

THE

LiNK

concordia's independent newspaper
stand up if you feel uncomfortable since 1980

VANDALIZED IDENTITIES

• OPINIONS 20

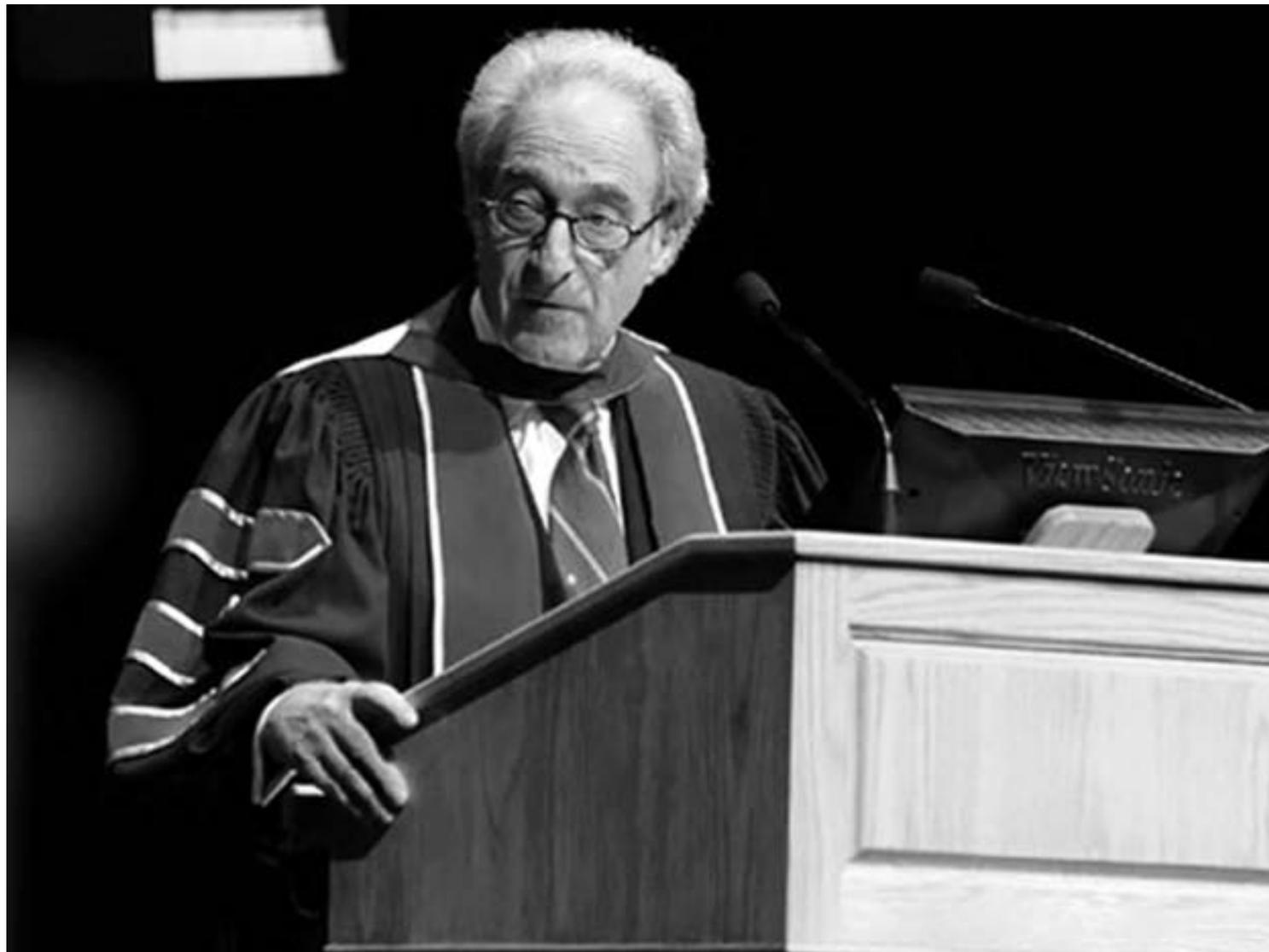


Concordia in Crisis • News 5

WOODSWORTH: BOARD MEMBER SPEAKS OUT

The Empire Strikes Back

Concordia Board Nominates Former President to Return



Frederick Lowy oversaw a vast expansion of Concordia's security apparatus while he served as president.

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

In 1995, Concordia was in a state of turmoil after poor management and severe turnover had devastated the university's senior administration.

Frederick Lowy was flown in to restore the university's reputation and governance structure. He ruled over Concordia until 2005.

A decade and a half after he was first tapped for the job, Lowy is being asked to return to Concordia for a repeat performance. With the university in a leadership crisis after both of his successors failed to inspire confidence in their management, the board of governors' executive committee is asking the full board to approve Lowy, 77, as interim president.

Selected from a pool of 21 candidates, Lowy could be confirmed and take up the post of interim president before the end of the month—he could stay

seated in the president's office for up to a year and a half.

While writing in support of Lowy's appointment, Board Chair Peter Kruyt stressed that rebuilding the Board's relationship with the Concordia community would be one of Lowy's first priorities.

"Clearly, there is some work to be done in this area as a result of recent events," wrote Kruyt.

Some in the university community are relieved with the move.

"I think he means well and I think he is a healer," said Concordia University Part-Time Faculty President Maria Peluso. "He understands us and he understands that we've had the same problems since when he left."

Two years before Lowy retired from the presidency in 2005, Concordia adopted a corporate model of administrative governance, changing the head of the university's title from rec-

tor to president.

While Lowy might be tackling problems he is familiar with, the former president's methods are still remembered by many, especially among former students allied with left-leaning student unions, as heavy-handed.

After the Netanyahu protest in 2002, when students demonstrated against a speech by former and current Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the first day of school and clashed with police, Lowy oversaw a vast expansion of the university security apparatus.

"It was an era marked by the implementation of draconian security measures," said a current Concordia student on the condition of anonymity.

The student fears reprisals by Lowy, who was also responsible for the expelling of student activists on minor violations and exaggerated charges that were often overturned in outside

courts.

During Lowy's time as president, a secretive Risk Assessment Committee was created that was responsible for vetting and approving all on-campus events. To this day, only one member of the committee, former VP Services Michael DiGrappa, has been revealed.

The controversial committee made headlines when it blocked book readings about sensitive topics on campus.

"Him and the people he surrounded himself with acted as if Concordia existed on a different planet," said the student.

Lowy's time in office also marked the university's clear turn towards a more corporate campus presence, as fast food outlets were welcomed and university support jobs were outsourced to the private sector.

—with files from Christopher Curtis

Concordia Student Murdered

'[Victim] Always Willing to Give a Helping Hand': Family Friend

• ADAM KOVAC

Montreal's first homicide of the year claimed a victim few would suspect of being involved in foul play. Jason Peagram, a 22-year-old student at Concordia's John Molson School of Business, was shot to death in the notoriously quiet Montreal neighbourhood of Westmount on Wednesday night.

Police are saying that Peagram was heard arguing with another man in his apartment on 335 Clarke Ave., north of de Maisonneuve Blvd. The two exited the building around 10:45 p.m., at which point Peagram's assailant shot him.

Peagram was found slumped over the hood of a car bleeding profusely. He was rushed to Montreal's General Hospital where he was pronounced dead from a gunshot wound to the neck. Witnesses told police they saw the shooter flee in a car, but no description was made available.

On Friday, police said they were looking for Peagram's roommate for questioning. They have yet to identify a suspect in the shooting.

A memorial website has since appeared on the Internet, with former classmates and teachers sharing their memories of Peagram. One family friend wrote the victim "had the biggest heart and was always willing to give a helping hand."

Neighbours described Peagram as being a quiet and unassuming individual. He was a graduate of Lower Canada College. A spokeswoman for the private school said that Peagram was an outgoing student. He was also well known for playing on the school's football and rugby teams, as well as for taking part in its community outreach program.

Concordia officials have refused to comment, and the Peagram family could not be reached as of press time.

'We're all mobilized, all of us'

Leadership Crisis at Concordia Divides Campus

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI & CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

In the weeks since Concordia President Judith Woodsworth was dismissed, the university's political landscape has been upended.

The departure, orchestrated by Concordia's board of governors, ignited long-standing tensions between the university's academic structure and its increasingly corporate and assertive governing body.

On Monday morning, the university's typically cautious faculty association issued a damning message to the board's chair and his entourage: resign. The faculty association's strong statement was the last in a series of escalating demands from groups at the university.

The faculty association joined a unanimous motion of non-confidence from the 25 chairs of the faculty of Arts and Science; a call for the removal of the board's 23 community-at-large members by the Arts and Science Federation of Associations; a call from the Concordia Student Union for the

board's 13 external members whose terms had expired to resign; and a letter signed by 300 professors detailing the need for an investigation into the board's actions.

With the exception of the university's alumni association, which came out in support of the board, the lines of conflict have been drawn; the board is facing the university's students, faculty and staff.

The final showdown is expected on Jan. 21 at a meeting of the university senate, Concordia's highest academic body.

If the senate approves a motion of non-confidence, the board will officially be found to be operating against the university's best interests.

Reform the Board

Since 2000, the university has doled out \$10 million in settlements to 45 departing administrators, according to Maria Peluso, the head of the Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Associa-

tion.

That amount represents the annual tuition of 3,300 Quebec students.

"They have failed to protect the financial interests of public funds," Peluso said of the board. "The idea that these bailouts are confidential is rubbish, because public funds at a public institution are hardly private."

Woodsworth's \$703,500 severance package was the latest in the university's costly history of paying outgoing administrators. An agreement signed by Woodsworth and the board stipulated that the former president's severance came with the conditions of confidentiality and that she officially resign for personal reasons.

"This issue is not going to be buried under soiled carpet, nor will a spin doctor be able to fix the mess," continued Peluso. "It requires a serious understanding of where the issues and the problems are."

On Monday, Peluso told *The Link* a serious overhaul of the university's board of governors was needed and would only be

achieved through an independent inquiry. The concept of reforming the board has united people from almost every faction within the Concordia community.

"We're all mobilized, all of us," said Peluso. "Some of us have different priorities and concerns, but we are all fed up by how this place is being run: a small group of people in the hands of a small group of people."

Last Wednesday, former CSU president Amine Dabchy and student union councillor Ethan Cox cast aside debating rules, engaging in a frenzied argument in front of CSU Council.

Dabchy, who is the sole representative of students on the board's executive committee, fervently defended Woodsworth's dismissal while Cox motioned to have 23 board members removed from office.

However, both agreed that effective university governance required a series of reforms to Concordia's board of governors.

"Resignations won't fix the problem," said Dabchy. "Now if you want to talk about reform, I

think reform is needed[...] I would like to see a board of governors run like it is in France, by academics."

Cox sees the board's community-at-large members, who are largely corporate executives, as the source of Concordia's dysfunction.

"We need to change the formula," said Cox. "To increase the internal representation with the students, the faculty, the staff, the ones who actually make the school go round taking up a larger place on the board."

"We need to change the criteria of what constitutes a member-at-large," continued Cox. "The members-at-large don't represent the diversity within the Montreal community. I'd like to see someone from a non-profit organization in there."

Peluso suggested that the board's members-at-large be split into two groups: the number of corporate representatives would be capped at 10 while, an additional 10 members would be selected from community groups, youth groups and unions.

Pro



Board
Alumni Association
A minority of student politicians

Con

300 professors
25 chairs
Faculty Union
Part-Time Union
Student Union
National Press

“Resignations won’t fix the problem. Now if you want to talk about reform, I think reform is needed.”

—Amine Dabchy,
Student Representative
on the board of governors



PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

The Alumni Defends

The only group to come to the board’s defence was the university’s alumni association—Dabchy’s employer until recently. The association wrote, in a recently issued statement, that the process was conducted fairly and objectively.

“Every communication that the board issues engenders a lot of angst, more concern and anger,” said Peluso. “The latest incident was the alumni message that is on the Concordia website, where they have become apologists for the Board of Governors. As an alumni member, I don’t know where the alumni got their facts from.”

The Student Charge

Although Dabchy publicly claimed that Woodsworth had lost the confidence of Concordia’s students, the firing has caused a rift within Concordia’s two largest undergraduate student governments.

On Monday, just days after

one of the most contentious student union meetings in recent memory, five CSU councillors signed a letter denouncing the four undergraduate members who represent students on the board of Governors. The letter also accused the board’s student representatives of acting against their constituents best interests and denounced the CSU councillors who wouldn’t take a stand against the board.

At Wednesday’s CSU Council meeting, the five councillors wanted all 23 of the board’s community-at-large members to step down, putting them at odds with some of Council’s more seasoned politicians.

Councillor Aaron Green and members of the CSU executive stressed the need for the CSU to be realistic about what change they could achieve by calling for mass resignations.

But to many in attendance, their request fell on deaf ears.

“The call for realism is over,” said Holly Nazar, speaking on behalf of the university’s Graduate Student Association. “When [GSA

President] Adnan Abueid tried to present the board with a motion in September, most of them didn’t even bother voting on it.”

To the Board’s many opponents, the idea of collaborating with the governing body is no longer possible. While the issue of wholesale reform may have been a fringe topic in early December, the events that have transpired since then have made it a necessity to most groups on campus.

With all the rhetoric surrounding the firing, some critics have pointed out that the bigger issues have been lost in the chaos.

“It’s the frequency and pattern,” said Peluso of the board’s firing practices. “We don’t have hiring that is sustainable. Did the board not choose Lajeunesse? Did the board not choose Woodsworth? Or did they choose badly? They need to take responsibility for what they did.”

“They seem to ignore that the university belongs to us.”

By us, she clarified: the university’s students, faculty and staff.

CLEARLY RED

Board of Governors
Political
Donations:
96 per cent Liberal

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Over the past decade, Concordia’s current Board of Governors donated nearly \$155,000 to provincial political parties. Nearly 96 per cent of those donations went to the Quebec Liberal Party.

Under Quebec law, an individual can donate \$3,000 a year to a political party—the limit was lowered to \$2,000 annually earlier this year.

Jonathan Wener, the CEO of Canderel Property Management and a community-at-large member of the board for 16 years, has donated \$33,500 to political parties since 2000—the most of any board member. Eight per cent of Wener’s donations went to the *Action démocratique du Québec* while the remainder went to the Liberals.

Board chair Peter Kruyt, a vice president at the Power Corporation, donated the limit of \$3,000 a year for the past decade to the Liberals.

Hélène F. Fortin, the chairwoman of Loto-Québec, was the only board member to donate to all three provincial political parties.

THE ENDLESS BOARD

Board of Governors Ignores Term Limits

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Thirteen of the Concordia Board of Governors’ 23 community-at-large members have exceeded the maximum term limit set out in the university’s guidelines—some by more than a decade.

While governors are limited to two consecutive terms of three years, they may be allowed to sit for additional terms in “special cases.” Forming the majority on the 40-seat board, the highest governing body at Concordia, the community-at-large governors hold the board’s chair and vice-chair positions.

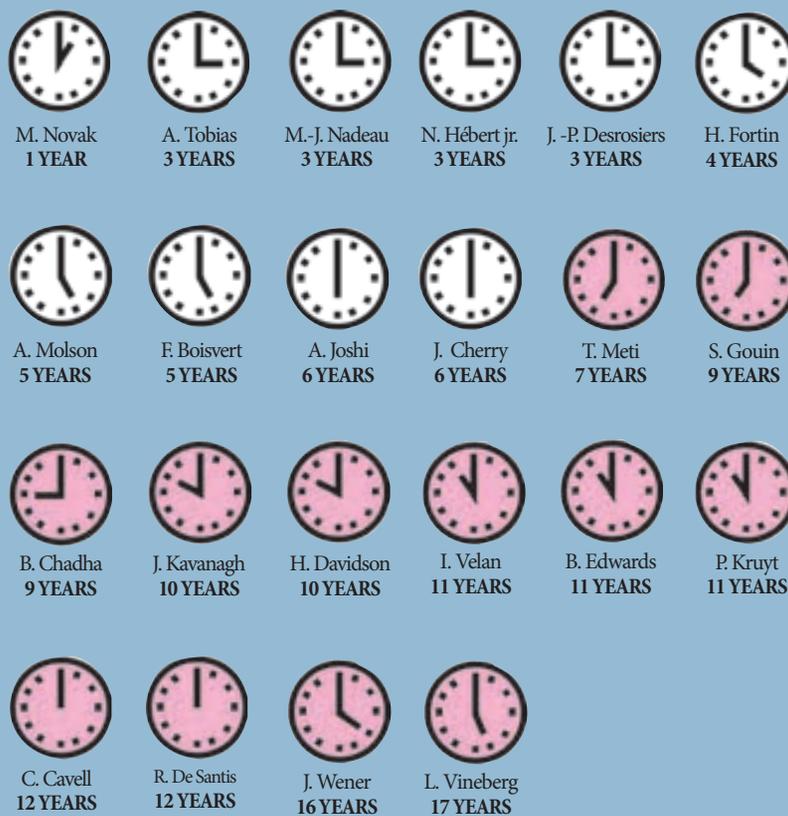
The longest serving member

of the board, Lillian Vineberg, is currently in her sixth term over a span of 17 years.

“I’ve asked the question and I’m waiting for an answer,” said Chris Mota, the university’s spokesperson, when asked why more than half the governors were special cases. “I had the same question.”

Last Wednesday, the Concordia Student Union’s Council approved a motion that called for the 13 governors who have exceeded their term limit to be removed.

Neither Mota nor the university was aware of the motion from Concordia’s student representatives.



Student Union Divided

CSU Council Meeting Marked by Infighting



CSU Councillor Ethan Cox pushed for the resignation of 23 board of governors. PHOTO LAURA KNEALE, COURTESY OF CUTV

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

The Concordia Student Union is calling for 13 members of the university's board of governors to resign over their role in the firing of former Concordia President Judith Woodsworth.

On Wednesday, CSU Council approved a motion which condemned the "dishonesty" with which Woodsworth was fired and demanded that the 13 board of governors' community-at-large members whose terms of office have expired step down.

"The abrupt dismissal of the second Concordia president in three years has caused a serious crisis in confidence at our university," said CSU Councillor Ethan Cox. "The current situation at the university is largely caused by the external members of the board of governors, many of whom represent corporations and have a corporate view of university."

Twenty-three out of 40 Concor-

dia board members are community-at-large members, and most of these are corporate executives. Cox and a handful of other councillors accused the external members of running the board like a private business when they fired Woodsworth midway through her five-year mandate without warning. The councillors also took exception with Woodsworth's \$700,000-plus severance package.

Initially, Cox presented Council with a motion demanding the resignation of all 23 community-at-large members. His motion failed after two rounds of voting and hours of heated debate, which highlighted a growing divide within council.

The day of the meeting, the CSU released a carefully worded statement criticizing the board's communication with the Concordia community but not calling for any immediate action to be taken. CSU President Heather Lucas stood behind the statement, but

came under fire from councillors Cox, Lex Gill, Melanie Hotchkiss, Joel Suss and Michaela Manson for not taking a stand against the board's unilateral firing of a second university president in three years.

The five councillors weren't alone in their condemnation of the former president's dismissal. The Concordia University Faculty Association, all 25 chairs of the department of Arts and Science, the Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association and 300 professors all demanded board resignations or an investigation into the matter.

Lucas and most of the CSU executive remained silent as tempers flared in the debate over Cox's motion. Only former CSU President Amine Dabchy, who represent students on the board of governors, voiced support for Woodsworth's firing.

Dabchy, who was invited to speak at council by Lucas, also

criticized Woodsworth for firing former Concordia VP Advancement and Alumni Relations Kathy Assayag, for allowing VP Services Michael Di Grappa to leave his post, for dismissing both of the university's internal auditors and for her support of university tuition increases in Quebec.

The former CSU President also suggested that the four student representatives who sit on the board had a hand in the former president's dismissal.

"[The student representatives on the board of governors] weren't happy with President Woodsworth," said Dabchy. "We even brought our concerns to the board's chair and asked for [Woodsworth's] resignation a few months ago."

Gill and Suss subsequently called Dabchy's loyalties into question.

"Is [Dabchy] representing students to the board or is he representing the board to students?"

asked Gill.

Cox's motion to call for all 23 external board members' resignation was eventually defeated by a vote of 12 against, seven for and four abstentions.

"I think the councillors that abstained felt they didn't know enough to make an informed decision about the motion," said Gill. "That's a legitimate position, but I feel as though the CSU executive should have educated them on the issue a little better."

Council finally approved a motion demanding that the 13 community-at-large members whose terms had expired to resign. University bylaws state that community-at-large board members cannot serve more than two consecutive three-year terms unless there are exceptional circumstances preventing this, but in some cases, the external board members have overstayed their term limits by over a decade.

Board Member Discusses Woodsworth Firing

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

The student closest to the board members who fired Concordia President Judith Woodsworth is offering his perspective on why the decision was made.

Amine Dabchy, the only student who sits on the executive committee of Concordia's Board of Governors, told *The Link* that the board began losing confidence in Woodsworth shortly after the former president "pushed" VP Alumni Advancement and Relations Kathy Assayag into resigning in September. During her time as Concordia's top fundraiser, Assayag's department thrived, winning six awards and increasing revenue from the school's alumni.

A few weeks after Assayag's resignation, longtime VP Services and architect of modern Concordia Michael Di Grappa announced he would be leaving the university to pursue a similar job at McGill.

"Di Grappa was the superstar of the team [...] For many of the board members his departure was unacceptable," said Dabchy, adding that Woodsworth's poor leadership and communication skills alienated a number of other senior administrators at Concordia.

Di Grappa was the third senior administrator to resign during Woodsworth's short time in office. VP Finance Larry English also stepped down in 2009. Dabchy said another Concordia VP had considered resignation

because of Woodsworth's contentious leadership style.

Dabchy also suggested that the fallout from Woodsworth's dismissal of the university's two auditors might have sealed the former president's fate. In 2009, Woodworth fired two auditors for violating the university's policy on meal reimbursements. When the auditors brought Woodworth before Quebec's Labour Review Board on Nov. 1, the former president admitted to having violated the same policy on at least five different occasions.

"She fired the auditors just 10 days before they were going to audit her," said Dabchy. "When they sued her, she never told the board. Many of the board members found out about it through

the media. It was an embarrassment."

On Dec. 1, Dabchy, alongside fellow student board representatives Heather Lucas, Abdulah Husen and Stephanie Siriwardhana, met with board chair Peter Kruyt and demanded drastic changes from the Woodworth administration. Less than a month later, the president resigned. Last week, Dabchy wrote a letter to various Montreal media outlets celebrating Woodworth's departure and claiming that Concordia students had lost confidence in her ability to govern.

Concordia Student Union councillor Ethan Cox isn't buying Dabchy's claim.

"I think Dabchy is trying to write a piece of revisionist history by saying 'Oh yeah, look: this is

how great the board is; they did what students asked them to do,'" said Cox. "That's just nonsense. Students were calling for Woodworth's dismissal because of her stance on tuition, which might be one of the only things she and the board of governors agree on."

During last Wednesday's CSU Council meeting, Dabchy defended his support for Woodworth's dismissal, while the union's executive remained virtually silent. In the end, Cox said Dabchy's charisma and political influence quelled a motion that called for the resignations of 23 board members.

"It was an orchestrated move," said Cox. "Council brought Dabchy in, sat back and let him do the heavy hitting."

Tunisian Community Rejoices

President Ben Ali's Resignation a Welcome Change



PHOTO DAVID COLLIN ANDERSON

• JULIAN WARD

Montreal's Tunisian community finally had a reason to celebrate on Saturday, as over 1,000 people marched to the Tunisian embassy to support the ouster of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

After 23 years in power, Ben Ali was forced to resign from office and flee Tunisia following a month of rioting that brought the country to a standstill.

Carrying signs reading "USA: yes we can, Tunisia: yes we do" and "Tunisia is free at last," the peaceful crowd grew larger as it wound its way through downtown.

Montreal has Canada's largest concentration of Tunisians, at

around 8,000.

"We're happy he's out but we have to keep fighting," said Sarra Braham, who came to celebrate.

This was a point reiterated by many in the crowd; celebrate, but remain cautious because there's a long road ahead towards a democratic future.

"We're proud of our country," said Emma Braham, Sarra's sister. "We want to be an example to the world."

Nationwide demonstrations started on Dec. 18 after a 26-year-old unemployed produce vendor lit himself on fire in protest after having his fruit stand confiscated by police for not having a permit. The man, Mohammed Bouazizi, died

three weeks later from third-degree burns.

Tunisians then took to the streets to protest the country's high inflation rates, the rising cost of living and government corruption.

According to the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues, about 66 people died in the ensuing riots, which saw police open fire on protesters, public acts of suicide and mass arrests.

During this turbulent period, journalists, bloggers, alleged hackers and artists were swept up by security forces and jailed. However, many of Ben Ali's critics claimed that his dictatorial rule went largely unreported by North American media because of the former presi-

dent's pro-trade relationship with Western nations.

"Rights have been violated for many decades, including freedom of expression and the torture and murder of prisoners," said Beatrice Vaugrante, executive director of Amnesty International Canada Francophone.

She called for all political prisoners to be released and for an immediate ceasefire.

It appears as though one of her demands will be met sooner rather than later, since Mohamed Ghannouchi, Tunisia's interim prime minister, announced yesterday that political prisoners will be freed in an effort to help quell the violence still plaguing the state.

MATH STUDENTS ASSOCIATION WON'T LEAVE ASFA

• LAURA BEESTON

The last two council meetings were like night and day for the Math and Statistics Student Association, who are actively seeking accreditation.

A member of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations, MASSA shook up the Dec. 9 council meeting after it was revealed they were seeking to become accredited—legally recognized by the Quebec government as a corporation. According to those present, it was insinuated that MASSA could no longer be represented by ASFA if they were to become accredited.

"We don't want to undermine or leave ASFA; we want a partnership," said MASSA executive Bruno Joyal at the Dec. 9 meeting. "I think the big question is: how can we fit within ASFA as a financially independent student association?"

Aiming to give students more direct control over how their annual budget is spent, MASSA made the move and is currently acknowledged as a company—the Actuarial Mathematics, Statistics and Mathematics Student Associations.

"We are a non-profit organization ready to be recognized by the students when we ask them. This is a first major step," said Joyal on Jan. 17, explaining that they have until March 15 to hold a referendum.

Now waiting on accreditation agents, MASSA requested permission to have a "mobile referendum" that can be carried from class to class. Quorum is slated at 25 per cent—approximately four times higher than a Concordia Student Union election—but Joyal is confident that it will pass.

"I've had quite the positive response [from students]," he said. "From the way we're presenting it, they're actually surprised that it hasn't always been like this."

Currently, a financial committee within ASFA controls the allocation of the budgets of its 27 constituent members, and financial bylaws prohibit MAs from operating an independent bank account or fee levy—rules that were put in place to prevent misuse of funds.

"I think that the way in which we divide our funds is the fairest possible way. We do it altruistically based on the amount of students in each

department that our MAs represent," said ASFA President Aaron Green, adding that the only way to ensure transparency and accountability from MAs is to enforce their financial bylaws.

"I want to emphasize that we have a lot of checks and balances at ASFA that the MAs don't have. There's a lot that can go wrong with a student association when they're not enforced to the extent that they are," he continued.

If MASSA's referendum passes, however, they may be in conflict with the bylaws as they stand.

"At the [Dec. 9 meeting], I said clearly that it wasn't our intention and still isn't to violate any of ASFA's bylaws," said Joyal. "But at the same time we need to be responsible for our own affairs. I'm not suggesting that the ASFA bylaws be scrapped, but under certain circumstances, it should be possible for us or any other MAs to take care of their own business."

The stress seemed to dissipate at the Jan. 13 meeting, however, as a motion was passed that would require ASFA to reevaluate its position with respect to membership of ac-

credited associations seeking to maintain a partnership with ASFA. Seen by many MAs as a more progressive step forward by ASFA, the internal committee will be meeting with MASSA in the near future to discuss where to go from here.

"It's just about people opening their minds and realizing, look: bylaws can change," said Melanie Hotchkiss, an ASFA councillor from the School of Community and Public Affairs, who congratulated MASSA at the Jan. 13 meeting for their engagement with their students.

"It would really be 'the death of ASFA' if ASFA turned their back on accredited MAs," she continued. "But if ASFA can embrace this idea that associations should become more active, independent, stronger and more organized [at the student level], it might just make ASFA a better place."

Joyal agreed. "I don't understand why this seemed like an attack on ASFA," he said. "If anything, it's a challenge to the structure, but it's not an attack. It's important to distinguish these things."

Briefs

New Rules

ASFA is implementing new rules to smooth out its elections process. One of the new rules will eliminate party affiliations, meaning candidates will have to run on individual platforms. ASFA hopes the new rules will reduce hostility between groups and encourage transparency.

New Bus Contract

Laval bus drivers have approved a new contract that will increase their wages by 12 per cent over the next four years. In exchange for a \$1-million contribution to the plan from the city, the drivers have agreed to a reorganization of shifts to help improve bus schedules and rush hour service.

Stabbing in the East

Two 23-year-old men and a 20-year-old man were the victims of a stabbing this weekend in the Hochelaga-Maisonneuve neighbourhood. Both are expected to survive. Hospital staff notified the police of the incident early Sunday morning. As of Sunday evening, the police had no suspects.

Firebomb Café

A café in St-Michel was hit with a firebomb early Friday morning. Police said a rock was first thrown through the front of Cafe-Restaurant Monte Cristo and a Molotov cocktail was thrown in after. Authorities suspect that the incident was Mafia related. No one was hurt in the fire.

Flying High

Two Laval men flying from Jamaica into the Pierre Trudeau International airport attempted to smuggle 1.33 kg of cocaine in 100 swallowed pellets on Christmas Day, according to the Canada Border Services Agency. The CBSA claims that the value of drug seizures made at the Montreal airport in 2010 was over \$15 million.



"Curiosity will keep you alive," said former Governor General, Adrienne Clarkson. PHOTO MEGAN WOHLBERG

Clarkson on Everything

Canada's Former GG: Surprisingly Feisty

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Before former Governor General Adrienne Clarkson spoke with Concordia last Thursday as part of the Concordia Student Union Speakers Series, she sat down with *The Link* for a few minutes.

While keeping the conversation light-hearted, Clarkson showed that she was clearly busy in her retirement, touching on issues including journalism, boiled wool and urban planning.

The Link: What do you hope to tell students today?

Adrienne Clarkson: Oh, come to my speech. I'm not going to answer that! Non-sense.

TL: Something you want to share with them?

Yes! I have a whole speech. It's an hour long. You were hoping to do that and not come to the speech.

TL: We have someone else covering the speech.

Ahh, well that's the wrong way to do it. I was a journalist for many years and that is not the right way to do it. Okay?

TL: So what did you take out of being a journalist for many years?

That they have to do more work than the person they are interviewing. That when you are talking to somebody, nine-tenths of the iceberg is below. Unlike a lawyer's training, [where] you never ask a question to which you don't know the answer. Otherwise it might lead you down the wrong path.

When you are a journalist, you have to ask questions that will not be something you know. And then, when that is said to you, you have to follow it.

It's like watching ice melting on a wood stove. Have you ever seen a wood stove? Maybe in your generation you've never seen it. You put an ice cube on it and you watch where the rivulets run. You follow the rivulets. That's what you do as a journalist and if you don't do that, you aren't a good journalist.

TL: As a kid I remember throwing the ice cube on it and not knowing where it would land.

That's right! That's what makes it fun to be a journalist, otherwise you should be an academic. Become a professor, so you can get the answers first.

TL: Being a journalist sounds like a process of constant discovery.

Yeah, that's what's fun. The only thing that keeps you alive is curiosity. People who don't have any curiosity in their life are dead before they are buried. Or as my father used to say, 'They might be dead, but they won't lie down.' You always need to be learning.

TL: Did you learn anything today?

Yes, I learned about boiled wool today. That's one of my favourite fabrics. It's a wonderful fabric and I have a project with my daughter to knit bowls. I bought a coat that's boiled wool.

TL: You came to Montreal and bought something?

Yes! You can't come to Montreal and not buy something.

TL: Alright, I'm going to follow a different rivulet now. This is the second time I've seen you at Concordia...

Yes, I was here for the Bethune book last year. Isn't he marvelous? You have the statue right here! I'm trying to get a statue in Toronto. I keep telling them that Montreal has had one for 38 years, where are you? Right where the athletics centre is at the Uni-

versity of Toronto is where he lived in Toronto.

TL: Have you had much traction on the issue?

Well you know, we have a mayor now who is trying to cut the police force down, who is trying to cut everything down. I think I'm going to need to find private donors. I just don't have time at the moment to go scurrying around for that. I'll get it done eventually.

TL: You live in the Annex in Toronto. Do you put your toe into municipal politics?

No, I don't want to prejudice any of the things I did as Governor General. I don't want people to say, 'Ah, she did this because she was Liberal or NDP.' I think people know pretty clearly what I stand for.

I take part in my Ratepayers Association, about the houses that get built and what people want to do with the neighbourhood. That's always important in Toronto because it is under threat. I am in a movement of people who want condos to be built with three bedrooms. Because if you don't, how many 30-somethings are going to be able to live in towers? They are going to want children at some point.

The developers should be building apartments with either three bedrooms or two-bedroom apartments that can be joined. But at the moment the way they are putting them up, practically speaking, doesn't work that way.

This instead of having slums in 20 years, high-rise slums. Some of our older towers are already turning into slums, because they only have one bedroom.

You're hanging around for the speech, I hope?

Imagined Territory

• MEAGAN WOHLBERG

Covering nearly one million square kilometres of the globe, the geographical vastness of this country alone is enough to put a strain on the quest of Canadians for national unity. But adding hundreds of cultures, religions and social values to the mix poses an even greater challenge for Canadian democracy.

This was the topic of Adrienne Clarkson's lecture given last Thursday at the latest Concordia Student Union Speaker Series. The former Governor General spoke of the importance of a cohesive Canadian culture in maintaining a functional democracy; a feat, she says, that will not be accomplished through coercion, but rather imagination.

"We live in an imagined land because we can only know a limited number of people in our lives," she told a mixed crowd of students, faculty and community members.

"What is important is that we imagine that other people are part of the same country that we inhabit. To a great extent, we can imagine what it is like to be a Canadian in Yellowknife or Winnipeg or Bonavista Bay [...] It is our imagination that allows us to feel that we are all part of the same country."

Clarkson said that through imagining the "other" as ourselves, there ceases to be separation between human beings, despite even the most profound differences.

"We are able to think of the other as somebody outside of ourselves," she said. "If we develop the right attitude, we will be able to say that it doesn't matter whether the other is an Inuit or a Croatian. Those origins lose their electricity because the imagination should be great enough to comprehend all the people, even the ones we can't visualize."

Citing Charles Taylor, a Canadian philosopher, Clarkson warned that fragmentation, in which people take refuge in smaller groups and become less capable of carrying out a common purpose, is the largest threat to democracy we face.

This is why, in 2005, she created the Institute for Canadian Citizenship as her legacy project. The institute works on projects to assist newcomers in being integrated into mainstream Canadian society within the first years of their arrival.

Yet despite advocating for a national identity, Clarkson held firm to the belief that we must encourage difference and accept as many people into this country as we can.

"I'm always concerned when I hear people talk about pulling up the ladder," she said, referencing the Tamil refugees who arrived this summer. "We all came here on boats."

According to an August, 2010 poll, 60 per cent of Canadians feel that the 492 refugee claimants from Sri Lanka should be considered criminals and sent back. Clarkson said that such attitudes are damaging to our psyches, since the country was founded by "poor, wretched, and rejected" immigrants.

"Once we have closed down our imaginations, nobody will belong to this country," she warned. "Not even us."

CAPITAL CITY CRIMES: THE DISGUSTING DECADENCE OF THE D.C. DOUCHEBAGS

The Outermost Insider

Washington Political Reporter Ken Silverstein Talks Lobbyists, Lies and Lowlifes

• ADAM KOVAC

Ken Silverstein should be used to being the centre of attention by now, but everything about him suggests he's not a big fan of the limelight. Settling into a chair in the cavernous ballroom of the Hyatt-Regency Hotel, he somewhat reluctantly agrees to have his photo taken during our interview, noting dryly that he's usually "the guy in the picture who isn't smiling."

As a former *Los Angeles Times* reporter and Washington, D.C. editor of *Harper's Magazine*, you could say that Silverstein hasn't seen much to grin about in his career. He has delved into the ass-crack of the American political system, coming up with stories on the amoral nature of lobbyists, crooked politicians, and the vicious backstabbing that currently passes for American politics. He gained notoriety and courted controversy in 2007 for going undercover as a representative of a company with interests in Turkmenistan—a country with the charming habit of boiling political dissidents. While undercover, he managed to convince two prominent lobbying firms to help shore up the authoritarian country's political profile

Far from being shy about his cynicism, Silverstein spoke almost wistfully of his belief that the democratic system, though bruised, bleeding and lying passed out in a gutter, can still survive.

The Link: Do you think that the influence of lobbying is a uniquely American phenomenon, or is this something that affects other governments as well?

Well, I'm much more acquainted with the American system, but from what I understand, [...] lobbying as an institution is much more powerful in the States than it is in other countries. [American] politicians are dependent on lobbyists to raise the money for their campaigns. So I think—I can't speak with absolute certainty about this—but from what I understand, that's fairly unique. And so I would say that definitely in the United States, the lobbying community is much more powerful than elsewhere. I'm a little reluctant to be definitive because I can't claim to be an expert on the lobbying system in Belgium or Germany, but from what I understand, it's definitely much more influential in the

States than other countries.

TL: So is there a big difference for a country like Canada, where politicians get their campaign money from their party?

That's completely different. In the States, you can donate to the parties, but to run for Congress, it's all about raising personal contributions. Other politicians can raise money to give it to you, and the party I think is allowed to give you some funding, but overwhelmingly to run for public office requires getting donations in your name, to your campaign, from private individuals.

TL: Is that universally corrupting? Does it affect every politician in Washington?

I think there are definitely some admirable politicians, but I think it's the minority. The system has changed so much that you find fewer and fewer. Sometimes I will find that some of the people that I have long admired are not quite as clean as I had hoped. It's all subjective, of course, but there are some politicians I greatly admire. I don't agree with them on every issue, but I would generally think they are admirable people who are trying to do good and work hard. They are a minority. The way that our political system works, it's hard for anyone who really wants to change the system to get into office. You just can't raise the money.

TL: Why do you think it's so hard for the public to see that these politicians are indebted to lobbyists or private interest groups?

I think the public does see that. The Obama campaign was a little different. The participation rate went up, and I think that was because you had an African-American president for the first time, which was exciting. You had eight years of George W. Bush, so there was a great deal of enthusiasm on the part of democratic voters. But we don't vote much. I think in part it's because people feel very cynical and jaded about the political system and feel their vote doesn't matter. The differences between the two parties have narrowed so much. The real major differences are the social issues—abortion or gay rights [...] but broadly the parties have merged so much, and I think the public does see that. The Congressional approval rate is stunningly low, and I think in part that reflects the cynicism. 'Hey, my vote isn't heard, but people with

money can get their point across.'

TL: Do you think that the cynicism is so bad that in two years, the public mood can go from "Hope and Change" to just not giving a shit?

What periodically happens in American politics is you have someone that comes in who appears to be a real breath of fresh air, and a real reformer. [Obama's] rhetoric was very, very inspiring, and he was a terrific public speaker and orator. He generated a lot of enthusiasm from young people. At the same time, the expectations were always overblown, for two reasons. One, because Obama was never as unconventional as he tried to appear. He's a middle-of-the-road insider. What made him different was that he was African-American. To be direct, if he was white and he had run on his record, he would have a much harder time selling himself, because there was nothing politically that was exciting about him. But it was genuinely exciting that an African-American could run and win the presidency. I think people were misled into thinking he was much more of an outsider than he ever was. And secondly, it's always true that an incoming president will face the problem of excessive expectations because the problems are so big and deep. He inherited huge problems with the economy and Iraq and Afghanistan and on and on and on.

I voted for the guy, and I'm glad he won, and I don't have any regrets over voting for him, because my view is that in American politics, it's hard not to vote for the lesser of two evils. But I had very low expectations, so I've only been mildly disappointed.

TL: Do you think that politics is inherently corrupt?

To a certain extent. That's the whole idea of having checks and balances on government: that people with power tend to abuse it, and politics is all about power. I think American politics is more corrupt because the role of money is so extreme. Yeah, it's inherently corrupt and we have a particular system that makes it more corrupt. Not to venerate the founding fathers of the United States, because, boy you could have a field day with them, but the whole idea of checks and balances, that's well founded.

TL: What kinds of reforms are possible in a system where fundraising and lobbying are protected under



PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

first amendment rights?

I don't disagree [that freedom of speech can hinder political reform]. I don't happen to agree with court rulings that equate freedom of speech with fundraising for politicians and lobbying. You've got to figure out ways to reduce the influence of money and private groups in politics to make the American political system more meaningful. It's a big challenge, and I don't have the answer, because it definitely limits the source of reforms one can make.

I'm obviously pretty cynical about politics, but I don't believe that people should disengage. I don't believe the situation is completely hopeless and if I were com-

pletely cynical, I'd just give up entirely. Sometimes I guess I've thought about it, but I think it's a worthy goal.

I lived in Brazil for a while, and a saying there was "It's all flour from the same sack," all politicians are the same. And then the government there reduced poverty at a faster rate there than anywhere else in the world over the last seven or 10 years, while in the States income inequality has been growing faster than anywhere else. So politics matters. I wouldn't say that all politicians are the same or that it's all hopeless. The whole point of writing about politics is because you're interested and engaged with it.



ART: FASA PUTS ON LECTURE SERIES THAT WILL FEATURE ROADSWORTH - 13

Finding Your Native Tongue

Braids' Debut Is All About Communication



"We all came together in the language of music. It's about finding out how to truly communicate with each other, about finding each other's 'native tongue'."

—Austin Tufts,
Braids

Braids will release their first album, *Native Speaker*, to the public this Thursday.

• NATASHA YOUNG

Austin Tufts, drummer for Montreal quartet Braids, is bringing bagels back to the band's shared Outremont apartment when I reach him on the phone.

"Fairmount or Saint Viateur?" I asked.

"Saint Viateur!" Tufts said with a level of excitement wholly appropriate for fresh bagels. "But that may just be because we live closer to there than to Fairmount."

Bagels are only one of many things Braids has to be excited about. The band of best friends has been attracting a lot of attention for their distinctive brand of dreamy avant-pop, full of textural melodies and innovative takes on song structure.

Calgary transplants Tufts, Raphaelle Standell-Preston (vocals/guitar), Katie Lee (keyboard) and Taylor Smith (bass) came to Montreal when all four were accepted to McGill, though they have since gone on hiatus from their studies to focus on touring.

They've crafted their aesthetic

with striking meticulousness and a level of introspection beyond their years: Tufts, Standell-Preston and Smith are all only 20 years old, while Lee is 21.

"We've really found ourselves here," Tufts said. "[Montreal is] a wonderful city to grow up in, and I think our experiences of growing up have really influenced our music since we moved here."

That euphoric and frantic transition from adolescence to adulthood is fodder for Braids' debut album, *Native Speaker*. The title—which comes from the song of the same name—embodies a common thread throughout the album's seven songs, a concept Tufts describes as "the language that is your native tongue, that you speak the most clearly, that is your purest form of communication."

"For the four friends in Braids, we all came together in the language of music. It's about finding out how to truly communicate with each other, about finding each other's 'native tongue.' It's really a cohesive tool for the whole record because a lot of the songs are about

love and about growing up, finding yourself, and finding that other person who you can be yourself around and be totally open and honest with."

The album's thematic structure speaks not only to romantic ideals, but also to the dynamic between the band members themselves. Since moving to Montreal, the band has been both living and working together, causing their songwriting to evolve into an entirely collaborative and cooperative process. Even Standell-Preston's lyrics, which often verge more on poetry, are inspired by and then woven into the musical arrangements.

"Usually, one person will bring in a sound—it could be an effect or even a concept for a song form," Tufts explained. "Once we have something to start from, we end up doing a sort of stream-of-consciousness jam until we find something really wonderful-sounding. Most of the time, once Katie and Taylor and I get a foundation, Raphaelle will be writing as we're playing. So it's directly inspired by our playing the song, what it's making her feel emo-

tionally, and all the memories and feelings the sound is evoking."

This penchant for experimentation is consistent throughout every aspect of their creative process: the recording of *Native Speaker* was 100 per cent DIY, meaning they had to teach themselves how to do everything from start to finish. Intent on seeing their vision to its fullest potential, the group took their time recording, re-recording and over-dubbing every single part.

Surprisingly, unlike many bedroom recordings, there is nothing low-fi about *Native Speaker*. Every sound, synth effect and sonic layering in each track are all purposefully calculated. Even at its most hazy, reverberant and textural, the sound is still decidedly clean.

But that clarity did not come easily. According to Tufts, Braids spent the entire summer of 2009 in a garage-turned-recording studio in Calgary just recording the drum tracks, working diligently to get each track to sound just right.

"It was basically a self-taught tutorial on how to mic drums," Tufts said. "It was trial and error, every

day."

Time became an issue once they had to return to Montreal for school, so they set up a studio in the back of their Outremont apartment and worked late into the night after having spent the whole day at school. And with all the acclaim surrounding the final product, not to mention their spot on an upcoming North American tour, all that hard work seems to be paying off.

"By the time we sent it off to the mastering studio, we were still recording," Tufts said. "It was crazy. We didn't want to stop until it sounded the way that we wanted it to. There are still some things that we went into the mastering session uncomfortable about, but now they're just little endearing flaws that we've really come to love."

Braids album launch for *Native Speaker* is this Thurs., Jan. 20 at La Sala Rossa (4848 St. Laurent Blvd. Show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door. The lineup also includes Pop Winds and Long Long Long.

Galleria



LET YOURSELF GET DIRTY

JAMIE KLINGER
jamiengklinger.com

submit
your creative works to:
fringe@thelinknewspaper.com



Space Case

FASA Kicks Off Its First Lecture Series

• ASHLEY OPHEIM

Over the next few weeks, the Fine Arts Student Alliance will be hosting a lecture series that offers a discussion on identity and its relationship to the external world.

This is a new endeavour from FASA, a student association that funds small-scale projects, facilitates the creation of student clubs and provides funding for existing initiatives such as Art Matters, Café X, the Fine Arts Reading Room and the VAV Gallery.

"This is the first year of the lecture series," said Jesse Cumming, media relations coordinator for the event entitled *I Would Like To Answer Your Question, But The Truth Is I Just Don't Know*.

"What is interesting about [the lecture series] is that, contrary to what one might think, our understanding and idea for the series has gotten ever more broad and open with time, as opposed to becoming more clearly defined," said Cumming. "The more the producers discussed, the more we learned how varied and subjective conceptions of space can be."

I Would Like To Answer Your Question, But The Truth Is I Just Don't Know will explore the ways in which we are affected by the world around us. The lecture series was motivated by a collective curiosity in our interactions with space and the possibility to change or transform it.

This Friday, the series kicks off with a lecture that will deal with the "human experience." While this experience is surely as abstract as the endless space that extends beyond us, this event promises to "bring a diverse perspective into identity and its relationship to the external world," said Cumming.

What's refreshing about this lecture series is that it also offers lecturers who come from studies outside of the fine arts field.

"What is interesting about

these events is that they vary from typical academia," said Cumming. "While all speakers are extremely informed about the topics at hand, we can see the way that someone like Roadsworth takes his conceptual ideas and transplants them onto the physical world around us."

Roadsworth is one of the featured speakers who will be discussing his practice on Jan. 28 following the screening of the acclaimed NFB film *Roadsworth: Crossing the Line*.

"I think that blurring the lines between what are thought to be conventional forums for expression is an extremely enlightening and stimulating concept," noted Cumming.

This week's lecture, entitled *Semblance of Space*, will focus on urban space and its relation to the individual experience.

"[Urban space is] such an integral part of our lives, but we can sometimes overlook and forget to inquire about our surroundings as much as we maybe should," said Cumming.

The lecture will feature Erin Manning, Essam Hallak, Sha Xin Wei and Jake Moore. The panelists come from such diverse backgrounds as urban planning, philosophy and visual art.

"I think, personally, it's not necessarily that there is a need for more art space in Montreal as much as we need to realize the unseen potential of space," said Cumming. "There is no reason that an office building or store can't exist as something much more. Take, for instance, the building in the Quartier des Spectacles that has been converted into a massive screen for various projections. I think that is a great example of re-imagining what can be seen as potential urban blight and turning it into something creative and interesting."

I Would Like To Answer Your Question, But The Truth Is I Just Don't Know allows room for discussion about the potential all around us. Our schools, our com-

munities, our cities—these are spaces that we interact with on a day-to-day basis. Perhaps it's time we start rethinking their purpose and usage and begin transforming them.

Semblance of Space will take place Jan. 21 at 4:30 p.m. at the York Amphitheatre (EV 1.615). The event will be followed by a wine and cheese reception. All the events are free of charge.

don't miss:

THURS, JAN. 20, 2010

Galerie OFF Interarts will host *Diaryland Gold: A Night of Online and Paper Diary Readings*.

Since dial-up we've been archiving intimate and sometimes shameful reflections of ourselves in open online forms such as diaryland, livejournal, myspace blogs, etc.

Galerie OFF Interarts is looking to revisit the communities, personas and obsessions that grew out of paper or online diaries created before 2006. You're invited to remember your angst and live out your teenage self by reading something of your own. If you never wrote online or went ahead and deleted your writings, you're invited to come watch brave, boozy friends conjure up their memories from the early 2000s.

Galerie OFF Interarts is located at 5143 St. Laurent Blvd. Readings will begin at 7:30 p.m. and commence until 10:30 p.m. A raffle prize will be supplied by Drawn & Quarterly.



Dye It Blonde

The Smith Westerns

• GUILLAUME MORISSETTE

the last time I went to value village I bought a large black sweater with bright geometric shapes overlapping on it. the sweater is a little too big for me but I like it a lot because I feel like a seven-year old wearing it. you sound like that a little, playing instruments too big for your size. it's cute. you sound cute. before you sounded lo-fi, but then between the last album and this album someone gave you money, except not enough money, so now you sound mid-fi maybe.

but value village is not even a village, just a store, which is a disappointment. speaking of disappointments, in 'weekend,' I kept hearing "is it normal to go through life oh so normal" which I thought was a good line until I realized that the last word is actually "formal," which made the good line a dull line.

according to your lyrics, weekends are good and special girls are special. listening to you makes me want to do cute things like compare hand sizes with someone, sing in my living room using a remote control as my microphone, knit a

stuffed animal, a small octopus maybe, or put sprinkles on a cupcake and then just stare at the cupcake and hopefully delay eating the cupcake forever. another part of me wants to do something angry like screaming into a pillow then punching the pillow and whisper threats to the pillow, just to see what that feels like; doing angry things with you singing cute things in the background.

"dye it blonde," you tell me. "dye the whole world blonde." I think what you mean is that we should all be loud and ride in big vans towards our destiny and leave our mark on the world by "dyeing" it whatever colour is our colourful self. but then the word "dye" made me think of "acid dye" and I thought "acid dyeing the world," which sounded like a more interesting idea.

I feel like giving you relationship advice now. who is this girl you keep referring to? there's like ten songs on you and you use the word "love" something like thirty times and the word "heart" about fifteen times also. maybe if you had one original, genuine emotion instead of several generic, primitive emotions, that girl would like you—I think.



IN SEARCH OF A STORY: TEEN TRACKS LOVE AND A LEGEND; PLAYWRIGHT PURSUES TRUE TELLINGS

Capturing the Uncapturable

Girard's *Bigfoot* an Authentic Snapshot of Teenagehood

• ALEX MANLEY

As a child, it's easy to get caught up in tall tales, and it's often difficult to outgrow them completely. Rare is the adult who doesn't have some tired, worn out old belief he or she still cherishes—be it UFOs, or Santa, or an all-powerful and loving God.

Bigfoot, Pascal Girard's pitch-perfect second graphic novel, is a tale of one teen's search for that most legendary of creatures—a girlfriend.

Translated from the original French by Helge Dascher, *Bigfoot* tells the story of Jimmy, an average teenager living through the crumminess of small-town Quebec in the Internet era.

After his best friend Simon uploads a clip of him practicing dance moves to YouTube, Jimmy becomes an internet sensation—a sensation that rubs him entirely the wrong way, however, as he becomes simultaneously the centre of attention and the butt of jokes for seemingly everyone in his all-too-tiny town.

Jimmy's not the only one dealing with an overdose of e-fame; after his attention-hungry uncle uploads a video purporting to offer proof of Bigfoot's presence in the woods bor-

dering the town, the ludicrousness of his claim and his connection to the already-notorious Jimmy causes them to become twin laughingstocks.

While his uncle lays low, waiting for the buzz to blow over, Jimmy bravely soldiers on, joining a weekly drawing class in an attempt to win over Jolène, his crush, while Simon attempts to enlist Jimmy's aid in his constant quest to get it on.

The storylines—and Jimmy's intensifying feelings for Jolène—all converge when the three teens head to Jimmy's uncle's cabin for a weekend to scope out the woods for Big-

foot's incorporation of the 21st century into a setting and narrative that feel otherwise tried-and-true is a testament to Girard's skill at honest, simple storytelling.

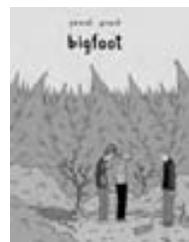
Though it's hard not to think of it as a Québécois *Napoleon Dynamite* in graphic novel form, Girard's biggest triumph in *Bigfoot* is not the realism of Jimmy's rural town but the story's investigation into being a lovelorn teenager. Perhaps a more apt comparison, then, would be to Gus van Sant's *Elephant*.

Though *Elephant* is a movie about a school shooting, in reality, it's a story using a school shooting

as a starting point from which to quietly and honestly explore the various travails of adolescence that all teens face.

Bigfoot replaces the school shooting with the process of going viral, but uses the same methodology. Both stories employ relatively straightforward fictionalizations of real, singular events—the Columbine Massacre and the “Star Wars Kid” video, respectively—in order to get at deeper underlying issues: loneliness, insecurity, budding sexuality, and fear of failure. At this, Girard is uncannily skilled; his story rings true in a way that few films or novels about teenagers seem to manage.

Luckily for us, *Bigfoot* is not as hard to find as its larger, blurrier, more mythical cousin. If you get a chance, grab a couple of friends and go hunting in the woods for this thing—you won't regret it.



Bigfoot
Pascal Girard
Drawn & Quarterly
48pp
\$20.95



GRAPHIC JOSHUA BARKMAN

'NOT A FALSE MOMENT'

Playwright Linda Griffiths Teaches Storytelling at ConU



GRAPHIC DAVID BARLOW-KRELINA

• LIZY MOSTOWSKI

Linda Griffiths is an established playwright and actor living in Toronto where she runs her own theatre company, Duchess Production. She grew up in the West Island and though she left Montreal at the age of twenty-one to pursue a career in the arts, she briefly studied at Dawson College, the National Theatre School and McGill.

Griffiths was back in town to give a master class this past Friday morning, as a part of Concordia's Writers Read Series, followed that evening by a reading at Concordia's De Sève Cinema.

Students participating in the class, which was reserved for creative writing majors, were asked, in preparation, to think about, but not write down, the first time they'd fallen in love.

After introducing herself, Griffiths split the class into pairs and asked that they exchange their stories for twenty minutes, pretending that oral storytelling was the only

means of communication available. This, Griffiths said, was to underscore the importance of how people speak when they are telling stories, noting that the students should carefully observe their partners' body language.

Griffiths then had partners tell each other's stories while imitating each other. Stories of a barefoot boyfriend drinking beer in a stolen canoe, a mother and boyfriend pretending to be together, an exchange student, travels around Europe, dreams of a beautifully aged woman, and childbirth all emerged.

"There was not a false moment," Griffiths observed, noting that all stories are based on a truth on some level.

Griffiths also delved into questions of framing, asking the students if they'd noticed their partners emphasizing or cutting out details that they themselves might not have—in essence, how they'd edited their stories.

Continuing in this vein, Griffiths emphasized the importance of

memory and subjectivity in storytelling. As a story is passed, though it may gain or lose details, the essence will remain. Similarly, a listener's perception of a story is much like a reader's perception of a story—each one will take away a unique, if largely similar, version of the original. Griffiths furthermore noted the simple, basic language that was used to great impact by the storytellers in the class, saying that this unembellished language represented the story in its truest form.

Griffiths added that by working on your feet, you can feel “where the heat is.” This exercise, where the class's stories were cut down and honed by the group, revealed the real pulse within them. Methods of getting to this pulse were also explored through these monologues.

Griffiths revealed a new perspective to creative writing focused on pure telling rather than embellishment and layering, which seems rather like an ancient method—pure oral storytelling.

ALUM WRIT: The Drunken Sky

• JILLIAN BOYD

Unable to properly close the window of the cabin
I imagine the big bruised sky

drunk or in a terror rushing in
rushing in to tell me all about

the clouds it had been that day,
nimbus and cumulus formations,

how it felt to turn from dusty blue
to azure to dark gray

all in an instant, the turn of a thought,
drinking all day and

drunk or in a terror, rains down on me,
a harsh look, making comments about how

its life, the sky's life,
all huge and distilled,

an arrow,
can pierce my life in an instant.

The sky, all drunk with terror,
or just drunk rushes in,

rushes into my cabin
the window faulty on its hinges,

rattles from the sky's sighing,
rattles in the night.

Jillian Boyd graduated from Concordia Spring 2010 with Joint Honors in English and Creative writing.



GRAPHIC ALEX MANLEY

Lit Events

Atwater Library Poetry Project Readings

Featuring Poets Chris
Hutchinson and Sheri-D
Wilson; Co-ordinated by
Katia Grubisic

JAN. 20
7:00 P.M. ONWARDS
ATWATER LIBRARY
1200 ATWATER ST.
FREE ADMISSION

George Wall Shakespeare Lecture Session

Montreal Scholar and
Critic to Cover *Richard II*
as Part of the English
Histories

JAN. 19
7:00 P.M. ONWARDS
ATWATER LIBRARY
1200 ATWATER ST.
ENTRANCE \$20 (VALID
STUDENT ID REQUIRED)

Writer Kent Stetson 'Dialogues' With Dr. Norman Cornett

Canadian Playwright Has
Governor General's
Award, Order of Canada
to His Name

JAN. 22
12:00 P.M. TO 2:00 P.M.
GALERIE SAMUEL LALLOUZ
1434 SHERBROOKE ST. W.
ENTRANCE \$20 (VALID
STUDENT ID REQUIRED)



No End in Sight?

AFGHANISTAN SPECIAL ISSUE

Help *The Link* plan our look at Canada's longest war.

Jan. 24, 2010, 4:00 p.m. at H-649

HOCKEY



Stingers forward Emilie Bocchia (26) scored the winning goal in Con U's shootout victory over Carleton on Sunday. PHOTO ESTHER BERNARD

Scoreboard



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

L 61-72 @ McGill **thu**

W 57-51 v Bishop's **sat**

MEN'S HOCKEY

L 5-6 @ UQTR **wed**

L 2-3 v Carleton **sat**

W 5-3 @ Ottawa **sun**

MEN'S BASKETBALL

L 64-70 @ McGill **thu**

W 86-81 v Bishop's **sat**

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

W 4-3 @ Montréal **fri**

W 3-2 v Carleton **sun**

Schedule

MEN'S BASKETBALL

v. McGill
6:00 p.m. FRIDAY, JAN. 21

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

v. McGill
8:00 p.m. FRIDAY, JAN. 21

MEN'S HOCKEY

v. UQTR
8:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY, JAN. 19
@ Carleton
7:00 p.m. FRIDAY, JAN. 21

v. Ottawa
3:00 p.m. SUNDAY, JAN. 23

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

@ Montreal
7:00 p.m. FRIDAY, JAN. 21
v. Ottawa
2:30 p.m. SATURDAY, JAN. 22

Do YOU Want to Write For Sports? Cover Games? Take Photos? Be Part of *The Link's* Editorial Board? Send an e-mail to sports@thelinknewspaper.ca for more details!

Of Coaches and Coronaries

Being a Varsity Sports Head Coach has a Dark Side



The challenges of coaching extends far beyond the courts. PHOTO ALEX SMYTH

• JAEHOON KIM, THE FULCRUM

OTTAWA (CUP)—Former University of Florida Gators football head coach Urban Meyer had a 103–23 career record in the NCAA, winning two national championships by using a variation of the spread offence to perfection.

Yet, after the 2010 season, the 46-year-old decided to leave the profession for good, citing health concerns and a need to be with his family.

At the University of Ottawa, a similar situation occurred this past February when Denis Piché, the head coach of the Gee-Gees football team, abruptly resigned from his position.

Piché wanted to spend more time with his family—something that his job didn't allow him many opportunities to do.

"The reality is that the job demands over 3,500 hours per year and 16–17 hours per day during the regular season," he told *The Fulcrum*. "And when the team isn't practising or playing, we're visiting schools across the country, talking to recruits and going to the combines at night. It's not the easiest setup."

So, how stressful is it to be a head coach of a varsity sports team? *The Fulcrum* surveyed current coaches on campus in hopes of accurately answering this question.

Long, Long Hours

It's no secret that coaching is not a typical nine-to-five job. Meyer even

called it a "24/7 profession."

It turns out that the former Florida football coach wasn't exaggerating by much.

"Several years ago, at the request of my wife, I logged my hours for a week during the season, and a week during the off-season. The numbers surprised me," Gee-Gees women's soccer head coach Steve Johnson wrote via e-mail.

"I knew that I put a lot of time into the program, but I was still shocked to see how much time I was devoting to the job: 63 hours in-season [and] 38 hours [during the offseason per week]."

Johnson's colleagues were all in a similar boat; swim team coach Derrick Schoof and track-and-field coach Andy McInnis recounted past experiences when they worked over 80 hours in just a single week. But what exactly contributes to these long hours?

"[I work] in-season approximately 55 to 60 hours [per week]," Gee-Gees' men's hockey head coach Dave Leger explained. "This includes every aspect that impacts the men's hockey program from fundraising, recruiting, planning, alumni relations, video preparation, practice and game preparation, game travel and human resource management."

Winning Isn't Everything

Every season, Meyer was under constant scrutiny from the media and the Florida supporters to deliver a winning product. This is typical be-

haviour at large American schools where coaches have superstar status and jaw-dropping contracts—Meyer was getting paid \$4 million a year to be the head coach of the Gators.

But the story at Canadian Interuniversity Sport schools is much different. In a league where the top head coaches barely earn six-figures per season, winning is important, but it doesn't mean everything.

"When I first started, [I] worried too much about winning and losing, [but] now the stress is more about time commitment to recruiting and finding the money to run a top-level program," said Ottawa women's volleyball coach Lionel Woods.

"I still evaluate [my performance] based on winning and losing, but I factor much more into it now: recruiting, academic and life success of players, alumni connection and community impact."

Only two of the coaches surveyed listed the pressure to deliver championships as one of their main sources of stress. Instead, other factors—especially financial issues related to fundraising—seemed to be much more important to CIS coaches.

This isn't exactly surprising when considering the differences between the CIS and the American college sporting world.

"The financial remuneration is reflective of the demands in major Division I sports [in the U.S.] and [is often] more than most Canadian sport institutional expenses and revenues combined," McInnis said.

To quit or not to quit?

Most of the Gee-Gees head coaches admitted that coaching is a high-stress profession. Many sympathized with Meyer's predicament and the circumstances that led him to retire at the age of 46.

"I have [also] experienced burnout several times in my career and have had to step back and re-energize. Although there is no perfect time to step back, it is better to recognize it earlier and [to] make the adjustments to cope with the situation," said Johnson.

"It is a difficult challenge at times, to realize a true balance between work and family—I am married and have two [young] daughters. It is tough to always be walking out the door at night or on the weekends, but I am blessed with a very supportive wife," Leger added.

Still, Johnson and Leger both said they don't regret becoming coaches, despite the long hours and high levels of stress that come with the job.

"I made the decision a long time ago to be dedicated to the game of hockey and I will always look to remain in the game in some capacity," said Leger.

"I enjoy coaching. I have certainly committed much of my life [to] this profession, but the skill-set I have developed fits in neatly with my other job as a teacher in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board," Johnson said.

Being a varsity head coach is tough work, but for fans of the Gee-Gees, they need not worry; it doesn't appear likely that any of the current Ottawa coaches will resign due to stress-related issues any time soon.



Giffords Shot in Arizona

Politician Injured By Young Man, Sensationalized By Media

• CHRISTINA BELL

On Jan. 8, Jared Lee Loughner opened fire into a crowded street corner in Tucson, Arizona. He killed six people and injured thirteen others.

Amongst the injured was Gabrielle Giffords, who was no doubt the attacker's main target. Giffords, a centrist Democratic congresswoman, had sent out an invitation to the people of Tucson to meet her at a parking lot of a grocery store. This was an attempt to form a relationship with the people she represented—an invitation that turned sour.

For those who have not been following the story, Jared Lee Loughner is a 22-year-old man living in Arizona. He had been kicked out of school and denied entry to the military based on his suspected unstable mental state.

This man exercised his right to walk into a store in Tucson and spend upwards of \$500 on a 9 mm semi-automatic pistol. Loughner was then legally able to carry this

loaded weapon to the crime scene and shoot 19 people.

These facts have lent themselves to a media frenzy. Journalists and politicians alike are racing to spin the tragedy into a stage for debate on what politicians should do and what Americans should fear.

Former classmates described Loughner as "terrifying." He displayed behaviours that are typical of others who have committed similarly horrifying crimes in the past.

Loughner's actions left a shocked country scrambling for answers. Unfortunately when tragedy finds itself tied to politics, politicians seize the opportunity to attack their political opponents. Instead of focusing on mental health issues, which Jared Loughner likely suffers from, or gun laws in states like Arizona, which seem fatally flawed, political personalities and journalists have wasted no time slinging out insults to individuals they believe are to blame.

In reality, isolated events like the shooting in Tucson are hard to prevent and even harder to predict.

Even though the attacker had extreme political views, an obviously angered personality and access to the means to commit his crime, the tragedy should be recognized as an unlikely event and nothing more.

By acknowledging Jared Loughner's actions as more than just a violent crime, the media gives Loughner undeserved glory. Newspapers and websites are plastered with pictures and facts about Jared Loughner, which provides him with a certain amount of infamy.

In addition, politicians are offered a platform for instilling fear into American citizens. When a population is struck with fear-induced vulnerability, it is no doubt that politicians have the capability to sell empty promises and undermine their opponents in ways that are greatly amplified.

Unless someone is going to offer an opinion on how to prevent this kind of event from happening in the future, the media should refrain from turning Loughner's actions



GRAPHIC DAVID BARLOW-KRELINA

into a bloody soap opera. Perhaps people would be less inclined to commit these types of crimes if the media made a point of keeping the killer faceless and nameless. Until then, victims of the crime should be

memorialized and facts regarding the event should be presented. But be wary of any conclusions that are drawn from manipulating the facts of a tragic event.

CSU-Admin Relationship History Explains Current Conflict

• TERRINE FRIDAY

If the Concordia Student Union's relationship with the Board of Governors is complicated, to say the least.

Though the student movement has ebbed in the past decade, students are still drawn to Concordia to take part in a unique culture that promotes activism and critical thinking, which conflicts with Concordia's quest for an identity that never existed.

Since the university's inauguration in 1974, the infamous Netanyahu Riots became the dark stain on the university's reputation that, with a push from the university, later led to a more amicable CSU/admin cooperation over the following five years. Communication between the two parties broke down in 2008—which coincided with the fall of the 2003-2008 CSU dynasty.

Until the end of the 2009-10 CSU mandate, the CSU were snug under the administration's wing, with favourable conditions for students and administrators alike. We can deduce that their relationship turned sour just shy of 2011, well

into the second year of status quo.

In a letter to *The Gazette* published Jan. 14, Amine Dabchy, former CSU president and current Board of Governors member and assistant to Advancement and Alumni Relations, calls the newspaper's spot-on news reports and analyses "unfair and biased" in lieu of proposing a viable defence. He confirms the student administration's discontent with the ousted Judith Woodsworth and cites a number of "flagrant examples" of her lack of leadership.

There are two glaring problems with this accusation: first, the student union has had a year-and-a-half-long honeymoon with the administration since The New CSU stepped in. Secondly, to suggest Woodsworth was fired because the CSU presented their worries to the Board is nothing short of wishful thinking. The Board has ignored or denounced every major recommendation or public protest the CSU has sponsored since post-Netanyahu policy revision. Perhaps a select few students' impressions echoed the Board's preexisting dissent and thus supported a swift Woodsworth exit. Yes,

Woodsworth did state in an interview with *The Link* in Oct. 27, 2009 that she supported an "American model" for tuition. This would not lead to her demise on a board largely made up of business executives and the affluent. Dabchy is right about one thing: the board's strategic plan did look like fluff with few concrete execution plans, if any.

Non-academic associations have vocalized their support in the Board's decision. In reality, past and present Concordians are losing confidence in a board that has had a revolving door of (acting) presidents over the past five years. Their judgment is understandably questioned, considering Woodsworth was the sole candidate the Board's selection committee presented to the Concordia community.

The academic community, ever on the fringe of university decision-making, was elated that the board had poached former faculty who could bridge the faculty-admin divide and patch old wounds, suggesting a *sui generis* component to the president's portfolio. Even to students, Woodsworth was the only accessible (acting) university

president in the past five years. As BoG Chair Peter Kruyt attested to, Woodsworth was fiscally prudent and worked in the best interest of the students, both telling characteristics. It is with this reasoning that we are puzzled as to why a touted leader would be let go so miserably.

In a statement released last week, Kruyt stated that the Board defended the university's position "to do what is best for Concordia." Is this what is best for Concordia as an academic institution? Because these interests are not one and the same.

Concordia's biggest challenge for the next 10 years will not be containing student advocacy or protest, but trying to rebuild the ivory tower with ailing pillars—a job Woodsworth was tasked with fresh after the Lajeunesse fail.

I'm proud to be a Concordia alumna and want to see my university flourish. I can only hope the university's most promising populace, its pupils, are not lost in the shuffle.

Terrine Friday is a former Editor-in-Chief of *The Link*.

Concordia's biggest challenge for the next 10 years will not be containing student advocacy or protest, but trying to rebuild the ivory tower with ailing pillars.

SEPARATION OF CHURCH & CRIB



GRAPHIC MYRIAM ARSENAULT

This June, the only publicly subsidized daycares in Quebec will be secular. Will this teach children to adopt more diversity, or will it only marginalize religious families?

Teaching Religion Not Up To Government

• NATASHA YOUNG

It should be obvious why the Quebec government wants to ban religious teaching in all publicly subsidized daycares and schools. In a country as diverse as Canada and in the ever-increasingly diverse province of Quebec, it is absurd for the government to sponsor any form of religious indoctrination.

Last time I checked, getting paid by the government to indoctrinate children has nothing to do with one's religious rights.

But this decision, announced by Quebec Family Minister Yolande James in December, was not as obvious to some. According to an article in *The Globe and Mail* on the matter, there have been various complaints on the grounds that the new policy violates peoples' religious rights.

This policy does not stop anybody from teaching religion in daycares; the only thing this policy changes is the eligibility of these daycares to receive public funding. The last time I checked, getting paid by the government to indoctrinate children has nothing to do with one's religious rights.

Beyond the undeniable legal validity of this decision, it should be common sense that in the Western world public dollars should not fund religious teaching, especially to children as young as toddlers.

There is certainly nothing wrong with teaching children about different cultures and religions of the world in an effort to promote tolerance and enlightenment, but

this must be dealt with seriously and conscientiously before a certain age. Young children can't be expected to have the sufficient critical thinking and decision-making skills with which to evaluate information given to them by authority figures in their lives.

In any case, establishing a dialogue about religion so early in a child's life ought to be left up to the parents. There is simply too big a risk of early educators confusing children with loaded language based on their own religious beliefs and biases.

If a family wants to give their child a religious education, that is a personal decision that begins in the home and in their respective religious community. And furthermore, parents who do not elect to raise their child in any religion should not be placed in the awkward position of having to undo the damage when their children get home from daycare wondering why mommy and daddy don't take them to church.

Most importantly, allowing indoctrination into public daycares is bound to lead to an element of alienation for those children who are not a part of the religion being instructed.

It is difficult enough being different from other children—be it a non-religious child amongst religious children or a religiously-raised child amongst children of a different faith—without having the teacher express bias in favour of some and against others on top of it.

Especially in the earliest stages of education, establishing a safe, inclusive environment for all students is essential, and that simply cannot be done when such biases are introduced into the classroom. Those complaining would do well to take this opportunity to instruct children on tolerance and critical thinking in a world that seems, far too often, to lack both.

Ban Leaves the Religious Hanging

• SHEREEN AHMED RAFAA

Should we sing "Silent Night" in our school play? Can we tell the children stories about Eid al-Adha? Are we allowed to teach them about the Sabbath?

The government is answering no to all these questions. This June, public daycares in Quebec are banned from giving religious instruction to young students.

The new law states that any religious education or school plays, arts and crafts, prayers, and songs involving religion are no longer permitted. If everyone has a right to their beliefs, why is the government marginalizing religious families?

The decision will not outlaw religion from private intuitions, but religious families will now have to pay substantially more for daycares that allow religious teachings.

Parents currently pay \$7 a day for public daycare. On the other hand, the cost for unsubsidized private daycares, such as the YMCA's, can go as high as \$38. Regardless of the fact that daycares with a religious focus will still exist, the difference in tuition would be too much of a financial burden for some parents. Religious families, who will send their kids to private daycare, can end up paying up to \$744 extra a month.

This is basically what the new ban is countering; now we don't have a say in what our kids learn. The enforcing of secularism brings the government into what should be a family decision. Parents who send their kids to religious daycares are well aware of what they are taught.

The fact that they sent them there in the first place means this is what they chose. Otherwise they would have sent them to a regular daycare. Parents want their kids to be exposed to their religion from a very young age. If you are a dedicated Catholic

or Muslim family, you too would probably prefer if your children knew who Jesus or Allah is.

The core of religious teaching in daycares emphasize spirituality and strong ethics. What dangers could hymns or poems pose to a child? We should encourage diversity in the next generations, not try to suppress it.

An article in *The Montreal Gazette* stated Family Minister Yolande James trying to fully explain the new rule, saying the ban prevents teaching a belief of a religion, but doesn't ban traditional activities and symbols, like Christmas trees.

Though James was shooting for clarity, the statement is still confusing. Does this mean that daycare workers are permitted to bring a Christmas tree in the classroom, but they cannot tell the children why it's there in the first place? If the children ask what Christmas is, should they reply, "ask your mommy?"

Another article in *The Globe and Mail* states, "Quebec says it has the right to have a say about programs in daycares subsidized by the state."

There is a big difference between having a say in something and having power over it. Quebec did not suggest secularizing day care, it enforced it.

Low-income families who cannot afford private education should have a right to choose their child's education. To issue a statement that says, "we are banning religious instructions in daycares, but are keeping the private ones" grossly ignores the numbers that actually exist. In Quebec, there are 100 daycares with a religious focus—public and private. If we were to eliminate the public ones, there will not be enough private schools left, even for the parents who can afford them.

So what is the government trying to say—that religious people don't have a say?



The only guilty parties in this case were those who **vandalized** the names of the deceased





ART IN DANGER

PHOTOS ERIN SPARKS

Graffiti Culture Haunted by Death of Three Teens

• MAT BARROT

Graffiti had nothing to do with the deaths of Mitchel Bracken-Guenet, Dylan Ford and Ricardo Conesa, but that's not what the media and Montreal police say.

The facts known were simple: three teens died along the train tracks under the Turcot interchange last September. The media and police would not stop repeating that the youths died because of graffiti—an understanding that had little support from evidence.

The police only confirmed that cans of spray paint were found at the scene of the accident. This was the basis for saying that the teens were there for 'unlawful' reasons.

"One thing you are always sure to find along tracks running through the city is empty cans," said local artist Res, who frequently walks the tracks to look at new art displayed across the various walls. "You find some burner with a hot pink fill and a can of the exact hot pink color somewhere on the ground nearby."

When asked, police responded that they did not know if paint cans were near the track prior to the accident. They did confirm that spray

paint cans were visible in the trunk of the car that the teens drove to the location.

"You need a surface to paint," said graffiti expert, and founder of Under Pressure, Sterling Downey. "When train tracks are laid near walls or buildings, the companies take wind and sway into account. There is always a safety zone between the walls and the tracks, you can't just stand on a train track and write graffiti. [...] How can you write if your paint's in the car? They couldn't have been painting when they got hit."

The Via Rail train that hit the three teens was three hours late arriving in Montreal due to an accident involving a GO Transit train fatally striking a 49-year-old man near Toronto.

"No one seemed to question that accident," said Downey. "But because two of the kids were known as graffiti artists they were bastardized by the media."

"It was really sad to see how much the media used the term 'graffiti artist' as a derogatory identifier to vilify them rather than mourn the tragic event," said Res. "It was as though the message was 'they could have been good kids, but the graffiti took them, is this happening to your kids right now?'"

"Graffiti has always been an easy target for the media for its subculture and its tendency toward illegality," said subculture analyst and writer Karyn Grey. "It's a shame that the accidental deaths of these men have become yet another bullet-point in the case against it."

With the case closed by the police and Via Rail refusing to investigate the accident, no answers are likely to surface on the real issue of what could have been done to prevent this tragedy.

"The fact of the matter is that this was a terrible and devastating accident," said Grey. "Accidents happen, no matter how careful we are. Graffiti had little to do with this, and for people to declare that that was the cause accomplishes nothing except to sour the memory of these men, contribute to the misunderstanding of graffiti culture and turn what should have been a time of mourning and remembrance into a basis for debate and controversy."

The only guilty parties in this case were those who vandalized the names of the deceased in order to tell the story. If logic and fair media had prevailed, maybe the friends and families of the teens would be allotted more closure, and the true story could be known.



Nah'msayin?

Shyamalan in San Fernando Valley

Hey M. Night Shyamalan, I just thought of the perfect career shift for you.

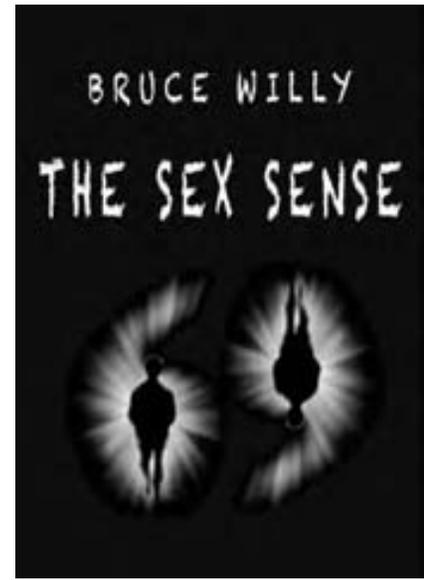
I'll give you a hint, it's writing and directing hardcore pornography. Sure, it doesn't have the cachet of a major studio production but let's face it, that ship has sailed.

Think of the possibilities: man and woman meet at a bar, have a few drinks, go back to his apartment and get down to business. After a riveting, tastefully shot, sex scene you throw the audience the old M. Night curveball. Guess what audience, the people you just watched do it were brother and sister. Booyah!

How bout this one? Man shows up to this woman's apartment to fix her cable. Somehow her top just kind of falls off and then they start doing it right there. Once again the scene is a memorable and super erotic piece of cinema. And then just when you think everything is cool, it turns out the woman has been dead for years. WHAT? You just got served a steaming plate of Shyamalan surprise bitches!

I'm just saying think about it. Really, think about it.

—Buck Nasty

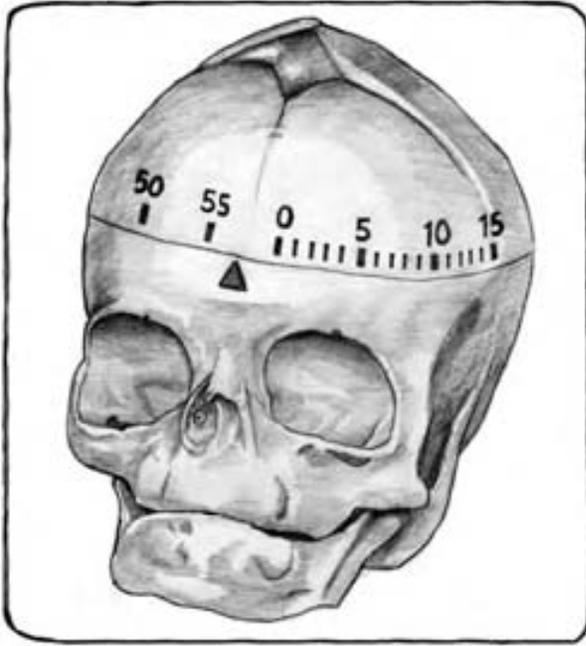


GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

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

Tremendous Tales

by Christopher Olson



Though their lifespan could be measured in the time it takes to sing "Blue Suede Shoes," the people of Ceti IV had lives rich with laughter, tragedy, and seconds permitting, even triumph.

TIRED OF READING

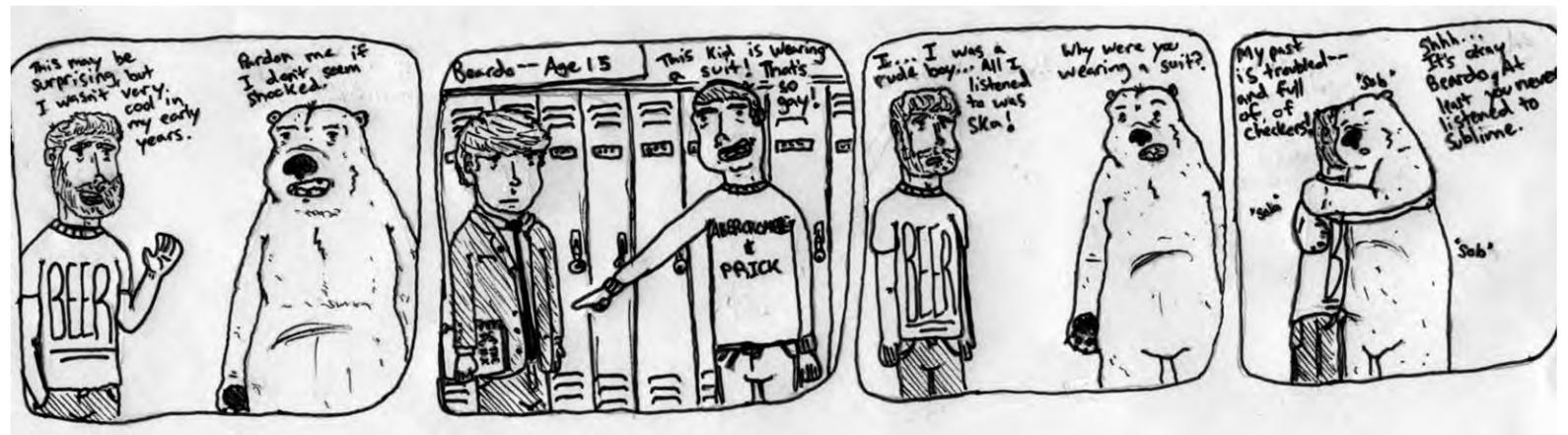
Angst

BY LIZ LEE



Beardo and the Bear

BY MATT MAROTTI



Last Ditch Effort

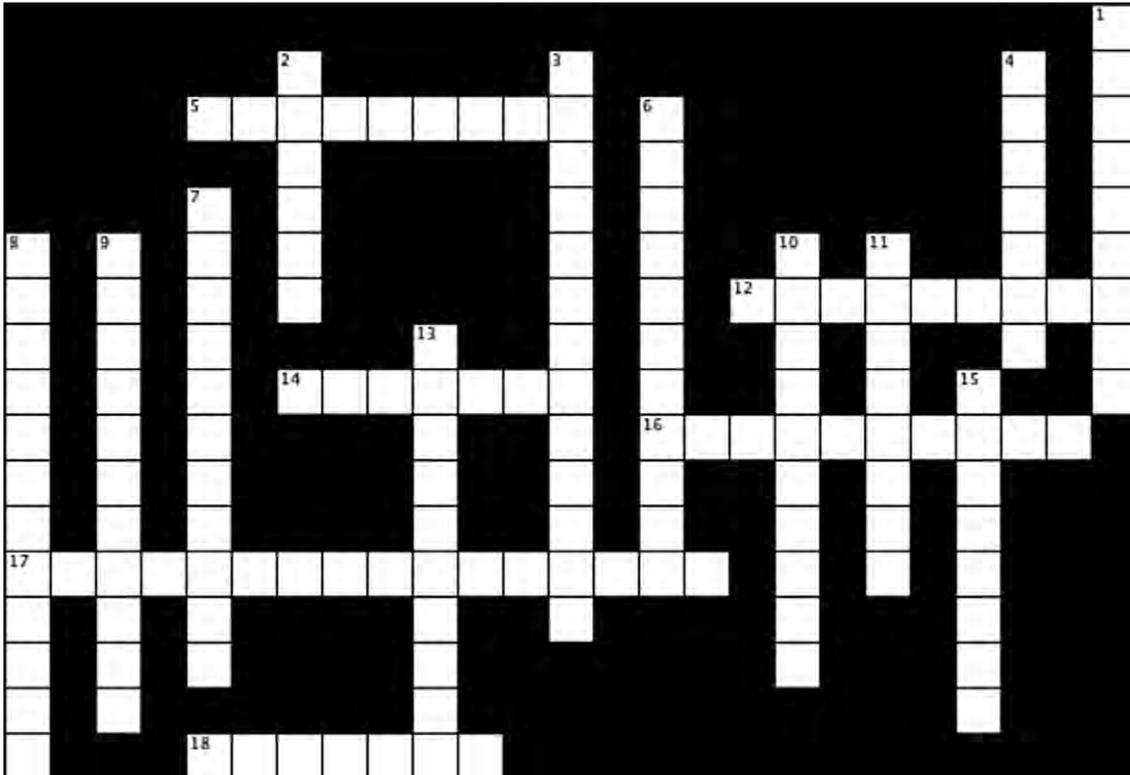
BY JOHN KROES



Quik-X

“Famous Disasters”

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON



Across

- 5. The States may have been the first to splice the atom, but leave it to the Ukrainians to have the first meltdown.
- 12. Whether it was a disaster or not depends on whether you were on the winning side. What isn't debatable is that the destruction of this city brought an end to the war.
- 14. So Kanye West was the worst moment of George W. Bush's presidency? What about when he lost a whole fucking city to bad weather?
- 16. An earthquake's dinky little brother. Always shows up late for the "party," by which I mean disaster.
- 17. Once the symbol of American commerce and trade, its name now stands for the greatest disaster to occur on American soil. Also, it was totally foreshadowed by an episode of *The Lone*

Down

- 1. A disaster for U.S. foreign policy is Julian Assange's gain.
- 2. Extinction events can come in many forms, but sometimes it comes in the form of a giant blazing ball of fire.
- 3. Just because it snowed last night doesn't mean Al Gore was wrong.
- 4. First two hours: schmaltzy love scenes and rote romance. Last hour: lots and lots of water.
- 6. One of the deadliest plagues in human history. Nothing funny about that at all.
- 7. Even before British Petroleum shit the bed in the Gulf, oil companies have been causing environmental disasters at sea. This

- previous record holder is probably thankful to have lost its crown.
- 8. The greatest disaster movie of all time... No, not *The Day After Tomorrow*. That was Roland Emmerich's previous film. (Spell it out)
- 9. Before the Allies brought the war to Germany, the Japanese brought the war to Hawaii.
- 10. It turns out that piloting a large ball of flammable gas isn't a very safe way to travel.
- 11. When God gives you lemons, make a giant boat containing two of every animal.
- 13. Back in 1998, people were able to suspend their disbelief long enough to believe that a group of rowdy deep-core drillers could save the Earth from an asteroid impact with just a fortnight of training.
- 15. You could say he's the godfather of disaster movie monsters. Except when he fought off that alien invasion. In that one he was the good guy.

editorial

Time For Some Soul Searching

With the exception of Concordia's Alumni Association and a handful of other student representatives, the entire Concordia community condemned the process by which our former president has been dismissed.

And yet, relations on our student council remain strained after an intense Concordia Student Union meeting divided the room.

Now, us students are left scratching our heads wondering what's next, since the board of governors' decision had been too abrupt to anticipate, and our council is at odds as to what to do about it.

On one side of the debate, CSU Councillor Ethan Cox demanded a full overhaul of the community-at-large board members, insisting that all 23 of them step down from their positions. He later settled for forcing the members whose mandates have expired to resign. But, in the event that these 13 community-at-large members of the board actually do step down, who's going to take their place? Is it going to be the Concordia community or the corporate community that will have a say in who occupies those seats?

On the other side, student representative of the board Amine Dabchy openly condoned Woodsworth's firing. He viewed her departure as being necessary due to her divisive leadership style that led to the resignation of some of the longest serving and most effective senior administrators, including former VP Advancement and Alumni Relations Kathy Assayag—who was historically Concordia's most effective fundraiser—and VP Services Michael Di Grappa—a main player in the vision of modern Concordia.

Woodsworth's testimony before Quebec's Labour Board further tarnished Concordia's reputation, he argued.

Dabchy also claimed that the BoG fired Woodsworth because of her advocacy of American-style tuition—but that's a pretty tough pill to swallow for the Concordia population. Are we really to believe that the president lost the confidence of a group of leading business elites because she wanted the school to make more money?

The only difference between both parties' arguments is that one is demanding a sudden decision be made, while the other has already made one.

Some members of council feel that Dabchy has not acted in the best interest of students. CSU Councillor Lex Gill said she felt that Dabchy was meant to “represent students to the Board, but is representing the Board to students.”

Dabchy is in an awkward political position, since being employed by the university's administration while also trying to represent students makes it hard to choose a side—and is technically a conflict of interest.

In addition, if Dabchy really did support the ouster of Woodsworth on behalf of students as he claims, where did he find this consensus of students that wanted her out?

No formal poll or vote had been taken in the general student population. Surely some leaders of student groups might have been along for the ride, but this hardly qualifies as general student support for the Board's decision.

Both the BoG and the CSU are saying they want reform, but with no real resolution at hand, the CSU must find a solution to their division on council and come forward with a common purpose.

Council's conflicted state only means students don't have proper representation with the Board.

Council and Dabchy should mend their slowly severing ties and do what they've been hired to do: adequately represent students.

—Clay Hemmerich,
Opinions Editor

issue 18 crossword solutions





CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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

Material appearing in *The Link* may not be reproduced without prior written permission from *The Link*. Letters to the editor are welcome. All letters 400 words or less will be printed, space permitting. The letters deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. *The Link* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length and refuse those deemed racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, libellous, or otherwise contrary to *The Link's* statement of principles.

Board of Directors 2010-2011: Matthew Gore, Matthew Brett, Jake Stevens, Clare Raspopow, Mathieu Biard, Dale Corley, Les Honywell; non-voting members: Rachel Boucher, Justin Giovannetti.

Typesetting by *The Link*. Printing by Transcontinental.

THIS WEEK'S CONTRIBUTORS

Myriam Arsenault, Joshua Barkman, Matt Barrot, Esther Bernard, Christina Bell, Jillian Boyd, Alex Di Pietro, Jamie Klinger, Laura Kneal, John Kroes, Liz Lee, Vivien Leung, Simon Liem, Matt Marrotti, Guillaume Morissette, Liz Mostowski, Terrine Friday, Christopher Olson, Shereen Ahmed Rafea, Julian Ward, Meagan Wohlberg, Natasha Young

cover by Erin Sparks

Volume 31, Issue 19
Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Concordia University
Hall Building, Room H-649
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8

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

editor-in-chief
JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

news editor
CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

features editor
ADAM KOVAC

fringe arts editor
ASHLEY OPHEIM

literary arts editor
ALEX MANLEY

sports editor
OPEN

opinions editor
CLAY HEMMERICH

copy editor
DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

student press liaison
OPEN

interim photo editor
ERIN SPARKS

graphics editor
DAVID BARLOW-KRELINA

managing editor
LAURA BEESTON

layout manager
JULIA WOLFE

online editor
JULIA JONES

webmaster
HUSSEIN RIDA

business manager
RACHEL BOUCHER

ad designer
ADAM NORRIS

distribution
ROBERT DESMARAIS
DAVID KAUFMANN