell, there are three distinct things that they have to accomplish—and being champions is the third most important.

Besides winning, the Habs, like all other sports franchises, have to turn a profit. The Montreal Canadiens are a business, fuelled by ticket sales, merchandise, television revenues, etc.

And they're good at it.

Forbes Magazine has estimated the team's value at \$445 million, third in the National Hockey League. As a business, it would be hard to argue that the Habs are not meeting their goals.

But the Canadiens have another unique responsibility that is rare in organized sports: they represent an entire national identity. Or so I'm

told by the media narrative surrounding the weeks-old controversy regarding the hiring of Randy Cunneyworth as the head coach of the team.

For those of you not from Montreal or who simply have their heads in the sand when it comes to puck-related matters, Cunneyworth, an assistant coach, was promoted following the firing of Francophone head coach Jacques Martin on Dec. 17.

He is the first unilingual Anglophone coach in Montreal since Bob Berry in the early '80s. It should be noted that the two most winning coaches in Canadiens history (and arguably the two best coaches of all time), Scotty Bowman and Hector "Toe" Blake, were both Anglophones by birth, though both spoke French as well.

After the hiring, a public outcry erupted. As the coach does almost daily media interviews, it was put forth that Cunneyworth would be unable to communicate with the French media and thus, unable to communicate with the vast majority of Quebecers in their native tongue.

This exploded into more hyperbole, with noted sports columnist Rejean Tremblay saying that the Habs have made a habit of "eradicating" French talent, both in the coaching staff and on the ice, in order to more easily control the team's image in the media.

The rage culminated in a protest outside the Bell Centre on Jan. 7 before a game against the Tampa Bay Lightning. Several hundred people handed out Quebec flags and demanded that the team fire Cunneyworth, sign more French-Canadian players (the notion that those players have to want to play here seems to be foreign to these people), start making goal and penalty announcements only in French, and stop playing English music during breaks.

I'd actually be okay with that last part if it means I never have to hear Nickelback at a Habs game ever again.

Almost no coverage was given

to another pressing issue: Is this the best guy to restore the Habs to their winning ways?

As an Anglophone Montrealer, I understand the role the Canadiens have in the provincial psyche. I've seen *The Rocket*. I know the role of the Richard Riot in inspiring the Quiet Revolution. And I also know that the Habs would not have that kind of presence in the collective consciousness if they weren't the best hockey team of all time. But those days of yearly championships are long gone, and now hockey in Montreal is at a crossroads.

We can either be good, or we can be French. Given that the French-Canadian superstars are staying away due to a combination of high pressure and higher taxes, being both is no longer really an option. Consider the case of Daniel Briere, who signed in Philadelphia for considerably less money than he was offered in Montreal, all for the honor of playing in the city of Brotherly Love (and for the team of Brotherly Douchebags), rather than his home province.

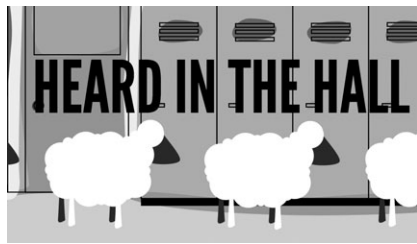
The Molson family has three goals to meet. It's a given that they're going to make money, so now they have to decide what's more important: culture or winning.

As they're businessmen, let me put it this way: what will draw more money from the fans: a Stanley Cup, or French identity? I'd like to say winning brings in the fans, but given what Cunneyworth has been put through, despite a lengthy record of winning in professional hockey (though not at the head coach of an NHL team level), I'm not sure anymore.

It's hard to be the face of a nation. It's harder still to be a consistent championship team. Being both may be impossible. I just hope they let me know what the plan is, so I don't hold my breath waiting for Carey Price to skate across the ice with that sacred chalice over his head, as I remember watching another goalie do almost two decades ago.



GRAPHIC PAKU DAoust-Cloutier



Predictions for 2012

• SANAZ SUNNIE HASSANPOUR

For *The Link's* first issue of 2012 we asked students what their predictions were for this upcoming year. Here is what they said:

"I don't mean to sound pessimistic. I mean, we would all like to think positive for the New Year. However, I have concerns regarding global warming and I predict a chain of natural catastrophes. We've seen it building up over the past couple of years at an exponential rate. It's only going to get worse!"



-Alyssa Joëlle Prieur
B Computer Science

"I don't think there's gonna be anything different. We are just gonna have more civil wars, more corruption in countries. Another war seems like it's gonna come because of the heat between Iran and the States. The corruption that's in these countries is not going to finish—it will increase. So far, in 2011, we had Egypt, Syria, Tunisia..."



-Fadil Tac
BSc Chemistry

"For 2012, I predict that the magnetic caps—the polar caps—are going to switch. North pole is positive now. South pole is negative. This is going to switch."



-Frank Baba
BFA Film Studies

"I don't think we are going to be out of the recession. The government is trying to make people think [that we are going to be out of the recession], but I think that we are pretty much gonna stay in the recession and it might even get worse. The government is trying to motivate people to get back to work."



-Emilien Hiroclides
BComm International Business

"I think the price of products will go up. It will be difficult to find a job. I think the economy is getting better, but still the price of food and accommodation is high. This [high price] is good for some people. But not good for the majority of people."



-Mim Yu
BComm Accountancy

THE TRANSEXUAL GUY

• OLIVER LEON

column 4

"I want to share my transition. I want to write to you about public bathrooms, navigating my name change and taking hormones. I want to tell you about the scary parts, the fun times and share with you the celebrations that come along with transitioning. I want to tell you all of this because I think that it is important that you know about it."

The other day, I took my jeans fresh out of the dryer, put them on, one pant leg at a time, and looked in the mirror. Before me stood the boy that I secretly wanted to be in high school. I'm not sure if I'm exasperated that it took him this long to show up, or pleased that he finally did.

He has—that is, I have—a mere dusting of a flimsy mustache and the faintest of facial hairs breeding on my cheeks. My face looks firmer and a tad more angular.

I have slightly noticeable bicep muscles (as opposed to, y'know, no visible biceps at all, aka privileged university white boy flab). I haven't actually been doing any exercise beyond occasionally juggling.

I explained to my psychologist that pre-testosterone, my emotional landscape was like standing on a hill overlooking the city in a fog. On testosterone, the fog has lifted.

The media perpetuates this idea that American/Canadian/European families are beautiful, happy and loving. They are not.

I don't actually have a roadmap to this city though, and have to check signposts a lot. I get lost in these city streets sometimes, but I'm finding my way. A lot of back alleys that didn't make sense to me now lead me back to Main Street, so to speak. My world just makes more sense.

Hurrah for those injections of testosterone, eh?

Not really.

I have a fear of needles. You can imagine how much that complicates my morning.

Never mind how bloody difficult it is for a grumpy bear like me to get up, but I also have to deal with stabbing a sharp object into my thigh every Wednesday. I reward myself with a lollipop after each injection, just like I'm getting a shot from the doctor.

Okay, maybe not every injection. Sometimes I don't inject at home and do it with a friend, for moral support, and I usually forget to bring the lollipops.

Speaking of rewarding oneself with lollipops, I think I should have eaten at least five after Christmas this year. Does any-

A Very Transsexual Christmas

one else find Christmas boring and superficial? I feel like there was a secret social contract that I forgot to sign somewhere. What exactly am I celebrating with a bunch of blood relatives whom I only see three or four times a year?

As I do with injecting, I used a lot of mantras to get through the holidays. Besides the usual 'You are a good person' and 'It's okay, you can do this,' I wrote down a list of things to remind myself.

It was a handy thing to look at whenever I went to the bathroom, which was often enough because I drank at most of the obligatory family get-togethers. I figure that even if I weren't trans, this would still be pretty crappy. I hardly know these people. Why am I here?

I spent most of the time daydreaming about what my winter holiday celebrations will one day look like instead. They will involve reading old *Doris* zines, watching cheesy '90s movies, scarfing down nachos and drinking spectacularly inventive drinks like screwdrivers.

All of my chosen family and dear friends would be invited, if they could/wanted to get away from their families. Or I could spend it by myself with one or two other people, maybe my hypothetical future partner, too. Or I will be all by myself... and like it!

It is okay to be alone over the holidays. It is okay to not want to go to church, synagogue, etc., to drink in your room reading poetry while ignoring all of your dad's

girlfriend's friends.

I encourage you to get away from the festivities and other familial social interactions by walking your dad's girlfriend's brother's dog to get some fresh air if you need it. Or stalk Facebook, or zone out by playing *Skyrim* on your PS3—assuming you can get away with this, of course. If you can't, I wish you the absolute best of luck.

Birth families are weird and complicated. It's been an enlightening experience for me, realizing that the mythical happy family does not exist. The media perpetuates this idea that American/Canadian/European families are beautiful, happy and loving.

They are not. They are often ugly, complicated and hurtful. Or they are somewhere in the middle, not in a black/white dichotomy, but are rather unpleasant to listen to.

Fortunately, I have my own cell phone so when I was finally able to hide and check my phone on Christmas day, I found four text messages from friends and chosen family sending me love and support. One particular message thoughtfully reminded me of my chosen name—a very grounding sentiment after hearing my birth name for days.

But on New Year's Eve, as the world rolled into 2012, my dad whispered, "Happy New Year's, Oliver," into my ear. Maybe there is some hope for family after all.



Across

- 2. I had a few too many G&T's before a speech to an anti-gay group. "Live free or die," brother. (2 words)
- 3. Rick Perry wanted to get rid of the departments of commerce, education and...
- 4. I share a name with an aquatic amphibian... coincidence?
- 6. Herman Cain's favourite number.
- 7. My name is rumoured to be the namesake for the frothy mix of lube and fecal matter that is sometimes the by-product of anal sex.

- 8. Me and my hair wanted to host a GOP debate, but might just run for the candidacy instead
- 10. The animal that represents the Republican Party despite the fact that it doesn't naturally appear in North America.
- 11. This pizza baron allegedly had a 13-year affair with a non-stripper named Ginger White. (2 words)
- 12. The name of the candidate so boring he didn't make the first cut of this crossword.
- 13. The Huffington Post published a GOP debate drinking game that instructed players to take a sip of beer, a drink that was invented in the year 1947,

- every time Bachmann misquotes this.
- Down
- 1. What the hell does GOP even stand for? (3 words)
- 2. I used to pen racist newsletters, making me the perfect presidential candidate for such a homogenous country. (2 words)
- 5. I was the first Republican president and probably wasn't as anti-gay as Rick Perry.
- 9. Ron Paul says he is the only one in the Democratic party who understands true ____.
- 10. The number of votes that separated Romney from Santorum in the Iowa caucuses.

Internet Access Is a Human Right

• HILARY SINCLAIR – JHR

Using the Internet is not the same as riding a horse.

A recent *New York Times* op-ed piece by the so-called 'Father of the Internet' and President of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Vinton G. Cerf compared the idea of universal Internet access as a human right to the right to own a horse. This is an argument that seems pretty flawed to me.

It's not as ridiculous a comparison as it might sound at first. In many ways, horses can be seen as a technological advance not unlike the Internet—horses represent a mode of transportation effective in getting things from point A to point B, and where the steam engine was an iron horse, the Internet can be seen as a digital horse.

But while these four-legged ungulate mammals enabled people to work, connect ideas and change the way societies functioned, the argument falls apart in other areas.

Horses, while important, did not revolutionize communication to the extent that they changed "virtually every aspect of modern human life," which is how the Internet was described by a United Nations report that called access to it a human right.

The report, which was released in June and was the target of Cerf's editorial, describes the web as a tool that enables individuals to exercise

their right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Naming the Internet a human or civil right, Cerf wrote, "distracts from a much bigger issue: the responsibility of technology creators themselves to support human and civil rights."

It's a strange position for him to take, given that Cerf is fighting a battle for Internet access in Congress.

Along with 82 other Internet pioneers, he has signed a letter to congress in protest of the American Stop Online Piracy Act that, among other potentially content-crippling tenets, would make streaming copyrighted content illegal.

But it seems the proof is in the revolutionary pudding.

Everyone knows about the role of technology in the Arab Spring, without the Internet, it never would have happened.

Cerf argued that "technology is an enabler of rights, not a right itself," but when the enabler becomes by far the most efficient and effective way of exercising that right, doesn't it become a right itself?

France, Spain and Finland have declared Internet access a basic human right, and the rest of the world needs to follow suit. The Internet provides groundbreaking connections that have the power to bring oppressive regimes to their knees. That type of oppression doesn't just exist in places that have wi-fi hotspots.

The UN report states that 71.6 out of 100 people in developed states are Internet users, and that number drops significantly—to 21.1 out of 100—in developing states.

If cutting Internet access can effectively quash widespread communication, the world needs to protect access to it.

Egypt attempted it last January, cutting access to cell phone service and Internet, causing 90 per cent of the country's data traffic to fall off the grid. It was an attempt to cripple protests and, fundamentally, the freedom to peacefully dissent.

If access became a right, the Internet would act as a vehicle for dissent but also a catalyst for change. When extended to remote places, the Internet can enable those in need of aid to share their stories, to save lives. This was the case in Turkey last October when an earthquake buried two teens whose tweets lead to their rescue.

Education is another reason to equip the world with wi-fi. Learning can be facilitated much more effectively when the teacher is available to hundreds of students instead of only a few. Standardized education becomes a possibility leading to the global change that activists have been calling for.

If we don't see Internet access as a human right, we are seriously jeopardizing freedom of expression for future generations to whom the Internet may be the only outlet.



New Year, New Sex—Four Sexual Resolutions

The New Year is here and I've decided to give you readers some Sex & Pancakes resolutions. These aren't your "go to the gym" or "learn how to cook" resolutions. These are resolutions for a sexy new year:

Total Body Sex—Learn It, Live It

Total body sex is the concept that the entire body is capable of giving and receiving pleasure. I interpret this to mean that when having total body sex, no part of the body is off-limits. Regardless of how you identify in terms of orientation, by limiting parts of your body based on that identity you are limiting your potential for sexual pleasure.

For example, a straight man refusing to ever consider any anal-play is missing out on the intense pleasure prostate stimulation can bring.

It also doesn't have to only be identity-related; viewing oral sex and masturbation as nothing more than foreplay or a substitute for penetrative anal or vaginal sex means dismissing their potential to be the main attraction.

This doesn't mean that you can just announce to your partner that you're going to have total body sex with them, and it's not about what you want to do to someone else. It's also not about forcing yourself to do things you know you don't like.

It's about allowing yourself to explore your own body without thinking about the societal norms and restrictions that have been placed on it.

Change It Up

Pick at least one sex act or sex-related thing you've never done, solo or with a partner and do it. Repeat as many times as possible!

Trying something different can easily make you feel like a virgin again. Sure, that uncertainty can be a little intimidating, but the excitement is pretty much always worth it.

Trying something different will mean different things to different people. It could be finally letting someone go down on you, having sex in a public place, or even giving fisting a try. However small or big the acts, the significance is different depending on your personal comfort, so only you can really pick the act for yourself.

Back to Basics

This year, remember the basics: condoms, dental dams, and mutual respect. STIs are really on the rise and youth under 25 years old are the most at risk. So show respect for yourself and your partners by getting tested—even if you're 'sure,' and disclosing what you already know about your sexual health.

If you have a vagina, this is your reminder to get your pap test and get screened for HPV, because 75 per cent of Canadians will have at least one HPV infection in their lifetime. Sex is a lot more fun when it's safe.

Contact Concordia Health Services (514-848-2424, extension 3565), Head & Hands (514-481-0277) or Clinique L'actuel (514-524-1001) to get tested. You can also contact Info-Santé for more resources, to locate your local CLSC or for immediate answers to questions by dialing 811 from any Quebec phone line.

There Is No Normal

Let go of the idea that you are normal or abnormal, because there's no normal sex life, turn-on, pussy, dick—no normal anything. We're all different and sexuality is no exception, but that's really part of the fun and beauty—so embrace it!

For 2012, I wish you all tons of fun and sexy experiences and if ever you need some guidance you can find me at sex-pancakes.tumblr.com or on Facebook under "Sex & Pancakes." Happy New Year and semester!

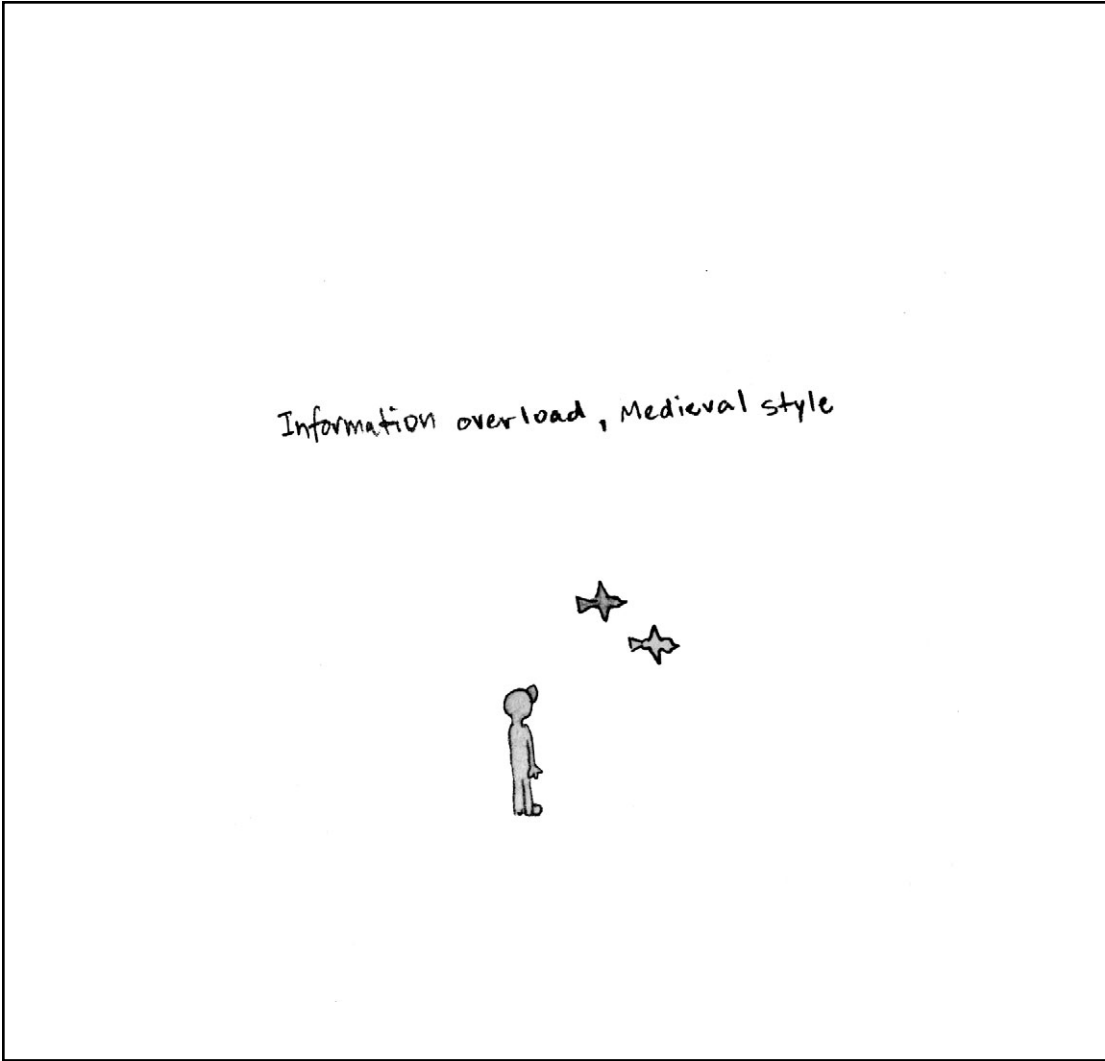
—Melissa Fuller

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

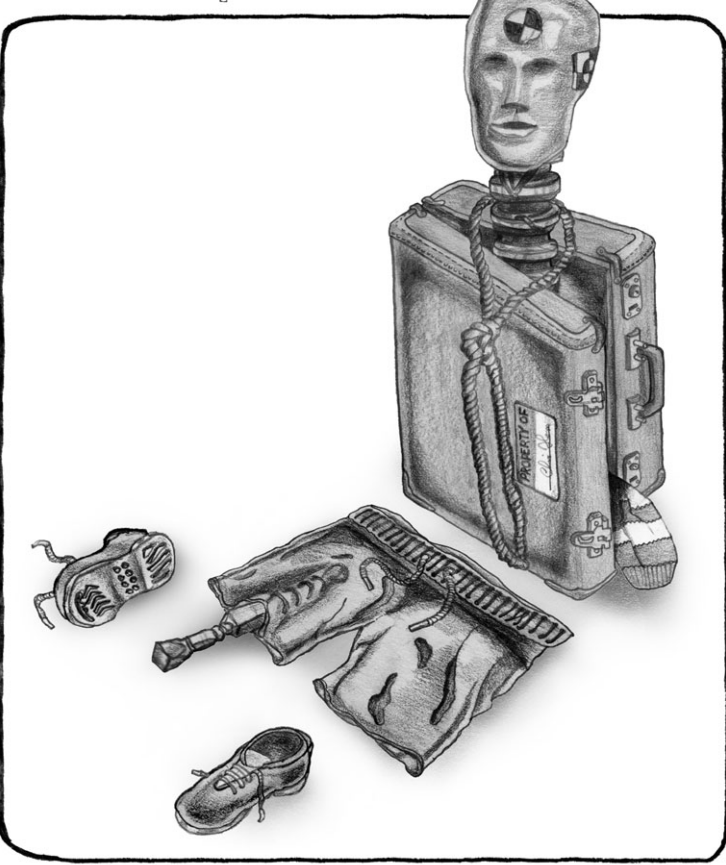
False Knees COMIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



Barton Flats COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



Tremendous Tales by Christopher Olson



"It's a clever forgery, but not nearly clever enough," said the appraiser. "In addition to having a pulse, human beings typically pass the 'got your nose' test."

Nah'msayin?

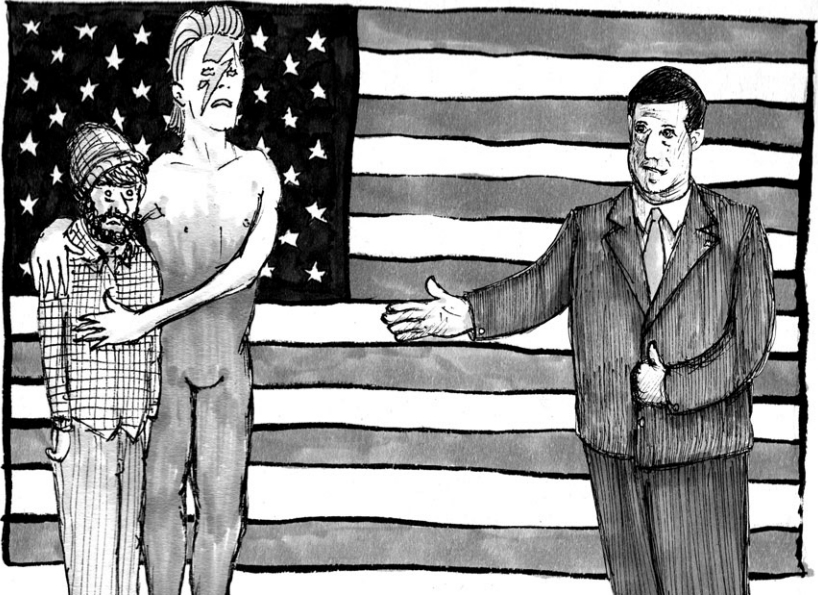
Political Maneuvering

Much like David Bowie, I'm afraid of Americans. Well, not afraid of them individually. Most of them are really nice. And while I'm not exactly a shining example of musculature, I have watched a lot of hockey fights, and figure I could beat up most of them if I get their shirts over their heads quick enough. I'm afraid of American elections, though, because they have this weird way of making me care about something that, objectively, I shouldn't care about. It's like watching a horse race that I haven't bet on. And much as I like watching short people on animals (it's a lot like watching that YouTube video of a monkey riding a pig

while squinting), I get nothing out of it. So why do I care? Oh right. It's because Jon Stewart is so much funnier than Rick Mercer. Well, if I'm gonna base my interest on humour, let me be the first to endorse Rick Frothy Mixture of Lube and Fecal Matter That Is Sometimes the By-Product of Anal Sex for American President 2012. I don't know who he'd pick as a running mate, but I can only hope he'll go across the aisle and tag up with John Boehner. Or maybe the time is ripe for Jeb Bush to get in on the action... USA! USA! USA!

— Adam Kovac
Current Affairs Editor

GRAPHIC JOSHUA BARKMAN



The Man Behind The Curtain (has no clothes)

editorial

This year is set to be full of headlines and blog links clogged with mudslinging and giddy political punditry from our neighbours to the south, as we enter the ever-important election year where every politician's every move is designated newsworthy.

And while it's fun to watch a ballsy libertarian butt heads with a raging homophobe and a moderate Mormon that nobody wants (even with that pray-the-gay-away lady and the lecherous pizza mogul out of the game), it's important not to let GOP theatrics distract from issues closer to home.

Unlike their Commander-in-Chief, our Prime Minister has quite a dominating force over the legislature. Stephen Harper holds the kind of sway in his government that Obama could only dream of, with a House

majority and political alignment with the Senate, further solidified with seven new appointments by Harper last week.

The 'Safer Streets Act,' also known as that omnibus bill full of policy shot down when the Liberals were still the Opposition, was passed by the House of Commons before the holiday break and is expected to become law before the snow melts.

Those calling for prison reform and mental health advocates lose political legs to stand on when the party with the ultimate deciding power has declined to listen, and Harper certainly isn't afraid to make use of the opportunity presented to him.

So what are we given for the next four years? There's an ideology at the helm that hasn't seen this clout and unity in decades.

We're seeing a political dynamic in Canada that is unprecedented; not only is this the first majority government elected since the days of Jean Chrétien, but it's the first right-wing majority anyone alive will remember that doesn't have to toe the line with Quebec.

We're left with a government that will spend \$7.5 million to celebrate the Queen's queendom while doing little more than auditing and third-party management over a Canadian First Nations community in a state of emergency; a government that seems to only focus on job creation if it caters to big business or oil enrichment.

We, the youth who shall inherit this country, need to stay aware of government maneuvering, arguably more so given the speed with

which bills can be passed and our current Parliament.

The new Opposition is in its formative stage, an exciting time where us youngsters can bring ideas that old political dogs might brush off as idealistic or revolutionary.

Though we may not have the teams of writers standing behind highly paid pundits to provide us with entertaining cynicism with which to consume the news, this is *our* future. We're the ones who will have to deal with long-term issues repeatedly brushed under the big blue carpet.

Four years is a long time, but it's our responsibility to stay informed as to what's happening under our noses.

— Colin Harris
Fringe Arts Editor

editorial cartoon



ISSUE 15 CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

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THE LiNK
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