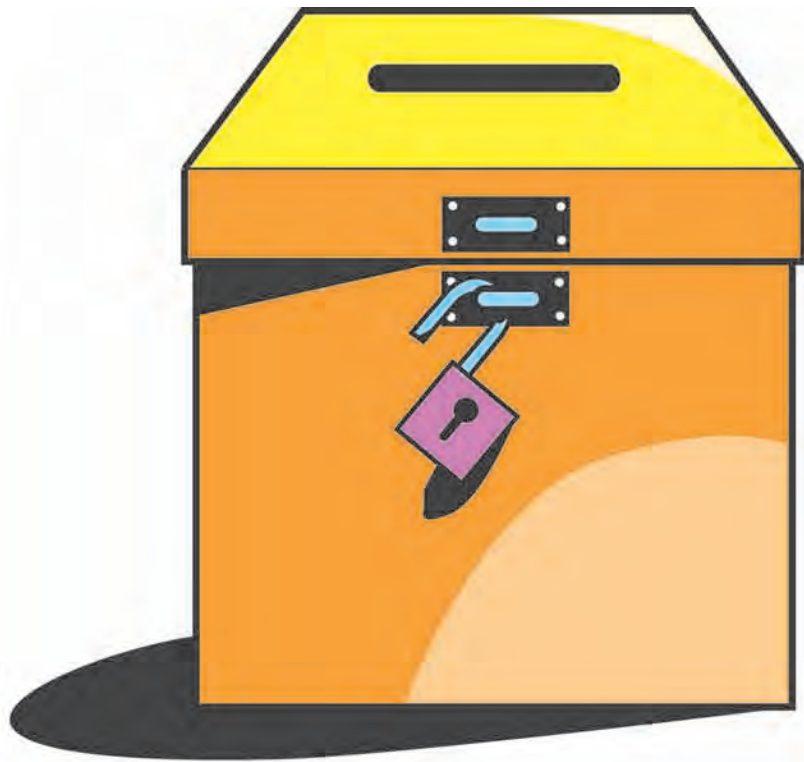
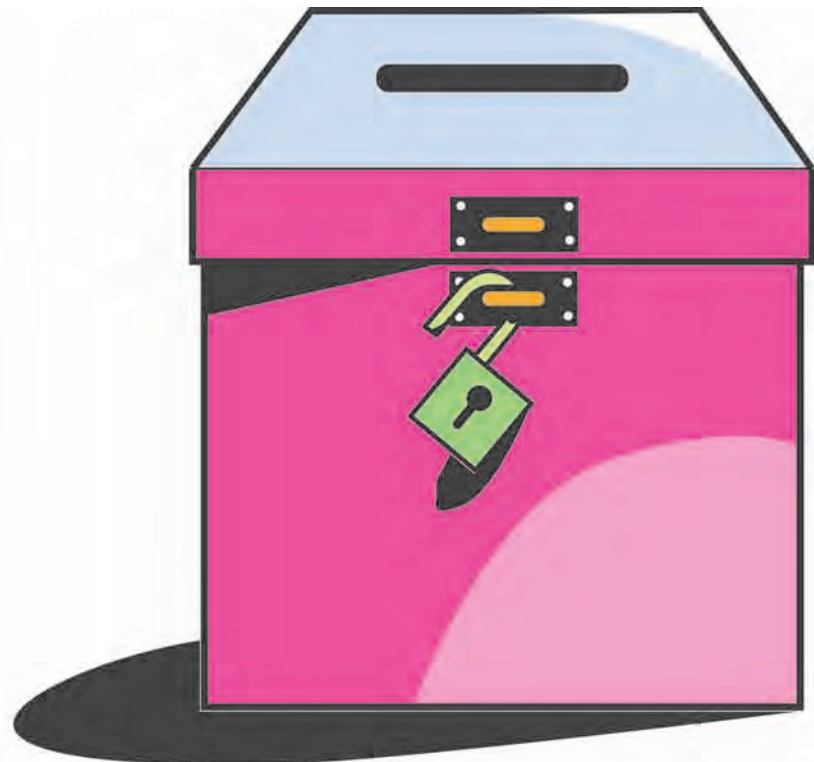


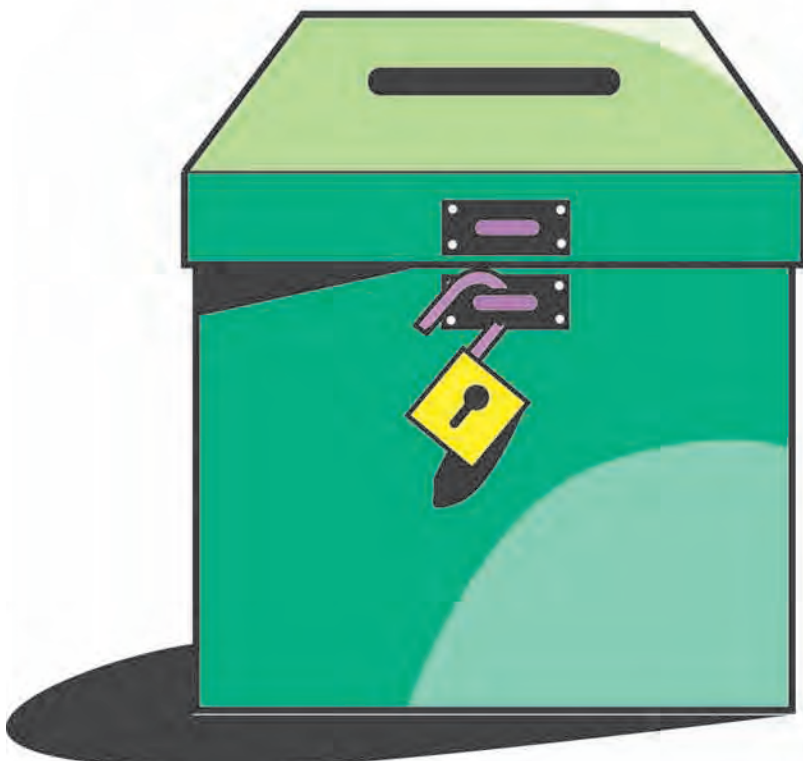
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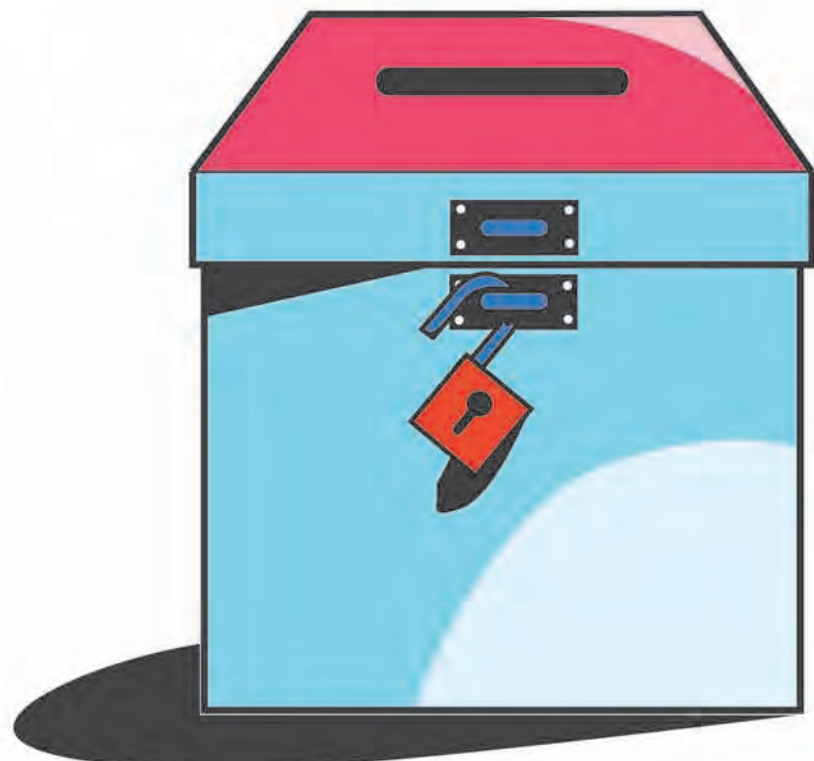
**Cinema Politica squeaks
by with 22 votes**



Bye bye CFS



Frigo Vert voted down



No to Student centre

Discover the wilds of Accordia • Special insert



Purple, anyone? Fusion claims it is not part of any Vision dynasty, pulling candidates from the left and right of Concordia politics. But so did Vision. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Prince is president

Purple reign as Fusion sweeps student government

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Three days after taking the Concordia Student Union election, members of the Fusion slate were still wearing purple.

“A force of habit,” said VP Clubs and Outreach-elect Ramy Khoriaty.

The newly-elected candidates campaigned together for weeks, often forgoing sleep, papers, classes and postponing exams to earn a spot in student government. They had planned on celebrating after the polls closed on March 25 and possibly sleeping in the next morning. But a gas leak outside the CJ building on the Loyola Campus put a wrench in their plans. The leak forced an emergency campus-wide evacuation and extended voting for

another day.

“Thursday, when I found out that the election was going to be continuing into Friday, I almost cried,” said Morgan Pudwell, VP Sustainability and Promotions-elect. “I was so ready to sleep.”

“We thought we were done on Thursday at eight,” said VP Finance-elect Heather Lucas. “But we got the news that ‘Oh, by the way there’s gonna be voting from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Loyola and you have to be there at eight in the morning.’ It was a challenge to be motivated.”

After all the ballots were counted, Fusion had nearly triple the votes of their Community rival. Only one of Fusion’s 40 candidates, arts and science Council hopeful Marvin Coleby, failed in his bid for election.

Although Community is sparsely represented in student government, Joel Suss and Michaela Manson will represent the slate as arts and science councillors while Ethan Cox will sit as an independent.

“We look forward to working with [Suss and Manson],” said CSU president-elect Prince Ralph Osei. “We’re glad they’ll be representing the opposition because now it isn’t about Fusion and Community anymore. It’s about Concordia students.”

As Fusion’s executive looks forward to beginning their mandate this June, a number of challenges loom. Students voted overwhelmingly in favour of defederating from the Canadian Federation of Students—a national lobby group

that has clashed with the CSU and a dozen other student unions across Canada this year—but the real fight for defederation will likely take place over months in a courtroom.

“We just have to lawyer up,” said Osei.

“It’s not a question of if they’re going to sue us,” said Adrian Severyns, VP External and Projects-elect. “It’s a question of when and how.”

“The sad part is we will still be paying the CFS \$300,000 of student money,” said Osei, since the organization requests fee payment for a year following discontinued membership. “And [the CFS] won’t do anything to earn that money.”

With Quebec’s university tuition fees likely to rise with the announce-

ment of today’s provincial budget, Fusion will also have to make good on their promise to fight increases.

“If we need to get buses out to Quebec City and protest [higher tuition] we will,” said Osei. “If we need to [stage a student] strike, we’ll join other universities and strike. Obviously we’ll have to get authorization from CSU Council to do that but we will if it comes to it.”

The CSU may be fighting an uphill battle on that front, as only 10 per cent of Concordia students bothered to vote in this year’s election.

“When it starts to hurt students financially they’ll act,” said Khoriaty.

“But it’s more than just money,” added Pudwell. “It’s a principle. If you students can’t afford to go to school, why have universities at all?”



Loyola campus was evacuated during a gas leak. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Loyola nearly blows up

Students chill in sun, drink beer

• RILEY SPARKS

About 400 students and staff were forced to evacuate Concordia’s Loyola campus on March 25 when an accident in the construction site next to the CJ building caused a massive gas leak.

The leak started when the construction crew working on the new Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics at the corner of Sherbrooke Street West and West Broadway Street

punched a hole in an underground natural gas pipe. The construction site was evacuated as firefighters and Gaz Métropolitain employees sealed the leak.

“If there’s a big explosion there’ll be something exciting happening at Loyola for once,” observed Luke Horimoto, a first-year music student. “I guess this is kinda serious,” he said, looking at the several hundred students and staff milling around the field east of the AD building.

The Montreal police closed the streets around Loyola as campus security evacuated students and staff from nearby buildings. The campus’ electricity was also shut off.

By 1:00 p.m. the entire campus reeked of gas, but most students didn’t seem overly concerned. Some passed the time kicking around a hacky sack while others loitered in front of the nearby Dagwood’s, enjoying the sunshine and sipping on cans of beer from the neighbouring dépanneur.

An unexpected legacy

Student union never aimed to leave the CFS, but feat will define them

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI
& TERRINE FRIDAY

When Amine Dabchy's Vision slate came to power in June of 2009, the Concordia Student Union was in a state of unrest.

An abortive attempt to kill the popular Sustainability Action Fund in October 2008 began the downfall of former CSU president Keyana Kashfi's government. Scandal after scandal erupted thereafter.

A long series of lawsuits and countersuits opened wounds, eventually leading to a hefty \$200,000 legal bill at the end of the year.

Attempts to hide a burgeoning deficit were bungled and a health care plan negotiation created strife as accusations of bribery flew.

Dabchy was elected on a platform of transparency and change.

"It was a pretty smooth and positive year," said Dabchy, who will sit on Concordia's Board of Governors next year. "Obviously, when you compare it to last year, I think it was a pretty good year. We had our challenges, we are not a perfect executive."

The purple Vision team entered the CSU offices on the seventh floor of the Hall building with eight platform points: reopen The Hive with a café; start a subsidized tutoring database; initiate an inter-faculty book exchange; start career fairs; launch a Student Centre; full financial transparency; start CSU Green Month; and fight rising tuition.

Despite only half of those promises being considered successes, Dabchy's last year cannot be called a failure. The executives' mandate



A year together and they don't hate each other. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

was quickly dominated by two issues they did not foresee: negotiating a new health care plan and challenging the Canadian Federation of Students lobby group.

They succeeded on both counts.

"I spent my entire summer negotiating the health contract," said Dabchy. "But we saved students \$25 each."

After taking office, one of Dabchy's first moves was to cancel the health care contract signed by the previous executive at the 11th hour of its mandate. After signing the new contract, Dabchy's CSU almost immediately launched itself into leaving the CFS.

At the CSU general election, 72 per cent of students voted to leave.

"The next step with the CFS is putting a resolution to the Board of

Governors ratifying the will of the students," said Dabchy. "According to CFS bylaws, after you leave you have to pay a year of fees.

"It's to discourage you to leave, because you have to pay anyway. You leave and you have to pay an extra year," Dabchy continued.

After revamping Reggie's and bringing in the first profit ever at CUSACorp, the student union's money making arm, Dabchy's CSU also expanded Concordia's Webster library to 24-hour service and began a renaissance at Loyola Campus.

Despite the successes, the failure of the proposed Student Centre will leave a hole in Dabchy's legacy.

"I'll accept it, I am a big boy. The Student Centre was a failure," said Dabchy. "We had so many things that distracted us from putting all

our energy into it. Had we not had to deal with the CFS, we would have been successful."

Aiming for an extra \$2.50 per credit to finance the opening of a Student Centre by January of 2011, the fee levy was resoundingly rejected by Concordia students at the general election last week.

"Continuing the Student Centre debate is going to be a decision for next year's execs," said Dabchy. "If I could give my recommendations to next year's execs, I would suggest they not only look at student contributions, but outside contributions as well, like sponsorships."

Despite the cost, Dabchy said it was worth it.

"I wanted to have a legacy that we quit the CFS. It was now or never."

PETA to speak against seal hunt

'Greedy white men have turned it into a bloodbath,' says speaker

• LAURA BEESTON

Seal hunting in Canada is not a hunt—it's a massacre, said Dan Mathews, vice-president of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Mathews, invited by the Concordia Animal Rights Association for a March 31 talk called "How Much Does the Seal Slaughter Cost Canada?", is advocating for an end to the commercial seal hunt.

"Everybody's aware about the controversy over the cruelty, but I think very few people are aware about just how much money, the millions and millions of dollars, the Canadian government spends to prop up the hunt," Mathews said. "They're spending a lot more than

they're making on it."

According to Mathews, the federal government is spending taxpayer money to overturn the European Union's 2009 ban on Canadian seal products. The government is also monitoring anti-sealing organizations like PETA and is encouraging the sale of seal products in Asia.

"When people realize how many dollars are spent for something that's only giving Canada a black-eye reputation around the world, I think that they—especially the people who care about tax dollar waste—will be just as upset as animal people are," said Mathews.

On March 29, PETA launched an Access to Information request to know where federal spending on the hunt is going. Mathews said that although PETA already has some

figures that haven't been made public, "there's still a lot we don't know."

Earlier this month, after having a pie thrown in her face by a protester, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Gail Shea announced that the total catch for harp seals would be increased to 330,000.

The federal government also estimated that there were 6.9 million seals in Canada—triple the size of the population in the 1970s—and that the export of seal products would create \$13 million in revenue, providing up to 6,000 jobs.

"It's not even really a hunt—a hunt is where you have to chase something down," said Mathews. "It's a wonder of nature that these harp seals migrate every spring from Greenland down from the east coast and they give birth on ice. The fact

that a clutch of local, greedy white men have turned it into a bloodbath where they wait for these helpless baby pups who haven't even swam yet and beat them to death for a frivolous fashion product is just an outrage."

Only two per cent of seals are actually killed by the traditional club, the hakapik. The remaining 98 per cent are felled by rifle in a way which the government considers humane. The hunting of newborn and young seals is illegal and violators face prosecution.

Mathews said he hopes Canadians will help change the policies controlling the hunt and ban it in the future.

"This is just a bizarre thing that the politicians keep in check because they want east coast swing votes."

Briefs

Feds accept 2,500 more refugees, go two-tier

The federal government announced Monday that it will accept an additional 2,500 refugees from UN-designated camps each year, eventually settling up to 14,500, under proposed legislation. It is also implementing a two-tier system, where claimants from countries deemed "democratic" will have their applications fast-tracked and appeal opportunities limited.

STM tells patrons to 'take a stand'

The Société de transport de Montréal is changing up the insides of green and yellow line metro cars after a bid to replace the four-decade-old trains derailed. Either five or seven seats have been removed per prototype car, allowing up to 80 extra standees to squeeze inside a nine-car train.

CIBC donates \$500,000 to Concordia

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce donated \$500,000 to Concordia to support doctoral fellowships and undergraduate entrance bursaries for students in the John Molson School of Business. The bank is the latest in a long list of donors to laud the school.

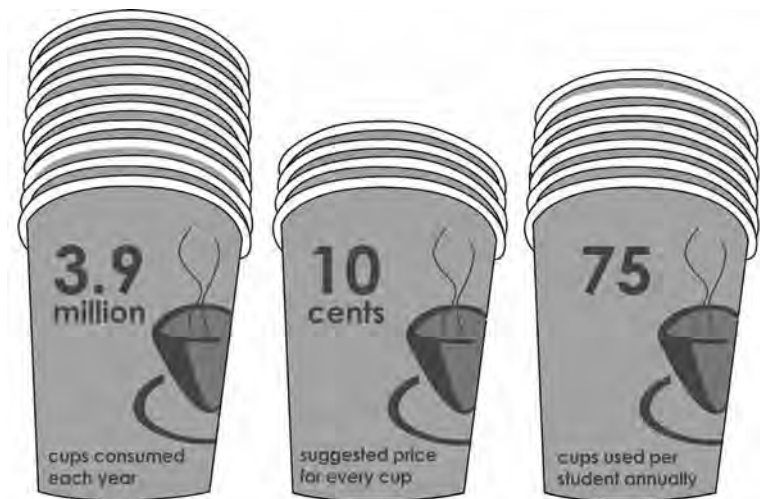
The geeks are taking over

The number of undergraduate students majoring in computer science increased by 14 per cent across Canada over the last two years, reversing a decade of decline. The increased enrolment will help fill the swelling number of IT jobs in the economy, expected to increase by 21 per cent by 2018.

Turcot goes 375

With all plans rejected or hugely over budget, the replacement of the crumbling and decrepit Turcot interchange—which enabled the low-density sprawl of the West Island when constructed in the 1960s—is once again a burning question. Turcot 375, a plan by Concordia professor Pierre Gauthier and architect Pierre Brisset, is calling for integration of public transit and a downsizing of the structure.

Coffee cups are killing Concordia



GRAPHIC JULIA WOLFE

Millions of cups clogging up university's recycling system

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Concordia is asking students to refrain from throwing their coffee cups into recycling bins, as the 3.9 million coffee cups consumed each year at the university are causing havoc with the school's recycling system.

No coffee cups from any of the cafés in and around Concordia are recyclable, forcing the university's staff to pick the nearly four million cups from recycling bins around campus every year. Although no data was available on how many batches of recycling are spoiled, Sustainable Concordia's environmental and R4 coordinator Faisal Shennib said the number was high.

"Last semester, I got word from facilities management [...] that there were a lot, a lot of coffee cups in the recycling," Shennib said. "This is a problem for the people picking up recycling. They are supposed to have bags full of paper and plastic, instead they have coffee cups filled with coffee."

"When the liquid content gets all over the paper it's unrecoverable."

Campaigns to reduce the number of cups consumed on campus, now near 75 cups used per student annually, have failed.

"Last year we had quite a shock when we had a campaign called Lug a Mug, where we had reusable mugs given out for free and we implemented discounts at the cafés at campus," said Shennib. "When we did our waste audit in the spring we found that there was no reduction in the coffee cup content of the university's waste. In

fact, it increased slightly."

With students needing to clean their reusable mugs every day and remember to bring them to school, the temptation to use the free cups is too strong for many. Those people using mugs could also not participate in campaigns like Tim Hortons' Roll Up The Rim To Win event.

"Right now we are in an emergency situation where there is so much contamination in the recycling bins that we are trying to focus on one message: don't throw your cups into the recycling bins," said Shennib. "After that message is out we will look at reducing consumption of cups."

To reduce the number of cups being used, Shennib said that Sustainable Concordia was looking at calling for a rule to mandate recyclable or compostable cups on campus.

While many cafés now offer discounts for bringing a reusable mug, usually 10 cents or more, Shennib said that he is looking at turning the idea on its head.

"You go and buy your coffee they will tell you, 'You are being charged 10 cents for this cup.' It sounds like an effective idea because it has worked so well for bags at grocery stores," said Shennib, who has yet to approach cafés with the suggestion.

A more long-term proposal is to introduce a subscription system where people could use a swipe card and take a reusable mug from the cafés around Concordia. They could then swipe the card again and drop off the mug after using it, where it would be washed and returned to the café.



Bob Sandford credited the current generation for its "can-do attitude." PHOTO ANABEL COSSETTE CIVITELLA

The future of water is murky

Conference looks at water-guzzling life in Canada

• EMILY BRASS

When it comes to water management in Canada, the biggest problem is that most people don't realize there is one.

That dilemma was central to discussions at Uncharted Waters during the weekend, a conference at McGill University. Perceiving it as infinitely renewable, Canadians seldom think about conserving water.

"People still believe an unlimited abundance of water resources is a Canadian birthright," said keynote speaker Bob Sandford, Canada's chairperson for the United Nations' Water for Life decade. The program was launched in 2005 to call attention to what the UN calls a worldwide crisis.

"In this country, we've yet to make the link between water use and energy costs," said Sandford, explaining that it takes a lot of energy to produce potable water. "We leave our tap water running while we brush our teeth and don't think anything of it. That's the same energy cost as letting a 60

watt bulb burn for 14 hours."

Calling this type of awareness "a good first step" towards conservation, Sandford went on to outline why water issues are increasingly critical worldwide. A relentlessly growing human population competes with nature for water, as unsustainable practices in agriculture, resource extraction and industry dry out the Earth.

Food shortages have occurred in northern Africa, which Sandford said "will affect us economically long before the millions of people directly threatened will be clamouring to immigrate here."

Much of the Canadian West's water originates from glaciers, a non-renewable resource rapidly disappearing due to global warming. Sandford said the desertification of the prairies is a likely outcome, to a degree far worse than the Dust Bowl of the 1930s.

Compounding the problem is the water-guzzling method used to extract oil in the Alberta Tar Sands, requiring as much as six barrels of water to produce one barrel of oil.

According to Clayton Thomas-Muller of the Indigenous Environmental Network, who also spoke at the conference, these mass-scale operations are destroying crucial aquifers, forests and land.

Water is not just a Western issue. Montrealers use more of it than Canadians in any city but Regina. From the notoriously leaky municipal pipes that waste countless quantities of water to the absence of an effective metering system, the city has a reputation for being careless.

Meera Karunanathan, the national water campaigner for the Council of Canadians, stressed the importance of communities managing their own water systems. She said the growing push towards privatization decreases access to water for the poor and favours corporations that can use buying power to squeeze out competition.

Curbing demand for water was the solution most often proposed at the conference. Europeans use half as much water as Canadians, demonstrating that there's ample room for improved efficiency.

An hour with no power

The Habs play under the lights during Earth Hour

• LAURA BEESTON

The cross on Mount Royal, the Olympic Stadium and the iconic Hydro Quebec logo went dark for 60 minutes on March 27 as part of the third annual Earth Hour.

A global celebration of energy conservation where individuals and businesses are encouraged to turn off all non-essential lighting in a symbolic gesture to demand action on climate change, this year's event saw an estimated 300 Canadian cities go black from 8:30 to 9:30 pm.

At Concordia, the lights and mechanical systems of the FB, GM, CJ and MB buildings were turned off, as the university asked students to take energy conservation into

consideration.

"There's something about sitting in the dark for an hour that causes you to reflect about your dependence on electricity a little bit more than you normally would," said Faisal Shennib, Sustainable Concordia's environmental and R4 coordinator. "I'm not 100 per cent sure of the actual reductions in energy from people turning off lights [...] but in terms of symbolic gesture, I do believe it has the power to create changes and educate people."

In the country's capital, Parliament Hill joined the many citizens in Ottawa who turned off the lights, dropping energy usage by six per cent during the hour, according to Metro's Ottawa edition.

Organized in Australia by the World Wildlife Fund in 2007, it is estimated that over 88 countries and 4,000 cities shut off their lights for the cause last year.

In an interview with CTV Montreal, WWF Canada's climate change director Keith Stewart said that over 10 million Canadians took part in Earth Hour.

"In terms of participation, the only time you get more Canadians doing the same thing at the same time is watching the gold medal hockey game," he told reporters.

Last Saturday, Habs fans did not join the initiative, as the Montreal Canadiens played the New Jersey Devils at the Bell Centre—with the lights on.

Expozine gets ranked



GRAPHIC DAVID BARLOW-KRELINA

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

If you weren't one of the record number of people who showed up to Expozine last November, there's another chance to meet small-press Montreal greatness at the upcoming 2009 Expozine Alternative Press Awards Gala.

"There's never enough time to see all the tables," said Expozine organizer and Distoboto founder Louis Rastelli. "I bought 90 different zines at Expozine last year, which is not even a third of everyone that was there."

The awards gala serves to honour those who don't get invited to

the big awards galas of traditional press.

"There's really nothing in Canada, and maybe nothing in North America, that actually recognizes or selects zines in that fashion," said Rastelli. "In the beginning [we weren't sure] if it would really fly, if people would take the awards seriously at all. But people put it on their resume and people show up [to the awards] with their parents."

"Next to Halloween, [Expozine] is my fall highlight," said Sherwin Tjia, who was nominated for Best Comic for *The Hipless Boy*.

"The organizers have this

Herculean task, but they pull it off every year with aplomb," he continued. "To be nominated for an Expozine award is very touching, because I am a huge supporter of the event."

"In the past eight years, Expozine has been a crucial marketplace and meeting place for the disparate creators of Montreal's diverse and world-renowned underground print culture," said Jeff Miller, who was nominated along with Sean Michaels and Anna Leventhal for *Soulgazers*, a compilation zine based on the word collection game called "exquisite corpse."

"This is the third time a zine I've made—or took part in making—has been nominated for the Expozine awards," continued Miller. "It is always a great honour to be recognized by such a vital institution."

Concordia creative writing student Jp King was also nominated for his book *We Will Be Fish*, released last year by PistolPress.

"Expozine stands in my mind as one of the greatest events ever held anywhere," said King. "These shortlists stand as a recommendation list for local and independent publishers, artists and authors. To see my name there makes me feel like what I do is worth all my

effort. To see the rest of the list makes me quiver."

It's not just his work that's being recognized, insisted King, but the work of everyone who lent a hand in the creation of his book.

"Publishing is a team effort and only exists in a community," he said.

The 2009 Expozine Alternative Press Awards Gala will be held on March 31 at Le Divan Orange (4234 St-Laurent Blvd.) at 8 p.m. Admission is free. The evening will be emceed by Alexis O'Hara and will feature a performance by one-man band Tony Ezzy.

The dykes of micropress

• LAURA BEESTON

Eloisa Aquino is the brains behind *The Life and Times of Butch Dykes*, a trilogy of silk-screened and photocopied biography zines about lesbian musicians Chavela Vargas, JD Samson and Gladys Bentley. The zine was nominated for Expozine's Best English Zine.

The Link: *Can you tell me a bit about the Butch Dykes project? When and how did you start it up?*

Eloisa Aquino: Since my undergrad, I had not done anything like [making a zine], but I just really love this type of independent micro-publishing thing. I decided to give it a try [...]. I wanted to do some sort of biography because I didn't want to be writing fiction; I wanted to do a little research and do something that was reality-based. Then I went to identity politics—since I'm a dyke, though I'm not necessarily butch—but I decided to just talk about something I felt had connection with my own life, and my own identity, so decided to [write] about lesbians. Then I narrowed it down to butch dykes and finally narrowed it down even further to musicians,

and that was it.

What choices inspired these women to profile for your three zines?

I wanted the zines to be not only simple biographies, but I wanted them to have some sort of political undercurrent, you know? This sort of political message. I wanted to make the visibility of butch dykes a little bit bigger, since they tend to be invisible in culture. It might be a little bit naïve because the people who end up buying or consuming the zine are exactly the people who already know about [butch dykes], and yet I thought it was a good idea. [The characters in my zines] are really appealing as human beings and their lives are interesting and varied and they yield good narratives. Their lives are also full of facts that can be told in a very short, concise form. So in a way that works too. At least I think it works.

The idea of a "butch dyke," or even the terms "butch" and "dyke," are pretty loaded and can mean different things to the people who identify with them. What does it mean to you in terms of gender, generally?

I think it means exactly what the



Eloisa Aquino, Expozine nominee for Best English Zine. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

characters in the three zines that have been published already are: they are people who identify themselves as female and yet in terms of gender performativity they have many, many masculine characteristics about them and about how they [interact with] the world. It's sort of like they challenge the norm of what a female is, although they

never identify themselves as male and although some people may think they're male (like JD Samson, who is a woman who looks like a man and dresses like a man and has some behaviours very normally identified as [male]). Although we're in 2010, those [gendered] ideas are still pretty dominant in terms of body language in the

world, so I think [a butch dyke] is a simple term to describe that.

Any idea of whose next in the line for Butch Dykes?

I don't know, I still haven't even started. It's going to be something... well... I might even pick another category. I only know [who I'm writing about] after I start the research. Because after reading about people, you figure out the ones that have the best images that can be made into drawings or the best quotes or the funniest stories. So it hasn't started yet.

How did you get into making art?

Well, I don't know. Is this art? [laughs] I write, you know, not professionally. It was one of those things where I was writing blogs and short stories here and there. For some reason it doesn't seem like art to me, it's more like comic books in the narrative expression, you know? The drawings are so rough in a way, so it's sure that it's not art, exactly.

To check out *The Life and Times of Butch Dykes* and hook up a copy of the zine, check out Aquino's blog at butchdykes.blogspot.com.

God gets stripped of his powers, author of his electricity

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

In self-imposed exile in Ecuador, first-time author Ian Orti is celebrating his nomination for Expozine's Best English Book award.

Orti's debut *The Olive and the Dawn*, a collection of short stories from Snare Books, attempts to unravel the essence of humanity and the possible existence of a God who is, in fact, fallible—just like the book's author.

The Link: *How do you feel about getting nominated for best English Book at Expozine?*

Ian Orti: In fact, I felt really honoured by the nomination. There's a ton of amazing and innovative art there. Those who produce the books and zines and art and even the effing mittens are often way ahead of their time and have their finger on the pulse of some seriously strong artistic currents. Unfortunately for the artists, and also for Canada, a lot of the work there isn't distributed widely. But at the same time, that's part of what makes the work more valuable.

Where would you rank the Expozine awards on the prestige scale?

In terms of prestige, it's definitely bigger than an Oscar because you don't even have to be alive to get an Oscar. It's almost as prestigious as a Fields Medal for mathematics because those roll around once every four years and you have to be under 40 to get one. The tops is the Memorial Cup. That's the hardest trophy to win.



Author Ian Orti contemplates which Ecuadorian fruit he will eat; the choice is a difficult one.

Is self-destruction really the “unwavering essence of humanity” like your protagonist states? Why not, like, love and building bridges, man?

For the central character, one who surfaces throughout the collection of stories, I think sometimes it feels like self-destruction is the—fuck. Sorry man, the power just went out. Gimme a second to turn on the generator. Seriously, it's like Earth Hour down here once a day.

Okay. Where was I?

Self-destruction: the central character, the one who keeps surfacing throughout the stories, thinks he has it all figured out, and as his final act he sets about to prove that self-destruction is the very essence of

humanity by rowing out to sea to go on a diet of sea water and erode his senses. Naturally, he's a somewhat fallible character who's in for a surprise at the end. In the end it's up to the reader to sift through the events in this character's life to see if they agree or disagree with him.

Your characters encounter a God that's fallible. Why is your God not as strong as my God?

Because if my God was made in my likeness, then it's got a host of issues to deal with. It probably has an abnormally high belly button and farts in its sleep. That being said, it can probably also hold its liquor quite well and likes the odd slowdance. In

the book, “God” is a character or force that surfaces but it's much more human than is depicted in other, more widely-read books. I hope the book is not taken as being anti-religious because it's not. It's just playful and if there is a God up there in Waterslide City, then I'm sure it must have a playful sense of humour and get where I was going with the liberties I took with it as a character.

You're currently in Ecuador researching your second novel. What's it about and why was it important that you move to Ecuador?

The most valuable thing for me in terms of writing is time. Free time. Coming down to Ecuador

allowed me to have the time to finish the final edits on a novel that took 10 years to write. It's about a city that begins to come apart at the seams after an old man rents a flat to a woman on the run from something. It's an experimental novel, which meant nobody wanted anything to do with it, and I was very close to turfing it before a friend referred me to the folks at Invisible Publishing who were willing to take a chance on it. My life down here is a mix of dictator-on-house-arrest meets shipwrecked pirate and I will be dreadfully sad to leave. My closest neighbour is an indigenous fishing village and as a swimmer I am always grateful to see the dead sharks they unload from their boats.

Why are you posing with mangos in this file photo we found of you?

The photo best represents the trials and tribulations of my daily life down here in Ecuador where I've been for the past six months and the kinds of decisions I'm faced with. Like, do I eat this basketball-sized papaya which I know doesn't have that much flavour, or do I go for the mango, knowing full well I will have mango juice and pulp all over my hair and elbows by the time I'm done? Or do I just cop out and go orange?



The Olive and the Dawn
Ian Orti
Snare Books
96 pp
\$12.00

Turning the tables on zines

• TOM LLEWELLIN

Concordia alum Patrick Hutchinson came to Canada as a teenager in 1978, where he developed a habit of collecting singles records. He spent the following years as part of Montreal's fledgling early-'80s underground punk scene, playing in Top Ranking, Bare Bones and presently as guitarist of Celtic-inspired Swift Years.

Scratchy 45 is filled with stories, accounts of his (mis)adventures and other ephemera. The whole thing fits neatly into a 45 rpm sleeve and has been nominated for Best English Zine at Expozine. *The Link* caught up with Hutchinson at his home in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

The Link: *How did you get involved in the Montreal scene?*

Patrick Hutchinson: I ended up here because my folks moved here when I was just out of high school

in Britain. It was culture shock in a couple of different directions because I'd grown up in really rural places, but at the same time I needed to have all the same media stuff that people have access to now. Even though I lived in a village, I'd still be picking up my *New Musical Express* every Thursday and reading breathlessly. And I still have tapes made from when people would play live sets on the [BBC], people like The Buzzcocks and Siouxsie and the Banshees, before they even had records out. But at the same time I'd never heard commercial radio. It was the kind of thing where if somebody wasn't wearing flares or had a Sex Pistols button you'd stop and talk to them. There were a few people I just basically went up and talked to because they visibly weren't listening to, like, Styx or The Eagles. I was into music and rock and roll and stuff, and just wanted to be with other people who were into it.



Patrick Hutchinson and his record collection. PHOTO TOM LLEWELLIN

What was the scene in Montreal like? Was it derivative of other punk scenes in Canada?

One thing that was totally, totally different from now is that I don't think anyone even considered it a possibility that you'd wind up making any waves outside of Montreal. Montreal wasn't a destination then. It seemed like there was always a lot of good music going on, but it really stayed inside a fairly small circle

of people who actually knew about it. And people who were involved in it, if they had ambitions, they wouldn't have admitted to them [laughs]. Men Without Hats were hanging out in the same dives, doing the same drugs, but they were huge international pop stars.

By the time '84 to '85 came around, did the whole political correctness thing change the tone of the

movement?

I'd hesitate to talk about movements. One thing I kinda miss about those days is that a lot of different kind of misfits would hang out together. You'd go and see a show and there'd be a hardcore band, a cowpunk band and a reggae band all on the same bill, because a) they probably all knew each other, and b) it was kind of like a default thing. If you weren't doing something that was really standard and mainstream, you'd wind up playing at the same clubs. In Top Ranking we found ourselves kinda starting a scene. All these mod-y, scooter-y kids came out of the woodwork and I didn't even know about them.

Do you feel like the singles culture is still alive and kicking?

So it seems.

For the full transcript of *The Link's* interview with Patrick Hutchinson, visit thelinknewspaper.ca.

Succulent Canadian books

The Globe and Mail's T.F. Rigelhof selects the best Canuck books of the past 25 years



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

"What makes a [great book] is an author with a very persuasive voice," said T.F. Rigelhof. "Someone who pulls you by the lapels," he continued, reaching out and pulling his arms to his chest, "and says 'I have a story to tell you.'"

Rigelhof, *The Globe and Mail's* book reviewer and a former juror for the Governor General's Awards, has earned himself a reputation as a softy because he doesn't review books he doesn't like.

"There seems to be little point in reviewing bad books and I'm well past the age where I get my jollies out of really tearing apart an inadequate writer, particularly when it matters so much to them," he said. "Some bear grievances for a long, long time. They remember for a lifetime what was said about them [by a single reviewer]."

As an occasional author himself, Rigelhof remembers what

getting a bad review is like, which is why he's condensed his decades-long career of favourable reviews of Canada's literary scene into *Hooked on Canadian Books: The Good, the Better, and the Best Canadian Novels Since 1984*.

"Within the first 20 to 25 pages, I know whether it's a book I want to continue reading until the end," said Rigelhof. "Sometimes, with what turns into the best novels, the first 50 pages you just don't know what's going on. You can't figure it out, because the author is creating a new kind of reader for a new kind of book."

Anyone who wants to claim Rigelhof has a bias could point out that author and doctor Liam Durcan, whose book *García's Heart* made his list, treated Rigelhof following a seizure. Rigelhof is currently easing himself back into the review game, he says.

As head of the Montreal Neurological Institute, Durcan

represents a broadening of scope for Canadian writers, as well as the double lives of others. The famous Douglas Coupland, who has a background in business and graphic arts, could make a "fine living just doing his sculpture," said Rigelhof.

"Anyone who starts out now thinking that they're going to earn a living for the rest of their lives as a writer is in La-la-land," he continued. "If you want to live at any kind of standard above the poverty line, you either have to be really lucky or you have to deliberately write things for the marketplace. And there are quite a lot of writers doing that now after their second or third novel."

Being a reviewer has also changed considerably—but not the pay scale, said Rigelhof.

"The remuneration for a book review has altered very little in 25 years," he lamented. "I don't think we'll ever again see a situation where there are free-standing book reviewers who can make a living from just reviewing books."

"What makes a [great book] is an author with a very persuasive voice. Someone who pulls you by the lapels and says 'I have a story to tell you.'"

—T.F. Rigelhof,
author of *Hooked on Canadian Books*

Rigelhof claimed the lack of book reviews in print media are making it harder for first-time authors to get good word of mouth.

"When I published my first novel in 1983, I had 24 independent reviews," he recalled. "These days, a lot of first novels are lucky if they get one review outside the Internet, and some really fine books get overlooked because of that."

Some of the 150 books selected by Rigelhof include authors who got a lot of publicity when they were first published, like Ravi

Hage for *De Niro's Game*, or who appear multiple times; Margaret Atwood has five books on the list, including *The Penelopiad* and *Cat's Eye*. But others were tragically overlooked upon their release, if only to gain popularity later, like Madeleine Thien's *Certainty*, the story of two 10-year-old Second World War survivors.

A self-proclaimed accidental authority on the Canadian novel, Rigelhof considers himself lucky to have come to Montreal when the famous but now defunct Double Hook Bookstore was opening up, back when he free-lanced reviews for the books section of *The Gazette*.

"I love to browse at shelves," said Rigelhof. "I love to talk to people."



Hooked on Canadian Books
T.F. Rigelhof
Cormorant Books
356 pp
\$32.00

NEW MASCOT SCRAP TEARS IT UP

ACCORDIA SUPERGRAPHIC

A SPECIAL ISSUE

A man with a beard and glasses is wearing a hoodie made of various colored fabric patches (red, blue, yellow, green, and grey). He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

The biard
EXTINCTION ON THE HORIZON

'It's a pretty fantastic hat': Zenzakis

NEW PRESIDENT APPOINTS HAT TO CABINET

Duke Raph Ohsay has a long list of promises to keep.

Between offering students free coffee at exams and fighting tuition hikes, the newly elected Accordia Student Union president will have his hands full for this coming year. After being elected on March 25, Ohsay has actually added pledges to his already whopping list.

"First thing's first," Ohsay said at a press conference last Friday. "I am creating a new cabinet position for my hat."

The move came as a surprise to mainstream media, but for anyone who has seen the hat up close, the announcement was a mere formality.

"Sure, I lost the presidential race to Duke," said Village candidate Mitch Zenzakis. "But have you seen that thing? It's a pretty fantastic hat. I've gotta say, that was goddamn fucking presidential of him."

Ohsay's hat is tweed and bears a slight resemblance to a fedora, but without the long flap. I know I just broke the fourth wall by writing myself into the story, but I've gotta say that thing is pretty fucking sweet. I must have asked Duke where he got it at least 20 times. He told me his lips were sealed but I think he got it at Simon's or maybe Paul's Boutique on Mount Royal Avenue. I'm debating whether or not I should buy a similar hat. Do you think I could pull it off? I mean, I'm no Duke but I look pretty good in a hat.

Ohsay has not yet come up with a name for the hat's cabinet positions, but he has outlined the hat's basic duties.

"It's going to be a great ice breaker for when I have to meet important people," he said. "Imagine how taken [Liberal leader Michael] Ignatieff is going to be when he sees this baby. And if ever it rains, I'm covered. Also, women love when you remove your hat before speaking to them. You couldn't do that if you didn't have a hat in your cabinet."

Of course the hat is inanimate and incapable of making any kind of lucid decision, but when has that ever hurt a politician's career?

Ohsay tacked on a few more items to his to do list at Friday's conference: sorting out that mess in the Middle East, adding a second Christmas to the calendar and cleaning up corruption in Quebec's construction industry—but he insisted the hat remain priority number one.

Shakespeare once wrote, "Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown." He obviously never saw Duke Raph's kickass hat. —Curtis E. Bear



Look at that hat, just the thought of it makes me weak in the knees. Hat! Hat! Hat! Hat! Hat! Hat! Hat! Hat! Hat! Hat! Hat! Hat!

VILLAGE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FORGETS TO VOTE *'Super bummed out': Zenzakis*

After nearly forgetting to campaign in the 2010 Accordia Student Union general elections, Village slate presidential candidate Mitch Zenzakis drew a blank around voting time.

"What can I say," said Zenzakis. "The elections just kind of sneak up on you and next thing you know it's game over, no more voting. How was I supposed to remember to vote with all this political stuff happening? Besides, when you vote you're just buying into the system."

The Village presidential candidate admitted he's "super bummed out." This blunder seems especially embarrassing, he said, considering students were given an extra day to vote after a pack of wild dogs tore apart polling stations at

the university's Rolola campus.

Zenzakis claimed early in the campaign that trying to out-campaign the Purple slate would be futile. Village focused its energy on winning debates and creating a "super huge tam circle." Just a few hours after the polls closed on Friday, Purple built an insurmountable lead over their Village rivals. In the end, Village succumbed to one of the most lopsided defeats in ASU election history.

"Winning is relative," said Zenzakis. "In a way we won just by getting our message out there. But I suppose in a more 'scientific,' 'accurate' way, Purple won."

Village candidates ran on a platform of radical change. They aimed to create a bad vibes-free campus, enter Accordia into the world hacky sack championships and tap

student funds to bring about a Phish reunion.

"Sometimes your reach exceeds your grasp, I suppose," said Village Board of Governors candidate Wind, née Sue Meyer. "We were putting a good two, three hours into the campaign on a daily basis. But when you've got two hostile student newspapers and voter apathy to contend with, I guess you just can't win."

"What were we just talking about?" asked Wind.

Zenzakis, Wind and the rest of the Village team intend to run for office next year under a completely revamped platform.

"All I can say is watch out, Purple," said Zenzakis. "If I can be bothered to get out and campaign next year, you might be in for quite the surprise." —tito c. walken

VICTORY DOG

'Scraps is no Air Bud': player



"We have rules against women playing" said Sylvain Laframboise, QIFL president, "but we really didn't think anyone would actually be dumb enough to have a dog play football."

Scraps chomps down on Lavalle's offence.
17 players are subsequently hospitalized with rabies.

The Accordia Punchers had a secret weapon going into Sunday's game against Lavallé. It wasn't an ace quarterback or a talented water boy turned linebacker. It was a rabid dog named Scraps.

Scraps and his rag tag band of Punchers stunned Université Lavallé's Bleu et Blanc, beating them 28-21 at Rolola Field.

"Before the game, not too many people were giving us a chance," said Punchers head coach Gerry MacGriffon. "But they weren't counting on old Scraps to come through."

In the Quebec Intercollegiate Football League, there are no rules against animals playing football.

"We just, kind of never thought anyone would think to field a dog on their team," said league president Sylvain Laframboise. "I mean, we have rules against women playing but we really didn't think anyone would actually be dumb enough to have a dog play football."

Scraps—a golden retriever, pitbull and Doberman mix—joined the Punchers a few days before their home opener against Bleu et Blanc.

"We found him by a dumpster behind Honest Ed Arena,"

said MacGriffon. "He was pretty mean-looking, foaming at the mouth and all. That's when it hit me, this team needs that kind of raw passion."

The Punchers were subsequently inoculated against rabies and began training Scraps to play wide receiver.

"At first we thought it was gonna be like Air Bud," said Punchers lineman Steve Ott. "But Scraps is no Air Bud; for one thing he's missing an eye and smells like death. And, when we tried to get his pads on, he sent two of us to the hospital with bite wounds. He can't really catch the ball and doesn't seem to understand football either. He just kind of attacks people."

In the opening half of Sunday's game, Scraps gave 17 Bleu et Blanc players rabies and dropped two passes. He also bit a child and ate a barrel of garbage.

"We kept complaining to the ref about the biting," said Bleu et Blanc corner Stéphane Ouellette. "Apparently there aren't any rules in our league that prohibit biting."

Laframboise was incredulous about the absence of biting restrictions in the QIFL rulebook. "We really need to update this rulebook," he said. "I had one of the coaches call me and

ask if he could start a killer robot at tailback and, for the life of me, I couldn't find a rule prohibiting it."

For their part, Punchers fans don't seem to mind Scraps at all. "I love the little mutt bastard," said season ticket holder Bill Brasky. "As long as we beat those sons of bitches I'm happy. I can't stand how arrogant they are. Go Scraps go!"

"Sure it doesn't teach our children sportsmanship," said former Punchers cheerleader Debbie Dunnit. "But like I always tell my kids, 'If you don't win, you'll die sad and alone. Now be a dear and get me my cough syrup.'"

Until league rules are amended after this season, the Punchers can field Scraps all they want. For Coach MacGriffon, starting Scraps gives his team a shot at the Dawson Cup for the first time in over a decade.

"We plan on riding Scraps to the national championships," he said. "Of course we won't be literally riding him, we tried that once and he really doesn't like it."

Accordia's alumni boosters will be having a special banquet in Scraps' honour this Friday at the X-Lounge. Rabies vaccinations are complimentary

TEXTBOOKS TO FEATURE PRODUCT PLACEMENT

To curtail Quebec's seemingly insurmountable deficit, the Minister of Education announced Monday that product placement will be featured in high school textbooks starting next fall.

"I see it as a kind of an ethical grey area," said Guillaume Dupuis, Quebec's minister of education. "On one hand we'll be diluting our already-diluted education system. On the other hand, Diet Pepsi makes me feel so young."

Dupuis said product placement will mainly be featured in math, geography, history and English textbooks. Gym class will now be referred to as "Doritos Blast Physical Education," and part of the standardized testing will involve coming up with a catchy new flavour name.

"From what I gather, high school students won't be calling it the Atlantic Ocean anymore," added Dupuis. "They'll call it the 'Sierra Mist Blueberry Explosion Ocean.'"

Perhaps the most controversial forthcoming curriculum

change will be in math textbooks. While ninth grade students have traditionally learned that the value of pi was 3.1415, as of next fall pi will be \$3.47—equal to the price of two McValue burgers on Tuesday, subject to increases in provincial sales tax.

"I stopped caring in the '80s," said Joel Lafleur, an English teacher at Lake of Three Mountains High School. "I teach what they tell me to, keep my head down and in two years I'll be retiring on 70 per cent pension and will have more time to finish my novel."

The announced changes were not met without opposition.

"This is preposterous," said first-year history teacher Shauna Smith. "My new *World History Teacher's Edition* says that Christopher Columbus crossed the Sierra Mist Blueberry Explosion Ocean to see if his Rogers flip-phone would still have such amazing reception. That can't be right. He was doing it for spices, right?"

"And I'm pretty sure they messed up the beginning of World War Two," she continued. "There's no way that it started over a Klondike Bar. College was a blast, some of the details are still fuzzy, but I'm almost certain Hitler wouldn't do THAT for a Klondike Bar."

For their part, students are largely indifferent to the proposed product placement.

"Regardless of these changes, school is pretty lame one way or the other," said Joliet High School student Danny Thompson.

"I was never that keen on math," said JHS senior Steve Holt. "But now that the Pythagorean theorem is about Domino's new Xtreme Pizza™, I think I might just get used to it. It's still school though, and that's pretty lame." —*horatio macmanus*

POLICE ARREST WHITEY, OFFER APOLOGY

Montreal police apologized yesterday for the controversial racially-tinged arrest of a white man in Westmount this weekend.

"I don't know what to say. It must have been the light, but from our angle, he looked kinda black," said SVPM spokesperson Michel Tremblay at a press conference on March 27.

"It's days like this that make you want to turn in your gun and badge," he added, shaking his head.

SVPM officers were conducting a routine 218 check—the SVPM code for "black man entering Westmount"—on the south side of Atwater just above Dorchester, outside of Westmount, when they arrested Alex Johnson, a 32-year-old white man and Westmount resident.

Tremblay said the arrest was an unfortunate case of mistaken identity. The two arresting officers are new to the force, he said, and apparently got confused. After the officers took Johnson into the station and got a closer look at him, they realized he was "just a regular white guy," explained Tremblay. "They're both very embarrassed. Apparently they thought he was black, or one of those other minorities," he said. "Oops. Our bad."

Constable Mercier, one of the arresting officers, explained at

this morning's press conference that he and his partner Constable Lafourriere were "acting on instinct."

"We observed that the suspect was crossing west on Dorchester and was dangerously close to Westmount. He appeared to be black, so obviously my partner and I were concerned," Mercier said. "In situations like this, you just don't have time to think, you just react. So naturally we roughed him up a bit and brought him back to the station, where we realized that he was actually, y'know, one of our people."

"Yeah, what can I say? We really fucked up," admitted Tremblay.

Constables Mercier and Lafourriere have been suspended without pay for the next two weeks. "We need to send a strong message to the white folks of Montreal that they have nothing to fear from the police," said Tremblay. He pointed to the force's long history of rarely arresting white people, "unless they're Italian or in construction, but even then it's pretty unusual and only when we really, really have to."

Meanwhile, unrest continued in Westmount after a demonstration against Johnson's arrest turned violent yesterday morning. As night fell, angry residents continued to riot. Two Aston Martins and countless windows on cocaine-dealer hotspot

Summit Circle were presumed destroyed.

"It's a real shame. I saw his picture on the news, and he looks like such a nice boy," said Margaret McAllister, 88, of Westmount. "What's the world coming to? Now, be a dear and give me a hand with this, would you?" she asked this reporter as she tried to flip over a Bentley.

"I feel just terrible about the situation," said Constable Jacques Beaudoin, who was the only SVPM officer this reporter saw at the riot. "We really don't have time to deal with this. Most of our resources are tied up in the east end, dealing with those packs of wild dogs they've got out there."

"We all make mistakes, but it's just so disappointing," he continued. "You spend years building up a trusting relationship with people, and then you lose it all with one bad decision."

Beaudoin watched powerlessly as McAllister tore up paving stones and used them to smash a nearby BMW.

"Awfully spry for an old lady," Beaudoin chuckled as a Molotov made from a bottle of Veuve Clicquot sailed overhead. "It's always good to see people exercising their right to free speech." —*riley a sparks, qc, ue*

365 DAYS FOR THE HOMELESS

In competition with the nation-wide 5 Days for the Homeless campaign, homeless people world-wide rebutted with the "365 days for the Homeless campaign."

"We're trying something different [from the 5 Days campaign]," said full-time homeless citizen Pierre Crackerjack. "It may seem like a new concept, but we've been doing this for centuries."

Crackerjack's plan is to panhandle constantly while performing civil and sustainable services such as opening doors at metro stations, making sure all beer bottles are recycled and diligently eating all perishable foods—such as half-eaten La Belle Province hot dogs—so they don't just rot inside of a garbage can. Notable guests, such as the banana-toting Hollywood from Crescent Street, and two dancers dressed respectively in a Spiderman outfit and sailor uniform will hit

the streets to gather funds for the homeless. All funds will be donated directly to the homeless, a revolutionary concept in the field of philanthropy.

Crackerjack grudgingly commended the success of the 5 Days for the Homeless campaign and admits that he has his work cut out for him.

"It's amazing to see that the business students of Montreal have learned to turn a profit from homelessness in only five days. It's actually mind-blowing," said Crackerjack. "For the past 10 years I've been involved with homelessness, I've never seen a profit—or food for that matter."

Instead of accepting defeat, Crackerjack insisted that his services differentiate from those that business students of the opposing campaign could offer.

"They are good at gaining sympathy by complaining about

tummy aches and back aches from sleeping on the pavement," explained Crackerjack. "But nobody knows how to squeegee car windows like I do." He later admitted that it is not windshield washer fluid he squeegees with, but blue Gatorade.

Though Crackerjack maintains that homeless people world-wide have been performing the "365 Days for the Homeless" campaign for years, business analyst and 5 Days for the Homeless participant John Jonner Johnson denies Crackerjack's claim.

"There has never been any business plan like this one," Johnson explains. "Who knew someone could think of such a genius concept where all monetary funds get funnelled straight to the homeless people?"

"And besides," Johnson added, "are you actually going to listen to a fucking bum?" —*humanitarian harry*



WATER FREE

Another Accordia student is
floored with dehydration.

In March 2009, the University of Winnipeg became Canada's first bottled water-free campus. Yesterday, Accordia University decided to up the ante by becoming the first ever university to ban water altogether.

"They wanna play hardball? They wanna set benchmarks? Well let's see those rotten bastards top this," said Accordia President Julie Wooden.

Over the course of two months, Accordia's maintenance staff has removed vending machines and bottled beverages of any kind from all the school's buildings. All of the school's plumbing was also removed.

"To be honest it doesn't make any kind of logical sense," said Tim Hague, head of Accordia's maintenance department. "But when President Wooden wants something done, you get it done."

The absence of water and plumbing on campus has already been a logistical nightmare for students and teachers alike.

"Two of my students have been hospitalized with dehydration," said physics professor Mary Stein. "I knew the course material was dry, but this is outrageous. Hey, can I take that joke back? It seems insensitive now. You're not gonna print this, right? You are? Please don't print it."

"I had to go down to Kibbie's Irish Pub to use their bathroom," said Wallace Walladarski, an English literature student. "And then they tricked me into getting drunk and missing my poetry exam."

President Wooden insists the decision was warranted.

"We're no longer contributing to the billions of wasted water bottles that pollute our planet," she said. "And where

does the University of Winnipeg get off condescending us? Until very recently, I had never even heard of the University of Winnipeg. What do they teach there, farming or something? I haven't had a chance to look it up. But I hear they have a lawn out front; what on Earth what would they use that for? Grazing?

"I've been off campus all day looking for water and a toilet," Wooden added. "They always say I have to buy something first, but nobody seems to be able to break a \$100."

Students entering any of Accordia's buildings will be subject to a thorough pat down. Any student caught smuggling water will face immediate expulsion.

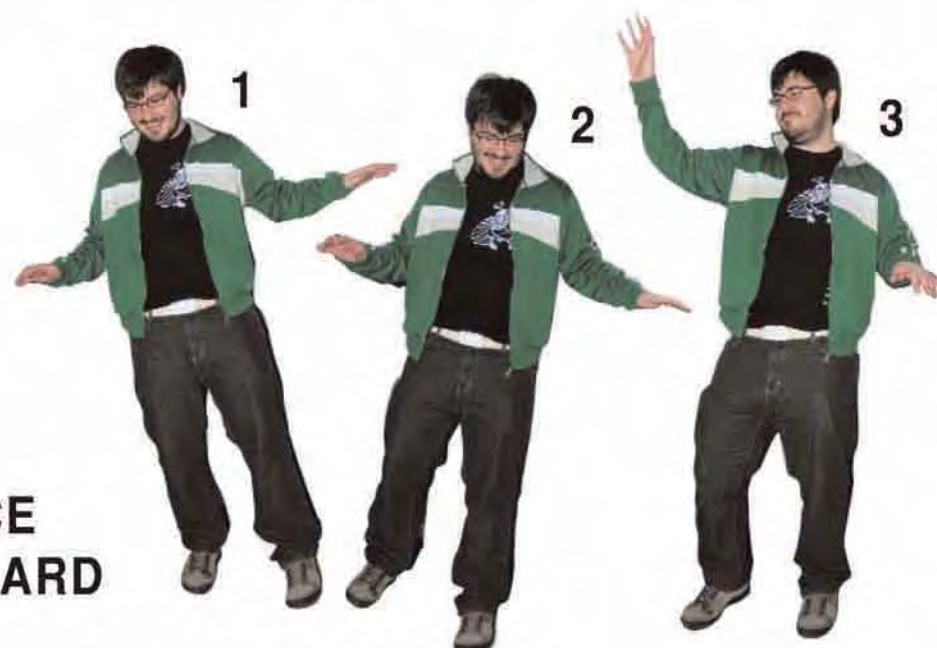
"It ain't easy being green," said Wooden, "but this is the only way to save the planet from certain doom." —alan dark-shner

Startled by our photographer's camera flash, the naturally indecisive biard is torn between fight, flight or food. Our photographer sat for three days in a carefully-constructed blind, subsisting on freeze-dried tomatoes and gin, waiting to shoot this once-in-a-lifetime image.

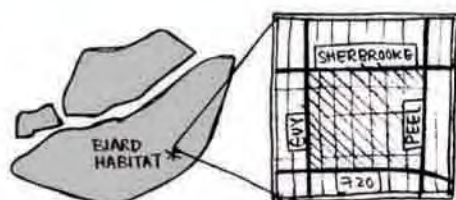


THE BIARD

AN ANIMAL ON THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION



THE DANCE
OF THE BIARD



In the quiet hours of the early morning, the nocturnal biard (*Biardus zaataricus*) basks in front of two glowing rectangles, his right hand clutching a cylindrical device fashioned of plastic, with his head bobbing rhythmically to the heavy basslines that fill the room.

Scattered around him lie piles of used coffee cups and zaatar wrappers, the staples of the biard's diet. For years, a small cramped room on the sixth floor of the Hall building, located in the remote reaches of *The Link's* offices, has housed and protected this strange animal, but a recent surge in the human population of the area now threatens to rob this natural curio of its fragile habitat.

I have devoted years of my life to the study of the rare and confusing behaviour of the wild biard, often spending days at a time buried and hidden under piles of discarded newspapers to watch him. After observing the creature in its milieu, I can say with certainty that my efforts have not been in vain. Truly, there is nothing in this world that can attest more to the variety nature is capable of than this bizarre little animal.

There are few things that this creature needs to survive. Unlike most carbon-based life forms, the biard has been known to subsist for weeks on nothing but malt liquor, artificial cheese

and saltine crackers. Strangely, despite its hardy constitution, the animal's habitat consists of an area of no more than eight city blocks in diameter. He can often be seen loping through the area around the Lucien L'Allier metro, wearing an "I (heart) Jugs" T-shirt, a bemused smile on his scruffy bearded face.

The biard is a creature of simple joys. A single banana or a game of Robot Unicorn Attack is enough to keep him satisfied for days. A happy biard is a sight to behold. Immersed in his Muppet-like rapture—eyes crowded shut by his naturally puffy cheeks, his mouth agape—the biard will nod his head to anyone or anything in its vicinity, as though saying "yes" to a question no one is asking him.

Perhaps most interesting are the biard's social behaviours. When meeting other animals for the first time, especially large groups, the creature will often execute an elaborate physical display, pretending he can hover in an attempt to convince those present of his natural superiority. The dance of the biard is a rare but wondrous sight. The first time I witnessed it, tucked away out of sight in a booth at the local watering hole, known by the wildlife as Reggie's, I was left speechless for hours.

Arms outstretched to either side of him, palms facing the ground, the biard will gyrate minutely off-tempo to whatever music happens to be playing. The creature's efforts don't fool anyone watching into thinking it can actually fly, but the display is amusing enough that most animals will keep the biard around.

Back in his lair, where dancing to impress is not so practical, the biard will try to win over strangers by singing his own prais-

es. His most performed songs are "watch me stay on baseline" and "I'm kind of a big deal." The songs are neither melodic nor particularly complex, but seem strangely effective, his popularity at *The Link* a fact established by long hours of patient observation.

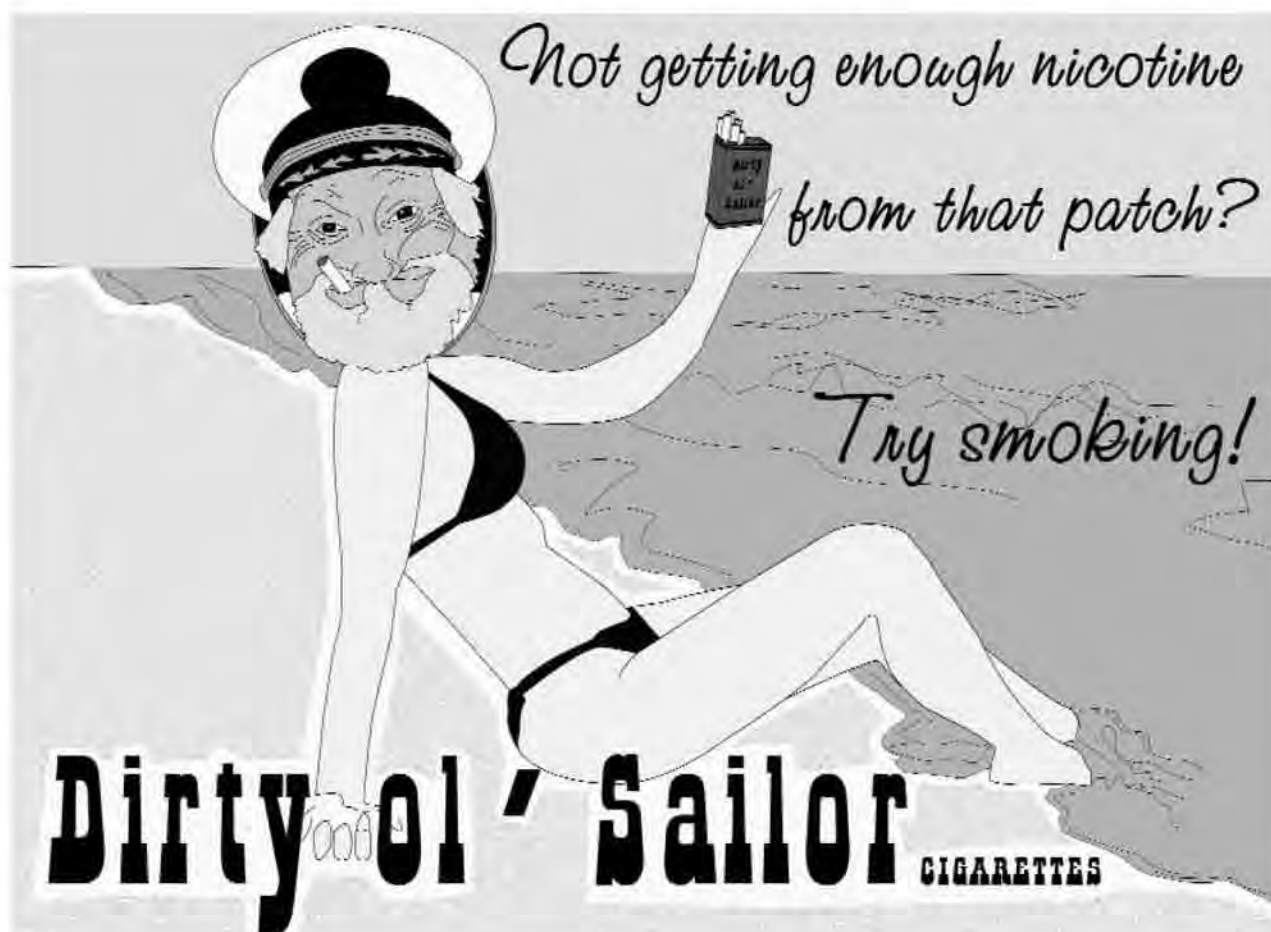
At times, when the zaatars are scarce and the biard cannot convince other animals to go out and hunt for him, he must scrounge McDonald's out of desperation. This brings him out of the safety of his lair and into contact with his natural enemies. His foes include Hollywood, the neighbourhood homeless man and local banana-heist expert; the clerk at McDonald's that forgets to put secret sauce on his burgers; and decision-making situations.

To confuse potential predators, the biard cloaks itself in bright, confusing patterns, often loud plaids or lurid patchworks of colour. Thus far this visual dissimulation has served him well. Despite his inability to run quickly, Hollywood has yet to rob him of his most prized bananas.

With the election of a new masthead, the population at *The Link's* office has nearly doubled, and the quiet routine of the biard's life will soon to come to a crashing halt. Due to overcrowding and competition for resources, many of the old inhabitants are preparing to move on to find new homes. The biard, however, is a creature particularly averse to change, and his situation is worrying. It is possible that he will let himself waste away entirely, when cut off from his dual-monitor workstation. If something doesn't change soon, we might witness the end of this beautiful and perplexing animal. —eugenia laslo, PhD.

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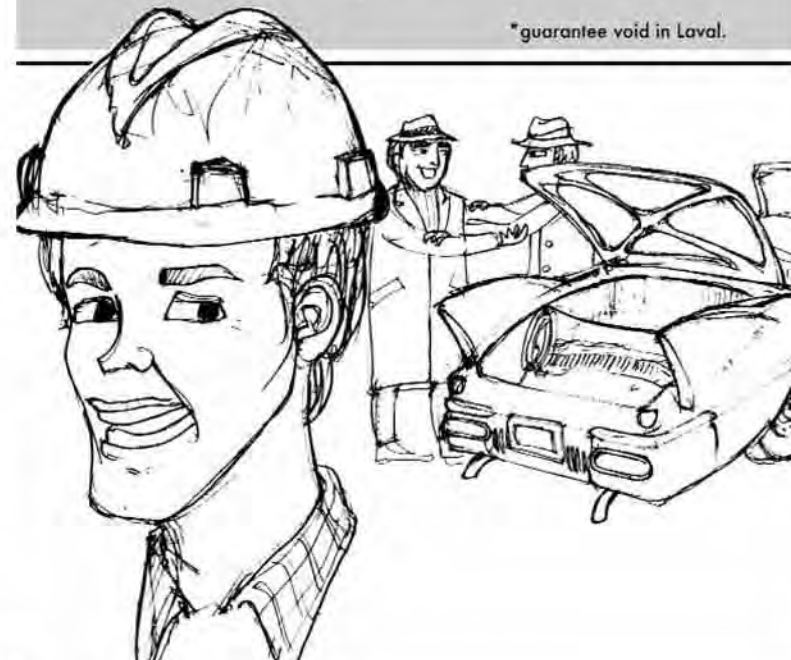
* Politicos may or may not be O.C. The Harper government cannot comment whether they are part of a balanced diet.



PYRAMID CONSTRUCTION

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SCIENTISTS REVERSE FINDINGS, ADMIT DISLIKE OF PUBLIC

Previous evidence that global warming may be linked to an increase in CO2 levels, which are largely man-made, is all wrong, say climate scientists who gathered at an emergency summit at the United Nations on Friday.

Climate scientists' hurt feelings over the American population's growing dismissal of actually overwhelming evidence that the Earth is heating are believed to be a major contributing factor, if not the primary cause of climate change.

"We accept partial blame for exasperating the Earth's heating," said Ophelia Knapp, a climate scientist who hasn't talked to her mother in over three years, since that bitch told her husband Tom to get a "real" job. "But couldn't you guys have taken us seriously? I mean, we're scientists. It's not like we're an easily led bunch of bonobo monkeys, you know?"

"You'll all be sorry you didn't heed our warnings!" yelled Herschel Novak, an Israeli climate expert, out of turn.

"You're not helping, Hersch," Knapp replied quickly in a tone betraying a deep-seated resentment of Novak for being awarded the distinguished Wolf prize instead of her for his now-debunked research into CO2.

"Stop eating my lunches!" yelled Novak in his third accusation of lunch-stealing that day and 12th non-sequitur.

Thousands of miles away, tourists on an Arctic cruise, observing with shock and sadness a mother polar bear fighting to keep her head above water, did not immediately

guess that the plight of the polar bear was in fact due to hurt feelings from fellow cruisers Deb and Stanley Parker, who disagreed about the choice of vacation spot. Deb expressed a wish that they had spent Stanley's week-long vacation time allotted by his menial job "somewhere warm."

"You killed that polar bear, Deb," said Stanley. "It's all your fault for dragging your heels the whole way here."

"The only thing I killed is my chance at happiness when I married you," replied Deb. "I should have married that French longshoreman."

Climate scientists at the summit have suggested that global warming could be fought simply by people choosing to bury their grudges and setting their petty differences aside, as well as re-adding friends they had previously removed from Facebook for dating the girl they indicated they had an interest in but were totally caught making out with anyway at Rachel's party.

"Anyone planning on not showing up at a prearranged dinner date without forewarning in order to get back at Daniel for saying their sister was equally as cute as she is should be advised to show up on time, or at least cancel the date altogether," said Mae Gallegos, who discovered the connection between climate change and hurt feelings after noticing a minute temperature change in her living room following a family get-together to celebrate her father's retirement from his law firm—all without acknowledging that he was, in fact, fired from his job for his excessive alcoholism.

"Fighting over the thermostat may seem like a minor

quibble, but it goes a long way to contributing to global warming," continued Gallegos. "Also, any reporters here who would rather be covering the all-star benefit concert in support of finding a way to fight climate change happening across the street will be forgiven for leaving in the middle of this talk."

Climate scientists' hurt feelings
over the American population's growing dismissal of the overwhelming evidence that the Earth is heating are believed to be a major contributing factor, if not the primary cause [of global warming].

A throng of cameramen were seen leaving the premises of the conference, followed shortly by several stragglers.

"Fine, suit yourselves. I hope your editors fire your asses. I was just getting to the really good statistics. God!" continued Gallegos, unaware that her words were picked up by a nearby mic as her head was turned from the audience. "Why do I permit people to walk all over me and then get angry at them for doing it?"

The polar bear, unfortunately, lost its battle with the Arctic tides. —todd langford

CANADIAN SPACE ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHES POET INTO SPACE

POET: 'THEY SHOULD HAVE SENT AN ASTRONAUT'



The Canadian Space Administration heralded the success of its mission to send a poet into space on April 1. Accordia creative writing professor and Stripballing author Jean-Paul Diorentino was ultimately selected for the historic honour.

The CSA conceived the mission after accidentally rewatching the 1997 Jodie Foster hit film *Contact* on Cinemax late Saturday night. Insight spawned during a particularly poignant scene in which Foster's character remarks, upon entering a worm hole, "They should have sent a poet."

"What does a highly-trained and educated astronaut have that could ever compete with the point of a poet's pen?" said Frank Royle, the leader of the mission, in a statement to the press. "What we're seriously lacking, honestly, is a way with words."

Diorentino spent the majority of Thursday morning fighting to contain a micro-fissure in the shuttle's hull, as oxygen rapidly exited the ship.

"Jesus fucking Christ," said Diorentino, whose limited training consisted mostly of learning to use a pen in zero-gravity. "Fuck, fuck, fuck."

A visibly exhausted Diorentino, suffering from back pain

due to the effects of weightlessness, read children's letters to God over satellite on Friday. The reading was cut short as the shuttle's orbit began to decay prematurely, reentering the Earth's atmosphere with the shuttle bay doors still extended. Diorentino was able to correct the problem at the last second with the help of NASA engineers, who provided detailed instructions in technical terminology while apologizing for the lack of a dictionary aboard the station.

"I'll always remember Jean referring to the emergency off-set valve as the 'yellow majigger,'" recalled Royle. "I would have never thought to call it that! But at the same time it rings true."

Wednesday saw Diorentino retrieving a \$112.3 million solar cell, launched by NASA in 2006 to measure the effects of solar radiation on living cell tissue. Due to inadequate training, however, Diorentino was exposed to near-lethal doses of radiation. Though the solar cell was irreparably damaged and all information gathered over the past four years lost, Royle was giddy with anticipation for Diorentino's account of the mechanical failure.

"The explosion should be a particularly powerful scene,"

said Royle, anticipating Diorentino's eventual written account of the incident, when an unstable chemical in the solar cell ignited. "Literally powerful," added Royle. "It nearly blasted him into deep space."

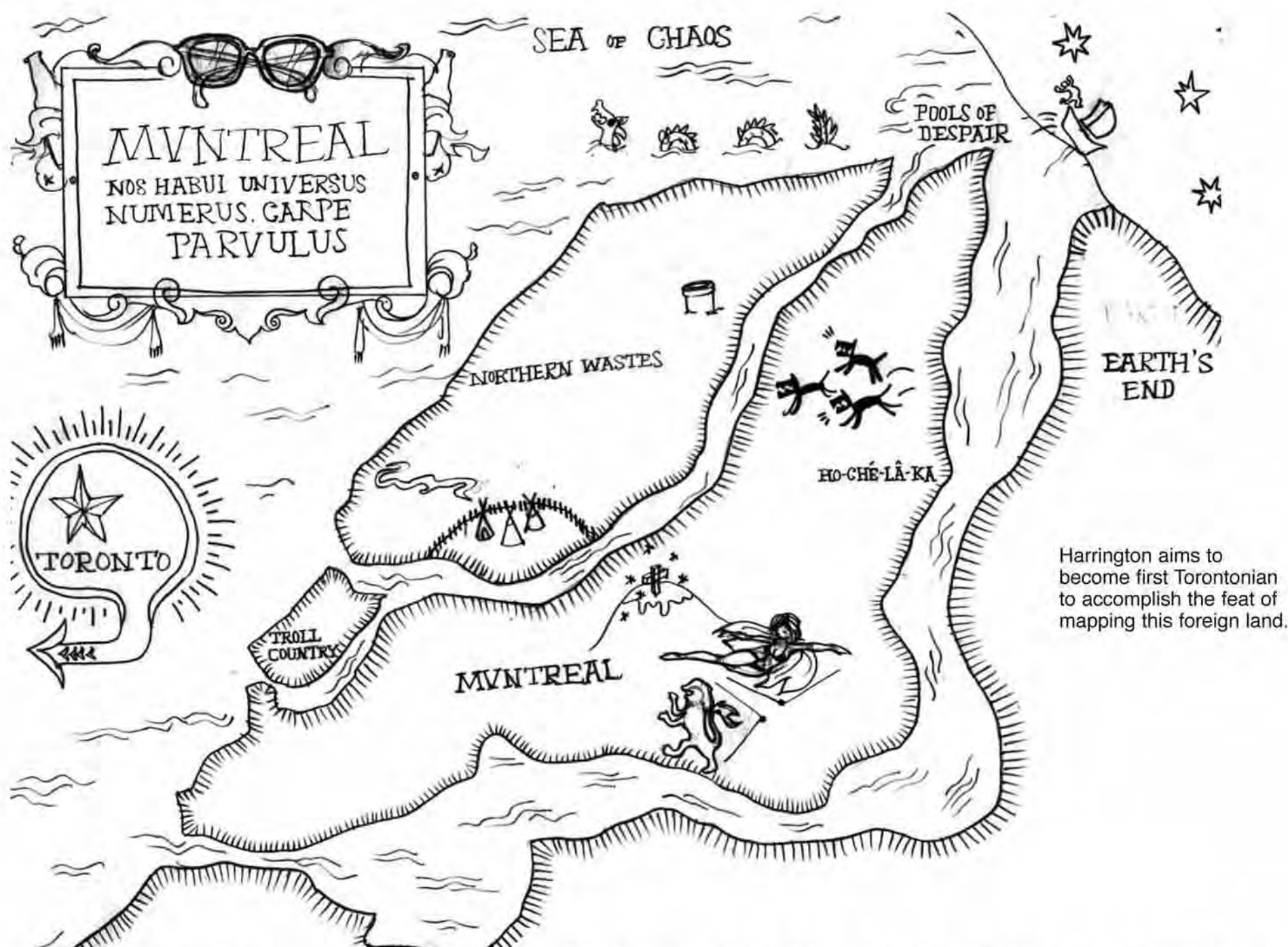
Unable to pilot the shuttle back to Earth, Diorentino stowed himself aboard a space capsule which drifted back to Earth, narrowly avoiding collision with the continent of Australia. Japanese pirates revived the space-bound poet, returning him to a hero's welcome following a successful extraction by dedicated Joint Task Force snipers.

The completion of the mission was bitter-sweet, as both CSA scientists and reporters were reminded of the tragic events of 2008, when Margaret Atwood's spacecraft, *The Long Shuttle*, failed to achieve orbit and crashed into the Beiring Strait. Though the craft was never recovered, Atwood was presumed incinerated in the descent.

Diorentino was not available for comment, as he is currently being treated for an unidentified stress-related condition.

A prepared statement to reporters written during Diorentino's stay on the International Space Station read, "SDPLease hhelop mmeeaw." —darrin decker

GEOGRAPHY STUDENT VOWS TO MAP MONTREAL



JAMES HARRINGTON HAS ALWAYS BEEN UP FOR AN ADVENTURE.

When he was just six years old, Harrington rode his bicycle from his parents' house on Toronto's Yonge Street to his aunt May's apartment eight blocks away.

"I just used my keen visual memory to steer me in the right direction," he said. "I was a pretty brave kid."

As of this fall, Harrington—an Accordia University geography student—hopes to use his adventurous spirit to become the first Torontonion to fully map the island of Montreal.

"We're tired of this stereotype that people have of Ontarians in Montreal," said Harrington. "We don't only know where the Peel Pub and Super Sexe are. There's also Sir Winston Churchill's on Crescent Street."

Harrington and his research assistant, Helmsly, have already drawn a rough sketch of the island based on verbal accounts from fellow Torontonians. They plan to build on the map as they explore the island throughout their first semester at Accordia.

"I've heard tales of the eastern half of Montreal," said

Helmsly, as he puffed away at his corncob pipe. "They say the locals call it Hochelaga. Pronounced Ho-ché-lâ-ka, I believe. Apparently it's run by packs of wild dogs. We've both gotten our rabies shots and will pack blow dart guns along with a crossbow."

"I actually heard it was more of a *Mad Max: Return to Thunderdome* type of scenario out there," added Harrington. "Like, the land was ruled by a loose confederation of leather-clad biker tribes. In any case, we plan on using money I saved working at a summer camp to hire local children as guides."

The pair of explorers wants most of their trekking done before winter sets in.

"We plan on cutting north through the mountains before the first snowfall," said Harrington. "There's no telling what's on the other side. One legend says it's a river with sea

monsters, mermaids, pirates and the like. In any case, we can't allow ourselves to be marooned up there during winter. I hear that's when the hostile Huron Indians pass through."

Helmsly, a self-proclaimed expert mountaineer, expects the worst.

"I rented K2 like six times this summer," he said. "Apparently it gets pretty hairy up there. I also rented *The Shawshank Redemption* a bunch of times. That Morgan Freeman is just wonderful."

The adventurous duo will document their travels and plan on publishing a book along with their map.

"We're no Lewis and Clarke," said Helmsly. "We'll just be happy if we don't develop cabin fever in the mountains and turn on each other. I'd hate for my parents to find out we reverted to cannibalism in our first semester away from home." —hugo stiglitz

An Accordia University student's notebook praises Wooden's decision to sell marijuana on campus

CONCORDIA GROWS



ACC U SEES GROWTH POTENTIAL IN NEW BUSINESS PLAN

BUY LOW, SELL HIGH SAYS PRESIDENT: Faced with decreased federal funding and rising enrolment, Accordia University President Julie Wooden announced this morning that the school plans to raise extra cash by becoming the first Canadian university to grow and sell marijuana on campus.

"Who loves weed more than students?" asked Wooden, who spoke at a press conference on March 30. "Being a university and all, the one thing we've got lots of is students. And judging by the smell that seeps into my office window on warm summer days, they do love that sticky-icky," said Wooden. "All those kids outside Reggie's? Yeah, you're not fooling anybody. I know those aren't just cigarettes, guys."

With proceeds going straight to the university, "students will be able to get baked and help out their school at the same time," said Wooden. "Pretty sweet, right?" she added.

Wooden explained that the new grow-op would take up all three floors above the greenhouse on the 13th floor of the Haul building. "Ever since we cleaned out that pack of wild dogs on the 15th floor back in '97, I think it's been pretty much empty."

Wooden explained that the plan was inspired by last week's bust of a massive grow-op in the north end of Montreal. "They had like 15,000 plants up there! That's freakin' mad! And so I was like, well, fuck, these are just regular criminals – we're all smart, university-educated people. I've got like eight degrees. How could this go wrong?" she asked.

According to Wooden, Accordia University administration is working with the Coors School of Business to set up a year-long class that would put third and fourth-year business students in charge of marketing and selling the wacky tobacky. "A local motorcycle enthusiast club made a pretty good pitch, but at the end of the day we decided we should give this opportunity to students," said Wooden.

Dimebag costs are not included in tuition, which sparked

a minor uproar among student associations which she quickly dismissed, noting that the initial investment will be minimal.

"I ain't Rockefeller," she noted. And she predicted that the project would generate a "shit-ton of cash money" for the school. "Did you know you could order seeds online? That's super sweet! I've been looking at a couple different strains – right now I think we're going to go with some Bubblegum Kush for the connoisseurs, a bit of Northern Lights for those who like to kick it old-school and AK-47 for the students on a budget."

Wooden also announced that the university was in preliminary talks with Smartwells to offer green baked goods and Babst Blue Bibbon on tap in the Rolola and Haul building cafeterias. -riley m. sparkle, PHD, ESQ.

Great white north meets South by Southwest

Montreal bands play Texas music festival; *The Link* reports back

• MIKE SALLOT

When my plane touched down at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, I was immediately greeted by the sight of Courtney Love, lead singer of Hole, wearing a torn dress and throwing a nuclear temper tantrum.

We were both in Austin, TX for South by Southwest, the largest independent music event in North America. Journalists and bloggers had been hinting for weeks that Love wouldn't even make it to her own show. As a music junkie, SXSW was an event I had long dreamed of attending—despite my Montreal postal code.

Against the odds, Love and I had both made it after all.

Now in its 24th year, SXSW draws more than 1,800 musicians from around the world to play in more than 80 venues around downtown Austin over four days. The staggering array of artists is enough to reduce even the most battle-hardened festival attendee to a snivelling and confused pushover. I witnessed over 22 different performances in the span of two and a half days.

Austin is known for embracing eccentricity. Bumper stickers and T-shirts are adorned with ubiquitous slogan “Keep Austin Weird.” Walking down Sixth Street, SXSW's ground zero, meant being blasted by loud music from every hole-in-the-wall dive, saloon or pizza parlour. More than once, I had to take a time out at a conveniently-located death metal-themed pizza place affectionately nicknamed Satan's Slice while an endless stream of metal bands played at the back of the restaurant. Back on the street, costume-clad freaks and impeccably-dressed hipsters ran from venue to venue, gorging themselves on Mexican food.

As in years past, Montreal-based artists were heavily represented at the festival. This year, the team behind the M for Montreal festival organized two showcases for a handful of bands and performers hailing from Montreal.

Friday's “Montreal vs. Toronto” showcase was held at a large bar on Sixth Street called the Paradise. Bands from both cities played back to back,



Music, Montrealers and Mexican food: This year's South by Southwest festival brought together some of the best things in life. GRAPHIC GABBY LEON

although there were more bands flying the T-Dot flag than Montrealers. I managed to catch francophone rappers Radio Radio as they threw down a tight set of Acadian electro-rap to a bewildered crowd. I left shortly after Toronto singer Lights performed a set of sappy synth pop that left me hungry for something edgier.

The weather took a turn for the worst on Saturday as the temperature dropped and dark clouds threatened outdoor concert venues. Montreal's The Besnard Lakes delivered a short set of stunning sonic proportions

that drew heavily from their new album *The Besnard Lakes are the Roaring Night*. The audience seemed temporarily stunned by the stratospheric falsetto of lead vocalist Jace Lasek and the quartet's acid-drenched guitar rock.

“Do you like the weather?” fellow Montrealers Think About Life asked the audience, welcoming them to Quebec for the day at the Brooklyn Vegan and M for Montreal showcase at The Galaxy Room. The lineup for the day-long showcase, which also included Duchess Says and Plants and Animals, reflected the diversity of Montreal's

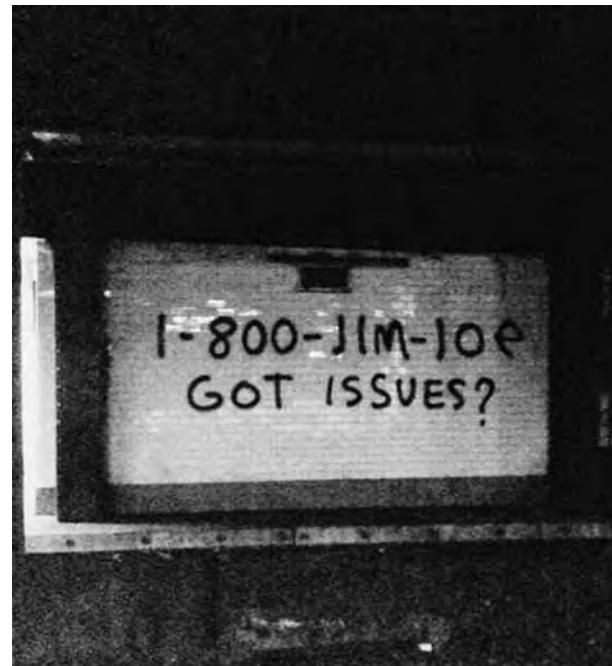
music scene.

The corporate presence at the festival felt heavy at times. At the end of each night I would empty my pockets of swag, stickers and other cheap promotional items into a large pile on the floor.

Nonetheless, I happily drank the free beer that flowed like water all weekend. Cheap sunglasses that came courtesy of Mountain Dew protected my eyes from the rays emanating from the stage during Saturday's performance by Major Lazer at the Mexican Cultural Centre. Their jaw-dropping performance, with a fusion of Jamaican dancehall

and bass-heavy club beats, saw no less than 30 people dancing onstage alongside someone dressed in a fuzzy pink monster costume.

A seven-foot-tall ladder was brought forth and Major Lazer's hype man Skerrit Bwoy climbed up. Wearing little more than a pair of boxer shorts and a crudely fashioned cape made from a torn wedding dress, he jumped off. The crowd lost their mind and erupted into such frenzied dancing that it seemed entirely possible the stage would collapse. A brilliant end to a long weekend of shows.



Graffiti artist Jim Joe leaves his mark on everything from garbage to trucks. "I RARELY SEE THE MAJORITY OF TAGS I DO AFTER I DO THEM," he told The Link, "AND BECAUSE OF THIS I HAVE LEARNED TO EMBRACE EPHEMERALITY. THE PHOTOGRAPHS BECOME THE WORK." PHOTOS JIM JOE

'The Internet is the new brick wall'

For graf artist Jim Joe, fleeting art is the best kind

• ALEX MANLEY

Graffiti is a pretty unromantic reality of living in Montreal. Tags of all shapes and sizes clutter up every available surface. Public and private property alike accumulate garish, illegible scribbles of varying degrees of complexity, none of which seem to state anything other than "I was here."

But Montreal is also home to Jim Joe.

Some of the graffiti artist's tags are just a simple "Jim Joe," in cursive like an autograph, or scrawled in block letters.

He sometimes appropriates pop culture, tagging "Call on Me by Jim Joe," "Raw Power by Jim Joe" or "Jim Joe Will Save You."

Other times he asserts himself with his own brand of self-referential humour ("Jim Joe sucks," "Got issues? 1-800-Jim-Joe").

His work has both a self-consciously artistic quality and a healthy dose of tongue-in-cheek. The fall 2009 issue of McGill art magazine *folio* published his photos of curbside furniture and mailboxes branded with his name. His artist bio in that issue revealed him to be a fourth-year McGill student whose "identity must never be revealed." He cited teenagers, Marcel Duchamp, paint and garbage as his primary influences.

Determined to find out if anyone else had noticed this refreshingly thought-provoking graffiti, I discovered Jim Joe's website. He

posts photos of his work in Montreal and New York, on walls, vehicles and old appliances and furniture left out for the garbage.

Jim Joe initially responded to my request for an interview by insisting we meet on Chatroulette sometime in late May. He eventually acquiesced to be interviewed via e-mail, but only if his answers would be published in all caps. A strange portrait of him and his online persona emerged.

The Link: *Graffiti is often seen as a very city-based art form, but you work both in New York and Montreal. What's with the two bases of operation? Which one is your hometown?*

Jim Joe: I WAS BORN IN MONTREAL YEARS AGO. I

STARTED MAKING GRAFFITI A FEW YEARS AFTER THAT. THE REST, AS THEY SAY, IS HISTORY.

Some of your work is just a simple Jim Joe, but frequently it draws on outside sources. How do you choose what to incorporate into your graffiti?

I CLOSE MY EYES, OPEN MY BOOK AND POINT AT SOME WORDS. THAT'S USUALLY HOW IT WORKS.

Your stuff will often get painted over or cleaned off, sometimes within a very short span of time. How do you feel when you see something you did has been erased? Are you satisfied having only photos of your work

to remember it by?

I RARELY SEE THE MAJORITY OF TAGS I DO AFTER I DO THEM AND BECAUSE OF THIS I HAVE LEARNED TO EMBRACE EPHEMERALITY. THE PHOTOGRAPHS BECOME THE WORK.

You have a website. Are you consciously trying to promote your art and/or your artistic persona? Or is the site just a reflection of the fact that nearly everyone has an online presence these days?

THE INTERNET IS THE NEW BRICK WALL.

You can see more of Jim Joe's work at jim-joe.com or on a mailbox near you.

No bad blood at Concordia art show

Don't stop the dialogue about HIV/AIDS, says curator

• SARAH REALE

It would seem a lot has changed since the early '80s when *The New York Times* reported an outbreak of "gay cancer" and American Center for Disease Control coined the term GRID, or gay-related immune deficiency.

These diseases haven't gone away; those terms were just earlier names for what we now know as AIDS.

"I've heard people say things like [gay cancer] to me even today, so I think it's important to keep raising awareness," said Stephanie Goulet, Concordia student and co-curator of HIV/AIDS-focused art exhibition *in+body*.

An annual tradition now in its 16th year, the show is hosted by students, including Goulet, who

are enrolled in the class "HIV/AIDS: Social, Cultural, Scientific Aspects of the Pandemic."

"This year the show is called *in+body* because we really wanted it to embody the aspects and issues surrounding AIDS," said Goulet.

Goulet explained that the exhibit is "produced for the people, by the people" and features multimedia work by both Concordia students and other community artists, including photography, installation and more.

"I think it's really important to have variety for a show about HIV awareness so that [the issue] is explored from different perspectives," said Goulet.

She admitted that many of the artworks may be shocking, but

that's what the organizers of the show wanted.

"Montreal is filled with creative youth and we have to reach them on their level. With art, it allows you to speak with a lot more openness. [It gives you] more space to express yourself and say more," she said.

Goulet said she's shocked that many still show such a lack of knowledge and discomfort when discussing HIV/AIDS. *in+body's* main goal is to get people to recognize it as a real, present issue still relevant today.

"Most people don't think about HIV/AIDS because they are not directly affected by it," she said.

in+body is on display at the VAV Gallery (1395 René-Lévesque Blvd. W.) until April 9.



Claire Evans' acrylic painting "Self," on display at in+body this week, tackles self-victimization and self-hate—especially within queer communities. PHOTO MADELINE COLEMAN

Building a buzz

Plywood and prints at grad student art show *The Hive*

• MADELINE COLEMAN

The only Hive Concordians may be familiar with is the boozy kind, thanks to Loyola's campus bar. The watering hole's moniker is a tribute to Concordia's varsity athletes. But Tara Nicholson, the curator of studio arts grad student group show *The Hive*, was inspired by the hum of artists hard at work, not burly football players.

"The overabundance of creative input kept reminding me of this hive of energy and creation," Nicholson explained of the show, which opened March 26. "When you walk into these shows they can almost be overwhelming because there's so much going on."

The Hive is a showcase of 60 master's of fine arts students' work, including film projections, installations, paintings, sculptures, prints and photography. The gallery will also play host to a "performance afternoon," featuring solo and collaborative performances.

Nicholson admitted that the lack of thematic unity could be seen as "kind of a weakness," but insisted that the disparities are what make the show exciting.

"I think when you're seeing large group shows and it's only photography or only painting it can be very monotonous," said the curator, who is pursuing her MFA in photography. "[In *The Hive*,] you get to see a wide range of practices. Seeing it up on the wall, seeing things fit together and these little happy accidents



MFA student Karen Kraven built a site-specific installation for *The Hive* over a period of four days.

that seem to happen, is really great."

Guests' feedback could have a direct effect on the art itself. Most of the artists are in their first or second year of the MFA program, their graduate work still in its infancy.

"At this show, you can see people's work-in-progress," said Nicholson. "Then you can come back to see their thesis show two years later."

Unlike at most undergraduate shows, many of the grad students in this show have exhibited their

work before. Karen Kraven, whose work Nicholson cited as a show favourite, exhibited many times in Toronto before moving to Montreal to pursue her MFA. She created a site-specific installation out of plywood and other building materials for *The Hive*.

Nicholson pointed out that participating in shows like *The Hive* can lead to more opportunities to exhibit, and that even relative veterans like Kraven have something to learn from the exhibition process.

"The more opportunities that

artists have like [this show], it just increases their success rate," she said. "Interacting with the public, they're able to present their work and get feedback from the public and work with different people. I think it can become really isolating if you're just working away in your studio and only getting feedback from inside the university."

***The Hive* runs until April 5 at 3520 St-Jacques St. W. The "performance afternoon" is April 3, from 2 to 4 p.m. Free admission.**

spins

Vulgaires Machins *Requiem pour les sourds*

Disques Indica



Considering Quebec's socialist proclivities, one would expect a higher concentration of punk rock artists to come out of La Belle Province. Thankfully, Vulgaires Machins has represented anti-establishment creativity in Montreal's Franco music scene for more than a decade. The Machins' latest release and sixth album *Requiem pour les sourds* will not disappoint fans and should earn them some new ones.

Requiem pour les sourds features 16 tracks of high energy, melodious punk rock replete with insightful lyrics. The album never lets up from kick-off track "Presque complet"—a sarcastic list of thank-yous to "The Man" underscored by handclaps and a danceable

rhythm—to triumphant closing ballad "Mourir pour le système."

Some highlights along the way include "Glace noire," a waterfall of sound punctuated with Marie-Eve Roy's honeyed vocals, and "Texture qui se mange," an edgy commentary on urban gluttony. Despite the relentless, unifying beat of *Requiem pour les sourds*, no two tracks are quite alike.

10/10

—Heather Anderson

Black Breath *Heavy Breathing*

Southern Lord



Sipping liberally from hardcore producer Kurt Baillou's well, Seattle's Black Breath manage to keep shit balls-to-the-wall on their 40-minute inaugural LP. *Heavy Breathing* is a surprise-free affair: all stomps, screeches and minor guitar heroics, all the time.

Black Breath sound like a cross between Trap Them and *Clandestine*-era Entombed. The production on this album is up-close and immediate, with all the levels nearly peaking. Singer Neil McAdams sounds positively unhinged, though through his throaty utterings you can still discern some semblance of proper human speech. Those expecting any sort of lull will have to look elsewhere. Tracks like "Escape From Death" may start slow, but build up till it's all pent-up aggression and razor-sharp chainsaw.

Those who like this kind of noise will love this.

7/10

—R. Brian Hastie

Sit Down Tracy *Roaring Noon*

Unsigned



Listening to this album reminded me of tucking into what should have been a good meal,

getting gradually disappointed the more I ate. It felt like the album's potential was never fully realized. I thought that a nice blend of country and indie-rock would keep the desire to doze off at bay, but you'd be surprised.

On the first couple songs from *Roaring Noon*, I found myself pulled in by their playfulness and Janelle Mailhot's lilting vocals. However, after the first of three pointless instrumental interludes, including one that sounds like a sample of a '60s sci-fi television show, the ride takes a turn toward mediocrity.

A few more stand-out tracks like "Under the Gun" and "Fresh Out" perked up my ears but unfortunately, when all is said and done, you can't help but hope that Sit Down Tracy are at least better live.

Worth a listen if you like The Cranberries or Neko Case, but don't expect the same quality—and watch out for the aftertaste.

6/10

—Nikola Grozdanovic

The DOWN-LOW

Event listings March 30-April 5

MUSIC

Artists for Haiti II
With Dramatik and more.
Wednesday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m.
Café Campus
57 Prince Arthur St. E.
Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door

Punk Rawk Princess benefit show
Proceeds go to the Friends for Mental Health non-profit.
With the Dropbeat Kings and Sandman Viper Command.
Friday, April 2 at 9 p.m.
La Sala Rossa
4848 St-Laurent Blvd.
Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door

VISUAL ARTS

Research and Destroy
Drawings by Concordia students.
Vernissage Saturday, April 3 at 7 p.m.
Until April 8
Galerie Ethecae
2131 Ste-Catherine St. E.

Tarot
Tarot cards made by 22 artists using painting, collage and more.
Vernissage Friday, April 2 at 5 p.m.
Until May 2
Maison de la culture du Plateau-Mont-Royal
465 Mont-Royal Ave. E.

Domaine la Fierté
Photographer Jason Hendrickson documentation of a gay male-only campground north of Montreal.
Until April 13
Les Territoires
372 Ste-Catherine St. W., #527

FILM

Latin-American Film Festival of Montreal
April 2 to 15
Cinema du Parc
3575 Parc Ave.
See cinemaduparc.com for schedule.

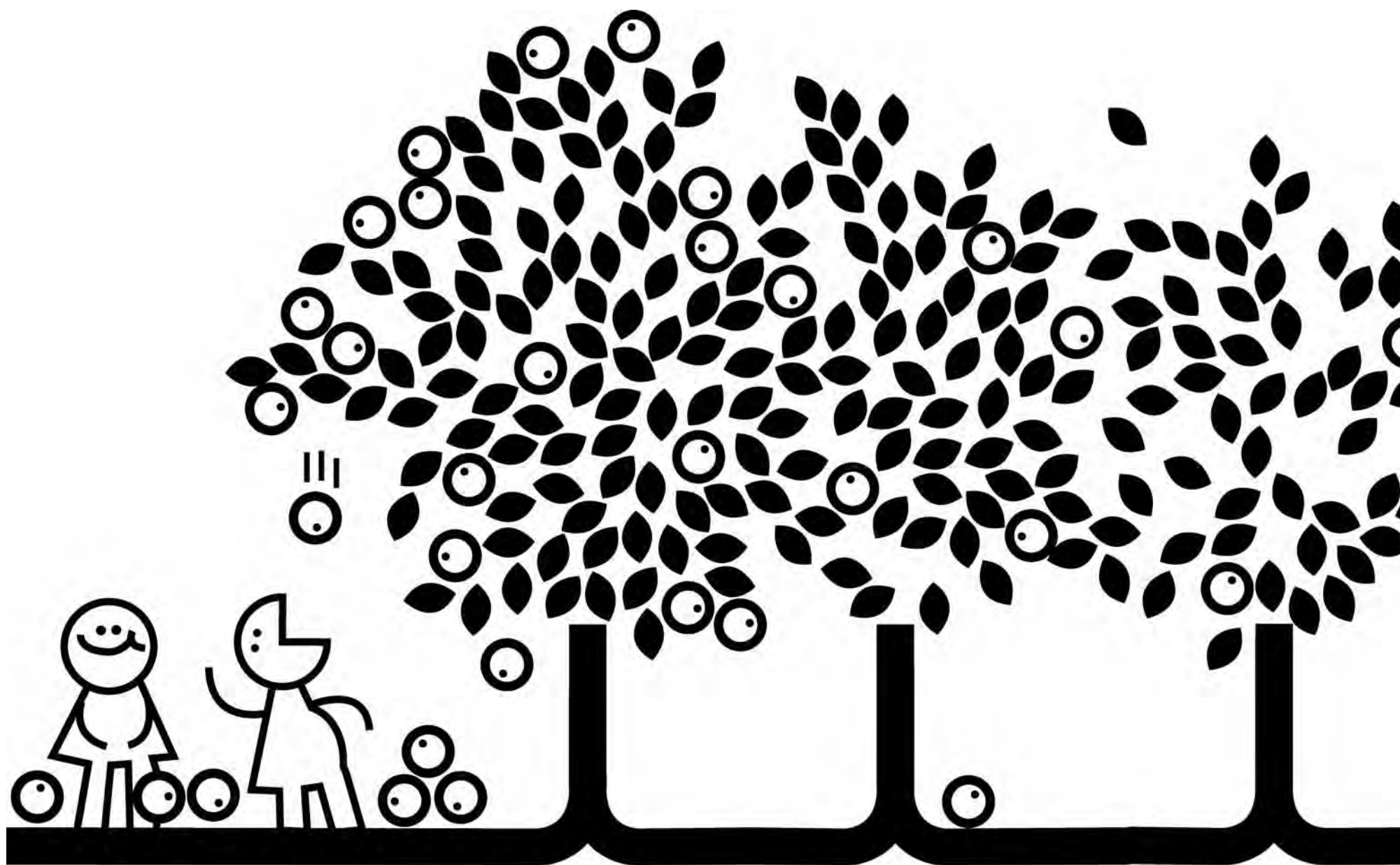
LECTURE

Six Degrees of Imagination
A series of discussions about literature and the arts. Pre-registration encouraged.
April 13 to June 12
Galerie Samuel Lallouz
1434 Sherbrooke St. W.
Tickets: \$275 for students.
E-mail: reception@galeriesamuel-lallouz.com

— compiled by
Madeline Coleman

Death of the Canadian pineapple

Why local farming can't support local people



• SARAH LADIK

No matter how many people start cultivating string beans on their balconies in Montreal, the city will never be able to feed itself. The challenges of food sovereignty and food security has been a topic of increasing interest in Montreal, where an argument can be made for buying green peppers from Quebec and Ontario instead of Chile and Brazil.

Home grown hungry people

Food security—where everyone in a society has enough to eat—is a myth in Montreal. Montreal cannot produce enough to feed all its citizens without importing food from other regions of the world.

“We’re talking about food insecurity. There’s a big difference,” said Zakary Rhissa, head of Harvest Montreal—the biggest food donation organization on the island that feeds 112,000 people per month—who believes that Montreal is far from being secure when it comes to the food on our plates.

Serge Lussier, faculty lecturer at McGill’s Macdonald College in the

Farm Management Technology program, also said there is no way for Quebec to become self-sufficient. “We were much closer to it 30 years ago,” he said. “But it would be nearly impossible to go back now.”

Rhissa said convincing people to buy local and organically-grown food as much as possible is a plausible solution. Not only would this support local growers, he argued, but buying local produce would feed more people in need. The high cost of transportation for foreign produce can make the price of fruits and vegetables prohibitive.

Steve Aitchison, the owner of vegetarian restaurant Burritoville on Bishop Street, said if everyone were to buy local, demand would increase. The result would be lower prices, therefore creating a new market equilibrium.

“[This would allow] people with lower incomes access to better-quality foods than those in the middle aisles of the grocery store,” he said.

Though there aren’t many people who would give up sugar, bananas, pineapples, coffee and alcohol in order to live on a local diet, the pan-

ellists are strong advocates for buying local where we can, and as much as possible.

Frédéric Paré, coordinator of Equiterre’s Ecological Agriculture program, insisted that the government has an important role to play in protecting agriculture—specifically horticulture—from foreign markets.

“Everyone in the food business is in competition with each other, no matter what their ideals and morals,” he said. “The state has to step in and regulate the system.”

There is a delicate balance to be struck between keeping our international trade partners—mainly the United States—happy, while protecting local producers with subsidies and higher tariffs for imported goods, said Paré.

In terms of what we can do at home, apart from really making an effort to buy local produce, Paré suggested “rattling fences and protesting on Parliament Hill” to those who want to do more.

Or, of course, we could always go...

Back to the land

Sabrina Martinez and Michel Pépin own and operate an organic farm on the Ontario/Quebec border, near Hawkesbury.

They produce their own electricity and operate greenhouses, as well as raise ducks, chicken and pork. They have been doing this for 15 years and are insulted the government labelled them a “hobby farm,” refusing to give them any benefits.

Since the 1970s, 61 per cent of farmers have quit agriculture and moved to the cities, making the average age of a Quebec farmer between 56 and 58. Martinez said if young people knew about organic sustainable farming and how much land was available in the country, they would move to the sticks and start driving tractors.

“Small farms like ours need to show the government that we can feed our areas, that we are economically viable,” she said.

According to Martinez, farmland is virtually free for anyone who wants to work it, and she believes that farmers can revive a struggling industry if they work together.

Ben Hammond, owner and operator of Benallen Farms in Lachute, Que., said local farmers feeding those in their surrounding areas is a wonderful idea—theoretically.

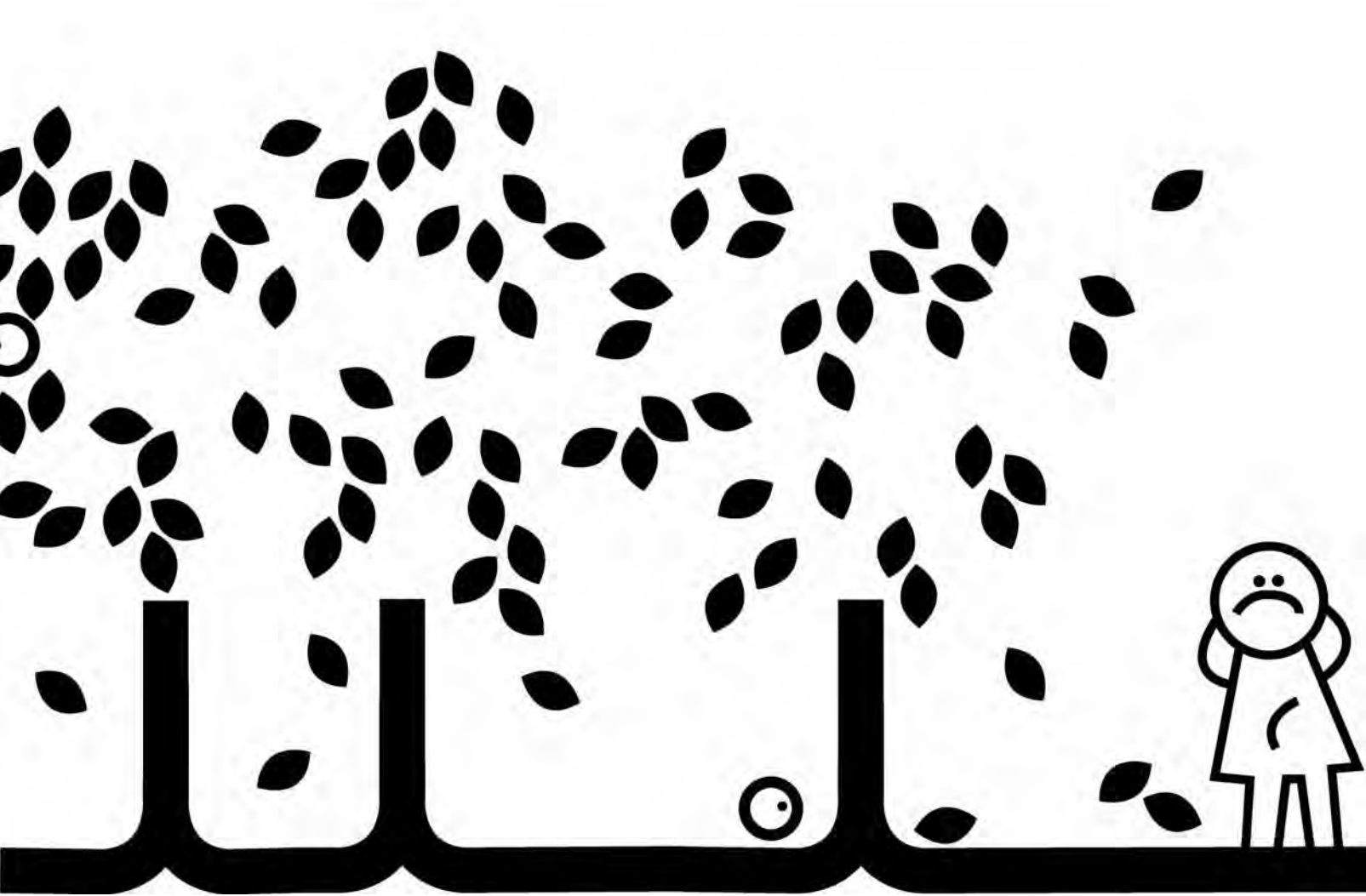
“It would be great if farms could produce enough to feed the town, but it just wouldn’t work anymore,” he said. “People don’t want to eat what we produce.”

Benallen Farms is one of the biggest dairy producers in Quebec. Although the family owns more land than the town of Lachute, it’s an expensive investment with no guaranteed payoff. Hammond wanted Martinez to let him know where he could find “virtually free” land out in Hawkesbury, as that kind of thing doesn’t happen too often.

“It costs millions of dollars to start from scratch in the farming business,” Hammond said, “and even then it’s not a sure bet.”

Feeding a population at the lowest cost while supporting a dwindling number of farmers is an issue that the federal and provincial governments have been wrestling with for years.

Though buying local is environ-



Not the giving tree: Quebec farming can't feed the masses. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

mentally viable and would support a local, accessible market, it would be impossible to prohibit non-local foods that we have all grown to love and eat a strictly local diet.

While many crops acquired from tropical countries can be produced in greenhouses here, the cost and energy waste associated with keeping greenhouses warm during Canadian winters would be much higher, and would therefore be unsustainable.

"We are competing against places that have three harvests a year," said P  pin. "We have only one. It's just not the same ballgame."

If other industries in Canada—like dairy, beef and poultry—are heavily regulated by the government and doing well, perhaps the produce sector could fall into the same system, suggested Par  .

"Dairy and poultry are the two industries making the most money in Canada right now, and both are governed by a quota system," said Lussier.

This system lets the federal government sell the rights to produce something—whether by quantity of

butterfat in the case of dairy or by square metre of barn in the case of poultry. In return, dairy farmers get a guaranteed price for their product and both receive a degree of protection from cheaper foreign imports.

"One kilo of quota of butterfat goes for around \$20,000 right now," said Lussier, "which is a pretty big deterrent for farmers who are just getting started."

Most young people can't raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to buy the right to produce milk in the first place.

Another problem lies in the difficulty of convincing vegetable farmers who have prospered to go to a new system, said Par  . "They are making a lot of money without any government interference."

Food for the future

There is a reason young farmers have been leaving the country: it's a huge amount of work for very little return. At least according to Travis Corrigan, a 21-year-old dairy farmer in Shawville, Que.

"The younger generation want to move more towards automation

or expand to be able to do the same amount of work with a little less effort," he said, explaining that buying new labour-saving machines is a huge expenditure. "The older generation is wary of this because they are focused on getting out of debt, not further into it."

Justin Poirier is a 20-year-old pork farmer in Richmond, Que., who plans on switching over to the dairy business.

"A big reason why young people are leaving farms is the cost associated with the business," he said, explaining that the capital necessary to start up a successful farm is intimidating and often prohibitive.

"Most farms are multimillion-dollar enterprises. That's a big investment to start with and that doesn't mean they will make money."

The good news, according to Lussier, is that there is a gradual shift towards more sustainable agriculture among the younger generation.

"Farmers have traditionally bragged about the number of tons

of corn they could grow. Now their sons and daughters are looking at their bank accounts and seeing that they can make the same amount of money, or even more, with less effort when they move towards more sustainable practices," he said.

No-till or less-till, or the practice of not ploughing fields, reduces soil erosion and saves both the wear and tear on tractors and the wages of the people who operate them.

People's potatoes

All the science and the technology in the world cannot change the reality that Montreal will never again be able to feed itself. Since we're accustomed to a certain food demand, despite seasonal produce, most people would not be willing to live on potatoes and rutabagas alone during winter months, nor would they be willing to make other sacrifices that would encourage a self-sustaining market.

We are caught in a downward spiral of non-local buying: food prices are high, which means peo-

ple cannot afford quality produce, which means farmers cannot turn a profit and are forced to leave their land.

Even if we cannot achieve self-sufficiency, there are things we can do to help reduce these trends and help support our farmers. The answer lies in the laws of supply and demand: if we provide a market for local produce, we can encourage farmers to increase the supply. When a balance is reached, prices will drop, making local, healthy produce more accessible to everyone—which will further increase the demand for more.

Even if we cannot achieve self-sufficiency, applying the rules of supply and demand can encourage lower buying costs and can help support our farmers.

Neither farmers nor consumers can do it alone; the government must step up by implementing rigid policies that will help this process along. In the end, Canadians will reap the rewards of greater food security, lower prices and higher quality of life.

\$6.5

billion in Canadian horticulture imports in 2007.

\$3.7

billion in Canadian horticulture exports in 2007.

\$1

billion. Total annual retail sales of certified organic products in Canada in 2007.

40

per cent of organic produce moving through mainstream supermarkets.

2,323

Number of Quebec farms reporting to farm organic products in 2006.

611

Number of Quebec fruit, vegetable and greenhouse farms reporting certified organic produce:



‘Fun’ is a relative term

• TRISTAN LAPOINTE

Sometimes how fun something is depends on how stupidly you act, or how drunk you get, or how many lights are on in the house. Danger can be measured in a similar way. Running a red light on a bicycle isn't inherently dangerous; if you know what you're doing it's as safe as going through a green. Though burning a light when you're not sure if you'll make it to the other side is dangerous, it's also really exhilarating. For some people, this kind of thrill is what cycling is all about.

Doing stupid shit for kicks is part of our collective history, not only as cyclists but as humans. While being irresponsible on a bicycle isn't as high on the danger/fun vector as, say, BASE jumping, it does have its risks.

Bombing hills falls into this category. Cycling downhill isn't always dangerous but inexperience, speed and a lack of brakes tip the scales. If you laugh in the face of danger then be my guest; completing any of these runs is a thrill. If you value serenity and safety, better to avoid these.

The Rockland Traverse. Two-way, Outremont/Mount Royal

This is a short one, but it can get pretty hairy. The traverse is the only high capacity auto link between the Town of Mount Royal and Outremont. As such, it sees a ton of traffic, much of it being of the BMW driving inattentive variety. Traffic goes one way (north) on this steep arch, so if you're going south you'll have to ride a half side-walk into traffic. The gap it bridges is so short, this thing is steep up and steep down.

Victoria Street southbound, Westmount

Victoria is scary. It's the steepest hill in the city, bar none. Traffic is light, but the pitch has a San Francisco quality. If you catch the hill off of Sunnyside Avenue, there's a good 800 metres ripe for the burning. Be wary though, there are basically no bailouts until Sherbrooke Street.

The Atwater Tunnel southbound, Atwater and St-Ambroise

Basically the longest rideable tunnel in the city, Atwater Avenue has the edge of the St-Remi tunnel due to sheer volume of traffic. Constantly full, there isn't much room to ride until the south side of the Lachine canal. Unlike other tunnels, the other side isn't going to be any respite; it's all highway exits and no shoulder. If you're going to do this one, expect to mash for at least 400 metres.

Côte-des-Neiges Road, southbound

While it's not the steepest or scariest, it is arguably the longest; a complete run down CDN from Remembrance Road to Sherbrooke is trying. Cars merge from all angles, steeps come out of nowhere and there are no sidewalks to pull off onto. Before they repaved the corner below The Boulevard, you'd hit a 20-metre strip of cobblestones that, if you weren't prepared, could send you flying. Make it to Sherbrooke without hitting any reds and I promise you'll feel like a king. To feel like a human again, try riding back up.

Adjusting your game

Former Alouette
Randee Drew shares
his experience
of playing football
around the world



Randee Drew has played in the CFL, NFL and everything in between.
GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

• JOEY ALFIERI

Randee Drew is a pro-football defensive back for the Canadian Football League's Edmonton Eskimos. He spent parts of three seasons with the Montreal Alouettes after graduating from Northern Illinois University, where he was a star for the Huskies football team. He has also played in the NFL, NFL Europe and Arena Football League 1 and 2.

What memory really stands out for you from your season with Northern Illinois in 2003?

Randee Drew: Well, first off, our team in 2003 was talented. We had Michael Turner, Sam Hurd and Doug Free who all currently play in the NFL. The thing that stands out for me the most from that season was that we had lost two teammates that year. We dedicated our season to them and we opened up the year with a win against number 13-ranked Maryland Terps. I had a game-winning interception in that game and we ended up being ranked number 10 in the BCS, which is still, I believe, the highest ranked spot for a non-BCS school.

The Northern Illinois Huskies had a great 2003 season but didn't end up playing in a bowl game. How did you guys feel

about that?

I won't lie, that really hurt. We tried so hard and played so well all year. We felt we should have been rewarded for our great season. All I can say is that the year they shorted us, we opened the door for a lot of small schools to get into bowl games and get recognized for their seasons and prove they can play. College football is an evening out and small schools are getting their recognition. I think my team in 2003 had something to do with that.

What does your experience playing football all over the world say about your commitment to the sport?

I think it says a lot. I love this game to death. There is nothing in the world that I'd rather be doing. I have been fortunate and blessed to be all over the world and meet great people in the process, and I've played for a lot of great coaches. I don't care if I make millions, the fact that I am able to play and be considered an elite athlete in the world is enough because I know how hard I work. This dream will come to an end one day, but it won't be because of my lack of effort or commitment. I love the game.

Which CFL rule took you the longest to adapt to?

I would say the motion, but I had a piece of that in Arena Football. So I will

have to say probably understanding the kicking game and point system in Canada.

How hard was it to bounce back from a torn ACL injury in 2008?

It was a horrible injury, but it's part of the game. At the end of the day, I had to make a decision to either stick it out and endure the ups and downs to get back, or walk away. And I am nowhere near ready to walk away. Doctors usually say it takes two years to recover from a torn ACL and a micro-fracture, so it's tough but so am I.

What was your favourite thing about the city of Montreal?

My favourite thing about Montreal was the life in the city. There are so many different people, so many different things to do and see, and I just love the fans and the way we were embraced. I had a great time and love that city. I also had great teammates there.

Where would you rank yourself in terms of defensive backs in the CFL right now?

There are so many great defensive backs in the CFL. But at my position—which is short side half back—I would definitely put myself in the same class as Korey Banks and other great halfbacks. I just think covering the motion is harder, so definitely top three.

Have a Concordia gripe? Send them
to opinions@thelinknewspaper.ca

Con u gripes

Concordia student union adrift

• MATTHEW BRETT

This Thursday's province-wide protest against tuition hikes may spur a revival of Quebec's student movement, but the Concordia Student Union will likely remain a largely irrelevant social club.

Quebec's tuition is set to defreeze after 12 years of stasis, but the newly-elected Fusion slate falls well short of presenting any serious proposals of what should be done.

Seven student unions in Quebec have already voted to go on strike this Thursday. A further five student unions in the province will be voting on whether or not to strike early this week.

Here at Concordia, CSU president-elect Prince Ralph Osei was out celebrating his electoral victory on Saturday night with his slate, having won 73 per cent of the vote.

The celebration will be short-lived, and the CSU is positioned to offer a repeat of the union's historic irrelevancy in defending student interests.

Some perspective is necessary here. Outgoing CSU President Amine Dabchy and his executive have certainly accomplished a great deal. They boast one of the stronger records of recent CSU slates, having eased tensions between the CSU and the student body under the previous union administration.

Dabchy also made it his personal goal to pull the CSU out of the Canadian Federation of Students, and he moved a step closer to accomplishing that last Friday, with 72 per cent of students voting "No" to membership in the CFS.

That said, the CSU now finds itself without a voice in Ottawa during the most significant financial crisis since the Great Depression.

Ottawa is set to slash its \$53.8-billion deficit once stimulus spending dries up next year, with federal program spending scheduled to be reduced from 15.6 per cent of gross domestic product this year down to 13.2 per cent by 2014-15.

This is the lowest level of federal program spending since 1949, according to fiscal reference tables by the Department of Finance Canada.

And we can be certain of whom will bare the brunt of these drastic cuts—the poor, the youth and the students. Women are also disproportionately affected by these downturns, according to a recent United Nations report on the financial crisis.

The CSU looks set to get caught with its pants down as these program cuts come barreling down the pipeline.

Dabchy, for example, was voted in as a student representative on the university's Board of Governors last Friday. But his

diplomatic approach to politics will have to be sharpened if he hopes to achieve any success during his brief tenure on the Board. Former CSU Board representative Noah Stewart-Ornstein at least put his foot down against the university administration.

And while Dabchy's executive achieved a great deal in cleaning up after the previous administration, the union fell short on one of its primary tasks—being a union.

The CSU organized 40 events and brought some interesting speakers to the university. But students are facing a historic tuition defreeze, and the union is busy offering yoga and wine tasting lessons.

This follows a general trend of CSU executives and councils taking the timid route to the student movement, leaving grunt work to other (i.e. francophone) student unions in the province while awaiting orders from the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec.

The new Fusion executive and councillors under Ralph Osei look to be a repetition of the same old story.

At the faculty level, the arts and science association at the Université du Québec à Montréal has already voted to strike this Thursday, joining lecturers at the Université de Montréal. Given that Concordia's new Arts and Science Federation of

Associations President Aaron Green also handles Conservative Concordia's communications strategy, it seems unlikely that ASFA will display any level of union activism, unless this deep shade of Tory blue shows an unlikely tinge of red.

And putting all the petty university politics aside, a look at the provincial and federal picture is necessary. Public opinion overwhelmingly favours increased social spending.

71 per cent of Canadians supported increased spending on education in the 2008 Canadian Election Study, arguably the authoritative source on Canadian public opinion. These figures likely changed as a result of the financial crisis, but there is a clear majority of support for socialized education.

Statistics like these make you wonder how Quebec education minister Courchesne can claim that there is a consensus that tuition fees should increase. The minister added an interesting caveat: "When I speak of consensus, I exclude the students."

The implication is quite clear. Student opinions are largely irrelevant. The governments in Quebec and Ottawa are far keener appealing to the "consensus" of Michel Leblanc, president and CEO of the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal.

Leblanc and a number of business and political leaders are proposing a "cultural revolu-

tion" in Quebec, arguing for higher daycare rates, hospital fees and student tuition. This is explicitly a contradiction to Quebec's Quiet Revolution of the 1960s, during which many of our social systems were built, including our universities and Cégeps.

Students in Quebec have witnessed a \$500 increase over two years in fees, while some international students are facing 50 per cent tuition increases. More hikes are certainly on the way. On top of this, many teaching assistants are facing 30 per cent pay cuts, which shows a complete lack of respect for student work by the university administration.

There is no student movement at Concordia at present. The closest thing to an active student-led union is the Teaching and Research Assistants at Concordia (TRAC), but even they have yet to move for a strike. The upcoming Graduate Students' Association election this April 6 to 8 may prove interesting with regards to a potential student movement.

But the CSU and ASFA appear content to remain in a position of obscurity within Quebec's student movement. Their legitimacy as defenders of student interests can certainly be brought into question.

Matthew Brett is a graduate student in political science. You can e-mail him at brett.matthew@yahoo.ca



Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

Sartre embodied

The editorial “Why don’t you care?” by news editor Justin Giovannetti is a timeless universal question (Vol. 30, Iss. 27, March 23). Jean-Paul Sartre, arguably the most profound philosopher in history, believed that every human being at a certain level of consciousness has freedom with the inherent responsibility for her or his actions. The consequences of Sartre’s philosophy open up a universe of choice, evil or good, war or peace, hate or love.

—David S. Rovins,
Independent Student

Tuition on rise again

Did you know the Quebec government is considering increasing your tuition... again?

On Feb. 11, Minister of Education Michelle Courchesne said, “I think there is a consensus [on increasing tuition fees] that is being established in Quebec. When I speak of consensus, I exclude the students.”

On March 30, the provincial budget will finally be announced, including the announcement of whether our tuition will increase.

Two hours after the government’s announcement, we invite you to learn more and voice your opinion at a public panel and debate, The Future of Higher Education: Who Should Pay For It?

It will take place in room H-110 in Concordia’s Hall building on March 30 at 6:30 p.m., with the following panellists: Concordia President Dr. Judith Woodsworth, Concordia sociology professor Daniel Dagenais and IRIS (Socio-economic research institute) researcher Eric Martin. It is a rare opportunity to hear directly from our university’s president and to directly ask her any questions you may have about the accessibility and quality of our university education or about the “American model” previously mentioned by President Woodsworth in *The Link* newspaper.

If you have an opinion or experience related to tuition or the “American model” and want to voice it, if you want to learn more about different perspectives on this issue, or if you care about

the future of accessible and quality education in Quebec for yourself, your siblings, or your children, we will see you there at 6:30 p.m. The panel is absolutely free and open to all.

—The Graduate Students’ Association and
Free Education Montreal

Freeway or Toll Education?

The Charest government will present its “post-crisis” budget on March 30. To steal a phrase from American Vice-President Joe Biden, this is a “big f**kin’ deal.”

In recent months, neoliberal pundits like Lucien Bouchard have called for a “Révolution culturelle” in Quebec, similar to former Ontario premier Mike Harris’ “Common Sense Revolution.”

The Cultural Revolution will take aim at public service and set the table for privatization of public assets. Quebec’s neoliberals are calling for increases in electricity rates, a raise in the Quebec Sales Tax, higher hospital fees and increased daycare rates.

As always, the university is a key theatre for these so-called “revolutions.” Although it remains unclear how the changes will be distributed within the university system, it appears as if it will come in three forms: the lifting of the tuition freeze, an increase in international student fees, and additional fees (frais institutionnels obligatoires) in “high-valued” fields like engineering, law, business, the physical sciences, etc.

The logic of additional university fees is similar to the toll highway strategy in urban planning. Proponents ask us how we can maintain our highways without tolling drivers.

The systematic defunding of public assets under the Liberal Chrétien/Martin duo and Prime Minister Harper has left cities structurally unable to maintain its infrastructure, so neoliberal planners claim that tolls are inevitable. But is it?

Speaking at a teach-in during the massive



by Madeline Coleman GRAPHIC DAVID BARLOW-KRELINA

mobilization against privatization in 2009 at University of California Berkeley, Professor Ananya Roy said defiantly, “I am an urban planner and I reject the inevitability of toll roads, and I know the era of freeways is not over. The freeways are being built and financed, just not for us [...]”

Using the toll-highway metaphor to illustrate the equity problems related to user fees, she encouraged her students to reject the idea of a tolled education—an education where students must pay a toll to enter the enclaves of “high-valued” education.

By and large, in Quebec, we have resisted the

inevitability of tollways and “tollway education” because of people’s movements and solidarity.

While these terms might seem like a fantasy for many of Concordia’s new student politicians, the student movement in Quebec is no fairy tale.

Five years ago, more than half of the

province’s post-secondary students were on strike and defeated Charest reforms. Will Concordia students stand up this week and defend university accessibility, or will we continue to punch below our weight?

—Yuseph Adam Katiya,
Geography, Planning and Environment

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

THE **LiNK**

2010-2011 General elections

General elections Results

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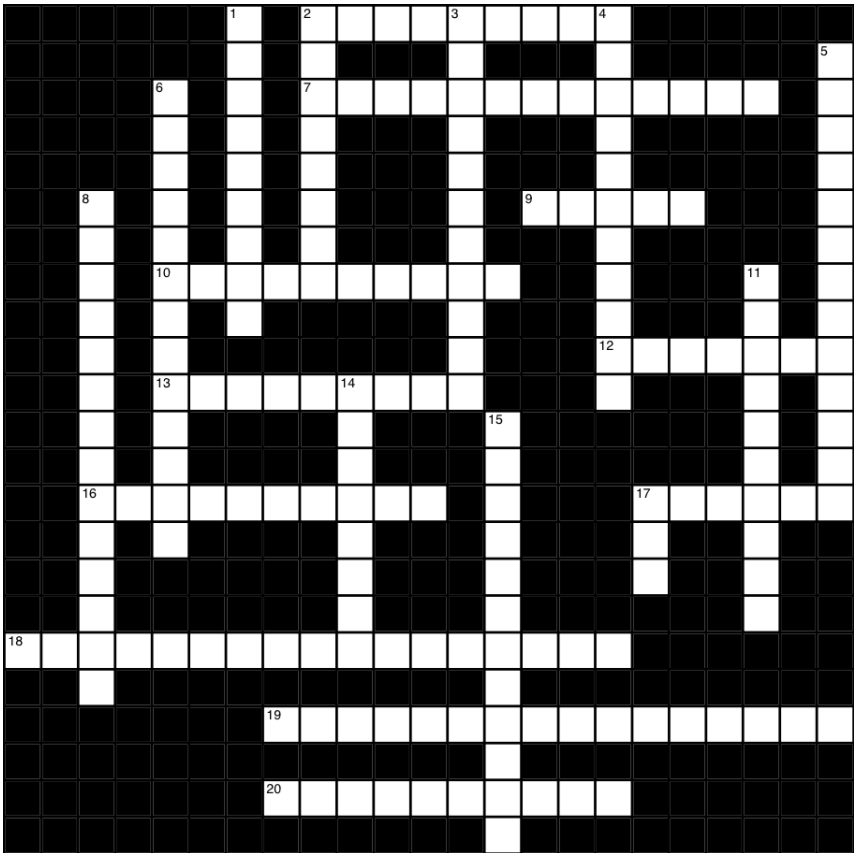
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pzzlol

THE “CHEVY CHASE EQUALS HANDSOME” EDITION
• R. BRIAN “LANDSHARK” HASTIE



Across

- 2. Personal friend of Chase’s, even appeared in video for 1986’s “You Can Call Me Al.” (2 words)
- 7. Hosted these prestigious filmic awards in 1987 and 1988. (2 words)
- 9. The number of children Chase has.
- 10. Chevy’s favourite U.S. president to mock. (2 words)
- 12. His *Community* co-star’s long-running gig, on the air since 2004. Alternatively, delicious warm pseudo-meal. (2 words)
- 13. Chevy referred to his first band as “bad jazz,” but after dropping Chase from the line-up and changing their name, this band went on to sell millions. (2 words)
- 16. *Caddyshack* co-star and fellow *Saturday Nignt Live* alum, their relationship was less-than-stellar. (2 words)
- 17. 1985 film that had Chevy using a thousand

- disguises in order to learn the truth. John Coctostan indeed.
- 18. This Dan Aykroyd-directed flop (it was even nominated for a few Razzies) also co-starred the future Ms. G.I. Jane. They shoulda just released it under its original name: Geeked. (3 words)
- 19. Pre-fame musical outfit, recorded an album for MGM Records before disbanding in 1969. (3 words)
- 20. Fellow *Saturday Night Live* alum, they made *Spies Like Us* together in 1985. (2 words)

Down

- 1. Bob Saget-directed 1998 guilty pleasure. Although it stars Norm Macdonald, Chevy has some of the film’s best lines as a bumbling doctor who owes the mob big time. (2 words)
- 2. This act of physical comedy was Chevy’s ‘70s trademark.

- 3. *The Jerk* himself starred with Chevy in 1986’s *Three Amigos!* (2 words)
- 4. The birth city of the great Landshark. (3 words)
- 5. Chevy is gifted with the ability to identify/recreate a musical note without the benefit of an external reference. (2 words)
- 6. Chevy’s vacation character. (2 words)
- 8. Turned down the main role in this 1999 film that eventually went to Kevin Spacey, who earned an Oscar nomination as a result. (2 words)
- 11. Chevy’s first theatrical appearance, with the future Detective Munch, no less. (2 words)
- 14. *SNL* catchphrase: “I’m Chevy Chase and _____” (2 words)
- 15. Was briefly considered for one of the titular characters in this spirit-hunting comedy.
- 17. The TV network that gave Chase his ill-fated 1993 talk show.

editorial

Bill 94 wrong for the wrong reasons

Quebec was one of the first provinces in Canada to recognize multiculturalism and implement policies protecting the rights of different cultural groups. They did so by embracing multiculturalism through recognizing “interculturality,” which Quebec recognizes as “the acceptance of, and communication and interaction between, culturally diverse groups [...].”

It seems counterintuitive to have this reputation while being continually cast in the Canadian spotlight as an intolerant province, one that necessitates a cross-provincial bandwagon to assess what Quebecers think of reasonable accommodation—rather than tackle any real issues—and one that leads the nation in restricting what has become the token symbol of Muslim women, the niqab.

Quebec is claiming it is a secular province under Bill 94, a piece of legislation passed in the National Assembly, which bars women from wearing the niqab—a Middle Eastern garment that covers everything but the eyes—inside government buildings. The reality is, we’re hiding behind this claim of secularism. We are advocating for the protection of women’s rights, stating women who wear the niqab are oppressed and they should be “just like us.” We are stating our need to protect women’s rights as just cause to rebuke what appears to be an obvious religious signifier. Would we also ban the habit, worn by Christian nuns?

The real issue is our state’s misunderstanding of a foreign culture and fear of Islamization. According to the Canadian Muslim Congress, the niqab is an instrument of repression not rooted in religion and cannot be compared to the hijab (headscarf).

Quebec continues to make the same failures in advocating diversity and “tolerance,” all in the name of reasonable accommodation and interculturalism. In reality, truly embracing multiculturalism in a secular state means accepting the cultural or religious customs of minority groups as long as they don’t infringe upon the majority’s statutory rights. The ban on the niqab (only 10 niqab-wearers utilized provincial government services last year, according to *The Gazette*) is a preemptive measure to safeguard against non-western cultural infiltration, not for the noble cause of the protection of Muslim women.

If Quebecers want to limit use of the niqab, that’s our prerogative. But instead of hiding behind false heroics, we should be honest with ourselves about the true intentions behind this law.

—Terrine Friday,
Outgoing Editor-in-chief

Barely a democracy

Elections are supposed to be times of dramatic change, or at least jubilant reaffirmation. Elections are the instances when individuals come together to speak on behalf of their society. Whom do we want as our leader? How do we treat our prisoners? What kind of health care do we get? We each say yea or nay, and the nation speaks as the voice of millions.

Concordia has just come out of an election. For four days the student body was given the chance to have their say, to define what it meant to be a Concordia student. Did we want to pay more for a student centre? Did Cinema Politica deserve our money?

Well, the polls are closed and the votes are counted—what did Concordians say? Approximately nine-tenths of the student body declared that they didn’t give a shit.

In a student body consisting of more than 30,000 individuals, only 3,000 cared enough to come out and speak their mind. Late Thursday night, as election results were coming in for the Sir George Williams campus (voting at Loyola had been extended due to the disruption caused by the gas leak), there was talk that the election hadn’t even reached quorum. That’s right, we only barely qualified as a legitimate democracy.

To those students who voted, congratulations. You’ve decided the financial and political fates of nine of your fellow students. A mere 22 students decided that Cinema Politica will henceforth receive five cents for every credit you take (good call). One hundred and seventy-eight students, 0.006 per cent of the voting body, tipped the scales against Le Frigo Vert.

To those students who didn’t vote, and there are a lot of you, I hope you like how your school will be run for the next year.

—Clare Raspopow,
Outgoing Managing editor

heartaches anonymous

Dear Heartaches,
My boyfriend is truly wonderful: he holds my hand, is there for me through thick and thin and he cooks a mean dinner for two. But I’m not sure what to do because—well, I guess the complete truth, nothing but the truth so help me God, is that I’m addicted to my vibrator. His name is Felix, and he makes me purrr. Every time I turn him on, I am a river of juicy goodness, just waiting for the levee to break.
My boyfriend hates competing with a rubber cock and would never consider bringing Felix into the mix. To be honest, my bf is great in every other sense—but he just isn’t purple,

plastic and hard as nails. What should I do?
—Seduced by silicone

Dearest Seduced,
So, uh, does Felix have any friends?
I’m so glad you’ve found true love—even if it is with a big purple cock. Oh, and your boyfriend sounds pretty good too. You’ve just got to work on getting him to accept Felix’s place in your life. Your man is feeling insecure because he worries a gizmo gives you more pleasure than he ever could. Between you and me, that could be true—

but if you really want to bring Felix into your boyfriend’s bed, you’re going to have to convince him he’s the greatest lover there ever was.
I’m not advocating fake orgasms or any other *Sex and the City* namby-pamby bullshit, but a little encouragement goes a long way. A wise woman (or was it *Cosmo*?) once said it takes just three little words to make your boy feel like a man: “You’re so hot.” Okay, so it’s three words and a contraction, but let’s take a minute to appreciate the effects of

such a simple statement. Your wonderful, wonderful boyfriend may be used to hearing that he’s sweet, a great cook, etc. etc.—but is he used to hearing how sexy he is?
Every time you look at your man and think about how awesome he is, speak up. Double points if you tell him within 10 minutes of fucking. Once you’ve got him feeling good about himself, chances are it’ll be easier to switch up.
And if it doesn’t work? Hey, at least you already know how to work it by yourself.