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CFS split by reform proposal

Quebec branch receives legal threats after hints of reform

JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

In response to petitions from students at 13 schools across Canada to leave the Canadian Federation of Students, the national lobby group's Quebec branch has released a reform package aimed at keeping schools in the wider federation.

The lengthy reform package, composed of three sections, calls for the overhaul of the organization's financial disclosure system, the sale of the CFS' service component and the disclosure of the federation's past and present legal proceedings.

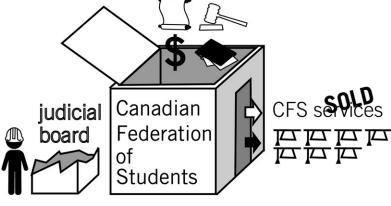
"If the CFS is serious about reform, this package should be enough to convince a lot of unions that leaving isn't a necessary step," said CFS-Q treasurer Andrew Haig, who helped draft the reform package.

"But we got how serious they were when two days after announcing the reforms, we got a letter declaring us persona non grata."

Legal challenge

The initial announcement of a forthcoming reform package, made by CFS-Q president Greg Johannson, was met by a letter from the CFS' lawyer.

In the letter, the CFS' legal counsel declared that the Quebec



The proposed reforms would create a CFS with a new judicial board; fully disclose financial information, legal records, salaries and "fundamental documents"; and sell off CFS-services and seven members. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

branch was no longer a member of the CFS due to "[being] engaged in activities which have caused and continue to cause damages to the CFS." The letter also stated that CFS-Q could no longer collect student fees and would need to stop using the organization's name.

"They say they are threatening us because we are harming the federation, but how can you say the rights of the members as spelled out in the constitution are in conflict with the interests of the federation?" asked Johannson.

"It's like those in charge of the CFS have lost sight of the interests of their membership and have come to see their own financial interests as synonymous with the goals of the federation."

Mandated to help

The reform package was written after the CFS-Q's Board of Directors adopted a unanimous resolution on Sept. 11 mandating the Quebec branch's executive to "aid member locals and/or their individual members in evaluating their continued membership in the [CFS]."

Haig confirmed that he, along with the other executives, helped collect signatures from Concordia and McGill students.

"We've been mandated by our members to help individual students exercise their democratic right. At the same time, the CFS-Q along with student unions across the country will be putting forward a package of reforms for adoption at the CFS [annual gen-

eral meeting] that we hope will push the organization in a positive direction."

Haig added that five to 10 CFS members have already pledged to support the reforms.

The positive direction

One of the sections of the reform package deals with current legal and membership problems with student governments at Simon Fraser University; the University of Prince Edward Island; Dalhousie University; Holland College; Cape Breton University; Mount Saint Vincent University; and the University of Saskatchewan.

The reforms call for the end of those governments' memberships or prospective memberships.

"The long list of reforms includes selling the CFS-Services branch, which we view as a serious conflict of interests when trying to get corporatized interests out of the education system while also trying to make a profit from selling merchandise to students," said Haig.

The CFS-S is responsible for printing many day-planners at member schools and for on-campus business like Student Phones.

The CFS could not be reached for comment by press time.

Gender advocates want answers

Call for special meeting at 2110 Centre to deal with lingering questions

• TERRINE FRIDAY

Staff members of Concordia's 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy have called for an emergency meeting in order to openly consult on accusations of financial misappropriation, discrimination and questionable employment tactics.

In an open letter sent out on Monday, Bianca Mugyenyi, the Centre's programming and campaigns coordinator, referred to high staff turnover and a recent emergence from "almost total stagnation" as reasons to initiate "activist whistle-blowing" by circulating a petition calling for a special general meeting.

The Centre's bylaws require that 1,000 signatures be collected by petition in order to trigger a special meeting. The petition has been circulating since last Friday.

According to Mugyenyi, the Centre's Board of Directors has ignored repeated requests for internal disclosure and the only alternative is an open meeting with its members—all students who pay the filed written and verbal requests to 29 cents per credit fee levy-next month.

The Centre boasts a budget of \$250,000, with the majority of its funding coming from undergraduate students.

consult with Board members for the past three months. The main reason for going public was "the lack of transparency and the unwillingness to take seriously the requests for investigations."

"The Board is acting to protect certain employees who have been accused in some way of misdeed[s] or negligence."

> —Aly Stillman, 2110 Centre employee

Among the grievances are overlap between different positions, transparency isn't the only obstacle lack of financial responsibility, new staff members face. public airing of confidential documentation and the Board's general lack of professionalism.

"We shouldn't be hiding what's happening at the organization," said Mugyenyi. "It's a Concordia student organization and [students] have a stake in the struggle if they want to see a vibrant gender advocacy centre."

According to Mugyenyi, she and three other staff members have Co-worker Aly Stillman said

"It does seem as if there is a system of alliances [at the Centre]," said Stillman. "So the Board is acting to protect certain employees who have been accused in some way of misdeeds or negligence."

She maintained the call for a special meeting wasn't to publicly speak out against the organization, but rather to "come [up] with a number of amendments to our constitution which will hopefully fill the voids that exist now and demand accountability."

Board member Rima Athar said she doesn't understand why a petition has circulated; an agreement to hold a general meeting in the third week of November was reached at a meeting last week.

In an open letter, Athar stated she believed in the Centre's mandate and agreed "this Centre can and should be doing more, given its funding and mandate."

Another Board member, Jackson Hagner, said a date for the special meeting hadn't been set due to time constraints.

"Especially since the letter was sent out on Friday, we haven't even had the chance to discuss with the Board and the staff," said Hagner, who urged people to "come to the meeting for themselves and be a part of the discussion."

The 2110 Centre holds open Board meetings every other Monday at 6 p.m. (2110 Mackay St.). Their next meeting is Oct. 19.

news

A half hour with the outspoken candidate

Richard Bergeron talks students, trams and takes a few shots at his opponents, too



• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Richard Bergeron, the leader of Project Montreal, should understand the needs of Montreal's commuters. He travelled from his last campaign stop by metro—as he always does—and had to walk for a kilometre through heavy rain, showing up half an hour late for his interview with The Link.

Yet, sitting in his party's spartan office at the corner of Papineau Avenue and Ontario Street East, Bergeron didn't blame the rain or the metro for his tardiness, he blamed himself: he likes to talk, quite candidly, as it turns out.

When asked about his party's low profile on student issues, Bergeron answered, "Why would we talk about students [if] you're not even going to vote? Why would we care about you?"

Laughing at the harsh tone of his answer, he added, "You wont get an answer like that from Gérald Tremblay or Louise Harel."

"We only talk to people who will vote, I only have 23 more days until the election. I have already lost three kilos. I am always exhausted. I am exhausted when I wake up in the morning and I work on adrenaline the rest of the day. Why would I waste time on students?"

A university teacher for the better part of a decade, Bergeron credited students for their activism and belief in change, but said that they need to realize how important a vote really is.

"Every time I go to schools I ask myself 'what am I doing here?'

"We spent three days last week trying to get you to sign up to vote. We went to all four universities and we had good media coverage," Bergeron said. "The next day I went to UQAM and I asked how many people had signed up—they hadn't had more than 20.

"Twenty sign-ups for 40,000 students, I think it's clear that most of them won't vote."

Trailing in the polls but gaining momentum-a La Presse poll put Project Montreal's support at 20 per cent-Bergeron was quick to point out that the words used to describe his party were no longer accurate.

"Fringe? On the border? Not anymore. We are playing to win and we are confident of winning," he said seriously.

"People try to stick names to me, like green, left-wing or things like that. When they do, I take the sticks out," he said, pulling metaphorical labels off his forehead. "If you want to describe me, I am an urban planner, professionally. For all my life I have been an urban planner, that is what I love."

Despite Bergeron's objection to stereotype, Project Montreal has been seen by many as a transit-centric party—not a bad place to be in what many are calling a transit-centric election. Project Montreal's plan is ambitious: build a downtown tramway, extend the metro in every direction, build a train to the airport and add hundreds of kilometres of bus lanes and bike paths.

When asked why he thought Montreal needed such an extensive system, Bergeron's demeanour changed. "There is a big answer," he grinned, switching into French.

"[The tram] is an excellent mode of transportation and it is an instrument to transform the city," he said.

"The tramway is the spinal cord with which you change everything else, including the personality of a city," Bergeron said, adding that it would also help keep infrastructure costs down.

Using the redevelopment of the Radio-Canada site as an example, Bergeron said that the current project calls for a 3,500-space parking garage.

"I went to [the developers] with our plans for tramways on René-Lévesque Boulevard and I asked them, 'If I guarantee this plan for November 2012, will you build 1,500 parking spaces less?' He told me yes."

According to Bergeron, the savings on the redevelopment of the Radio-Canada site alone could be nearly \$60 million if the tram was implemented. He also promised that his administration would provide free public transit for two years to people living in the new

"People start calculating. Saving two years of public transit for a family of three is \$3,600, they don't need to pay for parking, they don't need a second car and it becomes competitive," Bergeron said. "That's how the tramway reorients the process of urban

In Project Montreal's final transit plan, released on Oct. 8, the party announced that they would extend the blue line west from Snowdon, building a station at Concordia's Loyola campus.

Bergeron also said that he wants to decrease the price of student fare without reducing the Société de transport de Montréal's revenue.

"We want to put the cost of student fare down to \$30 a month, but beyond that, we also want to include the price of public transit in your university fees," Bergeron said. "In effect, those students who won't use public transit will be subsidizing those who do use it. It would end up costing all students about \$15 a month."

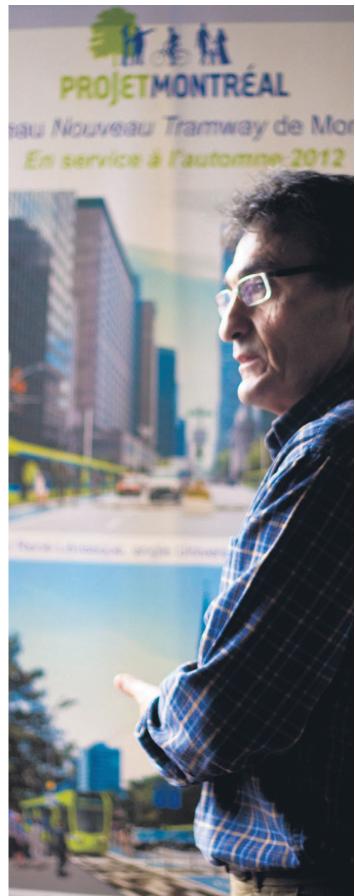
Without naming names, Bergeron took shots at the proposals of his opponents, arguing that building more and bigger highways won't work, since the highways only help people leave Montreal.

"When 10,000 families leave Montreal each year for the suburbs, what does that do for Montreal? It takes away from Montreal, it gives to Mascouche and St-Constant. These cities are happy: 'Keep it going, Montreal, keep sending us your middle class, your families, your children,' and the idiot running Montreal hasn't realized it yet, it's almost not possible," Bergeron said with an angry rise in his

According to Bergeron's calculations, the full impact on Montreal's economy from the 80,000 families who left the city during mayor Gérald Tremblay's two terms was nearly \$24

"My main preoccupation with students is that they don't leave Montreal. Statistically, when you graduate you leave Montreal, and that hurts," he said. "What bothers me is that Montreal can't convince you, during your four or five years at school, to stay and start a family.

"I understand why you leave, with Gérald Tremblay as mayor I would leave too. As mayor I want to get you hooked on Montreal, I want to convince you to stay."



Bergeron points at the René-Lévesque Boulevard plan. PHOTO ELSA JABRE

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Harel wants cheap student transit

Vision Montreal leader has no plans to visit Concordia or McGill

• HUGO PILON-LAROSE

Leading in the polls and running to become Montreal's first female mayor, Louise Harel of Vision Montreal said all full-time students should have a more heavily discounted monthly

"The Fédération des associations étudiantes du campus de l'Université de Montréal proceeded to a referendum and 80 per cent of the student body voted in favour of paying the STM a certain amount of money for the marketing of a special monthly pass with lower fees," said Harel.

Her party concluded a partnership with the FAECUM at the beginning of October that would have them provide all full-time students with a rebate on their monthly pass if they're elected.

According to Harel, it is important that students use public transit to go to school or work, and that they be comfortable while travelling.

"Mr. Labrecque [the president of the Société de transport de Montréal] blames me and Vision Montreal for making an announcement about a project he has worked on for so long now," said Harel. "But being in negotiations for over a year is unacceptable."

Promising \$200,000 to UdeM for the project—enough to pay for the physical printing of the new passes-Harel said that although she would like to extend the project to all the universities and CEGEPs in Montreal, the necessary investment could be prohibitive.

Negotiation with the 19 CEGEPs and four universities in Montreal would be required before any steps could be taken.

No metro station at Loyola campus

"We haven't had any new metro station on the Montreal island for too long now," said Harel. "The metro needs new development and the government of Quebec's decision to continue the blue line east to Anjou is good news for the

The party leader also supported the decision to loop the orange line from the station at Côte-Vertu to the Montmorency station in Laval—an idea also supported by the two other major par-

Harel said she didn't have any plan for any metro extension west of Snowdon towards Concordia's Loyola campus, but added that she was thinking of Concordia's students at Loyola in her plan for the building of a new Turcot inter-

Presumably, students could travel faster between the Sir George Williams and Loyola campuses because the shuttle bus could use a proposed lane on the new interchange reserved for public transit.

The leader of Vision Montreal quickly dismissed the idea of tramways, saying that they would not be a productive way of spending time

"They are another illusion from Richard Bergeron," Harel said of Project Montreal's ambitious plan for tramways. "[Bergeron's] plan for the city is not based on anything except theories and Montreal doesn't need that for its development."

English campuses "intoxicated" by negative media

Although Vision Montreal has plans to tour all of Montreal's CEGEPs and universities, Harel might stay at the party's office for some of those

"I think I have good relations with students," Harel said, but when asked about a possible visit to Concordia during the campaign, she asked if she would be welcomed on campus by the student body.

Harel said that the English-language press was "intoxicated" with negative articles and columns about her and for that reason she had no plans to visit Concordia or McGill before election day.

Diabetes plagues Kahnawake

Poor sports facilities and funding push disease to twice the national average

• MADELINE COLEMAN

Underfunded athletics facilities in Kahnawake are contributing to the community's diabetes problem, according to Mackenzie Whyte, operations coordinator of Kahnawake's Sports Recreation Unit.

"People have developed a more edentary lifestyle," she said. "If prevention of diabetes. there were more facilities, people would have access to a greater range of activities and more possible times to do them."

Kahnawake is a First Nations reserve of about 7,000 located on Montreal's south shore. Over 800 people, nearly 12 per cent of the population, have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes—more than twice the national average of five per cent.

"It's a lot of people," Whyte said

A survey conducted for Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Branch in July revealed that while increasing numbers of First Nations people are aware of the programs promoting physical activity in their communities, few of them connect exercise with the

First Nations populations with diabetes are more likely to point to genetics or diet as the disease's

The same survey reported that under half of the First Nations surveyed rated their communities' sports facilities as "good" or "excellent." Whyte out that Kahnawake's minimal facilities are actually better than most.

"We're unusual compared to other First Nations," she said. "In other places, like up north, they don't even have an arena at all."

Dr. Jun-Li Liu of Montreal's Fraser Laboratories for Diabetes Research said that exercise is one of the most important factors in preventing or treating type 2 diabetes, a disease which occurs when the body is unable to properly process insulin, a chemical which regulates the amount of sugar in the blood.

"Exercise builds muscle and muscle is better at responding to insulin," he said. "The bottom line is, if you're afraid of becoming diabetic, you need exercise."

While Whyte admitted that healthy habits are the responsibility of the individual, she said the community's athletics facilities

would be hard-pressed to aid widespread health initiatives.

Kahnawake's Sport Recreation Unit received about \$12,000 of funding last year from the federal and provincial governments combined, an amount Whyte called "peanuts." She said the recreation centre would have to expand its facilities if it wants to add more programs.

"Sometimes people will come at night because they want to walk around the arena, but it will be crowded with kids," she said. "They ask, 'When will it be less crowded?' and we have to tell them to come back during the day. We just need more room."

Whyte added that Kahnawake's hospital has been proactive in organizing activities like walking groups.

Briefs

Bravo for Bronson

Award-winning artist, writer, curator and healer A.A. Bronson will receive an honorary doctorate at the Fall 2009 Convocation. The co-founder of artist's group General Idea, known for their involvement in punk, queer theory and AIDS activism, Bronson will join fellow honorary doctorate recipients Robert Walsh, Elizabeth Comper and Tony Comper.

Composting cones invade York

York University in Toronto is installing bottomless composting cones across campus. Fruits, vegetables and bread can be thrown in the cones, which stand above a half-foot hole in the ground. Worms are attracted to the composting matter and consume it. Maintenance is expected to be minimal and the year-round bins are emptied annually.

Mayor of Laval goes for round six

After 20 years as mayor of Laval, Gilles Vaillancourt is working towards a sixth term in office. To poll the public, Vaillancourt aims to visit 30,000 homes during his campaign. He is pledging to build an electric bus system, improve commuter rail service and build a sports and cultural complex.

Fine for Concordia student dropped

The City of Montreal has dropped a \$628 fine levied against a former Concordia University student, Brendan Colin Jones, for sitting on a ledge at Émilie-Gamelin Park. Jones had been photographing police from his sitting position as they approached people drinking alcohol in the park. When asked, the site architect said the park ledge was designed to be sat on.

Fighting for First Nations words

The languages of First Nations peoples are in decline across the country, particularly that of the Tsuu Tina Nation west of Calgary; the youngest Tsuu T'ina speaker is 60 years old.

First Nations' language speakers face the challenge of convincing a Facebook generation that their words aren't old fashioned. A revival is underway though through an expansive community language program.

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Marc-Boris Saint-Maurice at his campaign headquarters where local artists supply the art. PHOTO JESARA SINCLAIR

Candidate wants to take the piss out of the Plateau

Public urinals to keep dimly-lit corners and alleys safe

• JESARA SINCLAIR

An independent candidate in the Plateau is taking the female urinary system into account as he finalizes his platform.

"It is definitely possible to accommodate women," said Marc-Boris Saint-Maurice, who made headlines with his plan to install public urinals in the area. "It's the right thing to do."

Saint-Maurice said he initially didn't think there would be a need for female facilities, since he felt that public urination was a problem caused by men.

"Just the mechanics make it more difficult for a woman to let loose in a doorway," he said, but since his public urinal project began to receive attention, Saint-Maurice discovered that women might feel "slighted" by not being included in the plans.

After receiving information from cities around the world

about how to include a female component, one of his options is a plastic cup or funnel that would allow women to pee standing up.

The public urinals [...] were an idea that came to him when he noticed that nearly every doorway on St-Laurent Boulevard had been peed on.

As an independent candidate running in the Jeanne-Mance district of the Plateau, Saint-Maurice said he can focus on issues that affect his neighbourhood; he won't have to worry about pleasing the entire city.

The public urinals, for example, were an idea that came to him when he noticed that nearly every doorway on St-Laurent Boulevard had been peed on. The rest of his platform includes safe injection sites, shifting police resources to problems like theft and providing resources for local entrepreneurs and artists.

Saint-Maurice has ran in provincial and federal elections before, serving as the leader of the provincial Bloc Pot and later the Marijuana Party of Canada.

"The issues that the Jeanne-Mance district [faces] are issues that many cities across the country face," said Saint-Maurice, noting communities can learn from each other and use each other to find solutions.

The city of Victoria, B.C. recently unveiled a \$40,000 outdoor urinal after three years of testing various portable options. The city, however, has yet to come up with an answer for women, so for now the city is operating on a bring-your-



These bottles of Coke will cost Ryerson a lot. PHOTO DEUSXFLORIDA

Ryerson bleeds six figures over Coke deal

• CARYS MILLS & VANESSA GRECO, THE EYEOPENER (RYERSON UNIVERSITY)

TORONTO (CUP)-Ryerson will lose over \$130,000 in funding this year because students didn't drink enough Coke.

An exclusive deal with Coca-Cola required Ryerson to sell a certain number of their products within a five-year term. Since Ryerson didn't sell enough, the university is bound to Coke for another year without any guaranteed payoffs.

Coke paid Ryerson \$765,000 to carry their brand exclusively on campus. Scholarships, bursaries and athletics received the bulk of the cash.

John Corallo, director of ancillary services, negotiated the contract and is now left to make up the lost funding. "A contract is a contract and we have to deal with it," he said.

The agreement stated that if Ryerson didn't meet the quota, Coca-Cola could extend the contract and withhold further financial rewards. The extension will last a year, unless Ryerson can sell the required products in less

"We don't want to lose anything that services our students," said Ivan Joseph, the athletic director. "I consider Coca-Cola the university's big partner. Anytime we lose any sponsor, that's a concern."

Corallo said the university could lose all funding from Coca-Cola. He had requested that the corporation maintain \$15,000 in athletic funding, which had previ-

ously been used for athletics awards and brochure printing. At that time, he expected to hear from Coke within a few weeks.

Eight hours later, after The Eyeopener questioned Coca-Cola about Corallo's request, the corporation confirmed that the athletic funding would remain in place. However, even with the promise of athletic funding, Ryerson is still missing out on thousands of dollars.

Corallo attributes a decline in Coke products purchased on campus to the popularity of healthier beverages.

But Richard Girard, research coordinator at the Polaris Institute, which has profiled Coca-Cola and its exclusivity deals, said health-conscious consumers shouldn't be blamed for the unfulfilled contract.

"To say that's the main reason they're not meeting the contract is speculation," he said. "Ever since these contracts have existed, universities have been missing their quotas," Girard claimed.

The first Canadian campus to sign an exclusivity deal was the University of British Columbia. Like Ryerson, UBC didn't meet their quota, so they were stuck with Coke for another two years without financial reward.

"Never again would we enter into an exclusivity deal, no matter how sweet it seems," said Nancy Toogood, the UBC Alma Mater Society's food and beverage man-

Once Ryerson's contract extension is over, the university can stick with Coke, choose a rival brand or opt for a local vendor.

'Paper tigers, lacking in tooth'

Temporary worker program under attack

• SALIM BOU ZIAB

The Temporary Foreign Worker Program, a federal initiative to import temporary cheap labour, found itself under the severe criticism of professor Judy Fudge during a talk at McGill University.

Fudge, the Lansdowne chair of law at the University of Victoria, said that "in the 2007 budget the federal government characterized the Temporary Foreign Worker Program as its 'principal tool to help employers meet immediate skill requirements when qualified Canadian workers cannot be found."

Despite a wealth of mechanisms and regulations that were devised to protect temporary workers, Fudge asserted that "in practice

these mechanisms failed to protect [them]." She described these regulations as "paper tigers lacking in tooth and claw, neither well developed nor effectively enforced."

"Temporary workers are not entitled to provincial social assistance anywhere in Canada."

> —Judy Fudge, Law professor

According to Fudge, "two of the provinces that receive the largest number of temporary foreign workers, Alberta and Ontario, exclude agricultural workers from collective bargaining rights while several provinces provide reduced

employment entitlements-such as upper limits on work hours and rights of statutory holiday pay-for agricultural and domestic work-

"Agricultural workers in Alberta are not even covered by the provincial occupational health and safety legislation," she pointed

Fudge also said that the wages of temporary workers had not increased at the same rate as other sectors, saying this was proof that temporary workers were being used to lower wages and employment conditions overall in the Canadian labour market.

"Temporary workers not entitled to provincial social assistance anywhere in Canada," she added.

Sit back with some java and talk to the president

Two dozen students share coffee with student union president Amine Dabchy



CSU President Amine Dabchy fields questions on...structure? PHOTO ELSA JABRE

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Concordia Student Union President Amine Dabchy sat down with nearly two dozen students on Oct. 8 at the Java U on the Mezz.

The latte-fuelled meeting was the first in a series of "Coffee with Amine and Co." events.

Sitting in front of an easel bearing his image, Dabchy looked comfortable dealing with studentsranging in groups from one to five-although he did have to talk over the loud music occasionally.

"I was happy to see the reaction from students," he said. "I got some new ideas. As a CSU executive you can be out of the loop. You don't know what's going on on the ground and students at large can keep you in check."

When asked what criticism he received, Dabchy smiled, "I got a lot of criticism for last year, but I had to explain the rupture between this year and the last." The current CSU president, a former councillor, spent much of the previous academic year in the political wilderness.

"I also clarified a lot what the CSU is," continued Dabchy, holding up a schematic of university and student government he had drawn on a piece of scrap paper.

Raja Chemali, a first-year biochemistry student, spent nearly half an hour speaking with

"It was a very good idea," said Chemali. "I didn't know what the CSU was. But [Dabchy] might need some help; a lot of questions were asked and he was alone."

"For the first hour I had one of the VPs with me, but we didn't know we were going to have a turnout like that," Dabchy said in response to that suggestion. "The first time is always a trial, next time we will make it better. We will make it more visible and I will have more VPs with me."

Under a Chinese sky

Montrealers flock to the botanical garden for oriental flavours

• MIREILLE TARCHA

Marking the 400th anniversary of the telescope, the Magic of Lanterns festival at the Montreal Botanical Garden looked to ancient Chinese astronomy for inspiration.

The result is inspiring visitors to walk by dragons, tigers and pagodas strung with lanterns in a multitude of colours. The traditional silky sounds of the plucked pipa, guzheng and yueqin also play in the background.

"The pictures are amazing but nothing compares to being here and seeing it," said Phil Lemieux, a fascinated spectator.

"Several months are put into each theme every year with a wide range of specialists which included, for this year's festival, many astronomers," said Emilie Cadieux, the Magic of Lanterns coordinator.

"After a long brainstorming session, a Chinese artist created a series of drawings and sketches which were then shipped to Shanghai," explained Cadieux. "They were authentically made and brought back to Montreal to be built by a team of painters, architects and plumbers."

The representation of animals in this exhibit is an important part of Chinese astronomy, she continued.

Unlike western astronomy, which is based on yearly observations of the sun's movements, Chinese astronomers base their studies on monthly observations of the moon's movements.

As a result, the Chinese sky is separated into 283 star patterns divided into 28 bands, known as lunar mansions. The bands are based on the number of days required for the moon to make one rotation. Western astrono-



Animals have a central place in traditional Chinese astronomy. PHOTO MIREILLE TARCHA

my only has 88 constellations.

"Every one of those 28 mansions is shown on the celestial globe in the centre of Dream Lake, the lake in the centre of the

"The four Chinese constellations around the celestial globe are associated with four mythological animals, representing the four seasons and cardinal points."

> —Emilie Cadieux, Magic of Lanterns coordinator

Chinese garden," said Cadieux. "The four Chinese constellations around the celestial globe are associated with four mythological animals representing the four seasons and cardinal points.

"The Azur Dragon for the east represents spring, the Vermilion Bird for the south embodies summer [and] the White Tiger for the west and the Black Tortoise for the north symbolize autumn and winter."

Now in its 17th year, Cadieux expects nearly 25,000 people to visit the festival during the two months it is open.

This year also marks the introduction of a new energyefficient LED lighting system for the lanterns.

Although Cadieux wouldn't give away next year's theme, she said that it was already decided and work on the sketches was to begin shortly.

New antibacterial compound discovered at McMaster

Targets E. coli and drug-resistant bacteria at the genetic level

• LILY PANAMSKY, THE SILHOUETTE (MCMASTER UNIVERSITY)

HAMILTON (CUP)—A milestone in microbial biology research has been reached at McMaster University, where researchers have discovered a new chemical compound known as MAC13243 that is able to target bacteria resistant to antibiotics.

Eric Brown, chair of the McMaster biochemistry and biomedical sciences department, led the research with an objective to

tions that come up."

Many currently available antibiotics were discovered about 50 years ago. Although incremental changes to the antibiotics have been made, drug resistances in bacteria have developed almost as quickly as the researchers are able to alter the

"Most of the old products [use] a mechanism of action that includes disrupting bacteria cell wall synthesis, DNA synthesis or protein syn-

"address the growing problem of thesis," said Brown. "There's a real multi-drug resistance in the clinic push to find new chemical comfor the many drug-resistant infec- pounds that kill bacteria in a completely new way. That's really what we've discovered."

The research team conducted a series of screening tests for tens of thousands of chemical compounds in a procedure known as a "chemical genomics approach" to find a compound that killed the model bacterium E. coli. Once such a compound was discovered, the team did further screens to discover new and different ways in which the compounds killed the 4,500 genes in E. coli.

They then attempted to match the chemical compound with the specific gene whose growth it halted. It was discovered that MAC13243 could block a particular step in the development of the E. coli cell's sur-

Although work up to now has been performed in a laboratory in Petri dishes and no testing has yet been conducted on patients, Brown maintained that "[MAC13243] makes an interesting lead for further development as an antibiotic."

—with files from Selma Al-Samarrai

"There's a real push to find new chemical compounds that kill bacteria in a completely new way. That's really what we've discovered."

> -Eric Brown, McMaster chair of biochemistry and biomedical sciences

the link • october 13, 2009 • thelinknewspaper.ca/lit

Birds of a feather publish together

Childhood friends Kate Hall and Johanna Skibsrud pair up for a double launch



Concordia creative writing graduate Johanna Skibsrud reads from The Sentimentalists at the Arts Café on Oct. 9. PHOTO PETER HAEGHAERT

CHRISTOPHER OLSON

They attended the same summer camp as kids in Kingston, graduated from Concordia's creative writing department together in 2005 and now they're doubling up for the launch of their new books, both of which were written as part of their graduate theses at Concordia.

Kate Hall's *The Certainty Dream*, a book of poetry exploring themes of miscommunication, and Johanna Skibsrud's *The Sentimentalists*, an exploration into her father's testimony against a fellow officer in Vietnam, teamed up for a double launch at the Arts Café on Fairmount Avenue West on Oct. 9.

Hall has been writing since childhood and has received attention from her teachers for just as long.

"My first grade teacher bound my collections into a book so that it would feel real, like putting in the staples so you could open it," said Hall.

Unlike the picture books that define most people's childhood reading, Hall's father used to read her bedtime stories consisting largely of poetry.

"They would be books that had no pictures in them and I would still sit there just totally enraptured," said Hall.

Even if she didn't understand the meanings they were trying to convey, Hall could still appreciate the words' rhythm and flow.

"A large aspect of my poems is that they're really concerned with having to know things, and actually a lot of the time we know things in a sort of intuitive way," said Hall, whose boyfriend is Spanish and speaks English as a second language.

"We can't really be sure that we're conveying exactly what we [intend] to say to people," said Hall. "There's a kind of sadness in that and there's a great freedom in that, and poetry is about those holes and those mistakes and those misunderstandings."

"I often feel like there's more diversity in what I see in my classes than what I see in a lot of literary magazines."

—Stephanie Bolster, Concordia creative writing professor

Though one is fiction and the other is poetry, both Hall and Skibsrud's stories deal with a loss of knowledge and meaning

Skibsrud's father, who was a soldier in the Vietnam War, witnessed the murder of a civilian that shook him so badly that he reported it to his superiors, sparking a three-year investigation.

"He testified against the officer and because of his testimony he was ostracized from his squad and basically feared for his own life," said Skibsrud, who only learned of her father's wartime experiences six years ago. The book's epilogue incorporates a transcript of her father's trial testimony. Other than that, the book is only loosely connected to real events, or what little of them can

still be remembered.

"So much of my father's experiences at this point, especially 30 years removed from it, was really hard for him to recall," said Skibsrud. "In that way it was very easy for me to take that next step towards fiction"

Skibsrud's father passed away last year, but he managed to read his daughter's thesis.

"But I wish he could have read it as it is now," she said, "I really regret that, but that's the way it happened."

Concordia creative writing professor Stephanie Bolster taught both Skibsrud and Hall in 2004 and supervised what would one day become *The Certainty Dream*.

"[Even then] I felt that there were books coming out of that class," she

Bolster, who hosted the evening, said there's been a real momentum in former Concordia students going on to publish books and winning literary awards.

"I often feel like there's more diversity in what I see in my classes than what I see in a lot of literary magazines."



The Certainty Dream Kate Hall Coach House Books 96 pp \$14.95



The Sentimentalists
Johanna Skibsrud
Gaspereau Press
224 pp
\$27.95

quick reads

Death is such a drag



Death in Key West: A Bradford Fairfax Murder Mystery Jeffery Round Cormorant Books 247 pp \$20.00

Death in Key West is a queer whodunit which invites readers into the messed-up world of Bradford Fairfax, a world teeming with murder, opera-singing drag queens, vengeful ghosts, incest and enough crude jokes to make Bob Saget blush.

Bradford, a vacationing secret agent, has taken his boyfriend Zach to Key West for New Year's. Unfortunately, their romantic plans are disrupted when five notorious drag queens are found murdered. Their attention quickly shifts to the number one suspect: James Vanderbilt III, the drag show's eccentric headliner and unlikely heiress to a substantial fortune. But when Vanderbilt is found floating in the ocean, Bradford and Zach stop lounging by the pool and spring into action to solve the case.

Death in Key West is a lot of fun—I'll give it that—but mostly because it's really hard to take seriously. The few glimpses at real romance are overshadowed by the overwhelming amount of erotic content and—with far too many unnecessary details and pointless puns—Round's writing is as thick and polluted as the Key West air in which his scenes are set.

Moral of the twisted story: this novel will either be your new favourite guilty pleasure bathroom read or the fresh liner for your cat's litter box. Either way, poop's involved.

> 1.5/5 —Jamie Eisen

Lepidoptera periculosus



The Dangerous World of Butterflies Peter Laufer PhD Lyons Press 288 pp \$29.95

Using Wikipedia, I may feel I have learned everything there is to know about a subject, when in fact I've only scratched the surface. That's where books like Peter Laufer's *The Dangerous World of Butterflies* prove that only a well-researched novel can quench my curiosity to its fullest. Because if you've ever been curious about butterflies, you won't be at the end of this book.

We get the mandatory talk about how butterflies have entered human expression in the guise of various art forms, but Laufer also provides quality journalism for those more interested in the human aspect of butterfly collecting. One chapter delves into undercover operatives infiltrating the illegal butterfly trade and conservationists protesting the Mexico-United States border fence because it would interfere with butterfly preserves.

Included in my press package was a list of "suggested" interview questions for author Peter Laufer, including such softballs as, "The Dangerous World of Butterflies has been praised for its parallels to Susan Orleans' bestseller The Orchid Thief. What do you think of the comparison?"

Much worse than the softball questions I might be compelled to ask is one so trivial it assumes I didn't even read the book at all: "What distinguishes a butterfly from a moth?"

Sounds like a question for Wikipedia. As for me, I haven't got any more questions about butterflies. My curiousity's been quenched.

3.3/3

—Christopher Olson

Passenger fright

Brian Campbell publishes post-9/11 prose poems

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

We've come a long way since Leonard Cohen wrote those famous lyrics, "She feeds you tea and oranges that come all the way from China."

"Now everything comes from China," said Brian Campbell, whose book of prose poems, Passenger Flight, invokes global warming, globalization, 9/11 and state-sanctioned torture.

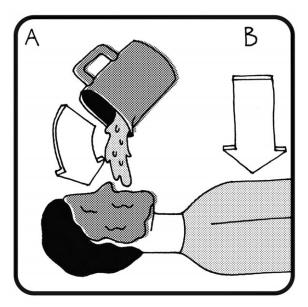
"The Angel," originally published in the 1980s, views torture from the point of view of the torturer and resonates a tad differently post-Abu Ghraib. When Campbell wrote about torture, he was referring to German SS physician and lead human experimentalist Josef Mengele.

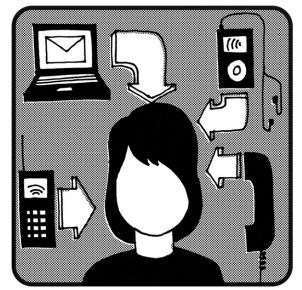
Most of the book, however, was written starting in 2006, after Campbell's 10-year absence from poetry while pursuing a music career.

"At first, I just started writing automatically to see what would come. But what happened is that a lot of these exercises became fully fledged prose poems," he said.

A first draft of Passenger Flight, titled "Field of Gems," ended up on the shortlist for the CBC Literary Awards in 2006.

"I later became conscious of the





Brian Campbell explores modern techniques of torture and technology in Passenger Flight. PHOTO JONAS PIETSCH

"It's almost as if saying I'm a participant as well in the very things that are being held up to satire or examination."

> —Brian Campbell author of Passenger Flight

manuscript as a kind of survey of our modern world," he continued.

The first poem in the book, entitled "Spoils," explores the effects of globalization on a man who lords over his pricey imported furniture, including his bed, which he boasts comes from Sweden.

"Obviously it's an IKEA bed," said Campbell, "[in which] something like 50 per cent of Europeans have been conceived."

Many of the objects mentioned in the poem are lifted straight from Campbell's apartment.

"In fact, I kind of embody my message," he commented. "It's almost as if saying I'm a participant as well in the very things that are being held up to satire or examination."

"To A Writer Who Complains," a tongue-in-cheek lamentation of the lost art of writing with a pen and paper, was originally written as a blog post in response to a luddite who advocated cutting oneself off from technology. It's an example of Campbell's willingness to jump on the bandwagon of modern innovations like Facebook and Twitter.

"One of the difficulties of capturing our time poetically is that the technology that our lives are mediated through, and that dominates our lives, has not really

entered into our subconscious," said Campbell, who uses a keyboard and says it's a misnomer to use the word "write" when "type" is more accurate in our day and

"But they just don't have the same kind of [emotional] resonances," he said, and likely won't for some time. "Even a pen and paper have less resonance than a quill and paper."

Even if modern technology is all-encompassing, it's also freeing,

"Blogging has been very enriching," said Campbell, who still hasn't warmed up to Twitter, although at least he can say he's

"At least Facebook has the strength of developing a commu-

Brian Campbell will be reading at The Yellow Door Poetry and Prose Reading on Oct. 15 (3625 Aylmer St.), along with writers and poets Hélène Rioux, Lesley Pasquin and H. Nigel Thomas. The readings start at 7:30 p.m. and costs \$5.



Passenger Flight **Brian Campbell Signature Editions** 90 pp \$14.95

A Freudian slip from Poland to Montreal

Freud finds symbolism in the classic immigrant's tale

• PASCALE ROSE LICINIO

In the house where Distantly Related to Freud's heroine Ellen lives with her mother, there is a portrait hanging over the mantelpiece.

However, it's not the portrait of a relative they lost in the tragedy they rarely talk about that forced them to flee Poland a few years before. It's not even the picture of Ellen's father, who was "in the wrong place at the wrong time" and is now nowhere to be found.

Sigmund Freud.

To Ellen's mother, who belonged to the Central European intelligentsia that settled in Montreal after the Second World War, that familial connection to the father of psychoanalysis is a great source of pride.

"By evoking Freud, you evoke the world that created Freud-these countries that were under the rule of the Austro-Hungarian Empire-that valued education and the arts and saw themselves as capitals of enlightenment," said author Ann Charney.

Like her heroine, Charney was born in Poland and immigrated to Montreal as a child. Distantly Related describes the complexity of the immigrant experience, particularly that of those who survive dis-

"A lot of people who survive disasters don't really talk about that," she said. "They come to North America to reinvent themselves. In order to do that, they often try to shed their past. Of course, they never succeed totally."

Ellen, the narrator, grows into It's the portrait of a distant relative: a thoughtful but impatient teenager. Her connection to Freud brings no longing for a faraway world she cannot even remember. It instead symbolizes her growing self-awareness and her hunger for understanding the world as much as she can in order to discover who she is.

> Distantly Related centres on Ellen's appetite for experience and hypersensitivity; it successfully describes the blooming of a young girl longing for freedom and sensuality and how independence often comes at a price.

Some parts of the story may feel a bit

too detailed, but the narrative offers good insight into Montreal in the 1950s and the beginning of the

"I was writing about a city that no longer exists," explained Charney. "I wanted people who weren't there to know what it had been like and others to be able to recognize the parts I had put in the book, our shared common memory."

She relied on her memories of the city during that period to write the story and made sure she had got the facts right afterwards.

"It was the opposite of writing non-fiction, where the story comes after interviews and a lot of research," said Charney, who is also a renowned journalist.

"Because, to me, fiction is something that first comes from inside of you."



Distantly Related to Freud Ann Charney **Cormorant Books** 336 pp \$21.00

GRAPHIC AMERICA BLASCO

From A to Zorn

Montreal author makes her publishing debut with Ruins & Relics

• BARBARA PAVONE

Author Alice Zorn has always been entranced by literature, but she never imagined she'd one day pen anything herself.

"It never occurred to me to write," said Zorn, who published her first book of short stories, Ruins & Relics, this year. "I actually didn't start writing until I was 30."

Zorn's path to writing was filled with trial and error. After completing an English degree, she tried her hand at teaching.

"It's like brushing my teeth. If I haven't written [all day] I feel really sleazy."

-Alice Zorn, author of Ruins & Relics

"I didn't enjoy teaching at all," she recalled. "I knew I would never be a good teacher, so I quit and I bartended."

She went on to work as a pastry chef and a seamstress, and was partway through her PhD until one day it finally dawned on her: she would work as a full-time writer.

"The very first story I wrote, it was the most exciting thing I had ever done," she said. "I focused like I never focused. I was completely into it; it was great."

Zorn's short stories span a myriad of subjects, from a simple USB key which connects two strangers in a library in "Entrez André" to a body marked with permanent, unfortunate relics of scars in "All the Suffering" to a Lebanese cedar tree which eternally binds two strangers and wannabe lovers in "The Other Canadian."

Zorn has the rare ability to depict vivid settings-whether it be a library or an exotic land like Tunisia—and characters, making them jump off the page and into the reader's mind.

Putting together her debut book was another tribulation-filled journey that would last almost 20 years. A self-proclaimed perpetual realist, Zorn didn't expect it to go well.

"I didn't think that publishing a book was easy," she admitted. "What was surprising is that I finally did it."

A true writer needs to have a pen and paper handy since ideas can arrive spontaneously, and sometimes only once every few months, said

"I write a first draft as fast as I can," she said. "I like that organic feel, the flow of the story straight through. I try not to fool around with it afterwards. The way I write it the first time, that's what I stick with."

In advising young authors, Zorn said she is a firm believer that you should write for your own interests first and foremost.

"Never hold back writing a story because you think there's no market or it's not trendy," she said.

With Ruins & Relics finally on bookshelves, Zorn is now working on publishing her first novel and has plans to continue writing every

"It's like brushing my teeth," she said. "If I haven't written [all day], I feel really sleazy."



Ruins & Relics Alice Zorn **NeWest Press** 213 pp \$19.95



Alice Zorn's Ruins & Relics was 20 years in the making. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Les Fleurs du Mal



CHRISTOPHER OLSON

In Les Fleurs du Mal, an indie arts zine that emerged in 2006, vou're as likely to find essays on obscure relics from the ancient days of broadcasting as you are reviews of contemporary art installations.

Annie Briard, former arts editor of The Concordian, co-edits the zine with Canadian Dimension copy editor and contributor Edwin Janzen. What started as a class project in an interdisciplinary arts class, the two have managed to keep the zine alive after graduation.

The Link: You started LFDM while still in school. How did that work out?

Annie Briard: The fact that it was an unpaid gig and we both had full course loads and other jobs meant that our timelines were always changing and deadlines randomly pushed. It always seemed quasi-miraculous when an issue would finally be published and distributed.

Edwin Janzen: I must have put in more than 20 small grant applications to a variety of Concordia offices over the past few years [to keep it

What's so evil about flowers? Why did you call it that?

AB: Since neither of us are particularly skilled in coming up with titles, we set up a contest for artists to propose one. The winner was artist Jake Moore, who thought the title described the style of critique we wanted for the mag.

EJ: Her entry was [actually] in English—"The Flowers of Evil"—but we went with the French because we

wanted to show ourselves to be open to French-language submissions, though we continue to receive far fewer of those than of English-language ones.

Montreal has a lot of indie arts zines. Where do you guys stack up against the competition?

EJ: It's not a situation of competition. After all, we're circulating the mag for free and at our own expense. For their parts, the city magazines-Voir, Hour, Ici, Mirror-don't cover art much. Maisonneuve is more general interest. Worn Fashion Journal is about the confluence of art and fashion. I could go on and on with individual comparisons.

AB: We have a niche in the sense that there are larger art magazines but they don't tend to leave much room for emerging writers or artist profiles and critiques.

Canadian Dimension and Les Fleurs du Mal couldn't be more different. Explain how they're exactly alike.

EJ: I disagree. While they are very different, they surely could be more different. What they share is that both

of them allow me opportunities to advance the kind of knowledge and ideas that, in my opinion, the world needs more of. *LFDM* is a place where you can write reviews if you want to, but you can also write op-eds, essays, comparisons, fantasies, fictions, screeds, what-have-you. Most Canadian art mags-mostly comprised of full-page ads and one sixteenth-page show reviews-don't offer that.

Where's the magazine heading?

AB: There's nothing confirmed yet, but although we tried to put the mag to rest after its last issue, we realized we loved it too much to kill it off. So we're looking into larger funding opportunities and wouldn't be surprised at all if yet another issue mysteriously emerged sometime in the near future.

You can find free copies of Les Fleurs du Mal in Concordia's EV building (1515 Ste-Catherine St. W.), Le Cagibi (5490 St-Laurent Blvd.) and at the Oboro (4001 Berri St.), or you can download all four issues online at Ifdmmagazine.com.

Lucky number Seven

Famed landscape painter's origins traced back to Concordia campus

• ELISABETH FAURE

One of Concordia's own faculty is climbing the bestseller list with a new biography about the life of A.Y. Jackson, a member of Canada's famed 19th-century Group of Seven landscape painters.

A.Y Jackson: The Life of a Landscape Painter offers readers a vibrant portrait of one of Canada's most famous artists.

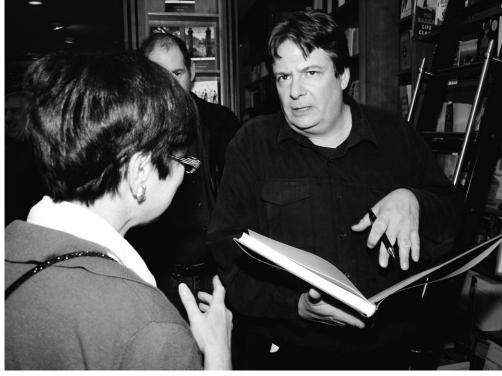
"Jackson was always the most interesting member of the Group," said Wayne Larsen, a journalism professor and editor of *The Westmount Examiner*, who is himself a landscape artist. "He never owned a car, never married and lived a frugal lifestyle that was designed to serve one purpose: his painting."

"It was a huge undertaking and no one else ever wanted to tackle it."

> —Wayne Larsen, Concordia journalism professor

At the Oct. 8 book launch, held at Nicholas Hoare bookstore on Greene Avenue, the Concordia community rubbed elbows with Westmount's finest—both the outgoing and incoming mayor were in attendance—to celebrate Larsen's latest book.

"I could never understand why there was never a full biography of Jackson, but now I



Concordia journalism professor Wayne Larsen did exhaustive research on the most famed of Canada's Group of Seven landscape painters. PHOTO ALAN MACQUARRIE

know," said Larsen. "It was a huge undertaking and no one else ever wanted to tackle it"

To write the complete story of Jackson's life, Larsen went over a large amount of previously unpublished material with the help of his wife, art historian Darlene Cousins. They pored through many of Jackson's personal letters and family photos, along with

interviews with people who were close to him and colour photography of his art from private collections.

The resulting book is a feast for the eyes and an intimate look at Jackson's life, detailing how the maverick outdoorsman rose from an impoverished childhood to become the de facto leader of the Group of Seven. The art contained in the book is a

portrait of Canada, from rural Quebec communities to Newfoundland, British Columbia and the Arctic.

In the course of his research, Larsen tracked down Jackson's birthplace on Mackay Street, a stone's throw from Concordia's Sir George Williams campus. Larsen said that most of Jackson's early life had never been documented prior to his book.

One of the best parts about writing the book was doing hands-on research, said Larsen, which resulted in humorous findings.

"I remember laughing out loud when I saw [Jackson's] old army enlistment papers from World War One," said Larsen. "Most kids lied to make themselves older in order to enlist, he lied to make himself younger."

Jackson's forceful personality informs each of the canvases reproduced in the book, giving them new meaning.

As of Oct. 10, the book was already at number two on *The Globe and Mail*'s best-seller list in the art section, second only to Kat Von D's *High Voltage Tattoo*.



A.Y. Jackson: The Life of a Landscape Painter Wayne Larsen Dundurn Press 280 pp \$60.00

Lit Writ

The Toe

AMANDA L. SHORE

The abomination stares at me from beneath our blue duvet. The jaundice-bellied scab of flesh with its tentacle-like roots imprisoning once lush skin. His toes are clammy, scraping against my naked legs. Derrick, I swear if you come any closer with that atrocity I'm going to chop it off and shove it down your throat.

"Good morning, love."

"Good morning darling."

"Come here and let me cuddle you and cover you with kisses."

"Oh Derrick."

Damn that toe is worming its way towards me. Get away, get away! Stop, stop thinking about it. Focus on Derrick. Mmm...yes...his lips on my neck...and fungus. Fungus creeping up my leg. Leeching from his toes to mine and spreading like wildflower! Warts sprouting, my thighs scratchy as sandpaper, his poison mushroom infecting me with its ugly disease...UGH!

Must not think of that. Think about something, anything else.

Okay...shoes... Yes shoes! Black patent leather with a silver Amish buckle, opentoed front that reveals the toadstool perched like Satan's thumb pressing itself against his flesh, announcing its repulsiveness to the world...

The abomination stares at me from beneath our blue duvet.

Breath, breath, shallow breaths. Let's go over the chores to do today: dust the drapes, wash the floors, buy an electric saw and slice that motherfucker off! No stop thinking about it. Oh Lord I can't! It's watching me. It knows I want to kill it. That thing has a brain and it wants my husband's toes and it will destroy anyone in its path. I must, must destroy it, kill it, vaporize the shit out of it, GET IT THE FUCK AWAY FROM ME!



The jaundice-bellied scab of flesh with its tentacle-like roots imprisoning once lush skin.

"Was it good for you honey?"

"Oh, yea. Marvellous."

"How about a mushroom omelette for breakfast?"

"Great, I'll get an axe."

"What?"

"I said I'll get the eggs."

"I love you."

"I love you too."

This isn't over, toe.

To submit your fiction or poetry to the Lit Writ column, e-mail them to lit@thelinknews-paper.ca.

Fading into focus

Palestinian refugee holds on to distant memories from 9,000 km away

JILLIAN KESTLER-D'AMOURS

Pictures of Fouad Sakr's family line the walls of his modest Park Extension apartment.

"My son's wedding in Lebanon," said Sakr, pointing to a framed photograph displaying the smiling faces of his son, his son's bride, his wife and himself.

On the other side of the room, school photos of Sakr's granddaughters hang beneath two recognizable images: a small Palestinian flag and the Lebanese cedar tree, the country's national symbol.

"They say, 'Please come. We want to see you. We love you. Come," said the 63-year-old Palestinian refugee, about his family who live mostly in Lebanon. He has yet to see some of his youngest grandchildren.

"Only in photos on the Internet," he explained, taking a sip of Arabic coffee.

Forced out

Sakr was two-and-a-half when he and his family had to leave their home in the northern Palestinian village of Akka (now known as Acre) in 1948.

Israeli soldiers captured the village in Operation Ben'Ami in May of that same year, causing most of the indigenous Palestinian population to flee to Lebanon or to the nearby town of Nazareth.

"All my family was from there," said Sakr, explaining that his ancestors had lived in the region for "maybe 300 years, maybe longer."

After leaving their home, the Sakr family stayed for a short time in the small village of Jwaye on the southern Lebanese coast, less than three kilometres from Akka. They then moved to the Lebanese refugee camp of Ein El-Hilweh, near the Lebanese coastal town of Saida, which is now the most populated Palestinian refugee camp in the country.

Sakr explained that his family—he, his parents, two brothers and three sisters—received a tent from aid workers, used shared bathroom facilities and had no access to running water or electricity there.

"The life was very bad in the camp," Sakr said. "I feel so sorry for the people [in Lebanon]. It's a bad life."

A nomadic lifestyle

In 1968, Sakr earned a diploma in nursing and left Lebanon soon thereafter for Kuwait.

He spent over 20 years there, working as the head nurse at a general hospital. He married and raised four children there as well, three boys and one girl.

"I was very happy there," said Sakr, explaining that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 forced the family to go back to Lebanon.

Moving back to near Saida, Sakr quickly discovered that as a Palestinian refugee, finding employment as a nurse in Lebanon would be impossible.

"The government of Lebanon is very strict for Palestinian people. If you want to go from your home to the [refugee camp's communal] toilet, without your ID, they will give you a ticket," said Sakr, who spent most of his family's savings while unemployed.

Palestinians make up the largest and longeststanding refugee population in the world.

Until recently, Palestinians living in Lebanon

had been barred from participating in over 70 different professions. Some—including law, medicine and engineering—are still off limits to them.

According to Rex Brynen, a McGill political science professor specializing in Middle Eastern politics and peace-building, these employment restrictions are merely "a fancy way of keeping Palestinians out of the professions."

"There are a series of barriers which have prevented Palestinians from more effectively integrating into the Lebanese economy," he said. "They are a marginalized and excluded population."

Brynen explained that, historically, there have been fears within Lebanese society that the country's already fragile sectarian balance would be disrupted if full rights were given to Palestinian refugees, the majority of whom are Sunni Muslims.

"There has always been a concern on the part of non-Sunni groups—particularly Christian groups—that naturalizing Palestinians would work to the favour of one group over the others," Brynen said, adding that "it's been very convenient for the Lebanese to use the Palestinians as a scapegoat" for many problems within the country.

Life in Canada

After a failed attempt at making some money by starting a business with friends in Bulgaria, Sakr came in Montreal on Nov. 1, 2001 with his younger brother.

Although they arrived together, his brother's claim for refugee status was quickly approved while Sakr's was denied.

"I wrote a million letters to [Canada Customs and] Immigration, judges, Parliament... Nothing," Sakr lamented, claiming discrimination against Arabs was what really hindered his case.

While acceptance rates for Palestinian refugees are higher than for other groups in Canada, they still face many complicated obstacles, said Jared Will, Sakr's lawyer since 2008.

"Palestinians have difficulties because they have trouble establishing their identity. Another problem they have is getting here," said Will, alluding to the restrictions imposed on them in terms of freedom of movement and travel.

"Because it's a political sensitivity issue, there are people within the bureaucracy and decision makers who have very strong anti-Palestinian sentiments," he added.

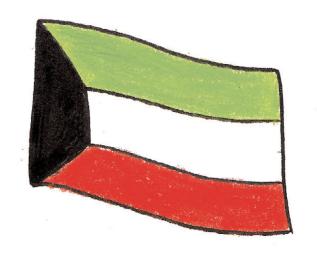
Karine Mac Allister, a PhD student in international law at Université de Montréal, explained that Canada does not—but should—apply the United Nations Human Rights Council's interpretation of what constitutes a Palestinian refugee under Article 1D.

According to the Article, refugee status is automatically granted to Palestinian refugees from both the 1948 and 1967 wars who were living outside the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's operating area.

"[This is] something Canada does not recognize, which means that Palestinian refugees have to undergo individual refugee status determination here. Canada should apply Article 1D to Palestinian refugees in accordance with UNHCR's interpretation," Mac Allister said.

Though he applied for it in 2004, Sakr was final-









Fouad Sakr recounts his 60-year experience living as a refugee in Canada. GRAPHIC EMILIO ESTEBAN

ly granted refugee status on humanitarian grounds six months ago. His permanent residency claim is still pending approval.

Sakr explained that, despite going over seven years in Montreal without any formal documentation and running the risk of deportation, the constant threat didn't faze him.

"I was not afraid. I am not afraid from anybody," said Sakr. He admitted, though, that living in Canada without papers made it harder to sleep at night.

"I was looking only at the ceiling thinking about my wife, son, daughter," he said. "For eight years I have been in a prison. For eight years I have been alone."

Still separated from family and Palestine

Sakr explained that if he could, he would go back to his home to live with his family.

"Of course I want to go back. I hope for salaam [peace] in this war. But where is my country? My country is Israel now," Sakr said.

According to Mac Allister, who spent over three years as the legal advocacy coordinator at the BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights in Bethlehem, it is highly unlikely that Palestinian refugees will be allowed to return to their homes, especially with [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu in power. A lot will have to change within Israeli society," she said.

A 2008 BADIL survey states that at least 67 per cent of the worldwide Palestinian population—which constitutes approximately 7.1 million people—have been forcibly displaced. Among that number, at least 6.6 million are Palestinian refugees and 455,000 are internally displaced persons who have been forced from their homes but remain in Palestine.

The same report estimates that between 43,900 and 52,200 Palestinian refugees currently live in Canada.

A major obstacle to solving the problems of Palestinian refugees and internally displaced persons is the fact that no UN agency is directly involved, Mac Allister added.

"[This leaves] the entire process to politicians and the so-called peace process, which is determined by the balance of power and not international law," she explained. Still, she said, the Palestinian resolve to remain hopeful is inspiring.

"Palestinians are very resilient," Mac Allister continued. "Steadfastness has become part of the culture. To me, that's what's the most inspiring thing: despite a situation that looks hopeless, they are still standing."

Today, Sakr explained that he is trying to get his wife, who still lives near Saida in Lebanon, the proper documentation to be able to come to Canada.

Likening the travel document issued to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon to a "grocery store receipt," Sakr isn't sure when he will see her again, or if they will ever live in Palestine together.

"When I see my country, I will cry. My country...

Everybody has a country but only I am without a country. I feel very bad, very sad," he said. "This is our country. We don't want to be fighting anymore."

For now, Sakr has only the photographs lining his apartment walls to keep the memories of his family, his culture, and, perhaps most importantly, his country alive. 16 fringe arts the link • october 13, 2009 • thelinknewspaper.ca/fringe



Le Cyc tells the story of a society powered by bicycles. GRAPHIC DAVID WILLEKES

Révolution en vélo

Multimedia production Le Cyc is dystopia on wheels

ASHLEY OPHEIM

The idea for multimedia performance Le Cyc came to visual artist David Willekes when his friend Eihab Boraie was touring across Canada with his band Special Purpose. A lot of bands tour, but not all of them do it on bicycles.

"I started thinking that all the biking they were doing could probably power a city," said

On that note, Willekes and Boraie embarked on Le Cuc. a performance based on the idea of a city that runs on bikes. The whimsical show weaves together Willekes' graphic novel-style illustrations and a live musical narrative performed by a sixpiece orchestra. The projected images and music progress simultaneously, providing the audience with a multi-sensory experience.

A bike-powered society might

sound like a utopia, but Willekes insists that "even though things are powered by bikes, [they] can still become corrupt and twisted."

Set in an imagined dystopia, Le Cyc tells the story of revolutionary individuals who stand up against totalitarianism.

"It's a creative exploration on how power is 'pedalled' in society," said Boraie, pun intended.

Willekes adds his hand to nearly 400 painted images, with chosen mediums of "weak coffee and day old wine," which he feels add to the proper tone of the dystopian society where Le Cyc

After selling out their debut show at Guelph's Kazoo Festival in September 2008, Le Cyc has toured their spectacle around the greater area of Ontario. Since the debut, the project has been expanded with 100 illustrations, songs and an extended plot. *Le Cyc* will make its debut in Montreal this Saturday as a two-hour film.

A creative collective of seven bike-savvy artists and musicians also helped put together the

"Bikes are a big part of our lives," explained Willekes. "Bikes are empowering. You have the freedom to travel at your own will. It puts you on your own schedule."

The freedom of riding a bike stands in stark contrast to the political oppression depicted in Le Cyc.

"People can become very complacent with things," said Boraie. "The longer we stay a certain way, the harder it is to change. Nothing is ever going to be perfect. It's the feeling of persistent progress and never settling or being satisfied. It's the idea of achieving."

Le Cyc plays at Eastern Bloc (7240 Clark St.) on Oct. 17 at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8.

From Helsinki with love



Rubik's music is more tropical than Nordic. PHOTO JUKKA SALMINEN

Finnish band Rubik make sunny music for dark winters

• ALAN MACQUARRIE

Finnish pop band Rubik may officially be a quartet, but singer Artturi Taira said they're not about to keep anybody out of the

"It's hard to keep track of who's in the band and who's not," said Taira.

For their second album, Rubik used an eclectic mix of musicians and instruments to rehearse and record songs in the band's Helsinki studio. The album, Dada Bandits, was released last month. Now Rubik, who sing only in English, have embarked on a month-long North American tour. And, despite the absence of two members who are expecting babies back home, the show rolls into Montreal this week.

The Helsinki-based band began with Taira and drummer Sampsa Väätäinen, both from shines for a mere five to six hours a day. They had been playing together for at least 12 years in different bands, but it wasn't until 2002 that they were officially called Rubik.

The nights may be long during the colder months, but these bearded Finns keep their music looking resolutely on the bright side. Dada Bandits is a raucous album of gleeful folk arrange-

ments and energetically-structured pop songs, with echoes of The Cure and contemporary folksters like Sufjan Stevens.

Album opener "Goji Berries" is a tour-de-force of changing rhythms and moods, arranged with a melancholic piano part, playful brass notes and a soaring finale. They follow up with "Radiants," an energetic tune with electronic contributions and a dab of shoegaze atmosphere.

The band produced the album themselves, an advantage that Taira said helped them be as expressive as they wished to while recording.

"You're always challenging yourself in the studio," he explained, adding that the band has tried to integrate everything from a jazzy sax solo to 8-bit sounds straight out of a video

Taira said the band loves to Kuopio, a small town north of the bring their music to a live audicapital where the winter sun ence and, unlike many live acts reliant on electronics, he added proudly that the band used but one sample in their entire set. The band loves to bring to the stage performances full of improvisation and spontaneity.

> "There's never a dull moment on stage," said Taira. "So much unconscious stuff happens."

> Rubik play at Green Room (5386 St-Laurent Blvd.) on Oct. 16 at 8 p.m.

fringe arts 17



Boston punk band The Kominas star in Omar Majeed's documentary Taqwacore: The Birth of Punk Islam.

From fiction to 'fuck you'

Taqwacore shows young punks why not to fear the God-fearing

• R. BRIAN HASTIE

"I am an Islamist! I am the anti-Christ!"
Boston band The Kominas belt out a call to arms in Omar Majeed's *Taqwacore: The Birth of Punk Islam.* The film made its Montreal debut at the Festival du Nouveau Cinéma last week and hits theatres Oct. 19.

Taqwacore is a genre of Islamic punk that combines the Arabic word "taqwa," meaning God-fearing, and hardcore music. It also used to be completely fictional. The movement was born out of white convert Michael Muhammad Knight's 2003 fictional novel *The Taqwacores*, a book that inspired countless young Muslims to pick up stringed instruments and "fuck shit up." Taqwacore musicians hope to bring a dissenting voice to a culture that's been traditionally viewed as one that isn't open to criticism.

The film begins with a retelling of the inaugural Taqwatour that cut through America in 2007, featuring pioneers of the genre like The Kominas, Al-Thawra, Vote Hezbollah, Omar Waqar and Vancouver all-girl outfit The Secret Trial Five.

Majeed gives the viewer an unflinching look at the bands' vices, without glossing over the drink, drugs and debauchery, culminating in a less-than-pleasant run-in with the more conservative set at the Islamic Society of North America's annual convention.

The second and more interesting half of the film follows *The Taqwacores*' author Knight, along with Kominas members Basim Usmani and Sahjehan Khan, on a trip to Pakistan six months after the tour's completion. The viewer is privy to the three men's explorations of their own relationships with Islam, listening in as they evaluate their place in the world, celebrating with them as they play a show on a rooftop overlooking a mosque.

The conflict inherent when one mixes religion, politics and ideals is never actually developed in the film. Instead, it offers up an "us against the world" affair that tokenizes and marginalizes much of what the bands might have to say, choosing to simplify the story in favour of a linear plot structure.

The film is nonetheless strong, however. Snappy editing and the intercutting of serious and silly scenes break up the tension and keep the viewer interested. Majeed keeps the talking head shots to a minimum and instead lets the subjects develop on their own, in front of the lens, as actions take place. However, a lack of comparisons and contrasts is a weak point that detracts noticeably

from the final product.

A pivotal scene of Taqwacore finds the various members associated with the Taqwatour sitting down and complaining about the heavily slanted media exposure they've been receiving, with details about their lives being rendered inaccurately.

That director Majeed fails to follow up this scene is the movie's greatest fault; although a lot of the people in the film have somewhat conflicting viewpoints and different ideologies, they're presented more or less as characters born out of a homogenous movement. The musicians are generically branded "Taqwacore," valued more for their participation in a newsworthy movement than as individuals.

Taqwacore: The Birth of Punk Islam opens at Cinéma du Parc (3575 Parc Ave.) on Oct. 19.

Sexy projectors

Selections from Cinema Politica's SEX, LABOUR, SMUT Festival fill a hole—in more ways than one

Documentary filmmakers are more trend-conscious than one might think.

"About a year ago, while I was programming for Cinema Politica, I noticed an abnormally high level of [documentaries] on pornography," said Politica founder Ezra Winton.

"I'm not sure what spurred this perhaps so many years of regressive policy on sex from the Harper/Bush paradigm—but there it was, a pile of documentaries on sex."

The problem, Winton said, is that most of those films were riddled with moralizing and the turn-off of something he called "male hetero voyeurism." On a mission to find films that took sex to a higher level, he and Cinema Politica executive director Svetla Turnin recruited Concordia professor Thomas Waugh and filmmaker Shannon Harris to join the hunt.

Now, Cinema Politica will let it all hang out this week with SEX, LABOUR, SMUT, a film and video festival the programmers hope will "break stereotypes, provoke, titillate and be controversial" with a program of 20 documentaries on prostitution, pornography and gender politics.

"As a programmer, one gets accustomed to seeing sex workers in narratives that afford them no agency or personal power, either in the context of their environment or in the context of the film they find themselves in," said Winton. "We've steered clear of these kinds of films and selected works that empower sex workers with voice, with opinions, with politics, with organizing and with agency."

SEX, LABOUR, SMUT runs from Oct. 16 to 19. All films for the festival will be screened at Concordia in the J.A. de Sève Cinema (1400 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Room LB-125) and entrance is always free. For full schedule, see cinemapolitica.org/smutfestival.

—Madeline Coleman







Be Like Others

An allegedly rigged election and human rights violations—not to mention an outspoken and now infamous leader—have made Iran one of the most closely scrutinized countries in the world. Tanaz Eshaghian's eye-opening and provocative documentary *Be Like Others* tackles one group in the country you won't see on the news: Iranian transsexuals.

Homosexuality is punishable by death in Iran, where the teachings of the Koran are law. Sex changes, however, are not.

The film introduces us to Anoosh and Ali Ankar, "diagnosed transsexuals" who have sought and gained governmental permission to undergo gender reassignment surgery. Vida, formerly known as Farshad, has taken it upon herself to coach, help and guide these men and others like them throughout this painful and drastic transformation. Eshaghian does an incredible job at soliciting the perfect emotional response from her interview subjects. These men, who would be arrested, assaulted or even killed for cross-dressing, all want a shot at "a decent life."

Be Like Others plays Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

-Chris Hanna

Hookers on Davie

"I'm a woman! I can prove it!" hisses a freshly permed transvestite on the corner of Davie and Bute Streets, her arms crossed haughtily over her unnatural chest. This is just one of many voyeuristic peeks into the night lives of Vancouver prostitutes in the 1984 documentary *Hookers on Davie*.

The film explores the inner workings of the Canadian sex trade during a time when Davie Street, now the centre of Vancouver's pristine gay district, was home to working girls, boys and everything in between.

By slowly earning the trust of local prostitutes, filmmakers Janis Cole and Holly Dale were able to place a candid camera in a van and focus on Davie, capturing the realities of the world's oldest yet long-degraded profession.

More shocking than the film's taboo subject matter is the realization that the titular hookers managed to justify their profession to the point where it actually seemed empowering. This sisterhood of streetwalkers bill themselves as "performers" and maintain their independence, even forming a guild that meets once a week to discuss safety, health and self-defence.

Though dated and sometimes difficult to watch, this film offers new and optimistic insight into a marginalized world.

Hookers on Davie plays Oct. 17 at 9 p.m.

—Jaime Eisen and Natalie Gitt

Tales of the Night Fairies

Shohini Ghosh's *Tales of the Night Fairies* captures the trials and tribulations of thousands of sex workers in Calcutta, India who joined the Durbar Women's Collaborative Committee. Headed by Dr. Smarajit Jana, the group tries to prevent the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections among prostitutes, working towards the decriminalization of adult sex work and the formation of a trade union

These brave sex-workers were constantly molested and brutalized by men and police, until they got together to stand up for themselves.

"We lived in fear until, one day, we got together," says former sex worker Deepti Pal, now an adamant activist working with the DMSC.

Tales not only provides a window into the day-to-day life of another culture, but also into the minds and lives of Calcutta's sexworkers.

Though they may be painted as "fallen" women, Ghosh's film shows they are in fact the opposite and are women climbing to achieve a higher level of respect and rights.

Tales of the Night Fairies plays Oct. 19 at 9:30 p.m.

—David Adelman

Modern classics

Young designers prepare for their Fashion Week debut

• STEPHANIE LA LEGGIA

"There's nothing comfy about wearing a bustier," laughed Annie Chagnon.

If Chagnon and Amélie Gingras-Rioux have anything to do with it, you'll never have to.

The Plateau-dwelling duo are the young designers of Montreal clothing line Annie 50, offering up 1950s-inspired yet comfortable pieces.

This week the designers will be making their Montreal Fashion Week debut and it will also be the first time Chagnon and Gingras-Rioux see models strut their collection down the runway.

the Chagnon, creative behind the designs, Gingras-Rioux she was working as a manager at Mont-Royal Avenue East boutique Aime Com Moi. The two clicked and found they worked well together, but it wasn't until Chagnon suggested leaping headfirst into the fashion world that the two created their own clothing line. With Chagnon's diploma in Fashion Design at CEGEP Marie-Victorin and Gingras-Rioux's studies in fashion marketing and photography, Annie 50 was born.

Standing in the open industrial space that serves as their studio, surrounded by pieces from their latest collec-



In the designers' studio. PHOTO LAURENT HAN

tion, the designers emphasized that their goal is to design feminine clothes that hug without women's sacrificing comfort.

"It's more in the details that you can see the influence and similarities with the '50s," Gingras-Rioux explained, pointing out a buttoned plaid flap on

black off-the-shoulder sweater, an Annie 50 original.

From buttoned high-waisted skirts and polka-dot bell-shaped dresses to flirtatious sweaters, Annie 50's spring/summer 2010 collection is a modern take on ladylike fashion.

Although it's only been four years since they started, Chagnon and Gingras-Rioux have already expanded their company, selling their clothes across North America. They prefer regions where the streets aren't covered with mainstream department stores, opting to sell their pieces at independent boutiques.

"We did try to sell our designs in the downtown area, but it was just awful," admitted Gingras-Rioux. "Everyone just heads straight for the bigger stores like Mango and Simons. It's much easier for us to seek out the one or two most popular stores in that one small region where everyone goes to to shop and fill it up with our own clothes."

The duo hope that, above all, their take on modern classics will become staples in the closets of the people who buy their

Annie 50's runway debut happens at Montreal Fashion Week on Oct. 15 at 6 p.m. at Bonsecours Market (350 St-Paul St. E.). Fashion Week runs from Oct. 13 to 15.

Event listings Oct. 13-19

VISUAL ART

Approaching Stillness

Vida Simon and Tedi Tafel explore the intersection of performance with everyday and ritual actions using video, live drawings and movement.

Until Sunday, Oct. 18

Articule

262 Fairmount Ave. W.

Fn Masse

Six artists and 12 high schools collaborate on an ambitious—and highly surreal-mural.

Until Oct. 31

Red Bird Gallery

135 Van Horne Ave.

THEATRE

Thirteen Dirt Floor Cathedral Dances Vermont's Bread and Puppet Theater Company, founded in the '60s, present a new round of politically engaged puppet-based drama. Saturday, Oct. 17 at 8 p.m. D.B. Clarke Theatre in the Hall Building 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Free

MUSIC

The Dodos with The Ruby Suns Friday, Oct. 16 La Sala Rossa 4848 St-Laurent Blvd.

UnPop presents Raw Madonna, Vul Gary @ Bass of the Union Saturday, Oct. 17 at 10 p.m. Barfly 4062 St-Laurent Blvd.

Nightwood with Rah Rah and The Balconies Monday, Oct. 19 Casa del Popolo 4873 St-Laurent Blvd.

FILM

Made in India Cinema week goes beyond Bollywood to showcase Indian films. Opens with The Damned Rain. Monday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. Festival runs Oct. 19-29 Cinema du Parc 3575 Parc Ave.

> — compiled by Madeline Coleman

spins

Muse The Resistance Warner Brothers, Helium 3

After five albums you'd think a band might start sounding repetitive, but Muse's new album *The Resistance* is proof that these Brits have a lot left to give. This band has the special ability of making incredibly dramatic and epic songs while staying catchy in a "Bohemian Rhapsody" sort of way. The album is chock-full of electro-distorted guitars and keyboards that make you feel like you're constantly at the climax of a suspense movie. Vocalist Matthew Bellamy's range is, as always, incredible, with his falsetto even making a few appearances. A full symphony orchestra also played some background music for the band, and it sounds great. The Resistance impressed and surprised me. Muse have earned their place atop the new prog rock scene.

-Evan LePage

Colour-coding one's records hasn't always

The Blue Record

Relapse Records

Baroness

been a great idea (see Weezer). Savannah, Georgia outfit Baroness, on the other hand. are so far two-for-two on the whole colour deal with sophomore effort The Blue Record. They specialize in a melting pot of differing rock and metal genres that truly transcend borders, exploring musical peaks and valleys that few other bands would even think about undertaking. Though many strive to be eclectic, Baroness do it effortlessly. A quiet acoustic intro on "O'er Hell and Hide" gives way to a galloping beat, which then introduces a series thundering musical histrionics that breaks down into a psychedelic fury of guitar-pedal-drenching sheets of sound. It all somehow manages to sound cohesive and singular, instead of the rambling mess it would be in less-capable hands. Think Mastodon with way more Thin Lizzy and Mountain inside of them.

> 4.567332/5 -R. Brian Hastie

Skeletonwitch Breathing the Fire Prosthetic

If you spent your youth being into "hard music," you were probably aligned with one of two camps: punks or metalheads. The melodrama continued pretty much until you turned 19 and stopped being such an angsty little bitch. But what happened to all the bands? Punk kids with straight-edge tattoos or Dungeon & Dragons nerds who took singing lessons so they could learn how to sound like the guy from Opeth? Simple: they all found some common ground and started covering Metallica songs. Skeletonwitch is one of those bands. Their latest album is a pretty perfect combination of fast thrash riffs and black metal vocals. It's a musical marriage that could satisfy almost every 20something's natural need to regret their youthful seriousness but still get drunk and

have a great time doing it.

Magneta Lane Gambling with God Last Gang Records

Toronto's indie sweethearts Magneta Lane have dusted off their four chords and recorded a second LP, but it's unfortunately not as solid as their last efforts. I doubt they could top albums produced by Jesse Keeler (of MSTRKRFT and Death from Above 1979 fame), but it's still an enjoyable listen, though it admittedly gets a little sloppy in the middle—not to say that it's a bad thing. I like to think of this album as a big ol' slice of apple pie: warm and comforting, but mostly just empty calories. Maybe I expected too much from Lexi and the girls. After four years and changing labels from Paper Bag to Last Gang Records, I had hoped that they would evolve into a band that does more than write songs about relationships and self-image.

—Paul Traunero



-Tristan LaPointe

sports 21 the link • october 13, 2009 • thelinknewspaper.ca/sports

Stingers don't do it

Men's basketball team loses Nike tournament by 3 points



Concordia's Pierre Thompson scrambles to get back on defence. PHOTO NICOLAS FAFARD

• LES HONYWILL

Concordia 73 Laurier 76

After nearly overcoming a 19point deficit, the Concordia Stingers men's basketball team fell 76-73 to the Wilfred Laurier University Golden Hawks Saturday in the Concordia Nike Tournament championship game.

The Stingers outscored the Golden Hawks 19-7 in the third quarter, at times drawing within a point of the Golden Hawks. However, that point proved insurmountable in the fourth quarter; Laurier regrouped and answered the Stingers shot-for-shot to hold off Concordia and win the tournament.

"We made big shots when we needed them, and [when] rebounding, we had great efforts from everybody," said Golden Hawks centre Andrew Pennycook. "They're way more athletic than we are but we out-rebounded them, so I think that was the key difference."

Laurier dominated the boards, grabbing rebounds

Concordia's 15. The tournament's Most Valuable Player, Kale Harrison, led the Hawks with a 22point, seven-rebound game.

"Harrison hit some big shots and a couple of guys who haven't played much made some good baskets by just playing hard," Golden Hawks coach Peter Campbell said. "But I think the key was we played pretty good defence and Jesse MacDonald handled the pressure."

Laurier looked unstoppable in the first half, shooting 61.3 per cent while building a lead as large as 19 points in the second quarter before closing out the half up 44-29.

weren't on the same page and they saw some growing pains tonight." worked a lot harder than us," said Stingers forward James Clark. "In the second half we brought it back, but we still made a lot of errors and they still worked harder than us."

The Stingers made a second-half comeback and showed spectators the style of play that won them the Canadian Interuniversity Sport's Quebec division title last year. Concordia guard Decee Krah made a couple of key steals to fuel the rally and Clark finished off a remarkable third-effort play in which he grabbed two rebounds and dropped a layup while being fouled.

"[Clark] did a real good job inside," Campbell said. "And I just love [Krah]. He competes at both ends of the court and plays a great game of basketball."

"We didn't work hard enough," Krah said. "There were lots of defensive lapses. [Harrison] is obviously a very good player and he did a great job hitting a couple shots."

Stingers head coach John Dore admitted his team is still budding.

"We're a young team and we "We had a bad first half, we have to grow up," Dore said. "We

The Golden Hawks were feeling pains of their own heading into the game. MacDonald was forced to shoulder the load left by starting guard Travis Berry, who was injured the night before in a game against the Royal Military College Paladins.

"We were worried about the pressure we were going to get from-and we got from-Concordia, but I think Jesse did a great job of handling that," Campbell said. "I

was pretty impressed with our guys when [the Stingers] fought back because I know they were tired and I know Concordia didn't let up at all, so that was a pretty good gut check and character check for us."

Though already hampered with injuries, the Golden Hawks now have to worry about the health of Pennycook, who took an errant elbow to the head underneath the Concordia basket late in the fourth quarter. Pennycook woozily jogged the length of the court before collapsing near the Laurier three-point line. Pennycook said after the game that he still felt groggy and had a headache.

While the tournament is far from being considered one of the big events of the year, the players and coaches of both teams said they still feel it carries some significance.

"[The tournament] rates us where we're going to be to start the season," Clark said. "This is our tournament, so we want to come in and dominate. We obviously struggled and that hurts us, so it's a rough start."

"Every time you play, it helps you

Laurier rebounds

Concordia rebounds

points: Evans Laroche's tournament totals

Decee Krah's three-point shot percentage

Laurier's field goal percentage

Concordia's field goal percentage

to grow," Dore said about his team's performance in the tournament. "It's a process and it takes time. There's a sense of urgency, but at the same time you have to be patient. The more games you play, the better off you're going to be and all of this is in preparation for the middle of November."

"It was a little early in the year to mean anything, except that we were playing a team that's traditionally a top-10 team," Campbell said. "They're well-coached and they compete; they've always competed in the 25 years I've played against Concordia. So it gives our guys some confidence."

The Stingers season doesn't start until Nov. 13, giving Dore ample time to bring his team into top form.

"We're not ready, we're not close yet," Dore said. "We've played five games, we have a few more games coming up and every game is going to help us to grow. The good thing about this team is that we're very young, very athletic and there's a great upside to this team. We need to start using our athleticism a little bit more."

22 sports

Spanksgiving

Concordia baseball squad sweeps Carleton Ravens

• STEVEN MYERS

Concordia 4
Carleton 1

Concordia 16 Carleton 2

Concordia's men's baseball team is riding high after sweeping the Carleton Ravens in first round playoff action last Sunday.

The Stingers, who won the regular season title, clinched the Northern Division playoffs' home field advantage after their 12-2 loss to the John Abbott Islanders last Tuesday.

The pitching duo of veteran Julian Tucker and lefty supreme Alex Gagnon, coupled with Mark Nadler's timely hitting, overwhelmed the Ravens en route to a doubleheader sweep, setting up the upcoming showdown with the Ottawa Gee Gees.

Tucker struck out 11 Ravens and didn't allow a hit until the sixth inning of game one. The Stingers' batters scored three runs in the first inning, but failed to keep the momentum alive into the later ones. Despite the poor offensive showing, however, Concordia beat the Ravens 4-1.

"We can't score four runs and sit back on cruise control," said coach Howard Schwartz. "We had a little talk in between games about having disciplined at bats."

In the second and final game of the series, Concordia responded with an offensive firestorm. The Stingers racked up 10 hits and scored in every inning—including nine times in the fifth—invoking the 10-run mercy rule and ending the series with a 16-2 win. The game's offensive highlight came on Mark Nadler's three-run home run.

"I think that [ball] is still in orbit,"



Stingers catcher Marshall Johnston winds up. PHOTO JACQUES BALAYLA

said Schwartz.

Nadler, who has been doing double duty this season playing for the LaSalle Cardinals in the Quebec Junior Elite League, was a man on a mission. In addition to the home run, the third baseman drove in eight runs over the two games.

In other first round action, Ottawa and the McGill Redbirds needed three games to decide a winner. The pitching-rich Gee Gees, who feature five pitchers with Earned Run Averages lower than 3.00, won the decisive third game 7-3 against the Redbirds.

The red hot Stingers will now host Ottawa in the much-anticipated Northern Division championship. Concordia is running 2-2 against Ottawa this season.

Schwartz is quick to recall the recent history between these two teams and is excited at the prospect of turning the tide.

"What a game in 2007," Schwartz remi-

nisced. "We went the distance against Ottawa in a three-game playoff. There was a three-hour rain delay before we could get the final game started. Tucker pitched great, but the balls bounced their way."

The Stingers will host the Ottawa Gee Gees for the Canadian Intercollegiate Baseball Association's Northern Division championship game at Trudeau Park on Oct 17 at 12:30 p.m.

scoreboard

	Home		Away	Record
Basketball	Concordia 82 Concordia 73	VS VS	Laurentian 73 Laurier 76	0-0
Women's Rugby	Concordia 15	VS	McGill 0	3-1-0
Baseball	Concordia 12 Concordia 4 Concordia 16	VS VS VS	John Abbott 2 Carleton 1 Carleton 2	12-3
Men's Hockey	Concordia 3 Concordia 2	VS VS	Ryerson 4 Nipissing 8	0-2-0
Women's Hockey	Concordia 0	VS	McGill 5	0-1-0
Women's Basketball	Concordia 60	VS	Ottawa 64	0-0

Interested in writing for sports?
Contact us at sports@thelinknewspaper.ca

schedule

	Who	When
Men's Rugby	vs McGill	Sunday, 12 p.m
Women's Rugby	@ Ottawa	Friday, 6:30 p.m.
Football	@ Acadia	Saturday, 1p.m.
Women's Hockey	MontrealOttawa	Friday, 7 p.m. Sunday, 3 p.m.
Men's Hockey	 UQTR McGill Plattsburgh State	Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Friday, 7 p.m. Saturday, 7 p.m.
Men's Basketball	vs York	Friday 7p.m.
Women's Basketball	Waterloo Tournament	Friday, Saturday, Sunday
Baseball	vs Ottawa	Saturday, 12 & 3 p.m.
Men's Soccer	vs Montreal vs Sherbrooke	Friday, 8:30 p.m. Sunday, 4 p.m.
Women's Soccer	vs Montreal s Sherbrooke	Friday, 6:30 p.m. Sunday, 2 p.m.

Stingers serve it up cold

Women's rugby team hands McGill another beating

DAVID KAUFMANN

Concordia 15 McGill 0

consecutive wasn't enough for women's rugby coach Graeme McGravie, as the Stingers beat the hosting McGill Martlets 15-0 last thursday.

"I thought we could have played better for the full 80 minutes," said McGravie. "I don't think we did that."

After an uneventful 10 minutes, the Stingers mobilized their offence into Martlet territory. Though they were stopped short of the try line, Concordia continued to press McGill. Their efforts were rewarded when a Martlet infraction cost McGill a penalty try. Concordia centre Jackie Tittley kicked the ensuing conversion to make the score 7-0 Stingers.

The penalty ignited McGill as they moved towards the Stingers' try line. Momentum shifted, however, when Stingers centre Laura Belvedere gained possession of the ball from a lineout and took it past the Martlet try line. At halftime, Concordia lead the Martlets 12-0.

Early in the second half, McGill threatened to break the shutout bid, but were halted at midfield when the Stingers delivered a series of clean tackles. The Martlets kept the push alive up until the Stingers kicked a loose ball into midfield.

"I think [the key] was our hard defence," said Belvedere. "We didn't give up, no matter if they were in our five-yard line. Mentally, we didn't give up."

Tittley capped the scoring when she added a drop goal to make it 15-0.

Although the Martlets came up emptyhanded, head coach Vince de Grandpré said his team did well. "We played a much improved game over our last game [against the Stingers]," he said. "Actually, we had more possession in our end than they did in ours. But Concordia [scored] points and we didn't."

Despite the shutout win, Coach



(Top) Stingers centre Laura Belvedere chases down the McGill ball carrier. (Bottom left and right) Stingers and Martlets fight for the throw in.

McGravie and company said the team still has their work cut out for them. "I think one of the problems we may have is that we're looking into the playoffs already and we haven't finished the regular season," McGravie said.

"We have a hard week of practise ahead," said Tittley, "but after that we'll be ready."

The Stingers will play their final game of the season on Oct. 17 when they visit the Ottawa Gee Gees.





Tough break for new look Stingers

Fourth quarter heroics lead Gee Gees past Stingers

STEVEN MYERS

Concordia 60 Ottawa 64

After leading their rivals for three periods, Concordia's women's basketball team succumbed to a fourth-quarter rally and lost 64-60 to the visiting Ottawa Gee Gees in preseason action last Friday.

The Stingers took an early lead in a game that was perhaps slowed down by early season jitters. After the first quarter, Concordia led 11-10. The Stingers came out gunning players. Right now, we're just seeing what aggressive style of play. in the second period, carrying a 29-28 lead everybody can do." into half-time. They extended their lead to 47-43 at the end of the third period. With four minutes and 20 seconds remaining in the game, the Stingers still led 58-57, but a three-pointer by the Gee Gees' Alex Naylor gave Ottawa their first lead in the game, which they never relinquished.

The game gave Stingers head coach Keith Pruden a chance to evaluate his new crew; the team lost five veterans from last season.

"It's too early to tell how our team will look," said Pruden. "We have a lot of young

If the play of freshman Kourtney DiPerno is any indication of what to expect, this looks like an exciting season for the Stingers. DiPerno, a 5'11" forward, handled herself well against a much bigger Gee Gees team, demonstrating an ability to shoot from the outside. DiPerno, who graduated from Academy Andover, in Massachusetts, played four seasons at Sun Youth.

DiPerno finished with 12 points, four rebounds and a few knee burns from her

Stinger Melissa Szilagyi, a freshman point guard, displayed superior ball handling skills and a knack for finding the open player.

> The size and versatility of DiPerno coupled with Szilagyi's potential to run an offence blend well with imposing third-year scorer Nekeita Lee. Lee possesses a quick first step and the skill to drive towards the basket at

> The regular season kicks off on Oct. 16 in the University of Waterloo Tournament.

24 sports



Left winger Cory McGillis argues his case while team captain Marc-André Element sweet-talks the referee. Photo Carolyne Mayer

If you can't beat 'em, beat each other

Out of sync Stingers lose to Nipissing, turn on teammates

JOEL BALSAM

Concordia 2 Nipissing 8

In their second game of the season, the Concordia Stingers men's hockey team fell apart, losing 8-2 to the Nipissing Lakers last Saturday.

The team was pummelled by the Lakers early on and infighting from the bench showed a lack of team chemistry. Intrasquad tensions erupted late in the second period when left winger Cory McGillis threw a punch at fellow Stinger Anthony Pittarelli. Pittarelli refused to comment on the incident.

"This is a problem that each team has," said Stingers team captain Marc-André Element. "When you lose, you try and find

a reason."

The o-2 Stingers were forced to play catch-up almost instantly as the Lakers scored just 30 seconds into the first period.

Down 4-0 in the second, Concordia defenceman Andrew Palombaro potted the team's first goal with a slapshot over Lakers goalie Kyle Cantlon, who was injured in the play. Cantlon recovered to finish the game, allowing just one more goal from Stingers rookie forward Kyle Kelly.

Penalties proved costly in the third as the Stingers spent most of the period short-handed. "No matter how badly you are losing, you need to keep your composure and that's something we have to work on," said Kelly. "But at least we were showing some emotion."

Although players were visibly

frustrated with their teammates, Element hustled until the final buzzer, blocking shots and throwing checks even though the game was far out of reach. "I want all the guys to look at me and say, 'He is going to the end," said the fourth-year veteran.

The Stingers have a chance to come together during the rest of October as they spend the next five games on the road, starting with their upcoming game against Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières.

Looking forward to the rest of the season, Element had this to say of his team: "It's a rough start, but I know that we have a lot of character and leaders in this room. I know for sure that we are going to step it up and everything will be all right."

The Stingers begin their five-game road trip on Oct. 14 when they face UQTR.

"This is a problem that each team has. When you lose, you try and find a reason."

> —Marc-André Element, Stingers captain

Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

Higher fees impede access

There is nothing more amusing than when someone tries to misrepresent statistics to get their false ideas across. The editorial piece in *The Concordian*, "Tuition increases improve access" (Sept. 29) was one such endeavour. It tried to make the case that higher tuition improves access by claiming that Harvard graduates had a debt between US\$18,000 and \$20,000, compared to \$25,000 in Canada. This apple-andorange comparison doesn't take into account the demographics of Harvard, an Ivy League university accessible mostly to the rich. To compare nationwide statistics with Ivy League statistics requires a leap of the imag-

Do tuition increases improve access? Studies decisively show that tuition increase does not improve access, especially for those in the lower income bracket. In 2007, the Quebec Ministry of Education projected a 10 per cent decrease in enrolment due to the \$500 tuition increase they implemented. A study by the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation in 2004 cites evidence from both Canada and the United States that increasing tuition fees have had a negative impact on the participation of students from lowincome families.

Do tuition increases improve quality? By looking at the history of education in Quebec, we can see that when tuition fees have risen, the government has decreased its funding of the education system, meaning that there are not necessarily more funds to

We all agree there has been chronic underfunding of our education system and someone has to pay for it. However, the claim that the government has no money and that we have to choose between paying the bill ourselves or cutting into the health care budget is nothing but political blackmail. There is another source of funds we can tap into: how about the \$50 billion tax cut for the richest corporations that our government gave away

In a period where the praised free market has plunged the world economy into crisis, with trillions of dollars of taxpayers' money spent to bail out financial institutions and with millions of jobs lost, someone who still believes and passionately advocates free market as a way to regulate an important sector of society like education must be blind to their surroundings. Education must not be governed by profit; it should be planned democratically to meet the needs of humanity as a whole.

> -Nadia Hausfather, **PhD Humanities**

More Maathai, less Snoop

I would like to voice my disappointment over your coverage of Dr. Wangari Maathai's lecture. You only mentioned it in a barely noticeable corner of the third page of the Sep. 25 issue. At first, I thought it was a sneak peek of a bigger article. Unfortunately, as I kept reading the paper, said article was nowhere to be found.

I tried to be open-minded about it. I told myself, "Dr. Wangari Maathai came on a Monday and The Link hits news stands on Tuesday, so they probably couldn't do anything bigger because of publication deadlines," but then I remembered the Concordia Student Union orientation concert. Snoop Dogg also came on a Monday and did not show up until 11:09 p.m. (on my watch). Still, he got an article and a couple of pic-

Dr. Wangari Maathai is the first African woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize and was also the first Nobel laureate to speak at Concordia University. CSU President Amine Dabchy said, "As an African, I am proud [of that fact]." It would have been great if her lecture had got the coverage it

> -Yves Nimbona, Cell and Molecular Biology

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

send your letters and opinions to letters@thelinknewspaper.ca



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.

Corrections

In the article "Tree lady talks" (Vol.30, Iss.7, Pg.3), CSU President Amine Dabchy was incorrectly quoted as saying that Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai was "the first African to speak at Concordia." President Dabchy actually said that Maathai was "the first African woman" to speak at Concordia.

In the article "Petitions to leave CFS from sea to sea" (Vol. 30, Iss. 7, Pg. 3), it was insinuated that a press release from the CFS was related to the launch of the petition to leave the CFS. There is no correlation between the two events. *The Link* regrets the errors.

THE 12 TH FLOOR

Between nations: divisions in Quebec, Canada

• MATTHEW BRETT

On Nov. 22, 2006, Prime Minister Stephen Harper declared Quebec a "distinct nation within a united Canada."

It was an impressive moment and though it's unfortunate that Harper gave the declaration with his usual partisan invective, it means Quebecers live in a nation now, however symbolic that nationhood might be. There are some encouraging signs of it in the province, including its anti-war stance, but its linguistic and racial divisions must be dealt with if this new nation is to progress.

Quebec is the anti-war bulwark in an increasingly hawkish country. The common refrain that Quebec is a province that's militant in its demands may ring true, but militarism in its more savage and traditional form doesn't exist in Quebec, but in the rest of Canada.

Quebec is almost consistently noninterventionist. Canadian aircraft extensively bombed Kosovo in 1999 under Liberal prime minister Chrétien, despite strong objections from Quebec. This remains the case today with Canada's new global image as a warring nation on the front lines of Afghanistan, the credit of which is due to consecutive Liberal

the governments and current Conservative minority.

Certainly, Canada has a far greater burden in international affairs than Quebec and, consequently, a greater measure of responsibility. However, as long as Canada continues to abuse its power, most Quebecers will remind the federal government of its long neglected responsibility, as laid out in the Charter, that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the

by simple geography that Quebec is surrounded by a sea of English. But the consequences of such closed-mindedness have grave implications for the future of this province.

Nineteen per cent of Quebecers "strongly agree" that cultural life is enriched by people of minority cultures, compared with 39 per cent in Alberta, according to a 2008 Léger Marketing poll. In other words, the supposedly leading social democratic province is far more conservative than the most sup-

Nineteen per cent of Quebecers "strongly agree" that cultural life is enriched by people of minority cultures, compared with 39 per cent in Alberta, according to a 2008 Léger Marketing poll.

er, have denied their own citizens this fundamental right, namely "security of the person." The threats of violence against anglophone performers at the St-Jean celebrations last June serve as a reminder of how precariously positioned this nation is.

Perhaps out of necessity, many Quebecers have closed themselves to the world a child would be able to point out

A slim minority of Quebecers, howev- posedly conservative province when it comes to race relations. One more statistic from this poll indicates that 42 per cent of Quebecers prefer to live in neighbourhoods with people of the same ethnic origins, three times the level found in British Columbia.

> Just as the francophone minority is closed to outsiders, the anglophone minority in Quebec is closed to the majority. Most anglophones disappear

on the province's national holiday, only to come bursting out with the maple leaf on Canada Day just days later (the inverse can be said for Quebecois nationalists). This has some serious consequences. By denying themselves-and more importantly their children-their national identity, anglophone Quebecers are creating the conditions for a further decline of anglophones in the province.

There is a common refrain that the "brain drain" of medical students and other educated Quebecers is caused by cumbersome bureaucracy and linguistic division, but a more likely cause of this brain drain is simply that generations of anglophone Quebecers see few reasons to stay.

So long as nations exist, citizens will be partially defined by the nation they belong to. Quebecois must do away with their closed-minded attitudes about race if the province is to thrive. Anglophone Quebecers and their children should also be embracing rather than denying the province's culture and identity.

Matthew Brett has covered the political beat in and around Montreal since 2006. He is currently working on his master's degree in political science.

Quebec student movement under attack

Provincial lobby group responds to national student union

 ANDREW HAIG & GREGORY JOHANNSON

Greg Johansson and Andrew Haig are the president and secretary-treasurer, respectively, of the Canadian Federation of Students-Québec, a lobby group Concordia students pay fees to.

The student movement in Quebec is under assault on two fronts. On one hand, it is being attacked by the government with the slated privatization of the McGill MBA, Liberal support for CEGEP tuition fees and annual increases in Quebec tuition through 2012. Simultaneously, the Canadian Federation of Students is itself seeking to destroy the student movement as it stands in Quebec in order to consolidate its own grip on the province.

At present, Quebec's student movement remains flexible and diverse, with a variety of active groups from the Montreal Students Against Tuition Increases (MSATI) to established lobbies like the FEUQ, ASSÉ and CASA coalescing around problems and policies as

MSATI illustrates nicely the modus operandi of the student movement in Quebec; that is, the diversity of organizational methods and directives that contribute to effective lobbying of both government and society to keep tuition low. These groups touch upon every

key demographic and unite students throughout the province around one fundamental principle: that post-secondary education must be of high quality and accessible to all. For this reason, the student movement in Quebec remains a force to be reckoned with.

Enter the Canadian Federation of Students. In August 2009, the Director of CFS-Services, Philip Link, preached to a British Columbia audience that an independent and decentralized student movement with multiple organizations cooperating on issues-a movement like Quebec's- is not only ineffective, but dangerous. Link and other executives at the CFS seem to believe that any organizational competition with the CFS will be harmful to students, despite the unmistakable evidence-with Quebec tuition being as low as it is-to the contrary. This sort of patently flawed rhetoric is a cornerstone of the CFS.

For 10 years, the Canadian Federation of Students has taken a hands-off approach in Quebec and CFS-Q, the organization's Quebec branch, has been willing to work with all comers on policy issues. However, now that the CFS is pushing a more centralized, homogenized vision of the Quebec student movement, the CFS-Q Board believe that students should be allowed to choose which model of the student movement they prefer.

It is for this reason that the CFS-



The provincial lobby group CFS-Q wishes to become more independent from the national CFS. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

Q's board unanimously voted last month to mandate that its executive support the rights of students to hold a vote on their continued membership in the wider CFS. With such a vote being their right, one would have thought such a policy would be considered uncontrover-

The CFS' response, however, has been to try and chew off its own arm and to label the CFS-Q persona non grata within the greater federation. The CFS argues that anyone supporting its members' democratic rights must necessarily be harming the organization. In contrast, we at the CFS-Q do not accept that the rights of the federation's members, as enshrined in the CFS' bylaws, can possibly be held to conflict with the interests of the CFS itself. The members, after all, are the federation.

Yet, even as the CFS attempts to cannibalize the student movement within Quebec—using legal threats to try and cow both the CFS-Q and its member locals-the Quebec branch remains committed to the rights and interests of its members and to the idea that membership in

the CFS can be reconciled with the interests and autonomy of Quebec's student movement. It is for this reason that CFS-Q has endorsed a series of reforms for submission to CFS' annual general meeting this November. We hope that these reforms, a package of financial and structural accountability measures, will be enough to return the federation to its members.

In the meantime, we remain committed to fulfilling our mandate and to the idea that students deserve a say in the sort of student movement that they want.

HeartacheAnonymou

Dear Heartaches Anonymous, I like this boy at my work and I'm not sure how to go about it. Whenever there's an opportunity for us to be outside the office together, it's at a work related

I'm really shy about asking him out and I think he is too. Is office romance off-limits?

—Co-worker Crush

Dearest C.C.,

"limits?" Are these the same kind of limits that say ladies shouldn't make the first move or are they in the same league as not handling electrical equipment with wet hands?

Basically, are you afraid to ask him out because you think you're not supposed to or are you actually afraid of getting hurt?

Everyone loves flirting with attractive co-workers. Work is boring and cute people are exciting. In this case, however, it sounds like you've gone beyond just trying to entertain yourself and you really want to make it happen. And I say that's totally okay.

Office romances pop up all What the fuck are these the time, and I don't see why that's a problem. I guess the logic of those who argue against them is that if things don't work out, it will be awkward and you'll still have to see each other all the time and pretend like everything's cool because you don't want to start messing up and get fired. But all breakups bite

the fucking biscuit. A lot of love stories that happen outside the workplace happen within friend groups anyway, which makes for even more social discomfort. At least at work, you can distract yourself by doing your job.

But wait, we're getting ahead of ourselves. We don't even know if this guy is as into it as you are.

I'm sure you're a highly lent taste-why else would you be coming to me for advice?-but I think you need to seriously ponder whether this young man actually wants to get down with you.

Is it shyness that's holding him back from asking you out or has he just not reciprocated? Sure, you've only hung out at work or work-related events, but seriously-that's definitely enough time spent together to know.

A classic "I dig you" move is to make vague allusion to future plans. For example, Thing A might say, "There's this really groovy new art exhibition happening right now. I totally want to go see it." If Thing B wants to do the thing with Thing A, regardalluring person with excel- less of whether he or she gives a shit about art, he or she will inevitably say, "Yeah, me too! We should totally do that!"

> I'm advocating not pretending to be into something you're not, but maybe you and your object of desire have some interests in common. Next

time you get the chance to talk to him one on one, grab that chance with both hands and stuff it in your pocket. Mention an event, show or movie you're excited about. If you're not excited about anything, read The Link more often; see if he takes the bait. Follow up. Failing that, just, you know, bat your eyelashes at him. He'll get the picture.

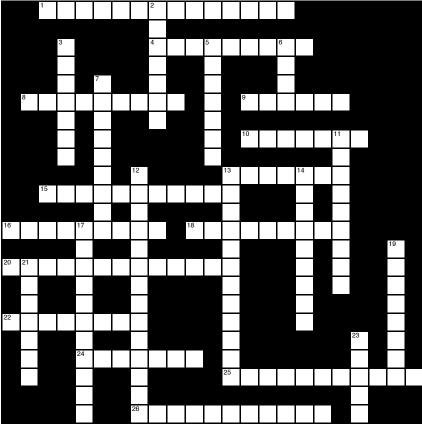
Be brave, C.C. You have nothing to lose but your

Are you lonely of heart? Tortured of conscience? Frustrated of genital? Send your most burning questions on love and bodily relations to Heartaches Anonymous at heartachesanonymous@gmail.com.

crswrdpzziol

Across

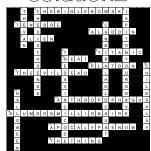
- 1. The funkiest brother on the block dies at age 57. His soundtrack work introduced the world to the filmic subgenre of blaxploitation, and he also managed to be socially-relevant at the same time. A true near-deity.
- 4. Microsoft launches their own instant messaging service. The minds of many 10-year-olds who've never heard of IRC before are blown. Anyone remember ICQ? I had a nightmare my life was being controlled by that program like three weeks ago.
- 8. This ex-British penal colony is given the gift of DVD. Enjoy it, for it may be the last thing the world ever gives you if you keep sending Kylie Minogue our
- 9. Matchbox Twenty frontman teams up with Carlos Santana to create one of the best-charting singles of all-time.
- 10. Emo kids 'round the world weep for joy (for once) as Jimmy Eat World releases what some may consider to be their most solid work. For my money, that cover of Prodigy's "Firestarter" is the bee's knees. The kids still use terms like that, right?
- 13. Someone convinces Cher that Auto-Tune sounds like a great idea. Ten years later, the device/plug-in still haunts all of us in various capacities.
- 15. The United States government hands back this tract of land to local authorities after shotgunning the shit out of it in the '70s and promising to hand it back at the end of the century.
- 16. Upstate New York music fest goes for round three. In hindsight, enlisting Insane Clown Posse and Limp Bizkit to perform wasn't the best idea in the world. Kuh-kuh-Kid Rock still killed it, though.
- 18. The company behind Windows 98, an operating system that continues to be used by a large portion of the world as of 2005.
- 20. In a rather boneheaded move, this multinational agency declares 1999 to be the International Year of Older Persons.
- 22. The Tacky Capital of the U.S. is hit by a major flash flood, resulting in many themed hotels being forced to offer customers free towels. I still have mine. Thanks, Mandalay Bay!
- 24. The mastermind behind The Killing and Barry *Lyndon* dies, leaving his last opus (to use the term lightly—or not) unfinished. Perhaps it should have stayed that way, given the resulting mess thrown to the masses.
- 25. Oscar recipient for Best Actress
- 26. The filmic genius decides it's time to piss on his original legacy by unleashing the first of three new space operas in order to expand the universe. Great, a whiny kid and a despicable sidekick. Did no one warn this megalomaniacal genius that this is bad form? I mean, it's almost as bad form as going back and re-editing your earlier works in order t—



Down

- 2. The year "1999" in Roman numerals
- 3. The first widely available conduit for downloading free music from one's peers appears. Somewhere in the night, Lars Ulrich stirs quietly on a bed made of money and collectible art. I still remembering downloading Blink 182's "All The Small Things" like it was yesterday. Oh wait, maybe
- 5. "Death Disco" band release their first record, the strangely-named Wisconsin Death Trip. Nu-metal guitars have sex with club beats while a dude screeches his way through like he's an old man at a Christmas party. Shit still rules, to this day.
- 6. This European-based currency is introduced to the masses. Those bastards in the U.K. hold out and decide to continue utilizing their own form of currency. Don't worry, though, as we all have a plan for
- 7. Sega launches this new CD-based console sys-
- 11. The fourth-highest grossing film of the year
- 12. The march for Livestrong bracelets starts here as the Ass Of Steel (my personal nickname for the guy) wins his first Tour de France.
- 14. Ahnuld vehicle premieres, wherein he must defeat Satan before the end of the century. The best part about the movie is the first appearance of new Guns 'N Roses music after a long dormant period.
- 17. The writer of *It* gets hit by a pick-up truck in Lovell, Maine. He then writes a book called *That* and

issue 8



promptly notes that perhaps it's time to hang up his typewriting fingers for good. If only...

- 19. The grooviest motherfuckers to ever grace the Relapse Records roster (with the possible exception of Bongzilla and Don Cabb) form in Atlanta, Georgia. Their leviathan-like output will send you up blood mountain, cracking the sky and placing vou into remission.
- 21. The Northwest Territories give birth to Canada's third territory. The proud parents wept for a moment as their new territory was given to the world, before realizing the mind-boggling implications of how giving it a proper allowance would become a problem during the territory's teenage years.
- 23. BUILD A BOMB SHELTER, EVERYONE, STOCK UP ON THE DRIED FOODS AND BRING US THE SHOT-GUNS. Entering a third millennium was a perilous task to some. (Numeral must be spelled out.)

editorials

Conglomerate cashes out

National media conglomerate Canwest Global Communications announced their \$4 billion debt last week and filed for bankruptcy protection for some of their services, including the National Post and Global TV. All aspiring journalists, beware: Canwest is going under, jobs are scarce and you'll never get the career you dreamed

If this last warning sounds ridiculous, that's because it is.

This unfortunate financial turn for Canwest does not mean there are less jobs available in the media industry. However, it certainly does mean that the days of corporate journalism are numbered, and thank goodness for that.

Reporting was at one time a noble profession where regular citizens with a quick hand and a penchant for storytelling played the roll of "watchdog" for the world. But somewhere along the line, the media industry started to mimic the business models of multinational corporations: buying up independent press, slashing jobs in order to afford their other business ventures, slanting news or holding information hostage in order to "protect" commercial interests.

I must commend Canwest for trying to compete with Canadian powerhouses like The Canadian Press, *The Globe and Mail* and the CBC—a cross-Canada news wire service, a (mostly) national daily and television programming. In theory, an oligopoly can work for particular markets where the conditions are favourable. But should the business of reporting ever be considered a business that should be run for prof-

The eventual demise of national media conglomerates is good news for journalists and the general public; news, as well as the inevitable interpretations that come along with newsmaking, will no longer be in the hands of few. Journalists who get together and buy their own presses will have more of a stake in their own work and produce quality content with a concise message, clear opinions, critical thinking and a high regard for journalistic integrity. No more pussyfooting around serious issues by deifying this false ideal of "objectivity."

The presses are not dying; they are suffering from the same tired business schemes of old white male executives. Creativity and ingenuity are not valued in this suffering industry, unless they fit "within the box." This box means web presence—for the same content found in a paper that costs money. It also means employing minorities—by simply tokenizing a handful and putting them in front of

The industry will make a comeback, armed with young, fresh, new ideas on how to sell a plain old trade.

Despite the skeptics, journalism will be resurrected.

—Terrine Friday, Editor-in-Chief

Stay tuned for The Link's Media Democracy special issue, which hits news stands next Tuesday.

Don't be evil?

Google's informal corporate motto of "Don't be evil" has entered the spotlight once again by the recent launch of Google Street View in Canada.

While the controversial addition to the search engine's online portfolio—allowing users around the world to navigate 11 Canadian cities at ground level—doesn't violate the letter of the corporate motto, it does violate the spirit.

Without the consent of a single Canadian, the American corporation has photographed the now-blurred faces of millions of Canadians, their homes, their cars and their places of work. The filming was all done on public property and fits within the confines of the law, but the question most people ask is why?

In truth, no fitting answer has been given. Street View is an online gizmo, born from a roundtable brainstorm and constructed by a creative corporation with far too much money. Admittedly Street View can be fun, but after the fleeting moment of "Oh cool, there's my bike" has passed, a sense of worry sets in. The privacy of over 100 million people in 14 countries could have been violated on a simple lark.

While looking at Street View, I found my car parked in front of my house and my friend's neighbour walking in her driveway. Not the grossest violations of privacy. but troubling when they are made for no real purpose.

After a week of toying with the feature, I found no constructive use for it—save

Not remembering the name of a local bakery and not having found any answers from Google, I jumped into my virtual Street View car and "drove" to the bakery. All I had to do was read the name written above the front door.

Without Street View I would have had to walk three blocks.

I would be happy to put Street View back in the bottle, walk the three blocks and avoid the risk of damaging anyone's privacy, but I fear Street View is here to stay.

News Editor

