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INIEWS

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PAGE 03

'There Is No Perfect Solution But It Will Be the Best Solution'

CSU VP Answers Questions about Student Union Building

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

A week before the \$50 million student union building, the largest project in the Concordia Student Union's history, is presented to students by referendum, *The Link* sat down with CSU VP External & Projects Adrien Severyns.

Spearheading the project since he was sworn in over the summer, Severyns is looking for students to pay an additional 50 cents per credit, increasing to \$2.50 over the next five semesters. This will be in addition to the \$2.00 per credit students are already paying.

The mystery surrounding the location of the building, the lack of planning for existing student space and the cost of the student union building has made the \$4.50 per credit project one of the most controversial portfolios at the CSU.

The Link: I've noticed the clear lack of a 'No' campaign.

Severyns: To my surprise there isn't a No Campaign. Let me be honest with you, that's pretty sad. I was expecting a No Campaign and I would have liked a No Campaign. I know some people have concerns, but it reveals the level of apathy there is.

You had to fight to get the question approved by CSU Council, where some councillors said they felt the wording of the question was disingenuous and misleading. How did you feel about the whole process?

I thought it was great. The question itself represents the complexity of the project, it is a very complex project, we are talking about a building that will be downtown and is worth a lot.

We took a very fair approach, I wasn't comfortable taking \$2.50 straight to students. The only concern that was brought up and isn't in the question is the total of \$4.50.

The question isn't about the \$4.50 or the existing \$2.00. Even the CEO refused to include it.

By not including the total, does this set a precedent?

The staggering of the fee makes this different. After talking with members of the administration, I came up with the idea and the calculation that it won't make a difference in terms of the realization of the project.

Concordia has a long history of student centre controversy. A previous referendum to buy the Faubourg Building as a student centre failed. The CSU at the time blamed it on the location. Why aren't you telling students the location of the building this time around?

We are currently looking at three to four different options. In respect for the people we are negotiating with and in respect for students we want to keep the price low.

I thought that you had announced earlier in the year that you had se-

lected a location?

Oh no, we have selected a number of options. They are around this area. We want to make it very student friendly and, trust me, these locations are prime locations for a student centre. In terms of real estate, price fluctuations, it is hard to advertise a location.

As soon as this referendum passes, we will announce a location that is interesting for students.

Can you announce the three or four locations?

I can't for the reason I just said. It is very hard to run this campaign. This is a dream students want, but giving them a visual is a challenge.

I'm not quite sure what the reason is?

The options we have looked at, the prices have been advertised and then they have gone up tremendously. When we entered negotiations, we signed a contract that stated we couldn't disclose the locations.

So this is a contract?

There is a contract with the people we are talking to. Out of respect for the people we are negotiating with, it wouldn't be fair right now to reveal the location.

So the contract stipulates you can't reveal the location?

Yes.

The people you are negotiating

with want to keep it secret?

Out of respect for students. It wouldn't be in the best interest of students to reveal the options we have.

The different options we have won't make a big difference as to where it is. It won't make a big difference. But in terms of having the best price, we have to stay discreet.

Can you tell me how much money is available to renovate the space?

If the referendum passes, we are fine, we are absolutely fine for years to come.

Several student groups on campus have already been warned by the administration that once a student centre opens they will get the boot. What plan do you have for these groups?

The CSU represents all undergraduates on campus and it is our duty to take care of these groups. Groups that have these issues will be taken care of to the best of our capacity.

What has the administration told you?

It's very unclear. They have five definitions for student space. But I think the student centre is there to provide services like a public kitchen, so these groups don't have to worry.

One of the reasons why these groups collect a fee levy is to be independent from the CSU. It might be

politically impossible for some of these groups to have the CSU as their landlord. What will you do for them?

I don't really like the term landlord because these groups won't be paying the CSU for allocated space. Currently we are always at risk of being ejected from our offices. Three to four weeks ago three of our clubs were told to leave their offices. The CSU has 60 clubs and only 20 have offices. This is the state of student space on campus. It is very dire.

At the end of the day, it is the choice of these groups to stay in their space or move.

But where could they move that is not the student centre?

That is a good question. It is a very, very delicate issue. There is a reduction of student space on campus every year. The issue will only get worse unless students become the ones governing their space.

I don't think the people who have been fighting for student space for years would see victory in abandoning all university space. You have gotten no concessions from the university?

The student centre will be a means of addressing this issue. There is no perfect solution but it will be the best solution.

A recording of the 45 minute interview with Adrien Severyns is available at thelinknewspaper.ca



PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Out of the Trenches



Queer performance artist Tim Miller acts up in Concordia's Hall Building last Thursday. PHOTO NICOLE FU

Tim Miller on the HIV/AIDS Culture Wars

• **MEAGAN WOHLBERG**

The fallen heroes of a different kind of war were remembered last Thursday at Tim Miller's lecture, *Sex/Body/Self/Virus*.

The long-time HIV/AIDS activist and queer performance artist dedicated his Concordia talk and performance to honouring his friends who died in the early 90s from AIDS while fighting in the "culture wars" in the United States.

"Everyone in this photo, except for me and the two women are dead," said Miller, 52, pointing to the projected image behind him. It was of a dozen shiny youthful faces sitting in a line, about to be arrested by the police behind them.

"James Carroll Pickett," he said, pointing to a young man with glasses in the middle of the photo. "One of the most important Amer-

ican queer playwrights. Dead. Mark Kostopoulos, founder of ACT UP Los Angeles. Dead[...] And on this Remembrance Day, it's all I've been able to think about."

Miller joined the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) New York, an AIDS advocacy group, in the 1980s after moving to New York City. During this time, he was arrested for civil disobedience on several occasions and became the first person to have his funding pulled from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1990.

"I was 20 the first time I went to visit my boyfriend, who was one of the very first people to be diagnosed with AIDS in New York City in 1981," he said. "[The AIDS crisis] has literally been with me my entire adult life."

In 1990, AIDS deaths peaked in

America. It was out of that tragedy that Miller began his career as a one-man army against the AIDS crisis through performance art, designed to change the political narrative of the George H.W. Bush era in the United States.

"Even amid that horror and loss, I found power in being able to claim, 'I'm still here,'" he said. "I'm still here to raise my voice, I'm still here as a member of ACT UP, [...] and that 'I'm still here' space is at the heart of why I am an artist and a political activist."

Miller's lecture was presented by HIV/AIDS Concordia and the Fine Arts Students Alliance as part of the 18th season of the Concordia University Community Lecture Series on HIV/AIDS. The series attempts to raise awareness of social, scientific and cultural aspects of the AIDS pandemic.

While the subject matter con-

tained definite elements of personal mourning, Miller stressed the positivity of his outlook.

"A huge part of what keeps me going is the miracle that I'm alive," he said. "I assumed I would not be alive to live this long, as one did in 1992."

Despite having this personal mandate of the strength in survival, Miller stated that ACT UP lost the culture war in the States and that, while he sees cultural representation as extremely important, art alone is not enough.

Jason Crawford, a Concordia HIV/AIDS course instructor, agreed. He said AIDS was and remains an "extended state of emergency," and the way in which those most affected by HIV/AIDS responded has been unique.

"People infected and affected by HIV/AIDS turned to civil disobedience and performative polit-

ical action to make health a social justice issue," Crawford said. "They challenged notions of health, sex and well-being, and fought in the trenches of the culture wars. We need to remember this more than ever."

Since ending his engagement in public manifestations with ACT UP, Miller has dedicated his political and performance work to marriage equality and immigration rights for gays and lesbians in the United States. And while he noted some advancements in the treatment of queer people, he says that America remains an extremely dangerous place for queers to live.

Miller encouraged students to not be afraid to take action through civil disobedience.

"Make your sound now. Jump on the table. Make the police be called. Get dragged off. Raise your voice now."

An Affordability Issue: Property CEO

ASFA Meeting Dominated by Student Union Building Pitch

• **LAURA BEESTON**

Adding two hours onto the Arts and Science Federation of Associations' Council meeting on Nov. 11, Jonathan Wener, the chairman and CEO of one of the largest property firms in the city, told councillors that a proposed student union building was worth the price students would pay for it.

"Your investment in the university now will advance the value of your degree," Wener said, before suggesting that the university's standing in the *Maclean's* University Rankings suffered as a result of Concordia not having an official student union space.

"Think of this project as your gift for common good and philanthropy for the future," Wener said of the building, which was given a delivery time of 12 to 17 months.

Introduced at the meeting as an "alumnus and former student

leader," Wener also sits on Concordia's Board of Governors and Real Estate Planning Committee. Canderel Property Management, Wener's company, owns several buildings near the proposed student union building.

The CEO was invited to the ASFA meeting to pitch the student union building project alongside Concordia Student Union VP External and Projects Adrien Severyns.

"For the next two weeks, 24/7, do everything imaginable from a communications point of view to get the word out, get people positive and get them to turn out and vote 'Yes,'" said Wener.

The referendum question at the end of November will let students decide whether or not to increase the existing \$2.00 per credit fee levy to help finance the \$50 million student union building.

"What we're asking students to

do is to increase the [fee-levy] amount by 50 cents and staggering the increase to be more fair to students," explained Severyns. "Last year [the referendum question] asked for \$2.50 straight up—and I personally don't agree with this—so we're taking this approach to be more fair."

If passed, the staggered increase would climb to \$4.50 per credit, or \$13.50 per three-credit course by 2012—costing a 90-credit undergrad \$405.

The total figure will not be included in the referendum put forward to students from Nov. 23 to 25.

ASFA councilors asked to know how the student union building would be financed and run.

"We have an affordability issue. We're having trouble getting students to agree to 50 cents," said Wener.

The CEO suggested retail oppor-

tunities and leases in the prospective site, estimated to occupy 20 per cent of the student union building, would help subsidize the building.

Wener added that once the fee levy was approved it would be in effect until the building was paid off, estimated at about 10 years.

The CEO seemed unaware that the existing \$2.00 fee levy is set to expire in 2014.

The councillors were also informed that the university intends to take out a loan for the 25-year mortgage on the proposed building, which—for contractual reasons—they said they could not identify.

Michaela Manson, the representative for philosophy students, voiced her concern during the meeting that retail used to subsidize the building wouldn't reflect the best interests of students, but "the bottom line."

"It doesn't seem like this space is really going to be ensured strictly

for student initiatives," she said, asking Wener and Severyns about what happens to current student spaces when they are forced to move into the building.

"We're buying something that has enough vacancy," was the response from the property CEO. "We'll work it in."

Besides the ambiguous details surrounding the location, referendum question and financing of the student union building, Manson took issue with the implied burden on councillors to spread the Yes Campaign without all the facts.

"These CSU executives were formerly ASFA executives and they were there to solicit our aid in this campaign," Manson said. "The fact that they were using that affinity to garner support on this project made me and many councillors uncomfortable, considering a lot of major things were just glossed over."

Dismissed Auditors Fire Back

Woodsworth Violated University Expense Directives

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS & JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

The dismissal of two longtime Concordia University auditors by President Judith Woodsworth has created a compromising situation for the school with Quebec's labour review board. In filing a grievance, the auditors have produced a trail of paperwork showing that the university's senior administrators participated in the same type of behaviour that led to their firing.

In September of 2009, Woodsworth fired Saad Zubair and Ted Nowak because they had allegedly charged \$250 worth of restaurant meals to the auditing department's expense account and concealed it from the president.

The previous month, Woodsworth met with the auditors

to discuss ways they could trim their department's budget.

"When I asked about their expenses, Mr. Zubair made a sign of a zero to me, [leading] me to understand that they had zero expenses," said Woodsworth at the Labour Review Board on Nov. 2. "I found that curious, and it made me wonder, and that led to my checking and to find that in fact there were expenses, which was the beginning of my loss of confidence in both [Nowak and Zubair]."

Woodsworth found that Zubair had signed off on three restaurant lunches and alleged that Nowak, who was Zubair's boss at the time, attended the lunches.

"In some cases, [Zubair] was approving his own expenses because he had benefited from some of these events," said Woodsworth.

The president said she had been lied to and could no longer work with Zubair or Nowak. She drafted a letter of termination with Concordia VP External Bram Freedman and presented it to the auditors in early September.

During cross-examination at the labour review board, the auditor's lawyer, Rolland Forget, made the president admit to signing off on five lunches she had attended.

In each case, one of Woodsworth's subordinates would charge the meal to his or her expense account and the president would approve it after the fact. This violated Concordia University Financial Services Directives for Expense Reimbursements, which states: "The expense must be paid for by the most Senior Administrator attending [the meal]."

"Am I to state the rule of having

a lunch approved by a superior is subject to a number of exceptions?" asked Forget.

"I would say it's subject to a number of exceptions," replied Woodsworth. "The internal auditors on the other hand, I would expect them to be more perfect than the average person in the university."

The labour review board also found that Concordia University paid for Woodsworth's husband, Lindsay Crysler, to fly with her on a number of business trips.

Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota said that Crysler, who once chaired the university's journalism department, was accompanying Woodsworth for "recruiting and promotional" purposes.

"Crysler's trips were only paid for when he acted as a representative of Concordia," said Mota.

Briefs

ASFA Bans the Bottle

The Arts and Science Federation of Associations passed a motion on Nov. 11 discouraging the purchase of bottled water. The motion, which passed unanimously, states that ASFA's financial committee will not reimburse bottled water for Member Associate events, as a "way to have student voices heard" against privatization.

You Play, You Pay

A study on gambling, led by Concordia's Lifestyle and Addiction Research Lab, was released Nov. 10 and revealed that 70 per cent of Quebec adults gamble, spending an annual average of \$483. The study also found that 41,000 adults are at risk of becoming pathological players.

Pimping Out the Metro

The STM might sell the names of the orange, green, blue and yellow metro lines to corporations like BMO, Bell or Virgin Mobile, according to a report released Nov. 10. Depending on who buys what, the STM said it is also looking to set up free wi-fi.

Mob Boss Shot Dead

No arrests have been made after Montreal mob boss Nicolo Rizutto was shot dead in his north-end home on Nov. 10. Rizutto was killed by an unknown sniper as he was making dinner for his wife and daughter. His funeral was held in Little Italy on Monday.

ConU Workers Still in Negotiations

Negotiations between Concordia University and the United Steel Workers, who represent support staff on campus, are ongoing. Meetings are scheduled for Monday and Thursday this week. University media representative Chris Mota said the talks were "progressing," but neither the University nor USW representative Eddy Gionacchi would comment on the details of negotiations, which have been in progress for several months.

Transforming Montreal



The city's multi billion Quartier des spectacles will have a drastic impact on the lives of sex workers in downtown Montreal. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

• ADAM KOVAC

Montreal's urban space is on the verge of being lost to private interest and gentrification, and it's not just the bottom rung of the economic ladder that will lose out. That was the consensus of the City for Sale panel discussion, presented by the activist collective The Rad School last Wednesday in Concordia's CI building.

"Last year, 14 per cent of the city lived below the poverty line. This year, it's 18 per cent," said facilitator and part-time School of Community and Public Affairs faculty-member Norman Nawrocki during his introduction, citing a recent ad from Sun Youth published in The Gazette. "That's a big jump in one year. What does this mean in terms of where we live and how we use the space in this city to take care of the needs of

people?"

The first speaker was Velma Candyass, a burlesque performer and choreographer, whose troupe the Dead Dolls are a mainstay at Cabaret Cleopatra. The club almost became a victim of the city's revitalization drive, which would have seen many buildings on St. Laurent Boulevard between Ste. Catherine Street and Rene-Levesque Boulevard destroyed to make way for office buildings.

"[Development] has to be on a human scale. Buildings have to be in proportion to usage and the needs of the community and the needs of the area," she said. "The big danger is that when you let a prime area go downhill, it's bad news [...] We've been lucky so far in Montreal, but we're having more and more pockets of despair and destruction all along Ste. Catherine Street. You have empty

store fronts and more and more of this rot is coming through."

While Candyass cited artists living and working around the Lower Main as among those affected, there is an even more disenfranchised group who suffer from the effects of gentrification.

Stephanie and Anita—they prefer not to disclose their last names due to the nature of their work—are outreach workers with Stella, a group that fights for sex workers' rights. They claim that the city's efforts on St. Laurent are going to have drastic consequences for the sex workers in the area.

"We haven't seen many changes downtown. There is, but it's not dramatic yet. It will happen," said Stephanie. "There's women working the street on St. Laurent that are not using [drugs] at all, and they don't want to go to [an area like] Hochelaga [where

more sex workers are drug users]. In sex work, you have a hierarchy. It's going to be intense for these women to figure out where to work."

The discussion ended with John Bradley, a community activist who has been working on behalf of the residents of Pointe St. Charles for 30 years. Bradley pointed to the recent destruction of the historic Seville Theatre, which will have high-end condominiums erected in its former site, as a perfect example of what he called the "securitization" of space.

"I think of this project as a 20-story gated community," he said. "Within it, apart from the housing, which is inaccessible, there's a spa, pool, gym, a whole series of amenities, which used to be public [...] What it does, is this becomes a defensible space, almost militarized [against those not living there]."

Culture Night Crackdown

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

The Concordia Student Union will be scaling down its “all you can drink” culture nights, citing safety concerns as a factor behind the decision.

In the fall of 2009, the CSU began hosting bimonthly culture nights where students would enjoy the food and drink of a certain country or culture.

Until now, the culture nights—which take place at Loyola Campus’ The Hive—operated on a flat rate system, where students could drink as much alcohol as they wanted after paying their \$5.00 entrance fee.

“It came to our attention that the CSU was advertising the culture nights as an all you can drink event,” said Chris Mota, a spokesperson for Concordia University. “Now, there were a number of problems with that. First of all, it’s a dangerous idea at best. People have died from alcohol poisoning at these kinds of events. Second, it’s illegal.”

According to division two, article four of Quebec’s *Regulation respecting promotion, advertising and educational programs related to alcoholic beverages*, it is illegal to advertise an event that “induces a person to consume alcohol in an irresponsible manner.”

CSU VP Student Life Andreas Lopez, who is organizing a culture night that will take place on Wednesday, has been working with Concordia Security’s event analyst Luc Fillion to make the event safer.

“Students will wear wrist bands and every time they get a drink we will make a mark on the wrist band,” said Lopez at a CSU Council meeting. “A CSU representative will be serving drinks and we won’t serve to anyone who is drunk [...] we will also be taking breaks. For a few 45 minute periods throughout the night, we won’t serve alcohol.”

A residence advisor attending the meeting said that last year’s culture nights made life difficult for him, as he often had to attend to sick, intoxicated students who would stumble back from the events to their dorm.

“We’re not trying to shut down the party,” said Mota of the increased security measures. “We just want to make sure it’s safe.”

The theme of Wednesday’s culture night is Canada. Students will be served beer, rye, shepherd’s pie and poutine.

More Construction on Campus

\$14 Million Project to Reclad GM Begins in March



The GM will be reclad to look like the EV and MB Buildings. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

A \$14 million project to reclad the university’s GM Building will begin this March and likely last until the end of 2011.

Renovations on the western wall of the Faubourg Tower are also slated for March and will last until November.

“The GM Building is almost 50 years old and it isn’t very energy efficient,” said Peter Bolla, the Associate VP of Facilities Management at Concordia. “The windows are single pane and it gets cold in the winter.”

The 46-year-old GM Building

will have its walls completely torn down and replaced with glass and steel to resemble the adjacent EV and MB buildings.

“The building badly needed repairs [and] we wanted to make it fit in with the modern looking buildings on campus,” said Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota.

Beyond aesthetic renovations, the GM’s elevator cabins and heating system will be replaced. The building’s lobby will also be expanded to include a waiting area.

Decarel, a general contracting firm that built a \$705 million expansion to Montreal’s Trudeau International Airport, will be un-

dertaking the GM project.

The company has already met with the university twice to determine how to undertake the project while minimizing disturbances caused by construction. Decarel will begin work on the GM’s south and east walls in March.

“The north and west walls will cause complications,” said Jean Pelland, Concordia’s director of projects. “The south and east should be easier so we’ll begin there.”

Meanwhile, at the foot of the Faubourg Tower, netting is being installed as a precautionary measure in the lead up to the re-

placement of the bricks on the building’s western wall. According to Bolla, some of the brickwork on the Faubourg Tower, which was built in the 1980s, is eroding but is “not a cause for concern.”

“Some buildings age better than others and the Faubourg hasn’t aged very well,” said Bolla.

The university is consulting with an engineer and conducting quality control tests to determine a budget and method for replacing the bricks.

“We might not even be replacing the bricks with bricks,” said Pelland. “We’re looking into other materials.”

‘Building a Socialist Party in Quebec’

Joel Bergman Speaks Out Against the Province’s Economic System

• MEGAN DOLSKI

Students and workers are paying for the mistakes of multinational corporations, said Joel Bergman, a member of upstart political party Quebec Solidaire and the International Marxist Tendency.

Speaking to a crowd of 10 people at McGill University’s Trotter building, Bergman claimed that Quebecers are being forced to give up free public services and affordable university tuition to finance the losses the province incurred during the 2008 economic crisis.

“Basically what the government is saying is that [major corporations] have caused this crisis, but the rest of [the working class] have to pay for it,” he said.

The event, entitled “Quebec Solidaire: Building a Socialist Party in Quebec,” was hosted by the Socialist Society at McGill alongside the IMT.

After a brief welcome from Hariyanto Darmawan, a Socialist Society board member, Joel

Bergman took the floor.

Bergman cited Jean Charest’s latest budget as proof of his argument. Tuition increases, the abolition of free healthcare and a rise in hydro fees were all touched upon as examples of how the provincial government’s policies allegedly harm the working class.

While serving as the prime example, Bergman didn’t single out the Liberals as the only culprit.

“Quebec has three parties that all agree on the same things: raising tuition, privatizing healthcare and doing whatever it takes to remain competitive in the global market,” he said.

Bergman explained that Quebec Solidaire, a party founded in 2006, is currently taking propositions for their upcoming platform. The ideas will be tabled and fleshed out at the party’s upcoming General Assembly on Nov. 27.

“Quebec Solidaire exists to propose an alternative vision for Quebec; we represent students and the working class,” explained Bergman. “We are here to decide



Ten people attended Joel Bergman’s speech. PHOTO NICOLE FU

what that vision is.”

With that, the floor was left wide open. Topics of socializing domestic work and universal daycare dominated the majority of the discussion. While several ideas arose, no concrete plans

were determined— solutions were left vague.

“We need to take control of society and take the economy out of their hands and put it in everyone’s hands,” said Fehr Marouf, who attended the discussion.

Still Plenty Against the G20



Around 400 people rallied against Seoul's G20 Summit in downtown Montreal. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

• ADAM KOVAC

Although the G20 in Toronto is five months past and the current one in South Korea is half a world away, over 400 protesters showed up for a march through Montreal's downtown core on Nov. 12.

"We're around 500 people in the streets on a Friday night here in Montreal to protest a G20 which is taking place in Korea," said organizer Barbara Legault after the protest.

"We were free and available and thought it was a priority to come here to denounce the G20," she continued. "We were 20,000 strong in Toronto last summer to fight the G20 who came here to bring their austerity policies, and we're going to fight them until we win, and there's no more colonialism, capitalism and patriarchy."

As the crowd gathered shortly after 5:00 p.m., Legault, who is a volunteer with Convergence des Luttes Anticapitalistes 2000, cautioned those participating that it was to be a peaceful, albeit still politically confrontational, protest. Many members of

CLAC originally faced conspiracy charges stemming from protests at the Toronto G20 conference in June, though many had their charges dropped last month.

"We're going to try to ensure that everyone is safe," announced Legault through a megaphone. "There are people here that cannot risk arrest, so we ask everyone to take that into consideration for their actions at this protest."

Despite the warning, at least one person was arrested for vandalizing a storefront with spray paint. Most in the crowd maintained that they were there not to cause damage, but to make their voices heard about what they called an unfair system.

"What happened at the G20 is not an isolated incident that we can leave behind, keeping in mind there are a lot of people still dealing with pretty serious ramifications," said attendee Kira Page. "[We're here] to keep up public awareness and show our support for the people still dealing with massive repercussions from the summer."

—with files from Riley Sparks

Concordia in Space

Engineering professor has plans for the University's first ever satellite program

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Electrical and computer engineering professor Scott Gleason wants to launch Concordia's first satellite, and he wants his students to do it themselves with little or no assistance.

Last Wednesday, Gleason held an information session to gauge interest in the project and received an overwhelming response from students, from whom Gleason will select the most qualified applicants.

As part of the Canadian Satellite Design Challenge, students will pair together into teams. The winning satellites will receive permission to pass their satellites into low Earth atmosphere—approximately 700 km above sea level.

One of the stated goals of this competition is not just to teach students satellite design, but to expose them to the process that all satellites go through," said Gleason. "It's not just building something in their garage."

CubeSats, so named because of their cube-shaped design, are miniaturized satellites that weigh exactly 1.33 kilograms and measure no more than 10 centimeters

on each side.

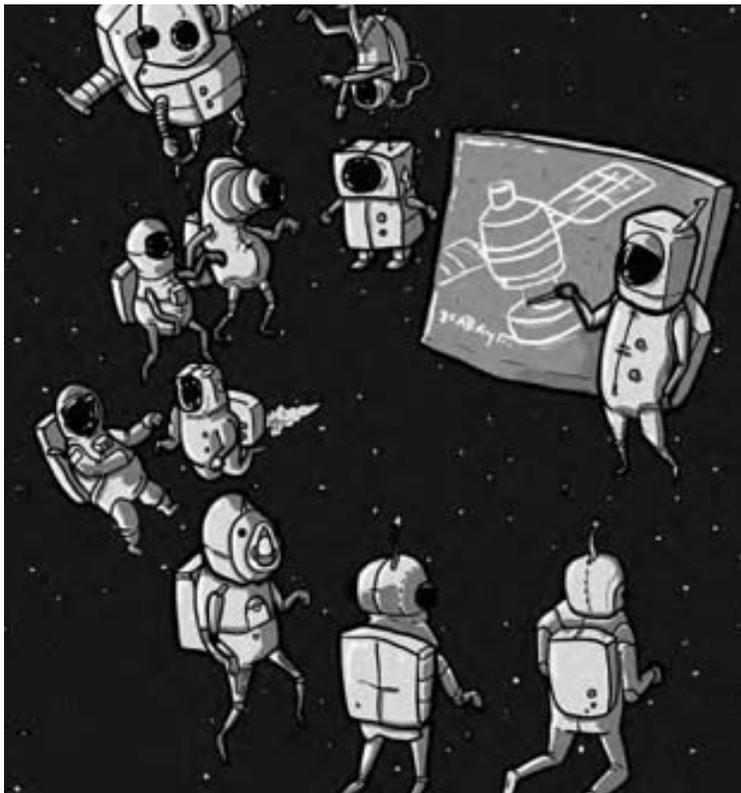
"There's a sort of wave of momentum now for CubeSats," said Gleason. "You don't have to spend millions, or hundreds of thousands, and then risk the thing not working and losing all that money. They're higher risk, but they're lower risk, because they're so cheap you can make mistakes."

The University of Toronto and York University already have satellite programs of their own. Concordia would be the first in Montreal to launch such a satellite.

"It's nice to be able to say we're the first Montreal school to build a CubeSat, but if somebody like École Polytechnique did it, or McGill or UQAM, or even Sherbrooke, it'd be very good for us because then we could share information with them," said Gleason.

Once Gleason has the students paired off into teams, the real work will begin in January, with a projected development period of about two years.

One of the reasons for the long development time is the rigorous testing required to determine if the CubeSats will survive their ordeal in orbit, including



GRAPHIC JOEL PRITTIE

the violent temperature variations and the vibrations experienced while escaping Earth's atmosphere.

"We joke that we could actually ride them around in the

Montreal buses for a few days," said Gleason.

"I see it as both an interesting project for undergraduates and with potential research applications, because it gives you very

practical data," he continued.

Gleason said he wants to leave the kind of research that will be conducted up to the students.

One of the things he hopes students decide to do, however, is to make the experience an inclusive one.

"I'm an advocate for open source," said Gleason. "We're a university. We're supposed to be furthering research in the greater community. We're not a private company that's worried about IP."

The cross-disciplinary nature of the project means that it could potentially benefit students all over the school, including those studying computer science, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering. Art students might also consider getting in on the project, he said, with the potential for artistic applications of the technology still untapped.

"Once I've kicked it off," said Gleason, "hopefully the students will take off on their own."

If you would like to apply to join Concordia's satellite-designing team, contact Professor Scott Gleason at scott@encs.concordia.ca. For more information about the Canadian Satellite Design Challenge, visit geocentrix.ca.



PHOTO KYLE RUGGLES

Bracing for Impact

St. Henri Residents Fight Against Turcot-Based Evictions

• RAY CORKUM

Hundreds of St. Henri residents facing eviction due to the forthcoming Turcot Interchange project will meet with the Ministère des Transports Québec this week to discuss the potential ramifications of the mega-project on their community.

Tonight, residents of 780 St. Remi St.—a loft near the north end of Rue de Cazalais—will meet with the MTQ to discuss the expropriation of the property. A similar meeting will occur on Thursday, with residents of Cazalais Nord and Desnoyers Ouest.

They are among hundreds whose homes will be leveled to make room for the project, despite the MTQ stating that “all houses on Cazalais Nord and Desnoyers Ouest will be preserved [and] every attempt will be made to minimize the

potential impact” on the community.

The recently-revised Turcot plan, which rejects recommendations made by the City of Montreal, ignores Mayor Tremblay’s assertion that any Turcot project would reduce traffic congestion by a third and would not lead to the expropriation of any homes in the working class neighborhood, which is dotted with affordable housing.

“The Mayor has done a complete aboutface,” said Jody Negley of the Citizens’ Committee of the Village des Tanneries.

“He has bowed to the pressure and created an agreement that will lead to hundreds of people being kicked out,” he continued. “Transport Quebec is planning on offering resettlement packages, but who knows what terms will be attached and how they will decide who is eli-

gible?”

The new MTQ proposal remains focused on development of automotive infrastructure, with projected traffic circulation increasing to over 310,000 cars per day.

Negley criticized “the greenwashing of this project,” which she believes does nothing to reduce the reliance on automobiles for commuters.

“A lot of the general public does not know what to believe, so they are taken in by the spin and believe what they read. You actually have environmental groups signing off on this thing because of a reserved bus lane. Considering the alternatives proposed, which would remove cars from the highway and build public transport, this project is unacceptable.”

Negley also raised concern with the project’s impact on the borough

of Le Sud Ouest, where some 400 residents will be forced to leave their homes.

“The work the community has invested in itself trying to make our neighborhood safer and happier is going to be demolished—if not by the expropriations and a highway, then by the construction that will drag on for years.”

The CCVT has worked to improve life for the residents of le Tanneries, creating public gardens and common green space and encouraging community participation in their maintenance.

Mobilization Turcot, a group opposing the new project, held a demonstration on Nov. 11, with nearly 200 people converging on the Decarie Expressway.

A huge banner reading Turcot: moins de pollution, zéro expropriation expressed the crowd’s frustra-

tions, who view the MTQ’s new Turcot plan as unacceptable.

According to housing activist Patricia Viannay, residents of les Tanneries who will not be expropriated and must endure living in a heavy construction zone will have the option of appealing to Le Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux, who has authority to alter projects of provincial departments and order remunerations and other legal processes.

She emphasized that financial compensation will prove inadequate in the wake of the effects to the community.

“A third of the Village des Tanneries will be demolished. This is a disaster and we will never be able to go back,” she said. “What is monetary compensation when your village is demolished and when you lose your friends and neighbours?”

ConU Inc. Author Speaks With *The Link*

• LAURA BEESTON

According to Concordia’s administration, David Bernans is a risk to be assessed.

Making headlines after the university’s Risk Assessment Committee banned him from holding a book reading on campus in 2006, the author of *Con U Inc.* and *North of 9/11* will speak on Wednesday as part of a week-long “Ask Why” awareness campaign organized by various student groups.

Bernans caught up with *The Link* to talk about the university’s senior administration, the changing role of the Concordia Student Union and how students can—and should—mobilize to reclaim space.

When asked what students should demand of the administration in a time where the tuition freeze has thawed and corporate interests trump ethical purchasing in private/public contracts, Bernans said it all comes down to access.

“Why aren’t [students] given

public space to promote and hold events, to organize, to question established truths, to be critical of the relationships between ConU and the corporate powers that be and to encourage independent, critical thought?” he asked in an interview on Nov. 14. “Moreover, why is our administration and Board of Governors dominated by corporate interests with secret exclusivity agreements in a supposedly-public institution?”

Closely following the events surrounding the recently renewed PepsiCo. contract, Bernans said he wasn’t surprised that the administration went ahead with the deal in spite of promises of student consultation.

“It’s to be expected in the current context,” he said. “[The administration] is a structure that has been set up to run—even though it’s a public institution—like a private corporation.”

With competing visions for Concordia’s future, Bernans explained

that, “at some points historically students have made gains, and at others, the corporations and administration get what they want. Now it’s clear students want to swing the pendulum the other way.”

Bernans also said student powerlessness and apathy is part of a problem with the way the student union has evolved over the years, in terms of prompting “general assembly and direct democracy” as a way to make decisions and mobilize the student body.

Back in his day, Bernans said, the CSU would challenge the administration—and would actually win sometimes.

In 1999, before Tim Hortons was a fixture in the Hall Building, altercations between security and the CSU over tabling space exemplified “the leadership students should be looking to put in place today.”

As student groups were distributing information about a general

assembly—that eventually led to a three-day student strike—security attempted to evict them from the premises on the ground floor of the Hall Building.

“We just called the student executives down, who sat with us,” recounted Bernans. “The CSU told the security at the time to arrest us if they needed us to move. And then they basically told the administration, ‘you have two choices: let us do the mobilizing ourselves, or do it for us—if you arrest us for tabling, students will mobilize around that. The choice is yours.’”

Being a student leader is not just about representing students on a board somewhere, he continued.

“That’s not an effective way of dealing with bureaucracy or making any kind of significant gains,” he explained. “You need to elect student leaders who will actually encourage activism, who get students organized and behind them when they say to the administration ‘these are student interests, you can follow

through or face the consequences.’ With this approach, the university will listen. They have to.”

When asked if there was anything students should know about university space before speaking on Wednesday—security risk assessment pending—Bernans was very direct.

“My advice is to take it. Take the space. I mean that quite literally,” he said. “That’s how student space was won in the past. The reason students don’t have [space] anymore is because they didn’t fight to keep it. Fight for it.”

“Hopefully, the CSU will follow and realize their role is not to represent students to the administration but to mobilize and to reinvigorate the institution of direct democracy.”

Catch David Bernans on the 7th floor of the Hall Building this Wednesday, Nov. 17 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. To read the entire interview, check out thelinknewspaper.ca

'Wasting Away in Traffic'

Urban Planning Prof. Rails Against New Turcot



Pierre Gauthier, a Concordia University urban planning professor, says the MTQ's new Turcot plan will do nothing to address Montreal's traffic problem. PHOTO ALEXANDRU STEAU

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Transport Québec's \$3 billion plan to expand the Turcot interchange will not solve Montreal's traffic woes according to Pierre Gauthier, an urban planning professor at Concordia University.

On Nov. 9, Sam Hammad, Quebec's Transportation Minister, unveiled the provincial government's proposal to overhaul Montreal's long decaying Turcot interchange, which links highway 20 and 15 to the Ville Marie Expressway.

The plan would expand the Turcot's daily capacity for vehicles to over 300,000, add bus lanes in the interchange's east-west axis

and its construction would expropriate 106 housing units.

"The heart of the problem is that the new plans don't address a reduction in the volume of traffic that would use the Turcot," said Gauthier. "Congestion will still be a problem in the city because 20,000 new cars are added to Montreal's new road network each year."

In the last decade, Transport Québec has invested approximately \$4 billion into expanding and maintaining Montreal's road infrastructure. An additional \$3 billion will be invested into the Turcot reconstruction, which is set to begin in 2012 and last until 2018.

"All this investment into the road network hasn't improved the city's traffic situation," said Gauthier. "The same approach won't produce different results."

Gauthier is among the new Turcot project's many critics. On Nov. 2, Richard Bergeron, the city of Montreal's head of urban planning, resigned after refusing to support the new proposal.

Bergeron called the project outdated by 50 years and claimed it was "90 per cent similar" to the one rejected by the city, Quebec's Environmental Assessment Board and Montreal's Board of Health in April.

Mario St-Pierre, a spokesperson for the Ministère des Trans-

ports du Québec, told *The Link* that the new proposal is a vast improvement over last spring's.

"We have bus lanes, bike paths, acres of green space planned and we are leaving space open for a tramway to be built in the future," said St-Pierre.

Speaking on behalf of The Citizens' Committee of the Tanneries Village, which represents the hundreds of people that will be evicted because of the Turcot overhaul, Jody Negley strongly disagreed with the MTQ's position.

"The changes are superficial and intentionally misleading," said Negley. "The bus lanes are only a few miles long and will not prevent the bottlenecking the

leads into them, [and] the tramway is not part of the proposal and is really just smoke and mirrors."

Gauthier, who had presented Montrealers with an alternative to the Turcot in March, insisted that traffic would continue until public transit is properly incentivized.

"People won't make that leap of faith it takes to get them out of their cars and into public transit until they see improvements to the system," he said. "When the government decides to invest in a train to the West Island and increased bus services and reduces the capacity of our highway system, then people will stop wasting away in traffic."

Looking at the Fine Details

Student Union Building Not Owned By Students: Sonin

CLAY HEMMERICH

How much space will students own in the student union building? Members of Free Education Montreal asked that question in an open meeting last Thursday.

FEM members Robert Sonin, Erik Chevrier and Holly Nazar sorted through legal documents for the student union building obtained through Quebec's Access to Information Program and encouraged students to do the same. The trio made it clear that students should demand transparency from their university.

Through their access to infor-

mation request, FEM found that administrative space would take up over a third of the student union building.

"Theoretically each party should pay for its portion of its space. Undergrads should pay for about two-thirds, and the administration should pay for about one-third," said Sonin. "I think it's more tilted to the university."

The Concordia Student Union is planning to manage the hypothetical student union building as a joint operation.

A five-member board of co-management, which would include two members appointed by

the university and three by the CSU, would oversee the operations of the student union building.

"The CSU will have the majority [of the decision making power]," said Nazar. "However, the board is subject to quite a few university regulations. If the board wanted to remove some of these regulations, both of the university board members have to agree."

The FEM members showed concern for the policy of distribution of publication on campus, which states that student groups can't flyer on campus except for

designated specific spaces, and the policy on filming and photography on university campus, which states that students need permission to take photos or video on campus.

As for food services, Nazar said, "any exclusivity contracts [existing in the Hall building] won't apply to the new building."

Chevrier said that in order to understand the reasons behind university contract acquisitions like Chartwells, one has to know that "[Concordia] is actually a corporation, it's a non-profit corporation. It follows the Quebec charter of how a non-profit cor-

poration should run."

FEM members said that they don't disagree with the student union building, but rather with the legal agreement between the administration and the student union building.

"I think the problem is that it is not a good agreement. Whether they do it now or later, it's still the same agreement," said Sonin. "The problem is the student center has been sold as a student run, student operated, student owned, under control of the students kind of space, and it's not. It's not going to be that. It's going to be a university-owned building."

Escalator Project Awaits Green Light

Installation of Hall Building Escalators Could Begin as Early as January

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Students enjoying a three-month break from the years of construction that took place outside Concordia's Hall building should prepare for a series of major renovations within it.

A \$15 million proposal to gut and replace the Hall building's infamously defective escalators awaits approval from Concordia's Board of Governors.

If the plan is approved at the Board's next meeting in December, construction in the Hall building will begin as soon as January and end in the summer of 2013.

Jean Pelland, Concordia's director of projects, said that the university has narrowed down the list of potential contractors for the project to two.

"We needed a company that

could take apart these escalators and assemble them in the building," he said. "We wanted to avoid cutting holes in the building to [insert the escalators] in one piece."

Using equipment built by Hangzhou Koni Elevator Co., a Chinese manufacturer of escalators and elevators, the contractor is set to begin the first phase construction from the eighth to the twelfth floor of the building.

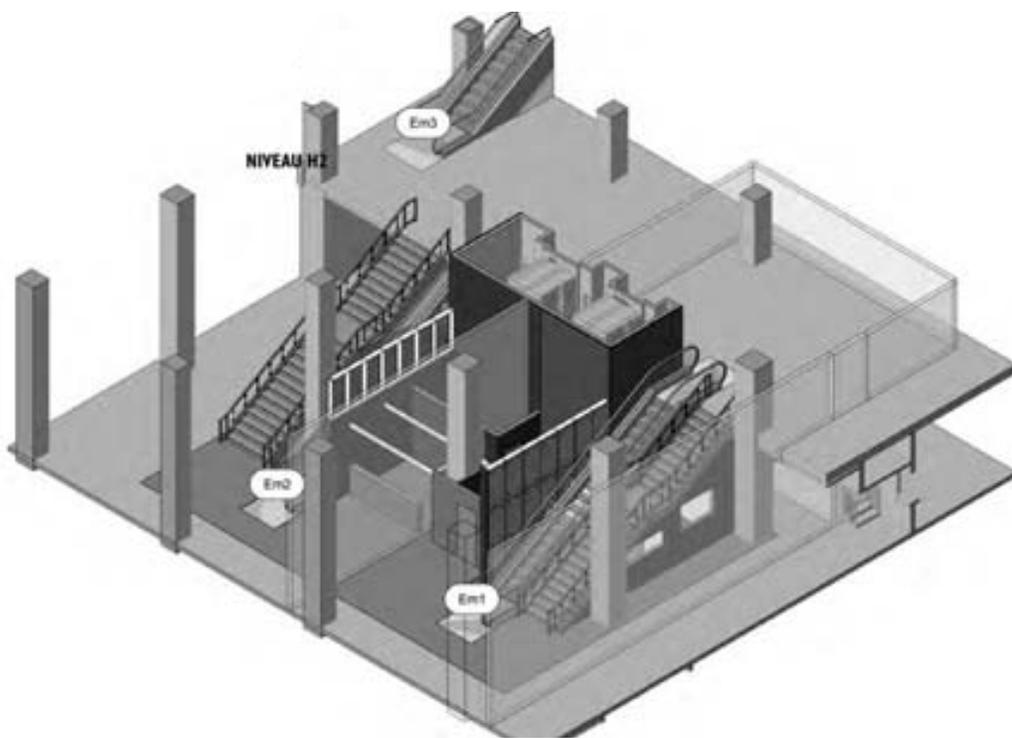
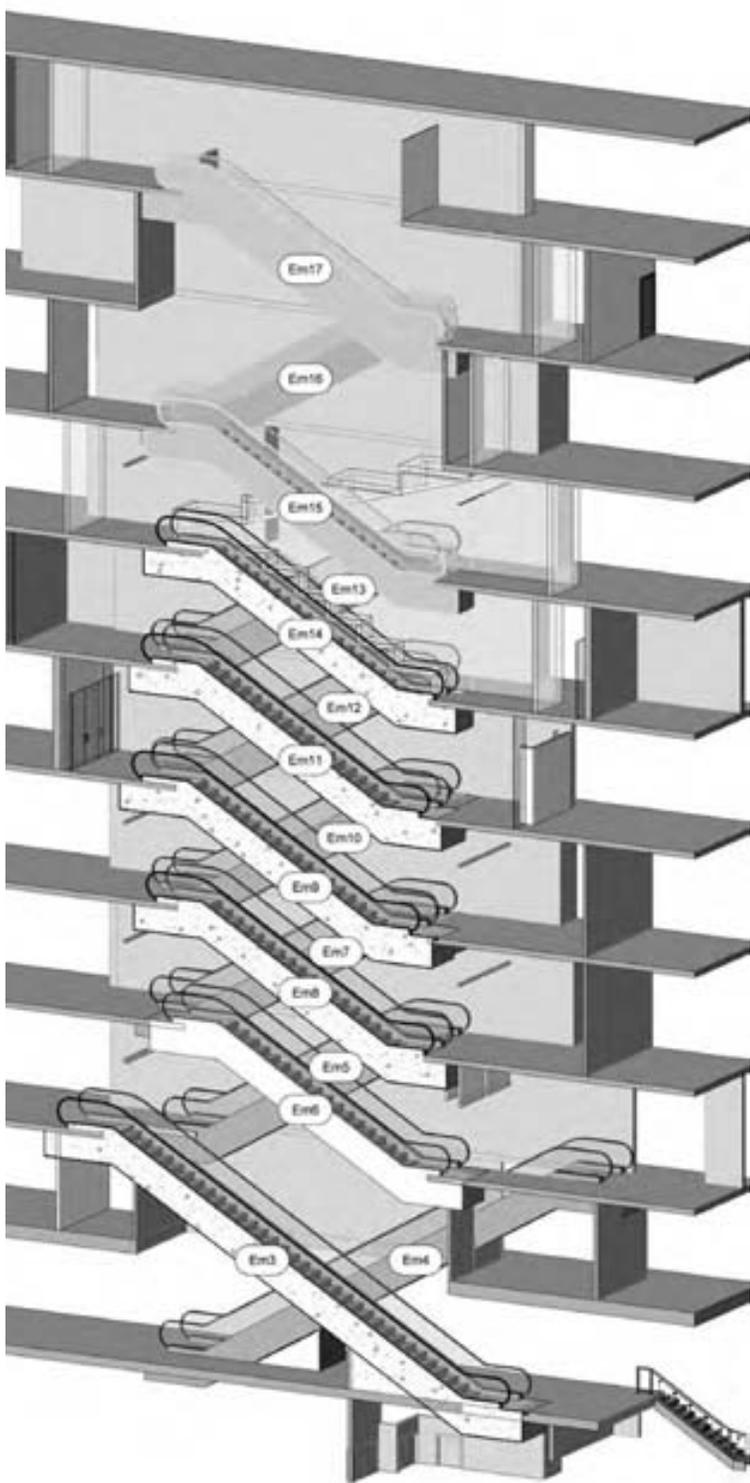
"The idea is to work on the top floors during the school year to minimize interference with [the nearly 10,000] students who use the Hall building every day," said Hassan Abdullahi, Concordia Student Union VP Loyola and Advocacy.

A redesign of the building's lobby should begin over the summer. One of the lobby's escalators will be moved to the area

between Tim Horton's and the security office to accommodate students coming from the tunnel that links the Guy-Concordia Metro station to the Hall building.

Malfunctioning escalators have been a recurring theme throughout the Hall building's 44-year history. The company that installed the escalators folded before the building's construction was finished, leading to a lack of spare parts. As a result, Concordia's maintenance workers have had to remove pieces from existing escalators at the top of the building to make repairs to those at the bottom.

Concordia's director of projects presented a similar plan to the Board in the 90s but it was rejected because of its high cost.



'Concordia Is Unique,' Says Administration

University Moves Up to 24th Place in *Maclean's* Ranking

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Despite finishing 11th out of 12 comprehensive universities in the latest *Maclean's* University Rankings, Concordia's administration is not in damage-control mode. The problem is *Maclean's*, they argue, not Concordia.

"We should be at the top. Concordia is unique in its disciplinary mix and in what it offers students and in the environment it offers it in," said Brad Tucker, the head of institutional planning at Concordia. "You aren't going to find anything like Concordia anywhere

else in North America.

"Where else do you find engineering and arts together? They call it seepage, and Concordia is only moving more in that direction."

Finishing 24th out of 49 universities, Concordia's ranking was hurt largely by the university's low level of research funding—only \$17 million—ranking last among comprehensive schools and a small fraction of what most doctoral schools boast. Reputation, worth 20 per cent of *Maclean's* ranking, also hurt Concordia.

"Its interesting to look at the

criteria *Maclean's* uses to rank university excellence," said Tucker. "To me, the amount of money you get from the government is not a skill, the amount of money you devote to the library is not a skill, student awards is not a skill, your student-faculty ratio is not a skill, the amount of grant money you attract—well, there might be some skill there."

In five other international rankings, Concordia finishes almost uniformly 19th in the country, with only a slight variation.

"Despite finishing 11th, we led in areas we did realize we excelled

"You aren't going to find anything like Concordia anywhere else in North America,"

—Brad Tucker,
Head of
Institutional Planning

in," said university spokesperson Chris Mota. She cited the university's co-curricular record and volunteer centre as firsts which were ignored by *Maclean's*.

Concordia was cited by the

magazine as a university that may have fallen through the cracks of its ranking system. Despite calling Concordia "the red headed stepchild" of English Montreal institutions, *Maclean's* wrote that Concordia's social activism and creativity might not have been reflected in the rankings.

"The passion of a place is a huge draw, and if someone wants to be socially engaged, it's a draw at Concordia, as it should be," said Mota.

Tucker will hold an open question period on ranking systems on Nov. 22.



Organs and Operating Systems

The Medical Community Gets a Robotic Helping Hand

• AMINA QURESHI

Several weeks ago in the Montreal General Hospital, 68-year-old Gilles Lefort was put to sleep and had his prostate cancer successfully removed—by robots.

No longer solely the domain of *Brave New World* style science-fiction, medical robots are quickly becoming widely used in surgery rooms. McSleepy, an automated anesthetic machine and Da Vinci, a set of mechanized arms, are subjects of ongoing controversy within the medical community. Cost, efficiency, malpractice and ethical considerations have some questioning the benefits of robot-assisted surgery.

Of Machines and Men

Humans are not left out of the operating room altogether—at least not yet.

“The anesthesia process is a complex one, in which many variables must be accounted for by professional experience and intuition,” said Dr. Pavel Straka, an anesthesiologist. “If doctors become replaced and the procedure goes wrong, McSleepy is incapable of fixing it.”

Dr. Thomas Hemmerling, the anesthesiologist during Lefort’s surgery, maintains that within 10 years, robots will be ever-present in most operating rooms. That is not to say that doctors will not be needed.

“Robots allow doctors to work to their fullest potential and to provide the patient with the greatest benefits possible,” said Hemmerling. “The two work in conjunction.”

In fact, Da Vinci’s arms are basically an extension of the doctor’s own body. The surgeon gazes

through a computer console to direct the procedure. An enlarged, three-dimensional view of the space helps the doctor clearly see where the arm is operating.

The same procedure applies for the anesthetic, as Hemmerling oversees the operation and will manually intervene only in emergency situations.

“McSleepy is an automated box that dispenses anesthetic and self-monitors the drug levels within the patient,” said Hemmerling.

It allows the doctor to examine other vital signs, such as air tube obstruction, that are sometimes overlooked when too much attention is paid to monitoring drug levels.

A big issue is who is responsible in the instances where something does go wrong. Current malpractice laws hold the doctor accountable for any death or injuries sustained by the patient, even in cases of negligence. The litigation process is complicated because there are no clear-cut laws regarding robots yet.

Hemmerling believes that future laws on robotic malfunctioning will most likely be similar to today. If a surgeon messes up, he’ll be the one responsible. However, if it is not the doctor’s fault, the company that produces the malfunctioning robot will be held liable.

The Deepest Cut

Until recently, large incisions were required to gain access into the body and traditional surgery was considered a relatively invasive procedure, in that it ruptures the skin or requires entrance into a body cavity. The doctor gained access by splicing and opening the skin like a flap, in order to prod the

tissues and organs involved.

Robotic-assisted surgery is considered the most minimally invasive method of operating. The instrument enters the body through a precise, keyhole-sized incision rather than a gaping wound. Following his surgery, Lefort reported to *The Gazette* that his recovery was quick and painless.

Precision is enhanced, as well. Da Vinci’s mechanical hands are far more dexterous because they can move in directions that are physically impossible for human arms. They can perform in much smaller areas of the body with fewer tremors than a human hand, increasing stability and accuracy.

Money and medicine

Some still believe that the benefits are simply not worth the hefty price tag. The Canadian Urological Association Journal reported the cost of a robotic prostate surgery to be \$3,800, whereas a conventional operation costs \$450.

“I do it effortlessly and cheaply everyday. It would be a lot easier [to demonstrate the ease of operating] if you could see any of us in action,” said Dr. Straka.

Dr. Shantanu Nundy is a resident physician who focuses on preventative healthcare. He believes that medical funds should be directed towards preventing illnesses, rather than on elaborate machines. For him, health education is an integral aspect that is often neglected in a medical system saturated with patented drugs and new technologies.

“Obviously prevention is better than treatment, better for patients and for the health system at large,” Dr. Nundy said. “With respect to

prostate cancer, however, unfortunately we do not have good ways to detect it at an early stage. Perhaps costs should be directed towards finding ways to prevent the disease before it forms and degenerates.”

Despite the reservations of some members of the medical community, it is a likely possibility that taxpayer dollars may continue to be directed towards surgical robotics.

In 2009, a startling 75 per cent of prostate cancer surgeries were performed with the help of Da Vinci. For Catherine Mohr, director of surgical research at Intuitive Surgical, investing tax money in robotics is a no-brainer. She maintained that the funding is an economically efficient way of reducing total hospital costs.

For example, keeping a patient following their surgery costs the hospital approximately \$1,500 per day. With minimally invasive procedures, the patient is released two-and-a-half days earlier on average. The money that is saved compensates for the initial expense of the robotics and maintenance costs, and even leaves the hospital with a \$500 surplus.

The simple math helps to explain why many hospitals are quick to pump funds into developing robotics. But comments on Mohr’s health-care blog in *The New York Times* reveals that some are not as keen to embrace a technology they consider to be nothing but hype.

“[Robotics] spread because of doctors’ desires, skillful marketing and the herd mentality of hospital executives. The same story was true for CT, MRI PET, drug-eluting stents and loads more technologies that are already overused, have marginal if any beneficial outcomes

and have helped rocket up health care costs,” one commenter wrote.

However, one patient detailed his personal experience with robotic surgery and maintained the experience was a positive one. Last March, he had a quadruple heart bypass operation using minimally invasive surgery. He regained full recovery within two weeks and returned to work in three weeks. His brother received a similar operation five years ago using traditional surgery and was barely able to walk a block even six weeks later. His anecdotal recount seemed to convince some on the site, while pushing others still further in their fight against robotics.

Dr. Robot, MD

For those unwilling to jump on the robotics bandwagon, Da Vinci and McSleepy present an eerie prospect for the operating room of tomorrow; an operating room resembling an assembly line of car parts, with human surgeons and anesthesiologists disposed of altogether. This scenario is not far from Aldous Huxley’s macabre portrayal of a mass-produced, mechanized society.

Yet others maintain that we have only just begun to reap the benefits offered by robotic surgery. To view the transition into robotics with such a critical eye is to do a disservice to a potentially life-changing technological advancement. What is clear, however, is that further empirical research is required to substantiate any claims about the overall benefits of robotics.

In the brave new world of surgery, it remains to be seen just how the symbiotic relationship between man and machine will evolve.

Tickle Trunk

CKUT Puts Magic on the Airwaves

• ALEX MCGILL

When was the last time you completely indulged only one of your senses? CKUT's Magic Sound Box will allow you to do just that.

"Radio is usually a very individual experience," said Courtney Kirkby, the spoken word and community news coordinator from McGill University's campus radio station CKUT. "[CKUT's Magic Sound Box] is really interesting because you're in a place with other people just listening."

CKUT's Magic Sound Box is a live radio-art performance. Now in its third year, the event is modeled after a concept developed at Kingston's campus radio station CFRC.

The Magic Sound Box plays with the idea of radio as art. The aim of the event is to take the audience inside the radio. CKUT wants to explore the limits of auditory imagination and to highlight sound in an intimate setting. The event will occur in complete darkness, providing ample opportunity for radio to blossom in its auditory nature.

"You're going to a venue in the dark, all four sound speakers are playing different sounds at different times, and you're just being surrounded by sound," said Kirkby.

A large open venue will be transformed into an enclosed space using large swaths of fabric. The audience will be inside the box with the performers on the outside. Sounds will play

CKUT's Magic Sound Box will play with your sense of hearing. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

from a quadraphonic speaker system, combined with the sounds created by the natural acoustics of the space and audience members will experience an over-layering of sound: voices, instruments, recordings and electronics.

This year's two-hour long performances will focus on storytelling and sound. CKUT's Magic

Sound Box will include ventures into musical soundscapes, short stories, exploratory sonic installations and poetry, creating a diversity of sound art. The pieces are mixed up and meshed together, cut up into several pieces and made into one piece.

The event involves all station members from various departments.

"I like to compare the experience of listening to radio to being tickled. You can't tickle yourself."

—Courtney Kirkby,
CKUT Radio

and what [broadcasting] means to a lot of people at CKUT," continued Kirkby. "People get a chance to make mistakes and try things. We come together as really different people from all sorts of different backgrounds. It's successful because it's dynamic and exciting."

One of the two performances will be broadcast over the airwaves at CKUT, so one will get a chance to listen in even if they can't be inside the actual box. But what they will hear on the radio is going to be completely different from what the audience inside the box will be hearing—the broadcasters are using that opportunity to play with sound a little bit more, and to broadcast their own sound art.

"I like to compare the experience of listening to radio to being tickled. You can't tickle yourself. When someone tickles you, it can be an overwhelming experience. The excitement of what's coming next—things you would never come to on your own, it opens up a whole new field for you," Kirkby said.

"[The Magic Sound Box] will appeal to anyone with an open mind, anyone who is ready to let an experience take them somewhere they've never been before."

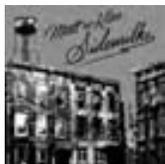
Check out CKUT's Magic Sound Box Nov. 18 at L'Envers (185 Van Horne Ave., just east of Parc Ave.). The first show starts at 7:00 p.m. and the second starts at 9:00 p.m. Admission for each show is \$7 to \$12.



spins

Matt and Kim *Sidewalks*

Fader



Brooklyn duo Matt and Kim have said that their third and latest album, *Sidewalks*, is the first record they have ever made in a studio with a producer. This change reads loud and clear on the record: the sound is cleaner, richer and more layered than their previous two albums, *Matt and Kim* and *Grand*.

Unfortunately, as a result, *Sidewalks* lacks a lot of the charm that put them on the map.

One of the first things you'll notice is that they have incorporated some hip hop-flavoured rhythms into the new songs—if you've ever seen them play live, you'll

know they are big rap and hip hop fans. This nod to urban music is definitely not new to their sound, but in some tracks it feels more pronounced than ever before. The duo's usual high-energy also seems to have been toned down, making their pop-punk sound feel far more pop than punk. While Matt and Kim have always made upbeat pop songs, the unnatural-feeling production sucks some of the life out of the songs.

That said, the album still has some fun in it and doesn't stray too far from what their fans know and love. Some listeners may feel jaded by their turn to a more typical pop sound, but some may find it refreshing.

6.5/10

—Natasha Young

Alexisonfire *Dog's Blood*

Dine Alone



Just in comparing this EP's cartoonish cover with the pristine look of *Old Crows! Young Cardinals*, it's evident *Dog's Blood* is going to have a very different feel.

The poppy hooks of "Born and Raised" and "Young Cardinals" are nowhere to be heard on this little album, substituted for the full-out aggression of punk riffs. The expected dark atmospheric sections are here, and they work even better than before.

This heavy feel is in part due to the notably diminished presence of Dallas Green's voice and it's a wel-

come change. Slow jam "Grey" relies on George Pettit's hoarse delivery and the always-dependable drumming chops of Jordan Hastings. On the following track, "Black as Jet," he beats the snare so hard it sounds like the crack of a whip. Redlining bass tone fills out the song, emulating the best possible output of destroyed speakers.

If you're pining for another *Watch Out!*, don't hold your breath. This EP does combine some of the best elements of their last three records and shows growth in songwriting too. Approaching the 10 year mark, Alexisonfire has accomplished a lot, and *Dog's Blood* proves they're as good as ever.

7.4/10

—Colin Harris

Fracked Up

Cinema Politica Documentary Drills for Answers

• ASHLEY OPHEIM

“Only in an Orwellian world would you expect this.”

Unlucky for us, *Gasland* does not take place in George Orwell’s novel, *1984*, but in current day America.

What do you do when you are offered \$100,000 dollars to allow hydraulic fracturing (or fracking) on your 19.5 acres of land? Josh Fox, 38, wanted to find out what he would be getting himself into if he signed this contract. Instead of signing it, he made a documentary about it—a documentary that transformed him into a natural gas drilling detective.

Natural gas is a vital component of the world’s supply of energy. It is supposedly one of the cleanest and safest sources of energy. The western world holds a “Saudi Arabia of natural gas,” offering a local alternative to foreign energy dependency.

In theory, natural gas sounds pretty appealing, but as Fox embarks on a cross-country odyssey in *Gasland*, he uncovers a trail of secrets, lies and contamination. *Gasland* exposes that alternatives aren’t necessarily solutions.

Fracking releases natural gas from deposits in the earth’s crust by drilling and then shooting a fluid pressure that opens up the fracture and releases the gas trapped in deposits underground. The problem? Fracking fluid.

About three-quarters of frack fluid stays in the earth, and that which flows back has acquired additional toxins such as ethane, propane, xylene, benzene, ethyl benzene, toluene, heavy metals and naturally occurring radioactive material usually consisting of radium isotopes—which are bone-seeking carcinogens.

These chemicals, if not illegally deposited into fields and streams,



Gasland takes an insider’s look at the dirty side of natural gas, one where tap water catches on fire.

are seeping into the clean water supply and contaminating not only the earth and its natural systems, but also communities.

Thanks to former American Vice President Dick Cheney, the “Halliburton Loophole” ensures that fracking is exempt from the Safe Drinking Water Act regulations. The industry’s frack water is a trade secret but, as *Gasland* finds, that isn’t stopping people from getting their own answers, as painful as they may be.

The film is in every way powerful, and will stay with you your entire life if you take a couple hours to let Fox educate you on issues that are entirely necessary for everyone to formulate opinions on. Fracking is not unique to America; it is happening on Canadian soil.

Gasland exposes the truth, as all great documentaries do. It relies on the stories of ordinary, American citizens suffering terribly from the natural gas industry. The film features personal stories about the

consequences of water and air contamination that are going unnoticed by people in power.

Victims of bad fracking are experiencing headaches, ringing in their ears, disorientation, dizziness, asthma, brain damage, loss of body control, excruciating body aches and the loss of smell and taste. The film is so powerful that, even as a spectator, I was afraid to drink the tap water in my own home that is supposed to be clean and fresh.

“This is a place I know. It’s a place that runs through my mind and it’s always there. It seems to me that it’s the source of all life. And it is. You need water to live,” Fox narrates in the film. He is in the backyard of his family heirloom home in Pennsylvania, lamenting on the stream that flows mere feet away from his house.

Fox’s first voyage in the film takes him to a neighbouring town called Dimmick where he has

heard that there are people there suffering from the presence of fracking in their community. The town is completely upside down and suffering from water contamination so bad that people can light their tap water on fire.

One common theme in the film is the overall feeling of shock, fear, betrayal and powerlessness—a total loss of normal life for members of communities. The film is painful to endure but is undeniably important for people to watch.

There is an overall sense of confusion from the people interviewed in the documentary.

“Our water was perfectly fine prior to the gas wells,” they would all say. “What’s going to happen to our kids?”

The film’s biggest strength is its ballsiness in portraying the issue for what it is: ugly. The film graphically shows families suffering from the presence of natural gas industries.

Contaminated water is being dumped into fields and streams, the veins of the earth. There is a geographic border that separates Canada from the United States, but that border doesn’t stop the flow of water between our countries. This fracking issue is Canada’s issue, too.

The film also touches on other issues relevant to fracking such as the amount of fresh water it takes to frack and issues of water being a human right and not a commodity.

Gasland is a personal story, but it is also a story of communities and the interconnectedness of all things. It’s a story that begs for answers and solutions but mostly, it demands that people deal with the truth.

Cinema Politica will screen *Gasland* at Concordia University (1455 de Maisonneuve W.) in room H-110 on Thurs. Nov. 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Local Artists Don’t Want Your Bright Ideas to Die

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Good ideas don’t die; they get placed in a shoebox or are relegated to the furthest corners of your laptop’s RAM.

Not content to see good ideas go to waste—or worse, end up in storage space—two Montrealers are setting up an adoption agency for abandoned ideas.

The Idea Adoption Agency and Don’t Let the Lights Go Out sprung from a conversation between friends Sherwin Tjia and Ian Sullivan Cant—both artists with an excess of ideas and a scarcity of time and resources to realize them all.

Don’t Let the Lights Go Out is a website that features sketches, scanned notebook pages and some-

times just brief descriptions of people’s unformed ideas.

“The point is not to finally make that thing you always wanted to make, but to simply take a few minutes to say what it is,” said Cant. “It’s also important to note that it’s not about goals, it’s about ideas. So if you always wanted to write a novel, that doesn’t qualify. But if you have an idea for a novel about a time-traveling panama hat, you’re more than welcome to submit.”

“The Idea Adoption Agency was supposed to be an event that kind of launched the website,” said Tjia. After delays in setting up the site, the Agency spun off into its own artistic project, where people could auction off their idea babies to an audience of auctioneers, who sign adoption papers pledging to de-

velop the idea into something tangential and real within two years time.

“Having adoption papers I think makes taking on someone else’s idea more official, and having a time limit to make progress on it before the idea reverts back to its original owner will hopefully light a fire under their ass,” said Tjia. “One of the reasons why the idea never went anywhere in the first place is because people procrastinate. It’s no use being adopted by someone if the idea’s just going to sit there in someone else’s custody.”

It could be an idea for a band name, a new sustainable agricultural product, or a logo for a band. It really doesn’t matter, said Tjia.

“If you had an idea on how to scam people, or make money in a

hitherto unexplored way, that would be fine too,” he said.

“I hope there’s satisfaction at seeing a good idea not die in a notebook,” said Cant. “When I’ve explained the project to people, I’ve had distinctly different responses from artists and non-artists, where the non-artists—not to sound derogatory—don’t understand why you would ever give an idea away, and the artists are like, ‘Sure, I got hundreds of ’em.’”

You can submit your abandoned ideas to dontletthelights-goout.com, or give them up for adoption at the Idea Adoption Agency on Nov. 21 at 8:30 p.m. at Casa del Popolo (4873 St. Laurent Blvd.). Admission is \$5, or free if you put up an idea for adoption.



GRAPHIC CHRISTOPHER OLSON



The Strange Tale of the Magical Invisible Book

Johanna Skibsrud's Giller-Winning Debut Novel to Finally Hit Shelves This Week



Breaking news: Books for everyone, money for the writer. The final score is win to win. GRAPHIC ALEX MANLEY

• ALEX MANLEY

On Tuesday, Nov. 9, 30-year-old Concordia alumna Johanna Skibsrud won the Scotiabank Giller Prize, Canada's most prestigious literary award, for her debut novel, *The Sentimentalists*.

The Giller is a big deal, but this year's prize was perhaps more newsworthy than its predecessors. It produced a dramatic tale with twists and turns and—perhaps surprisingly for a story about literary fiction—a storybook happy ending.

The Unexpected Win

There are a few things that make it a notable win. Skibsrud is the second creative writing program graduate to snag a Giller in the last three years, a fact that suggests a brave new world of pre-workshopped Canadian creative writing talent.

Whether you think that's a good thing—whether the workshop experience polishes or homogenizes writers—is up to you. But it's hard to see a trend towards the prominence of creative writing students reversing as their programs around the country continue to pump out graduates. *The Sentimentalists*, a story of a young woman's struggle to come to terms with her father's experience in the Vietnam War, was in fact born out of Skibsrud's time at Concordia; an early draft of the novel served as her thesis.

Next is Skibsrud's age. At 30, she's the youngest Giller winner ever. It used to be, you had to pay your dues before achieving success, but that may be changing.

In writing terms, Skibsrud's a baby. Her win signals a win for considering a book on its own terms and not the author's back catalogue. It's a sign of a healthy literary establishment that the Giller panel was willing to step outside Canada's circle of heavily-lauded heavyweights—leaving Douglas Coupland and Jane Urquhart firmly on the longlist—when taking stock of the best books of the year.

Skibsrud herself wasn't the only symbol of this free-thought, though. One of the storylines to emerge from the revelation of this year's shortlist—which also included Kathleen Winter's novel *Annabel*, Alexander MacLeod's short story collection *Light Lifting*, David Bergen's novel *The Matter With Morris* and Sarah Selecky's short story collection *This Cake Is for the Party*—was that this was the year of the small press.

Four of the five finalists were books published by independent presses. MacLeod's book was published by Biblioasis, Selecky's by Thomas Allen Publishers, Winter's by House of Anansi, and, most significantly, Skibsrud's was put out by Gaspereau, a press so small that it makes Biblioasis and Thomas Allen seem like Penguin Books by comparison.

The initial print run of *The Sentimentalists* was 800 copies. A Giller winner can expect to sell in the 75,000 copies range. It's not hard to see why the difference between those two figures—the one nearly 100 times smaller than the other—might be problematic in

some way. At press time, copies of *The Sentimentalists* are about as easy to come by as Skibsrud's Giller Prize itself.

The Small Small Press

Gaspereau is a special case. Biblioasis was quick to point out that, though it too is a “small press,” you could buy a physical copy of *Light Lifting* at your local bookstore this past week without the involvement of a waiting list and/or the prospect of indefinite delay.

Gaspereau is more than a small press, though. It's an enterprise operating out of Kentville, N.S., which counts six people on its staff, and it specializes in creating books that are well designed, finely crafted, hand-printed works of art.

To own a Gaspereau book is to be part of the magical story of a book coming to life. If you are a print fetishist, if you value the smell of book glue, this is your press.

If you want to read *The Sentimentalists*, though, you might have to look elsewhere.

The night of the ninth, in the post-win media mania, it came out that Andrew Steeves, head of Gaspereau, had refused offers by larger presses to handle large print runs of *The Sentimentalists*. Steeves was likely indignant that the biggies were trying to bull their way into his china shop of creative and artistic freedoms—which is a valid concern.

HarperCollins isn't going to care about the little details the way he does. Doubleday isn't going to make a hand-printed edition. At this point, the game's simple. You

print as many damn copies of the thing as possible, and you sell them until you can't sell them anymore. Seventy-five thousand or so copies later, everyone's rich and happy—including, and perhaps most importantly, Johanna Skibsrud, who plans to pay off her student debt with her Giller Prize winnings (\$50,000).

Here's the thing, though—for the same reason that this article isn't being published a few weeks from now, Skibsrud's deserved haul appeared in serious danger in the days following the win.

The general public has a short attention span. Timeliness is everything. Giller winners sell copies because the media hypes them immediately following their win and their publishers flood the nation's bookstores with copies.

Gaspereau is in no position to do that, however. They estimate they can produce as many as 1,000 new copies a week, but at that rate, it would be a year-and-a-half before they could produce 75,000 copies.

In fact, 52,000 copies from now, there'll be another Giller winner entirely. What's an award-winning gal like Skibsrud to do? And for that matter, what of the readers?

The Happy Ending

On the one hand, Steeves' insistence on controlling his own product is touching. Most businessmen in this position would sell out hard and cash in.

It was nice to see someone with principles retaining those principles in the face of large sums of money

for once. But it's also commendable that Steeves knew when to back down from his principles—sort of.

Monday morning, news got out that Gaspereau had signed a distribution deal with Douglas & McIntyre, an independent Vancouver-based press, for a 30,000 copy print-run that would see shipments of paperback copies hitting store shelves as soon as Friday, Nov. 19—ten days after the win.

It's a bit of a wait, sure, but it might have been a much longer one if not for this deal.

Though such a decision is somewhat shocking in light of Steeves' comment that “If you are going to buy a copy of that book in Canada, it's damn well coming out of my shop,” it's a compromise that both rescues Skibsrud's shot at money and an audience, and provides the Canadian public with easy access to a book it's craving to read.

On top of the Douglas & McIntyre and Gaspereau versions, interested readers can also get *The Sentimentalists* in e-book form.

A few weeks before the Giller ceremony, Steeves had the oddly prescient good sense to sign a deal with Kobo, an online e-book retailer, which meant for the week between the Giller ceremony and the announcement of the deal with D&M, truly avid book nerds could still satisfy their literary curiosities.

On top of that, D&M's involvement will see the e-book in Amazon and Apple's e-bookstores, which should swell e-sales significantly.

Wherever she is right now, Skibsrud's breathing a sigh of relief.

Author Mary Gaitskill Gives Master Class at ConU

• ASHLEY OPHEIM

Mary Gaitskill set her gaze over a room of 30 students. There was a feeling in the room that those present were lucky to be in Gaitskill's presence; the 30-person crowd was not accidental, but the result of a strict cap.

Gaitskill, who read from her essay "Lost Cat" at the De Sève Cinema later that night, was here for Concordia's Writers Read Series, an event that invites distinguished writers to discuss their works with students.

What made Gaitskill's lecture a pleasure to attend was not just the fact that she's a distinguished author who was named by five of this year's *New Yorker's* "20 Under 40" authors, or that she's an author whose most recent novel, 2005's *Veronica*, snagged her a National Book Award nomination, or that her short story "Secretary" was adapted into the 2002 film of the same name. Rather, her determinedness to speak about the "undiscussable" showed throughout.

The majority of Gaitskill's lecture focused on something that creative writing courses tend to shy away from, considering that it cannot really be taught: the question of unseeable content, the

"Nature always deceives." GRAPHIC ASHLEY OPHEIM & ALEX MANLEY

form under the plot, "the deeper quality, the unconscious soul," the "inner weaving of a story that you can't read—you have to feel," as Gaitskill put it.

She articulated to the perceptive group of students that she thought this was the most important aspect of great writing. With this quality, Gaitskill said that literature is transformed and lifted in the reader's mind, giving a piece depth. This quality of a work is something that Gaitskill feels is more integral to a piece of literature than plot and theme.

The bad news? Finding this inner weaving is nigh unteachable.

"It requires patience and an attunement to your surroundings," she said.

Characters, she noted, reflect the world around them; they reflect the nature of a culture, of humankind: creation and destruction, good and evil, and so on. Culture begins in the individual.

Gaitskill also spent a fair amount of the two-hour lecture discussing her literary hero, Vladimir Nabokov. She quoted him: "Nature always deceives. From the simple deception of propagation to the prodigiously sophisticated illusion of protective

colors in butterflies or birds, there is in Nature a marvelous system of spells and wiles. The writer of fiction only follows Nature's lead."

Nabokov's literature deals with themes of this unspeakable world that Gaitskill mentioned in her lecture: the world of mirrors, mazes, dreams, illusions, reflections and the like. Gaitskill articulated to the class that these intangible aspects of his work are what "bridge the mundane and the fantastical." It is a literary device, she maintained, that is essential to a work's success.

She read passages from Nabokov's *Pale Fire* and Charles Dickens' *Bleak House* and pointed out sections of the text that, in theory, act counter-intuitively to the logic of the story.

"The most powerful imagery doesn't hit you here," she said, placing her hand on her head. "It hits you here," she said, bringing her hand down to her stomach.

Later in the lecture she used the same gesture to express how she understands a story she is working on, saying that the story usually comes to her as a feeling in her stomach and then makes its way up to her head, where it fully manifests itself.

Lit Events

Priscilla Uppal
'Dialogues'

With Professor Norman Cornett

Nov. 20
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Galerie Samuel Lallouz
1434 Sherbrooke St. W.
Entrance \$20 (Valid Student ID required)

D&Q Double Book Launch

Gail Scott's *The Obituary*
and Eileen Myles's *Inferno*

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

Lit Writ

Workshop Exercise Poem #2

Editor's Note:

In the coming weeks, *The Link* will be featuring exercise poems produced by creative writing workshops. Below is a poem from David McGimpsey's ENGL 425 Advanced Poetry workshop. For this poem, students were asked to re-write a pre-existing poem of theirs to the tune of a popular song of their choosing. This poem is to the tune of "Surfin' USA" by the Beach Boys.

• CHRISTINE DUNCAN

"In the Library"

If everybody was a student:
national college.
Then everybody'd be studious,
and hardly ever move.
We'd see them raising their eyelids:
They're so heavy too,
those weighty, weighty pale eyelids
all around the school.

We'd find them reading in cubicles (inside, outside, library)
also on the lawn, (inside, outside, library)
in Starbucks and Timmy's, (inside, outside, library)
lined up in the hall, (inside, outside, library)
even when they're walking, (inside, outside, library)
sometimes driving too, (inside, outside)
everybody'd be studying
all around the school.

They'll all plan to hit the gym;
they're gonna start real soon...

Just after their midterms
or Christmas break would do.
They'll use the stairs to their classrooms.
Build their muscle that way.
Tell the doctor their workout's
in the library.

Yeah, their heads are foggy, (inside, outside, library)
exams are starting soon. (inside, outside, library)
Living with the bookshelves, (inside, outside, library)
with open textbooks too, (inside, outside, library)
all around their laptops (inside, outside, library)
in this country's school, (inside, outside, library)
everybody's still working
in the library.

Everybody's still studying
in the library

Everybody's still sitting
in the library

Yeah, everybody's still sleeping
in the library.



GRAPHIC
ALEX MANLEY

RUGBY



The men's rugby team fell to the McGill Redmen 22-10 in the QSSF final at Molson Stadium on Sunday. Gideon Balloch scored all of McGill's tries. PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

see story, pg. 18

The Coach's Take

"Communication wasn't on and holes opened up. We were getting badly outnumbered on the blind side."

—Clive Gibson,
Men's rugby head coach



Left Behind

Men's Rugby Player Breaches Concordia's Exclusivity Contract

• NICHOLAS WARD

When the men's rugby team stepped onto the field for the Quebec Student Sports Federation final this past weekend it did so without its former captain and dominant forward player, Ted McGregor.

McGregor wasn't hurt or sick; he was kicked off the team in mid-October for breaking Concordia University's exclusivity contract.

The contract is roughly 20 pages long, detailing how players are expected to conduct themselves on and off the field, according to head coach Clive Gibson. The section that McGregor ran afoul of concerned playing rugby at an organized level for the Montreal Wanderers during ConU's three-month season.

"[McGregor] is not on the team because he broke the player contract," said Gibson.

The Wanderers were facing the province's top team in a semi-final match. Since the club season starts in April and ends in October, the long season of attrition saw the

Wanderers missing key players. That's when McGregor got a call from a club member.

"Your family needs you," was the message McGregor said he received.

In rugby, the club is a grassroots organization that provides players not only with the opportunity to play the game at a high level, but also provides a community long after one's playing days are over. McGregor has been playing for his club for nearly four years and serves on its executive committee. When he got the call from his club asking for his help, he said he felt he was in a bind.

"I had my club side and my university side," said McGregor. "In the end, I would be letting one side down. It was a very, very difficult decision."

When he chose to play for his club in the provincial semifinal, photos of him playing were posted on a popular website.

continued on contract p.g. 18

Scoreboard



MEN'S RUGBY

L 10-22 v McGill

sun

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

L 81-83 v UQAM

sat

W 79-48 v Laval

fri

MEN'S BASKETBALL

W 79-67 v UQAM

sat

L 91-97 v Laval

fri

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

W 5-4 v Montréal

fri

MEN'S HOCKEY

W 6-3 v RMC

sun

W 4-3 v RMC

fri

Outplayed in Overtime

Women's Basketball Team Succumbs to UQAM After Regulation

• CLEMENT TAGNEY

UQAM 83

Concordia 81

The UQAM Citadins needed overtime to defeat the Concordia Stingers for a hard-fought 83-81 victory at a women's basketball game on Nov. 13 at the UQAM Sports Centre.

"We played hard but we just didn't get done what we needed to," said Concordia coach Keith Pruden, whose team is currently 1-1.

The Stingers returned to Montreal for Saturday's game having already beaten the Laval Rouge et Or 79-48 to open the season in Quebec City just the night before.

"We could have won [the game] fairly easily, but we made some pretty critical mistakes at times," continued Pruden.

The Citadins took the early lead and had garnered a 36-30 advantage at the end of the first half in what was a physical battle between the two teams.

Scoring for the Citadins were Marjolaine Gauthier-Théorêt and Karine Boudrias with nine points apiece, while Irlene Noel recovered five defensive rebounds.

"We came to play but I guess we weren't prepared enough," said Stinger Yasmin Jean-Phillippe. "Two of our players fouled out at the end of the game, which put us at a disadvantage, but the Citadins are a strong and aggressive team."

Stingers guard Magalie Beaulieu tallied six points, while her teammates Kendra Carrie and Anne-Marie Prophete notched four points each to round out the first-half scoring for Concordia.

"We have to work on our tempo with the Citadins," said Beaulieu following the game. "They are aggressive and they run all over the

place, so we have to focus on different things like their quickness and their passes."

The second half opened up with the Stingers exploding on the offence, making back the six-point deficit they had dug themselves in the first half. But when it came to overtime, the Citadins won with 11 points to Concordia's nine.

"It's always a hard victory against Concordia but we stayed focused and came out [as] winners," said UQAM head coach Jacques Verschuere. "The thing is everyone had a great game tonight. It was so close; if we let up just a bit Concordia took advantage and we just ended up winning. It was a great show for everyone."

The Stingers are currently on a 13-day break from regular-season action and will play their next game on Nov. 26 against the McGill Martlets at the Loyola Gym. Tip-off is slated for 8:00 p.m.



Stinger Magalie Beaulieu (with ball) posted 16 points versus UQAM on Saturday. PHOTO CLEMENT TAGNEY

Stingers Come Back with 51 Second-Half Points

Men's Basketball Win is First at UQAM Sports Centre Since 2007



After going down early against a skilled Citadins side, the men's basketball team rebounded through a 25-point performance from forward Kyle Desmarais. PHOTOS CLEMENT TAGNEY

• CLEMENT TAGNEY

Concordia 79

UQAM 67

The Concordia Stingers men's basketball team posted 51 second-half points to hand the UQAM Citadins a 79-67 loss Saturday at the UQAM Sports Centre.

"When the game is close we usually win," said Concordia head coach John Dore. "We had a couple of breakaways and easy steals."

Although Concordia was coming off a

97-91 defeat to the Laval Rouge et Or suffered just a day earlier, the Stingers' regular-season win at the UQAM Sports Centre on Saturday was their first since January 2007.

The Citadins erupted to start the game, as star player Eric Cote-Kougnima passed, shot and charged his way to the Concordia net, accumulating 12 points and five rebounds in the first half.

On the Stingers' side, Kyle Desmarais notched nine points and four rebounds. Concordia allowed the Citadins to wear themselves out, but kept the score close enough to catch up when needed. The Citadins concluded the first half with a 34-28 advantage and recorded nine offensive rebounds.

"I told them in the dressing room not to count these guys out. They are a strong team and won't give up without a fight," said Citadins head coach Olga Hrycak. "We were strong defensively, especially in the first half, but they just played better as a team in the second."

The Stingers were all warmed up in the second half, tied the game and took the lead before losing it in the third quarter. The action went back and forth right up until the end when Concordia poured on 28 points to the Citadins' 14, 13 of which belonged to Desmarais.

"I think in the second our bench gave us a lift, [especially guys like] Frank Fiola, Taylor Garner and Morgan Tajfel," said Dore. "[Garner] gave us what we needed;

he rebounded the ball, [and Desmarais] gave us some quick easy hoops. Just playing fundamental basketball, we stopped taking chances defensively."

The turning point came as UQAM's Alexandre Bernard soared for a slam-dunk that only infuriated Concordia.

"We really locked up as a team after UQAM's dunk," said Desmarais. "It sparked us defensively and offensively. We kind of got angry."

The Stingers dribbled around to kill the last few seconds of the game and held onto their solid 12-point lead.

The Stingers will next host the McGill Redmen on Nov. 26 at Loyola Gym. The tip-off is scheduled for 6:00 p.m.

Three Tries Seal Stingers' Fate

Men's Rugby Team Falls Short of Provincial Supremacy



Two quick tries near the end of the first half made it difficult for the Stingers to come back. PHOTOS PIERRE CHAUVIN

• CHRIS HAMPSON

McGill 22

Concordia 10

McGill's Gideon Balloch scored three tries to help the Redmen come out as 22-10 victors over the Concordia Stingers in the Quebec Student Sports Federation rugby final on Sunday at Molson Stadium.

Concordia's forwards showed their composure at the start and gained ground by being quick on the ball and displaying tight rucking, which also helped limit McGill's possession.

However, within 10 minutes, the discipline fell apart. The Stingers' rucks were getting sloppy and slowly turned into dog-piles.

While some of Concordia's players were caught up in the messy rucks, McGill scrum half Daniel Levin was spinning the ball out to his wing, often times catching Concordia unprepared.

During one instance, McGill runner Cameron Perrin broke free and rushed Concordia's blind side. The fans rose to their feet as a try seemed imminent but the single Concordia defenceman in his way snagged Perrin's collar and slammed him onto his back, warranting a Stingers penalty.

The ensuing kick was successful, which resulted in the first points being put on the board and McGill taking a 3-0 lead.

Moments later, several rolling mauls brought Concordia into scoring position at the McGill try-zone, which inevitably led to a Redmen penalty. Stinger Adriano D'Angelo succeeded on powering the ensuing kick through the uprights to even the score at 3-3.

In the last 15 minutes of the first half, McGill punished Concordia by scoring two converted tries through Balloch. The late scoring put McGill in a dominant position at 17-3 going into the sec-

ond half.

"Communication wasn't on and holes opened up," said Concordia head coach Clive Gibson. "We were getting badly outnumbered on the blind side."

It seemed like Concordia had some real potential to make a comeback with a few strategic adjustments, but McGill's defence was quick to rush and put a lot of pressure on the Stinger wing. D'Angelo, a fullback, was often forced to attempt slipping through rushing Redmen with no success.

Several fumbled passes and knock-ons, combined with Concordia centre Auguste Stoker being sent to the sin bin, did not help the Stingers' cause.

"We were down a centre so how far do you shift the ball and risk losing it? Strategically, we had to make some decisions," Gibson said of his offence.

"We made a lot of mistakes," said McGill head coach Craig Beemer. "There were several times when Concordia was a forward pass away from scoring a try. But the previous loss [to Concordia] definitely gave us the focus we needed to win."

Concordia's potential to win remained. Eighth man David Biddle continued to do what he does best: stop runners dead in their tracks with crushing tackles.

"We didn't adapt to the speed and left some gaps on the blind side," said Biddle. "We utilized the forwards well this game. But it is definitely hard to watch, coming up from the rucks to see we've lost a few yards."

The ball began to move out to the wing, gaining ground. Concordia scrum half Conor O'Hara scored a converted try, making the score 17-10.

Concordia's hopes of tying up the score were crushed with three minutes left on the clock, as Balloch increased McGill's lead with yet another try to make the final score 22-10.

CONTINUED FROM CONTRACT P.G. 16

Gibson recognized McGregor and promptly threw him off the team.

"[McGregor] chose to take the leadership opportunity [we had given him] to go behind people's backs and play for his club," said Gibson. "It shows a certain degree of dishonesty."

Gibson said he lobbied for exclusive player contracts after seeing too many injuries from athletes playing for multiple teams. He also said that the rule allowed for exceptional circumstances.

In McGregor's case he said no exception was made, despite a petition from the Wanderers a week in advance and despite McGregor

being a healthy scratch in the ConU game versus Sherbrooke.

As no other school in the province has this policy, Concordia's Athletic Director Katie Sheahan explained the university's perspective.

"We are looking to protect [our] investment to the best of our ability," she said. "Competing for two teams at the same time brings unwanted injuries."

According to Gibson, the money garnered from the investment goes to scholarships, player equipment and athletic therapy—something he said isn't available to student-athletes at other schools in Quebec.

On the question of origin of pol-

icy, Sheahan stated clearly that it was Gibson's idea to include the exclusive player contract as a requirement to play on the team.

"The head coach put a framework together and asked for my support," she said, noting that she has too many responsibilities to see any one team at "eye level."

For McGregor, the justification of exclusive player contracts not only doesn't add up, but it is a false promise.

"Rugby scholarships at ConU are a flake," he said.

McGregor said that while he was promised money if he signed the contract, he wasn't offered a scholarship once he started playing. He

also said he was offered a scholarship by Bishop's University, although for less money.

A request to find out how many ConU players are on scholarship and scholarship amounts garnered no response from the athletics department.

McGill fielded the strongest team in the province for years, despite allowing its players to play key games for its clubs when necessary.

"University rugby doesn't allow for the kind of gains available in club rugby," said McGill coach Craig Beemer. "All [of] our starters play club [rugby]."

Players are free to play for clubs, especially during playoffs, although

they must attend McGill practices in order to start for McGill.

"It's been questionable why we have even bothered to play the games, because McGill was that much stronger than everyone else in the league," said Gibson.

The head coach said his philosophy is not always about winning but providing athletes with a learning experience.

"I never go out to lose. But I don't see winning a championship as one of my primary goals," he said.

Sheahan articulated a similar position.

"This isn't pro-sports—it's student athletics," she said.

Freethinkers on Campus

Concordia Secularists Hope to Spread Reason



Our god is a vengeful god, but what about our pope? GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

• NATASHA YOUNG

Let's face it: religion is on the decline in Western culture. A growing number of people—particularly in younger demographics—need more than faith and the threat of hellfire to base their life decisions on.

In a time where the Internet provides a plethora of information at our fingertips, people who may have been restricted to the belief systems of their families, churches and schools now have communities and resources to make their own educated decision about how to live their lives.

Besides the changing demographic, secularist, humanist and atheist student groups are becoming more common in North American colleges and universities.

The Freethought and Humanist Club, authorized by the Concordia Student Union in September, is the first secularist student group in Concordia.

With six members so far, Freethought Concordia is just getting started, but is committed

to making its voice heard at Concordia.

Their first event, a live screening of the debate between atheist author and journalist Christopher Hitchens and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, is on Nov. 26.

Reaching out to other student groups and campus organizations, like the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy, Freethought Concordia is hoping for a good turnout of skeptics and believers alike who are open to reasonable discourse on the place of faith in our society and culture.

Many believers, however, seem close-minded to this kind of discourse and their leaders do not seem intent on helping bridge this gap between themselves and the steadily increasing numbers of non-believers.

Pope Benedict XVI made a well-publicized visit to the U.K last September where, in a speech, he remarked on “the sobering lessons of the atheist extremism of the 20th Century.”

He referenced specifically the crimes of Nazi Germany, claiming

they wished to “eradicate God from society.”

As thousands protested the Pope's visit in London, scientist and author of *The God Delusion* Richard Dawkins gave a speech pointing out that Hitler and much of the Nazi party were in fact Catholics. He read a passage of *Mein Kampf* where Adolph Hitler calls upon his Catholic faith.

It is also publicly known that some leaders in the Catholic Church commended Hitler and his party's treatment of the Jews. The Catholic Church did not begin viewing Judaism with tolerance and kindness until well after World War II.

With these facts illuminated, it becomes clear that the church believes they can use allegations against secularism to distract the public from their sex abuse scandal, for which a large group of people in the U.K believed the Pope should have been arrested as soon as he stepped foot outside of his safe haven of the Vatican.

The Pope's comments stimulated outrage on secularist blogs and on online communities like

Reddit.com. News had recently come to light that the U.K is now one of the least religious countries on the planet. It seemed the church's misguided comments were an insidious attack on an ideology which has been adopted by the majority of the country he was visiting.

As secularism has become a growing trend, organizations encourage people to “come out” as atheists instead of fearing they will be ridiculed.

Most recently, the American Humanist Organization's campaign highlights unsavory biblical quotes put beside secular humanist quotes in print and television advertisements.

They urge the viewer to “Consider Humanism.”

Thanks to the likes of Richard Dawkins and other authors, scientists, public activists, and organizations, what was once taboo has become a healthy part of rational discourse in Western democratic societies.

This is what the Catholic Church calls a threat to morality. Many, instead, call it progress.

Opinions en Bref

Rizzuto Murder Could Have Waited

On Wednesday, 86-year-old mob boss Nicolo Rizzuto was gunned down in his Montreal home. Since then, local and national media outlets have been scrambling to find out who did it and why.

My question is, was it even necessary? He was 86 years old; couldn't they have just contracted the hit to Father Time? I mean, at that age, a strong gust of wind or sudden loud noise would have done the old man in.

Why didn't they just take away his ability to watch the Weather Network or Matlock or anything hosted by James Coburn? He would have died of rage.

And can the hitman even brag about that hit? Sure he killed one of the most powerful criminal figures in Canadian history, but Rizzuto probably hasn't been able to eat corn on the cob since Italian Canadians were considered a visible minority.

—Christopher Curtis, News Editor

Mysterious Package Found and Destroyed

The Gazette reported that residents of an apartment on Sherbrooke Street West and Cavendish Boulevard were evacuated by the Service de police de la ville de Montréal because of a mysterious package left in the garbage on Saturday.

Cops and firefighters surrounded and secured the premises, only to find out that the mysterious package was a schoolgirl's failed attempt at a class project.

Initially, I thought, “what a bunch of idiots,” but at the same time a lot of people are quick to judge, so I gave them the benefit of doubt. I realized that the weirdest sci-fi horrors start like this: grown-ups find mysterious package in garbage, little girl says she made it with her special friend, you're feeling creeped out by her but you ignore it, the package comes alive, sucks souls, opens new realms, etc.

It's a totally valid concern. Thank you Cavendish residents for stopping the Apocalypse. I hope *The Gazette* does a follow up on this.

—Clay Hemmerich, Opinions Editor

 Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca
Weed Culture Still Budding

A couple of years ago I was in Amsterdam on April 20 with a buddy from Victoria, B.C. At an establishment called Coffeeshop, Johnny, a clerk, chatted us up, lamenting on the demise of the cannabis cafe in the Netherlands. I told the clerk to not be discouraged. I preached of a budding pot culture out West in which the blossoming may take place in Oaksterdam, California.

In that American state on Nov. 2, over seven million voters weighed in on Proposition 19, also known as the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act, which would have allowed local governments to legalize the sale of marijuana and control it like alcohol.

The narrow defeat (46 per cent in favour and 54 per cent opposed) suggests the legalization movement is gaining momentum and ready for serious debate in the mainstream.

Cannabis growers in B.C. may be relieved that their profits don't risk dropping in the short-term, but most acknowledge that legalization in North America would benefit the overall economy in the long-term.

And they have good reason. A California public agency charged with tax administration and fee collection estimated that a \$50 tax per ounce would generate \$1.4 billion annually for the cash-strapped state. Canada, with its similarly sized population and consumption rates, could use that money to improve social services such as health care.

On the day of the vote, noted stoner comedian Doug Benson tweeted, "Don't feel bad for me if Prop 19 doesn't pass. Feel bad for people in the states that don't even have medical marijuana."

So where does medicinal marijuana stand in Montreal? After a slew of raids and postponed court dates, it is unclear what the fate of the local compassion clubs will be. Until then, serious patients will find a way to get their medicine and casual cannabis consumers will continue their act of civil disobedience.

—Joey Grialva,
Graduate Diploma Journalism

Yes to Student Center

When most people say that school is a home away from home, they don't mean the classroom. Seriously, in what way is a classroom similar to a living room, a kitchen or a bedroom? Might they by any chance mean a student centre?

I wouldn't know, since Concordia is the only major educational institution in Canada not to have a place where people could meet outside the classroom, host events, grab a bite at the student café and do other life-filling aspects under one roof. Instead, we have a scattered campus, one that is highly dependent on its surrounding environment.

When the most prominent area on campus to promote, display art, meet, study and relax altogether is the library building, something is wrong here. Concordia does not have a student community and for that reason suffers both the tangible and intangible consequences that this might bring.

The tangibles are more study, clubs, meeting, conference and lounge spaces only for students. The intangibles are the things we can't put a price on no matter how hard we try. The student centre is meant to be an identifiable building, a community centre, where people meet, talk and make new friends.

But the most important intangible asset remains the reputation this building will bring to your degree. Our current ranking among Canadian universities suffers because we don't have a home away from home to call a home. Our neighbouring schools accomplish tons more since they have a space managed and maintained by students.

Besides, our current food options aren't healthy, our student space is limited and bleak, our conference rooms are limited and subsequently students are turned away by security since we were limited by the size of the room.

A new student centre would change the vision and reputation of our university. The first hand proof that lies right under our noses is the MB building that significantly boosted our business school's prestige on the world stage.

Our campus currently resembles Mark Twain's book he never got to finish, Beethoven's unwritten symphony, or a painting that never got to see the final stroke of brush. We are incomplete as a campus without a student centre.

Imagine what we can do together by investing in ourselves and the future of our campus. Concordia, it's time for a student centre, we need it, and we can have it, let's make it possible now.

—Heather Lucas,
CSU President

Misleading Marketing

Student Union Building Ad Doesn't Address Fee Levy

• CLAY HEMMERICH

The construction of the Student Centre, or more appropriately, the Student Union Building, is inevitable.

It isn't because of any claimed positives it may bring to students, or the "added value" it will bring to your degree, but because we're already paying \$2.00 per credit for it and have been since 2006.

Why is the Concordia Student Union is trying to sell me something I'm already paying for?

While the Hall building has become littered with glossy postcards and posters telling students to vote YES for the student union building, nowhere does the campaign tell us exactly what we're voting for.

Nowhere on the cards, the website, the FAQs or the overabundance of CSU letters to the editor sent to endorse this project does it remotely imply that voting Yes means raising the fee levy by 125 per cent over the current price.

And none of the ad copy tells me what the question on the ballot is going to say.

Actually, it implies that if you don't vote Yes to the fee-levy increase, you won't get a student union building. You won't get those arcade games, those comfy couches and that massage parlour. It also implies that the \$6.7 million that had been pooled throughout four years wasn't even there.

Quite simply, the building's current advertising campaign would have been more suitable in 2006—it would have been a damn good one, too.

Publicity needs to go through the brunt of criticism. Any message that is laid out on a table for others to pick up will be diced, spliced, and dispersed to promote further understanding, discourse and different views.

But any promoter has to operate with honesty and accountability, rather than trying to push

real issues out the backdoor without anyone noticing.

Avoiding the real issue—that this is a fee levy increase and not a vote on whether or not we want a student centre, or student space—is dishonest.

If, in their ad campaign, the CSU chose to promote the fee levy rather than the building itself, the student-at-large could have a discussion about why the increase is beneficial or not.

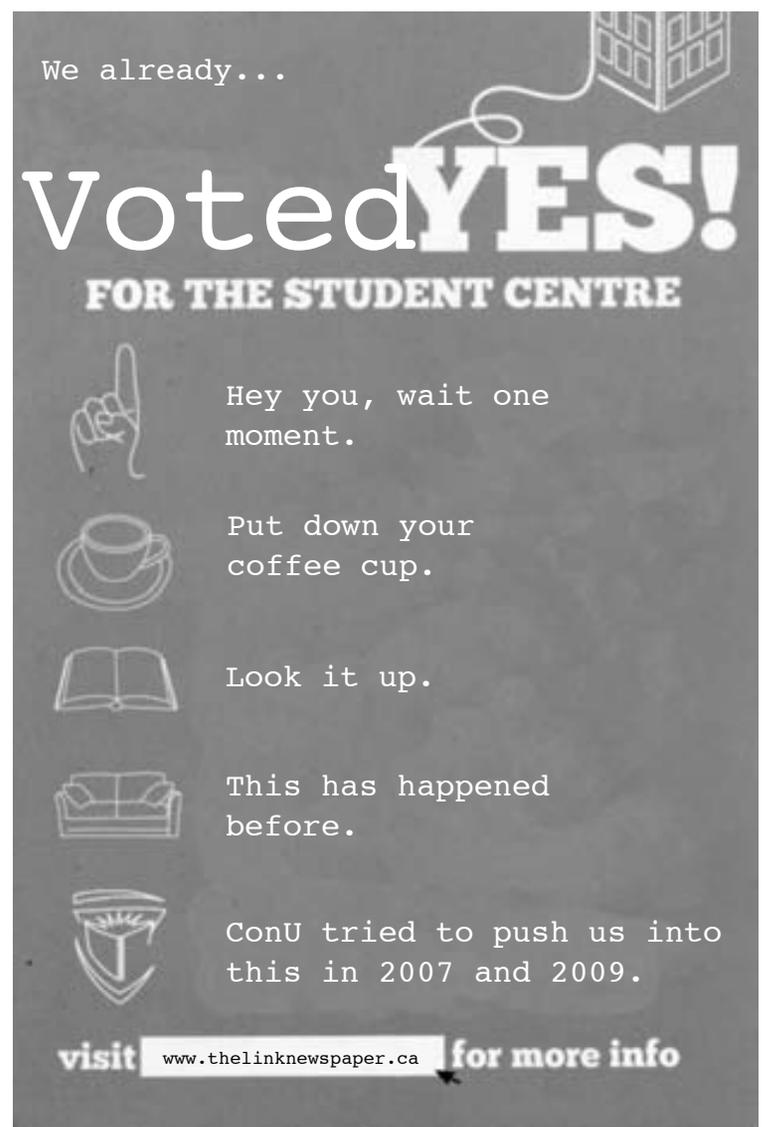
Looking at the promotional materials of this campaign, I have yet to figure out why I should want to pay \$4.50 instead of \$2.00—there's been no discussion about the levy being \$405

for a 90 credit student.

Today, the student-centre levy is back on the ballots for a second time in six months, and the CSU has yet to have a real discussion about why this fee levy is happening again.

I challenge the CSU to give real answers about important details like where the student center is going to be, instead of getting "it is totally reasonable to expect an answer to a question of that calibre," like it states in the student centre website's FAQs.

The CSU is right about one thing; when a question is asked an answer should follow.



We already...

Voted YES!

FOR THE STUDENT CENTRE

Hey you, wait one moment.

Put down your coffee cup.

Look it up.

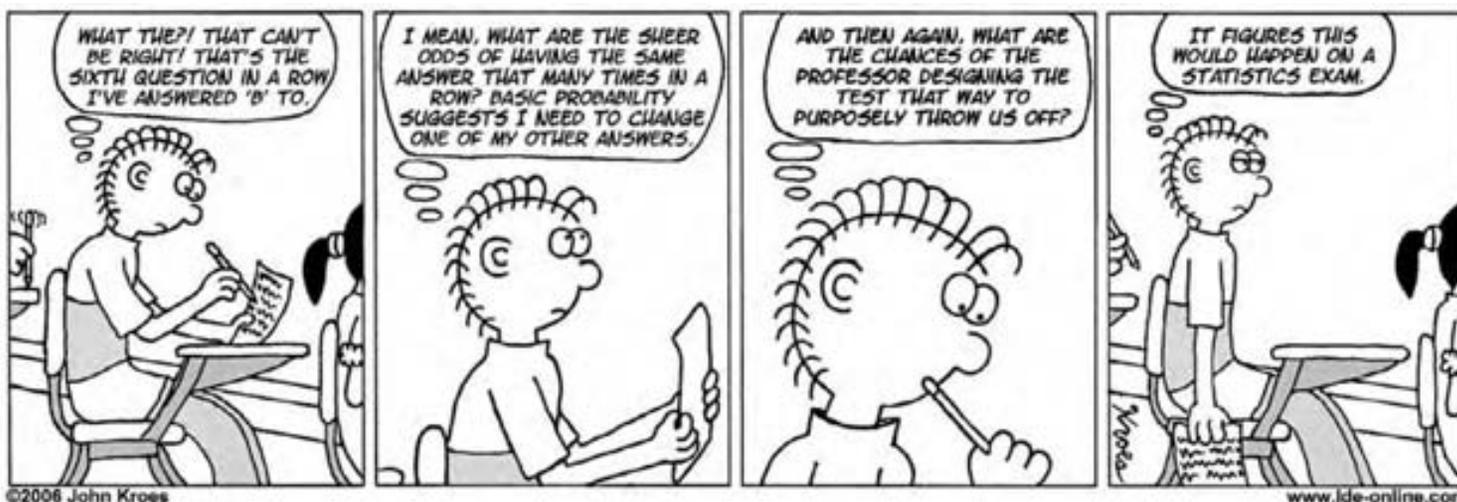
This has happened before.

ConU tried to push us into this in 2007 and 2009.

visit www.thelinknewspaper.ca for more info

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Last Ditch Effort



The Problem With Turning It In

Site Doesn't Address Real Issues With Academic Dishonesty

• LEISHA SENKO
(THE SPUTNIK)

BRANTFORD, Ont. (CUP)—Turnitin.com, the plagiarism detection website contracted for use by numerous high schools and universities, has been facing severe criticism. Issues ranging from the practical to the ethical have caused some students, teachers and campus organizations to voice their dissent following the program's use in their classrooms.

Jesse Rosenfeld, a former McGill University student, spearheaded this campaign in 2004 by refusing to submit his paper to the website for an economics class. After a lengthy hearing with the university, officials finally allowed him to opt out of the system.

Rosenfeld explained that there were a number of reasons for his refusal to comply, from the nature of the site to the presumption of guilt associated with forcing students to submit papers and prove innocence before even "raising that alarm." He spoke of one reason that particularly troubled him.

"You have these companies profiting off of this crisis in higher education through creating massive paper mill databases and being able to, basically, market their resource on the number of papers they have to check your paper against," Rosenfeld said. "Effectively, every time you submit your paper, you're contributing to their marketing strategy and their direct profit."

Rosenfeld was commenting on the company's leaflets, emails and website, which boast that Turnitin.com has more than 130 million student papers at its disposal.

But for Jason Robinson, a professor at Wilfrid Laurier University's Brantford campus, the system was worth it.

"Indeed it is unsatisfying to know that a company is either directly or indirectly making money from another work," said Robin-

son. "I'm not sure how 'unsatisfying' leads to 'unjust.' As an instructor, I am comfortable arguing that there seems to be far more gained by virtue of Turnitin.com than there is lost. As it is, everybody seems to win.

"Turnitin.com is making money. Students are being justly awarded grades based on performance."

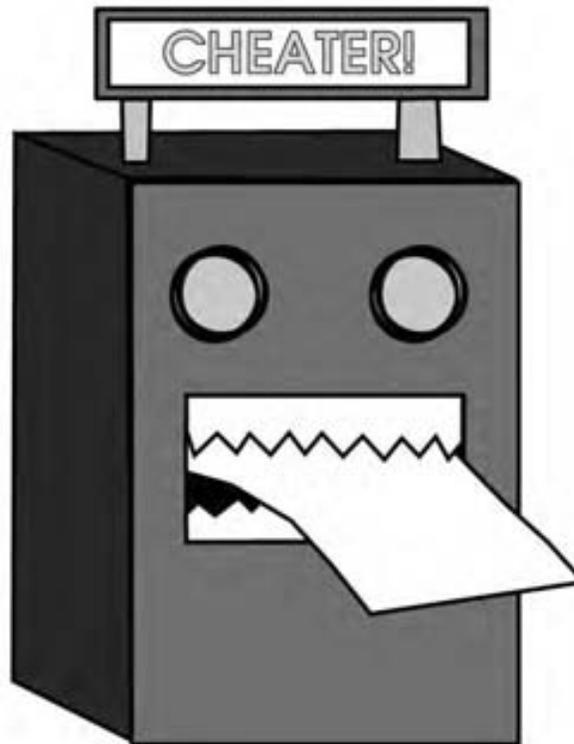
Robinson's comments bring up the largest and most controversial issue of all. For public education purists, the most egregious problem is what Turnitin.com represents: a private, cost-driven company that has effectively penetrated the inner workings of the classroom. For critics, a sacred line has been crossed.

"If you start looking at a corporation and the way in which a corporation is responsible to its shareholders, their legal responsibility is to deliver the maximum profit within the confines of law," said John Farrell, a high school teacher and supporter of the public education system. "It's one of the reasons why you don't want corporations running certain services where there are values beyond maximizing profit."

Patrick Scanlon, a scholar and critical analyst of the issues surrounding plagiarism, outlined the central quagmire in his work "Student Online Plagiarism: How Do We Respond." He argued that a mechanical online service unduly simplifies the problem, making it a product in, product out ratio rather than an attempt to holistically better the situation.

"The adoption of increasingly popular electronic plagiarism checkers, although probably effective in the near term as deterrents, could actually prevent faculty from addressing the problem before the fact, as a critical matter of students' intellectual and ethical development," writes Scanlon.

"Using plagiarism checkers appears to turn professors into detec-



GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

tives with new and unproven high-tech tools at their disposal, rather than teachers instructing students in what, for many of them, are baffling principles and techniques."

Rosenfeld went further, saying that although there may be problems in the education system as a whole—ballooning class sizes, cross budget drops—Turnitin.com is, in essence, a bandage solution.

"This answer doesn't address the problem."

So while there is disagreement on the size of the issue or the proper solution, there is a general consensus that fewer instances of plagiarism are desirable.

Logic says that this is a crisis that a corporation has absolutely no incentive to solve. Strictly through the lens of profit and loss, it would be wholly detrimental for Turnitin.com to fundamentally "fix" the problem.

Rosenfeld argued that promoting a classroom setting where students understand what plagiarism

means and have little want or opportunity to engage in it would create a very healthy learning environment.

"The fact is that if you want to put money into truly tackling sources of plagiarism, you're going to put it into the quality of education," he said. "You're going to have more original assignments that are more difficult to plagiarize, or you're going to have greater engagement with students. That way they'll be less inclined to throw a paper out of a paper mill."

"You're going to have a greater familiarity between students and faculty. You're going to know the student's writing and the student's work."

Although these changes may be relatively costly, Rosenfeld, Farrell and other critical scholars point to the notion that this may not be the only factor prompting schools to sign on with big business. The realization that the proportionality of the plagiarism monster may be in-

flated is seen as a disturbing, but likely, fact.

"It had this feel of a war on plagiarism, which just seemed rather absurd," said Rosenfeld. "It was a manufacturing of a crisis of plagiarism that professors were completely capable of dealing with."

Indeed, Scanlon's article points out that only "10 per cent [of students] reported copying 'a few sentences from a website without footnoting them' and 5 per cent admitted to turning in a paper 'obtained in large part from a term paper mill or web site.'"

This numerical representation is much tamer and more manageable than Turnitin.com's statistics.

Farrell says he isn't buying the argument that Turnitin.com is better than a trained eye.

"Writing is such an organic process that the idea of being able to detect certain issues with a 'sophisticated algorithm', well, I don't find that reassuring. I mean, if these sophisticated algorithms, regarding writing, were possible, then surely Microsoft Word would be able to come out with a better grammar checker, and yet they don't."

Another serious issue Dalhousie University students have recognized is the loss of jurisdiction that often follows corporatization. Beginning in 2008 with serious vocal protest, the school's student union has continued to support a policy that would ban the system, or at least provide the option to opt-out for Dalhousie students when it comes to using Turnitin.com.

So, while Rosenfeld attained his initial victory, McGill's policy on the site has not changed. Other schools around the country, however, have rethought their contracts, including Mount Saint Vincent University, which was the first school to ban the program in 2008.

Still, the overall trend of expansion for Turnitin.com continues.

Beardo & the Bear



COMIC MATT MAROTTI



Dear Melissa,

I went on a steamy date... Well it was steamy up until I asked her to give me a blowjob so I could get hard before putting the condom on. I asked her what the big deal was, while my mouth was dripping wet from vagina from going down on her, and she said she finds sucking dick disgusting, especially if it's flaccid. And by then, my penis was completely limp. Is it bedroom faux pas to ask a girl to give my dick some lip service before suffocating it with plastic?

Dear lip service,

My opinion: you weren't the one who committed bedroom faux pas here. If someone is asking for it or taking it, then they should be willing to give it. I don't know how the date ended but I could understand why this wasn't the foreplay you were looking for. I probably would have walked right out of that room in your situation, not because she didn't want to suck your dick but because she told you right after she made you work for her, and in an extremely rude and disrespectful way.

I love this question because it's a male perspective on a complaint I've heard a lot, but more often from women. A lot of women tell me that they're willing to give head but the guys they date aren't always willing to do the same in return. I always ask why they give their partner something they won't get in return if it bothers them. Sure, some people do genuinely love sucking dick, but isn't it hard to do it with someone who thinks your pussy isn't good enough to lick?

No one should be forced to give head if they don't want to, that's a given. However, they shouldn't expect their partner to do it either, unless of course they really want to. Sex should go both ways and it's not really fair that you got the short end here. I'm sure she would have been offended if you were disgusted when she asked you to lick her.

Something you should consider is how you got around to going down on her. What I mean by that is did you just kind of go for it and she went along with it? Was she really into it and let you do it for a while or until orgasm? Or was it over pretty soon after it started with an awkward response on her end? Did you then say something like "Can you suck my dick before I suffocate it with plastic"?

It's possible she isn't into head, getting or giving, but you would probably notice since it's pretty obvious when a girl isn't comfortable with a guy being down there! Maybe she truly hates giving head and finds it disgusting. Or maybe she was embarrassed. A surprising amount of people tell me they hate giving head because they've avoided it for so long that they're just not comfortable and worried about doing it "wrong." FYI that doesn't mean you should go tell this (or any other) girl that she'll like giving head if she practises or approach her with that assumption.

Sometimes it's good to know what a person's into before you put yourself out there and end up giving more than you'll get. If you're planning on seeing this girl again you should probably let her know that saying that sucking dick is disgusting isn't too far off from saying dick itself is disgusting, and there's no better way to make a guy limp.

—Melissa Fuller

Send your steamy sex questions to: sex.thelink@gmail.com

Nah'msayin?

The Leonard Nimoy Centre

So there's a big kerfuffle going on about the new proposal for a student union building. Sure, it'd be nice to have more couches to nap on and a sustainable meth lab (that's what goes in a student centre, right?), but being the cheap, broke-ass student type, I don't wanna pay for it.

As a proud Canadian, I demand services that I do not pay for. It's un-American, and I friggin' love it.

I think I have a solution that will make everybody happy. You're not ready to hear this, but check it. The Leonard Nimoy Concordia Student Centre. Eh? Eh? You love it. We get Spock to fund it, which does two things. Number one, it means we don't have to pay for shit. Free scratching posts for all! And number two, it pisses off those Captain Kirk lovers over at McGill with their fancy Shatner building.

We get the logical problem solving, cameo-in-the-new-*Star Trek*-movies-getting Nimoy, while the Redmen keep an aging, green-women-humping, kinda creepy guy who is more well known these days for butchering Cee-Lo songs than anything else.

The force will totally be with us. Or something. Plus, all the rest of the cast hates Shatner, so when we start adding to the building down the line, we can totally round it out. The Uhura Student Massage Parlour? I feel relaxed already.

Check back next week, when I solve world hunger using Mark Hamill.

—Adam Kovac,
Features Editor



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

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

Freedom to Education

Student Union Councillor Endorses OpenCourseWare

• PAUL GILLET

Last Wednesday, Concordia Student Union Council appointed three councillors, including myself, and one student at large to a committee responsible for promoting the use and creation of OpenCourseWare at Concordia.

Why did council vote on creating such an information campaign and what is OCW anyway?

OCW is an online publication of high quality educational materials—including syllabi, lecture notes, problem sets, examples of tests with solutions and audio/video lectures—available for free to anyone with an Internet connection.

It is not a substitute for a university education. There are no degrees, no corrections on assignments and no interaction with professors. The content available does not always include complete course materials.

However, the thousands of courses that are available have made an enormous impact on educators, students, and self-learners around the world.

Take Megan Brewster's story—after receiving her Bachelor of Arts in material science from the University of Washington, she moved to Guatemala, where she was shocked to find there was no existing recycling program. Piles of plastic bottles littered the streets.

Since local resources could not provide a solution to the problem, she took her search online. With the help of MIT's Material Processing laboratory class, Megan had the resources to design and implement a complete recycling program to solve

the problem.

The benefits are not limited to self-learners in remote areas. Students can use the course material to plan their studies and prepare for or review classes. This goes for students coming out of CEGEP as well.

University applicants could use OCW as a tool when choosing a major. Students can look over a program's teaching materials before applying and select the one best for them. This would lead to more successful and engaged first year students and less dropouts.

If professors could look at what others are teaching when designing their courses, it would make for a well-rounded Concordia education by providing them with a wider exposure to the subject materials related to what they are teaching.

Downfalls

Posting video recordings of lectures online would lead to a decline in attendance. An MIT study revealed a two per cent decline in attendance, which attributed mostly to students that live far from school.

In some cases, posting video lectures online is nonsensical, since videos of discussion-based courses may not benefit the user. If a professor explains to the class that OCW is supplementary and not a substitute for coming to class, students will attend their classes.

Another common concern from professors is that they don't want to lose their intellectual property rights. Through OCW, professors still retain the rights to their material. Anyone that consumes their material must attribute their sources and cannot use the material

with the intentions of generating sales or profit.

There is also a concern that professors would have to do more work. While it does take effort to remove copyrighted materials from course material, it is a necessary step for copyright compliance. Faculty at institutions creating OCW have found that it required less than a day of work per semester to prepare the material.

Critics perceive OCW as too expensive for under-funded universities like Concordia. MIT spends up to \$15,000 to publish one course. However, MIT's courses only constitute 15 per cent of the 15,000 courses. There are schools that have implemented low cost, high impact OCW sites.

The actual website poses a massive initial costs for universities choosing to implement OCW, but Concordia already has one, called Moodle.

Time to Innovate

There are already a number of professors openly publishing their materials on personal websites; however, they do not actively encourage those outside of the classroom to use the material.

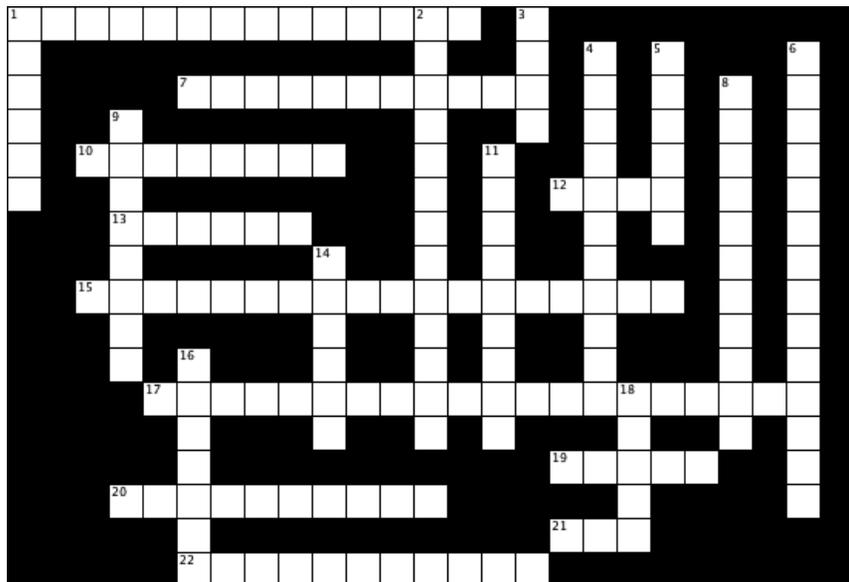
If OCW is such a great idea, why aren't many Canadian universities contributing? Higher administration is too focused on business-as-usual to give OCW proper evaluation.

Why is Concordia, a leader in social sustainability, not piloting this initiative? Being among the first major Canadian universities to start a pilot project surely couldn't hurt our reputation.

Quik-X

"Famous Cats"

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON



Across

- 1. An evil doctor deserves an evil cat.
- 7. Gave people nightmares with its ability to appear and disappear. Its smile is often the last thing you see.
- 10. Eartha Kitt was just purr'fect in this role.
- 12. An orange tabby cat. Not specific enough? His best friend was a pug named Otis.
- 13. The central character in The Barber of Seville. For all of you uncultured swine, Geppetto the carpenter's cat.
- 15. The only real cat on this list, and the subject of an upcoming film starring Meryl Streep.
- 17. That Hanna-Barbera cartoon. No, not Scooby Doo. The one with Tara Reid. Man, she was hot.

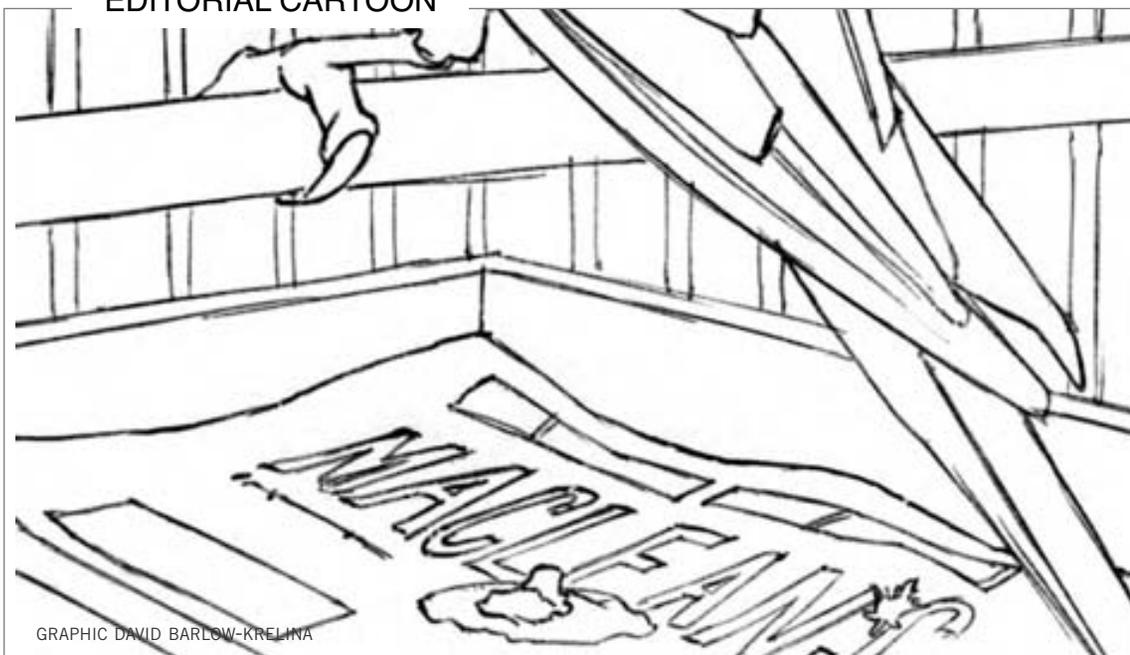
- 19. With his magic bag, this cat was unstoppable.
- 20. Another orange tabby cat that's in comics. Not as funny though.
- 21. The likely inspiration for the ultra-violent Scratchy the Cat on The Simpsons.
- 22. The Simpsons' cat.

Down

- 1. Pretty much the only Pokemon who can say a sentence that doesn't consist of his own name spoken twice in rapid succession.
- 2. A classic Disney film, not a lewd joke told by Bob Saget.
- 3. Who names their f*cking cat Mr. Mistoffelees and Rumpoleteazer?
- 4. A cat with fashionable footwear. Just don't ask what they're made of.

- 5. "One fine day with a woof and purr, a baby was born and it caused a stir, no blue bug, no three-eyed frog, just a feline, canine, little..."
- 6. Is it dead or alive? It's both
- 8. Terrible Mike Myers vehicle, great Dr. Seuss book.
- 9. The first thing you thought of when you found out that the crossword would be "famous cats."
- 10. Likes small birds, often slurs his words.
- 14. Chip N' Dale Rescue Rangers' arch-nemesis, or a banker on Wall Street.
- 16. I CAN HAS CHEEZ BURGER?
- 18. You'd think Sabrina the Teenage Witch would be more sensitive with her choice of pet names.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



GRAPHIC DAVID BARLOW-KRELIINA

editorial

Rankling Rankings

Maclean's has, yet again, ranked Concordia as one of Canada's worst universities.

And while it might make framing that Concordia University diploma a little less appealing, I personally don't take it too seriously. With a ranking system that's about as scientific as a Fox News poll, *Maclean's* should probably re-evaluate its scaling methodology.

I would even go a step further and say that Canadian students—especially those straight out of high school deciding where to apply in the coming months—need to ignore the rankings all together.

As a magazine that is partially responsible for creating the reputation it's measuring, *Maclean's* should reconsider devoting a whopping 20 per cent of its overall score to that category. It's no coincidence that schools *Maclean's* rates poorly for national recognition often stay that way.

Some factors that provide very tangible benefits to students are largely overlooked by the ranking system, like class size.

Smaller classes offer more face time with the teacher and better interaction in the classroom instead of observing a droning lecture in an auditorium. Approximately 40 per cent of Concordia's undergraduate classes count fewer than 30 people. Just saying. Nevertheless, *Maclean's* gives student-to-teacher ratio only 10 per cent of the overall score.

Concordia's business school, the John Molson School of Business, boasts a reputation as one of the best in Canada, and the university's communications, social science, journalism and fine arts programs are also exceptional. Concordia's unique multi-disciplinary studies—like the option of a double-major in computer science and computation arts—set us apart from the schools consistently making the top five.

Maclean's could find a better way to evaluate schools—say, in a way that didn't hurt schools with less funding. After all, McGill is the only Quebec university with an endowment large enough to make the top of the list.

The magazine could consider a school's diversity or course variety. It could find a relatively objective way to factor in the number of innovative features a particular school offers. But even if it were willing, it wouldn't really make a difference.

That's because measuring all Canadian schools using the same criteria doesn't make sense. No university will ever accommodate every type of student and they shouldn't try to. It's why we have different schools in the first place. All-encompassing rankings like these will always favour certain strengths that only benefit specific students.

Every year that *Maclean's* assigns a numerical value to our universities, they perpetuate the nonsense that a "best" school exists. McGill might have a bigger library, worth 15 per cent of the score, but our many night classes cater more to students with full-time jobs. Simon Fraser University might have a more notable faculty, but our student residence has fewer bed bugs.

Although *Maclean's* might say that it can tell you where to apply, it's probably time we stopped listening.

—Julia Wolfe,
Layout Manager

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2010 mellon lectures

Thursday 18 November at 6 pm

Maristella Casciato

Senior Mellon Fellow
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School of Architecture "Aldo Rossi" at Cesena, University of Bologna

**Introducing Pierre Jeanneret — architect,
designer, educator — in Chandigarh**
in English

CCA

Canadian Centre for Architecture

1920, rue Baile, Montréal Info: 514 939 7001 ext. 1408 www.cca.qc.ca/mellonlectures
Paul Desmarais Theatre. Admission is free but seating is limited.

The CCA gratefully acknowledges the generous support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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(To Bring Your Own Orientation)

The Link hosts a speaker
series/party to celebrate
our 28th annual
Queer Special Issue.

Dec. 3
Burritoville
2055 Bishop St.
7:00 to 11:00 p.m.



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