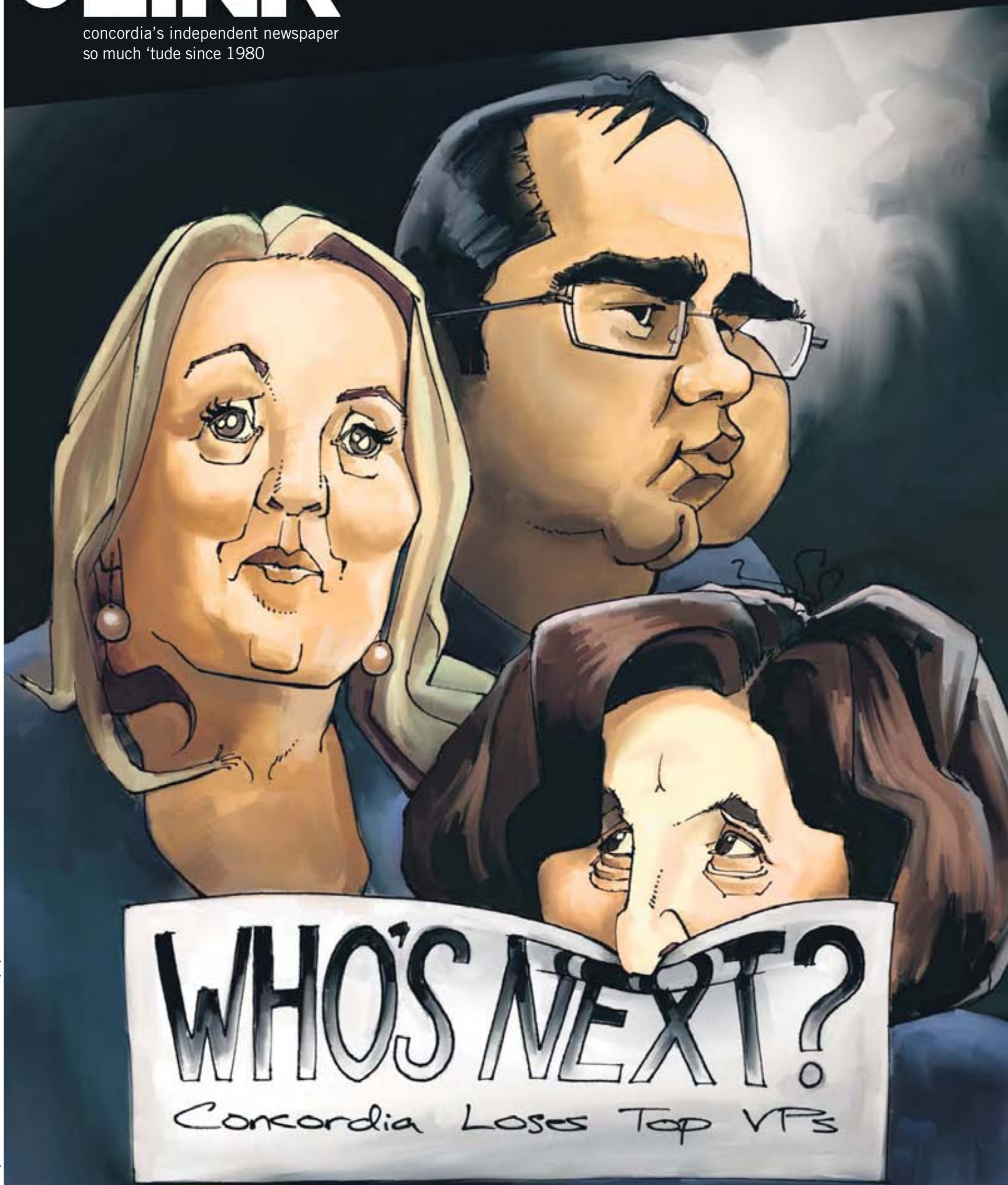


THE

LiNK

concordia's independent newspaper
so much 'tude since 1980



Questions Loom After Di Grappa and Assayag Quit • News 3

NEWS

POLICE SHOOTING: CORONER'S INQUEST CONTINUES

PAGE 3

Concordia President
Judy WoodsworthOutgoing VP Services
Michael Di GrappaFormer VP Alumni
Kathy Assayag

GRAPHICS DAVID BARLOW-KRELINA

Room at the Top

Two of Concordia's Top VPs Quit Within A Month

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

After 24 years at Concordia, VP Services Michael Di Grappa, the architect of the university's rebranding in the 21st century, announced on Sept. 29 that he would be stepping down from his position at the end of October.

Serving as VP Services since March 2000, with a stint as acting president from 2007 to 2008, Di Grappa leaves behind a controversial legacy. His departure also comes at an unfortunate time for the university, less than a month after VP Advancement and Alumni Relations Kathy Assayag quit on Sept. 8.

Both VPs were widely believed to be the two most powerful people at Concordia after President Judith Woodsworth.

"It must have been a very difficult decision for him to take, but normally when a decision of this magnitude is taken, we hear about it a week before. We heard nothing until the day of," said Amine Dabchy, who represents undergraduate students on Concordia's Board of Governors. "It was a shock to

everyone."

At the meeting of Concordia's board on Sept. 30, Di Grappa's departure was not mentioned once during open session. President Woodsworth said nothing about the loss of her number two, despite the fact that he was sitting across from her.

The board meeting started in closed session and remained closed for over an hour. During the open session that followed, Patricia Saputo, who sits as an independent governor, alluded to the closed session and stated that Assayag's vacated position was discussed.

Assayag cited personal reasons for quitting her position, though she was a board favourite, winning six major awards for her department. Assayag also made the Faubourg Tower, home of alumni relations, the centre of Concordia's financial future.

During an interview with *The Link* in September, Woodsworth reiterated her belief that greater alumni donations were expected to help alleviate the need for higher tuition.

After the meeting, some board

members expressed concern with the departure of both VPs.

"Di Grappa's sudden departure raises some concern and it is weird that it was not discussed," said Concordia Student Union President Heather Lucas. "It's interesting that two executives have left in such a short amount of time."

The two departures, but especially that of Di Grappa—who will become McGill's Vice-Principal Administration and Finance—will leave a large hole in Concordia's senior administration.

Responsible for the more than \$500 million building program that has transformed the university's two campuses, Di Grappa was also responsible for rewriting most of Concordia's policies after the September 2002 Netanyahu protests that shook the university.

Di Grappa signed Concordia's contract with food services company Chartwells in 2002, shut down Concordia's copy services in 2006 and was the only public member of the university's secretive Risk Assessment Committee, an organization inside the university's security department responsible for vetting

on-campus events.

In 2007, the Quebec labour board ordered Di Grappa to stop interfering in negotiations with the university's support staff union.

"Even if we disagreed with him on some points, on Chartwells and his opposition to the water bottle ban, he was someone who was very open," said Dabchy. "That is something that is very rare in senior administration."

Over the course of his two-and-a-half decades at Concordia, Di Grappa has often dealt directly with student reactions to some of his more contentious decisions.

Three weeks ago, Di Grappa defended the university's new public space policy, VPS-24, in the pages of *The Link*.

Di Grappa was heavily criticized for transforming the mezzanine—the longtime seat of student activism—into a sleepy student lounge in 2006. Many students objected to the takeover, but Di Grappa claimed the services department was responding to student demands.

After creating so much change at Concordia, Di Grappa, a graduate of Concordia's School of Community

and Public Affairs in 1984, had to leave the university where he spent more than half his life.

"It was time for him to take on a new challenge," said Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota. "He's a young man, he's under 50 years old, and the only higher position for him was president, and that's not a possibility for the foreseeable future."

While Di Grappa and Assayag might be gone from Concordia by the end of the month, the situation surrounding their departures may continue until the next board meeting in December.

"I think that this is going to be an ongoing issue that the board will have to look at," said Lucas, who added that she was in favour of the board examining the departures.

Roger Côté, the associate VP Enrollment and Student Services, will serve as acting VP Services until a board search committee can find a replacement for Di Grappa.

Dominique McCaughey, the Principal Director for Special Initiatives, Advancement and Alumni Relations, will serve as Acting VP Advancement and Alumni Relations until a replacement is found.

Cooler Heads Prevail

Fine Arts Co-Presidents Reach Compromise With Council

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

The co-presidents of the Fine Arts Student Alliance narrowly avoided being recalled to election at the alliance's first council meeting on Oct. 4.

Two weeks earlier, the presidents of the Cinema Student Association and the Dance Student Association submitted a letter to FASA's executive, requesting the meeting's agenda be modified to include a vote that would have council decide whether the alliance's co-

presidents, Paisley Sim and Neal Moignard, should be recalled.

A few hours into the meeting, CSA President Adam West made a presentation denouncing the co-presidents as "elitist" and "dictatorial" over their firing of former VP Finance Laura Glover, who was hired in April.

West also expressed concerns over an e-mail sent to him by Moignard, in which the co-president accused the CSA and DSA of "total incompetence" and allegedly threatened to pull the associations'

funding. West's speech was met with roaring applause.

West, DSA President Andy Philipowich and other FASA councillors claimed that Glover's termination violated Article 11, Section 1 of the FASA constitution, which states, "the President, Vice-Presidents and Councilors may be recalled to election by two-thirds of sitting Councilors." The controversy arose because the constitution has no provisions for terminating an employee with the title "Vice-President."

The co-presidents argued that Glover was a hired employee of FASA and therefore not bound to its constitution. Both parties and most councillors in attendance agreed that the constitution would need major amendments to avoid any similar situation in the future.

The meeting's rhetoric cooled dramatically when West withdrew the motion to recall Sim and Moignard.

"We managed to reach a compromise that made everyone happy," said West. "FASA will be is-

suing monthly reports on their finances which is something [the CSA] really wanted."

In the end Glover officially resigned as VP Finance, the co-presidents agreed to issue her a letter of apology and a committee was formed to revise FASA's constitution. The committee will include Glover, current VP Finance Julie Johnston and three FASA councillors.

"The meeting clarified a lot," said Sim. "We're headed in the right direction."

Reining in Development

Parc Ex Residents Want New UdeM Campus to Include Social Housing



A 2007 mockup of what the Université de Montréal's new campus would look like. The \$1 billion project could drive up the demand for housing and rent in Parc Ex. PHOTO NICOLAS MARCHILDON

• JOSEPH STE. MARIE

Citizens of Parc Extension are calling for more social housing to be included in a \$1 billion development project that borders the Montreal neighbourhood.

Four years after purchasing the abandoned Outremont train yards, l'Université de Montréal decided to greenlight the site for a new campus for the university that will accommodate 12,000 more students and employees and cost over \$1 billion.

Residents north of the future campus in Parc Extension fear

that if there isn't enough affordable housing for students in the plans, demand for apartments in the area will rise and drive up the cost of rent, pushing away longtime residents and immigrant families.

On Oct. 2, the Comité d'action de Parc Extension held a corn roast at Athena Park on Jean Talon Street to discuss the project and demand the city preserve affordable living in the neighbourhood.

Andre Trépanier, a CAPE committee worker, acknowledged that the organization can't stop the

project from happening, but said the hope is that the corn roast will get teachers and students at L'Université de Montréal to put pressure on the city and the university to protect social housing in the district.

Park Extension City Councilor Mary Deros also attended the corn roast. She said she isn't convinced the project will affect the area as much as CAPE fears because the UdeM Outremont campus will include 1,000 student-housing units. However the councillor noted that social housing must be preserved.

Deros stressed the fact that the Villeray-Saint Michel-Parc Extension borough has developed more affordable units than any other borough in the city. As for building more units in the future, Deros said that "there's no real estate available unless they purchase an existing building, renovate it and transform it into a social housing unit."

Also during the corn roast, an announcement was made about a community café under development that will be called Café Artère.

Café Artère will be a non-profit

cultural café that will be owned and operated by the community. It will include a gathering space for emerging artists and a workspace featuring free wireless Internet.

Sacha Dyke, who is involved in the project, got the idea from his neighbours who felt Parc Ex needs a cultural space.

"We want a place that says yes to community cafes that are non-profit, want to say yes to non-profit social housing, we want to say yes to development, but development that comes from us and that reflects our values and concerns."

This Is a Soul

Dr. Rick Hodes Speaks about Curing Disease in Ethiopia

• MEAGAN WOHLBERG

When it comes to mending a human body, medical practitioners tend to focus on biology for answers. But for Dr. Rick Hodes, who has spent the last 22 years curing sick Ethiopian children, what begins the healing practice is the recognition that each patient is a soul.

Hodes, the Medical Director for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Ethiopia, ad-

ressed a crowd of 250 at the annual AbitibiBowater lecture at Concordia on Sept. 28. The series of photos and stories, called "This is a Soul: From Sickness to Healing in Africa," told how his personal life and medical practice in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia became permanently intersected.

His first spine disease patients were Dejene and Semegnew, whose backs were extremely deformed by tuberculosis—a condition that afflicts hundreds of

thousands of Ethiopians. "I had this idea that if I adopted them, I could add them to my health insurance and get them surgery that way," said Hodes.

"So, I thought, do I really want that much permanence in my life? I could save their lives, but then I'd be their dad," he said. "Suddenly the answer came to me. It was: 'the Almighty is offering you a chance to help these guys. Don't say no.' And so I said okay."

Hodes adopted Dejene and Se-

megnew and has taken in at least 20 more children during his time in Ethiopia. Though crucial to saving those lives, Hodes soon realized that "serial adoption is not the answer to spine disease."

Hodes eventually set up networks with doctors in Ghana, India and the Netherlands to save tens of thousands of Africans with spine and heart diseases, cancer and other illnesses. In a place where there are two thousand doctors for 80 million people, the impact he is

making has been significant.

The focus of a new book called *This is a Soul: The Mission of Rick Hodes* and the documentary *Making the Crooked Straight*, Hodes accredits his work to his spirituality.

"It says in the Talmud that 'He who saves one life saves an entire world,'" Hodes says in *Making the Crooked Straight*. "Every time I help one kid and I straighten out their back and their life... for me this is saving a world."

Cutting the Board

Concordia's Board of Governors Proposes Slashing Its Size

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Tensions were visible as Concordia's Board of Governors, the university's highest governing body, debated cutting 26 of its 40 seats during the board's first meeting of the academic year on Sept. 30.

"Big is not necessarily more beautiful," said Rita Le de Santis, a lawyer who sits on the board as an independent member. "Bigger boards are often less efficient, bigger boards are lesser performing and bigger boards have fewer engaged persons."

Written by an ad hoc committee of nine board members, the reform proposal calls for a 24-person board with 16 members from the community and eight from the university.

Students would see their representation cut in half, as only two undergraduates and one graduate would sit on the smaller body.

Despite the heavy cut to student representation, the university's faculty would fare worse. Four of the six faculty members sitting on the board would be cut, while a representative for the part-time faculty would be added.

"There are close to a thousand professors at the university," said Johanne Sloan, a professor of art history. "I would like to remind



Student representation on Concordia's Board of Governor's could be cut in half, while faculty would see four of their six board representatives cut. PHOTO CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

you what we do, which is teaching, which is research, which is a tremendous amount of administration that we are responsible for.

"It's not like we are doing something separate from running the university."

Representing fine arts students on the board, Sloan raised her concern that her faculty might not have representation on the new

board. While Concordia's four faculties are represented on the current board, only two would retain a voice under the reform.

"You need to remember that without the faculty this place is a collection of fancy buildings and 45,000 individuals looking for an education," said Shimon Amir, a professor of psychology. "The faculty is the heart of the university."

Representatives from each of the interests on the board moved to defend their positions.

"The alumni represents 160,000 people, so our constituency is not a small constituency, and also, you said teachers are important to the university, well without the alumni you don't have the building you are sitting in now," responded

Robert Barnes, a representative for the Sir George Williams Alumni Association.

The proposed change to the university's governance comes at the prompting of the Quebec government.

Tabled in the National Assembly on June 16, 2009, Bill 38 would reduce the size of the boards of Quebec's universities to between 13 to 25 members with at least 60 per cent external members and 25 per cent university members.

Despite all the talk in the board, the possibility of Bill 38 being passed over the next year is small.

"My understanding from a source close to the premier is that 38 is not only on ice, but on a very thick piece of ice," said Peter Stoett, a professor of political science. "The likelihood of it being introduced over the next year is slim."

Stoett asked if the reform was being introduced as a contingency for Bill 38 or as a change independent of the government.

"We propose that the board consider these reforms whether or not the bill becomes law," said de Santis as she presented the committee's proposal.

Debate on the reform package is set to continue at the next board meeting on Dec. 9, 2010.

Concordia Inks New Ad Deal

Up to 30 New Digital Screens in Bathrooms Across Campus

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Expect more advertising on campus after Concordia signed a new ad contract in early September with a consortium of three firms.

While the number of backlit boards on campus—the main form of advertising until recently—will not change, the consortium will add new plasma screens around both campuses, digital ads in bathrooms and banners in high-traffic areas.

Composed of Montreal-based MU Media and UB Media, as well as a larger national firm, Rouge Media, each member of the ad consortium specializes in a different aspect of the contract.

Students seeing new backlit boards on campus shouldn't worry about new ads, according to Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota.

"The number hasn't changed, but they may move some of them around," she said of the 32 existing ads.

"Where there is a change is in the bathroom," said Mota of 30 new digital ads. "It's a small digital screen that is motion-sensor

activated, so if no one is going through the bathroom the screen will be dark. Only when someone walks in front of it will the screen put up a message."

According to UB Media, the 50 cm digital screens play HD video and are effective at "ensuring your message finds its way to the elusive young and active demographic, who watches less TV and skips more ads than ever."

Not all students are happy about the new ads.

"The ads that are being displayed on campus and these new developments are symptomatic of the fact that the university is being underfunded by the government," said Gonzalo Nieto, an executive at überculture.

"But the university's solution to make more money is to exploit the students who are already paying to attend the university."

While ads in bathrooms are already found at Concordia and are common in public restrooms, Nieto was troubled by how intrusive the new ads are.

"We have advertising in the hallways, but these new motion-activated bathroom ads raise the

issue of where we can not be advertised to," said Nieto. "Will they advertise in our classrooms during class, will they print ads in textbooks? There doesn't seem to be a clear line where they will stop."

The contract with the consortium has benefits for the entire university, according to Mota. Concordia will be provided with ad space off-campus and in other markets, while students will now have new internship possibilities and the companies will provide student aid money.

The installation of more ads, including the digital screens, will be rolled out over the next month. Four large banners have already been installed by Rouge Media in the EV and LB buildings; the university's goal is to have 15 at both the Loyola and downtown campus.

Concordia could not make the details of the ad contract known, including its value to the university.

"It's good business," said Mota. "The university is trying to get the best value and if we go public with that information it might hurt our suppliers."



Concordia support staff installs a new advertisement in the university's Hall Building. PHOTO CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Suncor Oil Spills Into St. Lawrence River

Thirty-Five Barrels of Oil Leak From East Montreal Refinery



Lights from the Suncor refinery are reflected in floating pools of diesel. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

• JASMINE PAPILLON-SMITH

Thousands of litres of oil spilled into the St. Lawrence River from the Suncor-Petro Canada refinery at Marien Avenue and Notre Dame Street on Sept. 28, but the source of the leak remains unknown.

The oil company, along with Environment Canada, was able to recover 30 of the 35 barrels, leaving five in the river. According to Environment Canada, there will be no lasting damage to the St. Lawrence's wildlife.

"[On Sept. 30], I went on a boat to look at the shorelines in the Ste-Thérèse Islands," said Frederic Gauthier, Senior Emergency Officer

at Environment Canada. "I was able to see a sheen in some parts, but it is a very light sheen on the surface; the quantities are very low."

A small amount of oil continues to trickle into the river.

"All the [oil] transfers [through] the pipes have been stopped," said Gauthier. "What is going into the St. Lawrence right now is a small quantity of oil leaking from the ground, but [Suncor] is able to control it."

The Montreal Fire Department was notified around 9:00 p.m. on Sept. 28 after local residents contacted them about a strong chemical smell. Suncor is undertaking an investigation to determine where the

leak emanated from, but as of yet the company has provided no definitive answers.

"Oil leaks are not a matter of if, but when," said Cameron Fenton, who works for activist group Climate Justice Montreal. "Whatever the reason [for the leak], be it human error, mechanical failure, or lack of upkeep, the only way that fossil fuel spills can be avoided is by stopping the extraction of the product; stopping the refinement and moving our energy production and consumption beyond fossil fuel dependency."

The real concern for Climate Justice Montreal, however, is Sun-

cor's plan to bring tar sands bitumen to be refined in Montreal. The effect of 35 barrels of light diesel oil in the river pales in comparison to spilling the same amount of tar sands oil.

"Suncor is one of the oldest companies that have been involved in tar sands extractions and continuing operations," said Fenton. "Any company ready to willfully poison eco-communities, all along the Mackenzie and the Delta River basin, [...] is obviously willing to mortgage human health for profit."

Jet boating company, Saute Mountons, was not affected by the oil spill, since their main commerce

area is situated upstream from the spill. Had they been downstream from the spill, things would have been different.

Andrew Soltysik, Saute Mountons General Manager, said, "Many people take their drinking water from the St. Lawrence. If people can't drink the water, then I don't think they'll be too concerned about not jet boating on the rapids."

The leak happened two days after Suncor announced its first successful recovery of an oil sands tailings pond, a billion dollar project aimed at restoring the environmental damage caused by tar sands oil extraction.

Grad Students Protest Tuition Increases

Fees Have Jumped as Much as 63 Per Cent Since 2009

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Braving the early morning rain and cold, 25 graduate students marched outside of Concordia University's MB Building on Sept. 30 to protest tuition hikes for international students.

In May 2009, Concordia's Board of Governors voted for a dramatic increase in international students' tuition. Graduate Students attending John Molson School of Business saw their bill jump by 50 per cent without any kind of warning from the university's administration.

"The rise in tuition was an incredible shock," said Mahmood Salehi, who came to Concordia from Iran to earn his Masters of Business Administration. "You put a certain amount of money aside and then you find out it isn't enough. It was awful."

After the board voted to in-



Students protest as ConU's Board of Governors meet. PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

crease international graduate students' tuition again in the summer of 2010, Salehi now pays 63 per cent more than he would have just 17 months ago.

On Sept. 30, while protesters chanted slogans and waved placards, Graduate Student Association President Adnan Abueid presented two motions to Concor-

dia's board.

Abueid demanded that international students be refunded for the unannounced increases, that the university account for where the additional tuition money goes, and that Concordia restructure its tuition payment model to spread payments out into smaller sums.

Abueid's motions were sup-

ported with a 2,700-signature petition but he received little support from the board as only a handful of its 40 members voted in favour of them.

"[The board] pretty much brushed it aside," said Abueid.

During the board meeting, protesters made their way to the MB building's fifth floor and chanted at board members through the conference room's glass doors. A few minutes later the crowd exited the MB building and resumed their demonstration outside.

Although Concordia's administration has largely ignored the GSA's demands, former GSA vice president Erik Chevrier said the student movement has achieved at least one small victory.

"The administration has given us until Aug. 31, 2011 to pay for our tuition without penalty," he said. "So they're listening—but we still have a ways to go."

In May, while the university hosted an international academic summit, Chevrier helped grad students stage protests and town hall meetings outside Concordia. Chevrier also helped launch the \$1 campaign in September, encouraging students to pay just one dollar towards their tuition fees by the Sept. 30 payment deadline.

"We've consulted with the students for all these decisions," said Chevrier. "So where we go from here depends entirely on what they want to do."

Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota said the university does not plan on making any additional concessions to graduate or international students.

"All I can say is that students that are worried about their tuition should visit Student Accounts," said Mota. "What I'm hearing is that they go there worried and they come out relieved."



Überculture wants to use the Really Really Free Market to launch a space where students can give and take whatever they want seven days a week. PHOTOS CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

The Hand of the Really Really Free Market

Überculture Organizes Swap Meet Where Students Give/Take Whatever They Want

• ALESSIA FAUSTINI

Überculture wants you to give what you can and take what you need.

On Sept. 30, überculture—a student-run organization that resists commercialization—held a Really Really Free Market on the 7th floor of Concordia's Hall Building, allowing students to trade their discarded possessions in celebration of sustainable consumerism.

While students were encouraged to bring their old products to the market rather than just taking free things, Nicola Kinley, a Concordia graduate of the communications program and the former VP Campaigns for überculture, said that the beauty of the free market is that it does not absolutely need to be a trade.

"The swap is just a suggestion, really, it's more about the act of giving than anything else," Kinley said. "It's a stigma-free place for

giving and taking, so people can come and have not brought anything and still take as much as they want, or people can donate two bags of stuff and then leave right away.

"The first time we did it people were bringing clothes," she continued. "The second time we did it people were bringing more abstract things like pieces of fabric or dishcloths. Today someone brought a toaster oven, a huge corkboard and tons of shoes. We've had a huge turnout."

Due to the success of the Sept. 30 event, überculture plans to have another free market tentatively slated for October, as well as one in November to celebrate Buy Nothing Day.

However, according to Kinley, the ultimate goal for überculture by the end of the year is "to obtain a location to have a free store that would be open week long for students to leave stuff and take stuff."

Justice for Anas

Inquest into 2005 Police Shooting Continues

• RAY CORKUM

The coroner's inquiry into the death of Mohamed Anas Bennis will resume despite efforts by the Montreal Police Brotherhood to have the case closed.

A coalition called Justice for Anas hailed the decision "an overdue victory" in their five-year struggle to open an impartial investigation into Bennis' shooting death.

Bennis was shot and killed the morning of Dec. 1, 2005 in Côte-Des-Neiges by officer Yannick Bernier of the Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal. Bennis, a Canadian of Moroccan descent, was returning home from his mosque when he encountered Bernier and another officer, Jonathan Roy.

According to police reports, Bennis, without provocation, produced a kitchen knife and attacked the officers, wounding Bernier on the throat and leg. Bernier then fired two shots, fatally wounding Bennis.

The family rejected this version of the story. His sister, Najlaa Bennis issued an editorial in *The Gazette* emphasizing the soft-spoken character of her brother.

"It was completely out of character that suddenly, one morning, my brother would attack a police

officer, or anyone, with a knife after his morning prayers, just steps away from his house."

Bennis, a devout Muslim, was wearing his skull-cap and djellaba—a traditional Islamic robe—when he encountered the officers. Bernier and Roy were en route to participate in "Operation Glory," a joint effort between the Quebec and Montreal Police forces along with the RCMP.

"Operation Glory" was investigating an Algerian group thought to have ties to international terrorism.

The fact that this recognizably Muslim man was killed in the midst of a police operation targeting "terrorists" has led many to question whether racial profiling played a role in this case.

Sergeant Ian LaFreniere of the SPVM would not discuss the matter with reporters, saying only, "In Montréal we are one of the first [police] services to issue a policy to make sure there would be no racial profiling. That's the reason we don't comment on that case."

The Quebec City Police were charged with investigating the case due to policy of the Public Security Ministry, which forbids any police force from investigating itself in the case of civilian death or injury.

It is also policy that any findings of the investigation are not to be made public, unless an accusation

is made. Results are reported to the crown prosecutor, the coroner and the police ethics commission. Provincial law forbids the release of information that would identify confidential sources, divulge working methods of the police, cause prejudice against anyone involved or deter due process in court.

As a result, several key pieces of evidence remain unavailable and questions remain unanswered. The kitchen knife has never been produced for the public. A closed circuit camera, which potentially recorded the incident, was never introduced as evidence. Photographs of officer Bernier's wounds also remain confidential.

In 2007, Quebec City Police concluded that no accusations would be laid. The Montreal Police Brotherhood moved to have all further investigations closed, claiming they were a waste of taxpayer money.

Francois DuCanel of Justice for Anas condemns the inquiry and the bureaucracy of police policy in Quebec.

"The police say there were inquiries performed," said DuCanel. "But they're talking about the Quebec City police inquiry, and we know that the police investigating police is not a legitimate investigation."

Ceding to pressure from social

justice groups and the Bennis family, further investigations were ordered by Quebec City Chief Coroner Louise Nolet in 2008. Over the next two years, Montreal's Police Brotherhood made several attempts to have the investigation quashed, saying the further inquiry was "useless" and criticizing the "procedural overzealousness" of the coroner's office.

Pierre-Yves Boisvert, lawyer for the city of Montreal and legal representative to the Brotherhood, also expressed disdain for the continued struggle of the Bennis family, likening it to the misbehavior of a child.

DuCanel has taken exception to Boisvert's rhetoric.

"We have to sit there and listen to him say insulting things about us," said DuCanel. "He says, 'just because they don't like the answer they keep asking, like my daughter, when I tell her no she doesn't want to understand that.' This man does not represent the city of Montreal, just it's police."

Pierre-Yves Boisvert declined to comment on the reinstated inquiry.

Justice for Anas, in collaboration with a number of social justice and civil rights groups, will hold a candlelight vigil outside of the Montreal Police Brotherhood Oct. 22.

"It was completely out of character that suddenly, one morning, my brother would attack a police officer, or anyone, with a knife after his morning prayers, just steps away from his house,"

—Najlaa Bennis,
Sister of Mohamed
Anas Bennis

The Hive Café Within Reach

Student Union says Student Run Café Coming Soon



Concordia Student Union VP Loyola & Advocacy Hassan Abdullahi stands at the site of the forthcoming Hive Café. PHOTO CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

With the expansion of the Loyola Luncheon just a few weeks away from completion, Concordia Student Union executives are looking beyond their slate's campaign promises to develop a sustainable student run café at Loyola Campus.

Later this month, support staff will wrap up construction on an \$80,000 overhaul of Concordia's The Hive. An industrial sized oven, stove and dishwasher will be added to The Hive's kitchen, which has seen its overall space double since renovation began earlier this year.

The expansion of the Loyola Luncheon—a five-day-a-week serv-

ice that provides vegetarian lunches to students at Loyola Campus and will operate out of The Hive—has provided the CSU with an opportunity to launch a student run café that aims to be profitable, have fair labour practices and is sustainable.

"The idea to have a café in The Hive has been around for a long time," said Alex Oster, former CSU VP Sustainability and Projects. "[In 2010] CUSACorp [the CSU's for profit arm] suggested we get Tim Horton's or Java U to set up a franchise in The Hive. That irked me, I thought we could do so much better."

Shortly into his mandate, Oster began developing a plan to turn the

space into a café that would buy locally produced food but also serve as a learning tool for students.

Sustainable Concordia's Cameron Stiff chipped in by coordinating the Food Systems Program, a group of five student interns that measured the environmental impact of the café and drafted a business plan to present to the CSU.

"Nobody at Concordia had ever been doing the kind of guided and channeled research [Stiff] was doing with the interns," said Oster. "They developed a plan that made it so that business students could come and learn how to run a business at the café, a space where human geography students could

learn how space and place affects what you consider to be the campus."

CSU VP Loyola and Advocacy Hassan Abdullahi and CSU VP Sustainability and Promotions Morgan Pudwell are seeing Oster's plan through.

Abdullahi said the café's opening is tentatively slated for January.

"There could always be delays," he added. "But we want it open before the end of the school year at the latest."

The space will be host to a co-op program, where John Molson School of Business students will manage the café for course credits and valuable field experience.

"You'll also be interacting with your space," said Pudwell. "Students will have access to a resource library in The Hive where they can learn about sustainability or just study."

Under Concordia's new food policy, students can't use campus space to cook food without applying for a permit, leaving most of the university's food services in the hands of catering businesses and privately owned eateries.

"The [new policy] just shows you how we need something like The Hive café," said Oster. "Especially at Loyola Campus, people have wanted something like this for years."

Striking Laws for Sex Work

Current Law Violate the Charter: Ontario Court

• LAURA BEESTON

An Ontario Superior Court Justice struck down three Canadian prostitution laws on Sept. 28, deeming them a violation of the Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Challenging Section 210, 212 and 213 of the Criminal Code of Canada, two sex workers and a professional dominatrix made the case that the current prostitute laws violate Section 7—the right to security of the person—as enshrined in the Charter.

"The conclusion I have reached is that three provisions of the Criminal Code that seek to address facets of prostitution [...] are not in accord with the principles of fundamental justice and must be struck down," wrote Ontario Superior Court Jus-

tice Susan Himel in her 133-page ruling. "The applicants' case is based on the proposition that the provisions prevent prostitutes from conducting their lawful business in a safe environment."

Federal laws prevented the operation of a common bawdy-house, communication for purposes of prostitution and living off of the avails of prostitution. Those laws were recognized as necessary to ensure the protection of those who exchange sex for money—a legal trade in Canada.

Just as soon as the ruling was heralded as an "emancipation day for sex-trade workers," by Terri-Jean Bedford, the professional dominatrix who brought the case to court in October 2009, the federal government called for an appeal on the decision to decriminalize pros-

titution. The law change has 30 days to take effect.

"The Government is very concerned," said federal Justice Minister Rob Nicholson following the decision on Sept. 28. "We will fight to ensure that the criminal law continues to address the significant harms that flow from prostitution to both communities and the prostitutes themselves, along with other vulnerable persons."

When asked for further comment, Status of Women Canada told *The Link*, "we're going with the government of Canada's position."

With the inevitable federal appeal, many estimate that the final decision is at least five years away. In the meantime, plenty of headline-grabbing rhetoric from respondents has been garnering media attention.

One Conservative MP from Winnipeg said that changing these laws would make our nation "a pimp," while the Catholic Civil Rights league—an organization that was allowed to intervene in the trial as a "Friend to the court"—argued that, "prostitution is immoral and should be stigmatized [...] These sensibilities are fundamental social values, rooted in Charter values."

Despite the backlash and moralizing sound bites, many sex work advocates believe the decision is crucial to addressing the reality of workers and the importance of understanding prostitution law from a labour rights perspective.

"The analysis has been great for us," said Pascale Robitaille, an outreach team coordinator from Stella Montreal, a local sex-work organization. "It finally is linking the laws

that prevent sex workers from [accessing] things that could be useful for their own safety to the violence they experience."

Throwing out the criminal prostitution laws—which legally limited workers' abilities to hire a chauffeur, receptionist or body guard to receive clients in homes or hotels, or to negotiate prices and services—will help make sex work safer, she added.

Contrary to the general criticism of the verdict, the expert evidence in the official ruling—which detailed the nature and violence of prostitution in Canada—also shed light on some of the many misconceptions of the sex trade, specifically "[challenging] the notion of the prostitute as a victim," and the "mythology of the pimp," which are "rooted in racial and sexual bias."

Sisters not Statistics

March Commemorates Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women



Native women are five times more likely to die a violent death than non-native women. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

• LAURA BEESTON

Over a dozen placards with pictures of smiling, missing aboriginal women adorned the statue in Cabot Square on Oct. 4, looking into a 200-strong crowd that gathered for the fifth annual Sisters in Spirit march to honor the 582 recorded missing and murdered aboriginal women in Canada.

Started in 2005, the walk is a nationwide show of solidarity that has grown from 11 to 81 cities across the country. Participants demand that the government respond to the scale and severity of the human rights violations indigenous women face in Canada, something Amnesty International has called “epidemic.”

After a traditional prayer and the beat of Tiohtia:ke drummers, the crowd headed east down Ste. Catherine Street West to Phillips

Square for a candlelight vigil, listening to activists and family members of the missing women share their stories and discuss the social and institutional indifference.

Bridget Tolley, whose mother Gladys was struck and killed by a Sureté du Québec police cruiser in 2006 and who was recently denied a request for an independent inquiry into her death, spoke to the crowd about her tireless struggle for answers over the last nine years and of the internal police resistance to helping her find closure.

“It’s been a very long and difficult journey,” she said, adding that investigators made no effort to communicate with her family, who had to learn from a newspaper reporter that the investigation into her mother’s death was closed.

“After almost two years and \$2,000, I was finally able to gain access to official police reports. What

I learned was disturbing and outrageous: proper investigation protocols were not followed, written statements were full of inconsistencies and jurisdictional police agreements were ignored,” she said.

“One of the most shocking things that I’ve learned was that the investigating officer who came to the scene was the brother of the officer who was driving the cruiser that killed my mom,” Tolley added, choking back tears.

“But I am not satisfied with this outcome. I will keep walking.”

Since July 2009, an estimated 62 women have been reported missing or murdered, though the absence of accurate national statistics lead some to believe that the total of missing women could be as high as 4,000.

The Native Women’s Association of Canada has also found through independent research that

no charges have been laid in 40 per cent of cases involving aboriginal women as victims.

According to a special report by Amnesty International, entitled *No More Stolen Sisters*, aboriginal women are five times more likely to die violently than non-aboriginal women. The continued failure of these crimes to provoke outrage in the general population illustrates a problem indicative of a larger historical and uniquely Canadian social context, according to the report.

“We’ve been documenting the different levels of violence rigorously,” said Beatrice Vaugrante, directrice generale of Amnesty International’s Francophone branch, “and it’s not only a problem of missing and disappeared women, unfortunately. It’s poverty, discrimination, misogyny and racism in our system and our society.”

Alleged G20 Conspirator’s Legal Defence ‘Hampered’

Prosecutors Refusing to Make Copies of Evidence Against Pat Cadorette Available to Him

• ADAM KOVAC

Almost four months after the G20 meeting in Toronto culminated in the arrest of over 1,100 activists and bystanders, several alleged conspirators are anxious to present their side of the story to a judge.

“They’re accusing 19 people of being the ringleaders of the riots, and I’m one of those 19 people,” said Pat Cadorette, an activist who works with the anti-capitalist group *Convergences des luttes anticapitalistes*.

After his June 26 arrest, Cadorette spent two weeks in prison and has been charged with three counts of conspiracy: committing mischief [resulting in damages of over] \$5,000, assaulting a police officer, and obstructing justice.

Since his release from prison,

Cadorette has remained under house arrest in Montreal. Terms of his release state that he is only permitted to leave his house for work, medical emergencies, or to consult his lawyer, Jeffry House. Since House is based in Toronto, complications have arisen in building his defence.

“I travelled to Toronto on [Sept. 27], expecting to get a copy of the evidence against me,” said Cadorette. “We were told by the crown that they would only issue a copy of the evidence to the lawyers, [but only] if they signed a waiver saying they would not make a copy for the defendants. So I still don’t have a copy of the evidence against me, and if I want to read it, I’d have to go to Toronto.”

House is hopeful that the situation is temporary. He thinks there is “very little” evidence

against Cadorette.

The court’s order leaves House unable to reveal evidence pinned against Cadorette by the prosecution, except testimony from two undercover agents and an audiotape of demonstration organization meetings.

“[The crown] gave out the materials on a kind of prohibition. We’re not allowed to publicize this information, it’s only for the purpose of preparing the case,” he said. “In the case of Patrick, him being in Montreal under a form of house arrest, and me being here, it’s an onerous way for us to have to prepare [...] I am hopeful that we will get some concessions from the crown in the near future so we won’t have to keep on with this one-legged procedure.”

The crown continues to slowly drop charges against people ar-

rested in conjunction with G20 protests. On Sept. 24, CLAC issued a press release announcing that four more people were cleared of any wrongdoing by an Ontario court.

“I don’t have any details, but I know that the crown offered them diversion, which means they would have to pay an amount to charity, and the charges would be dropped, but they all refused,” said Cadorette. “In the end, the crown stayed the charges.”

The Ontario Attorney General’s office could not be reached for comment as to why the charges were dropped.

As for the effect the house arrest is having on him, Cadorette remains defiant.

“I wouldn’t say house arrest is hard,” he said. “But it’s a major pain in the ass.”

Briefs

Stabed to Death

A 26-year-old man stabbed outside a bar in Point St. Charles last month succumbed to his injuries and died on Sept. 30. The attack occurred on Sept. 9 and became Montreal’s 30th homicide in 2010. By this same date last year, there were 23 murders recorded in the city.

Bombardier and Alstom Get Metro Contract

The lucrative contract for the construction of 374 new cars for Montreal’s metro system has been awarded to the Bombardier-Alstom conglomerate. The new cars will cost about \$1.3 billion, or half of what Spanish firm CAF bid for the project. Bombardier’s contract is expected to create 800 jobs in Quebec.

Stabbings in Montreal North

Two men were stabbed during a street fight in Montreal North on Oct. 3. Reports state that they were mobbed by a larger group near the intersection of Langelier Boulevard and Maurice Duplessis Boulevard. At press time, the condition of the victims was still unknown.

New Shale Gas Regulations

Energy companies will have to receive permission from Quebec’s environmental minister to drill for shale gas in the St. Lawrence River. Thirty wells currently drilling along the riverbank were authorized by the province’s minister of natural resources, but not the environmental minister. The new law was designed to protect Quebec’s drinking water, which could potentially be contaminated by the drilling.

Seville Goes Down

After years of decaying on Ste. Catherine Street West, the once popular Seville Theatre was torn down on Oct. 4. The destruction made way for the \$100 million development project spearheaded by the Preval and Claridge investment firm. Under Preval and Claridge’s plan, 450 condos will be built on the Seville’s former site.

FEATURES

THE CASH CULT: CELEBRITIES! INTIMIDATION! ALIENS!

Money, Fo

How Scientology Tries to Get in Your Head, and Your Wallet

• ADAM KOVAC

Imagine a religion with no god. Imagine that they promise you the ability to manipulate matter, to never get sick, to have control over space and time. Now imagine that the only way to get to this state of transcendence is by gradually paying your way.

Sound like a scam? To some it is. But to the scores of people worldwide who practice Scientology, it is a way of life.

Cult or Religion?

The problem with talking about Scientology is that it's very hard to define. The group is engaged in so many activities that labeling it as a cult or religion might not suffice.

Stephen Kent is a professor in the department of sociology at the University of Alberta and has written extensively on Scientology.

He noted that the concept of religion is fluid and that, technically, Scientology can be called a religion in the United States, as it has charitable status, but does not enjoy the same status in Canada.

"Generally, Scientology is a personality cult based around the teachings and writings of [science fiction author] L. Ron Hubbard," said Kent. "It's a multi-faceted organization, only one part of which is religious. It also has organizational aspects dealing with education, pseudo-drug counselling,

pseudo-therapy, business management programs and so on. It's a multi-dimensional, transnational organization [...] At most levels, it comes across as a personal improvement organization."

Much of the Hubbard's writings dealt with how people's demons hold them back. The only way to rid oneself of these demons is through techniques he invented, which you can learn through his books and courses—for a price.

Going to Church

I visited the church on Yonge Street in Toronto on a scorching day in August. The building was not very church-like, blending in with the numerous neighbouring office buildings. The only difference was the lettering just above the door. In big, bold letters it announced itself as "The Church of Scientology."

The lobby was surprisingly drab for an organization whose most public faces are wealthy celebrities. There was a receptionist behind a desk, positioned in front of a bank of elevators. I was greeted by one of the red polo-shirt wearing staff members named Bill, a pleasant, relentlessly polite man in his 50s. He took me into a more stylish, well upholstered room, filled with books by Scientology's founder, the late L. Ron Hubbard.

As we began to chat, I said that I had heard much about Scientol-

ogy, and was curious to know more. Bill explained that Scientology was a belief system that he had adhered to for almost 30 years and that it had vastly improved his life. He mentioned that upon joining and being audited for the first time, he promptly completed a \$30,000 business deal the next day—such was the power of Scientology to focus one's mind.

Auditing, a central component of Scientology, is a procedure wherein a trained member of the church—an auditor—asks specific questions to another member—called a pre-clear—trying to find memories and experiences that the pre-clear has negative feelings about. The theory is that by repeatedly examining the pre-clears feelings towards these memories, their negative effects can be eliminated. It achieves the twin goals of gathering information on new recruits and indoctrinating them with the ethos of Scientology.

"During the auditing process, they're getting exposed to Scientology's belief systems and ethics," said Kent. "And part of that involves being willing to never do anything to hurt the group."

Bill was not hesitant to mention the importance of cultural and political power to Scientology. One of the first things he showed me was a book filled with pictures of all the Scientology churches in the world.

Given a prominent place was

the Celebrity Center in Hollywood, a huge, castle-like building that is for the use of "artists, politicians, leaders of industry, sports figures and anyone with the power and vision to create a better world," according to the Scientology website.

Bill told me that people in positions to influence culture were "very important" to Scientology, explaining that only through them could real change be brought into society as a whole. It's a concept that has been a part of the religion from the very beginning.

Founded by Hubbard in 1952, the religion is based on the idea that in every person resides a timeless entity called a 'thetan,' which is very similar to the idea of the soul in other religions. Over time, thetans have become confused about their nature. Instead of existing in a purely metaphysical realm, they have grown attached to the physical world. Through Scientology, a person can get back to becoming an "operating thetan." Once there, they are capable of controlling matter, energy, space and time. Spreading the idea that any person who joins the church can become an operating thetan has often fallen to celebrity spokespeople.

"Back in the 1950s, Hubbard realized that celebrities have high profiles in society so the idea was that if you get celebrity spokespersons, you would greatly enhance

people's curiosity and faith in the organization itself," said Kent. "The group still uses celebrities to spread the message. Its use of celebrities has backfired to some degree because of the criticism, and you might say mockery, that has befallen Tom Cruise."

While Cruise has garnered the most attention for the group via public declarations of his loyalty to the church and opposition to psychiatry, the vast majority of followers are average people without his financial resources and high profile. The church claims 8 million members worldwide, though critics say that this number is grossly inflated.

Regardless, the church recruits from every social bracket – provided you can pay for the books, courses and auditing sessions. As a university student with more than a bit of debt, I was curious to see how Bill would get me to join.

Your personality, in graph form

Mark Ebner is a blogger and author, specializing in investigating the seedy underside of Hollywood.

In 1996, on assignment for *Spy Magazine*, he went undercover in the Church of Scientology for 11 days, which he recounted in his article "Do You Want to Buy a Bridge?" Since then, he has been one of the church's most outspo-

or Nothing

GRAPHIC CLÉMENT LIU

ken critics. He was one of the advisers to *South Park* for their famed “Trapped in the Closet” episode, in which the Scientology version of how life came to earth is explained. During an e-mail interview, he didn’t mince words regarding his thoughts on recruitment at universities.

“Scientology recruiters are crafty, and the game plan and reasoning behind recruiting college students is insidious,” he said. “Students tend to be prized candidates for cult recruitment because they are often quite vulnerable and indecisive about what they want to do with their lives.”

While less polemic, Kent agreed that the confusion of early adulthood could leave a person vulnerable to recruitment.

“There are different strategies for different groups in the population,” he noted. “[The basic message is that they have] procedures that can take away blockages, preventing people from realizing their full potential.”

I explained to Bill that I had often had trouble figuring out what I wanted to do with my life. Bill recommended that I take the free “personality test,” formally known as the Oxford Capacity Analysis. I agreed, and sat down with the questionnaire of 200 “agree/don’t know/disagree” questions.

“Are you ever ill at ease in the company of children?” was just

one of the many bizarre questions. Once I had completed the form, I sat down with Bill to discuss the results.

Misery loves company

Illustrated on a graph were ten personality points, each scored on a range from -100 to +100. While I scored decent marks on certainty, activeness and communication, I also scored very low on stability, happiness and nervousness. In terms of happiness, I scored a -90, the second lowest possible score.

According to the computer printout, I am “extremely dejected, depressed and unhappy. You look to the future with complete pessimism and lack of hope.” When I explained to Bill that I thought I was actually the opposite of that description, he explained that while I may seem happy, deep down I’m in a state of turmoil.

Kent said that the test has very little scientific basis, and is more of a recruiting tool than a personality test.

“The procedures that the church use in scoring [the test] come down to identifying issues the person has and that Scientology can fix,” he said. “So the bottom line is that the people scoring and helping the testee with the analysis are always supposed to say you have a problem, but Scientology can fix this.”

Kent noted that coming in and scoring well on the test with no knowledge of Scientology isn’t impossible, but is “very hard.”

After completing our analysis of the test, Bill implored me to buy a copy of Hubbard’s book *The Problems of Work*, and to sign up for an upcoming workshop called the Personal Efficiency Course. The course would cost \$60 while the book is listed at \$16 Canadian on the mail-in order form for Scientology materials Bill gave to me.

I explained that I couldn’t afford either at the moment, and was told not to worry, that I could pick a copy of the book at a local library. I asked if it would be available at the University of Toronto library.

“Umm, no. The universities don’t like us much,” he said with a noticeable grimace.

Of Classes and Cults

Scientology has garnered a bad reputation on campuses lately, especially since April, 2007, when the church dispatched members to engage in “grief counseling” on the Virginia Tech campus following the deaths of 32 students in the famous “Virginia Tech Massacre.”

Concordia itself saw a letter-writing campaign and protests from the anti-Scientology group called Anonymous, when the Citizens Commission on Human Rights—a group with strong ties to Scientology—put up an anti-psy-

chiatry display in the library building in April 2009.

Despite the hostility, recruitment of students persists. According to Ebner, this is because students’ low status on the economic ladder makes them more likely to join the organization long-term.

“It may seem like recruiting starving students is not the ideal model for the cult of greed, but they recognize ‘raw meat’ (their term for new recruits, not mine) as big earners for the cult on a number of levels,” he said, noting that students often have easy access to loans, credit cards and parents as sources of money. If that fails, one way out is to sign up to volunteer for the organization, recruiting other students to the cause.

A Glimpse of Hope

As I prepared to walk out of the church, three hours after going in, Bill handed me some materials, mostly pamphlets promoting different Hubbard-penned books, as well as mail-order forms. I shook his hand and I casually mentioned that I was a big fan of *South Park*, and was curious as to whether Bill believes in aliens. He said that while he personally did not, he would not refute the now famous alien mythos associated with the church.

It’s hard to find a Scientologist, current or former, who will speak

out against the teachings of Hubbard, even in an informal setting. There is a long history of the church taking action against critics, including Ebner, who was the victim of a smear campaign following the publication of his article. Kent listed several techniques used to silence criticism, including “homes being picketed [...] agents going through trash, surveillance cameras, plants being sent to infiltrate critical organizations,” among many others. He described a recent case in Australia in which a former member-turned critic was run off the road by Scientology Security Personnel in an attempt to intimidate him into silence.

I had gone in hoping to find something redeeming, hoping that behind all the controversies, there was something that would actually help people. After walking out, I had nothing but half-truths and misleading information that contradicted all the research I had done.

No other religion charges such exorbitant amounts of money to discover the supposed secret of life. No other religion sues everybody who dares to criticize them. If Scientologists really want to help the world, they don’t need to explain thetans to us. The real question they need to answer is, what are they hiding?

Monster Mash

Creatures of All Shapes and Sizes Come Together for Halloween

• ALEX MCGILL

Halloween is approaching, and what better way to pay homage to this wonderful holiday than by celebrating the art of monsters?

The aptly named *Creature Features* exhibit at Headquarters Galerie & Boutique is in the spirit of Halloween, without overloading you with typical Halloween fare. *Creature Features* brings you creatures and monsters of every shape and size, instead of sticking to the standard ghouls and goblins.

“Last year, we also did a monster-themed show for Halloween,” gallery owner Tyson Bodnarchuk said. “It’s been my favourite holiday since I was a kid, and it’s just kind of an excuse to have a lot of monster-themed art.”

“We didn’t want it to be a Halloween show specifically, we wanted to involve all kinds of creatures. The crazy and fantastical as well as the creepy and the scary.”

Headquarters Galerie & Boutique opened in June 2006 and is run by Bodnarchuk and Angie Johnson. The two-floor concept store is known for showcasing independent artists, designers, writers and musicians. Head-



Halloween comes early to Headquarters Galerie & Boutique. GRAPHIC TYSON BODNARCHUK

quarters Galerie is also home to monthly art openings featuring newly emerging artists, both local and international.

Creature Features got its name from the generic title for horror films that were broadcast

on U.S. television stations from the 60s to the 80s.

“I’ve always been a fan of the universal monsters; Wolfman, Dracula, Frankenstein’s monster,” said Tyson. “I’m not a huge fan of the films themselves, but

aesthetically I’ve always enjoyed them.”

The show features not only many different creatures, but a mix of artistic media as well.

“There are drawings, paintings, sculptures and collage work.

We try to always have a mix which makes it pretty interesting,” said Tyson.

Bodnarchuk is an artist himself and has several watercolour pieces in the show. Along with Bodnarchuk, *Creature Features* includes work from more than fifteen artists.

“For this show we asked some people specifically, others have submitted work to us in the past. As with a lot of our shows we have new artists but also a roster of returning artists that submit to group exhibitions.”

Terrifying beasts, spectacular monsters and fantastical creatures remain popular not only for enthusiastic gallery goers, but for the artists themselves.

“A lot of our artists are really into that kind of subject matter as well. A lot of it is nostalgia; we can all remember liking this stuff as kids. But really, it’s about embracing the fantastical, not being taken too seriously. It’s really a chance to go crazy and have fun with your art.”

***Creature Features* opens Oct. 8 with a vernissage from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and runs for the entire month of October. Check it out at Headquarters Galerie & Boutique (1649 Amherst St.).**

No End In Sight

The Alberta Dream, Crushed

• JORDAN RUIMY

So much for the notion that the “Alberta dream” is a safe and reassuring one.

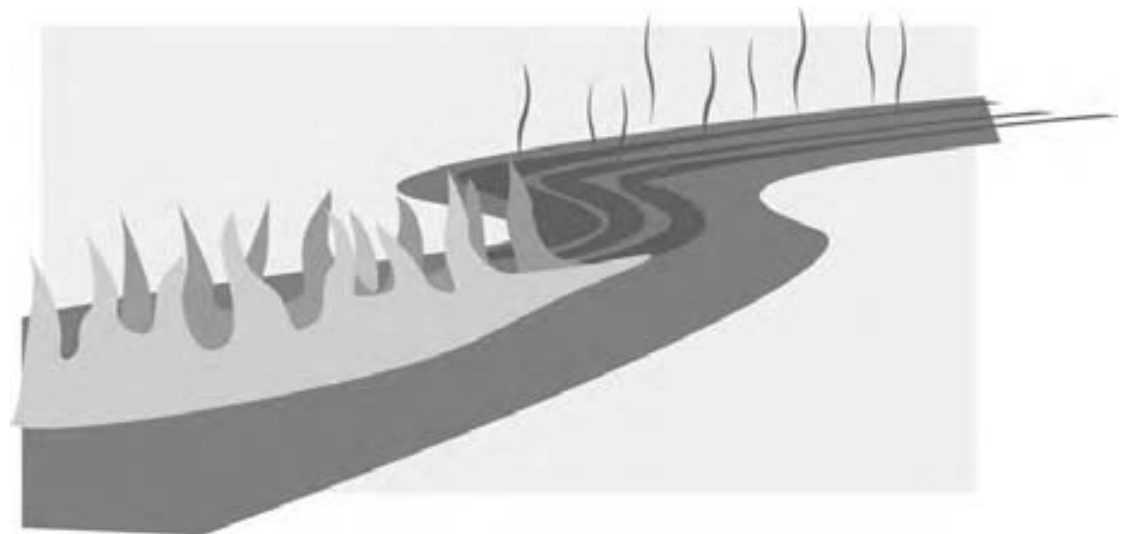
In the documentary *Burning Water*, Alberta farmer Fiona Lauridsen finds out that the water she has been drinking, farming and showering with is filled with methane and various levels of other dangerous chemicals. Throughout the film, the ramifications intensify when her cattle begin to die and her three children leave their showers with chemical burns on their skin.

Lauridsen decides to get to the bottom of what’s been a nightmare for her and her family. Sadly, it gets much more complicated than that, as Lauridsen discovers that the ones responsible have deep, personal ties to the provincial government and, surprise-surprise, have greedy, corrupt tendencies.

Running at a mere 42 minutes, *Burning Water* has enough guts and passion that you forgive its shortcomings, which include repetitive content and no real sense of style. The filmmakers of this relevant documentary are not in pursuit of an artistic statement or flashiness. They hammer out their points to the audience, ensuring you remember them after you leave the theatre.

Directors Cameron Esler and Tadzio Richards interview Fiona and her husband in all their rage as they attempt to fight the law. I guess you may have an idea as to who wins this battle.

The filmmakers portray the province as part of a “New West” that is invested in and dominated by oil and gas. Greed is the topic of the day and Esler and Richards make sure that we understand that very well. They are not out to show both



GRAPHIC CLÉMENT LIU

sides of the story; they have clearly chosen a side and demand that we go along with them. It’s a David versus Goliath story that doesn’t have a happy ending or a clean resolution. In the new world order, it is greed that always has the last word.

In a poignant and touching scene, Fiona can’t help but cry in

front of the camera as she is confronted with the realization that there is no end in sight to her dreadful situation. After managing to keep her cool throughout the film, the tears finally come when she realizes she is left alone—isolated by a government that couldn’t care less about her or her ordeal.

In an age where Quebec is being criticized for its corruption by the rest of Canada, moments like these make you realize that less publicized corruption lies everywhere.

***Burning Water* will be screened throughout the week at Cinema du Parc (3575 Ave. Du Parc).**

Rage Against the Drum Machine

Why Montreal's SuperFossilPower Won't Part With His Casio Keyboard

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

"I think that computers will be able to do things that up until now in history would have been seen as only in the realm of possibility of humans."

Drum machinist and founder of the one-man band SuperFossilPower, Tyler K. Rauman, could easily be talking about advances in cybernetics, or the event horizon in which artificial intelligence surpasses human intelligence.

How we got to talking about whether computer algorithms would one day be able to make moving music, I don't know, but it's something that's long been on Rauman's mind.

"I'm totally a trans-humanist," Rauman said of the coming creative revolution spawned by intelligent machines. "It's kind of depressing as an artist, right? Because I'm going to be obsolete in another 20 years, probably."

Rauman ironically brandishes a bumper sticker for The Society for the Rehumanization of American Music, whose slogan is "Drum machines have no soul."

As a self-proclaimed rationalist, and relentless literalist, Rauman agrees, but only in the most sarcastic of ways; of course machines don't have any souls.

But as a drum machinist, Rauman takes particular of-

fense at the Society's anti-modernist message.

"Do you think that people who painted with oil paints were the same way when acrylic paints were invented?" he asks.

"Or when they put frets on guitars—because stringed instruments used to be unfretted, right? When they put frets on them, think about how many people thought that was cheating, because you didn't actually

"I'm totally a trans-humanist. It's kind of depressing as an artist, right? Because I'm going to be obsolete in another 20 years, probably,"

—Tyler K. Rauman,
One-man band

have to hit the note. It did it for you.

"There are people who think that there's one particular way of making music and that's all that anyone should ever do, as though you shouldn't be allowed to explore different facets of media to make music, you should only use acoustic guitars and a trap kit," he said.

Rauman makes productive use of his Casio keyboard, MPC1000 sampler and, of

course, his trusty drum machine to make songs with lyrics like, "Like a bull in a china shop, I'll come into your place to break shit up."

"I try to use music as an exploration of mystical ideas," he said. "I'm a very rational person, so for me music is about exploring the irrational."

While Rauman points out that computers have already composed some moving original classical compositions, he criticizes current research into pop music and attempts to distill into a formula what makes Britney sell.

"The problem I've had with the research I've seen is that it was all based on musical notation and melody," Rauman said.

"But the way I approach music is so much more about texture. It's about tonality and the contrast of tones, and those studies have never taken tone into consideration. They seem to be able to categorize songs very well, but I think they're missing part of the equation so far."

Perhaps, I might add, the human equation?

SuperFossilPower will be playing a secret loft venue on Oct. 8 at 11:30 p.m. If you want the address to the venue you will need to hit up Facebook and "Attend" that shit. The show coincides with the launch party for *Time Travel Yes!* 'zine.



GRAPHIC TYLER K. RAUMAN

Yarn Wars

Local Artist Transforms With Colour

• JULIA JONES

If you have recently wandered around the Mile End or Plateau, you may already be familiar with Heather Utah's yarn bombs.

Yarn bombs are friendly attacks on lampposts, stop signs and other urban signage. Utah carefully crochets sweater-like fabric around the poles in bright, cheerful colours.

For Utah, because of their handmade and unique nature, yarn bombs often open dialogue among residents of the neighborhood and make the urban landscape more personal. "It's up to us to transform [the city's landscape]," she said.

"My favorite place to [yarn bomb] is on no-stopping signs, because I find it such a funny thing that you have to move—you have to keep moving. I find that really intriguing in my own artistic practice," Utah said.

The yarn bombs can last up to a couple of years and survive the Montreal winters without fading in colour. According to Utah, the



Local artist Heather Utah takes her art to the streets.

bombs usually last a while, and if they are taken down, it's either by the city or by the community.

On Thursday, this Concordia fiber arts student and conceptual artist is launching her 'zine, a yarn bombing how-to and hosting a vernissage for her new exhibit, *Luxation*, at gallery Usine 106u.

The 'zine is sewn by hand, drawn and put together by Utah.

"It is a sort of manifesto," she said. "Except it's very much more

personal."

The 'zine has a call-to-arms tone that, according to the artist, is supposed to inspire people to be proactive and make a difference in their communities.

"I made the 'zine as a sort of history as to why I yarn bomb, and it's also a how-to, how people can tag immovable objects in their city to make them more colourful, a little softer, a little bit more surprising," she said.

Luxation takes a gentler look at generally aggressive and violent items. Composed of crocheted weapons like a giant AK-47 pillow, hand grenades, a morning-star mace, a chainsaw and an axe, Utah uses "a lot of really bright colors so it comes across as really comical. It's almost like a joke," she said.

The juxtaposition between metal and yarn—hard and soft, rigid and fluffy—is a motif in Utah's art. "Life is so uncomfortable and so painful already," said Utah. "I want to make really comfortable art and stuff that can cause people to be like 'Ah, I can take a moment and actually enjoy what I'm looking at, so it's not so loud and abrasive.'"

"I just want to do my own thing and let other people know that whatever they can do, they can do it—the possibilities are endless, and you are the only person who can make your own world."

The vernissage and 'zine launch is happening Thursday, Oct. 7 at Usine 106u (160 Roy St. E.)



PHOTOS HEATHER UTAH

Karkwa First Francophones to Win Polaris

Shortlist had many previous nominees and winners

• ERIN CAUCHI

TORONTO (CUP)—After the longest jury deliberation in the indie music prize's history, Montreal's Karkwa took home the Polaris star.

The announcement came as a surprise, most of all for the victorious francophone band.

An 11-person jury decided who would receive the \$20,000 prize and the title of best Canadian album of the year during the first few hours of the event, which was broadcast live. The night featured, for the second year in a row, performances from all 10 acts that made the shortlist.

"There's something vaguely ridiculous about comparing totally different artists and totally different albums," Caribou's Dan Snaith said before the gala had begun. The 2008 winner and 2010 nominee said he was just glad that "a prize like this allows you to focus attention on lots of different kinds of music."

But like any "increasingly prestigious" award—so dubbed by the *New Yorker*—Polaris is not without its politics and tokenism. So far, it has gone to the avant-garde Owen Pallett, the folksy

Patrick Watson, Caribou's synth-pop, hardcore Fucked Up and now what Karkwa's lead singer Louis-Jean Cormier calls French "Montreal indie rock."

The decision to give the award to the all-francophone band may not be totally unexpected. The grand jury had three francophones on hand: François Marchand, André Peloquin and Philippe Rezzonico.

What most of the English music scene has been asking since the shortlist came out is, "car, quoi?" Who is this random band that triumphed over two prior winners and industry heavyweights like Broken Social Scene?

For Karkwa, as their album title—*Les chemins de verre* (The Glass Paths)—would suggest, it was a lonely path to get to Polaris as the only francophone musicians nominated, not counting Radio Radio's Franco-Acadian Chiac.

After the announcement, Cormier, nearly in tears, took the stage with his bandmates. Earlier in the evening he said "I think that the language barrier is still there" and felt certain the only thing his band would win that



Karkwa's win came as a surprise within the music scene. PHOTO JOSH O'KANE

night was exposure to an anglophone audience.

The band has been together for a dozen years, touring mostly francophone countries. They are excited about the opportunity to play for their fellow country-

men—but not until they have the opportunity to use part of their \$20,000 to hire a real tour manager and a new van.

Before their win, Cormier said his celebration music would be Owen Pallett's *Heartland* if

Karkwa were to triumph. Maybe collaboration is in their future?

"We try [to] do so some great poésie, but I don't know if we succeed at that," Cormier chuckled. "I guess it works."

Indeed it did.

spins

David Usher

The Mile End Sessions

MapleMusic/Universal



Gotta love disguised "Best Of's." Instead of bundling together tracks and slapping a price sticker on it, Canadian quiet rocker David Usher headed into the studio earlier this year to create "intimate versions" of some of his most popular hits, though upon a cursory glance a few questions arise. Track "Je Repars," for example, featuring Quebec rock princess Marie Mai is a French-language re-recording of "I'm Coming Down", which is also included for no clear reason. They use the same instrumental tracks, just swapping out the vocals with a new set of lyrics. Usher does insert a new song entitled "Fall To Pieces" that isn't anything adventurous.

I admire Usher for his willingness to forego convention and take his own spin on the expected "greatest hits," but it's a little misleading. Still, an otherwise strong selection of songs that translate well in an acoustic setting make this worth checking out if you're already a fan of his solo career, and is a title geared more for collection completists or those unfamiliar with his work, much like any greatest hits collection should be.

5/10

—Brian Hastie

Sufjan Stevens

The Age of ADZ

Asthmatic Kitty Records



For those who are used to the poetic, banjo-strumming, U.S. inspired music of Sufjan Stevens, his latest album *The Age of ADZ* might be a hard pill to swallow.

The Michigan-born musician best known for his chart-topping *Illinois* explores electronica-inspired sounds in his new work that will make some cringe and others go wild. *The Age of ADZ* is a ten-track album that features the same impressive and highly orchestrated tracks that have come to make Stevens so popular.

What changes is that he adds more texture by adding more layers to his songs, with synthesizer and hip-hop beats. His first track, "Futile Devices," starts off the album with an ethereal ambiance, which is soon interrupted by the second track, "Too Much," which sets the tone for the other songs.

It's exciting that Stevens is not serving us the same bowl of porridge and is pushing the limits of his art. What I like most about this album is that it grows on you. The first listen might be a little disconcerting for fans of Stevens' earlier work, but each listen reveals a new subtlety that makes the listening experience ever so pleasant.

8/10

—Andrea Zoellner

Deerhunter

Halcyon Digest

4AD



Music is often capable of bringing memories back to us in a visceral, vivid and even sometimes a seemingly tangible way. Deerhunter's latest, *Halcyon Digest* is a record that is built for reminiscing. You can feel that in the music, even before you hear it in the lyrics.

The genius of this record is that it is not nostalgic by association—it won't necessarily direct your thoughts to a person, place or thing from the past. However, it manages to exude the sentiment of nostalgia without forcing the listener to tie each track to anything at all.

The Atlanta quartet's newest full-length features a slew of instruments, with an honorable mention going out to the saxophone played on "Coronado." Fantastic. "He Would Have Laughed" is a lovely yet melancholic track dedicated to the late Memphis musician, Jay Reatard—who passed away this past January at the age of 29.

As a whole, *Halcyon Digest* is a somber pop record with a new-take-on old-school feel—drawing influence from multiple generations from the musical past.

My advice is to listen to the music, listen to the lyrics and let *Halcyon Digest* take you back to a... place that might not even historically exist.

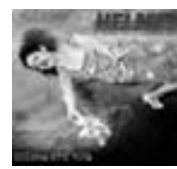
9/10

—Megan Dolski

Helmet

Seeing Eye Dog

Work Song



Since Helmet mainman Page Hamilton's resurrection of the band in 2004 after calling it quits some years before, he's managed to release a pair of albums of so-so material that, if condensed, would make one stellar offering, and newest entry *Seeing Eye Dog* is of the same pedigree. After terrible opener "So Long," the record picks up steam with the title track. Hamilton's all about the gruff vocalizing, random bursts of clean vocals and muscly riffs that he cranks out with surprising speed. The first half of the record contains songs that all seem vaguely familiar yet completely new, as per the normal Helmet way. Eight tracks deep, however, and things take a turn back for the worst. Hamilton, for whatever reason, has decided that Helmet is the perfect vehicle for a Beatles cover, and has chosen "And Your Bird Can Sing," which doesn't really work well in this genre of music. Terrible flashes of nu-metal acts covering rap songs come to mind, before floating away as subsequent track "Miserable" tries to admirably pick up the pieces and go on.

6.5/10

—Brian Hastie

Space Shift

Internet Is Dead Release 'Zine About Time Travel

• ASHLEY OPHEIM

Carl Sagan would be proud—the music and art world is obsessed with space and cosmos-related things. Local art collective and budding label Internet Is Dead is no exception.

“I really love it. I think it’s all tied together with living a creative lifestyle and how it is easy to feel alienated from the ‘norm’ of today’s society,” said Erik Zuuring. “To me that feeling just comes out in frequencies.”

Sami Charlebois, another third of Internet Is Dead disagreed. “I don’t believe that it’s a new trend in music,” he said. “It’s more a goal of sharing colours that you never saw in life, or touching substances that you have never touched before, or [experiencing] senses you have never felt.”

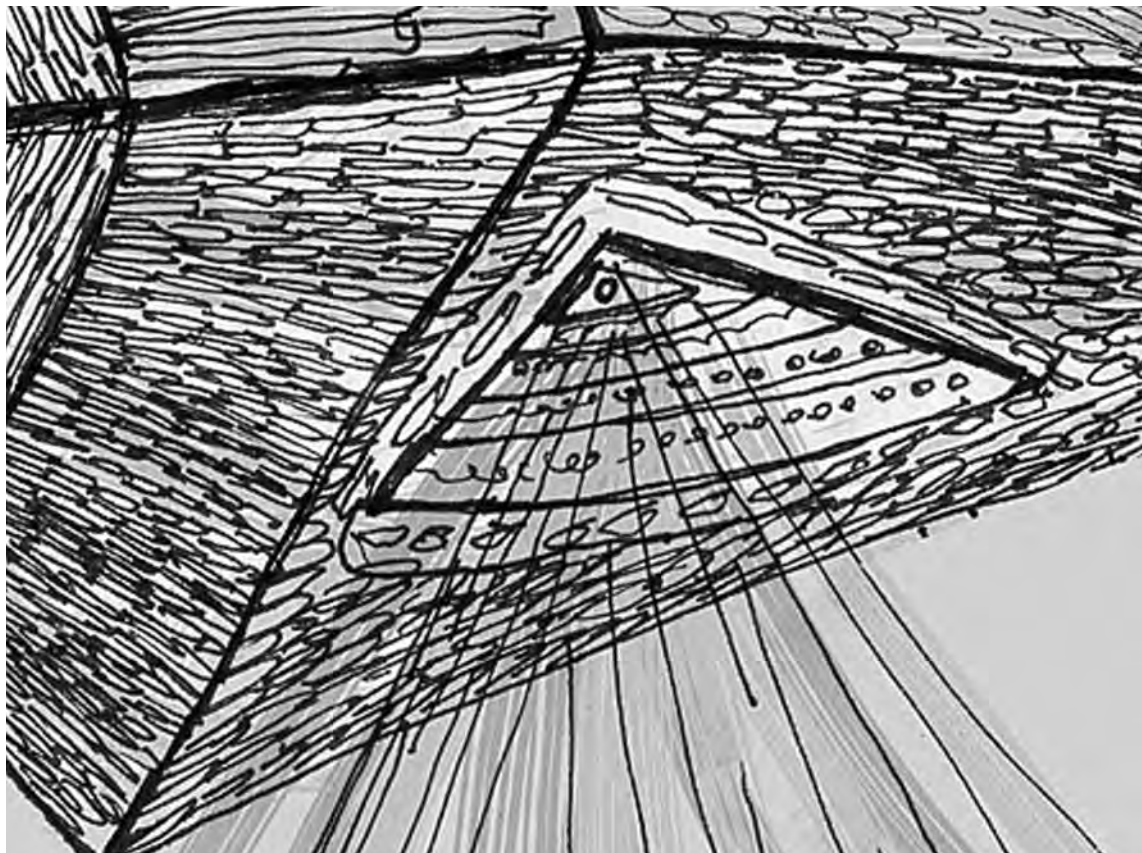
“Deep seas and space are so unknown. I see them as the biggest trances that your brain could reach.”

Internet Is Dead is an emerging artistic collective in Montreal ran under the reigns of Zuuring, Charlebois and recent addition Borden Phelps. Although Zuuring and Charlebois met a mere three months ago, their first meeting, as Zuuring explained, “was like a cosmic explosion.”

The name, Internet Is Dead, just “came out” one night while the two were planning an issue of their ‘zine *Time Travel Yes!* “It’s kind of funny because right now we rely on the Internet as our framework. We are all so attached to the Internet these days [but] it’s important to see the yonder to that.”

Charlebois added that “killing the Internet could be a new era. It would be so funny to see the whole Earth’s reaction.”

Originally conceived as a ‘zine project, Internet Is Dead has quickly evolved into something much greater.



Internet Is Dead want to bridge the gap between intergalactic Montreal artists. GRAPHIC ERIK ZUURING

“One night it hit us. [We thought], why don’t we turn this into something more?” said Zuuring. “From there we went around talking to our friends about it and we decided then and there to build a spaceship of creativity.”

Right now their crew consists of young artists and musicians from both francophone and anglophone backgrounds. “We really want to bridge the language barrier between the scenes of Montreal,” said Charlebois.

The collective is run out of their Plateau apartments and creative space the Torn Curtain. For the sake of this collective, let’s hope it doesn’t end up where similar setups such as Lab Synthèse and the Friendship Cove did—shut down due to police interference and hefty fines.

They view Montreal’s newest ef-

fort to quiet down the city, deemed Project Noise, ridiculous. “The last thing the city should be doing is trying to dampen the prosperous music scene,” said Zuuring.

“We will fight against it,” he added. “Live in the suburbs if you hate sound.”

Phelps, who acts as Internet Is Dead’s producer, explained that the places he and his friends go to see shows are either venues that aren’t licensed to foster shows or illegal venues altogether.

Part of Project Noise’s platform is that they want clubs and venues to invest in soundproofing. “I can tell you as someone who has built studios and has a background in acoustic engineering that soundproofing is extremely expensive and hardly ever effective,” Phelps said.

“To isolate sound to the extent

where nothing above 50db (what the law requires) can be heard outside would be impossible for a lot of places,” he continued.

Phelps doesn’t believe that the law is the answer to noise control.

“The answer is for the people who made these 5,000 noise complaints last month to move the fuck out of the Plateau and go live in the suburbs or the country. Or, you know, wear earplugs or move into a soundproofed apartment,” Phelps said.

“If you want to live in a building that’s 100 years old in a neighborhood where you can walk to restaurants and bars and shops, you’re probably going to be subjected to noise.”

A statement well suited to a collective who are all “noise driven and experimental,” as Phelps explained.

One integral aspect of the label is the idea of community. Internet Is Dead exists for and is dependent on creative collaboration.

“Basically to us it’s like a big family that gives everyone the accessibility to really do what they love,” Zuuring said.

Adding to this collective effort, Internet Is Dead wants to bridge the gaps between artistic endeavors in Montreal. Their ‘zine, *Time Machine Yes!* will soon be releasing interviews with local bands from Montreal label Arbutus Records. “The whole idea of our group is to showcase and support the Montreal community,” Zuuring said.

At the moment, all their artwork is done internally. However, they are eager to work alongside other spacey Montreal artists, labels and creative seekers.

Internet Is Dead’s first EP release is happening this Thursday with *Voices* by Cop Car Bonfire and the EP *Fiercefields* by CKRCKR.

Some other things they have planned for the near future is to expand their website. “We have a series of short video profiles on local artists and bands, the first installments of which will be posted by the middle of the month,” Phelps said. “We also intend on organizing some art shows and film screenings in the near future.”

Internet Is Dead is throwing a party to celebrate their first issue of *Time Machine Yes!* The event will take place this Thursday at a secret location. Local bands Flow Child (from Pop Winds), SuperFossilPower, Cop Car Bonfire and CKRCKR will be playing, followed by a DJ set. The event is bring your own beer and pay what you can. Be proactive about finding out the secret location.

Concordia Graduate Dabbles in Painting and Photography

• ISADORA ARREDONDO

These days, more and more artists seem to be taking on more and more mediums. No longer do we have Vincent van Goghs who focus solely on one mode of expression. We have multi-disciplinary artists who don’t believe in the boundaries of a canvas, lens, material, or whatever way you choose to explore art.

Concordia fine arts graduate Laura Findlay is no exception.

Living her teenage years in the West and having the ocean so close, Findlay’s thirst to depict the vivid world around her led her to painting and eventually to photography.

Although she gives both photography and painting the same artistic weight, she uses the two mediums to express different ideas and emotions.

“Painting is an inward reflection. It is centered on memory and recreating experience. It is a very good language to try and recreate [those memories],” she said.

Photography, on the other hand, “is an outward exploration.”

Findlay’s works will be featured in upcoming exhibition *A Multi-Discipline Crop Rotation*. The show will feature 21 works of varying size.

In her canvases, Findlay borrowed her closest friends’ pictures from childhood and re-contextual-

ized them to her own past.

“My dad never dealt with cameras,” she remembered. “There are all these memories of my childhood but the pictures are missing. I used the images of my friends and added them in the places I remember.”

Findlay makes connections between the people she has loved and lost, and the objects that belong to them. In doing so, she unveils the emotional gap that resides within.

Inversely, she has photographed found objects that she relates to herself. In both cases, she wants to understand the life that lingers in them, appropriate them and experience them through the lens.

As with many emerging artists, Findlay has encountered the competitive work field with a strong persistence. Her inexhaustible passion for art helps her find order within chaos and discomfort. She understands the difficulties that arise when entering the highly competitive environment of the professional art scene.

Although Montreal has introduced Findlay to a number of people and artistic opportunities, she recognizes the inevitable challenges that will continue to arise. She considers her education at Concordia—the fixation with ideas and projects—a help to her as an artist.

At the same time, she under-

stands the importance of marketing oneself and trying to compromise with the demands of the art world. If art school is successful in nurturing one’s ideas and demanding a consistent outflow of projects, one thing it doesn’t teach is how to decode the art of business. Findlay has to learn this on her own.

“I have to teach myself the irrefutable connection to business that needs to be nurtured as an artist,” she said. “You need to know how to sell yourself.”

A Multi-Discipline Crop Rotation will run for the month of October at Galerie Armatta (5283 Ave. Du Parc). Entry is free.

Indigenous Righters

Three Native Writers Address Wrongs, Language, Genre in Friday Night Reading



Clockwise from left: Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm, Louise B. Halfe, Daniel David Moses PHOTOS SARAH HENZI

• ALEX MANLEY

Three Native writers—Louise B. Halfe, Daniel David Moses and Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm—graced Concordia with their presence and words Friday night as part of *Creative Process and Performance in Indigenous Writing*, a string of multi-faculty events to promote awareness of indigenous writing in Montreal.

Université de Montréal, McGill and Concordia put on the event together, which was preceded by a panel discussion at UdeM Friday afternoon and followed by a writing workshop at Atwater Library Saturday afternoon.

The evening featured a good mix of literary genres—between the three writers the audience was treated to poetry, fiction and drama—not to mention more than a handful of stories from the writers' lives that were often just as enjoyable.

Moses kicked things off with an interesting decision, choosing to read a series of unpublished poems. The first of these, "A Small Essay on the Largeness of Light," neatly encapsulated the genre smorgasbord on display during the evening, as he noted that, though his poetry had consistently found its way into his plays, this was perhaps the first time he had written a poem influenced by his playwright self.

Another poem Moses read, "My Discovery of America," dealt obliquely with his homosexuality in the context of his job as a page in the Ontario Provincial Legislature as a youth. He capped off his reading with a spirited rendition of a dramatic monologue from his 2008 play *Kyotopolis*, reading as an 11-year-old Native pop star named Babe Fisher.

Next up was Louise B. Halfe, a Cree poet who provided a nice contrast to Moses' all-English work by peppering her poems and her addresses to the audience with Cree words, phrases and names.

"English cannot in many instances capture the true essence of a Cree translation," said Halfe regarding her linguistic juggling act.

"I generally decide how much I want to share and give away to the general public to strike a balance. It's a conscious, deliberate, judicious choice."

Halfe read segments from her three volumes of poetry, 1994's *Bear Bones & Feathers*, 1998's *Blue Marrow*, and her most recent, 2007's *The Crooked Good*. It was this last one that made up the bulk of her time at the podium. Written in the form of an epic poem that reconstructs the Christian creation myth from a Native perspective, Halfe noted that the work attempts to discover "how all peoples come to terms with their mixed identities

and their effects on children and personal selves."

Reading last was Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm, who was introduced as an activist, writer, and journalist, among others. Akiwenzie-Damm led off her reading with a series of very rhythmic, song-like poems, including one she read off the lyric sheet of one of her CDs. Her final two pieces, however—a poem entitled "The Feast," and "Mirrors," a short story—were the real highlights of her reading.

"The Feast" is a short but evocative piece, a sexual feast that uses traditional indigenous foodstuffs to describe the female body. The real treat was hearing Akiwenzie-Damm discuss the poem afterward—particularly its use of the word "cunt." She recalled encountering resistance to the word when a recording of the poem was to be broadcast on CBC, and later on, when a "decunted" version was objected by another broadcaster because of a line that alluded to the consumption of maple syrup in a sexually suggestive fashion.

Akiwenzie-Damm admitted that while such censorship could be "frustrating at times—and beyond that enraging," she understands that her "efforts to reclaim the word 'cunt' may not be a conversation that should necessarily include a mainstream audience that might [...] include children."

Nevertheless, the poem sprang from her desire to write "a beautiful and erotic poem that included the word cunt in an attempt to recontextualize it and remind people that the female form is beautiful and that procreation and our reproductive organs are beautiful, and that love is beautiful."

"Mirrors," for its part, tells the story of Thomas Kendasswin, a father who struggles to reconcile his roles as a single-parent and single man, as he finds himself trying to cover up evidence of a one-night stand from his two children one morning.

Though the story avoided some of the political aspects present in her other work and in Moses' and Halfe's work, Akiwenzie-Damm felt there was still a political thread to the story.

"For Indigenous writers to write stories about love and family and heartbreak and the daily struggles we face as human beings," she pointed out, "can most certainly be political." In "Mirrors," she strove to confront "the stereotypes and misconceptions and lies about who [native people] are—the lies and stereotypes that surround us and that many can't see past," but by doing it in "an indirect way."

As she accurately noted, "It's often subtle but, when done well, very effective."

Lit Events

Local Legends Reading Series

Featuring Jeff Miller
Reading From *Ghost Pine*

Oct. 6
7:00 p.m. onwards
Concordia Community
Solidarity Co-op
Bookstore
2150 Bishop St.
Pay What You Can
(\$2 donation suggested)

La Poésie En Visite Au Café Le Signet

Featuring Leslie Piché

Oct. 9
11:30 p.m. onwards
Café Le Signet,
295 Ste. Rose Blvd.

Reading: Un Acte d'Amour/Lire: An Act of Love

Featuring Louise Desjardins, Dimitri Nasrallah, Claire Holden Rothman, & Mauricio Segura

Oct. 12
7:30 p.m. onwards
Sala Rossa
4848 St. Laurent Blvd.
General Admission \$5

Lenny Bruce Is Dead! Long Live L—Ahh, Never Mind

Jonathan Goldstein's long-dead comedic masterpiece rises from the grave

• ALEX MANLEY

"It's like a joke," said Ira Glass, "if jokes were supposed to make you sad instead of happy."

That's a line taken from the foreword to Jonathan Goldstein's first novel, *Lenny Bruce Is Dead*. The book was originally published in 2001 and is being re-released this month by Coach House Books.

I have set up this review to reflect the form of the book to mentally prepare you for the experience of reading it. You're welcome.

Glass's foreword also compares the novel to a low-stakes poker game in a buddy's basement. He is perfectly right, but I would even take the analogy a step further: the deck is missing cards. Maybe the deck is made from two separate decks cobbled together. You begin to get the suspicion that your buddy knows which cards are from which deck. He seems to do a bit better than everyone else, week in and week out. But not by so much as to suggest obvious cheating. And in the end, is it worth bringing up? Won't it just start an argument and hurt everyone's feelings? It probably will.

What I'm saying is—there doesn't seem to be, at first glance, any rhyme or reason to the way *Lenny Bruce Is Dead* unfolds. But it's a sort of chaos that works so well, you have to assume he's doing it on purpose.

I had a conversation with my mother about this book over lunch on Friday. I told her about how different it was from other novels, how obtuse and abstract. She brought up the "A two-year-old could do this" canard that gets tossed around so much in the visual arts. I leaned forward and prodded the air between us with my finger. "It's a question of trust," I said. "It comes down to—do you trust the author?"

Goldstein, host of CBC radio's *WireTap*, is evidently a strange, absurd genius. The novel is a series of short, unconnected, non-linear paragraphs about the life of a certain Josh, an unimpressive Montreal Jew with problems multifarious.

The structure of the novel suggests a kind of a literary Jackson Pollock. There are different colours visible, different strains. You sense that everything is connected somehow, and, standing back to see the

Don't fear the humour GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

whole of it, you perhaps are moved to emotion. But up close, it's hard to parse.

I remember reading in a review somewhere that *Lenny Bruce Is Dead* contains as much white space as it does text. This is not true, but it's not totally false. It functions much like memory. Everything is out of order and floating in blankness. You feel like there's a lot you're missing, and, let's be honest, there is. But you can still get a picture of what happened.

The vignettes, as Glass notes, blur the line between comedy and tragedy. Often hilarious—thanks to Josh's capacity for quirky, unusual observations, and his unerring focus on the sexual and the scatological—it is hard to read all of them in sequence without starting to see the sad side of them.

His dead mother, his listless father, his string of failed relationships, doomed from the beginning, his pathetic job at Burger Zoo, his affiliation with a Jewish messianic

sect. It was hard not to imagine the book as written by Mordecai Richler's younger, time-traveling bizarro doppelgänger.

Lenny Bruce Is Dead is a strange piece of work. I feel like it'll stick in my gut for another couple of weeks, chewing tinfoil and flicking its tail, like the reptile one of Josh's girlfriends believes lives in her stomach. Maybe you like that kind of book, and maybe you don't. Maybe you're not a Jackson Pollock fan. Maybe you've never hankered, as does Josh, for the Rebbe's Kosher-style Love Lotion. In any case, it's a quick read and hard to put down. You gotta give it that.



Lenny Bruce Is Dead
Jonathan Goldstein
Coach House Books
139 pp
\$18.95

Lit Writ

Blood Test

• JESSICA ROSE MARCOTTE

The smell of other people's breakfasts through open windows.

Early morning Saturday blood test.

Go early so you won't have to wait past

Your appointed time. Your appointment time.

They know you're coming. Called you yesterday.

Reminding you of a half-remembered date

Three, maybe four months ago.

Come home. Stranger asks if you know

What time the bus comes.

I don't know, you say.

Are you here just by chance? She asks.

Yes, you say. But you're still

Waiting for the bus.

Driver goes slow, announces every stop

Like a man who knows he's on time.

Feel elated, having the blood pulled from you.

You pretend you won't look but you always

Watch it pierce the skin.

Lab tech has you press down cotton and

You wonder as you fight not to cross over

Your legs—if you didn't press—

If no one pressed when the needle

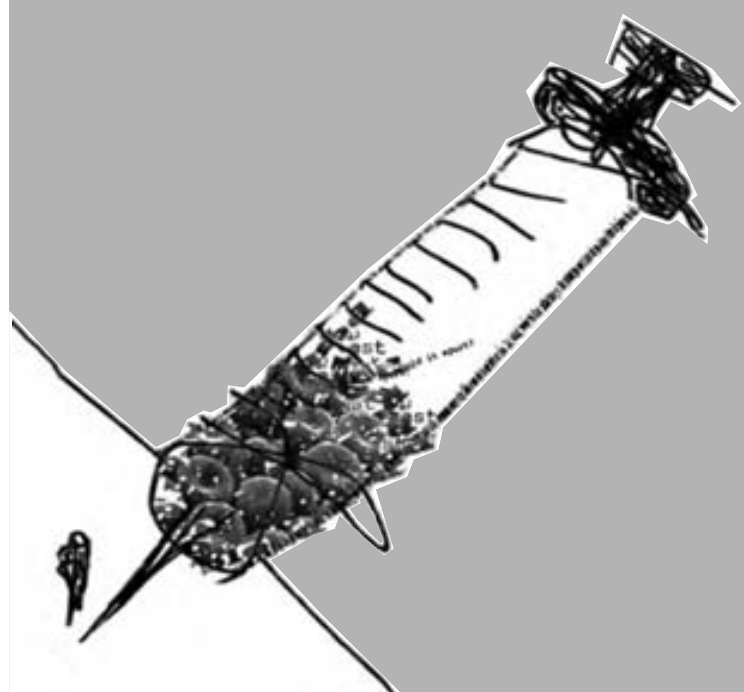
Came out—would it spurt?

Blood right into the centrifuge of

This lab—where they take you

If you're early. Even

By forty minutes.



Drawing words from a wound GRAPHIC ALEX MANLEY

RUGBY



The women's rugby team took on an outmatched Sherbrooke Vert et Or side Sunday, winning 92-0 and moving closer to a perfect season. PHOTO ESTHER BERNARD

see story, pg. 23

schedule

BASEBALL

Doubleheader v McGill
7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY
8:00 p.m. @ John Abbott College
THURSDAY

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Concordia-Nike Tournament @ Loyola
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Tournament @ University of New Brunswick
FRIDAY TO SUNDAY

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

@ McGill's McConnell Arena
7:00 p.m. FRIDAY

MEN'S HOCKEY

@ Ryerson
7:30 p.m. FRIDAY
@ Queens
8:00 p.m. SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

v McGill @ Loyola
1:00 p.m. SATURDAY

WOMEN'S RUGBY

@ Laval
1:00 p.m. SUNDAY

scoreboard



BASEBALL

W 12-3 v JACwed

L 1-3 v Ottawasun

W 6-1 v Ottawasun

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

L 4-5 v Guelphfri

W 3-0 v Yorksat

L 1-2 v Ottawasun

MEN'S HOCKEY

L 3-5 v UQTRfri

WOMEN'S SOCCER

W 1-0 v UQTRfri

W 2-0 v Bishop'ssun

FOOTBALL

L 10-46 v Laval

WOMEN'S RUGBY

W 92-0 v Vert et Orsun

MEN'S SOCCER

W 3-1 v UQTRfri

A Night of Firsts

• ALEX DI PIETRO



Enos Osei paces down the right side as a UQTR player slides for a tackle. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Men's Soccer Marks First Win in Convincing Fashion

Concordia 3

UQTR 1

Striker Matthijs Eppinga's two-goal performance led Concordia's men's soccer team to its first points of the season in Friday's 3-1 thrashing of the third-placed UQTR Patriotes at Concordia Stadium.

"It's nothing short of what they deserve," said Stingers head coach Lloyd Barker. "It was a convincing win and I think the scoreline should have had an even wider margin."

Eppinga was instrumental in the men's win. Not only did he score in the 49th and 65th minutes of play as well as throw in an assist, but he recorded six shots on the night and was named the Stingers' MVP for the sixth game in a row.

"[Eppinga] played an exceptional match and he changed the game," said UQTR head coach Pierre Clermont. "I find it a pity that we were on the receiving end of Concordia's first win, but it is certainly a team that could go a lot further than where it is now."

Barker's lineup for Friday's game featured some

changes, including his choice to start second-year player Khalid Ismail in goal. Ismail was beaten only once during the game when UQTR's Robin Manceau swung in a free kick from the right side to an unmarked Geoffrey Jouvin in the box 26 minutes into the first half.

Rough challenges thrown either way led to eight cautions being issued on the night. What had to be the harshest tackle occurred at the 40-minute mark when Patriote Marc-Antoine Simard's two-footed lunge at Stinger Enos Osei left the midfielder in a heap for five minutes, before finally being escorted off the field on a stretcher.

As a result of the lengthy pause, referee Bedik Charchafian added five minutes of stoppage time to the first half. Concordia's Claude-Arthur Diesse took full advantage of the allotted time when he accepted a through ball on the left of the area from his attacking counterpart Eppinga and slid a shot into the unguarded net to even the score at 1-1.

Eppinga quickly made his mark on the match in the second half after being

on the end of a ball from Diesse, identical to that of which Eppinga had sent the goalscorer's way in the first half. Eppinga made sure to stay onside and then rounded Patriotes goalkeeper Vincent Guay-Côté to slot in the winning goal.

"After five games of losing, you start questioning whether you have a good team. But today we showed that we do have quality when we work hard together," said Eppinga, following the game.

Both teams became increasingly aggressive as time wore on. In the space of three minutes, the Patriotes incurred three bookings, had their goalscorer Jouvin sent off and saw Eppinga convert from the penalty spot to give the Stingers a two-goal cushion.

With only 10 men, the Patriotes kept pushing forward for goals. However, the Stingers maintained their composure and were able to see out the win for the last 25 minutes.

Like the women's team, the men will enjoy a 10-day break from regular-season play before welcoming the Sherbrooke Vert et Or to Loyola Campus on Oct. 15.



The Stingers posted two consecutive wins this past weekend. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Women's Soccer Squeaks by Last-Placed UQTR

Concordia 1

UQTR 0

The Concordia women's soccer team ensured its first victory of the season through a 74th minute strike from midfielder Sarah Sullivan on Oct. 1 at Loyola Campus against the winless UQTR Patriotes.

"We put Sully [Sullivan] back in her natural position for her first day back and she put the ball in the back of the net," Stingers head coach Jorge Sanchez said. "You have a player like Catrina [Guglielmucci]—one of our captains—who played the last 15 minutes after we scored. It's a thankless job to be sitting on the bench for 75 minutes and have to come in when the game is on the line and defend, but they [the players] did their job."

Both teams have had their share of troubles finding points this season, which is why UQTR coach Ghislain Tapsoba was frustrated with Friday's loss.

"For sure a victory would help restore confidence because that's what we're lacking at the moment," said Tapsoba, who assumed the role of head coach during the absence of Canadian national team member Marie-Ève Nault.

Nault had played in an international friendly against China a day earlier in Toronto and was unable to attend the game.

Concordia 'keeper Andrea Davidson deservedly posted the clean sheet for the Stingers, as she was forced to make a monster save off Patriote Lizanne Castonguay's boot in the 78th minute.

"It's our time to win. This is the turning point in the season—it was last year and it will be this year," said Davidson, who only began playing goalkeeper for Concordia this season.

Sullivan almost opened the scoring in the 12th minute of play as she embraced a poorly cleared ball on the edge of the area, but failed to hit it firmly enough to beat UQTR goalkeeper Stéphanie Rousseau.

While Concordia continued to produce chances in the first half, the Patriotes' attack was impaired when striker Jessica Lavallée had to be substituted in the 26th minute due to injury, and would only return later in the match.

"We created some great chances in the first half, which we hadn't done in the last few games. We just weren't opportunistic at the right moments," Sanchez said of his team, which

went into the break tied 0-0.

Lavallée returned for the second half and nearly scored in the 54th minute as she shrugged off a defender just outside the 18-yard-box and guided a shot right at the crossbar.

Sanchez decided to make a substitution in the 63rd minute by deploying midfielder Hannah Lise for defender Caroline Gilbert, and the attack-driven swap paid off in the 74th minute.

Lise raced deep into the final third down the left side and used her left foot to hook a ball low and hard to the top of the penalty arc. Both an onrushing Concordia forward and a UQTR central defender missed the ball and goalkeeper Rousseau came out to collect. Unfortunately for her, the ball found its way to Sullivan, who had been closing in on the right side of the area.

The Stingers' midfielder then took the ball in stride and lobbed it inches above Rousseau's head for what would be the game-winning goal.

The Stingers finished the weekend with a 2-0 win at Bishop's and will have more than a week to recuperate for their next match against Sherbrooke on Oct. 15.

Heading to Delhi

Concordia Early-Childhood Education Student is also a World Class Weightlifter

• ALEX DI PIETRO

Two weeks after finishing 20th at the World Weightlifting Championships in Antalya, Turkey, Concordia student Emily Quarton is participating in her second Commonwealth games this week in Delhi, India.

"We compete so rarely in international events. The last time I competed internationally before Turkey was in Korea in November of 2009, so it's been almost a full year," said Quarton, who had mixed feelings about her performance in the Olympic qualifier in Turkey.

Before moving to Montreal from Whitehorse, Yukon in 2003, Quarton had started climbing the ranks as a weightlifter and knew she wouldn't leave the sport behind. It wasn't easy at first, as Quarton had to do without the guidance from her coach and it took a lot of personal will to eventually gain the title of a top female weightlifter.

When she arrived here at the age of 19, Quarton found a job as a coach in her second passion—gymnastics. Quarton doesn't feel driven to compete in gymnastics as she does with weightlifting and credits her parents for allowing her to make her own decisions, including her choice to pursue weightlifting at a high level.

"I've coached gymnastics for 10 years and saw the parents always screaming and wanting it more than their children, and I was just lucky that there was no pressure," said Quarton. "I never felt like I had to be good just to

make my parents happy. I just did it because I loved the sport."

Quarton enrolled in Concordia's early-childhood education program and has been impressed with the amount of understanding and support shown by her professors.

"Concordia has some great teachers. I mean I'm missing three of the first five weeks of school and I haven't had one teacher give me any trouble," she said.

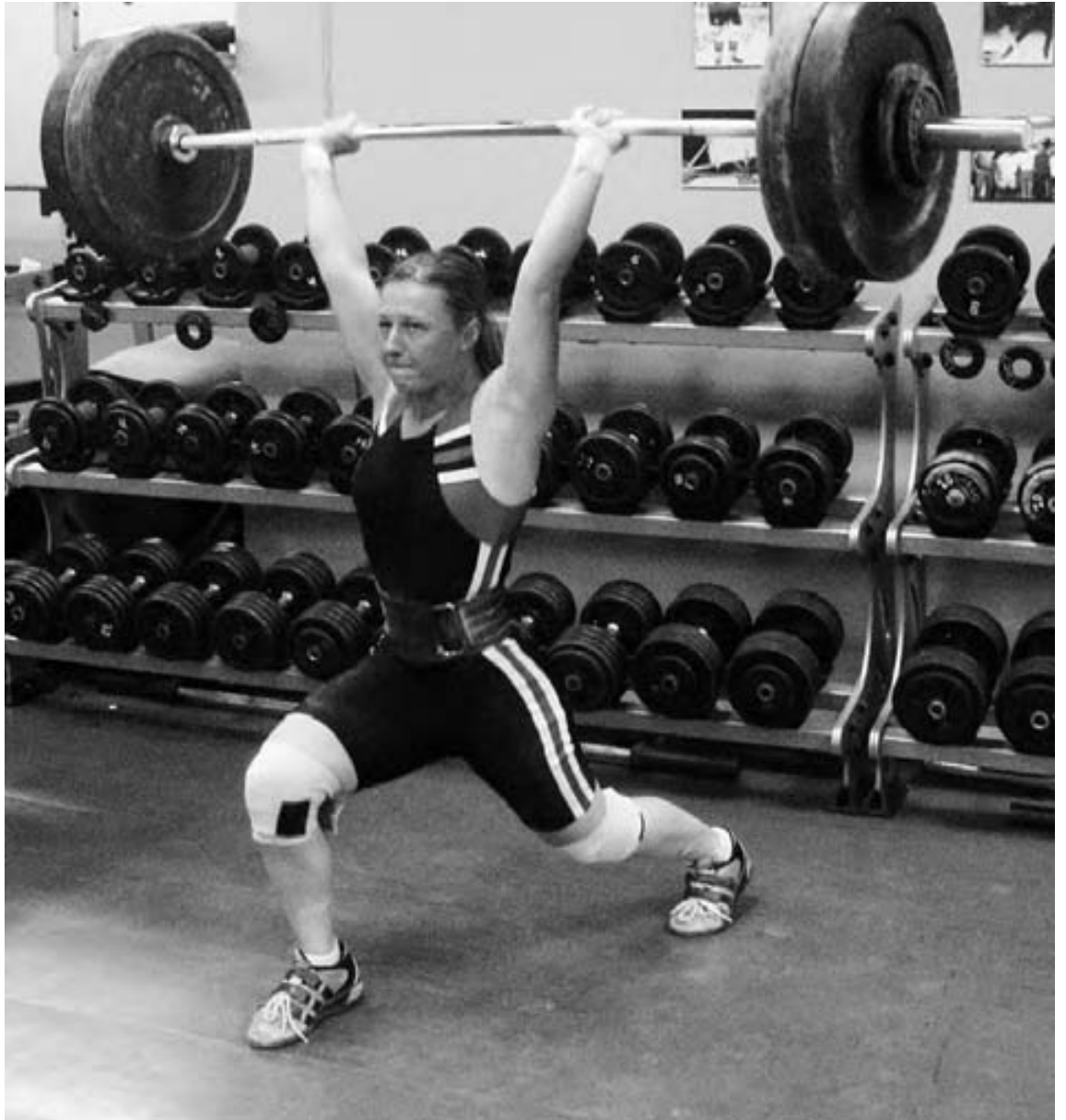
Quarton won a silver medal in the 58 kg category at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Australia.

Although she knows of the recent problems that have arisen in preparation for the Games in Delhi, she believes the problems concerning the city have been overblown.

"Compared to Australia [2006], obviously, from everything we've heard it's not going to be the same," Quarton said on the situation in Delhi. "I've heard the village is gross, the rooms are small, there's construction everywhere, but there's still that magic that was there four years ago. There are athletes everywhere, everyone's excited, so I'm excited to be going there."

Following her experience in Delhi, assuming the games go off without a hitch, Quarton will contemplate retirement, explaining that her fitness has taken a bit of a dip and that she's put many things on hold during her career and wants to focus on school.

"In January, I'm starting my first of three stages that are going



Emily Quarton trains at a gym in Ile Bizard before departing for Delhi. PHOTO ALEXANDRA MORIN-PLANTE

to be back-to-back for eight weeks, 40 hours a week. It's going to be pretty intense from what I heard from my colleagues, so I want to put my energy

there," she said.

Quarton plans to stay in Quebec, as she just recently moved to the West Island with current coach and boyfriend Vincent

Paquin.

"I feel a little bit more at home in Ile Bizard than when I was living downtown. It sort of has that small town feel," said Quarton.

Women's Rugby Decimates Sherbrooke

• ALEX DI PIETRO

Concordia 92

Sherbrooke 0

The ConU women's rugby Stingers did what was expected of them on Sunday at Loyola Campus, steamrolling over the Sherbrooke Vert et Or 92-0 and putting them within reach of a perfect season.

"The last two weeks have [provided] a good opportunity to see people play together," said Stingers head coach Graeme McGravie. "Even at 40-0 at halftime, I didn't think it was a 40-0 game. There were still lots of things that we weren't doing, that we had set out to do at the beginning of the week



The Stingers finish with games at Laval and McGill. PHOTO ESTHER BERNARD

in practice, so we kept them [the starters] out there for an extra 10 minutes in the second."

All the Stingers have to do is overcome the Laval Rouge et Or and the McGill Martlets in their

final two league games to post a 6-0-0 record. It won't be easy, however, as Laval is the only team that beat Concordia last year and was one point shy of tying the Stingers in their first encounter this year.

For the Vert et Or, Sunday's game against Concordia couldn't have come at a worse time. Many of Sherbrooke's players are currently injured, so head coach Jean-Michel Diorio was looking for his team to gain experience.

"You have to be realistic and consider the teams play two different levels of rugby. Our goal is to play every game and not give up before the end, and I think the girls did that today, even though the score indicates otherwise," said Diorio.

Among the long list of players who recorded tries on the weekend, center Jackie Tittley had another outstanding match for the Stingers, as she hit 11 of 14 converts and recorded two tries of her own.

Tittley's first try came in the

62nd minute as she charged down the middle and teammate Erika Hamilton provided her with a firm pass, which enabled Tittley to run unchallenged past the try line.

Concordia rookie Gifty Asare made her first appearance for the Stingers and ran 60 yards to open her account in the 73rd minute.

"Laval's our focus," said McGravie. "If we win that [game], then we know we're going to host a semifinal and a final, which would mean we could rest a little easier by knowing what the schedule's going to be going forward. If we lose to them, then our destiny will be in somebody else's hands and not our own."

The Stingers will visit Quebec City Oct. 10 for the game with the Rouge et Or.

Women's Hockey Hosts 43rd Annual Theresa Humes Tournament

• CLAY HEMMERICH

From Oct. 1 to Oct. 3, four women's hockey teams came to commemorate Theresa Humes, the woman who succeeded in putting Concordia female athletics on the map, by doing what she loved the most: playing some good ol' fashioned hockey.

The Concordia Stingers' women's hockey team hosted the York University Lions, the Guelph University Gryphons and the Ottawa University Gee Gees for the commemorative exhibition tournament.

Oddly, there was no distinct winner of the tournament, but for a good reason.

"It's just a kick-off tournament that doesn't lead to a championship game," said women's hockey head coach Les Lawton. "We wanted to have a little bit of exhibition action. We wanted to make sure everyone got to play in an open-ended tournament."

The tournament was meant to fine-tune all of the kinks that are inevitable when a new hockey team is gathered, but that doesn't mean it wasn't competitive.

The Stingers lost 5-4 in overtime against the Guelph Gryphons. According to Lawton, the Concordia women's hockey team would have most likely taken the game if it weren't for all of the penalty troubles they ran

into.

On Saturday, the games had to be moved to McGill University's McConnell Arena because of problems with the ice.

"There was a leak in one of the pipes underneath the concrete on Friday morning," said Lawton.

Concordia didn't have much trouble adjusting to an unexpected time and place. The Stingers defeated the York University Lions for the second consecutive time by three goals in a 3-0 win.

The Stingers had also beaten the Lions 4-1 in York during pre-season on Sept. 17.

In a gripping battle against the Ottawa Gee-Gees, the Stingers

lost 2-1.

The tournament did not prove the superiority of any one of the teams, but more importantly, it served as good preparation for the competitive women's ice hockey season to come.

On the first day of the tournament, York beat Ottawa 5-3, which erased the notion that Concordia had a stronghold over York since they lost to Ottawa later on.

Concordia also lost to Guelph, but York defeated the Gryphons in a shootout with a 5-4 result.

"The parity is there and it's exciting to watch," said Lawton. "It was a good tournament."

"I don't know how you can compare [each tournament] year

to year, but there were some really close games, and we definitely benefitted from them by seeing our strengths and weaknesses."

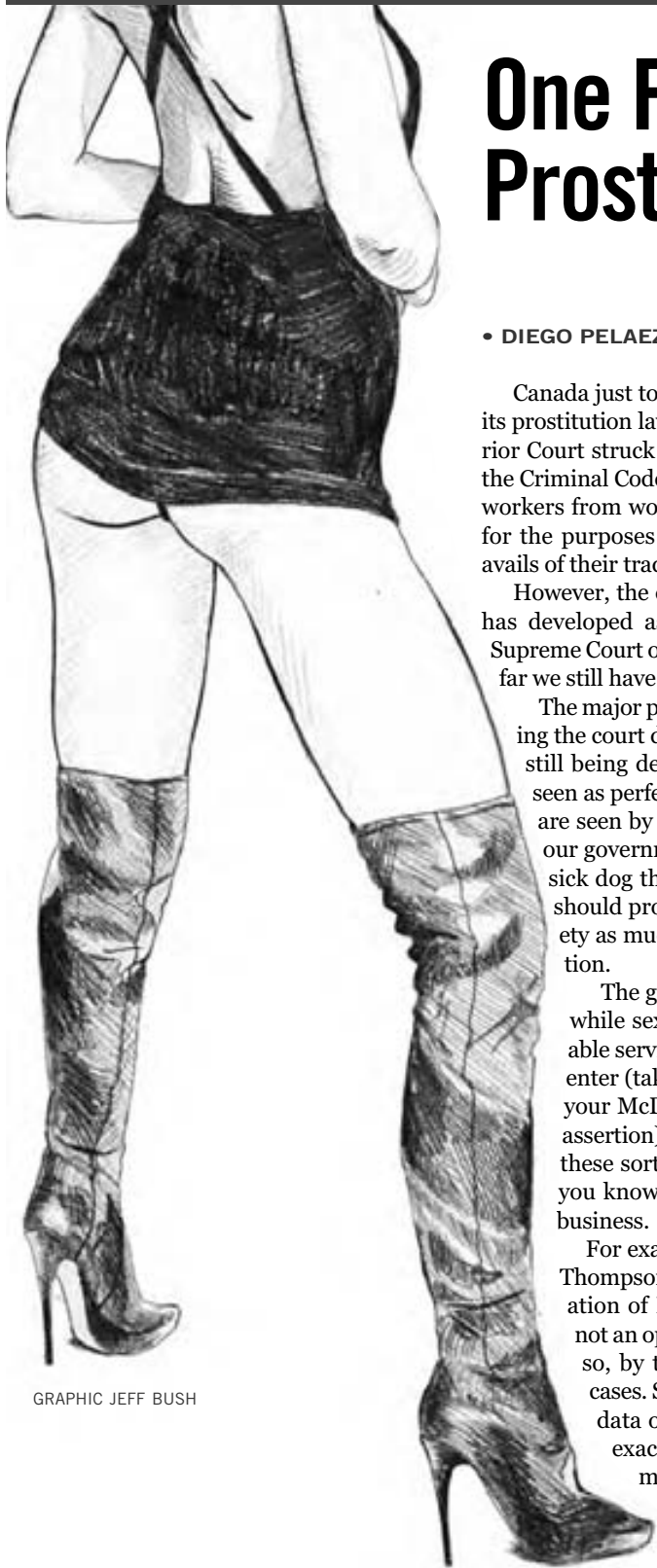
Lawton is excited about the upcoming season, and is confident in his team.

"We've got a really good crop of first-year players and a very young team," said Lawton. "Moir Frier is a good offensive player who's going to make an impact on Canadian Interuniversity Hockey."

"Obviously we've got to fine-tune our game play because it's the beginning of the season, but I'm confident we're going to be competitive."



The Stingers beat York University both in preseason and in the Theresa Humes Tournament on Saturday. PHOTOS RILEY SPARKS



GRAPHIC JEFF BUSH

One Foot Forward for Prostitution Laws

• DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

Canada just took a big step towards modernizing its prostitution laws. On Sept. 28, the Ontario Superior Court struck down articles 210, 212 and 213 in the Criminal Code, which will no longer prohibit sex workers from working in brothels, communicating for the purposes of prostitution and living off the avails of their trade.

However, the discourse around this country that has developed as a result of the decision of the Supreme Court of Ontario has shown us all just how far we still have to go.

The major problem with the rhetoric surrounding the court decision is that prostitution work is still being demonized in the media and this is seen as perfectly legitimate. At best, prostitutes are seen by the general public and by those in our government as a particularly sad brand of sick dog that, while they could use our help, should probably just be separated from society as much as possible to avoid contamination.

The general consensus seems to be that, while sex work is probably the least desirable service industry one could ever hope to enter (take a good look at the kid giving you your McDonald's bag before you make that assertion), we should at least be making sure these sort of humans don't get killed, since, you know, dead prostitutes aren't great for business.

For example, sex-trafficking "expert" Lisa Thompson, formerly of the National Association of Evangelicals, says "prostitution is not an option that appeals to most women," so, by this logic, they are all sad charity cases. Seeing as how there is precious little data on prostitutes in this country, how exactly is it assumed as a given that most of them are crack-addicted, homeless, sad people? How are we to assume that the majority of these women are sex workers

"against their will?" Of course, I have a harder time formulating a counter-argument to Thompson's position that "God didn't create any human being for the purpose of being a prostitute." Perhaps God fucked up and created prostitutes while he was creating drugs and Lisa Thompson while getting high during the sixth day?

Am I being a little bit unfair about the way prostitutes are being depicted in our public discourse? I don't think so. Take a look at a few quotes from some of the people holding the hammer when it comes to enforcing Canada's laws and tell me if you can find any mention of worry over the health and security of prostitutes.

"[The laws are] not meant to protect people in the sex trade... it's used to protect a community." That is actually a direct quote from Toronto Police Insp. Howie Page.

More from Conservative Justice Minister Rob Nicholson: "Prostitution is a problem that harms individuals and it harms communities."

This idea of a "community" seems to be a generational thing. To people over a certain age, their "community" is an idealized, utopian wonderland where their kids can play in candy-coated streets and they don't have to worry about nefarious drug-dealers or sex workers shattering the perfectly monotonous harmony of their lunchtime stickball game in the tall grass of a pastoral paradise.

To younger people, our community is where we actually live. Which tends to include people like visible minorities, drug dealers and, yes, prostitutes. So, for us, a safer community includes safety for prostitutes.

The real question that Canadians have to answer has nothing to do with issues of vague legalese in relation to our relatively new charter. The question we have to answer is: Do we think prostitutes are somehow less valuable members of our "communities" than other people because of the work they do? What is legal between two consenting adults in private? Until we can collectively answer these questions, the lawyers and the cops are really just going through the motions, reinforcing the prejudices of our society.

Two Reporters Undermine the Role of the Monarchy in the Dominion of Canada

• ADAM KOVAC & ALEX DI PIETRO

Early on the morning of Oct. 1, David Johnston stepped in front of the Canadian Senate in Ottawa, and was sworn in as Canada's 28th Governor General.

Lost amid the rambunctious applause of our (unelected) representatives in the Senate was the massive flushing sound of cash swirling down the drain.

For those of you unaware of the arcane machinations of the Canadian government, the Governor

General is the Queen's representative in our government, who acts as our head of state. It is an office with an annual budget of \$19.1 million dollars—the actual price tag can be over twice that, when you include other costs, such as security.

He or she theoretically has the power to dissolve Parliament and call elections whenever they see fit, appoint people to the cabinet and ask the opposition to form a coalition government.

However, because much of the Canadian Constitution is made up of unwritten rules, the position's

power in this area has withered over the years.

The Governor General does, however, retain a small amount of power. See the controversial move made by Michaëlle Jean in early 2009, when she prorogued Parliament at the request of Prime Minister Harper, avoiding a vote of non-confidence that would have resulted in a federal election.

Essentially, we are paying for a way to circumvent the democratic principles upon which Canada prides itself.

The Governor General is also the

head of the Canadian Forces, though the duties associated with this are, like almost all other aspects of the office, purely ceremonial. So, what do we get for this money? Well, we maintain our symbolic submissive position to the now long-dead British Empire. And we get to pay a lot of money to keep an unelected official housed in the elegance of Rideau Hall.

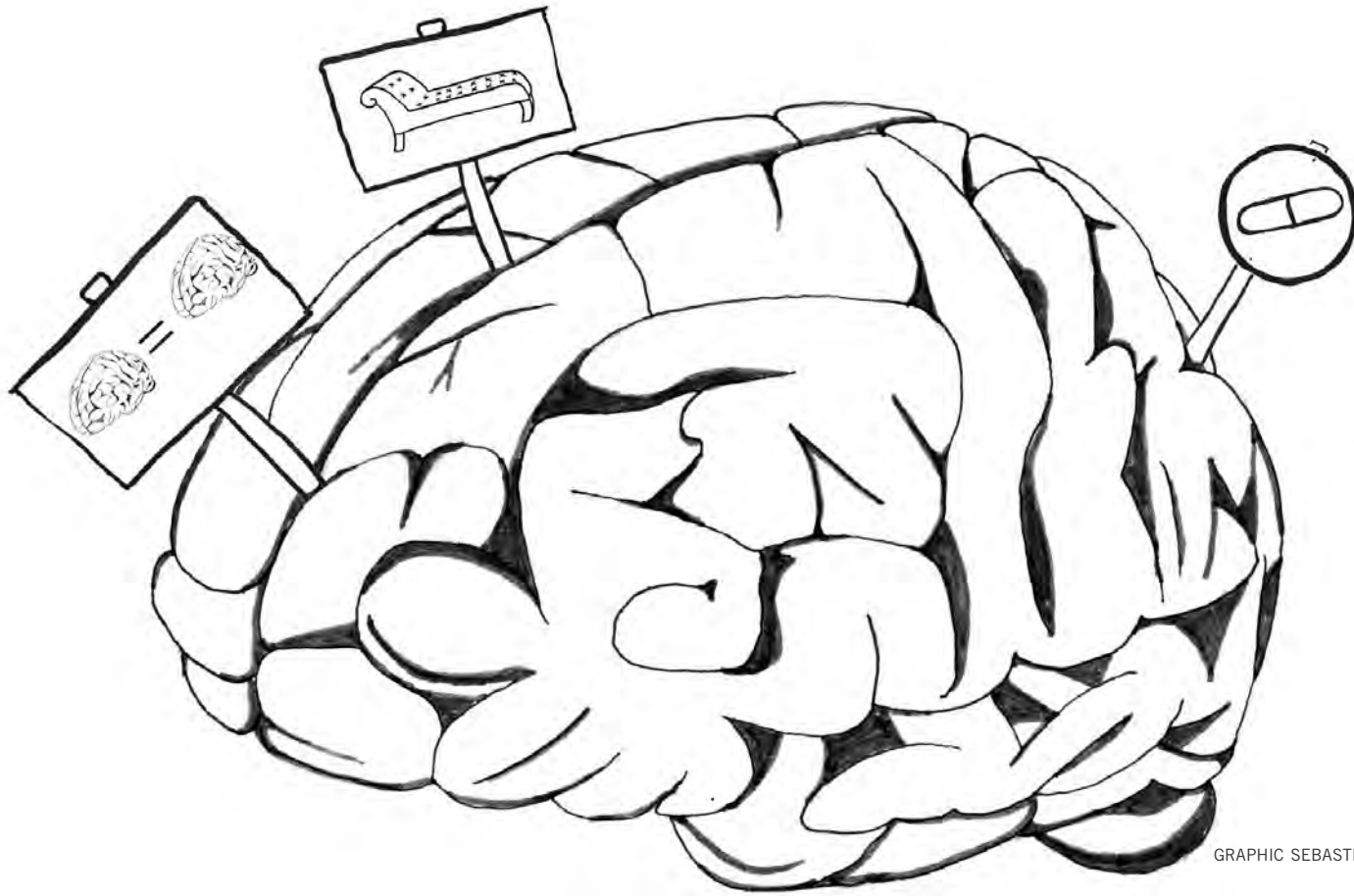
This is not a personal attack on those who inhabit the office. Usually, the person appointed is somebody of distinction, who has served Canada faithfully for many years.

Such is the case with Johnston, an academic in law who has served as a professor and administrator at several of Canada's most prestigious schools. Isn't it a bit disrespectful to ask such loyal, patriotic citizens to assume a position that has become little more than a glorified mascot?

The British Empire is dead. Canada is now a nation unto itself, and it has been since we repatriated our constitution almost 30 years ago. It's time for us to cut the last tie to our colonial past. It's time to abolish the Office of the Governor General.

Mental Health Misrepresented

Three Misconceptions of the Mentally Ill



GRAPHIC SEBASTIEN CADIEUX & JULIA JONES

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

I have a mental illness.

There, I said it.

While that might be the most versatile New Yorker cartoon caption you'll ever find, I'm hard pressed to find a situation where I could admit that and not face immediate stigmatization.

Saying it is bad enough on its own, but like much of anything, it's a lot worse due to the bevy of misconceptions that get passed around, unexamined and unchallenged.

This is as good a time as any to challenge what I consider the most damaging misconceptions regarding mental illness, but it also happens to be Depression Awareness Week, the one week a year in which you're likely to get a little governmentally-mandated lip service to the issue.

I'm not mandated to tell you anything, so listen up.

The Mentally Ill Are Different

Mental health websites like to point out that those of us with depression belong to an esteemed group that includes such luminary figures as Albert Einstein and Winston Churchill. But that doesn't stop most people from compiling their own "mental list" of the mentally ill that includes much less savoury characters, whose major contributions to society largely fall under the "negligible," or "heinous" categories.

It's irresistible to attribute a genius' artistic ability to their mental illness, just as others might blame criminal behaviour on a lack of psychiatric care. All it does is serve to illustrate that mental illness doesn't need to be crippling, nor does it, on its own, account for a person's accomplishments. More importantly, it

illustrates how unremarkable it is to have a mental illness.

While it's nice to know I could one day revolutionize the way we look at the world through science, or lead the Allied Nations to victory against the Axis—although that's a bit unlikely, and a tad anachronistic—I can also just be me. Just me.

But that still doesn't do anything to dispel the common conception of mental illness as belonging solely to the "other."

A recent ad campaign asked, "How should you treat someone you know who has a mental illness?" Their answer, "Exactly the same as before you knew."

That this isn't common sense is distressing and not entirely difficult to believe.

Unfortunately, there are no "get well" cards for mental health; that would surely be the sign of an open and tolerant society (a society which also happens to be cap-

italistic). So in lieu of overt expressions of sympathy and camaraderie with the mentally ill, probably the best course of action is to treat them like everybody else.

Preferential treatment isn't always bad, though. Just saying.

The Drugs Don't Work, They Just Make You Worse

A recent headline on *The Huffington Post* declared, "Antidepressants Don't Work." First of all, that's not what the author of the article—to their credit—actually said, which was actually about the tendency for medical journals to trump evidence for the effectiveness of certain brands over evidence of ineffectiveness.

I won't psychoanalyze the editors at *The Huff Po*—although they do have an unhealthy obsession with alternative medicine at the expense of, well, medicine—but you don't see that same kind of knee-jerk skepticism directed at other kinds of medication. To deny that antidepressants have any benefit does a huge disservice to those who really need them.

The side effects that come with any medication can make one think—initially, at least—that they're worse off than they were before. But when an antidepressant works, it can be lifesaving. Literally.

Before I found the right medication for me, I tried herbal remedies like St. John's Wart. I say that with embarrassment, because unlike antidepressants, St. John's Wart categorically doesn't work beyond the placebo effect. Sorry.

Even medications that worked for good friends of mine had little effect on me. But when I found the

right medication, my friends and family were usually the first to know. They told me how different I was while on the medication—well, different is relative, because, in fact, I had reverted to the way I used to be before my illness turned me into someone unlike myself. That isn't to say some people weren't completely oblivious to what I was going through. Actually, they probably ranked in the majority.

Medication is a treatment, not a cure. I've had two relapses since my initial diagnosis and I don't consider it coincidental that they both occurred when I attempted to get off of my medication. That's why it's important to combine drugs with other forms of treatment, which brings me to my third point.

Psychiatry Deals with Repressed Memories of Childhood Suffering

If you've ever watched a TV show about someone who has a mental illness, you've probably seen an episode where a character has an irrational fear of something, like water, or Lady Gaga. The character was probably cured of that fear by seeing a psychiatrist who helps uncover a forgotten childhood memory. For instance, they were briefly held underwater by a bully until they nearly drowned in the first grade, all while Lady Gaga's "Telephone" played unsympathetically in the background. After the memory has resurfaced—in more ways than one—their fear is gone and they can go on with their lives.

I hate to say this, but psychiatry is more like it is on *The Sopranos*. Tony Soprano never quite manages to overcome all of his issues in a

single session, necessitating the show's format as a television series and not an HBO movie.

It's crucial to talk to someone about what you're going through, and while family can be supportive, the news of how you're feeling can be more than they can handle (just imagine talking to your parents about sex, and then nod your head appreciatively at my insight).

The same goes for friends. A supportive friend can be an unbelievably effective aid, but you can never tell how a friend will react to the news of your depression, and losing a friend to the "walking on eggshells" phenomenon can be devastating. A friend who can be your rock to lean on is fantastic, but you can't expect everyone to be so understanding.

No one knows you better than yourself, but trust me when I say a psychiatrist probably knows more about what you're going through, and how to take steps to change it, than you do.

Like medication, it took me time to find a psychiatrist I liked and felt comfortable with. Unlike medication, though, I can go without seeing my psychiatrist for long periods of time. Still, I'd never recommend braving life alone, depression or not.

I have barely scratched the surface of what people should know about mental health, let alone depression; and I apologize if I use the terms interchangeably, although it's difficult to talk about the latter without invoking the former. All I pray is that you don't ever have to know exactly what I mean when I talk about what it is to have depression.

I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy. I wouldn't tolerate it happening to a friend.

The Link's Media Democracy Issue

Everybody and their dog is breaking news these days.
Be a good citizen (journalist). Do your part.



**Get in on
the action
before
Oct. 19.**

THE LiNK

2010-2011 BYELECTION

Byelection
October 22, 2010
4:00 p.m. H-649

The following positions are open:

- Literary Arts Editor
- Student Press Liason
- Online Editor
- Graphics Editor

The following contributors are eligible to vote and run for any of the open positions: David Barlow-Krelina, Ray Corkum, Sebastien Cadieux, R. Brian Hastie, Daniel Johnston, Julia Jones, David Kaufmann, Vivien Leung, Alex Manley, Christopher Olson, Jasmine Papillon-Smith, Daryna Rukhyuadeva, Joseph Ste. Marie, Natasha Young.

The following contributors need one more contribution to be eligible to vote and run for any of the positions: Rob Amyot, Esther Bernard, Pierre Chauvin, Ozgur Veysel Demirtas, Megan Dolski, Faiz Imam, Erin Jasiura, Joel Suss, Nicholas Ward, Andrea Zoelliner.

The following contributors need two more contributions to be eligible to vote and run for any of the positions: Jenn Aouad, Atli Bollason, Jeff Bush, Emily Campbell, Alessia Faustini, Natalie Gitt, Colin Harris, Stephanie La Leggia, Gabby Leon, Clement Liu, Hugo Pilon-Larose, Matt Marotti, Shawn McCrory, Jamie Pimentel, Jordan Ruimy, Sam Slotnick, Erin Sparks, Megan Wohlberg.

Applications for the positions must be posted one week before the election in *The Link* office, Hall building, H-649. Applicants must have contributed to at least four (4) issues this semester as of October 19 and must include a one-page letter of intent, as well as three (3) contribution samples. For more information email: editor@thelinknewspaper.ca or call 514-848-2424 ext.7407



The Frac Job

Let's Get Our Frac On

• CLAY HEMMERICH

It's not far-fetched to say that the massive Utica shale gas deposit found in the lowlands of Quebec is the best thing that ever happened to La Belle Province, given its fragile economic state.

According to an official government document released on Mar. 31, 2010, Quebec had accumulated over \$160 billion in debt while enjoying such perks as some of the lowest tuition rates and some of the best health care in the country.

If Quebec were a sovereign state, it'd have the fifth highest net debt compared to its gross domestic product in the world. In layman's terms, Quebec is paying for more than it can buy, and its citizens are among the most indebted in the world.

Developing shale gas drilling will not only provide billions of dollars in royalties for the government, but also over 7,500 jobs to local residents. Quebec would also have enough gas resources left over to be able to export gas to countries where gas production is not a luxury.

Largely due to its discovery of oil and gas reserves in the 1960s, Norway now sports the third highest GDP per capita in the world. The Scandinavian country used funds gathered to develop the largest source of renewable energy in the Nordic region. Quebec now has a chance to do something similar.

Community concerns shouldn't be written off, however—a few cases among the thousands of wells drilled in Alberta give the air around oil and gas exploration a bit of a rotten smell.

Citizens in Alberta have had an experience similar to Quebec's when it comes to drilling and servicing companies. In Clearwater, AB, well servicing companies were looking to drill for sour gas—gases which contain significant amounts of hydrogen sulfide—which are highly poisonous and can be lethal upon first breath, depending on the density. Still, there have been no civilian deaths caused

by sour gas extraction despite the thousands of wells that have been drilled.

In Quebec's case, however, these aren't sour gas wells that will be drilled, but "sweet" gas wells, the cleanest burning fossil fuel in the world.

A series of meetings concerning the environmental impact of hydraulic fracturing took place on Oct. 3, organized by the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement, and a full report on the environmental effects is due in February. Environment Minister Pierre Arcand concluded that more stringent rules should be applied to companies wishing to perform exploratory drilling.

Furthermore, one of the main companies delving into exploratory shale drilling, Questerre, had released a fracking additive used in the controversial gas extracting method. Only 0.12 per cent of the fluid, which is used to create spaces in the shale, is made up of said additive, which, according to their press release, is made up of ingredients found in common, household products. The remaining 99.88 per cent of the frac fluid is made up of sand and water.

According to news reports, experts in the field say that this specific job does not put drinking water at high risk, since the fracking will take place thousands of metres below surface.

I commend the province of Quebec for demanding exploration companies to be more accountable for the environment, but the reality is that the province that's most strapped for cash in Canada has just won the geological lotto and it's afraid to cash in its ticket.

The answer to tuition increases, governmental perk, and more personal freedom lies beneath the reservoir and inside of that shale rock.

In order to maintain the standard of living Quebec boasts, fuel must be provided. It might as well be Quebec's own fuel.

Stop all the Fracking

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Go and stick a match beside your tap water.

What is going to happen? Probably nothing.

Now imagine being able to light your tap water on fire. For some residents of Colorado and Pennsylvania, tap water that bursts into a half-metre long flame is something they have had to learn to deal with.

Some residents of Quebec might soon share the same fate.

Despite the assurances of gas industry executives, gas wells dug into Quebec's shale using high-volume horizontal slickwater fracturing, or fracking, carry a heavy risk.

It takes some explanation of how fracking works to understand the insanity of what is being proposed.

On the south shore of the St. Lawrence River between Quebec City and Montreal, oil companies from the United States and Western Canada want to extract natural gas from the Utica shale under Quebec.

Shale is a very tight layer of rock about a quarter of a kilometre thick. In the shale, thousands of pockets of natural gas are trapped. With traditional drilling, getting to this gas would be impossible. That was until horizontal fracking was invented over a decade ago.

With fracking, a hole is dug down to a depth of 2.5 kilometres using traditional drilling. This involves piercing through the aquifer. Not to worry, says the oil industry: a cement tube is poured around the drill hole, protecting the aquifer.

At 2.5 kilometres deep, things get interesting.

The drilling goes horizontal and a tube is dug for about three kilometres through the shale. Explosives are then pushed down into the horizontal section of the drilling, blowing thousands of fractures into the shale. Into those fractures, a slurry of sand, water

and "special ingredients" are then poured at high pressure, pushing into the shale and literally tearing it apart.

If the idea of "special ingredients" doesn't worry you, it should. Up to now oil companies have not had to release what is inside their fracking slurry, claiming that it is a business secret. When fracking fluid was tested in the United States, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene were found, all of which are hazardous to the health of living things.

Now you might wonder why Quebec's drilling laws don't require companies to release their ingredient list. The problem is, Quebec doesn't have a drilling law. These companies are operating in a legal grey area and have decided to follow the province's mining law.

Quebec's mining law is currently undergoing a broad review after being considered the most business-friendly regulatory regime in the world for most of this decade. In the context of resource extraction, business-friendly often equates to minimal laws.

Operating with minimal oversight and pouring tonnes of dangerous chemicals through the province's aquifers to shatter the shale rock that the aquifers rest on, the risks are largely undocumented and the only case to be made for shale gas exploitation is economic.

The industry will bring billions to Quebec's government and provide thousands of jobs. However, the revenue needs to be placed in context.

The price of replacing the water from the province's aquifers in the area where 90 per cent of Quebecers live is beyond billions.

This idea seems to reflect capitalism at its worst: reckless and aloof.

The idea of putting the tap water of five million people at risk for profit is beyond silly; it should be illegal.

Nah'msayin?

Should I Buy a Cycling Cap?

If you're not sure then you probably shouldn't. I think that's a pretty good rule when it comes to looking cool, or at least trying hard to look cool. A perfect example of trying hard at wearing clothes is a cycling cap.

Obviously trendy garments have different meanings for different people, but outside of "serious" cycling and keeping your hair from poking through your helmet vents, wearing a cycling cap can only mean one thing: "I want to associate myself with 'Bike Culture.'"

Wanting to associate yourself with bike culture generally means: "I want to sleep with someone who appreciates/is part of bike culture," or "I entertain fantasies of working as a bicycle courier, but would probably never do so or maybe did for like, a week."

This makes couriers mad, which creates a tricky paradox of of-

fending the people on whom you've built your most recent personal style. This is doubly difficult because for many messengers, the entire job is simply a most recent personal style.

Dykes, however, get a free pass. The hats, much like the plumage of a junglebird or buttocks of a baboon, are deeply important in their mating rituals. Studies show that 67% of drunken 3rd base lesbo hookups are the direct or indirect result of a mutual appreciation of the fixed gear bicycles they so awkwardly pilot. The other 33% are the result of conversations about radical 'zines, guerilla knitting and vintage all-girl rock groups.

P.S. If you're a lesbo courier, you win. Everybody wants to bone you.

—Tristan Lapointe

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



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

Beardo and the Bear



COMIC BY MATT MAROTTI



Letters @thelinknewspaper.ca

A Tribute to Jazz

Walking the halls of Concordia, it won't take long to see something inspiring. A glimpse of hope in a hopeless world thriving off 24-hour news channels littered with stories of the worst that humanity has to offer.

Whether it is walking by the People's Potato, where students and alumni feed each other, or walking by the CSU or faculty association offices to see students providing services to others for little to no compensation, there is hope if you take the time to see it.

If one takes the time to actually reflect on the good that is out there, perhaps we will be less jaded.

Concordia is filled with great stories: some told and also some never spoken of, some happening on campus, and some in our extended community. What we may not see, however, is that extracurricular work performed by students

and alumni comes at a price. Whether it's lower grades, less time with friends and family, or putting oneself in danger, they show up day in and day out to provide services to Concordians and family, local or abroad. For the people who are dedicated to making tomorrow brighter, I want to say thank you on behalf of a dear member of the Concordia community who is no longer with us.

Two weeks ago, Jasmindee Virdee, 29, known as Jazz by her friends and fellow volunteers at the Concordia Volunteer Abroad Program, was killed instantly by a drunk driver while on leave from her post at the United Nations in Haiti.

Jazz was a member of the maiden CVAP volunteer group sent to Uganda in February 2007.

She was an enthusiastic volunteer, a natural leader, with a palpable passion for life. While with CVAP, she went above and beyond all expectations and left everyone she met with great

memories and a legacy of dedication to her greatest passion, humanitarian and development work.

Following her volunteer experience in Uganda, Jazz travelled the world, lending her time to causes in Africa and Asia, and received a graduate degree from the London School of Economics.

Jazz helped in the reconstructing of earthquake-stricken Haiti, where she worked with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

She was a glimmer of hope that still shines bright and an example of the many unsung Concordian heroes.

She will be greatly missed by the CVAP staff, volunteers and fellow alumni who knew her and were inspired by her.

—Peter Schiefke,
CVAP Chairperson

PR for Launi

I would like to express my support for Natasha Launi as a candidate for the position of VP Communications of ASFA. I first met Nat last September during my first week in the communications studies program.

She was the first person to welcome me to the department, and played a big part in making my transition into COMS a smooth one. I've since come to know Nat as a very hard-working, motivated, and above all else, incredibly enthusiastic person.

She is an ideal candidate for the position of VP Communications for many reasons: she is in the communication studies program, she is outgoing and her dedication to our school are only some of the reasons. She never fails to generate buzz for the events she is involved in. Anyone who attended last year's Valentine's Day party at PJ O'Haras can testify to that!

Nat has the experience, working with the communications guild and with other groups to advertise some great events. As one of my friends once commented after meeting Nat: "I don't know how she does so much and is always so excited about it!" That is exactly her biggest strength. Her remarkable enthusiasm about every event she's involved in promoting is contagious.

If Nat was able to reach this timid first year student during her very first week of class and get her involved, I have no doubt that she will do a great job as VP Communications of ASFA.

—Renee Tousignant,
Communications and Film Studies

**DON'T LIKE WHAT YOU READ?
SEND US A LETTER.**

send your letters and opinions to
letters@thelinknewspaper.ca



