

MEDIA DEMOCRACY



NEWS

POVERTY: MONTREAL TO SPEND \$35 MILLION FIGHTING HOMELESSNESS

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Undergraduates to Vote on Student Centre

\$43 Million Project Back on the Block for November Byelection

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

On Nov. 24, Concordia students will vote on whether or not they want to pay a series of fee levies to fund a \$43 million student centre.

At the Concordia Student Union's Oct. 13 council meeting, a motion to introduce a referendum question asking students to pay a \$0.50 per credit fee levy that would increase for four semesters until it reaches \$2.50 passed through council almost unanimously.

If the math confuses you, you're not alone. Most of council agreed the question's wording was puzzling.

Concordia undergraduate students currently pay \$2 per credit—or \$180 over a 90-credit bachelor's degree—to fund the creation of a student centre. Under the CSU's new proposal, that fee levy would climb by \$0.50 a semester until it reached \$4.50—or \$405 over a 90-credit degree—by the summer of 2012.

A similar referendum question, which would have implemented the \$2.50 fee levy hike in just one semester, was roundly rejected last March. Over 72 per cent of Concordia voters cast their ballots against the fee levy increase.

Councillor Joel Suss said he was skeptical that students would vote



CSU VP External and Projects Adrien Severyns fields questions from councillors. PHOTO JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

in favour of the new fee levy plan after having clearly denied a similar one just six months earlier.

The creation of a student centre was at the forefront of the Fusion slate's platform during the 2010 CSU general elections. Four months after the referendum question failed, CSU President Heather Lucas pledged to keep fighting for a student centre in an interview with *The Link*.

On Oct. 13, CSU VP External and Projects Adrien Severyns

pitched the new student centre plan to council.

"This is about reclaiming space for students," said Severyns. "Concordia is the only university in Canada without a student centre."

The CSU has already banked \$6.7 million towards the student center project, through their current \$2 per credit fee levy. Severyns said that amount would be enough to put a down payment on a downtown building and the centre could be up and running within

two years if November's fee-levy increases pass.

A student center would centralize Concordia's existing club and student space under one roof. A board of co-management made up of representatives from the student body and university administration would run the center. The plan would also cede 38 per cent of the building to Concordia University administration.

While Severyns guaranteed that students would make up over half

the board, some councillors felt the CSU would be handing over too much of the centre to the university.

"It seems to me that the administration has a duty to provide student space," said CSU councillor Ethan Cox. "I don't understand why an administration that is cracking down on student space in all other areas would be allowed to control so much of our student centre."

Although specific details have yet to be divulged, administrative space could conceivably be occupied by student-oriented services like the International Student Office or the Office of the Dean of Students.

Cox then proposed an amendment to the referendum question that would include more specific figures about the fee levies, but it was voted down.

"So to be clear," he said after the motion failed, "we're misleading students."

The debate over the wording of the referendum question continued long after the motion was shot down.

After an additional hour of debate, council approved a motion by Taylor Knott to present suggestions for clarification to the referendum's chief electoral officer, Oliver Coen.

Uninvited

Motion to Invite CUTV to Film CSU Meetings Fails

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

A motion to invite Concordia University Television to film Concordia Student Union council meetings quickly turned sour at the union's Oct. 13 meeting.

Councillors Ethan Cox and Joel Suss presented their fellow representatives with a motion that would formally invite CUTV to film and stream council meetings on the Internet.

After half an hour of heated debate, which revolved around the legality and ethics of having a media outlet broadcast the meetings, the motion was shot down by a vote of 13 to six.

From the outset, CUTV repre-

sentatives were in attendance capturing the deliberations on tape as they unfolded.

"This is a really good step towards transparency and accountability," said Cox while presenting the motion. "It's important that students who can't make it out to Loyola on Wednesday night be able to open up their laptops and see what their representatives said [...] I think that it can't help but improve the reputation of the CSU [...] and I think that it's in fact the essence of democracy."

CUTV Station Manager Laura Kneale also spoke to the council.

"There's no bylaw that prevents CUTV from filming the meetings and in the past there were even mo-

tions presented to allow [CUTV] to film [the meetings]," said Kneale, adding that, unlike newspapers, the station could provide an "unedited" view of what happens at a council meeting.

Many of the councillors were visibly uncomfortable being filmed and expressed concerns over their right to privacy. CSU President Heather Lucas went so far as to claim CUTV's presence at the meetings would intimidate council, as students would be able to see how councillors voted on certain motions.

Cox fired back at Lucas, comparing her to Keyana Kashfi, the president of a CSU executive repeatedly accused of violating its own consti-

tution in 2008.

"Allow me to posit that if you are uncomfortable with the students at large knowing which way you voted on a particular issue, you probably shouldn't have voted that way," said Cox.

Although CSU council meetings are open to students and student newspapers, and there is no bylaw preventing the station from filming council's proceedings, the motion's harshest critics alleged the act of filming the meeting is, in fact, illegal.

"This room is reserved, it is not public," said CSU VP External and Projects Adrien Severyns. "The person that does not accept to be filmed should not be filmed, it is

the law, it's an invasion of privacy. I do not want to be filmed right now [but] I am filmed and I could very easily sue [CUTV]."

After Cox and Suss' motion failed to pass, CSU President Heather Lucas asked CUTV to stop filming the meeting. No councillor could produce a specific piece of legislation or law that could prevent the video recording of a student union meeting; as a result CUTV was allowed to continue filming the rest of the meeting by council Chair Marc-Antoni Tarondo.

While the CSU may not have been the most accommodating hosts, CUTV will still film council's next meeting on Nov. 10.

South Shore Hit With Transit Hikes

Price of Passes to Jump by 59 Per Cent as All Off-Island Suburbs to Pay Same Price

• JASMINE PAPILLON-SMITH

Philippe Johnson, a 21-year-old Université de Montréal student, moved to the apartment building adjacent to the Longueuil Metro station to avoid taking the bus—and to avoid the hassle of paying for an expensive bus pass.

Things are going to change for Johnson and other Longueuil commuters as of January, however, when the price of a pass will rise from \$70 to \$84.50. The hikes will continue until January 2012, when the price of a bus pass will reach \$111—a 59 per cent increase from its current cost.

By January 2012, metro-only passes will no longer exist for the South Shore residents. They will be replaced by Réseau de Transport de Longueuil passes that will allow users to use the Montreal suburb's bus system.

"I moved here to have easier access to school without living downtown," said Johnson. "The reason rent in these apartments is so high is because of the proximity to the metro; now I'll be paying an extra \$40 [...] for no extra service."

Laval metro users, who have been paying the \$111 fee for the past few years, have been calling for South Shore residents to be charged just as much.

Reactions to the increase, however, are mixed. The Longueuil-Université-de-Sherbrooke station is only two stops away from Berri-UQAM Metro, and hasn't been updated since 1967.

"I've been taking the metro for 40 years," said Louise Choquette, a South Shore transit user. "We only have one station, and we've paid it off. If they gave us a free



Longueuil Metro users will see their transit pass fees increase from \$70 to \$111 by 2012. PHOTO OLIVIER DELORME

parking lot like at Montmorency Metro in Laval, the increase could be justified."

The fight to keep Longueuil metro tariffs down has been ongoing for several years at the Communauté Métropolitaine de Montréal, a board which includes the mayors of Montreal, Longueuil and Laval.

Longueuil succeeded in pushing back the increase from July 2010 to January 2012.

Catherine Bérubé, the press relations agent for Longueuil Mayor

Caroline St-Hilaire, said the rise is justifiable because the city managed to secure certain transport improvements, such as a Bixi system, in the deal.

"The mayor of Laval is always pushing for Longueuil commuters to pay the same tariffs, but it's not fair because they have three metro stations to Longueuil's one," said Bérubé. "An increase in cost has to be linked to better service."

"In order to get the CMM to slow down the increase, Longueuil threatened to hold back its yearly

contributions to the metro deficit," Bérubé continued. "The 60-per cent increase will be more readily justifiable once new metros are added to Longueuil, making it equal to Laval. We are awaiting our metros with impatience."

The \$111 pass will allow transit users to use the zone 3 Réseau de Transport de Longueuil bus system. The STM did not respond to queries on why the metro-only pass could not continue to exist.

"It should only be one price," said Lysandra Langevin, a Laval

resident. "The system is the same throughout the island and on the shores. If my pass was \$40 like on-island students, I'd buy it. As it is, I take my car."

The increase goes against the city of Montreal's recent efforts to promote greener means of transportation and the millions they are currently investing in projects like the promotion of public transit, the creation of pedestrian streets and the hike in parking fees in boroughs like Plateau-Mont-Royal.

Concordia Waits to Turn it In

Anti-Plagiarism Software Hits Security Snag

• LAURA BEESTON

After testing the American anti-plagiarism software Turnitin on roughly 500 students over the summer semester, Concordia's Centre for Teaching and Learning Services has postponed a school-wide implementation of the project until further notice, citing privacy concerns.

"The big issue that emerged—which was what we expected and what we're still trying to figure out—is privacy, preserving anonymity and student and faculty concerns about terms of ownership and intellectual property," said John Bentley, the program coordinator and instructional developer for CTLS.

The classes involved in the Turnitin trial were told in their syllabi

that "students who use the text-matching software agree to providing and sharing certain personal information with the software provider. Students are advised that the university cannot guarantee the protection of personal information provided to a U.S. software provider and subject to U.S. laws."

"The main thing at the moment is to explore how other universities are coping with these issues," said Bentley. "We need to find out what our colleagues [in other universities using the software] are doing in terms of adding another layer of protection. Once that's done, we'll probably revisit the project."

Eleven Concordia classes experimented with the system over the summer, where students were invited to upload their written as-

signments into the online service to check their work against millions of other papers, web pages and academic journals and ensure proper citation.

Though using Turnitin was voluntary for students and staff, the challenge for CLTS is to "have [a program] that's so protected that students will want to, in majority, opt in," said Bentley.

Students who decided not to submit their work to the software were given supplemental coursework. This included, but was not limited to, reflection papers, reports on research methodology, copies of multiple drafts, an annotated bibliography and photocopies of sources.

"The tricky thing is that we don't want faculty to have to double up on work for the students

who are opting out and need alternative [coursework]," said Bentley.

Despite the university's reluctance to implement the Turnitin program to Concordia, the CLTS is hopeful that, with more security, it is something that may work at Concordia in the future.

"When it comes to things like this, you need to stick your foot in the water and see what the temperature is like," said Bentley. "That's the approach we're taking. We're trying to do this methodically, to ensure that there are no issues at the end of the day and keep students and staff happy."

Were you one of the 500 students who used the Turnitin software over the summer? Send us your comments at thelinknewspaper.ca

"The big issue that emerged [...] is privacy, preserving anonymity and student and faculty concerns about terms of ownership and intellectual property,"

—John Bentley,
Turnitin Program Coordinator

Deportation is Double Punishment: Activists

Dany Villanueva Faces Deportation Due to Criminal Record



• MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Twenty protesters gathered outside of the Immigration and Refugee Board early Wednesday morning to denounce the deportation of Dany Villanueva to Honduras.

The demonstration took place outside the Guy Favreau Complex where the 24-year-old Villanueva, who is appealing his deportation, had a hearing that determined his appeal would be pushed to April 4.

The protest, organized by Montréal-Nord Républik, the Coalition Against Police Abuse and Repression, No One Is Illegal Montreal and Solidarity Across Borders, called for an end to Villanueva's deportation order and what they say is "double punishment" experienced by some immigrants in Canada.

"Double punishment is something that especially immigrant youth and youth of colour are facing," said Robyn Maynard of No One Is Illegal. "They're already over-targeted and over-prosecuted by the police and have to face criminal repercussions and serve time. But then after this point they still have to go through the Immigration and Refugee Board, so they actually have to face the criminal

justice system as well as the immigration system."

Under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, people who are not Canadian citizens can face deportation if they are convicted of a criminal offence in Canada. Villanueva, a permanent resident since 1998, served his full sentence of 11 months in 2006 for armed robbery. He was since arrested for possessing weapons in 2008 and again this spring on drunk driving and drug charges.

Canada's Border Services Agency began their proceedings to deport Villanueva because of his criminal record in January.

The protest organizers claim that Villanueva's role as a key witness in the public inquiry into his brother Fredy Villanueva's death makes the deportation order suspicious. They say it amounts to interference by the CBSA in the coroner's inquest into Fredy's death. Fredy Villanueva was 18-years-old when he died after being shot by a Montreal police officer in August 2008.

"What's happening to Dany Villanueva is that he had actually committed a crime and served his full sentence in 2006 and didn't receive his deportation notice until after his family had secured the

public inquiry, so we really think that they're trying to target the Villanueva family for speaking out," said Maynard. "The timing is very suspect."

Villanueva's lawyer Stéphane Handfield also called the timing of the authorities' decision "strange," but the IRB says it opened a deportation file on Villanueva a full month before Fredy was killed.

Sarita Ahojja of Solidarity Across Borders claims the deportation order is just an extension of the racism for which police officers in Montréal-Nord have come under scrutiny. Internal reports on alleged racial profiling by Montreal police were recently leaked and accepted as evidence in the coroner's inquest into Fredy's shooting.

"Double punishment is racial profiling," said Ahojja. "The youth of cultural communities suffer profiling, criminalization and—if they are not citizens—deportation. It's institutionalized racism against the young and the poor in our cultural communities. Their existence is criminalized. It's inhumane."

The Chaotic Insurrection Ensemble, an anarchist marching band, accompanied the demonstrators into the building. Most were prevented from attending the hearing.

Activists protest outside of Complex Guy Favreau, where Villanueva's deportation hearing took place. PHOTO MEAGAN WOHLBERG

We Live Here

Raising Money for the Homeless Transgendered and Transexual Community

• JULIA JONES

We Live Here! is a fundraiser that benefits people who have been kicked out of their homes because of their sexual identity or orientation. On Oct. 16, We Live Here! brought together different groups from Montreal's transsexual and transgender communities at Café Cleopatra.

The fundraiser was organized by Action Santé Travesti(e)s et Transsexuel(le)s du Québec to raise money for their emergency fund, which places individuals in a hotel until a more definitive living situation can be worked out.

Attractions included the screening of films Rémy Huberdeau and Renaud St-Amour, various cabaret performers, poet Trish Salah and DJ CPI—all hosted by Concordia's women's studies professor Viviane Namaste.

Nora Butler Burke, speaking on behalf of the organization, said that the fund helps over a dozen people a year that have either been kicked out by their families or roommates, can't make rent or have an intolerant landlord.

However, the emergency fund is a small part of a much larger



We Live Here! raises money for an emergency fund that provides lodging for people who have fallen on hard times or were kicked out of their homes because of their sexual identity. PHOTO JULIA JONES

picture, according to Burke.

"We also need to push the city to implement policies that will require shelters to accept people based on their self-identification, rather than what their legal identity says, for example. And to pro-

vide education to people living and working in the shelters," she said.

In addition to the emergency fund, the organization also provides assistance in navigating the immigration and judicial systems

to transsexual and transgender people.

It is taking that into consideration that ASSTQ also gives workshops to shelter staff—a palliative measure that addresses the bigger problem of discrimination against

transsexual and transgender people.

"It's both individual and systemic discrimination that is happening," said Burke. "Individual in the sense that there are employees that work in shelters that know nothing about trans people or assume that your genitals and or your legal sex define your sex and or your gender."

In bigger cities, such as Toronto and New York, people can check-in to a shelter based on how they see themselves and their sexual identity, and not necessarily how others perceive them.

"It's a systemic issue in the sense that there is no shelter in Montreal that has implemented a policy around access to their shelter to trans people," Burke added. "So what we really ask shelters to do when we give them workshops, if they really want to ally themselves to transsexual and transgender people that are on the streets, they need to put a policy in place."

The organization hoped to raise enough money to continue to the services they have been providing since the early 1990s, when the organization was founded.

Uniting Against Tuition Increase

Concordia Students Host Panel Discussion



Representatives from various student organizations representing over 200,000 post-secondary students discuss the dangers of the proposed 2012 increase in tuition. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

• IRINA GABNER

Quebec students will not take the newest provincial budget cuts to education and social services without a fight.

On Oct. 13, the Concordia Student Union hosted a panel discussion on alternative ways to keep education costs accessible in Quebec. Members of the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, l'Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante, the Quebec Students' Roundtable and Free Education Montreal discussed the dangers of an end to the tuition freeze in 2012.

Together, the four organizations represent the interests of over 200,000 post-secondary students in Quebec, a population roughly the size of Longueuil.

"Most countries know that education is the basis of their social contract, of their society," said Robert Sonin from FEM, an organization started at Concordia last year uniting students and community members in the educational debate. "The more education you have, the better your country, the lower your crime rates, the higher your incomes."

"There is currently no vision in the government and the civil society

as a whole of what we have to do with universities," said Louis-Philip Savoie, president of FEUQ. "We are living in a very rich country. And we have the money to fund what we want to fund."

Martin Robert, representing l'ASSÉ, agreed.

"Studies done in 2007 found that if education were to be free for everyone at all levels, the cost represented less than five per cent of Quebec's budget," said Robert.

All parties proposed a system of progressive taxation on the private education system as part of the solution, rather than higher individual contributions from students.

Fighting tax evasion is another way to get money from the private sector, suggested Joël Pedneault from TaCEQ.

"The associations present here sometimes have different philosophies and ways of functioning," said Pedneault, "and I don't think that's a bad thing. But we do need to set our differences aside and coordinate our efforts."

"Our only weapon is the strength of numbers," said Robert.

Yet there is a feeling of apathy lingering around the "freeze tuition costs" message. Concordia's panel session to encourage participation in the student movement gathered

a meagre 50 students.

A common criticism of the campaign to keep tuition frozen is that Quebec already has the lowest fees in Canada. Incidentally, it also has the highest registration rates.

"Yes, we are privileged for sure," said Erik Chevrier, mediator of the panel and member of FEM. "But that doesn't mean we should do nothing about the proposed increases. Privilege has come because we have actually stood up for our rights in Quebec. So if you want to continue to enjoy that privilege, I encourage you to do the same and to fight to keep accessible education and social services!"

Everything on the Table

National Chair of the Council of Canadians Speaks at ConU

• RAY CORKUM

The National chair of the Council of Canadians and "water warrior" Maude Barlow visited Concordia this past week for the Montreal premiere of Liz Marshall's film *On the Table*.

The film moves from the tar sands to North Simcoe, Ont., to the floor of the UN as Barlow campaigns against the privatization of Canada's water resources and works to have safe drinking water deemed a human right by the United Nations.

Barlow, an outspoken critic of water privatization and former senior advisor on water to the United Nations, applauded Marshall's work as a "wake up call" to the realities of world water shortages and the increasing interest of the private sector in Canadian

water.

Liz Marshall sees *On the Table* as an "educational tool" and has released an accompanying teacher's guide. She spoke glowingly of her time spent with Barlow.

"Something I learned while keeping up with Maude this year is that an activist is something to be," she said. "Maude embraces it, and as a filmmaker able to witness it from this side of the camera, it is a gift."

The film features supporters of water privatization and commoditization, including Montreal Economist Michael Bayer and Terence Corcoran—editor of the *Financial Post*—who argue that cash strapped governments cannot provide water in an increasingly thirsty world.

Terence Corcoran argued that water shortages are the future and

that the mass export of water is a matter of time for Canada and its corporations.

"The issue will not be whether to export, but how much money the federal government and provinces will be able to extract from massive water shipments," said Corcoran.

In July, a resolution was passed by the United Nations making clean drinking water and sanitation a human right. Notably, Canada and the United States abstained from the vote, reasoning that an expert inquiry into the status of our water systems should be established before any decisions are made.

The amendment to the UN Declaration on Human Rights illustrates the increasing fragility of the world's raw materials.

"When the 1948 Universal Dec-

laration on Human Rights was written, no one could foresee a day when water would be a contested area," said Barlow. "But in 2010, it is not an exaggeration to say that the lack of access to clean water is the greatest human rights violation in the world."

Barlow celebrated the amendment, but addressed the difficulties it has created. Questions regarding the global responsibilities of water-wealthy nations such as Canada are of primary concern.

"This convention does not mean that Canada must now 'share its water,'" said Barlow. "A human rights agreement at the UN is between a government and its own people. If we do have an obligation, it is to financially aid, to help countries that cannot deliver this obligation."

Barlow argued that water shar-

ing should take the form of aid, not permanent arrangements with worldwide shipments of Canadian water.

"There is a difference between sharing and selling. If we agree that water is [a] human right, then we won't sell," she said. "There are places and times where we should share our water, for example times of famine around the world. We bring in food during a crisis to help, not to say 'Oh, well, here is a permanent customer for our grain.'"

Barlow stated that the CoC would use this UN amendment to address the "terrible record" in Canada regarding the quality of water in First Nations communities—including the territories of the Lubicon Cree, which have been permanently damaged by the tar sands projects in Alberta.

FEAST on Creativity

Leaders of Social Media Talk Cities and Sharing

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

NEW YORK, NY—Sitting in the main auditorium of *The New York Times* building, the world's movers of social media spoke about the future of the global economy, society and cities at the FEAST conference on Oct. 15.

While most of the speakers articulated a future where social media and new networks of sharing would conquer the drudgery of work, they also ignored the large segment of America's population without access to the tools of social media.

The families eating breakfast at McDonald's at the corner of 125th Street and Park Avenue were largely ignored, as were the panhandlers in the subway, but one speaker took larger problems head on.

Mitch Joachim, the cofounder of ecological planning studio Terreform One and a professor at New York University, spoke about changing the world on a large scale.

Faced with three scenarios for the world's urban places, Joachim told the 400 people in attendance that he refused to concede that environmental degradation was irreversible.

"If I said that, half of us will do good things and the other half will buy big cars, use tons of energy and speed around the block living life to its fullest before they die," said Joachim.

His goal instead is to build new cities that are livable and sustainable.

"This is nothing new [...] in

the past they invented entire cities from scratch all at once, with dirigibles connecting to skyscrapers, skyscrapers linking in clusters with one and another, and with cannonade systems for mobility," said the planner.

"We look at cities from the same perspective; we design everything, from the blimps, to the cars, to the buildings."

Showing the audience a mockup of his green city, Joachim had a noticeable reaction to the futuristic cityscape dominated by glass ziggurats, blimp transit propelled by its riders and small cars whizzing through the verdant urban canyons.

"I know this doesn't seem like how you would build a green city," said Joachim. "You have to measure this in a scale of fabulousness, it has to be something that you can live in. Something you can see yourself in."

The central piece of Joachim's presentation was his proposal for a new urban car.

"It's a wheel, the entire car is in that wheel. Drive train, suspension and a modicum of intelligence is in that wheel," said Joachim of the wheel that was built by MIT students. "You add three or four of these wheels together and you get a car."

Calling it the Bit Car, Joachim spoke of the vehicle as a utility service like water. All of them would be the same, but each driver could personalize the car's soft exterior. The cars would be parked in stacks where they would be recharged by solar cells.

Built of soy-based plastics, the cars would travel in flocks and would require minimal driver intervention.

"We want a car that is at least as smart as a horse," said Joachim.

The futurist was soon replaced by Rachel Botsman, the author of *What's Mine is Yours*, a book about sharing as a replacement for consumption.

As an example of her work, Botsman cited FarmVille, a popular Facebook application.

"One per cent of the world's population spends 78 years every month growing virtual food no one can eat," said Botsman.

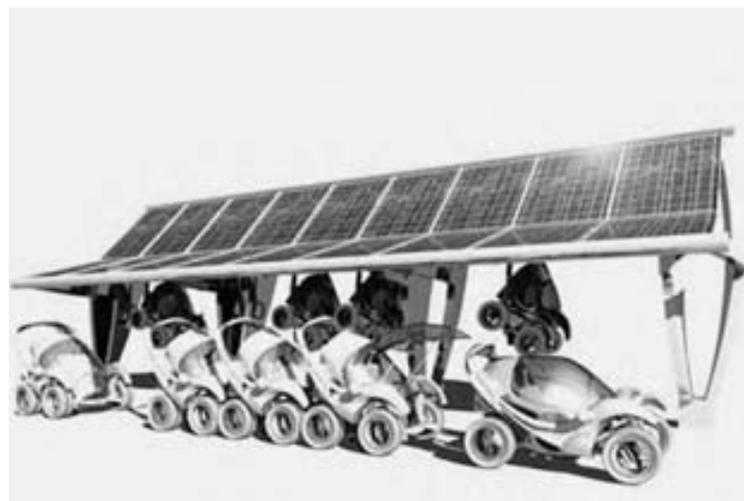
With millions of people interested in growing food and millions of acres of lawns and yards going unused, a website called Landshare has linked millions of growers to people with land to share.

"Technology is taking us back to old market behaviours," said Botsman. "We are swapping, trading and bartering with technology like Facebook."

Montreal has an example of this kind of collaboration with its Bixi bike share network, where people use cycling as a utility that they can rent.

Simply put, collaborative consumption wants to do the same thing to your drill, food, clothing, car, apartment and all the stuff you rarely need or use.

If the speakers at FEAST have a say about the future of the world, as it seems they might, get ready for greener cities and a lot more sharing.



Mitch Joachim's vision of future transportation was presented to the FEAST conference on Oct. 15. PHOTOS COURTESY OF TERREFORM ONE

Montreal to Spend \$35 Million Fighting Homelessness

Mayor to Build 750 Housing Units, Reduce Vagrancy Arrests

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Gerald Tremblay wants to change the way Montreal deals with homelessness.

On Oct. 13, Mayor Tremblay announced plans to build 750 new housing units for the homeless by 2013.

He also pledged to work with the Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal to provide officers with sensitivity training in order to shift police focus away from arrests and ticketing that disproportionately affect those who live on the street.

"This is something we've been working on for two years but it has been a priority for the Mayor since he was elected in 2002," said Darren Becker, the Mayor's spokesperson. "About two weeks into [Tremblay's] first mandate,

the first big file he dealt with was homelessness. Some people had set up a temporary shelter under the Jacques Cartier Bridge and city officials moved in a little too quickly and took it down. That generated a whole debate about homelessness and [Tremblay] has since worked with different groups to address the problem."

The project will cost upwards of \$85 million, with the city spending around \$7 million a year on policing initiatives and housing construction. The Mayor has also called on the Quebec government for \$29 million in funding and the federal government for an additional \$21 million. Becker said the city would not wait for other levels of government to go ahead with the project.

"We're ready to put up the five

to seven million dollars a year this project needs to get going," said Becker.

We can't just keep arresting [the homeless] and expect different results."

—Marc Riopel,
SPVM Detective

The SPVM has already started training its officers to better understand the living conditions homeless people are faced with.

In addition to the sensitivity training, Montreal Police formed Equipe mobile reference et d'intervention en itinérance earlier this fall. EMRII is a two-officer task force that collaborates with street workers to offer social serv-

ices for the homeless who are most often ticketed or arrested on vagrancy-related charges.

The size of the task force is expected to triple if it receives additional funding from the ministry of public safety.

"We get this revolving door of people who are arrested and ticketed time and time again," said SPVM detective Marc Riopel. "We can't just keep arresting them and expect different results."

One of the project's biggest obstacles will be getting funding from other levels of government. Riopel said the SPVM is counting on provincial support to build a \$1 million "respite" centre.

"The respite centre will make the police's job much easier," he said. "In the past, when a person was too intoxicated or too ram-

bunctious to be admitted in a homeless shelter we had two options: arrest him or take him to the hospital. Now if we had the respite centre the person could stay there to detox and not be out on the street or in jail."

Some of the plan's other initiatives include the construction of an outreach centre aimed at providing aid to Montreal's homeless Inuit population and adapted services for Inuit women—who are disproportionately affected by conjugal violence.

A few days after Tremblay's announcement, Montreal's Anti Police Brutality Coalition voiced opposition to the plan. Coalition spokesperson Sophie Sénécal called the plan discriminatory and alleged its main goal was to clear homeless people from public places.

'Because We're More Human Than They Are'

Roméo Dallaire discusses international diplomacy at ConU

• RILEY SPARKS

Canada's political leaders need to be ready to take decisive action to prevent genocide and crimes against humanity, said Canadian Senator Roméo Dallaire during a speech at Concordia last Thursday.

Peacekeeping has become far more complex since the end of the Cold War, argued Dallaire, and the international community needs to develop new strategies to prevent failures like the 1994 UN mission in Rwanda, which was headed by the retired Lieutenant-General.

"We need a whole new conceptual base for conflict resolution," to replace "the old methods [...], the old diplomacy, the old use of force," said Dallaire.

The Will to Intervene Project, established by Dallaire and Dr. Frank Chalk, the director of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies, aims to develop these new methods and convince politicians to implement them.

Fundamental to the project is



Roméo Dallaire wonders why Canada doesn't have the will to prevent mass murders in areas like Darfur. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

the idea of the "responsibility to protect," a principle adopted by the UN in 2005, that suggests individual nations and the international community have a responsibility to protect civilians from human rights violations.

According to the principle, if a nation is failing to protect its citi-

zens, the international community should intervene—with force if necessary.

To that end, suggested Dallaire, Canadians need to push their leaders to intervene and send in the troops when diplomacy fails, and to accept that saving lives abroad may be a costly but worthwhile endeavor.

our.

"Why can't we find troops to provide protection [in Darfur] and move people back into their area and stabilize it? It's not because the resources cannot be made available," said the General. "It [has to do with] whether or not we believe that is worthy of our willingness to invest in these human beings."

Alluding to the interventions in Rwanda and Afghanistan, he noted sardonically that "we were willing to invest when it was our security, because we're more human than they are. But when it's their security, it's a whole different set of parameters."

Decrying the lack of concrete action to prevent human rights violations in Darfur, Dallaire called on students and youth to become more active in pressuring politicians to act.

"By joining NGOs, becoming activists, taking over the president's office an hour a week, like the good old days in the sixties, they will change public opinion and political will."

Briefs

Brother André Canonized

On Oct. 16, Brother André Bessette, priest and founder of St. Joseph's Oratory, was declared a saint by the Catholic Church. About 3,000 Quebecers made the trek to Rome to witness a ceremony presided over by Pope Benedict XVI. Bessette passed away in 1937.

Train Derailment Causes Headaches

Those travelling to Toronto by train will have to cope with a detour through Ottawa after a train derailment yesterday in Cornwall, Ontario. The derailment caused panic within the community as the freight train spilled fertilizer and sulfuric acid, but officials soon deemed the scene safe. No details on when the line will reopen.

Quebec to rule on Street Hockey

A Dollard man was in court yesterday to fight for the rights of his children to play street hockey on his suburban road. David Sasson received a \$75 ticket in March for playing a game of shinny with his seven-year old son, Justin, and his friends. Sasson plans to contest the ticket.

Chevron punked

Energy company Chevron found itself on the wrong end of a prank by culture-jamming group The Yes Men yesterday. The satirical activists spoofed Chevron's new ad campaign, entitled "We Agree," with a press release including fake quotes from execs such as "For decades, oil companies like ours have worked in disadvantaged areas, influencing policy in order to do there what we can't do at home. It's time this changed."

More docs set to be WikiLeaks

On Oct. 18, American military officials urged media outlets to not print excerpts from a rumoured cache of documents to be released on WikiLeaks. The documents in question are said to concern the war in Iraq. The controversial site has been down "for scheduled maintenance" for the past month. WikiLeaks has challenged the Pentagon on Twitter.

The ASFA Report

Second Meeting Drags to Discuss Budget, Elections

• LAURA BEESTON

It took two hours of debating and two rounds of voting, but the Arts and Science Federation of Associations narrowly passed its annual budget at an Oct. 14 meeting.

The meeting reached a stalemate when half of ASFA's Member Associations voiced concern over voting on financial figures they weren't shown prior to the meeting.

"It seems pushy to ask us to ratify this [budget] without the information to discuss it," said Michaela Manson, the representative for the Philosophy Student Association, before the first vote was called—which tied and failed after an hour of deliberation.

Of the \$324,000 annual ASFA fee levy budget, 40 per cent is allotted to the 27 different MAs to hold academic and social functions in their respective arts and science departments.

Prior to the meeting, the MAs had each sent their budget requests to the Financial Oversight Committee—comprised of two ASFA council members, two members of the executive and a student-at-large—who deliberated for 14 hours over the numbers that were to be approved at the meeting.

"I don't think any of you will get the amount you're looking for," said Alexa Newman VP Finance, explaining that the Financial Committee considered how many students were in each faculty to determine who would get what share.



"I'm afraid it would get very back-and-forth if we went through all 27 member association budgets here tonight."

But the discussion ran on, as many MAs felt pressured to approve the budget before seeing a breakdown of its figures.

"It's like there's a gun to our head. Do we go forward [and vote] or stonewall until we can get more tangible information?" demanded Matthew Glannant, MA for Classics. "I don't know where the money is, how do I know where it came from, or where it's going to. How do I vote?"

"Nobody has a gun to your head," replied Newman. She added that "we can make amendments to the ASFA budget throughout the year," explaining alternate means

for MAs to get money for events, including the \$31,576 of ASFA Special Projects Funding.

The VP Finance also clarified that the budget was lower than expected this year because the total number of ASFA students is actually closer to 15,000—not the commonly-boasted figure of 18,000.

"We took a hit [this year]," said Newman of the decrease in student enrolment who pay a fee levy of \$1.32 per credit. "We have a much smaller rollover budget, based on number of students."

Though the numbers were down across the board, ASFA President Aaron Green expressed that the association was "vehemently opposed" to raising the fee levy to increase each MAs budget. "That would be a gross hypocrisy as we

are fighting tuition hikes alongside the CSU."

Finally, nearly two hours into the meeting, ASFA chair Sohrab Mossadei intervened. "If you don't approve it, no one has a budget and that's that," he said.

The question was called shortly after, and passed with 14 MAs approving, eight against and four abstaining.

"I don't know what I just voted on," said Glannant, after the budget approval was barely passed. "I honestly feel that I'm letting down the people who elected me. I have no idea what that budget is in terms of my association or anyone else's."

Election Results

Wrapping up the byelection two days before the meeting, the ASFA executive also welcomed Natasha Launi to the association as the VP Communications.

"There was outstanding candidate behaviour in this election," said Nick Cuillerier, the Chief Electoral Officer. "And we are happy to announce Natasha to the team."

Launi received 50.6 per cent of the 393 votes that were cast, and told the MAs about her upcoming initiatives, including the launch of the updated ASFA website, set to launch in the upcoming weeks.

This week, ASFA is launching the first of four green weeks in collaboration with the CSU. The events include a speaker's night with author, broadcaster and Order of Canada Member Jay Ingram on Oct. 20 at 8:00 p.m. in H110.

Starving in the Shadows

Mapuche Hunger Strike Overshadowed by Chilean Miners' Rescue: Reporter



A Mapuche protestor is arrested by Chilean riot police. PHOTO ANTITEZO

• ALEX DI PIETRO

Issues affecting the indigenous people of Chile continue to be neglected in mainstream media coverage, and it's no coincidence, Mapuche journalist Pedro Cayuqueo said at a conference in Montreal on Oct. 16.

"As a Chilean I am recognized, [but] I am a hologram as a Mapuche," said Cayuqueo, founder of the Mapuche newspaper *Azkin-tuWE*. "The Indigenous Law changed the Mapuche territory. We are refugees in a camp like horses in a stable."

According to Cayuqueo, the recent rescue of the Chilean miners overshadowed the Mapuche hunger strike that ended just over a week ago.

The strike began on July 12. Thirty-eight Mapuche prisoners were protesting the Chilean government's use of an anti-terrorism law to criminalize their attempts to reclaim what they considered their ancestral land from the forestry industry.

Armando Navarette, of the Mapuche National Support Committee, said the anti-terrorism legislation allowed the Chilean police to jail suspects under the presumption of terrorism with a trial by military tribunal rather than civilian court.

On Oct. 5, 24 of the prisoners ended their strike after certain amendments were made to the Chilean terrorism laws. The remaining Mapuche said they were willing to starve to death to see significant change.

"[The situation with the miners] was used by the government so they [wouldn't have to] talk about the Mapuche," Cayuqueo said through a translator, noting that President Sebastian Pinera's new government has been no different than that of former president

Michelle Bachelet's. "[They] apply laws that don't recognize the rights of and criminalize the Mapuches and we think that scenario will keep going with Pinera."

Cayuqueo, who also spoke in Toronto and Winnipeg recently, had plans to tour Canada in 2005 but was arrested and jailed days before his departure. There was much speculation among the Mapuche people that Cayuqueo, at the time of his arrest, was detained to disrupt his trip to Canada.

When members of the Movement in Support of the Mapuche Cause got word that Cayuqueo would be visiting Canada, they immediately tried to contact him so that he could stop in Montreal.

"I was so impressed by the silence [regarding the Mapuche hunger strike in the media]," said member Alejandro Cervantes.

Along with his objective to raise awareness about the governmental issues that surround the indigenous people of Chile, Cayuqueo's aim was to improve communication between the natives of North and South America with the tour. During his stay in Montreal, he met Stuart Myiow, Wolf clan representative from the Mohawk Traditional Council in Kahnawake.

One of the obvious conflicts the Mapuches and Mohawks have been historically faced with is the destruction and plundering of their land.

Myiow sees the first step as being to record and exchange visuals of each tribe's ceremonies in order to obviate the need for trips between continents.

"We're talking about creating an alliance with the true people from each of the nations," said Myiow. "What the Mohawk and Mapuche are doing in rebuilding the humanity is actually for the benefit of every living being on our mother earth."

Fighting HIV Stereotypes

• ADAM KOVAC

Though being gay hasn't been considered a mental illness for almost 40 years, there's more than one way to be unwell. That was the message of University of Michigan professor David Halperin's Oct. 14 speech, "Are Homosexuals Still Sick?"

In the eyes of the general public "gays have a hard time getting well," he told an audience of Concordia students, noting that society tends to have a flawed perception of gays as being victims of "low self-esteem, alcoholism, drug abuse, sexual compulsivity," among other psychological ailments.

Part of the speech was dedicated

to how to better frame public discourse on STI risk reduction. Halperin maintained that rather than presenting the issue as a moral one, it's possible to promote safe sex practices as a preventative measure.

After the presentation, Halperin noted that turning HIV prevention into a moral question is a flawed approach to prevention. He concluded that the best way to promote safe sex was by considering it "a price for getting what you want, rather than conforming to some kind of moral norm."

While this approach resembles an Ayn Rand objectivist philosophy, Halperin maintained that it isn't amoral, but is grounded in objective reality.

"I think [morality] has a large place in people's own view points," he said. "I think everyone is inclined to see these problems in terms of their own moral values. I think that generally, in terms of public health policy, morality doesn't have a very effective role to play, because people don't do the things they don't want to do. You have to deal with these issues practically."

The presentation was the first this year in the Concordia University Community Lecture Series on HIV/AIDS. When reached by e-mail, co-ordinator Aaron Capar said he was glad to finally have Halperin come to Concordia.

"He was supposed to come for a few years, but our and his available

times did not match up until this year," said Capar, adding that he thought the subject matter was important as "David is touching on a very important issue in how the scientific/prevention community is constantly referring to gays as having mental/psychological problems/sicknesses. Even reviewing other literature [...] there are constant references to the mental health of gay men as a reason for the pandemic being so prevalent in this population. It is really marginalizing gay people in the sense as passing them off as 'crazy whatever'—something that straight people don't have to deal with nearly as much when addressing their reproductive health issues like

STIs, pregnancies etc."

The speech garnered a lengthy round of applause from the audience, which filled the bottom half of the Hall building's theatre room.

"I used to work a little bit in HIV/AIDS prevention," said student Jeba Bowers-Murphy afterwards. "It was a program where you'd get educated and you'd educate other people. We never got anything [as] specific [as Halperin's speech]."

"I thought he made a really constructive point on an issue that seems kind of helpless sometimes," added fellow student Maja Presnell. "He was very bluntly obvious, and I liked that. He had a good approach."



Ich Bin Ein Partier

GRAPHIC JULIA WOLFE



How Underground Raves Bridged the Culture Gap in late 80's Berlin

•BENJAMIN CROZE

For the forty-odd years that it was divided, Berlin was dominated by big personalities, big speeches and big events. Characters like John F. Kennedy, Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan all left their mark on the city, using it as the focal point of their war of ideologies.

Those are the guys who will be mentioned in history books—but they don't tell the whole story.

Oct. 3 marked the 20th anniversary of an officially reunified Germany, 11 months after Gorbachev tore down that wall. Needless to say, this economic and political achievement was something of a formality—the real unification was lying in the people, and had already been taking place for quite some time in abandoned factory cellars.

Derelict Dancehalls

The techno underground had already begun to take root in West Berlin at the end of the '80s, based on the Detroit and Chicago club scenes and bands like Kraftwerk, Depeche Mode, New Order, Les Rita Mitsouko and Suicide.

DJs Matthias Roeingh, a.k.a. Dr. Motte, and Maximilian Lenz, a.k.a. WestBam, created a club called UFO, which became the seed of Berlin's club culture. Unofficially founded in 1989 in a vacant cellar in West Berlin, the club played the latest acid-house music.

Prior to its founding, East Berliners could only hear some of the music over radio transmissions and were limited to making mix-tapes, known as Tapekultur.

"It felt like we were missing out on a lot," recalled Bastian Von Schlippenbach, a teenager at the time. "We could see their TV and hear their radio, but couldn't live any of it or have any of that music. What we did have was housing and employment for all, guaranteed. In general I think there were strong desires to be able to freely travel west as pleased, but not necessarily to stay there."

Berlin in general wasn't quite at its prime. "West Berlin was an island in East Germany. The neighborhoods along the wall were all abandoned, and industry in West Berlin was stagnant. After reunification, Berlin remained a desolate, economy-less 'major city.' A refuge for the arts, but little else," explained Pablo Beaner Roman-Alcalá, a resident DJ at Bar25.

A third of the buildings in East Berlin lay empty when the wall came down. Most were hidden, had power running and no one looking after them: an ideal playground for Western DJs and party organizers. Ravers rushed to the "wild east."

The vacancies provided the cradle for the techno underground to burgeon. That, in turn, became the cradle of social reunification for the youth. The two played off each other.

"Parties at that time were illegal/semi-legal events in squatted basements, houses or industrial lofts, initiated by the possibilities the city of Berlin offered—a lot of space to play around with," said Thomas Rupp, one of the main organizers of the annual Fuckparade techno festival since 1998. "These parties, which were new and excit-

ing to both Eastern and Western kids, plus the affinity for the new type of music, maybe even in conjunction with a new wave of drug/music interaction, opened new relations between both worlds easily."

It would be logical to assume that the parties confirmed all the stereotypes of western-style capitalism, indulging in the most extreme forms of hedonism. Easterners nonetheless had a reputation for bringing over a taste for particularly hard partying.

A new, exhilarating subculture bloomed. Without cell phones and social networks, locations for raves were communicated by word of mouth and flyers. Smoke filled the spacey-funked cellars, as DJs blasted bowel-bursting bass lines while repetitively flipping the light switch on and off. Parties lasted all night and into the next day.

Bangin' Heartbeats

"We never had such high political ambitions. Sex, drugs and techno was the motto of the time," said Rupp.

"On the dance floor, everyone was equal," recalled Bastian. "Whether you were dancing or DJing, Ossie or Wessie." A kind of socialism of the dance floor reigned as a retaliation against traditional diskothek elements.

Dr. Motte threw the first Loveparade for his birthday in 1989, months before the wall came down. The first one drew about 150 people. From there, attendance grew at an exponential rate, reaching around 1.5 million by 1999, uniting not only Germans, but ravers from all over the world.

"Party town" Berlin had turned into the "world capital of techno." They had to pretend to be a political demonstration in order to get permission and funding. The initial motto was Friede, Freude, Eierkuchen (Peace, Joy, Pancakes).

"The political umbrella for the Loveparade was merely one easy way of cost-cutting, as for political demonstrations the city has to pay all resulting costs," said Rupp.

By 2001, the festival had lost its political status and funding had to come from somewhere else: sponsors. The Loveparade in recent years has been funded in large part by McFit, a German chain of fitness centres. Dr. Motte and WestBam no longer participate, citing the commercialization of the festival as their reason for leaving.

"I want to see them in jail," said Dr. Motte regarding the current organizers and McFit owner Rainer Schaller, citing the fatal trampling of 21 ravers at this year's festival, which has been blamed on a lack of space.

"All they want is profit, profit, profit."

The Politics of Dancing

In 1991, the UFO packed up and soon re-opened—officially this time—as the Tresor, located under the Wertheim department store in East Berlin's center. The relocation was seen as a controversial move into the mainstream.

Faced with the selling-out of the once-underground subculture, guerilla raves were thrown, free of tourists and the "easy jet-set," as Tobias Rapp called them. Today, many Berliners only enter clubs at

the wee hours once they know tourists are safe and sound in their hostel bunks.

Dr. Motte eventually joined with the Fuckparade as retaliation against the commercialization of his Loveparade. Today, the Fuckparade is fighting alongside Berliners against increased gentrification, privatization and conservative urban politics. The struggle over Berlin's identity has not been violence-free.

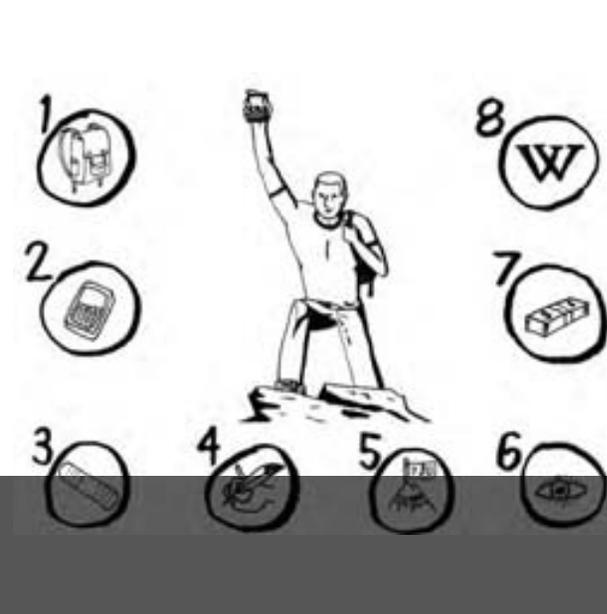
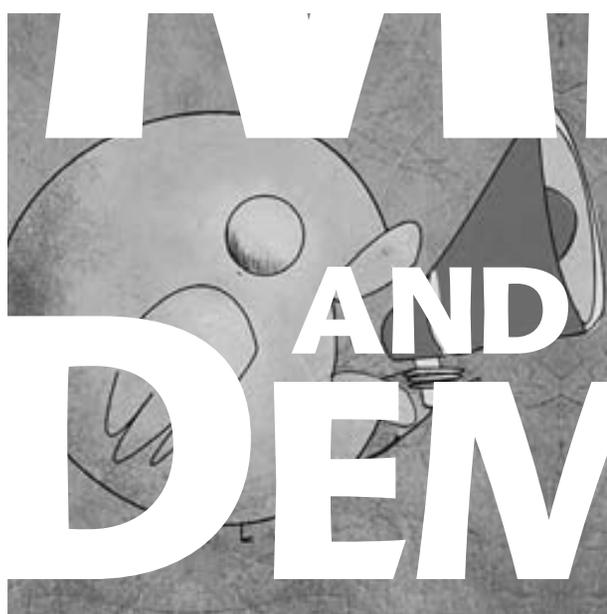
"They just throw tear gas and hit [protesters] with sticks. They don't listen to them," said Dr. Motte of protests against city policies.

Beaner summed up the situation this way: "The freeze of arts and the displacement of culture are natural side dishes to the main course of community death that is 'urban renewal.' Bar25 employed over 200 people. Bar25 paid its taxes—quite a bit I might add. But Bar25 doesn't have large amounts of capital on its side. If capital continues to make decisions, Berlin will not be a city of culture. It will be suburbs of culture because the arts will not be able to afford to live in the center."

The Great Techno Swindle

The very "economy-less" ground zero that gave birth to an international movement and allowed a generation to unite has since matured into the capital of the EU's leading economy. Berlin's commercialization has resulted in the decay of the subculture it fostered for 20 years.

But what's the big deal? We could always mix killer beats for a Hotel Radisson commercial.



The Citizen Journal

Is print media dead?

Well, not quite, but the journalist's job just got digital, since cyberspace—a voluminous vault of information—is only a mouse-click away.

Human rights violations by police during the G20 Summit in Toronto; citizen reporting in the Gaza Strip; scandals in the U.S. military revealed through WikiLeaks—all of these truths have been uncovered by citizen journalists through unconventional means. All of this has been made into a reality because of the Internet.

This new field of communication has shed light on some of the world's darkest secrets, but freedom online is continually being challenged. Loudmouths dominating the discussion on message boards and new Internet laws against anonymity are but a few of the many emerging barriers blocking free speech.

These potential obstacles are not only important to our media, but to our democracy as well. At what point is the release of information in the public interest? Should there be limits on what people can post online? What other methods of soliciting income can news publications use with dwindling advertising revenue threatening the whole industry?

We probably don't have all the answers, but it's high time we started asking the questions. Our future, both *The Link's* future as a newspaper and the future of democracy for all, depends on it.

—Clay Hemmerich & Diego Pelaez Gaetz,
Media and Democracy issue editors

JOURNALISM IN THE 21C

Scoop Twitter and Outfriend Facebook: Eight Tips



GRAPHIC SEBASTIEN CADIEUX

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Journalism was in a state of change, a new and disruptive technology had arrived on the scene and the existing powers were doing all they could to hold on.

While it might sound like the Twitter-mad United States during the great recession, welcome to Europe in 1447 as the calligraphy industry fought off Gutenberg and his newfangled press.

The invention that has lent its name to the field of journalism was perhaps the most disruptive in the history of the written word; however, the Internet has now put a press in every house and in nearly every pocket.

The consequences will be nearly as far reaching.

A time of disruption has returned to the world of the printed word and daily newspapers are now the industry on the defensive. They have all but conceded defeat.

With the ubiquity of the printing press, journalists must now learn not to write more, but to write better, faster and build communities that hang off their every word.

Here are a few tips for journalism in the 21st century.

(1) Learn to pack light

You won't have an office to rely on, a taxi budget to carry you around or a company card to cover your meals. You won't be alone, but your support network will no longer be financial or material, it will be digital.

Everything you need to carry will have to be in a backpack or in your pockets. Also, the journalistic dress code might need some relaxing. No need for three-piece suits like those found at *Le Journal de Montreal*.

(2) Learn to be smart

It might seem like common sense, but journalists now need a smart phone that keeps them perpetually tethered to the Internet. Tweets build a community and hype for what you are doing, as well as keeping you abreast of what is going on around you.

Stories are now built, they aren't just released when you finish your first edit. You are now constructing a narrative with picture uploads, tweets and geotags.

(3) Learn to be safe

Now that you don't have the power of a multinational corporation at your back or a media property that has instant name recognition, you will need to think safe. Don't worry, this was going to happen either way. At the G20 protests this summer it was quickly understood that the police treated internationally accredited media no different from protestors. Both were shot at and beaten without provocation.

Learn first aid, you might need to use it on people around you or on yourself. Rubber bullets don't discriminate.

(4) Learn to have a voice

The gulf between popular media and the paper of record has narrowed to the point of near irrelevance. Everyone is using more commentary, more pictures and more colour. What you need to do is put that colour into your words. Cultivate a voice and an opinion that guides people through your pieces.

No one will come back to you for the standard facts, but they will for solid thoughts and a different look at the world.

(5) Learn to be on top

Google News and your readers have done your job for you.

Back in the day, editors had to decide what order stories came in. The choices of every person on the Internet and what they choose to read, now decides that order.

Make your story the most interesting and break the big stories by being in the right place—follow Tweets and blogs to know where that is. The big papers are just a collection of people, they don't have a monopoly on the big story. They are often the last to find out.

If you build your contacts and community, the playing field won't just be flatter—it may tilt in your favour.

(6) Learn visuals

The look of things is more important than ever. Graphics and splashy colours can work on the Internet in a way that they never worked on paper. Learn to take great pictures, learn to make graphics and create a website that stands out.

Your standard WordPress blog won't cut it, so look into online tutorials and get learning.

(7) Learn business

Daily newspapers and free dailys don't work in the same way as online media. Will members, ads or a benefactor support you? Learn to leverage your stories and your impact to get people investing in your site with time and money.

Learn simple business. One great story can get you the ads to keep you going for three months. You can live from scoop to scoop.

(8) Learn everything

You are the news. Remember to learn everything you can about everything you are covering.

Read everyday, write everyday. Never stop being interested so that when you write stories and features you can draw on the widest body of knowledge and create pieces that inform. Be the first to take a point of view, be critical and be factual.

Welcome to the 21st century of journalism. It's not nearly as scary as it looks.

RABBLING ON

Pros and Cons of Citizen Journalism



The cell phone is the new notepad

GRAPHIC BY
Tina Salameh

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

In 1998, Judy Rebick posted an editorial denouncing the Kosovo War on the CBC's newly launched website.

The response Rebick's post received sparked a revolution for media democracy in Canada. Within hours, email began pouring into her inbox from around the world. Rebick's editorial started a conversation with readers that inspired her to create a forum for citizens to interact with media in a way that had previously been impossible.

"Around the time of the [editorial], I had been raising money to start a left-wing newspaper," said Rebick. "We had put together about \$1 million and needed about four times that amount [...] but when I started getting these emails I was just stunned. The emails were insightful and intelligent; they were taking issue with what I wrote or agreeing. That's when I thought that the Internet would be a perfect medium."

In April 2001, Rebick co-founded *Rabble.ca*, a site where both professional and citizen journalists can post news articles and participate in politically-themed forums.

"The independent media sites at the time were difficult to navigate, the quality was poor, you couldn't really find anything unless you were an activist yourself," said Rebick. "I wanted to make a professional news site with a different perspective."

Rabble.ca launched during the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City.

Rebick provided street-level coverage of the protests, but it was an unexpected run-in with the law that would help *Rabble.ca*'s popularity explode.

Before the protests, Rebick raised money to build a catapult that would launch teddy bears at riot police. After the catapult was used during the Quebec City demonstrations, police arrested Montreal-based activist Jaggi Singh on weapons possession charges.

"It was just a stage prop," said Rebick of the stuffed-animal-launching contraption. "[But] something I had done got [Singh] arrested so we started a campaign to free him. That really helped the website take off."

Rabble.ca has since provided reporting on national and international events with the help of citizen journalists worldwide, often covering the stories that slip through the fingers of mainstream press.

Stefan Christoff bought a ticket to the Philippines in May to partake in the People's International Observers Mission, a watch group that reported on political violence and human rights abuses occurring during the Southeast Asian country's elections. He spent his time working with community groups and documenting government-sanctioned violence but also filing stories for *Rabble.ca*. His articles provided a perspective on the election that had largely gone unreported by western media.

"There's a whole new emergence of the way people interact with media and the way they perceive it," said Christoff. "People don't think of the news as something that happens in a glass tower anymore. The mainstream media is scrambling to keep up with what's happening on the street level, what's happening online. The only people who can are the ones that are making things happen: youth, students, artists, and diverse community members."

“The mainstream media is scrambling to keep up with what's happening on the street level.

-STEFAN CHRISTOFF,
ACTIVIST AND CITIZEN JOURNALIST

These people have been under-represented in the media for sometime and now you have this dynamic where the mainstream media is attempting to bring into the fold and co-opt some of the elements of citizen journalism that have emerged, but I don't think they're doing it fast enough."

Members of traditional media outlets have criticized the kind of citizen journalism Christoff practices, alleging that unpaid, untrained citizens cannot do the work of a journalist and that amateur reporters cannot deal with some of the ethical dilemmas that come with reporting news.

Katherine Sedgwick is an assistant managing editor at *The Montreal Gazette*. The newspaper has been incorporating citizen journalism through an online and print publication of *The West Island Gazette*, where people are free to post photos, articles, free classified ads and blogs about subjects that interest them. Although Sedgwick is generally enthusiastic about citizen journalism, she has some reservations.

"[Citizen journalism] is good for democracy, it's a good way to undermine totalitarianism and the people who don't want information to get out there," said Sedgwick. "The weakness of citizen journalism is that these people aren't journalists [...] and the quality of what they produce isn't always all that great."

"But if you look at something like the Iranian election," she continued, "citizen journalism gave us a sense of what was happening on the ground. The video of that woman being killed, whether you call the man who took it a journalist or just someone with a camera phone, what's more powerful than that?"

THE I

As traditional news outlets suffer from decreases in readership and advertising revenue, the Internet has become simply a place to experiment with alternative forms of generating revenue, the Internet has become a few examples of the organizations that are shaking up the news landscape.

Spot.us



• DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

The door to the world of investigative reporting has been flung wide open, letting the eyes of the world watch the wheels of journalism turn.

Rather than the traditional behind-closed-doors reporting style of mainstream publications, recent start-up website Spot.us shows the reader the whole process, from assigning the story to collecting enough money to report on it.

“Freelancing is still mostly one-to-one communication, between the freelancer and the editor. It takes place mostly behind closed doors,” said David Cohn, founder of Spot.us. “We made it public.”

Spot.us was founded last year in San Francisco, so most of the stories found on the site are still California-centric. “With that said, we do have pitches from all over,” said Cohn, and the website is continually expanding to cover more areas.

While Spot.us has proven to be an innovative tool for disseminating news, they aren’t a news organization, but merely a “platform,” according to Cohn. Spot.us just provides access to news stories and solicits donations to help fund each story, and they do not employ an editorial staff, although Cohn’s background is in tech journalism.

However, don’t assume that this means journalistic standards aren’t observed.

“We’re working with specific individuals and specific news organizations—usually small ones—and as a result there is some oversight and editing and things like that.”

The website is a non-profit—but not for ideological reasons. Though one would assume being a non-profit would provide more freedom in what the site can help cover, that was not the primary motivation for their business model.

“If we were a for-profit company, it wouldn’t be as easy to ask people to donate money,” said Cohn. “People would have been skeptical about donating to a for-profit—in fact, it wouldn’t have been ‘donating’ at all.”

The donation system also allows for donors to receive a tax-deductible receipt, which has been a big draw to potential benefactors, according to Cohn.

The site is also experimenting with getting people to donate their time rather than their money to help the site. Users have the option of taking a survey from one of Spot.us’ sponsors and then taking part of the advertising proceeds gained from doing the survey and donating them to a story of their choice.

“Certainly, the sponsorship model we have introduced has helped,” said Cohn. “We’re not asking you to whip out your wallet, but just to take a survey.”

Despite the innovative fund-raising techniques at the disposal of Spot.us, nobody involved is naïve enough to think traditional advertising can be excluded from journalism entirely.

“The advertising business and the media is a billion dollar industry, so I would be really skeptical about saying that in 10 years, donations will replace that,” said Cohn. “It’s not going to happen.”

Though Cohn started the site “very much as an experiment,” Spot.us has had enough success for Cohn and a few employees to make a living.

“As an experiment, it’s very much a success,” said Cohn. “A lot of people said we would be letting journalistic demons out of the bag.

“Now the question is if we can make it a successful business,” continued Cohn. “I hope the answer is yes, but it’s very difficult to know.”

When asked whether Spot.us would still be up and running in five to 10 years, Cohn was similarly uncertain.

“I can’t say what’s going to happen in 10 years, because online, that’s like predicting where science is going to be in 100 years. I will say that, in a lot of ways, we have already achieved some success as an experiment, and in pushing boundaries in the ways people think about journalism and journalism funding.”



NDIES

...e, other models are springing up to take their place. Whether it be for a strike tactic or ...t has provided a whole new, cheap-to-produce world for independent media. Here are

OpenFile

• JULIA JONES

OpenFile, an online Toronto-based news organization, is changing the way communities perceive the media by taking citizen journalism to a whole new level.

The website, launched earlier this year, relies heavily on the collective participation of community members in all stages of news making.

“At the core of our model is the idea that anyone in the community can suggest a story idea and make it so by opening a file,” said Craig Silverman, digital journalism director for OpenFile.

The website works so that anyone can register and pitch a story by “opening a file” on a subject they think is relevant for their city or neighbourhood, or simply by asking a question they’d like to have answered. After that, the file becomes a “growing file.” In this stage, anyone can read the file, and other users can add to it by posting comments, pictures, videos and links.

“From there we will take that story idea, find other people in the community to add their thoughts to it, add photos and then links. At a certain point it’s assigned to a professional journalist who will take it to the next step,” he said.

This is when a story becomes a “reported file.” The user who opened the original file gets an e-mail notification when the story is assigned, and then again when the reporter files it.

Even after a story is published, the file continues to grow since users can contribute to a story no matter how old it is.

According to Silverman, OpenFile does not follow the mainstream-media model of local journalism. For him, the difference lies not only in the participatory character that allows users to be present in each and every step of their content production, but within the content itself.

“Our focus on producing original journalism is one thing that is strangely distinguishing us right now,” said Silverman, a former *The Link* masthead member.

“The other thing is that we are trying to be a lot more collaborative in the way that we are finding stories, the way that we are writing and reporting, the way that we are responding to people.

“At the same time they are also supposed to be sharing that process and inviting people to be part of it,” he added.

“And that’s not something that is done by local newspapers; it’s not something that is done by a lot of the media—which is why we’re trying it as an experiment. We are trying to figure out a model that combines community engagement and interaction with professional reporting, [and] how those two can be better-aligned and work in concert a lot better than they currently do.”

The organization went to a financial firm for their initial capital. They have since signed their first national sponsor and hired a full-time employee to solicit advertising.

“We raised money in order to be a start-up company and to launch the site to expand into other cities,” said Silverman. “Now, we’re definitely moving into a phase where we are aggressively trying to sell the sponsorships that we have.”

Even though OpenFile accepts donations, it is still operating within its initial budget. OpenFile’s plan is to start a system of geographically tagged advertisements on the website that would be overseen by the organization. Because the website collects information such as postal codes and addresses, geotagging would not be too difficult to implement.

“Advertisers will be able to target their specific information that they’re trying to deliver based on where people are located,” said Silverman. “The priority is not to have something banner-esque that is blinking on people’s faces.”

The idea is that advertisers also have their own page and use it to deliver content that is relevant for the community, where users can see, for example, what is on sale during a particular week in the produce aisle at their local grocer.

In order to engage more members of the communities where it operates, OpenFile staff members had been meeting with local organizations that are already involved in their community and who are trying to affect some kind of change in society.

“When we go out there and we explain to [local organizations] that they can suggest their ideas and that we will actually follow up on it—they are kind of amazed,” said Silverman.

The site is expanding to Calgary, Ottawa and Vancouver, with the latter being scheduled for November.

Rue Frontenac

• GABRIELLE LEFORT

For over 21 months, employees of the Québecor-owned *Le Journal de Montréal* have been locked out of their offices and into a tug-of-war with mediators and management.

Meanwhile, some of these workers have created a temporary news outlet, called *Rue Frontenac*, in the form of an online information portal.

According to Jean-François Codère, a locked-out *Le Journal de Montréal* employee who now writes for *Rue Frontenac*, the format and structure makes the website a completely different playing field.

“The Internet allows us to write articles that are longer and more in-depth, which is completely different from what the *Le Journal de Montréal* does,” said Codère.

Since there is no corporate oversight to report to, journalists are free to choose whatever topic or “beat” they wish to cover. Their interest and their knowledge, he says, are reflected in their work.

Codère said that corporate pressure on the editorial staff at *Le Journal de Montréal* was barely noticed, other than a few times where arts writers were asked to slant their articles a certain way. Québecor was not the monster it is often depicted to be, he continued, but at *Rue Frontenac* there is no corporate pressure because the editors don’t have bosses.

Codère also stressed that there was very little financial pressure coming from advertisers.

“*Le Journal de Montréal* was a strong enough organization to be able to stand up against threats from advertisers, and also had the financial means to back up its journalists,” said Codère.

While *Rue Frontenac*’s journalists are paid a salary from the union’s strike fund, the website is not an official company, or one that needs to make profits. If an advertiser were to cause trouble, Codère said, “It would not be a problem to get rid of it.”

If the relief and freedom of the staff are dampened by anything, it is by the conflict that drags on between *Le Journal de Montreal* employees and Québecor boss Pierre Karl Péladeau.

A contract drafted by *Le Journal de Montreal*—which would prohibit *Rue Frontenac*

from operating, disallow new publications competing against *Le Journal de Montreal* from launching and lay off over 200 employees—was rejected by 89.3 per cent of *Le Journal* workers on Oct. 12.

In an official statement, union head Raymond Leblanc said that this new contract was “an insult not only to us, but to all of the readers.”

“How can you produce a quality newspaper with so few employees?” Leblanc lamented.

“The internet allows us to write articles that are longer and more in-depth.”

—JEAN-FRANÇOIS CODÈRE,
RUE FRONTENAC REPORTER

As part of the rejected agreement, Québecor would outsource most of the material from its news agency, QMI. In doing so, all but 17 journalists would be kept on the payroll.

Plateau-Mont-Royal mayor Luc Ferrandez reacted angrily to the offer made by Québecor in a text he published on his website.

“I thought for a moment to propose, at the next council meeting, a motion to rename the site where [*Le Journal de Montréal*] sits to Scabcity,” read Ferrandez’s letter.

“The new editors know that our thirst for daily drama replaces our need to be informed. No need for journalists—they are so expensive!”

Rue Frontenac will be launching its print edition, a free weekly paper that will distribute about 50,000 copies in the greater Montreal area, on Oct. 28.

Even though the information website is financially viable even without the union fund, Codère hopes that the parties will be able to reach an agreement that will save as many jobs as possible.

THE INTELI



WikiLeaks claims its purpose is to "open governments" providing complete information freedom and transparency in contrast with deceptive mainstream media, in order to combat government corruption and back-dealing.

WikiLeaks uses a decentralized, encrypted, untraceable server network to both receive and publish classified material from all over the world.

WikiLeaks never reveals its sources. Founder Julian Assange claims that received documents are "destroyed immediately if [Wikileaks] manages to uncover the alleged source."

WikiLeaks depends entirely on donations and volunteer-work with no paid staff. Assange claims over 1,000 participating volunteers.

WikiLeaks published a leaked document that shows that the CIA has been actively attempting to destroy WikiLeaks for at least a year.

WikiLeaks has been criticized by some fellow hackers as being more secretive than the governments it attempts to 'open', not even publishing a financial schedule for its donations.

WikiLeaks's recent release of the largest leak of classified documents in U.S. history. On one side, WikiLeaks has assembled the brightest and most dedicated hackers and information freedom.

On the other side, the United States has combined its Department of Defense with the FBI to clamp down on the Internet with censorship and encryption-banning laws.

Both parties, however, have fully realized the importance of the Internet and the power of the Internet.

• NADIM KOBEISSI

The Brimming of a Binary Battle

Earlier this year, WikiLeaks, then only a marginally popular organization, released "Collateral Murder," a YouTube video depicting U.S. soldiers in Iraq murdering civilians, two Reuters journalists and two children.

"Come on, lets shoot," cries Crazyhorse One-Eight, the soldier manning the helicopter machine-gun during the video. "Come on!"

"Oh yeah, look at those dead bastards."

"A lot of my friends are in that video," said Iraq War veteran Josh Stieber to AntiWar Radio. "I would definitely say that that is, nine times out of 10, the way things ended up. Killing was following military protocol. If these videos shock and revolt you, they show the reality of what war is like."

Before the release of the video, the U.S. military repeatedly claimed that the gunfight occurred under its Rules of Engagement and withheld information about the incident from Reuters.

The video caused international outrage. WikiLeaks bloomed into what the U.S. government began to perceive as a dangerous enemy. The world furiously demanded answers while the Federal Bureau of Investigation began an exhaustive search for the whistleblower.

In May, the FBI finally arrested Private First Class Bradley Manning, a 23-year-old American soldier, under suspicion of leaking classified documents.

Manning was betrayed hours earlier by famed hacker-turned-narc Adrian Lamo, who turned over chat logs with Manning to Army Intelligence. Lamo stated that his actions were due to a "crisis of conscience."

According to Lamo, Manning had admitted to leaking more than 260,000 classified diplomatic cables. WikiLeaks has repeatedly denied receiving such a leak.

At the Hackers On Planet Earth conference in July 2010—a symposium of hackers that discuss the ethics and politics of the Internet—the hacker community mobilized in opposition against Lamo, going as far as having a guest speaker call him a "crazy narc fuck" right after Lamo's talk.

Some state that Lamo's betrayal of Manning may have been an attempt to lessen his own criminal status, including a \$60,000 fine for hacking into established companies such as *The New York Times* and Microsoft. Others blamed his infamous love for press attention.

Manning was imprisoned without parole for weeks in Kuwait, and was later transferred to a military base in Quantico, Virginia, where he is still detained. He is facing a possible half-century prison sentence.

In late June, WikiLeaks founder and Editor-in-Chief Julian Assange reported that he had assigned three civil defence lawyers for Manning, all of which had been refused access to him.

Today, protests are held regularly around the world, hailing Manning as a hero and clamoring for his release. Many dub him as a modern day Daniel Ellsberg, including Ellsberg himself. Ellsberg was a U.S. military analyst who leaked top-secret Pentagon documents about the Vietnam war to a *New York Times* reporter in 1969.

WikiLeaks was also represented at the conference by Jacob Appelbaum, a well-known computer hacker responsible for breaking Apple's FileVault encryption system as well as managing a large part of Tor, a project that allows almost-perfect anonymity on the web.

"When you ignore the injustices of the world, you are part of the problem," said Appelbaum at the conference, filling in for Assange, who was unable to attend due to his wanted status for leaking classified military information on WikiLeaks. Federal agents were so numerous they were "crawling up the walls," said one source.

"If you've read [about hackers], then you know that you just can't stop us. The purpose here is to give you the data, so that you can make your own analysis," said Appelbaum.

Appelbaum cited distrust of the mainstream media, since its articles never behaved like a scientific journal, whereas WikiLeaks worked on

releasing only raw source material free for public interpretation.

"When the media is gagged, we refuse to be gagged," stated Appelbaum. "This whole idea of hunting for [Assange], you can cut off the head—but there will be more."

After his speech, Appelbaum had to use a doppelgänger to escape the rush of federal agents onstage, and at a later unrelated talk was harassed by two FBI agents who asked to have a talk with him so that they could flesh things out.

According to an article on CNet News, an attorney present in the room asked them if they were attending the conference for business or pleasure.

"A little of both," one of them replied.

The Internet had already taken the role of a battleground.

Weeks after the WikiLeaks conference, the site released a cache of over 92,000 classified Afghanistan war documents, free for the world to browse through, conveniently coupling the release with a leaked Central Intelligence Agency document that examines the possibility of the U.S. being perceived as an exporter of terrorism.

The Pentagon, already on a full-swing manhunt for Assange, intensified its war against WikiLeaks. Pentagon spokesmen called for the "return" of the leaked documents—a move that is necessary by law for the Pentagon to be capable of later accusing WikiLeaks of espionage.

The FBI and the U.S. government joined forces, declaring its \$9-million "Going Dark" program combined with an Obama-backed bill that would outlaw all encryption that the government can't obtain backdoor access to, thus outlawing all encryption WikiLeaks depends on to provide security for its sources. The U.S. Government aimed to garner an "Eye of Sauron" of the Internet.

In late September, the U.S. government furthered its war against WikiLeaks with a new bill—the Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act—which seems like an anti-piracy bill, if one doesn't bother to closely examine the fine print.

"The list is for domains 'dedicated to infringing activity', which is defined very broadly," said Aaron Swartz on his anti-web-censorship site DemandProgress.org. "Any site where counterfeit goods or copyrighted material are 'central to the activity of the Internet site' would be blocked."

It doesn't seem far-removed for a government that already plans to accuse WikiLeaks of espionage to accuse it of harboring "counterfeit goods." The United States has launched a full-scale attack on the rights, privacy and freedom of its own people in a desperate, scrambling attempt to deal with WikiLeaks's truth-speaking.



Map of WikiLeaks A

INTERNET WAR

military history has turned the Internet into a war zone.

hacker-activists in an effort to turn the Internet into a bastion of transparency

the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Security Agency in an attempt

and the outcome of their battle will change the face of the world.



Wikileaks releases over 100,000 documents from Afghanistan — the largest release in its history.

Wikileaks releases internal banking documents clarifying the corruption behind the 2008-2009 Icelandic financial crisis.

ICELAND

Wikileaks publishes evidence of mass political corruption in the ruling Arap Moi family.

KENYA

GRAPHIC BY
JULIA WOLFE

An Ideal Held at Gunpoint

In March, WikiLeaks published a classified CIA document that discussed in detail various means the U.S. government could employ to destroy WikiLeaks.

“Websites such as WikiLeaks.org have trust as their most important centre of gravity by protecting the anonymity and identity of the insider, leaker, or whistleblower,” the report stated. “Successful identification, prosecution, termination of employment, and exposure of persons leaking the information by the governments and businesses affected by information posted to WikiLeaks.org would damage and potentially destroy this centre of gravity and deter others from taking similar actions.”

Many have realized the chilling similarity between the report’s suggested strategy for

to will the Internet’s design into releasing, into the real world, tens of thousands of secret truths.

The Hackers On Planet Earth conference—where both fallen heroes such as Adrian Lamo and digital superpowers such as WikiLeaks presented talks—was a conference of national power figures meeting to discuss the future of their country.

Their homeland, where they built and were built, had entered a state of war with another nation whose realm of existence was completely different—and in ways superior thanks to its dominance on physical reality.

The U.S. has recently been feeling attacked by the Internet in the only way the Internet could ever wage a war: with information. In a leaderless universe, Assange, a hacker himself in his earlier years, achieved what catapulted him into a position of dominance and respect in his homeland, and controversy and revulsion in the country he concerns himself with.

Unlike the Internet, the U.S. has rulers, and those rulers aren’t yet accustomed to how the people of the Internet see knowledge as free. In fact, they are threatened by it.

The behaviour of both parties concerned with this issue has indicated that they are currently in a state of war. The U.S. government attempts to antagonize the enemy, arouse public hatred and fear of it, uproot it, dissolve it, and even give its leaders the kill switch to completely annihilate all presence of the Internet from its country.

“This is a battle of applied ethics: information transparency versus the ideal that some are more fit to know than others.”

The United States seeks to use its dominance of space as an advantage over the Internet. The Internet, on the other hand, is seeking to use a complete opposite: the lack of space, the lack of time, in order to have complete control over what matters: information.

As WikiLeaks releases more information, they have received more threats from the U.S. government. The U.S. is responding to a war that it, in its opinion, did not initiate—WikiLeaks sees itself as on a mission to provide to the entire Internet the truth about the real world, in a spirit of justice. Those concerned in the real world see their constructs as being threatened by an independent, self-sufficient third party no one had ever imagined.

The resulting aggression we see today is a sign of a shock at the dimensions of the fight. No nation has ever fought, or even imagined, a war with a nation that has no homeland and a people with no identity. And thus does the U.S. find both its rulers and its laws punishing the truth-speaking and fighting those who stick by their own motto of truth and bravery.

The only way this war will end is if both sides realize that this is the closest we have come to a war-of-the-worlds: the Internet and the real world are that far apart. This is a battle of applied ethics: information transparency versus the ideal that some are more fit to know than others.

There is no question that the side that will win this ethical battle will be the one to define, at least for the coming decade, if information transparency is nurturing or destructive.

Nadim Kobeissi is a computer network security analyst based in Montreal. Visit his website at www.nadim.cc.



The Pentagon has been on a “manhunt” for WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange since mid-June, according to a Pentagon spokesman. Daniel Ellsberg believes Assange is “in some danger.”

The Pentagon claims WikiLeaks’s releases present a danger to both its national security and its troops abroad, criticizing WikiLeaks’s lack of omitting names of innocent Afghan informants from its Afghanistan war logs leak.

The Pentagon has repeatedly asked WikiLeaks to “return” its leaked documents, while James L. Jones, who resigned only a few weeks ago from his post as U.S. National Security Advisor, implored WikiLeaks not to release any more classified documents.

U.S. Congress is attempting to pass bills that would censor the Internet, legalize all forms of encryption it cannot bypass, and even give its President the power to kill the Internet almost entirely at whim.

The U.S. Army has recently updated its espionage rulebook for the first time in 17 years, including rules that would force soldiers to report any soldier suspected of leaking information to an organization such as WikiLeaks.

The U.S. government has been repeatedly accused by pro-WikiLeaks supporters and WikiLeaks itself of attempting a smear campaign on both WikiLeaks and Julian Assange.

MIDDLE EAST MAG BRIDGES EAST AND WEST



• CLAY HEMMERICH

North Americans just need to take a glimpse at the news to know that Western and Arabic cultures seem to be constantly butting heads. News media doesn't help ease the stereotypical polarization that exists between the two societies, like when a camera and microphone are turned towards a certain extremist Florida pastor threatening to burn a Qur'an in his backyard.

But the amount of negative press this issue attracted only reflects that North Americans aren't all that bad. In fact, we're generally pretty tolerant.

Even so, those who have never been to the Middle East, or those who don't know anyone Arabic, will find themselves asking: do they accept us and our Western lifestyle?

The reality is that in places like Amman, Jordan, there are many different English-language lifestyle magazines that cater to expatriates that live there—*GO Magazine*, a general interest magazine launching in November, is evidence of this trend.

Karen Simon, sub editor of *Go Magazine*, said that the publication doesn't consider itself to be a typical lifestyle magazine, but a general interest magazine that urges readers to experience the country themselves—something that those who follow CNN as their only source for news on the Middle East can't do.

"Rather than consisting of features and stories that simply recount information to readers, every piece presented in *Go* must encourage our readers to get up and 'go' do something specific in Jordan," said Simon. "Whether it's going out to a local restaurant, going shopping at a downtown market, playing a sport at one of the country's many facilities, and so on, our magazine aims to initiate the reader's involvement into any one of the subjects we cover."

"All too often in this country we hear people complain that there is nothing to do despite the many things Jordan has to offer."

Lifestyle and general interest magazines also help integrate expatriates into Jordanian culture.

"English-speaking expatriates benefit from locally-based English magazines because they offer the chance for people to better understand the unfamiliar place in which they live," said Simon. "Having an English magazine in a country where the predominance of people speak Arabic may help English-speaking foreigners feel less alienated when first arriving in the country."

But still, there will always be a divide between the two worlds.

"Expatriates will always be in some way segregated from the foreign society in which they live; this is part of what it means to be an expatriate," said Simon.

However, when coping with culture shock, it's easy to push learning the local language to the back of your agenda when there are magazines available to carry on doing things one would normally do in North America.

"Having mediums like magazines, television channels and radio stations that cater to

English speakers by offering the language that they already understand, does of course help to segregate them further," said Simon. "By offering the language that they are already familiar with, you are removing their need to learn the language of the country in which they are based."

That doesn't mean that foreigners can completely avoid being active members of the community, however. There are limitations on how forward you can be when you're taking part in activities that are entirely normal for Westerners, like having drinks at a bar.

"I think that English language magazines operating in this part of the world should be aware of the cultural sensibilities that they may offend if they are to broach certain subjects," said Simon.

Simon maintains that "it's important to remember to not overstep the boundaries," and that it's important "to not forget that English publications in the Middle East remain essentially foreign, regardless of whether or not they are locally based, because they are not printed in the country's official language."

Regardless, English language magazines are free to express the Western way of life. For instance, *Skin Magazine*, an arts and culture publication based in Amman, has alcohol advertisements prominently displayed in its magazines. *GO Magazine* does not endorse the consumption of alcohol.

According to Simon, not including bar reviews and liquor ads makes the publication acceptable to all ages and races.

"Some Middle Eastern cities, such as Dubai, have a large population of expatriates, so writing about certain subjects—such as alcohol and nightclubs—are less of a problem because there is demand for these sorts of topics," said Simon. "But, in a city like Amman—which, however [liberal it has become], still remains conservative—the relatively small demographic which would be interested in these subjects does not counterbalance the larger population that would be affronted."

Only seven per cent of Jordan's population of 6,269,285 is non-Jordanian. People who speak only English are even scarcer. Even so, Simon said she believes that an English-speaking presence in Jordan is important.

"I think that as English continues to be world's lingua franca—especially for subjects like politics, science and mathematics—it is important that English be present in Jordan, as over 40 per cent of this country's population is under 20 years old," she said.

In fact, more than half the population is under 30.

Simon said that a large majority of high-income Jordanian families attend universities in Europe and North America, and that the number continues to grow. Since 2000, Jordan's rate of university enrollment has increased 14 per cent each year, from 77, 841 in 2000 to 218, 900 in 2007.

"Whether or not we find it important, an English-speaking presence is a natural extension to this occurrence," said Simon.

ALTERNATIVE PRESS IN THE GAZA STRIP



This Is Not a Fence



• SARAH SHALTONY

Breaking the Story

Alternative media is growing to be as essential to journalism as a picture is to a story. In both cases, what was once a complimentary partnership quickly evolved into a symbiotic relationship.

“Independent and social media [are] much more relevant [than mainstream and mass-media] to the pulse of societies around the world,” said Stefan Christoff, a Montreal-based journalist and activist. “Of course investigative journalism is still crucial. It has a power that Twitter will never have.”

Alternative media is a term used to describe content that offers different views and coverage of events. It also describes content that is not produced by mainstream, corporate-owned, profit-driven media organizations. Mainstream media is designed to cater to a public majority and inevitably generates homogenous content.

Paradoxically, the exact features of content and structure of today’s mainstream and mass media are what hold journalism back from fulfilling its essential functions. In academic and journalistic circles there have long been talks of the need for a remedy—perhaps a possible overhaul of the state of journalism, especially with the growth of media-related technology.

Christoff defined journalism as the process of monitoring power.

“Unfortunately, a lot of mainstream media today is not about monitoring power, it’s about colluding with power,” said Christoff, who noted that this is where alternative media comes in as a possible remedy for the flaws and limitations of mainstream media. “I think because people have been critical of this kind of relationship there has been a massive shift towards independent media.”

As alternative media gains a wider readership and a rising presence in mainstream media, questions on its present and future roles in journalism are increasingly relevant. Presently, alternative media is taking on a filler role, presenting alternative content to occupy gaps left by the mainstream media.

But what happens in a case where mainstream coverage is missing?

Live, from Gaza

In December 2008, Israel began a deadly and controversial war in Gaza, known as Operation Cast Lead, and not a single mass-media outlet was allowed into the strip to document or relay the story to the outside world.

Mass-media was not wholly shut off, as Palestinian reporters within Gaza were able to report for Western and mainstream publications. Al Jazeera had two correspondents in Gaza before the conflict began. The absence of foreign correspondents and the resulting reliance on alternative coverage of the war makes the conflict an ideal case study for exploring present and future roles of alternative media.

Christoff said the reliance on alternative media during the war on Gaza was groundbreaking because, for the first time, Palestinians were able to tell their own stories during a major conflict.

The war on Gaza violated many human rights norms and international laws including the Geneva Conventions and resulted in the deaths of over 1,400 Palestinians—the vast majority of whom were civilians.

These aspects of the war heightened the necessity of media coverage and because mass media was so severely restricted, the weight fell on the shoulders of independent reporters.

Christoff said independent media coverage of the conflict widened the reporting lens, enabling the inclusion of the human rights sphere of a conflict.

“The nature of the media today is very different and people having the ability to access a variety of sources online creates an entirely different media landscape, one that I think is much more conducive to voicing a human rights perspective on the conflict, rather than a simple conflict-driven narrative,” he said.

In addition to covering the war almost exclusively, Christoff added that alternative media in some cases fuelled political reactions to the war.

“Independent media really helped galvanize the major street protests around the world in opposition to the war. [This created a situation in which] on one side of the coin vibrant street protests were taking place around the world and on the other side there was a major independent media response. Both were integral to creating a situation where Israel’s bombardment of Gaza was a galvanizing moment in shifting global public opinion on the conflict,” said Christoff. “We saw it shift towards a sympathy on a basic level towards the Palestinian victims of the attacks, which is a huge development because I think often in the western media the Palestinian story is dehumanized.”

Christoff said that the media coverage of the war offered an alternative and genuine form of resistance.

“One of the biggest challenges to Israel’s military attack on Gaza, aside from the Palestinian resistance, was the international independent media and the major efforts around the world to track, critique and detail Israeli actions that later were deemed to be war crimes by the United Nations,” said Christoff.

Could mainstream media have had the same political effects?

Journalism is fundamental to all states and societies, and even moreso in democracies where informed citizens are crucial to the mechanics of politics. Mainstream media has proven to be flawed, limited and inadequately equipped to function as a guard-dog for society where alternative media could soon flourish.

Christoff’s description of alternative media as it currently works edges journalism closer to its functions, especially those within a democracy, as a guard dog and an avenue of essential information. This has become a plausible future for alternative media. If in a fair fight the truth will always prevail, it seems alternative media is best equipped to bring the truth closer to a fair fight.

MESSING UP THE MESSAGE



Can you spot the journalist?

Apathy and Corporate News is Destroying Democracy

• DANIEL JOHNSTON

How often, when you picked up one of the mainstream daily newspapers, did you think, "What is this crap? It's not even news!"

It only takes a couple reads to find that many of the big newspapers are pushing articles that are more like tabloids than real news. Instead of seeing, on the front page, news reports that hold a direct significance to our daily lives, we see catchy titles created to draw you in on the latest scandal.

But, what can one expect when one can't even sell a newspaper for much more than a dollar? In the summer, Montreal's *The Gazette* cut their Sunday edition. They failed to find adequate advertising revenue to produce a newspaper every day after 22 years of doing so. Often, *The Gazette* is given out for free on the streets to anyone willing to read.

Corporate newspapers are just that—corporate newspapers. But there's a catch 22: if they're funded by government aid, speaking critically against the hand that is feeding risks termination of the publication, but being a for-profit corporate publication relies on selling. The existence of the newspaper is heavily reliant on selling and advertising revenue.

So does that mean that we are to blame for the current state of our newspapers? I would say yes, but only partly.

The power of the Canadian media is held in only a few select hands. Postmedia Network Inc. owns more than a handful of

newspapers, including *The Gazette* and the *National Post*. Quebecor Media Inc. also shares the same corporate power over newspaper publications as Postmedia Network Inc. *Le Journal de Montréal* and the *Toronto Sun* are both owned by Quebecor.

Because of their sheer size and domination of the mass media market they are able to not only deliver what people want to hear, but also tell people what they should want to hear.

"Propaganda does not have to be fully believed to be effective," meaning that even though we might dismiss something we read as false, it still has an effect on us.

Another consequence of having the mass media concentrated in only a few hands means that we will only ever get that many points of view on topics of importance. So while there may be dozens of citywide or national newspapers to choose from, in reality you may only have three distinct viewpoints.

Luckily we have another option: the Internet. Unfortunately it does take an effort to find and sift through the news since there is little peer-review for this form of media, and many people don't bother to make the effort.

We live in a capitalist society and even though the large media corporations have the power to sway public opinion, they are still market-oriented enough to know that the people's voice matters since the people are the ones with the money.

We cannot be complacent or it will be our downfall. Apathy will get us nowhere.

The Rise of Infotainment

• JOEL SUSS

Flipping through FOX News, CNN and MSNBC reveals a startling phenomenon that is troubling to most who seek an objective analysis of pertinent news events.

Scattered among pieces of political prejudice and the latest international environmental disaster are often news pieces that would fit better on TMZ. Who cares if Lindsay Lohan is going back to jail for her blow habit? Or who Paris Hilton had sex with on camera?

Does this kind of entertainment story have any place in the news? Apparently it does.

As long as ratings and revenue dictate the content of broadcasting news media, seemingly irrelevant stories will continue to dominate the headlines and charismatic personalities will act as talking heads.

In the end, it seems this formula has achieved larger viewership and more revenue and thus takes precedence over providing quality content. Others believe that the phenomenon of infotainment—a term used to describe broadcast content used for entertainment and to inform—is a result of a decline in journalistic integrity and ethics. Whatever the real reason, the result has impaired people's ability to get genuinely informative news.

Critics blame infotainment on the devolution of broadcast. Objective broadcast mediums that produce news content pertinent to the public are often trumped in viewership by television shows that slant the pure information into something that entertains. Inevitably, the result of the distortion creates a natural bias.

All major news broadcasters in the U.S. are privately owned by for-profit conglomerates.

FOX News Channel is owned by the FOX Entertainment Group, a subsidiary of Rupert Murdoch's

News Corporation. CNN is owned by Ted Turner's Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. MSNBC is jointly owned by NBC and Microsoft.

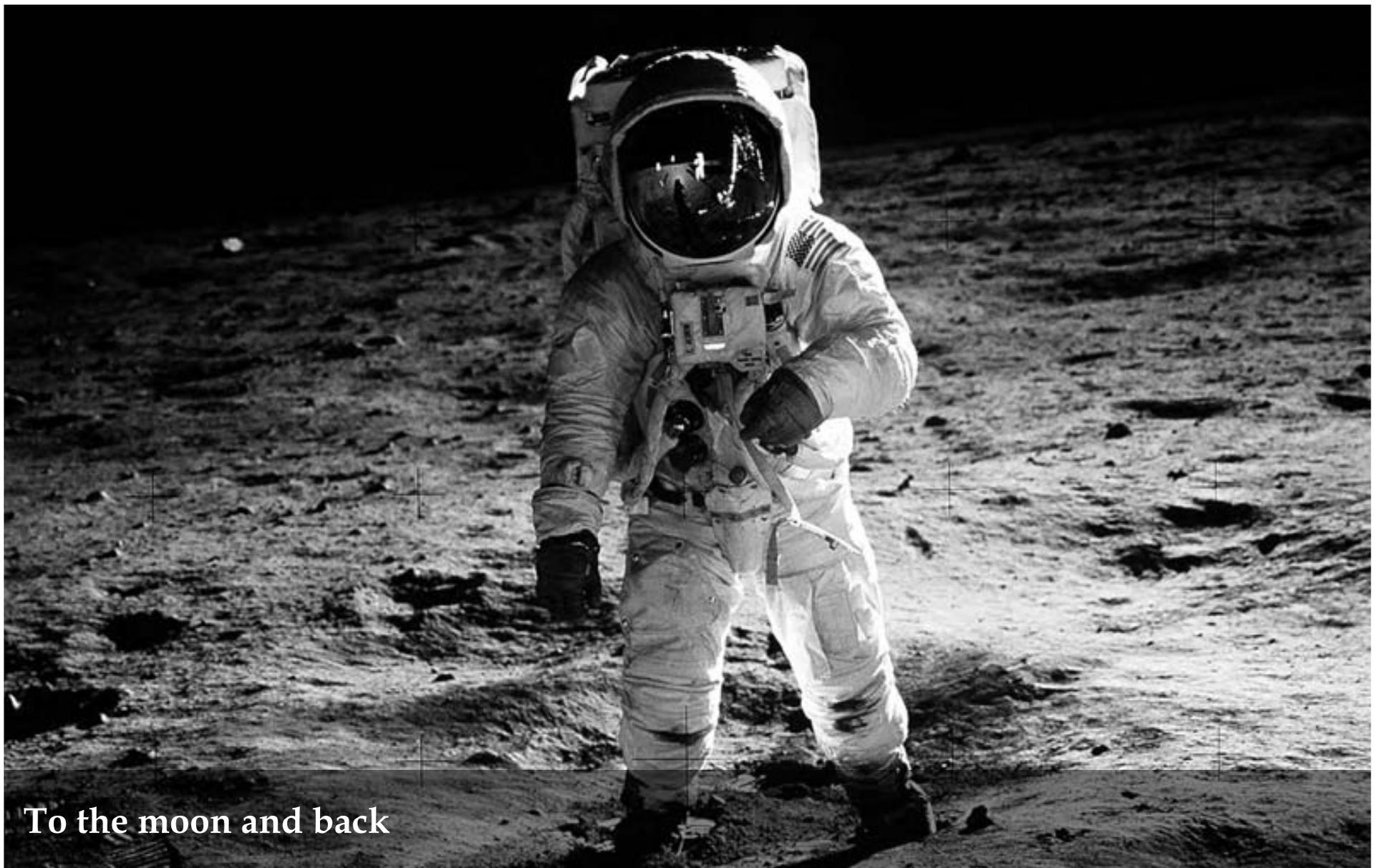
The problem of for-profit ownership of news broadcasters is that it inevitably understands success in a purely business sense, rather than by the ethos of journalistic objectivity and integrity.

FOX News is by far the most watched news station of the three for all hours, consistently drawing more than both CNN and MSNBC combined. Putting aside the overt Republican rhetoric, it has been successful because of pundits like Glenn Beck and Bill O'Reilly who provide more entertainment value to audiences than they do accurate and informative news. CNN and MSNBC, whose viewership and revenues are lagging behind, have employed the infotainment strategy in order to bolster sagging coffers. These three major news broadcasters evidently believe that increasing ratings and revenues is all that matters, rather than providing quality journalism and content. PBS News is the only exception, because, as a non-profit and public company, profits are irrelevant to its product.

Thankfully, Canadian news stations are also less affected by the need to increase viewership at the expense of content. The business model and corporate structure of news stations is vastly different than south of the border. CBC, the largest news broadcaster in Canada, is a crown corporation that relies on the federal government for funding. While this dependence can cause concern of its own, CBC is better able to concentrate on journalistic integrity and properly informing the public rather than the need to make profits.

As long as news broadcasters are constrained by for-profit business models; by ratings and profits, expect sub-standard journalism.

Iconic Images in an Internet Age



To the moon and back

• ADAM KOVAC

The girl isn't just beautiful. Striking would be more the word. Her long, flowing brown hair is tangled, but perfectly frames her smudged, dirty and swarthy skin. The scarf she wears is tattered and ripped in several places. But most noticeable are her eyes—piercing green, they speak of the pain of the war their owner has endured.

In June 1985, *National Geographic* ran the picture as the cover image for a story about the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. 25 years later, it is arguably the image most closely identified with that conflict. It's the kind of picture that doesn't say a thousand words—it says more than entire books about how a historical event was processed by the majority of media-consumers.

And it's the kind of picture that might not have a place in the cyber-space dominated media of the future.

Mass media is a fairly recent development in human history. The first true newspapers came about in the early 17th century, and radio is barely over 100 years old.

Up until recently, the news was a way for people to be united, due in large part to the limited ways in which it could be consumed. You had your daily newspaper, which may or may not have been the only one available in your city, you had a variety of radio stations and you had network news. In the latter case, the evening news was something that was experienced the same way by people across entire countries, let alone cities.

This was before the proliferation of specialty channels and the Internet, before you could instantly customize what news would make it into your home. As the media continues to fracture, it's going to be increasingly difficult to connect to others through the news. It's not that the stories will be different, but that our framework for processing them—both in the moment and historically—will have radically changed.

One of the most visceral ways that people catalogue history is through images. Photographs and video take news out of the abstract and give you a sense of exactly what happened in a way that words cannot. The best such images give the sense of encapsulating an event or even a person in its entirety.

Think of Neil Armstrong slowly descending from the Eagle onto the lunar surface. "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" became arguably the most famous phrase in recorded history. Those eleven words and short climb down a ladder became a symbol for the potential of man. It literally ushered in the Space Age.

On Nov. 3, 1948, the Chicago Tribune famously ran the headline "Dewey Defeats Truman," inaccurately claiming that President Harry Truman had lost the presidency to Thomas Dewey. The photo taken of Truman holding the issue aloft, grinning wryly, is how he is best remembered in history—which is saying a lot when you consider he was the only man to ever order the use of nuclear weapons.

The irony is that the most iconic images of all have a way of being absorbed into popular

culture and, eventually, can have almost nothing to do with the original subject.

For example, right now somewhere on campus, somebody is wearing a t-shirt with a picture of a young man with a beret and wispy beard staring defiantly into the distance. Ask them about it, and they probably won't be able to tell you that the photo on the t-shirt was taken at a memorial for La Coubre, a freighter filled with munitions that exploded in Havana Harbour. Yet Che Guevara's picture is a symbol for the optimism of youth, not dynamite accidents. The fact that millions of t-shirts bear the face of a communist revolutionary is an irony lost on many. Che has ceased to be Che. The photo has taken the place of the man.

Try to imagine that photo being taken today. Where would you see it? Where would it manage to become ubiquitous enough that it would garner pop-art status? What made it special was that it was selected, probably out of many pictures taken that day, because of how everything aligned perfectly. The tilt of his head, the fiery expression in his eyes, the wild mane of hair that's perfectly disheveled—it all came together for maximum impact. But you wouldn't see that one picture picked out of many by an editor or photographer today—you'd have access to an entire gallery of shots to scroll through on your news website of choice. That classic picture would never have etched itself into the public consciousness had it been taken 50 years later.

Then again, it might never have been taken in the first place. Professional cameramen are quickly being replaced by anybody with a camera on their smart phone. When riots broke out following a controversial presidential election in Iran, there were few Western reporters on the ground. The majority of information was gleaned from average Iranians tweeting, emailing and Facebooking what was happening.

With the possible exception of a grainy video of a girl named Neda Agha Soltan lying in the street, slowly dying of a bullet wound, no singular image has managed to encapsulate that struggle.

Similarly, during the G20 conference that took place in Toronto in June, the most shocking footage of riot police was taken on iPhones and broadcast on YouTube, rather than on professional video cameras and broadcast on network TV. And again, no iconic images have emerged that will instantly remind a viewer of what happened during those three days.

It's hard to say if the vast expansion of access to information is a good thing or a bad thing, as singular images are replaced by complex tapestries. It's getting harder to find the truth among all the competing narratives at your disposal.

A cynic might say that we were never getting the truth before, only a filtered and processed version of it. Still, as a sentimentalist, I can't help but romanticize the idea of a nation glued to their TV's, all watching the same video of men walking on the moon for the first time.

So whether you think the democratization of media is a good or a bad thing, it is coming with a price. We are leaving the age of the shared iconic image behind.



The Writers' Way



From left to right: Gillian Sze, Jennifer Kierans, and Nick McArthur. GRAPHICS ALEX MANLEY

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Someone once said that the first job of a writer is to give their work away—which sounds like a pretty bad business model, now that I think about it.

It's a poorly written cliché that writers struggle with their art, and when they're not jamming their heads against the keyboard in frustration, they're having just as pleasant a time at finding a steady source of income.

Challenging those misconceptions is Concordia's Writers Read series, which on Oct. 21 will hold its annual Alumni Writers Read and Reflect panel, featuring authors who've made it in the writing biz.

The price is right

Nick McArthur, whose first book of short stories entitled *Short Accounts of Tragic Occurrences* was published in 2008 by DC Press, has found most of his post-graduate work in a somewhat less literary field: video games.

"You take whatever job's available to you a lot of the time because you need to pay bills," said McArthur—even if that job is cataloguing synonyms and antonyms forty hours a week for months at a time, as he once found himself doing.

"Ultimately, any job of that kind I think is going to be better than flipping burgers or mopping up someone else's urine."

Crafting dialogue for a *The Price is Right* video game may sound a lot like selling out, but if it means being able to work from home and spend more time on your own writing, it can be a gift.

Most jobs for new writers tend to be short-term and full-time, he said. Almost immediately following graduation, McArthur got a job at a

Montreal-based Internet start-up called Xtranormal. The concept behind the company's software was that users could generate their own animated videos simply by writing dialogue and choosing their avatars. To sell the concept, they hired McArthur and other post-graduates to write comedy scripts.

Writing five scripts a week helped teach him discipline as a writer, while also giving him time to work on his first book.

"I would say if you're trying to find freelance work as a writer, don't even bother going to Craigslist," said McArthur, who prefers placesforwriters.com, or more dedicated job search sites like Monster.ca.

"You're going to find a large pool of available jobs, but none of them are going to be worth your while. I think anything where you're not getting paid immediately for your work, anything where someone is promising you a share of profits or anything like that, I would not bother with. You can Google whoever your prospective employer is and make sure that they're reputable and you're actually going to get paid."

Ms. En Scène

Although Jennifer Kierans finds the most fulfilling part of being a filmmaker to be writing, she's had to add director and producer to her credits to see most of her screenplays to fruition, jobs she'd still rather leave to someone else.

But if it's taught her anything about her craft, it's the challenges of adapting the work of a screenwriter.

"Even though it seems like you're visualizing everything as you're writing, when you're actually faced with the practical reality of shooting a scene, it's quite different,

and often not what you visualized at all," said Kierans, who received her Masters in 2008. "And sometimes you regret that, and sometimes it's actually better than you visualized when you were writing."

Having her first short film entered into the Cannes film festival helped get her in the door with financiers for her ongoing film projects. But in an industry that's constantly pressing forward, she couldn't rest on her laurels for long.

"Almost in every project, I had to endure several rejections before anyone said yes to giving me money to make a film," she said. "I guess that's when you know that it's a story that you need to tell, to endure all the rejection and continue to believe in the project, sometimes over a period of years."

While pursuing her feature film project *The Bend*, which will be released later this year, Kierans made a living writing for children's television by researching which shows were filmed in Montreal, cold-calling their producers and making contacts through friends who already had a foot in the door.

"I don't think there's anything like coming up with your own idea and seeing it through to a finished product that someone can see and enjoy," said Kierans. "But doing commercial work has its own rewards: there's often less pressure, because it's really someone else's baby and you're just trying to do your part in the whole."

Career, schmareer

"Career is a funny word to go with poetry," said Gillian Sze, who, since graduating in 2008, has already authored one book of poetry, *Fish Bones*, with DC Press, and already has one more on the way from ECW Press, *The Anatomy of*

Clay.

"Career—I think of lawyers, and something my parents would approve of," she continued. "But I don't think it's ever just solely poetry. You're always doing other things, too."

While currently pursuing her PhD at Université de Montréal, Sze finds time to edit her online fiction and poetry magazine, *Branch*, while also taking time out to teach creative writing to at-risk youth.

While teaching a writing workshop at Blue Metropolis this year, one of her students raised their hand and asked, "Miss, how much money do you make?"

It was no more patronizing a question, said Sze, than the frequent inquiries from people as to when she's going to write her first novel, or sell out and write a Harlequin Romance.

Success can be measured by a lot of things, said Sze, but it's important to take things one at a time.

"I feel like I'm still working on my voice and my poetry. I'd rather get that right before I start wishing for the Nobel prize, and I think that process of finding my voice will take the rest of my life," said Sze.

"I'm very satisfied at moving one individual per book. I'm just lucky that it's more than one person per book. I'd like [my work] to be huge and momentous, but it's often not, so when I affect even one person, that's rewarding enough for me."

Writers Read at Concordia will take place in H-767 on Oct. 21, starting at 10:15 a.m.

Visit writersread.concordia.ca for more information.

Lit Events

Elie Wiesel Visits
Concordia

Nobel Peace Prize-Winning Author Gives Talk

Oct. 19
5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Concordia Hall Building
Room H-110
1455 de Maisonneuve
Blvd.
Registration Required
(Event is Already Full)

Local Legends
Reading Series

Featuring Larissa
Andrusyshyn Reading
From *Mammoth*

Oct. 20
7:00 p.m. onwards
Concordia Community
Solidarity Co-op
Bookstore
2150 Bishop St.
Pay What You Can
(\$2 donation suggested)

George Murray
Launches New Book

Glimpse is a collection of
409 aphorisms (!)

Oct. 22
7:00 p.m. onwards
Drawn & Quarterly
Bookstore
211 Bernard St. W.
Free admission

Short Listing

Alexander MacLeod Grabs Giller Nod for *Light Lifting*, Comes to Montreal

• ALEX MANLEY

Until recently, Alexander MacLeod was not a name you'd necessarily recognize when it came to Canadian literature.

That's about to change.

MacLeod, the son of acclaimed author and Order of Canada holder Alistair MacLeod, released his debut book, the short

story collection *Light Lifting*, last month. It didn't take long for the literary establishment to take notice.

"I got the book on a Saturday evening," said MacLeod. "I read it for the first time on Sunday," and it was included on the Scotiabank Giller Prize's 2010 longlist "on Monday morning."

That was Sept. 20, and since then MacLeod's life has been moving at a lightning pace.

"All the outside attention has definitely changed our routine at home," noted MacLeod. "We've managed okay, thanks to the generosity of my wife and our adaptable kids, but it's a good problem to have and it's a once-in-a-lifetime thing."

While the surprise and intensity of the shock may be once-in-a-lifetime—MacLeod was expecting "a few months or even more than a year" before the book would receive any recognition—the Giller nod might not be.

Light Lifting features a relatively young writer (MacLeod is 38) flexing some serious literary muscle. There isn't anything flashy in the collection, but that's part of the point. It's a collection of seven stories set in Windsor over the last decade or two that feature seven different main characters.

MacLeod avoided the temptation to link the stories together, and in not featuring the same characters, places or events in more than one, gives the reader a more complete and varied picture of the city.

There are the construction workers and the young, poor families; there are the athletes and the summer jobs; the ex-auto plant workers whose lives are so intertwined with the minivans they were a part of producing. *Light Lifting* is one of those minivans—fresh off the assembly line, years in the planning and making, meticulously crafted, versatile, useful, sound. There is not a weak link to be found.

Which is fitting in a collection that focuses so much on physical labour.

The characters run, bike, swim, fist-fight, lay bricks. They walk 30 miles when the situation calls for it. They're caught in car crashes, in the undertow, in lice infestations, in storms, in hospital waiting rooms, in skin sunburned so badly it turns purple.

There is constantly a sense of the human body and its physicality. To read these stories is to inhabit the characters' bodies. Though MacLeod admits that this thread wasn't an intentional one, it is one of the collection's biggest strengths and most noticeable aspects.

"An old lady who refuses to be institutionalized and won't give up on her house is backing up her emotional desire with a physical action," MacLeod explained, referring to a minor character in "The Loop," the fifth story in the collection.

"Every time she goes out to shovel the sidewalk by herself she's doing and saying something with that movement—same thing for the young couple [from "Wonder About Parents"] who have to change stinky diapers or check for lice or take the kid to the hospital. Their love for their children or their love for each other takes on a physical manifestation. We can see and learn something about the full depth of their emotional commitment by monitoring their actions, the way they move through their worlds."

Perhaps nowhere is this love more apparent than in the final story, "The Number Three," which details the relationship between a father, his daughter, and the myriad different incarnations of the Dodge Caravan. While this might seem a strange subject to tackle, it isn't if you've grown up in Windsor, as MacLeod has.

"I never worked in [the Chrysler] plant, but plenty of my friends and relatives did and continue to. My publisher, Dan Wells,

worked in there for seven years, following in the footsteps of his dad," said MacLeod, noting that the manufacturing plant and the van produced there "matter to almost everybody in Windsor."

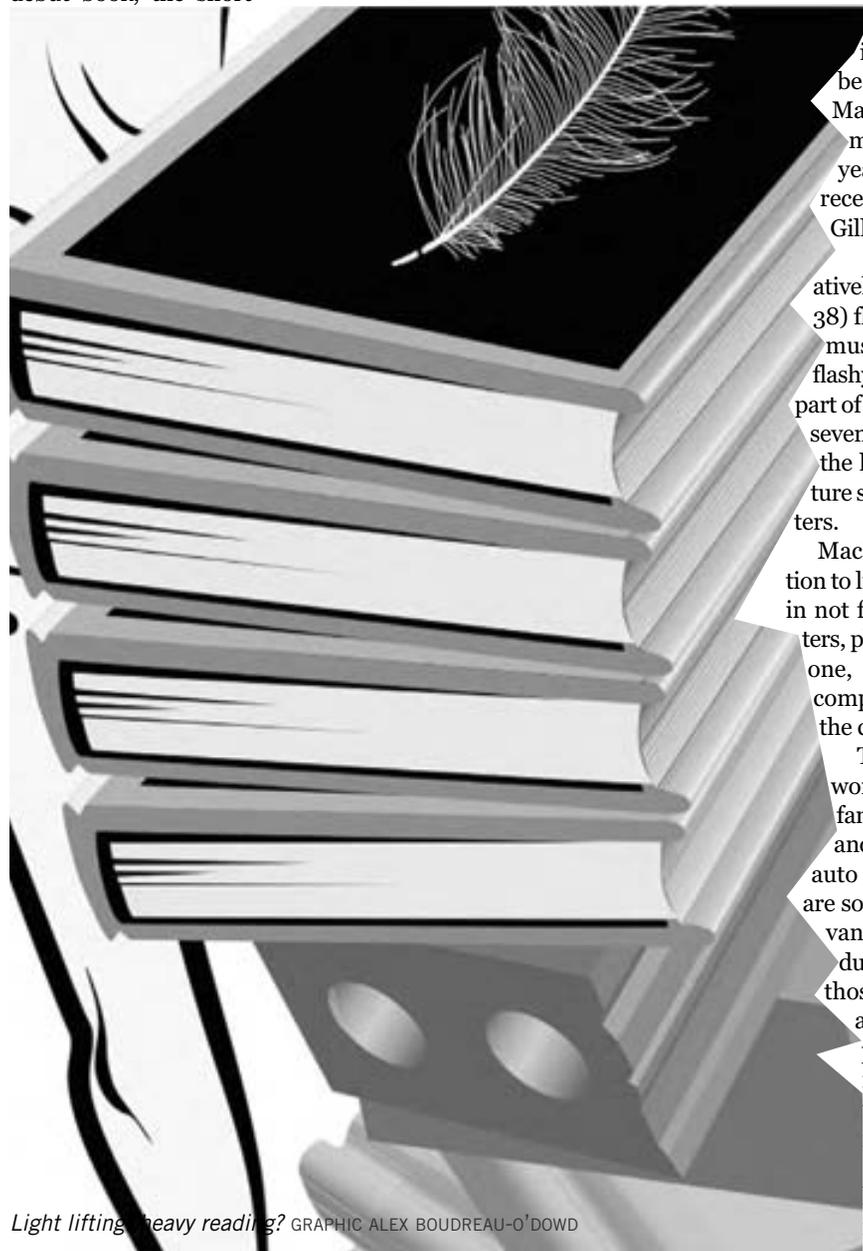
"I was trying to think about how we are all connected to this object whether we work on it directly or not," he added.

That drive—to write about the things that connect people—has served MacLeod well. Though the stories in *Light Lifting* are culled from different periods in his life, "it was only when they were pushed up against each other" that he noticed "all the common threads flowing between them, currents of concerns that had been there for more than a decade, running under the surface."

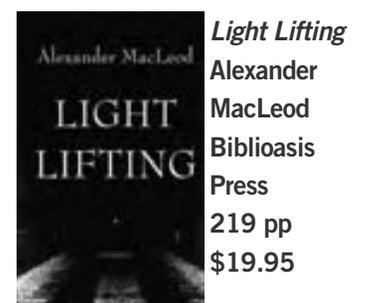
Thanks to the Giller nomination, however, the stories themselves have breached—and it wouldn't be too surprising if they help MacLeod stay afloat for some time.

MacLeod will be reading from Light Lifting at Drawn and Quarterly Bookstore (211 Bernard St. W.) on Oct. 25. The event begins at 7:00 p.m. and also features writers A.J. Somerset, who is launching his novel Combat Camera, and Harold Hoefle, who'll be reading from The Mountain Clinic.

A full transcript of this interview is available online.



Light lifting, heavy reading? GRAPHIC ALEX BOUDREAU-O'DOWD



THE LINK

2010-2011 BYELECTION

Come Vote in *The Link's* Byelection October 22

4:00 p.m. H-649

Nominees for the positions are:

- Literary Arts Editor: Alex Manley
- Online Editor: Pierre Chauvin and Julia Jones
- Graphics Editor: David Barlow-Krelina

The following contributors are eligible to vote: David Barlow-Krelina, Laura Beeston, Esther Bernard, Sebastien Cadieux, Pierre Chauvin, Ray Corkum, Christopher Curtis, Alex Di Pietro, Justin Giovannetti, Colin Harris, R. Brian Hastie, Clay Hemmerich, Daniel Johnston, Julia Jones, David Kaufmann, Adam Kovac, Vivien Leung, Alex Manley, Shawn McCrory, Christopher Olson, Ashley Opheim, Jasmine Papillon-Smith, Diego Pelaez Gaetz, Daryna Rukhlyadeva, Riley Sparks, Joseph Ste. Marie, Nick Ward, Megan Wohlberg, Julia Wolfe, Natasha Young, Andrea Zoelliner.

An Ode to les Artistes Celebrating International Artist Day

• ASHLEY OPHEIM

What would a world without art be like?

Whether we appreciate it or not, art is all around us. It is challenging our world, our identity and our consciousness—and just making things more beautiful.

On Oct. 25, International Artist Day is a chance to celebrate all the creators out there who care about our consciousness, our reasoning and who offer us ways to interpret the world and all of its strange and wonderful circumstances.

The creation and preservation of art have been essential to the ways in which we understand the past. Art characterizes a culture and allows us into the minds and imaginations of individuals. In its historical context, art paints a vibrant image that historical texts can't.

Artists have, and always will, document the present times for future generations to pick at and attempt to understand.

Now, more than ever, art is important. Living requires a con-

sciousness that has been undermined by myriad things like television dramas, gossip magazines and corporatized culture. On the other hand, successful art asks us to tune in, concentrate, be critical and ask questions. It asks us to participate with it.

There are 3,600 practising artists at Concordia, not to mention the creative-minded students who are in other programs. In addition, an evident glut of Montrealers work jobs they hate just to pay the bills and feed their artistic urges to create, break, transform or deform the world around us.

Last week, a makeshift gallery space was set up in the EV building's staircase between the fifth and eighth floors. There were inspirational signs posted around the elevators that urged students to take the stairs, save energy and "get outside the box." As I was weaving down the flights of stairs, I found myself transformed by what these students had done.

It wasn't necessarily about the artwork as much as it was about the gesture.

Think about the guy making

hearts in our coffee at Myriade; the artistic hand that transforms milk and espresso into a work of art. How it feels to take the first sip of that latte and have that heart break and disperse. Does that move you? Do you feel a bit sad that you just did that? Is that art? It's up to you. Art does not tell you what to think of it. It allows you to come to that realization on your own.

Art is a universal language—one that trumps linguistic or cultural barriers. Art just is. It does not judge you or tell you what to do. There are no rules, no laws. It is a pivotal force in a world that is increasingly divided, a world that has millions of perspectives and things to disagree upon.

I could go on and on about the benefits that our world reaps from art. How a certain e. e. cummings poem entitled "if feeling is first" caused a love of words that sprouted into a degree in creative writing, or how a documentary on the Alberta tar sands entitled *H2Oil*, recently screened at Cinema Politica, had me terrified about the fu-

ture of Canada. The film moved me in ways that made me question how I am living. How we, as a country, are living.

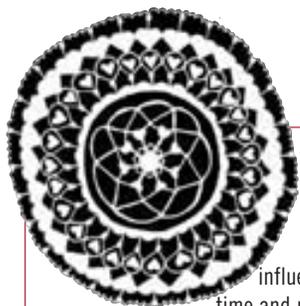
Simple things. Profound things. Yes, art in its many and endless forms has transformed all of us, grown with us, and made us more informed people.

Contemporary technologies have given artists an endless source of information and tools to work with. We are living in a fast-paced world right now, a world that is in constant transition and transformation. This has an affect on us, but it is artists who step back and try to understand this change, who seek to actualize it, explore it, make it tangible.

Artists ask good

questions. Is this piece complete? What is it missing? How can I make it better and more profound? What don't I like about it? What makes it good? These are questions we should all be asking. Not only of art but also of our communities, our cities and our governments.

So, thank you artists. Thank you for creating and breaking your brains to move and affect us all. Thank you for pushing our cultural consciousness, for documenting our times, for taking risks and for doing things not for fame or fortune, but for a cultural capital that we can all share.



What Is Art?

"Art is a forum for communication and expressing ideas. It can influence emotions, provoke thought, reflect truth and tell stories about the time and place in which they were created. Artists help to shape and define the identity of their society, as well as reflect the time and place they come from."

—Mark James, *Independent Student*

"In the fifties, a can of soup was seen as beneficial in fighting a cold. In the sixties, Andy Warhol saw Campbell's soup cans as worthy of being painted. In 2010, people are seeing mini-artworks in canned good aisles. In conclusion, 'art is what you can get away with.'"

—Sofia Gay, *Journalism*

"Artists and musicians are what make this city. The harsh winters would be enough to deter most from Montreal if it weren't for the warmth of the city's creative climate, which has cultivated some of the world's finest music and art of every thinkable variety. Artists and musicians are what keep this city alive."

—Natasha Young, *English Literature*

"Artists are interpreters of the heart."

—Andrea Zoellner, *Journalism*

"We live in a city of integrated art—murals decorating building walls, live music from the bars, expressive culture at every turn. Art is tangible culture that will always be important, as long as we possess the freedom to create it."

—Colin Harris, *Journalism*



Festival du Nouveau Cinema

Art at FNC Plays With Sound, Music and You



Hybridation II plays on the spontaneity of improvisation.

• COLIN HARRIS

With computational matter as his paintbrush, local multimedia artist Navab Navab experiments with sound and how we perceive it.

Navab studied electro-acoustics at Concordia last year. "No matter what, I always try to make sure there is enough for the audience to delve into," he said.

Navab is performing on Oct. 19 at *Hybridation II*, part of the annual Festival du Nouveau Cinéma festival. His contribution to the event, *Spaces in Between*, is a performative ensemble that will consist of Navab, visual manipulator Jerome Delepierre and a piano, sax and drum combo together creating something "absolutely improvised," according to Navab.

The organic and spontaneous nature of improvisation is central to the group's performance.

"Even the style of music is not decided upon. The band doesn't want to know anything, they don't want to meet before because they don't want it to ruin the sense of pure improvisation," said Navab.

Navab is going into the performance with open ears and a heightened musical sense. "We're going to create a sense of live cinema. You will see and hear the musicians but you will also perceive their distorted or magnified audio-visual canvas all over the venue," he said. According to Navab, it adds to the multi-sensory aspect of the night.

Delepierre and Navab have been collaborating on audiovisual

manipulators together for two years.

"[In the summer of 2008] we made a piece called *Interstitial*. Right away we noticed there was a really strong chemistry between us, in being able to emotionally jam with media," said Navab.

In addition to *Hybridation II*, Navab and Delepierre have set up an installation outside the Agora du Coeur des Sciences building (175 Président-Kennedy Ave.) where the event will take place. The piece is called *Constellation 2.2*. It consists of a large stretch of fabric that is responsive to sound and video.

"We put *Constellation 2.2* in a cinematic context [for the festival]," said Navab. "What is added is the notion of time—temporality.

Most interactive arts don't have a lot of temporality embedded in them."

The piece is not just responsive to people, but to all vibrations, including those caused by the wind.

"Over the course of a week there is a certain narrative that's shaped by man-made and natural interactions in the built environment," Navab continued. "We always adapt [*Constellation*] to the context of the environment.

"You pass by *Constellation* and shake the structure. You come back an hour later and the organism has evolved into a different form."

Hybridation II is Oct. 19 at Agora du Coeur des Sciences de l'UQAM (175 Président-Kennedy Ave.). Doors open at 10 p.m. Free.

Reviews

• JORDAN RUIMY

L.A. Zombie

In a film fest that takes pride in its weirdness and originality, Bruce LaBruce's *L.A. Zombie* might just take the prize for the strangest film. LaBruce's film is a strange gay porn gofest that will likely puzzle and frustrate many. His film casts pornstar Francois Sagat as a zombie (or is he just a schizophrenic?) that scavenges Los Angeles, looking for dead male bodies to have sex with and bring back to life. Yikes.

His film has been categorized as a Queer Cinema Zombie Film, but it is more than that. I saw a parallel and hidden metaphor to the AIDS epidemic. The film has very little dialogue, letting the images speak for themselves.

You will likely come out puzzled.

The Strange Case of Angelica

Portugal's Manoel De Oliveira is 102 years old, yet age has not prevented him from directing films on a yearly basis. *The Strange Case Of Angelica*, his 51st movie, portrays a strange young photographer who is given the task of photographing a deceased girl. He develops a strange admiration for her that ultimately turns futile and scary as the photographer begins hallucinating and coping with a mental breakdown. The film is beautifully shot and tells the story in an original fashion.

Tournee (On Tour)

French actor turned director Mathieu Almaric won the Directing Prize earlier this year at Cannes for his tour de force directorial debut, *Tournee (On Tour)*. His film has an incredible atmosphere as it follows American Burlesque performers and their idiosyncratic French manager, played by Almaric.

Almaric's film and direction owes a big debt to the sprawling character-driven epics of such American masters as Robert Altman and Martin Scorsese. There are well over a dozen characters to pay attention to, but Almaric's hand makes the surroundings incredibly vibrant and entertaining to watch. For the film, Almaric hired some of the best, most talented Burlesque performers in the States to portray his ladies. These non-professional actresses are genuine and natural on camera.

The film isn't perfect but the overall feel that Almaric creates is incredible and, like all great films, feels like an important experience.

Festival du Nouveau Cinema runs until Oct. 24. Visit nouveau cinema.ca for more information.

Picks

• JORDAN RUIMY

You can call it a film geek's wet dream or you can call it movie overload.

Le Festival Du Nouveau Cinema has been, over the past decade, the most progressive film festival in Montreal. Year after year, the organizers have outdone themselves in concocting a program that will satisfy even the most fervent of cinema fans.

This year's selection has some of the best from the Venice, Toronto, Cannes and New York Film Festivals. Its selection revolves around buzz-worthy films that have taken over the above-mentioned film fests.

The catch to the festival is that you have to choose wisely and find the diamonds in the rough. I'm looking forward to having a chance to visit the new worlds of masters such as:

Britain's Mike Leigh (*Another Year*)
 Mexico's Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu (*Biutiful*)
 Romania's Cristi Puiu (*Aurora*)
 Denmark's Thomas Vinterberg (*Submarino*)
 France's Jean Luc Godard (*Film Socialisme*)
 France's Clair Denis (*White Material*)
 France's Catherine Breillat (*La Belle Endormie*)

RUGBY



Stinger Cara Stuckey (with ball) stiff-arms a McGill player during Concordia's 30-20 perfect record-setting win at McEwen Field on Sunday. PHOTO NEALE MCDEVITT

see story, pg. 19

schedule

MEN'S SOCCER v Montréal 8:30 p.m. FRIDAY @ UQAM SUNDAY
WOMEN'S SOCCER v Montréal 6:30 p.m. FRIDAY @ UQAM SUNDAY
MEN'S BASKETBALL @ Laurentian Tournament FRIDAY TO SATURDAY
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Tournament @ Carleton FRIDAY TO SUNDAY
WOMEN'S HOCKEY @ Carleton 7:00 p.m. SATURDAY @ Ottawa 2:00 p.m. SUNDAY
MEN'S HOCKEY v Nipissing 7:30 p.m. THURSDAY v Toronto 2:00 p.m. SATURDAY
FOOTBALL @ Montréal 7:00 p.m. FRIDAY
WOMEN'S RUGBY QSSF Semifinal 3:00 p.m. SUNDAY
MEN'S RUGBY @ McGill 1:00 p.m. SUNDAY

scoreboard

BASEBALL L 4-5 v McGill sat	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL W 73-49 v Manitoba fri
W 11-1 v McGill sat	L 59-68 v All-Stars sat
W 1-0 v McGill sun	L 67-69 v Regina sun
WOMEN'S HOCKEY W 3-2 v Montréal fri	MEN'S BASKETBALL W 92-91 v SLC thur
W 5-1 v Ottawa sat	W 76-72 v Laurier fri
WOMEN'S RUGBY W 30-20 v McGill sun	W 81-71 v McMaster sat
MEN'S RUGBY W 22-5 v Sherbrooke sun	MEN'S HOCKEY L 3-4 v Carleton sat
WOMEN'S SOCCER L 0-2 v Sherbrooke fri	W 6-3 v Ottawa sun
L 1-3 v Laval sun	MEN'S SOCCER W 3-1 v Sherbrooke fri
FOOTBALL L 36-39 v Sherbrooke sat	L 0-3 v Laval sun

Stingers Improve to 3-1 With Win Over Ottawa

Strong Physical Play Leads Concordia to Victory in Men's Hockey Home Opener

• SHAWN MCCRORY

Concordia 6

Ottawa 3

The men's hockey team beat the Ottawa Gee-Gees 6-3 Sunday afternoon at Ed Meagher Arena in the Stingers' home opener this season.

Defenceman Kiefer Orsini led the way with a four-point night, scoring two goals and adding two assists.

"We kept to the game plan, kept it simple early on and got the first goal, then kept going," said Orsini. "It was a good game for all four lines—definitely a team win."

Concordia dictated the pace of play in the early going with energetic performances from all four lines.

The Stingers' fast-paced, physical style frustrated the Gee-Gees as they struggled to break out of their own end during the first few minutes of play.

Concordia capitalized on its momentum with less than four minutes left in the first period, as Eric Bégoin found teammate Orsini

at the far post with a pass from the top of the face-off circle that Orsini converted for the game's opening goal.

Ottawa managed to tie the game on a power play goal in the last minute of the first period. Forward Matthieu Methot took advantage of a breakdown in Concordia's defensive zone coverage, which resulted from confusion over a delayed penalty, to score the equalizer.

Concordia took the lead early in the second period, scoring two goals in quick succession.

Forward Marc-André Element notched the Stingers' second power-play marker of the game and Orsini followed suit less than two minutes later with an even-strength goal that would be his second of the game. Orsini took a crisp pass from Derek Famulare and shot high blocker side to beat Ottawa goalie Aaron Barton for a highlight reel goal to make it 3-1.

The Gee-Gees clawed their way back into the game late in the second to make it 3-2 with another late period goal by Methot.

Concordia extended its lead eight minutes into a penalty-filled third period with a goal from cen-



Stinger Kiefer Orsini recorded four points in Concordia's 6-3 win on Sunday. PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

tre George Lovatsis, while Ottawa replied with a short-handed tally from Sean Smyth.

Lovatsis scored Concordia's third power-play goal to make it 5-3. Famulare closed the scoring to make it 6-3 with less than five minutes to play.

"We're a big team, we're strong, we're physical and we're disciplined but the key to our success right now is our speed and

our quick hands," said Stingers head coach Kevin Figsby.

"We're getting tremendous leadership from our older players and tremendous drive from our younger players. We have an extremely exciting team this year."

According to Gee-Gees head coach Dave Leger the game's turning point was in the third period.

"It was a one-goal game going

into the third period and then we got ourselves into penalty trouble at a critical time," said Leger. "We have a young team. We learned the lesson that you have to be disciplined sometimes."

The Stingers will play two regular-season games this week, before embarking on a road trip to Plattsburgh, N.Y. for an exhibition game next Monday.

Doyon-Lessard Continues to Provide Good Goaltending

Women's Hockey Team Picks Up Consecutive Wins Over Weekend

• JOSEPH STE MARIE

Concordia 5

Ottawa 1

After defeating UdeM in a shootout the night before, the Concordia Stingers' women's hockey team scored four unanswered goals en route to a comfortable 5-1 win over the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees Oct. 16 at Ed Meagher Arena.

"We were really happy with our team effort today and played the type of system we wanted to play," said Stingers head coach Les Lawton, whose team recorded its second win in as many days. "I thought we outworked them. I thought we beat them to the puck all over the ice, [and] obviously, we had stellar goaltending."

Stingers goaltender Audrey Doyon-Lessard stopped 40 of 41 shots on net, while her Ottawa counterpart Stephanie Auger allowed five goals on 26 shots.

Both teams had some good chances in the first period. For one, Ottawa centre Kayla Hottot almost capitalized on a bad giveaway from ConU defender Gabrielle Meilleur and forward Fannie Desforges tested Doyon-Lessard twice.



Stinger Emilie Bocchia carries the puck in Concordia's win over Ottawa. PHOTO JOSEPH STE MARIE

For the Stingers, Shannon O'Reilly and right-winger Erin Lally welcomed some great opportunities to score on Auger.

Ottawa came out strong at the start of the 2nd period—until centre Samantha DeLenardo was called for tripping barely two

minutes in. Stingers centre Alyssa Sherrard took full advantage of the ensuing powerplay by opening the scoring, recording her second point of the season.

Concordia gained confidence throughout the rest of the game, with its offence picking up the pace and its defence, despite a

shaky start, appearing more energetic.

However, Ottawa tied the game 22 seconds into the 3rd period with Hottot's wrist shot finding the top right corner.

The Stingers quickly regained the lead with captain Mallory Lawton scoring her first of the

year on a short-handed break-away.

ConU dominated the scoring for the rest of the game, even though they were outshot 17-9 in the third. While centre Catherine Rancourt and right-winger Hayley Boyd scored their first goals of the season, Lally notched her fourth on a pass from Emilie Bocchia during a power-play chance with just four minutes left.

Frustration began to boil over for Ottawa, as defender Amber Foster bodychecked Stinger Alexandra D'Ambrosio hard into the boards at 9:08 of the third. While Foster was administered a 2-minute minor penalty for the check, D'Ambrosio was out for the remainder of the game.

Lawton couldn't fully comment on the hit to D'Ambrosio, but he was told that she might have a head injury.

"Our first period was pretty strong, and [in the] second period they picked up the pace a little bit," said Lally. "We talked in the dressing room and we just wanted to leave it all on the ice in the third period, and we did just that."

The Stingers go on the road next weekend, as they face the Carleton Ravens on Oct. 23, before their rematch with Ottawa on Oct. 24.

Champs Two Years in a Row

Men's Baseball Team Comes out on Top Despite Early-Season Worries

• CHRIS HAMPSON

Concordia 1

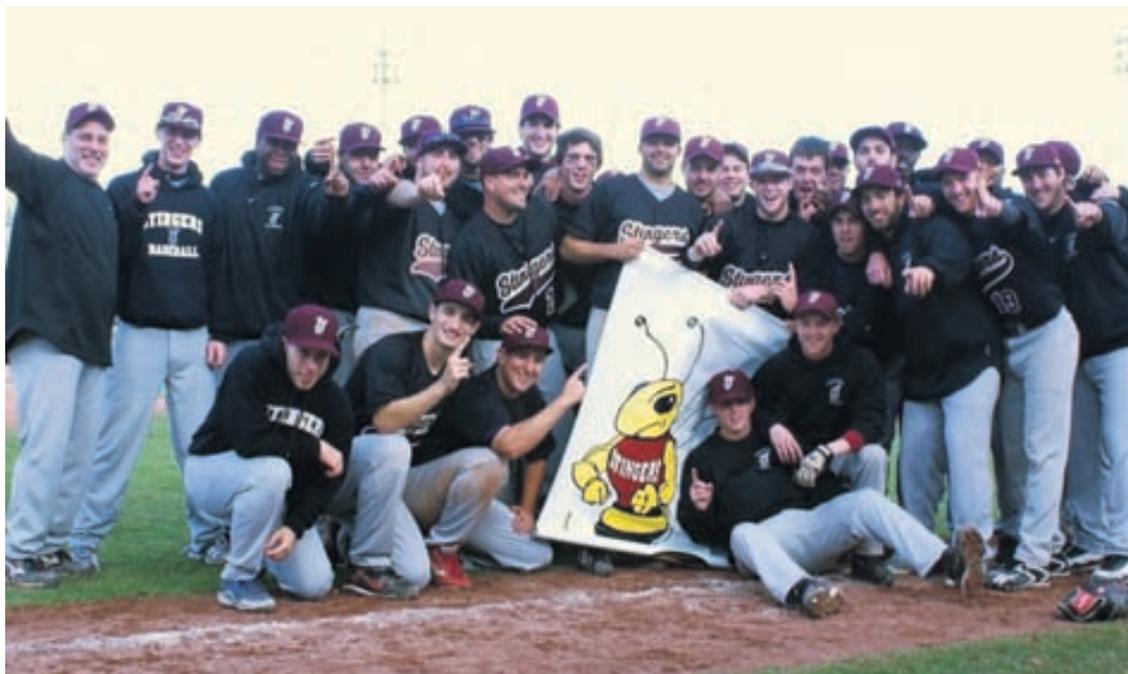
McGill 0

The Concordia Stingers' baseball team needed a gem from pitcher Andre Lagarde on Sunday and they got just that, beating the McGill Redmen 1-0 to win their second consecutive CIBA Northern Conference Championship.

Lagarde outlasted Redmen pitcher Conrad Hall, pitching six innings of shutout baseball and helping the Stingers close out the three-game series at Trudeau Park in dramatic fashion.

"Everyone did their part. It couldn't have been any closer," said Stingers manager Howard Schwartz. "McGill was great, but we were just a little greater. I definitely feel like I earned my pay this year."

The win was not without its dramatic moments. With the Stingers needing one out to end the game, McGill second baseman Max Tierno sent fans of both



The baseball team has now won two consecutive CIBA Northern Conference Championships. PHOTO GORD LUSK

sides to the edges of their seats with a well-hit ball towards deep outfield.

However, Concordia outfielder Marc-André Fleury managed to get to the hit in full stride, closing his glove on the ball and the se-

ries.

Fleury was also the only Stinger to make his presence felt on the scoreboard. In the bottom of the second, Fleury was caught in the side by an errant Hall pitch, immediately after ducking to

avoid the prior pitch that seemed destined for his head.

After stealing second, the Stingers' outfielder would go on to score on a fielder's choice, providing Lagarde with the only run support he needed.

Lagarde managed to keep both batters and base-runners at bay from the outset of the game, striking out two to begin the second and picking off a number of the few Redmen that got on base.

"He's a lefty so we wanted to take advantage of that. He picked off two guys," said Schwartz. "Look, that's just what we do."

Lagarde's counterpart, Hall, was not nearly as effective at the start, sending a number of wild pitches into the backstop. However, with the exception of Fleury's second-inning run, the Stingers failed to capitalize.

Meanwhile, their cross-town foes, the McGill Redmen, left Trudeau Park Sunday beaten but not defeated as they earned the wildcard berth in the National Championships where they will be looking to exact revenge on Concordia.

With the win, the Stingers will head to Windsor, Ont., on Thursday, where they will face five other teams from across the country for the CIBA National Championships.

Flawless

Women's Rugby Team Pulls Off Perfect Season with Win Over McGill

• NICHOLAS WARD

Concordia 30

McGill 20

With an autumn backdrop at the McGill Martlets' home turf on McDonald campus, Concordia's women's rugby team secured a crucial 30-20 win on Sunday to conclude a perfect 6-0 season heading into the playoffs.

"I'm ecstatic about the undefeated season," said Stingers coach Graeme McGravie.

The story of the game was the sheer dominance of Concordia's forward pack. Led by veteran Claire Hortop, the pack took it to McGill early and often. It was the clinical execution of the rolling-maul that gained the Stingers valuable metres, time and again.

"We work on the maul [...] every practice," McGravie said. "That's our game, that's our bread and butter."

The scoring started early as McGill prop Amanda Henderson barged over the line. The conversion made the score 10-3 after both teams traded early penalty kicks. For the Martlets, that was the last time they would take the lead all afternoon.

ConU came storming back up

the field, churning up yards in one 20-metre maul that placed the Stingers on McGill's doorstep. After repeated attempts were held up, ConU's pack drove back its opponents' scrum to net the Stingers' momentum building push-over try. The usually rock solid Jackie Tittley struggled early with her kicks, and missed the conversion wide to keep the score in McGill's favour.

McGill's talented back-line kept the Martlets close with some key tackles made by fly-half Stephanie Lynam. However, the Stingers kept their cool under pressure and were able to kick for territory whenever they found themselves in trouble.

The pack again marched the ball down field and barged across the try-line to take the lead, 12-10 as Tittley, who was still looking to find her range, missed the convert.

A slicing run by Concordia fly-half Erika Hamilton saw her break the Martlet line, but the kick went unconverted and left the Stingers ahead 17-10 going into halftime.

The Stingers' pack picked up right from where it left off, scoring another demoralizing push-over try early in the second half following a yellow card to McGill's Cristyn Edwards for un-

sportsmanlike play. Tittley, who managed to settle herself, hit a beautiful strike from out wide to extend Concordia's lead to 22-10.

McGill's back-line, led by some dizzying runs from fullback Briana Miller, managed to punch in a score to close the gap to 22-15. If there was a weakness in the game for Concordia, it was the team's inability to shut down Miller and the Martlet counterattack.

A late try by Stingers' number 8 Cara Stuckey kept McGill from ever seriously challenging the outcome. However, coach McGravie said he wasn't pleased when Miller turned something out of nothing and cut through ConU's back-line for a 50-metre highlight-reel try.

The final score was 30-20, but the numbers don't tell the whole story, according to McGill coach John Laviorie.

"[Losing by] 10 points might have been a little flattering for us," he said.

The Stingers can look forward to playing a quarter-final match on their home turf, although they need to wait for the result of a midweek game between the University of Ottawa and McGill to find out who their opponent will be in next Sunday's playoff game.



The Stingers' playoff run will begin this Sunday at 3 p.m. PHOTO ESTHER BERNARD

Soccer Teams Fall to Rouge Et Or



The Concordia Stingers took to the field turf at Concordia Stadium on Sunday, only to have missed their opportunity to avenge defeats to the Laval Rouge Et Or suffered three weeks earlier in Quebec City. PHOTOS ERIN SPARKS AND EMILY CAMPBELL





Dear Melissa,

Is it healthy for a non-asexual couple to have sex infrequently?

—sincerely,

Infrequent Fucker

Dear Infrequent Fucker,

That's a pretty big question. Whether they're doing it nonstop or not at all, I think every couple wonders whether their sexual habits are normal.

But what is normal? Or in your case, what is healthy? There's no set way to measure health and frequency when it comes to sex.

Figuring out what's "healthy" really depends on your definition of healthy.

A healthy sex life is subjective because while I might think unicorning* is really normal and healthy, you might not be so into it.

The real question here is whether or not YOU think your sex life is healthy. I think the fact that you wrote to ask me kinda hints at an answer.

Some couples can have sex daily, some once a month, others not at all, and yet all of those couples can be satisfied and perfectly healthy.

Everyone has physical and emotional needs and in a relationship we want them both to be met so that we can be happy. The problem is that different people meet those needs in different ways, and it doesn't always match up with our partners.

So, for example, one partner might have sex to meet their physical needs, while the other might have sex as a way of fulfilling not only their physical needs but emotional ones as well. It's no news that some people don't have sex just because they're horny, but rather to connect with their partner on an emotional level as well.

With that in mind, what happens when the sex slows down? If someone gets their emotional fix mainly from sex with their partner, then they might be worried or unhappy if the sex slows down. The other partner who gets the emotional support they need from non-sexual time spent with their partner might not feel as emotionally threatened by infrequent sex.

I'd also like to point out that there's a difference between infrequent sex where one or both partners isn't horny, and infrequent sex when one partner (or both) isn't attracted to the other, but is attracted to other people.

You might be worried that infrequent sex in your relationship is a sign of physical or emotional problems, or a mix of both, but really, it can be any—all or none of the above.

If you're worried, have you spoken to your partner about it?

I'm guessing you haven't, or you have and weren't happy with the outcome.

Talking and being honest is the best way to make sure you're getting what you want out of your relationship and your sex life. How can anything be solved if your partner doesn't even know there's a problem?

Maybe you'll realize one of you has a higher sex drive than the other, maybe the sex is just slowing down but the relationship is fine, or maybe something between you two needs to be dealt with. Whatever it is, you won't get to the bottom of it until you bring it all out into the open.

In the end, what's most important is that both people are happy and satisfied because that's the only real way you can measure a relationship's health.

*Unicorning: Strapping a dildo to your head and charging at your partner's anus or vagina.

—Melissa Fuller

Much More Than You Wanted To Know About Sex

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

The next time someone stigmatizes a transgendered person, or someone whose sexual orientation is different than theirs, tell them to take a moment to consider the incredible sexual diversity of life on Earth.

While nature is casually coughing up rebuttals to the myth that homosexuality is not kosher in the animal kingdom—of which we hold a privileged, if unelected, seat in Parliament—it's also challenging every fucking thing we ever thought about fucking.

It would take a decade-long gender theory course to piece together the complicated and sometimes nauseating story that is sexual reproduction, but I'll take a crack at it.

I've made an important discovery: it's really, really weird.

Put aside the sadomasochism of preying mantis relationships, or the gender-bending parenting of seahorse societies—nature is endlessly creative in ways our pornographers can't even fathom.

Cockroaches, perhaps to further expand the list of reasons why they are our superiors in every way—there's gotta be a reason beyond indestructibility that explains why they'll outlive us in a nuclear apocalypse—have their own internal sperm banks. So if Mrs. Cockroach wakes up after a night of binge-drinking the fermented spoils behind an all-night diner to find herself in bed with Mr. Cockroach—and she wasn't wearing any protection!—she can store that sperm until she's ready to start a family. Like, when she finds a nice niche in your wall cavity.

In what might give penal inadequacy a whole new dimension of crazy, some spi-

ders have adapted their penises to break off and clog their lover's orifices to keep them from seeing other mates. If that sounds reprehensible, it's no different than some forms of female circumcision still in practice today. Who's the real insect, eh?

Anyone who's been horrified by the prospect of bed bugs, might be terrified to know that they don't even have need for a vaginal orifice in order to have intercourse; the male's penis, razor-sharp, finds whatever means it can to get its sperm inside a female.

With the advent of cloning, and other developments in reproductive medicine that will make it possible one day for two people of the same sex to produce a child that is equally parts mommy and other mommy—or daddy and daddy—sexual reproduction may be coming full circle. Before the evolution of sexual reproduction, childbirth existed without any need for fornication—kind of like getting the calories from ice cream without the fun of licking it off your lover's navel.

It's called "parthenogenesis," and it's what allows many species, including Komodo dragons, to be both mom and dad to their young. Unfortunately, the children of an immaculate Komodo conception will never know what it's like to be single parents—in the truest sense of the word—as the number of chromosome pairs from a single gender can only produce viable eggs when the child is male.

When and if you ever have to explain the birds and the bees to your kids, do them a favour and talk to them about the Ron Jeremys and the Jenna Jamesons instead. Don't make them feel unwelcome at home if they find very ordinary pleasure in the form of someone of their own gender. That's a uniquely human sexual taboo.



Letters @thelinknewspaper.ca

Canada's Reputation in Shambles

Last week, the international community said no to the Harper Conservatives' bid for a UN Security Council seat. This loss confirms one thing: that Canada is no longer an "honest broker" welcomed by the world, but a country in isolation.

Despite Conservative attempts to obfuscate the issue and lay blame elsewhere, political scientists and commentators are unanimous—Harper's foreign policy is to blame for the loss.

The current government's carte blanche for Israel and disregard for Palestinian rights has been noted both domestically and overseas. Also, Canada's funding cuts to Africa does nothing to uplift a historically victimized continent.

If there were ever a sign, the UN Security Council loss is it. Now is time for citizens to act. We have to work and reclaim Canadian foreign policy and our country's reputation.

—Sameer Zuberi,

UQAM law student and former CSU Executive

The Link's letters and opinions policy:

The deadline for letters is 4:00 p.m. on Friday before the issue prints. The Link reserves the right to verify your identity via telephone or email. We reserve the right to refuse letters that are libellous, sexist, homophobic, racist or xenophobic. The limit is 400 words. If your letter is longer, it won't appear in the paper. Please include your full name, weekend phone number, student ID number and program of study. The comments in the letters and opinions section do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board.

DON'T LIKE WHAT YOU READ?

SEND US A LETTER.

send your letters and opinions to
letters@thelinknewspaper.ca



Closed Session

CUTV Uninvited to Film CSU Meeting

• ETHAN COX

Concordia Student Union council meetings tend to be either mind-numbingly boring or appallingly outrageous. In the last couple of years, they've trended more towards boring than outrageous, which is a good thing.

Sadly, this past Wednesday's council meeting, for those of us long enough in the tooth, brought on some flashbacks of the late, unlamented Evolution dynasty (our ballot-box stuffing, rule-ignoring six-year orgy of disregard for students).

Back in the dark days of Evolution, several councillors attempted to get CUTV to film council meetings. That the executive and council of the day illegally refused to allow filming was no surprise—after all, corruption doesn't play too well on video.

This past month, fellow councillor Joel Suss and I proposed a mo-

tion to invite CUTV to film and stream council meetings live. Although CUTV doesn't need permission to film and disseminate a public meeting, we thought the invitation would be a nice gesture and a clear signal that the CSU has moved beyond its dark past.

After all, council is no longer a den of corruption and broadcasting council meetings is a great way to improve the accessibility and transparency of our meetings. Who could be against allowing the students who elected us to see firsthand the decisions we are making in their name?

We thought it would be a no-brainer, a simple and easy way to show respect for our constituents and encourage students to be more aware of, if not involved in, the student union that spends more than \$2 million of student money each year.

Boy, were we wrong!
Led by CSU President Heather

Lucas, CSU VP External Adrien Severyns and ASFA President Aaron Green, a chorus of opposition to this simple token of accountability was voiced by councillor after councillor.

The reasons ranged from the nonsensical (councillors will be intimidated if students can watch their actions) to the downright preposterous (broadcasting will increase student apathy, it is illegal to film a public meeting—these non-sequiturs courtesy of Mr. Green).

That is not to say that all councillors' opposition was disingenuous. The majority of councillors are earnest, well-meaning individuals who have understandable concerns about becoming TV personalities.

Unfortunately, when each of us stood for election, we sacrificed aspects of our privacy. That's the deal when you become a public figure. The newspapers can complain about us, students can accost us in

the halls and what we do and say in public council meetings is a matter of public record.

Most importantly, memories of the corrupt CSU's hiding in closed meetings and conducting all sorts of nefarious business behind students' backs are still fresh. We are now in the second year of the Vision/Fusion dynasty that replaced Evolution, and the only way to guarantee that this dynasty will not slide into the corruption and lawlessness that defined its predecessor is to eliminate the temptation completely.

The more open and transparent our union, the more vibrant and secure our democracy.

The best example of the need for public access came later in the same meeting. When councillors acknowledged that a referendum question asking students to pay an additional \$2.50 per credit to the student centre was misleading (giving the impression that stu-

dents would pay \$0.50 a semester, rather than an additional \$0.50 each semester for a total of \$2.50 per credit), but defeated two amendments which would have honestly spelled out the actual cost to students before mandating the CEO to ensure the wording was fair (something he is already mandated to do by our regulations).

Even if you would never watch 10 seconds of a council meeting online or otherwise, making sure the fees we all pay are spent wisely is something we all care about. The best way to ensure our representatives are held accountable is to make their decisions as open and accessible as possible.

So next time you bump into one of your elected representatives, ask them why they're opposed to transparency. Ask them why they mind you watching their meetings. Because if they have nothing to hide, why are they fighting so hard to stay in the shadows?

Beardo & the Bear

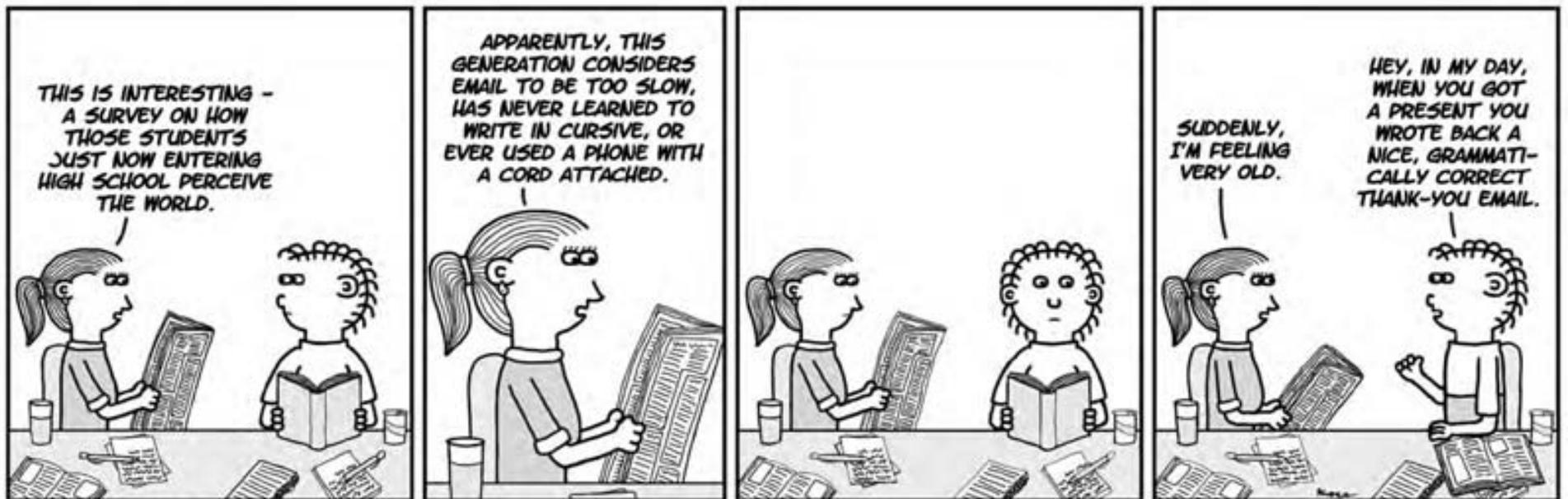


GRAPHIC MATT MAROTTI



Matt Marotti • Beardo & the Bear

Last-Ditch Effort



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Bishop's Corner

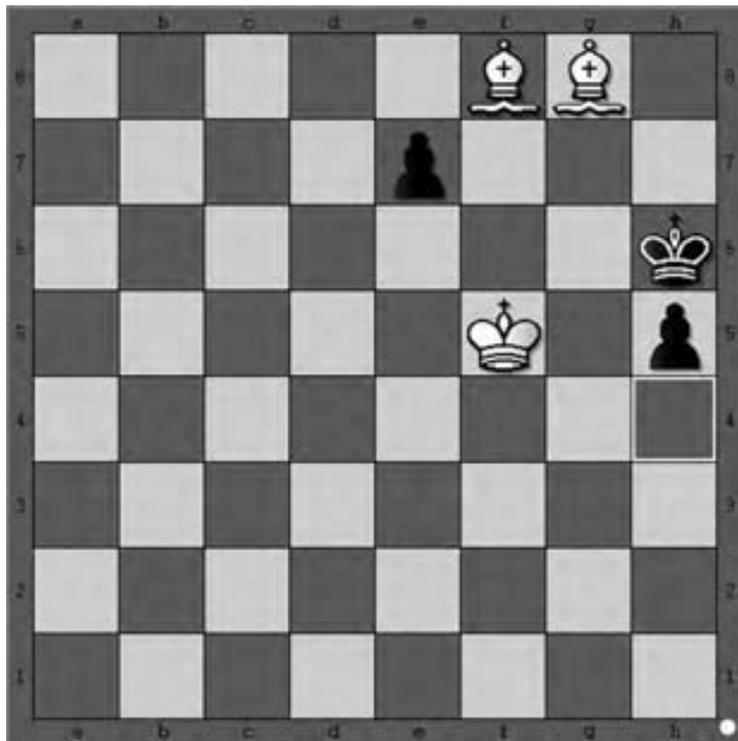
Legend

The King
The king can move in all directions, but one space at a time.

The Bishop
The bishop moves in diagonals only.

The Knight
Can jump over other pieces. Moves in L's; two squares horizontally or vertically, and then turns at a right angle to move one more square.

The Pawn
Only moves forward, except for capturing an enemy piece. It can only capture another piece by moving one space diagonally.



PUZZLE AND GRAPHIC BY DYLAN FRASER

Difficulty: EASY

How to Play: Solve the chess problem using the clue.

Clue: Find white's last move.

Nah'msayin?

The Rant of Pants

I am by no means a fashionable person, but can we institute some kind of informal moratorium on people wearing jogging pants in non-jogging situations?

There used to be a time when jogging pants were restricted to a limited demographic: nine-year-old boys, ticket scalpers and peewee hockey coaches. But in the last decade or so, joggers have made a splash on university campuses across North America, surpassing Ben Harper posters and overpriced weed as the must-have item in rez.

Listen, guy in my stats class, I'm sure the sweatpants are very comfortable, but it's just slobbish-looking. It looks like the kind of decadence that led to the fall of the Roman Empire. Do you want horrds of Visigoths storming the Loyola Quad? Because I'm telling you that, as a

society, we're like three or four bad decisions away from that happening. Also, I can see your junk bounce around in there and it makes me super uncomfortable.

Next time you're thinking about rocking the joggers, please just throw on a pair of jeans or corduroy pants. It's not all that hard and it could ultimately save our civilization from doom at the hands of nomadic barbarian tribes.

—Christopher Curtis,
News Editor

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

Students Still Aren't Interested In The Student Centre

Perhaps you've noticed the catchy new poster campaign proliferating in the hallways asking what you want your student centre to look like. The posters offer suggestions to entice your imagination: a lounge, a kitchen, a study space, maybe even a massage parlour...

Of course, the massive proposed fee levy that would come along with the space didn't make the ad copy, as students would be charged an extra \$0.50 per credit for their first four semesters, and \$2.50 more per credit from their fifth semester onwards.

This would all be on top of the \$2.00 a credit students are already paying. If you have your calculator out, it should read \$4.50 a credit.

The student centre should have been left a ghost of referendum question's past. Seventy-two per cent of students that voted last March said "no" to the fee levy increase—and 93 per cent of students didn't bother to vote. What's changed?

Since 2003, the student centre has banked a cool \$6.7 million of student money that sits stagnantly in a trust fund somewhere, waiting for the day when the CSU decide to put the whole pot towards a \$10 million down payment on a building we haven't expressed interest in for the last seven years.

By now, our student government needs to take the hint and use that money somewhere more effective: a \$43 million dollar project with a 25-year mortgage is something we clearly have no desire to be accountable for. And, quite frankly, none of us are actually going to be around to use the place.

The current CSU executive believes the reason the student body voted no to the student centre last year is because there were a lot of "NO" campaigns going around at the time—No to the Canadian Federation of Students, and ... umm... yes to Le Frigo Vert? And yes to Cinema Politica?

We don't believe that the failing of this initiative can be attributed to massive voter illiteracy. If this is the case, well, we have a bigger problem to address.

There are a lot of other campaign promises that we elected the CSU to see through.

For instance, we are currently primed to be the first university in Quebec to be water bottle free when the 10-year PepsiCo contract expires. The CSU could certainly be spending their energies negotiating with beverage companies to ensure that this socially responsible objective becomes a reality.

Also, it's common knowledge by now that the CSU and CFS are in a lengthy court battle for over \$1 million and the administration is after a couple million more while they attempt to hike our tuition. Why not deal with one issue at a time, with a focus on effectively fighting for students on both of these fronts?

These are tangible things that we actually want from our student government—so don't overextend yourselves. We already have student space, but need help to reclaim what we have lost.

There are bigger fish to fry, CSU. Don't be distracted—and distract us—from more attainable goals.

A new student centre isn't one of them.

—Clay Hemmerich & Laura Beeston,
Opinions Editor & Managing Editor

Corrections

In the article, More G20 Charges Dropped [Vol.31, Iss. 9, Pg. 8], *The Link* wrote that Maryse Poisson said, "They spent all this money for security, and maybe they were right to spend it, but maybe they needed something to show for it."

What she meant to say was, "They spent all this money for security and maybe they needed some kind of show so the public would think they really had to spend it."

The Link regrets the error.



CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

The Link is published every Tuesday during the academic year by the Link Publication Society Inc. Content is independent of the university and student associations (ECA, CASA, ASFA, FASA, CSU). Editorial policy is set by an elected board as provided for in The Link's constitution. Any student is welcome to work on The Link and become a voting staff member. The Link is a member of Canadian University Press and Presse Universitaire Indépendante du Québec.

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Board of Directors 2010-2011: Matthew Gore, Matthew Brett, Jake Stevens, Clare Raspopov, Mathieu Biard, Dale Corley, Les Honywell; non-voting members: Rachel Boucher, Justin Giovannetti. Typesetting by The Link. Printing by Transcontinental.

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Volume 31, Issue 10
Tuesday, October 19, 2010
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