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Suspended 2110 members respond



The three suspended 2110 members: Maya Rolbin-Ghanie (left), Bianca Mugvenyi (centre), Aly Stillman (right). PHOTOS TERRINE FRIDAY

2110 Centre calls police against three whistleblowers

One Concordia student arrested, two removed by police after being suspended from gender advocacy centre

- **TERRINE FRIDAY**

Friends and staff of Concordia's 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy helped organize Montreal's Oct. 4 Missing Justice solidarity march to commemorate the 521-plus missing and murdered Indigenous women across Canada, and denounced violence against women.

Two weeks later, the Centre suspended three dissenting employees without pay and had them removed by police, one of whom claims she was illegally searched and illegally arrested.

According to 2110 employees Bianca Mugenyi, Maya Rolbin-Ghanie and Aly Stillman, they were suspended for insubordination for two weeks without pay on Oct. 20 for levying accusations of financial misappropriation, overlap of positions, discrimination and constitutional violations against the 2110's Board of Directors. The suspension notice did not include restricted access to the 2110 centre itself.

As per footage retrieved from CUTV, police arrived at the scene twice, first arresting Mugenyi then later removing Rolbin-Ghanie and Stillman from the premises.

“[The police] are notorious for racial profiling and they’re notorious for violence,” said Rolbin-Ghanie, who also noted that the police refused to show their badges. “The officers were four white males and two-thirds of us [being removed] are women of colour, the same two-thirds that advocate against police violence. To call police twice against women of colour who work on these issues is just...” Rolbin-Ghanie trailed off.

“It has gone too far,” said Mugenyi, who said the police never read her her rights—a violation of her Charter rights.

Mugenyi said the 2110 is currently facing a “crisis in leadership.”

“For me, the biggest violation is the hostility towards activism and the manner in which the repression at the 2110 Centre literally escalated,” she said, adding she wants to see the Board recalled and a series of procedural amendments approved at the upcoming special general meeting.

What's most startling, they said, is that nothing was mentioned during the Board's regular meeting—the evening before police were called in—indicating a suspension would be in place the following morning. Instead, the Board emphasized conflict resolution.

“So [our suspension] was pre-meditated,” Mugenyi said, “even though there was a Board meeting the previous day where there was no mention of it.”

Although the Board members who did witness the events were not available to speak with *The Link*, Board members Jackson Hagner and Kat Butler said all three employees were suspended legally.

Amidst accusations of harassment and constitutional breaches—namely, implementing a hierarchical structure where none existed and suspending employees without pay—Hagner and Butler said the Centre complies with all of its policies.

Furthermore, they said, employees and Board members usually aren't allowed to discuss labour grievances openly.

“I think there’s a huge breakdown at the Centre right now,” said Hagner. “Part of what I think has started and [propelled] this issue is the staff not self-educating about each other’s portfolios and [identifying] what exactly each staff member does.”

“Obviously, calling the police wasn’t the first step that was taken,” said Butler. “We clearly communicated when we tried to first implement a conflict mediation/conflict resolution process [...] to try to get back to a more respectful dialogue and discourse around this.

But there was a lot of resistance to that.”

Concordia Student Union VP Prince Ralph Osei said that although the union respects the autonomy of all fee levy-paying groups, peaceful mediation should have been the only option.

“I think calling the cops is extreme,” Osei said. “The CSU over the years, where Council meetings got heated and they wanted to kick people out, they never called in the cops. [...] Unless there’s an issue of violence or extreme assault, we don’t condone and encourage that kind of behaviour.”

Osei said not only does calling in police bring “bad press” to the university, but it also goes against the Centre’s mandate to support the rights of minority groups.

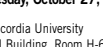
"They watch out for the interests of minority groups, whether it be non-Canadians or transsexuals, gays, lesbians, all people outside the mainstream culture," he continued. "The Board of Directors should be able to work with the staff to achieve that purpose."

Despite being strong-armed by Montreal police officers, the three suspended employees said that they looked forward to getting back to work.

“We have a lot of potential as an organization,” said Mugenyi. “We have a big budget and people who are passionate about their work [...]. I feel really lucky to have a job that’s paid where I can work on social justice issues. There aren’t very many people who can do that.”

The three suspended employees are currently postering for the upcoming special general meeting out-of-pocket. They're not sure how they're going to pay the bills.

The 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy will hold their special general meeting on Nov. 2 in EV 1.605. For more info, visit centre2110.org or 2110democracy.ca.

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Concordia University Hall Building, Room H-649 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8			
editor-in-chief		photo editor	
TERRINE FRIDAY			OPEN
news editor		graphics editor	
JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI			VIVIAN LEUNG
features editor		managing editor	
LAURA BEESTON			CLARE RASPOPOW
fringe arts editor		layout manager	
MADELINE COLEMAN			MATHEU BIARD
literary arts editor		webmaster	
CHRISTOPHER OLSON			TRISTAN LAPOINTE
sports editor		business manager	
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opinions editor		distribution	
DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ			ROBERT DESMARAIS
copy editor			DAVID KAUFMANN
TOM LLEWELIN		ad designer	
student press liaison			ADAM MORRIS
JESSICA VRIEND			
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<p>THIS WEEK'S CONTRIBUTORS</p> <p>David Adelman, Rose Athena, Joel Balsam, Demi Bégin, Esther Bernard, ginger coons, Travis Dando, Megan Dolski, Elisabeth Faure, Eleonore Gauthier, Laurent Han, R. Brian Hastie, Jale Hemmerich, Kamila Hinkov, Les Honywill, Elsa Jabre, Arshad Khan, Ami Kingdom, Adam Kocak, Stephanie La Leggia, Ellen Leung, Alan MacQuarrie, Jaime McCallum, Steven Myers, Barbara Pavone, Jonas Prieth, Pascale Rose Lécuyer, Miqu'ellie Renais Skeete, Riley Sparks, Celia Ste Croix,</p>			
<p>cover by Allan Courrier</p>			

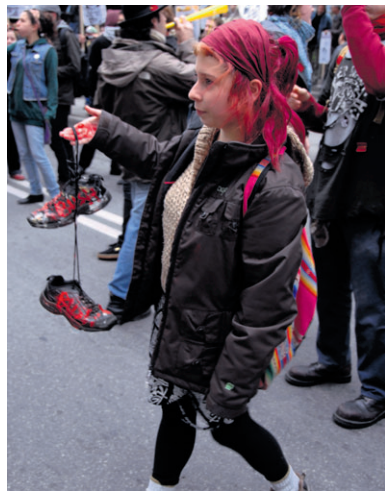


PHOTO ELEONORE GAUTHIER



PHOTO ELEONORE GAUTHIER



PHOTO RILEY SPARKS



PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Warm welcome as protesters call for Bush's arrest

Riot police stand between the former president and a barrage of shoes

• RILEY SPARKS

Hundreds of demonstrators gathered outside the Queen Elizabeth Hotel on Oct. 22 to protest a speech by former American president George W. Bush.

"This man is a war criminal," said Jaggi Singh, an organizer for the ironically-named George Bush Welcoming Committee. Singh called on demonstrators to "give George the welcome he deserves."

In reference to the Iraqi journalist Muntadhar al-Zaidi, who threw his shoes at Bush in an act of protest, demonstrators pelted the entrance of the hotel with old shoes, boots, slippers and high-heels.

"We will send a message with our voices and our shoes," said Singh.

Several police officers and at least one police horse were struck by flying shoes. No officers were injured and police made no arrests for the shoe-throwing.

The demonstration began on the north side of René-Lévesque Boulevard West but quickly spilled over into the street. Protesters blocked both the east- and westbound lanes and in response, police closed René-Lévesque from Mansfield Street to University Street, barring protesters from entering the hotel.

"I hope it's not a riot," said Jean-Philippe Sauvé, a student who was at the protest. "I have

other things to do today," he joked. The crowd swelled to about three hundred, but despite a few tense moments between demonstrators and police, the protest largely remained peaceful.

Chanting "George Bush, assassin, terroriste de père en fils," demonstrators produced an effigy of Bush, which some struck with sticks before setting it alight.

Montreal police officer Raphaël Bergeron would not specify how many officers were involved, but said the Montreal Police Department was coordinating with the Sûreté du Québec and the RCMP.

The heavy police presence included officers in riot gear and on horseback.

When asked about the cost of providing police security for the event, Bergeron declined to comment, saying he was unaware of the cost. *The Globe and Mail* has previously reported that the RCMP would spend more than \$500,000 to provide protection for Bush during his speaking tour in Canada.

Many protesters questioned Bush's motives. A woman who identified herself as Tofan dismissed the event as "propaganda," while another protester, who declined to give his name, said he believed Bush wanted to "have more people on his side."

Calling Bush the "most-hated president...in history," protestor Jean-Philippe Sauvé said he

thought Bush was motivated by money and a desire to improve his image.

In an ironic twist, the demonstration took place outside the same hotel in which John Lennon and Yoko Ono staged their 1969 bed-in for peace, and some protesters sang "Give Peace a Chance," which was first recorded during the bed-in.

Police made five arrests. Those arrested face charges including mischief and disturbing the peace.

The Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal had invited Bush to speak. Tickets to the sold-out event cost the 1,000 guests between \$350 and \$400.

—with files from Tom Llewellyn



PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

(Clockwise from top left) Activist readies her throwin' arm. Police in riot gear stand in the middle of René-Lévesque Boulevard West to block shoe throwers. An activist takes his concerns directly to the cops. Bush's effigy burns in the shadow of Place Ville Marie. Two activists hoist Bush's cowboy hat-topped effigy before it burns.



Concordia President Judith Woodsworth, pictured in her office, has served in her current role for just over a year. PHOTO TERRINE FRIDAY

Concordia president calls for a university 'reset'

Aims for private donors, American-style tuition and community involvement

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Concordia President Judith Woodsworth told the Canadian Club of Montreal on Oct. 19 that Canada's universities need to be part of the post-recession "reset" of society.

"I was using that as an image to say that if you are going to have a reset there should be a third player, which would be universities," said Woodsworth. "I think that people don't take enough advantage of universities because they have typically seen them as a drain on taxpayers' dollars."

"They don't understand that universities contribute a lot to the economy, [and] what they contribute to knowledge and culture is important for the development of a local economy."

Woodsworth said that education, especially post-secondary education, is not a priority for government investment. She identified private donors as an important source of funding in a "reset" world.

"We as a university need to raise money privately from our donors,"

she said. "We have done well raising money for bursaries and scholarships, but we need more, especially for graduate students."

"If we can get to the point where we have enough funding to support students who are really in need and charge tuition to the ones who have the money, that would be the best solution."

The president later asserted that the American model would be a good model for Concordia. All students at American universities pay a flat tuition, while those with financial difficulties are subsidized by the schools.

"The government has to help out, with grants and loans that are forgivable. If you graduate and you don't have a job, they write off your loan," said Woodsworth. She said she feels the current financial assistance program run by the federal and provincial governments is too burdensome for many students, calling it "very complicated."

"The student financial assistance regime in this country is so complicated that people can't figure out their way through it on their own,"

said Woodsworth. "It discourages people from poorer families, [students] who in grade eight or nine think that going to university is a rich man's dream."

Woodsworth nonetheless identified what she called "a cultural problem" with private-based investment.

"The student financial assistance regime in this country is so complicated that people can't figure out their way through it."

—Concordia President
Judith Woodsworth

"In Canada, fundraising is much newer. When we phone our graduates we are told, 'You expect me to give you money when I paid for my education?' We get that attitude," said Woodsworth, who added that building a base of private donors was one of her goals.

Apart from funding issues, Woodsworth said she also planned to develop the things that make

Concordia distinctive, especially in the area of community involvement.

"One of the pillars of the strategic plan is community involvement and social responsibility," said Woodsworth. "The reason we put it there is not because this is something new that we want to strive for, but because this is part of our tradition."

To help Concordia students, Woodsworth said that she had directed the university to set up a centralized volunteer bureau and to create a new transcript that listed experiences and involvement at Concordia. This transcript would accompany the current academic transcript. Although it would serve the same role as a CV, Woodsworth said that it would be more "official."

A final project would be to improve students' experiences through smaller classrooms and a more targeted education. "We said, 'How can we make sure that even in the big classes the students have a small class experience?'" said Woodsworth. "So we are going to have a couple of pilot projects where we try to achieve that."

Briefs

CFS sells Travel Cuts

The Canadian Federation of Students' Service Branch sold Travel Cuts, known in French as Voyages Campus, on Oct. 26 to Merit Travel Ventures. The former student business could be found at nearly 100 campuses across the country. The new owner stresses that it will continue supporting student initiatives in the market. Concordia's Voyages Campus will change owners in the sale.

Concordia students most satisfied in Quebec

The Globe and Mail's 2010 Canadian University Report claims that Concordia has the most satisfied students at any large institution in Quebec. Concordia also clinched the title for best teaching, class sizes and course availability in the province. Concordia's lowest grade: a C in food preparation. All told, not half bad.

Senate eyes better university access

On Oct. 7, the Senate committee on social affairs, science and technology launched a study to examine barriers to university access. The goal of the study is to create recommendations to improve Aboriginal access to university education and to improve the student transfer process between universities in different provinces.

Concordia launches research repository

Concordia Libraries launched a research repository to mark International Open Access Week. The repository contains over 6,000 theses and dissertations produced at Concordia. Faculty researchers can continue to share their research through self-submission. The repository is available through Google Scholar.

Veggie friendly Concordia

PETA2, the world's largest youth animal rights organization, has named Concordia one of eight finalists as Canada's most vegetarian-friendly campus.

The cited vegetarian options include The People's Potato and Le Frigo Vert. Support Concordia by casting your vote at peta2.com/college. The winner will be announced in November.

Concordia wants to talk about privacy

Second conference series to open campus debate on privacy and security issues

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Do you ever count security cameras? Worry about the RFID chip in your OPUS card? Wonder where your emails are being stored? If you do, then Concordia's second President's Conference Series could be for you.

"The idea is to look at the tension between the need for security and the need for privacy," explained Ollivier Dyens, the chair of the committee responsible for the Nov. 4 conference "Every Breath You Take: Surveillance, Security and the End of Privacy."

The idea of the President's

Conference Series was hatched during Concordia President Judith Woodsworth's inauguration as a means of showcasing more of Concordia's unknown talent.

"It's a difficult topic, but the point of the President's Conference Series is to open debate and put forward people who can introduce different points of view on the topic," said Dyens.

"There is a lot of information out there and there are a lot of people talking about the threat to privacy; we rarely talk about the need for security, even though by our actions we say we need security," continued Dyens.

The chair explained that letting yourself be filmed or putting information on social networking sites like Facebook are actions that put privacy and security into conflict. The evening could help people navigate the thin line between the two concepts. According to Dyens, there is "no perfect balance" between privacy and security.

As the vice-provost of teaching and learning, Dyens said the security issues were a growing part of his job.

"Recently someone came to me asking about social networks and how can we use them, so I asked

legal to look at it and she told me that some of these social networks, like Facebook, have extremely problematic implications for the university.

"The fact that Facebook's servers are in the United States makes every user dependent on American law and every user could be looked at by [The Department of] Homeland Security," said Dyens.

Running from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., the series will deal with crime scene investigation, the implications of surveillance and the tension between privacy and security.



Glenn Rubenstein stands with a collected bike. PHOTO ELEONORE GAUTHIER

Next stop: Ghana

Montrealers dig out their old bikes and give them a new life in Africa

• ELISABETH FAURE

Volunteers and Notre-Dame-de-Grâce residents came together on Oct. 25 in the name of a good cause: providing used bicycles to people living in impoverished countries.

One of the volunteers was 11-year-old Matthew Goldsmith, a seventh-grade student at Loyola High School.

"The organizer, he's a very close friend with my mom so he told us about it and I decided to go for it," said Goldsmith. Arriving with his mother at 9:30 a.m., Goldsmith spent the day cleaning the used bikes brought to Co-op La Maison Verte on Sherbrooke Street West.

"We did the collection in partnership with Coop La Maison Verte," explained Glenn Rubenstein, the development coordinator for Cyclo Nord-Sud, the group that collects and re-distributes the bikes. Sunday's bicycle drive was one of 60 held annually in Quebec.

Cyclo Nord-Sud takes Quebecers' old bikes and ships them to Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa. They work with nongovernmental organizations in the countries where they donate the bikes, to either distribute them for free or to sell them at a below-market cost.

Bikes are shipped 400 to 450 at a time, and Rubenstein said that

the organization ships 4,000 bikes annually. This year, the group is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

On display at the bike drop-off were photos of the people and communities that Cyclo Nord-Sud has helped over the years.

"It's just wonderful, when you look at the photos, what they do with the bikes," said Sheindl Rothman, who identified herself as a proud, card-carrying member of Cyclo-Nord Sud.

"These are bikes that people aren't using here, and [Cyclo Nord-Sud] gives them a whole new life," said Rothman.

The bikes being collected during the Oct. 25 drive were destined for a women's association in Ghana.

"The bikes are used by the women to bring their goods to market or to ease the work associated with searching for water," said Rubenstein, who reported that over 50 bicycles were collected that day.

"We came to buy some soap, and we saw this activity going on, and we said, 'Hey, we have a few bikes in the attic,' so we brought one down. As simple as that," said Alain Saumier, a communications professor at Université de Montréal, who was out running errands with his wife.

"For these people, it's their livelihood," said Saumier, referring to the people who receive bikes from Cyclo Nord-Sud.

Why they need your money

Two student groups lay out their plans for the thousands of dollars they're seeking from undergrads

• CLARE RASPOPOW

CUTV and the Co-op Bookstore have had their fee levy questions approved by the Concordia Student Union for a November referendum. All they need to do now is convince the student body that they deserve the money.

Both groups cite infrastructure as the major reason they're in need of funds.

"This money is not about keeping the status quo," explained Co-op Bookstore manager Larissa Dutil, going over her organization's proposal to the CSU. "We're functioning on earned income, but we're not organized as a for-profit business. Knowing that one source of income is sustained means we can invest in the small things any business would need to function and expand our presence in the community."

"Our plan shows a 100 per cent increase in community events," she said. The money would also be used to pay staff and increase the bookstore's stock.

Dutil responded to accusations that the money they would receive would be used exclusively to pay down the Co-op's sizeable debt, with some calling the fee

levy a second bailout—the first being a loan from the CSU of \$25,000 in 2004, as well as a \$10,000 loan in 2008.

She pointed out that the bookstore has been paying back its loan consistently without the use of student funds for the past few years. The bookstore's debt currently stands at \$12,800.

CUTV also has plans to invest in its infrastructure, although the organization does plan to increase salary spending by \$23,776.

23,776

dollars. The increase in CUTV's salary spending if the fee levy increase is approved.

Noah Leon, station manager of CUTV, explained that the salary increase is due to the creation of four new positions: resident editor, festival coordinator, program coordinator and CSU clubs liaison.

These jobs, he said, were necessary to help the TV studio serve Concordia students.

"A lot of what we've been doing is shooting events for clubs," he explained in reference to the creation of the CSU clubs liaison. "It's been hit or miss up to

this point. Having someone in this position will help us serve the Concordia community better."

The other positions were necessary, he said, to deal with a backlog of footage that needs to be edited, to increase the number of festivals and events CUTV hosts and to be the in-house resource for the many volunteers who will need to learn shooting and editing skills.

CUTV would also like to increase their production funding by more than 600 per cent. This would allow them to fund documentaries, a news branch and an artist-in-residence.

Leon also mentioned that the organization was looking into new ways to distribute their programming.

"We know that no one watches [the TVs in the Hall building]. The sound is always turned down," he said. The group is looking into turning the TVs over to advertising and distributing their content over the web.

Despite the embarrassing typo in their submission to the CSU claiming that the group had been "bottlenecked and stifled" because their "ambitions have long been smaller than [their] budget," Leon assured *The Link* that CUTV has big plans.

Nationalist group aims to disrupt Prince Charles' visit to Montreal

Réseau de Résistance du Québec says British monarchy has the blood of Quebecers on its hands

• CHRIS HANNA

Prince Charles' upcoming visit to Canada may turn into a catastrophe if members of a Quebec nationalist group have their way.

The prince's 10-day tour starts on Nov. 2 in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, and marks his 15th official visit.

Despite an official statement from the Prime Minister's Office that the visit should be seen as "an opportunity to learn more about the heritage and traditions of which we are all proud," members of Le Réseau de Résistance du Québécois say they want to teach the prince a little something.

"We would like to send a clear message to the British monarchy," said Ludovic Schneider, the direct or of the RRQ. "You are not wel-

come here. Quebec does not belong to you."

Schneider said that his group ran an advertisement in "almost all English-Canadian newspapers and many British newspapers," warning the heir to the throne to stay away from the territory of the Québécois people.

Schneider could not comment on the nature of the threats, or where, when or even how the organization plans on protesting the visit, but the prince's visit to the Montreal Biodome on Nov. 10 could elicit the most ire.

The RRQ's resentment for the British crown is an equal measure of politics—the Queen is the head of state—and history.

"The British monarchy's hands are stained with the blood of our ancestors," said Schneider. "Almost all of the Québécois people never

accepted to become part of a foreign country by force of arms, after years of murders and assaults."

According to the RRQ's website, only one requirement for membership exists: "to be determined to invest one's self for the national liberation of Quebec."

Anyone can become a member, militant or sympathizer of the RRQ by filling out a form and paying the \$20 annual fee.

Founded due to a loss of faith in mainstream political parties, Schneider claimed that "many of the [RRQ's] members are active at all echelons of government."

The RRQ has had some success in the past.

Earlier this year, they were instrumental in cancelling a reenactment of the battle of the Plains of Abraham, which the group deemed "a celebration of defeat."

Montreal's politics need to change

Two authors propose new political systems that involve citizens in decisions

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Faced with corruption and voter apathy in municipal politics, two Montreal authors argue the political system is facing a crisis of legitimacy and needs to be completely overhauled.

"I was told that we might be competing with the Benoît Labonté scandal tonight," said Marcel Sévigny at the Librerie Olivieri on Oct. 22. Sévigny is the author of *Et nous serions paresseux?*, a book about the fight against moving the Montreal Casino to Pointe-Saint-Charles.

"I think in principle we won't be because tonight is about democracy and we haven't heard the word during the whole election campaign," continued Sévigny.

In front of 40 spectators, Sévigny debated Luc Rabouin, the author of *Démocratiser la ville*, about what new political system should be installed in Montreal. The two men, both self-proclaimed activists, shared a belief in the need for change but had different proposals.

"The key idea of a participatory budget is co-decision, which means that citizens along with elected representatives and civil servants, co-

decide the budget's priority," said Rabouin about his proposed participatory budget, a system already in place in over 1,000 cities including Paris, Rome and the Plateau-Mont-Royal borough of Montreal.

"This is not a consultation, where elected officials invite people to give their comments and they then take a decision. This is a deliberative process where ideas are debated and changed," continued Rabouin. "The debate is about new investments, where citizens are a participant in making the choice about where to invest."

A template for the participatory budget already exists for Montreal and is already in effect in the Plateau. In this system, a borough would be divided into three districts with 12 citizens chosen from each. An additional 12 citizens would be selected to represent public interest groups. These members would then meet for three Saturdays in a row where they would decide and vote on funding priorities.

This would add a level of direct democracy to the current political process.

Sévigny's proposal, a systemic ad-hoc approach, was developed during his 16 years as a local coun-

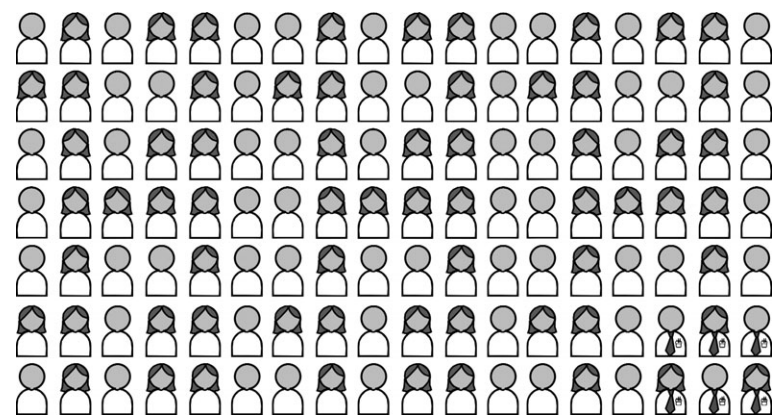
cillor for Pointe-Saint-Charles and is based on a proposal by the Montreal Citizens' Movement in the 1980s and includes local popular councils in each borough.

"Let's start with issues that affect a lot of people and gather an assembly of citizens that could become the body of decision," said Sévigny. "People could debate, discuss and vote in this assembly, where they could decide to, as an example, lower speed limits to 30 kilometres an hour."

Because the decisions would be made directly by the citizens of a borough, Sévigny said that the system would have more legitimacy than the current elected council. His eventual hope would be to organize these assemblies in a consistent manner, where they could cooperate and communicate with each other across borough borders.

"People are mobilizing in neighbourhoods, they are mobilizing outside of political parties and want to change things," said Rabouin. "We saw this at the Montreal Citizen Summit where 1,000 people debated municipal affairs for three days."

"What we aren't lacking are citizens ready to be mobilized, what we are lacking are elected officials ready to share power."



Two proposed reform structures

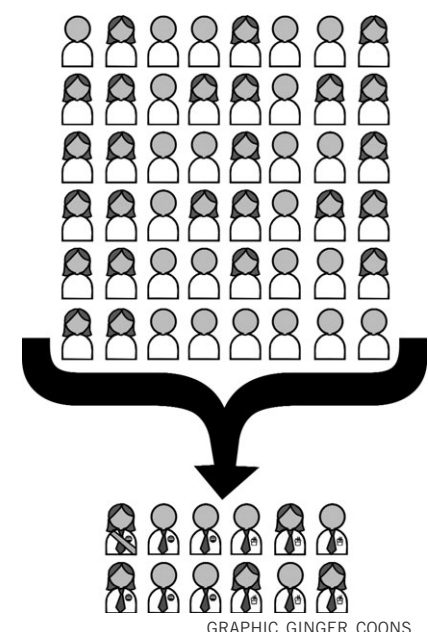
The two borough governing structures proposed by Sévigny and Rabouin.

Systemic ad-hoc approach (top)

Citizens gather to debate and vote on issues of interest to the borough. This has an undefined structure.

Participatory budget (right)

Forty-eight citizens meet for three weekends to debate and choose new spending priorities. The proposal is brought to the borough council (1 mayor, 5 councillors, 6 civil servants) for approval.



GRAPHIC GINGER COONS

Understanding terror through psychology

• SALIM BOU ZIAB

According to Wagdy Loza, the chair of the extremism and terrorism branch of the Canadian Psychological Association, psychology can help clarify the actions of terrorists.

Loza spoke about the psychology of Middle Eastern extremism at Concordia on Oct. 22 at the request of the Concordia Undergraduate Psychology Association and the Political Science Student Association.

"Extremists can't admit any wrong in their way of thinking," explained Loza. "They are aggressively against the western culture which, according to them, is corrupt and bad." He used the example of how boyfriend-girlfriend relationships are seen by those extremists as a blight of western origin.

Treating extremism through psychology could be possible, according to Loza, since terrorism is not a religious or social phenomenon, but an ideological one. He added that this would be

a long-term project.

"The biggest motive of Middle Eastern extremism is to re-establish an Ottoman Caliphate," he explained. The caliphate was a political system in place before the First World War when the Ottoman Empire dominated the Arab world. "The extremists in the Middle East want to go back to the glory of that empire," he said.

Loza did not mention any effects on violence due to the educational systems in the Middle East or the impact of religious leaders.

He said that the presence of American troops in Saudi Arabia aggravated extremists, "[who] considered the American presence as contaminating Islam's holy land."

Due to the support that many Middle Eastern countries receive from the United States and Europe, Loza said these countries are considered "puppies of the West" by extremists.

The lack of democracy, a large gap between rich and poor and high unemployment rates might also be responsible for motivating some of the extremists, he said.

Montreal students cook up a green storm

Interns create a sustainable, low-budget recipe book

• TOM LLEWELLIN

The interns at the Éco-stage program are preparing a recipe booklet to help families solve a serious problem: how to stay within a budget while eating a healthy and sustainable diet.

The booklet, to be launched Nov. 5, will be free of charge and available at the Maxi in Place Versailles.

"We wanted to go somewhere where people might not understand the issues of food security and eating locally," said program coordinator Alexandre Crombez. The cookbook intends to be a resource for people who would otherwise consider healthy eating a frivolous expense.

"We wanted to make recipes where you could feed four or five people for less than \$10," continued Geneviève Dessureault, who is also teaching students and seniors how to reduce their ecological footprints. "Low-income peo-

ple and young people with families are all on a budget. So accessibility and cost were very important to us."

One in five Montreal children live under the poverty line, a status that puts them at a higher risk of diabetes and obesity later in life, according to Statistics Canada. Low-income areas are also more susceptible to communicable pandemics, like the H1N1

is easily obtainable during the colder months. The booklet will also contain sidebars that explain to an otherwise-unaccustomed audience the concepts underlying sustainability and the benefits they say it brings society.

"It's a lot of work to get people interested in environmental problems," said Dessureault. "It takes a while to get people interested, but the interest is definite-

"It all starts in the grocery store."

—Alexandre Crombez,
Éco-stage program coordinator

virus.

The group put together the contents of the booklet using their own recipes, with a strong nod towards traditional Québécois food that stressed local ingredients.

"It all starts in the grocery store," said Crombez.

Owing to a coming winter, the recipes will focus on produce that

ly growing." To their knowledge, she said, no one had attempted such an undertaking in Montreal before.

Éco-stage, administered by the federal Katimavik program, has been in operation for two years putting CEGEP and university students to work for non-profits with an environmental focus.



In front of The Bay on Ste-Catherine Street West, the Gulu Walk led some shoppers to ponder. PHOTO ELEONORE GAUTHIER

A wet walk for the Gulu

Concordia students take to the streets to raise all kinds of awareness

• MAE PRICE

Despite pouring rain and a less than impressive turnout, the organizers of Concordia's 2009 Gulu Walk were in good spirits on the afternoon of Oct. 24.

"The originally developed idea was to experience what the night commuter would feel like," said Laura Glover, an organizer for the event.

The night commuters were the 40,000 children who walked every night from their rural villages into the town of Gulu, Uganda, or other town centres, to sleep in relative safety during the Ugandan Civil War.

Sleeping in their own villages was too dangerous because the children risked abduction by the Lord's

Resistance Army, a guerilla army based in Northern Uganda, who engaged in armed rebellion against the Ugandan government for two decades.

Uganda recently saw its 22-year civil war come to an end and with it the night commuting ended as well.

"Even though the conflict is over, there is still a lot that needs to be done," said Jen Roberts, a Concordia student and Gulu Walk coordinator.

The goal of the walk was to raise awareness about some of the issues still plaguing Gulu and the different ways in which people can get involved.

Those methods include volunteering through the Concordia Volunteer Abroad Program or the Mercy Project, an organization

working to support healthcare initiatives in limited access areas of Uganda.

Roberts noted that raising awareness about Uganda's recent adoption of an anti-homosexuality bill was one of her main goals for being there that rainy Saturday.

"Even though we may seem far away we can impact the way our own countries act and the way our governments respond to other countries' decisions," said Roberts.

The seven-kilometre walk took the group of 20 or so supporters from Concordia around the Plateau and back through the McGill campus.

Two men in Toronto started the first Gulu Walk in 2005 and the concept has since spread to over 16 countries and 75 cities.

Open dialogue on closed horizons

• ALAIN THEROUX

Nearly a hundred people gathered on Oct. 24 at the Comité social centre-sud in Montreal's Gay Village to discuss the challenges facing queer and transsexual convicts in Canada's prison system.

"We have no united voice in front of the repressive, abusive and manipulative system we deal with," said Peter Collin, whose words were broadcast from the Bath Institution, a medium security prison near Kingston.

Collin said that building a movement involving people cut off from the outside world is a problem, as is their reluctance to speak.

"If we finally have people talk about their problems, do they know how to talk about them?" asked Collin.

"Is prison really protecting society?"

—Liam Michaud, dialogue organizer

Also speaking from incarceration was Amazon Contreras, whose reflexions were read to the public. Contreras, a trans activist and prisoner at the cramped California State Prison in Corcoran—currently over capacity by 200 per cent—gave an insider's view to the loneliness and isolation trans prisoners face.

Contreras wrote about fighting alone against "the right wing, trans-homophobes and haters."

A scattered coalition was also on display, as a pan-North American panel questioned the basis of the prison system. Liam Michaud, one of the event's organizers, called it the beginning of "a broader movement to end our reliance on prisons."

"Is prison really protecting society?" asked Michaud, when the current institution has failed to provide the tools to engage in safe sex, safe drug practices or receive clean needles, prevent HIV/AIDS or live in a safe environment devoid of homophobia.

Bikes and burritos

Burritoville launches environmentally friendly delivery



Cam Novak promises to bring you a hot burrito. PHOTO TRISTAN LAPOINTE

• TRISTAN LAPOINTE

Known for its solid organic credentials, local Concordia haunt Burritoville has teamed up with Cycle Bird Courier to offer environmentally friendly food delivery in the downtown core using bikes.

The salsa schlepping won't come cheap as the service, offered from Monday to Friday, will command a 20 per cent delivery fee.

Burritoville's owner Jono Aitchison said that he had declined a previous offer from À La Carte Express Food Delivery because their car wouldn't fit with his environmental ethos.

"Before opening the original Burritoville in [Notre-Dame-de-Grâce] I worked in the food industry for years and there was so much waste," said Aitchison. "We try to minimize that here. I wanted to do delivery right, which is why bikes were a perfect fit."

The company tapped for the job, Cycle Bird Courier, is staffed by one person, Cam Novak, who founded his courier business after a summer of working for

many of the city's corporate messenger services.

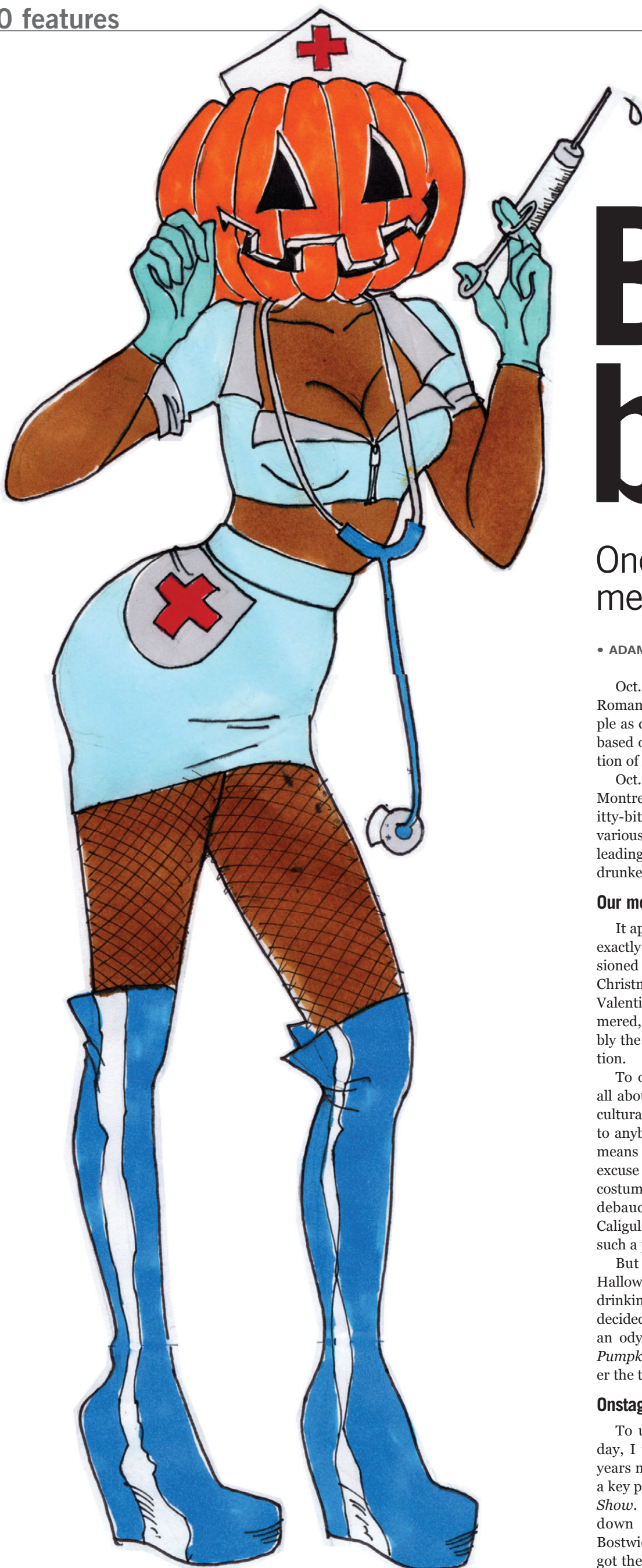
A shared desire to be personally invested in their work, both managerially and ideologically, brought Novak and Aitchison together.

"I wanted to get away from working for other people," said Novak. "Cycle Bird works for me because I'm responsible for every aspect of the job and the company truly represents me."

Since the Burritoville bike delivery service launched a couple of weeks ago business has been slow, but Novak is confident that the project will gain momentum and might replace envelope delivery as his main business.

"It's obvious that bikes are more environmentally friendly than cars and if businesses are willing to pay for that then I think students would be too," said Novak.

Since the advent of high-speed Internet, bike messengers around North America have been losing business. As a result, couriers around the country are branching out into food and household item delivery.



Beyond the bustier

One man's effort to find the true meaning of Halloween

• ADAM KOVAC

Oct. 31, 897 AD, somewhere in the Holy Roman Empire: Food is given to poor people as church parishioners wear costumes based on their favourite saints in celebration of All Hallows' Eve.

Oct. 31, 2009 AD, various locations in Montreal: Several dozen females wearing itty-bitty policewoman costumes suffer various levels of wardrobe malfunction, leading to a citywide epidemic of leering, drunken males shouting, "Take it off!"

Our modern Halloween

It appears that modern Halloween isn't exactly what the medieval Church envisioned anymore. As a holiday, it predates Christmas. As a moneymaker, it beats out Valentine's Day. As an excuse to get hammered, besides St. Patrick's Day and possibly the day after finals, it has no competition.

To our younger siblings, Halloween is all about sweet, sweet candy. But, as that cultural touchstone *Mean Girls* explained, to anybody over the age of 15, Halloween means one thing and one thing only: an excuse to get gussied up in the smallest costume possible and take decadence and debauchery to levels not seen since Caligula—and you wonder why togas are such a popular choice of costume.

But surely there must be more to Halloween than bare midriffs and binge drinking? With this question in mind, I decided to set out on a personal quest, nay, an odyssey. Like Linus in *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*, I would discover the true meaning of Halloween.

Onstage Spirit

To understand the spirit of this holiday, I went to Brad Majors who, for 34 years now, has been tied to Halloween as a key player in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. To tell the truth, I couldn't track down the original Brad; actor Barry Bostwick did not return my e-mails. So I got the next best thing—David Herz, who will be playing the role in this year's pro-

duction at the Rialto Theatre. According to Herz, who has played Brad for the past six years, the show gets pretty interactive and racy.

"There are audience participation and callbacks to what's going on onstage," he told me. "For scenes where it's raining, the audience brings water pistols. They also throw toast and rice."

With the show revolving around a sweet transvestite from Transsexual, Transylvania, the costumes onstage every year are traditionally risqué, which led me to ask what type of attire is considered "normal" for the audience members to wear.

"Everything!" Herz said. "There are some crazy costumes. People have some great imaginations. There was a guy who dressed like a shower [last year]. He walked around with a bottomless bathtub and shower curtain encircling him."

Though bizarre, the conversation was getting away from the point of this article, so I urged Herz to speak of the debauchery.

"Oh, yeah," he said. "There are women dressed basically in lingerie."

Jackpot! I know where I'm heading to party.

In search of a costume

With destination in mind, an outlandish and sexy costume of my own was the next thing to find so I headed over to Sexe Cité, a shop conveniently located near Concordia's downtown campus.

Slightly distracted by a large shelf stocked exclusively with anal sex toys during the interview, I spoke with a woman who would only identify herself as Natasha and asked about the sexy seasonal variety that the store has to offer.

Unfortunately, the selection of male costumes was slight, consisting of a plain brown police shirt with matching hat, handcuffs and badge. Undeterred, I discovered some interesting tidbits regarding the Halloween shopping habits of the fairer sex.

"Every year [the trend is] different.

Sometimes there's a theme," said Natasha, when asked about the most popular sexy costumes. "This year it's vampires."

Twilight rears its ugly head again. I had hoped, following the release of *Zombieland*, that there would be a mass realization that vampires are by far the worst undead creatures out there, but no such luck.

Fighting back an urge to roll my eyes, Natasha informed me that the standard sexy police, maid, nurse and schoolgirl costumes are also big sellers every year. Thank goodness.

Though the staff was helpful and the selection impressive, my curiosity was piqued. We all know sex sells, but I needed to know: are these sultry costumes just good fun, or is there something more sinister at work?

A feminist's opinion

We've grown up in a world where modern feminism has splintered into many diverging schools of thought. While some women embrace what it is to be female by flaunting their sex appeal, others see the Pussycat Dolls as the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (although there are six of them at last count).

While certainly entranced by Sexe Cité's vast array of costumes and whips, others may not share this appreciation for assless chaps over the holidays. To gain another perspective, I headed over to Concordia's Simone de Beauvoir Institute—home of Concordia's women's studies program—to speak with associate professor Chantal Maillé.

"I'm more on the side of those that say it can certainly be empowering, but there's no unique way to read it," Maillé said. "For some women [sexy costumes] can be empowering; it fits their mood and they'll feel really comfortable. For others, if it's something that's imposed on them, it can be an uncomfortable experience."

When asked if skimpy costumes are something that has become increasingly pervasive in our culture, she said she doesn't think it's as widespread as I think.

"Women won't all pick the same costume for Halloween," she said. "Some will go to a sex shop and buy something, but I don't think this is a general trend."

Maillé asked, for example, if I personally knew any girls taking pole-dancing lessons—which, according to publications like *Time* is the hottest new workout—and I admitted that I didn't know any. Either the media has misled me about the prevalence of pole dancing, or I need sexier friends.

Maillé reasoned that there might be more to Halloween than slinking into a scandalous ensemble and stomping down the crowded streets.

"Halloween is about playing roles you cannot play on other days of the year," she concluded. "Is being a policewoman sexier these days than before? I don't know."

Writhe the dance floor

Unconvinced thus far by anecdotal evidence that not everyone is out to look like Halloween harlots on the 31st, I had a conversation with Laura Lee Neil, your average Concordia art history and religion student.

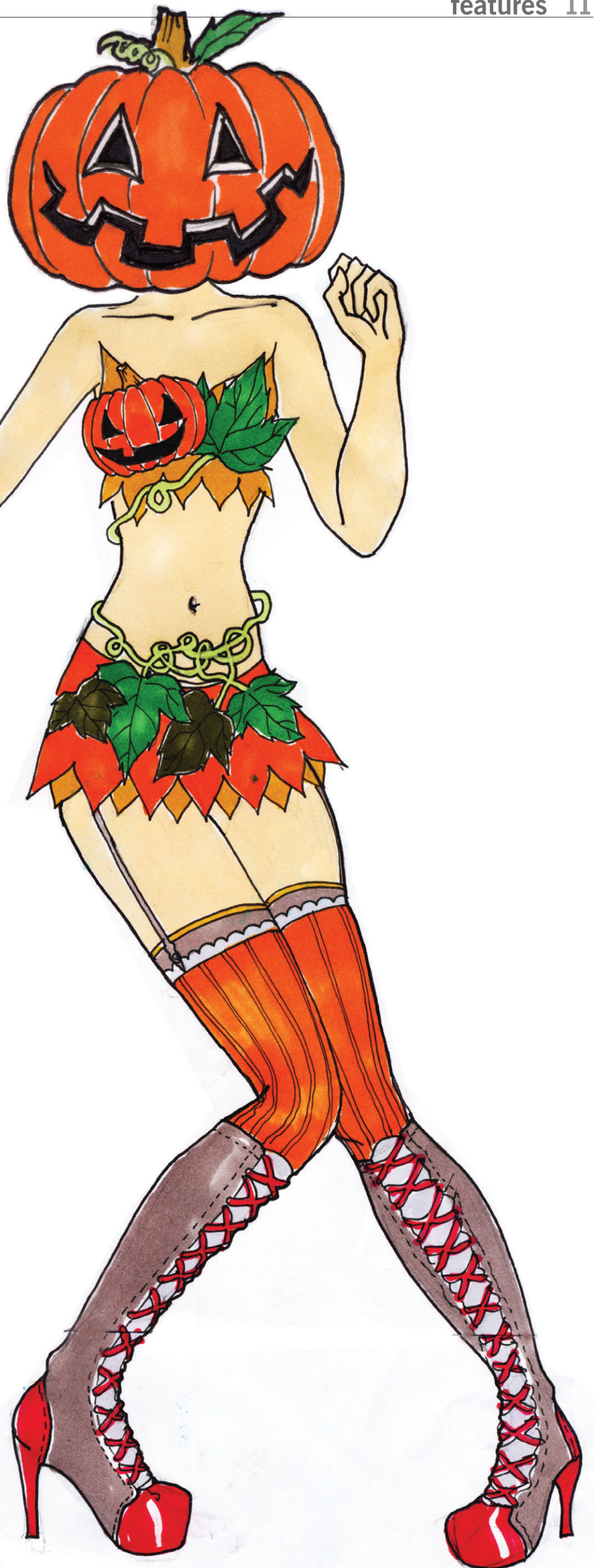
When asked what costume she planned on wearing out on the town next weekend, I was a bit taken aback by her answer.

"I'm going as an earthworm," Neil said. "It's easier than my first idea, which was [a] pterodactyl. Also, I have a really good dance I can do in my costume."

Well, there you have it. From singing transvestites to naughty cops, from human bath tubs to dancing megadriles, from feminists to post-feminists, it seems that the deeper meaning of Halloween in this postmodern age is pure fun.

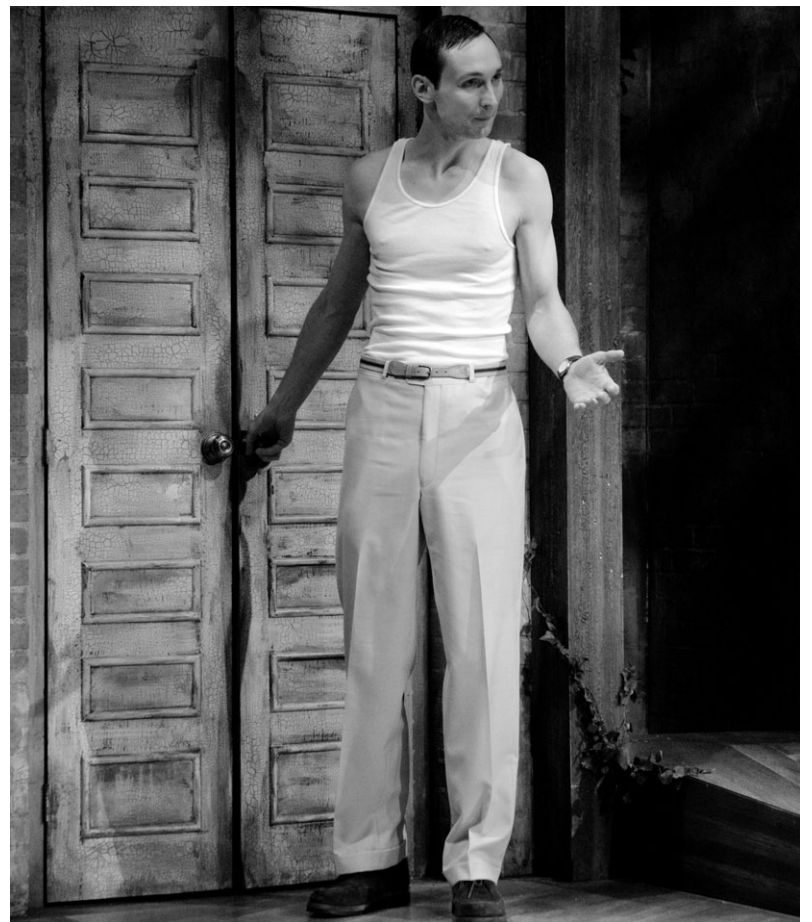
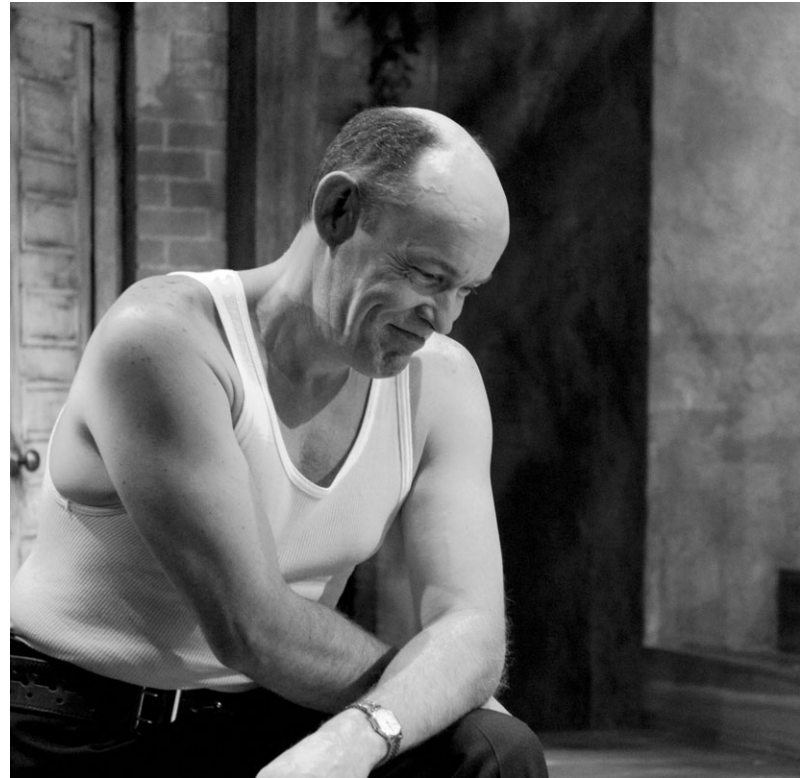
Fantasy, roleplaying, hanging out with buddies, having a few drinks and maybe eating a bit of candy for old time's sake is what sets this holiday apart; it's something to enjoy, not to overthink, tear apart, or deconstruct.

So, in the spirit of the season, I'll see you all out next Saturday night. I'll be the guy doing the time warp with the dancing earthworm.



Read your Darwin

Pulitzer-nominated play tackles evolution, God and the space between



Inherit the Wind is a fictional story based on true events surrounding the American creationism/evolution debate of the 1920s. PHOTOS RILEY SPARKS

• BARBARA PAVONE

The Segal Centre's latest production, *Inherit the Wind*, is courtroom drama in its finest form. Gripping and outright fascinating, the Pulitzer-nominated play is based on the true story of the "Scopes monkey trial" of 1925.

The trial brought America's attention to the small, conservative and extremely religious town of Dayton, Tenn. where a high school teacher was charged with violating the law prohibiting the teaching of Darwin's evolutionary

theory in public schools. The groundbreaking Scopes trial made international headlines and was the first ever to be broadcast live on radio.

Inherit the Wind, penned by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, is a somewhat fictionalized account of the controversy. Although the play deals with creationism versus evolution on its surface, it more significantly sheds light on intolerance, oppression and fear.

The Segal Centre's adaptation of the play is finely executed, drawing in the audience from the

opening line and engaging their minds and emotions through to the end. The costumes and set, with its old houses, stained glass windows, American flag and a sign proclaiming "Read Your Bible," transport the viewers to 1920s small-town America.

Although the entire cast was flawless, injecting life into the town with their songs and constant "hallelujahs" and "praise the Lords," the play focuses on two characters: agnostic defence lawyer Henry Drummond (played by Sean McCann) and former presidential candidate and prose-

cutor Matthew Harrison Brady (interpreted by David Francis).

McCann and Francis became their characters and had a palpable chemistry that made their back-and-forth attacks believable and fascinating.

Francis' opposition to "evilution" was countered by McCann's pompous wit, providing comic relief to the serious subject matter. Putting Francis on the stand and challenging his stringent beliefs, McCann drew laughs from the audience while shedding light on the hypocrisy of the closed-minded prosecutor, even

demanding that the "Read Your Bible" sign be matched with a "Read Your Darwin" sign. After all, why must there be one definitive choice?

Inherit the Wind strives to show that critical thinking is integral to human welfare. Even McCann admitted, "It takes a pretty smart man to admit, 'I don't know the answer.'"

Inherit the Wind runs until Nov. 8 at the Segal Centre (5170 Côte-St-Catherine Rd.). Tickets are \$35. For a student discount call the Segal Box Office at 514-739-7944.

Reclaiming the walls

Art exhibition challenges viewers' perceptions of space

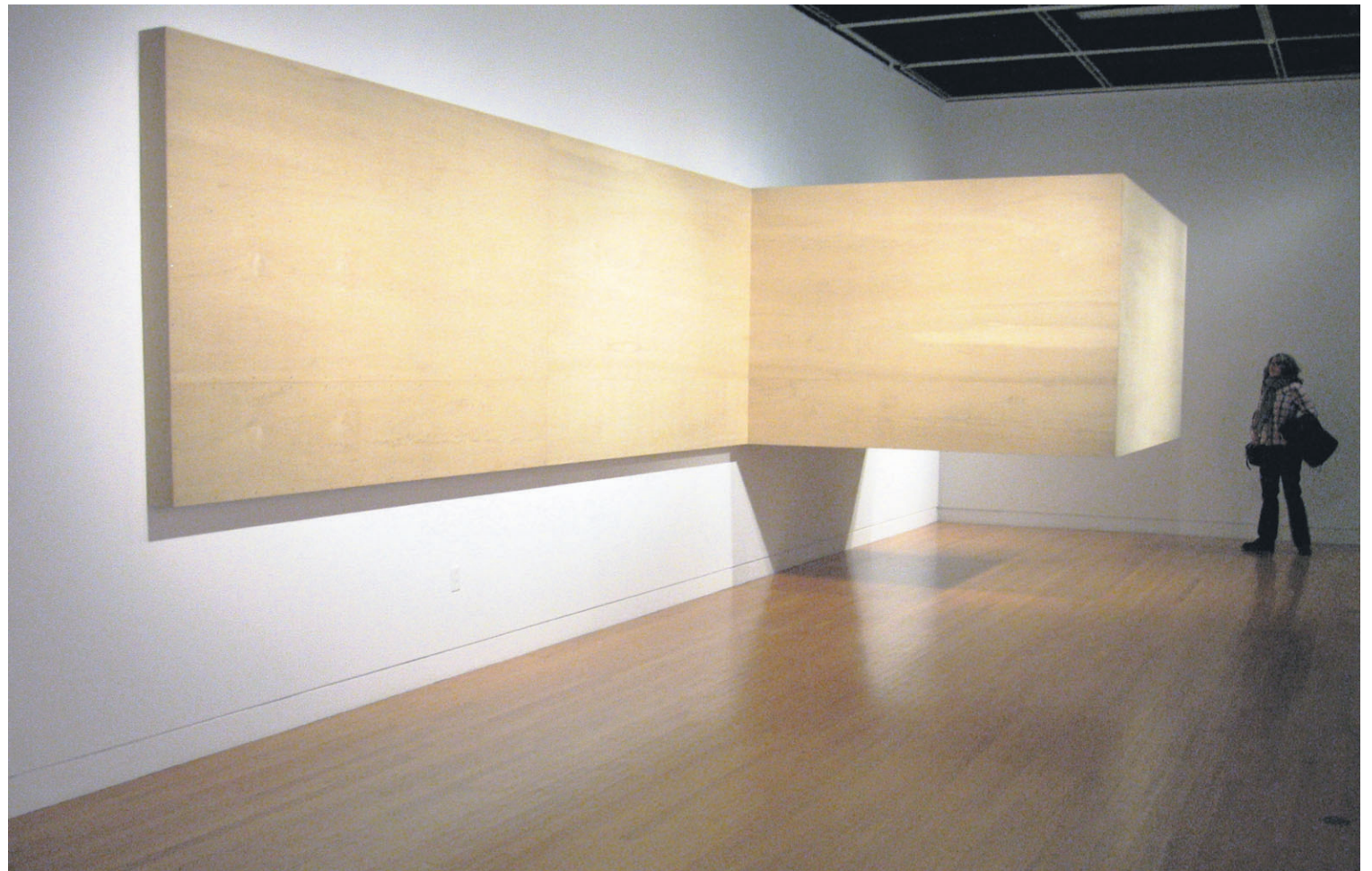
• ALAN MACQUARRIE

The idea of an art gallery as a boring, neutral space where art is merely installed and viewed is perhaps what most people are accustomed to. But Montreal painter Pierre Dorion wants to offer a new perspective on the relationship between art and the gallery.

"I wanted to present a series of physical pieces," said Dorion, curator of *Off the Wall*, a new exhibition taking over the Leonard & Bina Ellen Gallery. "Each piece has a trajectory and aims to communicate with the viewer."

Saturday's vernissage offered an opportunity for visitors to discuss the exhibition with the nine artists showing in *Off The Wall*. Among them are Winnipeg painter Wanda Koop and Montreal native Claude Tousignant, who was honoured earlier this year with a retrospective of his work at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal.

The exhibition is reminiscent of early minimalism and, according to Dorion, is



Alexandre David's plywood structure practically forces the viewer to get out of its way.

presented in a way that reflects the context of the art gallery. The works function as a mediator between the space's architecture and the viewer.

Alexandre David's imposing composition of plywood and screws emerges from the wall and hangs above the ground, reflecting the rectangular shape of the

gallery. Visitors to the gallery are free to move around and under it, as if wandering in a minimalist playground.

"A work of art has to be about the viewer," said Koop, who walked curious spectators through her installation of small monochrome canvases, which range from dark greys to stunning fluorescent hues.

They seem to hover off the wall and give the viewer a sense that they are spinning in a confined space, she said.

"Once you enter the space, it's as though you are entering the painting. It's a very experiential form of art."

Koop's piece is juxtaposed against Louise Lawler's grey monochrome one, a giant rectangle painted directly on the wall that stretches from floor to ceiling. Lawler's work is accompanied by an article from *The New York Times* about an Al-Jazeera cameraman who was released after six years of wrongful incarceration at Guantánamo Bay. The case was largely ignored by the American press and eventually sparked a major controversy.

"It's a very political piece," explained Dorion, who said the vague, grey illustration works to demonstrate the impossibility of representing such contentious issues through conventional images.

"I wanted to bring together architects and sculptors," explained Dorion, "very lyrical artists."

Each artist presented a piece specific to the space, like Michael Merrill's silver-point sketches of the gallery, which seem more like methodical architectural drawings than art.

Concordia design student Anne-Marie Laflamme was visiting the gallery and offered her perspective of the show.

"It's interesting to see art created as a function of the gallery itself," she said. "In design, we think of the result and not necessarily the process. It is interesting to see the impact of the objects themselves."

Off the Wall is on display at the Leonard & Bina Ellen Gallery on the ground floor of Concordia's McConnell Library Building (1400 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.) until Dec. 12.



Wanda Koop said her piece "LOOKUP" gave the viewers the feeling of "entering the painting."



Hip Hop: *Beyond Beats and Rhymes* explores the fusion of rappers' violent stage personas with their personal identities.

More than machismo

Documentary examines what manly means in rap culture

• R. BRIAN HASTIE

Next week's Cinema Politica entry is an earnest hour-long look at the role of masculinity in rap culture. *Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes* is an intriguing entry in the canon of racial and gender discourse.

"I love hip hop to this day," begins filmmaker Byron Hurt, writing himself into the story from the outset. Hurt explains the culture surrounding rap and the prevailing machismo—complete with literal chest-beating—that many black males display when devel-

oping their rapping personas. This stage presence often ends up fusing with their personal identities.

Hurt manages to dig deeper than simple surface questions involving gender and race, letting the question of "why does this happen?" hang in the air. He interviews popular rappers—including Busta Rhymes, Mos Def, Chuck D, Jadakiss and Talib Kweli—as well as industry figures like Russell Simmons.

Hurt also consults academics, all of whom draw their own somewhat similar conclusions: that the make-up of identity is a complex

web of interpersonal relationships mixed in with the desire to forge a tough persona in the public sphere in order to make some money, enter the rap game machine and come out rich.

Discussions of racial oppression and gender inequality continue throughout the documentary, like twin serpents rising above the subject of rap music and haunting them.

In one provocative scene, Hurt begins interviewing rappers on the street as they're catcalling women on their way to the pool. Hurt then invites the women over

and asks them how they felt about it. The women offer up stern indignation, but seem helpless to fight against the tide of established behaviour and perceived social norms.

Toward the end of the film, New York rapper Jadakiss posits that the rap game is "only entertainment" and that he's only part of the machine, just "trying to feed [his] daughter." He blames the game more than the players, without touching on the fact that if more popular rappers promoted other messages, violence might be less likely to transcend lyrical

boundaries and become real.

Beyond Beats and Rhymes serves as a powerful primer on gender and racial discourse and is well worth the viewing, if you can handle the questions still left unanswered.

Byron Hurt's *Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes* is part of hip hop symposium Rhymes, Rhythms & Resistance. It plays in room H-110 in Concordia's Hall building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.) on Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m. For more information about the symposium, see montrealhiphopsymposium.com.

Dog Day afternoon

Halifax indie band bring a new lineup to Montreal

• STEPHANIE LA LEGGIA

When Halifax band Dog Day started filming their own music videos, band member Seth Smith made a surprising discovery: his dog was born to be a star.

"I kinda got tired of filming around him and pushing him out, so I just decided to keep him in [the videos]," he said. "He's a really good actor."

The band makes the videos themselves to "take a little break from the music," said Smith. And when they aren't busy romping around the Nova Scotian countryside with a camera, the indie rockers are romping all over Canada.

"I wish there could be more time [to tour]," said Smith, excited for the band's upcoming three-month tour.

Smith and his wife, Nancy Ulrich, who initially played as a duo called the Burdocks, only became Dog Day when they added another married couple, Crystal Thili and her husband KC Spidle. The band was discovered playing in a Halifax venue by German record label TomLab. Their third and latest album, *Concentration*, was released this spring. After Spidle decided to go solo, long-time friend and drummer Robbie Shedden became the band's newest member.

"We have no recording material with [Shedden] yet, but we played Pop Montreal with him and it went great," said Smith. "We've seen him play in a whole bunch of Halifax bands, and we were just fans of his work. He has a complementary style that works. It's kind of like a nice refreshing change, to have a

slightly different feel."

"It's gonna be a surprise for me," said Smith of their upcoming show at Il Motore, which will be their second in Montreal in the last three weeks. He said fans should expect to hear material from each of the band's three records and, hopefully, their newest 12-inch vinyl release.

The band already hopes to plan future shows in smaller towns on the East Coast, as well as in the U.S. and Europe. Dog Day are a band on the move and Smith said they aren't ready to settle down anytime soon.

"I would definitely like to try something new," he said. "I like evolving."

Dog Day play with Attack in Black at Il Motore (179 Jean-Talon St. W.) on Oct. 27 at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.



Halifax band Dog Day, as they once were.

The
DOWN-LOWEvent listings
Oct. 27-Nov. 2

VISUAL ART

The Raft of the Medusa (100 Mile House)

Artist Adad Hannah restaged Théodore Géricault's tragic painting in rural British Columbia, documenting the process with photographs and videos. Until Nov. 28

Pierre-François Ouellette Art Contemporain
Belgo Building, 2nd floor
372 Ste-Catherine St. W.

MUSIC

Devil's Night party at Le Milieu
Back Stabbathhh, Dead Television
Personalities and Hole cover band
Pretty on the Outside
Friday, Oct. 30 at 9 p.m.
Le Milieu, #200-6545 Durocher St.
Tickets: \$6 with costume before mid-
night, \$8 after. \$10 without costume.

Hidden Cameras
with Gentleman Reg
Saturday, Oct. 31 at 8 p.m.
Il Motore
179 Jean-Talon St. W.
Tickets: \$15

LECTURE

Rick Trembles' Motion Picture Purgatory
Cartoon Slideshow!
Montreal cartoonist Trembles cele-
brates the release of his depraved new
book with a slideshow.
Saturday, Oct. 31 at 7 p.m.
Drawn & Quarterly
211 Bernard St. W.
Free

Professor Norman Cornett leads an
exploration of Kamila Wozniakowska's
art at Galerie Eric Devlin.
Saturday, Oct. 31 at 1 p.m.
Tickets: \$20 for students.

THEATRE

Be My Baby
1960s girl groups provide the sound-
track as young mothers preparing to
give up their children for adoption.
Thursday, Oct. 29 to Nov. 14
Studio Hydro-Québec
1182 St-Laurent Blvd.
Tickets: \$25 general admission, \$20 for
students and seniors.

FILM

Tell Your Tale, Little Bird
Seven women involved in the armed
uprisings in Palestine of the '60s and
'70s tell their story. Are they terrorists or
freedom fighters?
Thursday, Oct. 29 at 7 p.m.
Cinéma-thèque Québécoise
335 de Maisonneuve Blvd. E.

— compiled by
Madeline Coleman

Rocky Horror back for more

Montreal audiences like 'rough, adventurous things,' says actor

• DAVID ADELMAN

When the film *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* was released in theatres in 1975, it was a total flop. That didn't stop it from becoming a cult classic.

Every Halloween, *Rocky Horror* is played in theatres all over North America and parts of Europe in conjunction with live actors, making it more than just a film screening.

"We make a thousand people smile twice a night for the three nights that *Rocky Horror* is played," said Stefan Reiter-Campeau, who plays Rocky in the Montreal production. Reiter-Campeau joined the cast at the urging of his brother, who has already been taking part for 12 years.

The film follows puritanical newlyweds Brad Majors and Janet Weiss on their way to visit their old teacher, Dr. Scott. Their car breaks down on a dark road and the couple walk to a creepy castle nearby to seek shelter. Instead they find Dr. Frank-N-Furter, a transvestite mad scientist who is resurrecting Frankenstein's monster-like sex slave, Rocky.

"It's really rare to do something every year that you know will be successful," said Phil Spurrell, producer of the Montreal production. "This event does consistently well



Let's do the time warp again, and again, and again: the Rocky Horror cast rehearse. PHOTO ROSE ATHENA

because the numbers of attendance [are] growing."

Spurrell said the costume contest that precedes every show gets especially wild, with competitors going all-out and even flashing the audience.

Nick Turnau, who plays sinister butler Riff Raff, said he thinks

Rocky Horror is "the best show on Earth." He said the film has stayed relevant over the years, since it still addresses very taboo issues and is on the cutting edge with regards to sexuality.

"The crowd here is the right kind of crowd," Turnau said of Montreal audiences. "They like

rough, adventurous things."

This year's *Rocky Horror Picture Show* Halloween Ball will be held at The Rialto Theatre (5732 Parc Ave.) on Oct. 29 at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m., Oct. 30 at 8:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. and Oct. 31 at 8:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.

spins

Jamie T
Kings & Queens
Pacemaker



It's Friday night and all your friends are over. You need to play something that pleases everyone from the drinkers to the thinkers. The dancers need a beat, the chatters need some background and the melancholic guy in the corner needs something to zone out to. Look no further, this is your record.

Kings & Queens is catchy as hell. Jamie T's words are blunt, clever, quirky and coated in a crisp British accent. The music is anything but static; it definitely permits for some head bobbing, finger snapping and shoulder shaking action. The album is a bit thematically schizophrenic, but hey—it keeps you interested.

The best part is that it's one of those rare records you can love at first listen, no repeat conditioning required. I'd give it about three tracks before your annoyingly skeptical friends bow their heads and walk across the room to turn up the volume.

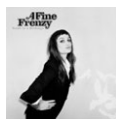
Kings & Queens is a healthy progression

from Jamie T's first album, *Panic Prevention*, without veering away from the distinct sound fans initially fell in love with. Buy it, try it and brag about it.

4.5/5

—Megan Dolski

A Fine Frenzy
Bomb in a Birdcage
Virgin Records/EMI



A Fine Frenzy's second album is full of surprises. With a backing band composed of musicians who have also worked with Céline Dion and Jessica Simpson, one would expect the songwriter's follow-up to sound exactly like a Miley Cyrus record. Happily for your ears, the songs on *Bomb in a Birdcage* are not nearly as irritating as Cyrus' "7 Things." Singer Alison Sudol, despite her relatively young age, knows how to use imagery to tell a story—"Swan Song," in particular, is a gem. It seems like Sudol was under pressure from her producers to turn certain tracks, like "Happier," into sugary pop songs. Consequently, there is a noticeable conflict between "indie" and "pop" on the album. Nonetheless, the clash between the sweet and the raw does give an edge to the final product. Sudol's colourful lyrics—which

I'd dare to call poetry—join her charming voice to make the perfect soundtrack for autumn.

3.8/5

—Demi Bégin

Said the Whale
Islands Disappear
Hidden Pony



Indie rockers Said the Whale are as Canadian as they come. The band's latest album takes the listener on a cross-Canada journey from B.C. all the way out to the Canadian Shield. Opening track "Dear Elkhorn" has some tasty mind-penetrating harmonies, but sadly, these turned out to be a tease; only two more of the 13 songs on the album are in that style. The vocalists have range and versatility going for them, but no amount of talent can fully camouflage repetitive mindless lyrics like those in "B.C. Orienteering." I can appreciate a light, upbeat album, but there must be a way of pulling it off without such A, B, C, ZZZZ lyrics. The first single "Camilo," the more introspective "Gentleman" and "A Cold Night Close to the End" are the stand-outs here. The rest fall somewhere in

between blah and forgettable. *Islands Disappear* is ear candy that quickly loses its flavour.

3/5

—Miqu'elle-Renae Skeete

Clare & The Reasons
Arrow
Frogstand



Sophomore effort *Arrow* expands on the jazzy cheerfulness that characterized Clare & The Reasons' first record, with a tasteful use of brass and strings that adds up to a more refined sound. In opener "All The Wine," vocalist Clare Muldaur Manchon croons over pizzicato strings. Clare and the duo's other half, her husband Olivier Manchon, harmonize on "Our Team Is Grand" and "Mellifera," among others. Never a band to take themselves too seriously, they break up the romantic mood by tossing in a cheeky trombone-backed cover of Genesis' 1983 smash "That's All." The record loses some steam in its last few tracks, but it is still a thoughtfully-constructed gem. *Arrow* is one album that should never be relegated to the role of "mood music."

4.5/5

—Tom Llewellyn

My doppelgänger does the news

Former news anchor writes what he knows, but not what we want

• TERRINE FRIDAY

The worst thing a journalist venturing into the world of fiction can do is to write exactly like a journalist.

In *Mobile 9*, the first novel by former CTV Montreal co-anchor Bill Haugland, the reader is taken back in time to 1960s Montreal, during the heyday of the terrorist group Front de libération du Québec—with allusions to the lead-up to the October Crisis.

Critically acclaimed by Haugland's peers, including his former CTV co-anchor Mitsumi Takahashi and fellow CTV journalist Mike Duffy, *Mobile 9* follows a group of journalists at the local—er, fictional—television station as they use their quick-witted journalistic skills to try to break a story about cold-blooded murder, dirty money and the mob.

Although the backdrop to *Mobile 9* is intriguing and the use of local cornerstones helps map the story with a twinge of nostalgia (“Hey, I used to live on that street!”), the writing is choppy and a lack of character development leaves little to the imagination. The matter-of-fact style of writing seems somewhat lazy and ama-



Bill Haugland's acclaimed novel bears more than a striking resemblance to his old desk job. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

teurish (“Moore pursed his lips. [...] Bertram looked angry”).

It's difficult to tell whether or not the author's stylistic choice to write in true reporter fashion was intentional. Reporters are taught

to list the most important elements of the story straight off the top and cut the fat while not sacrificing colour. I would assume authoring a book requires a more thorough understanding of expos-

itory writing and attention to detail.

The story seems rushed, as though Haugland was three hours from deadline and still had to work three characters and two subplots

into his story. The essentials are there: a page-turning plot, a multitude of characters facing adversity, historic accuracy and cheesy 1960s beat-speak. But a certain something leaves the reader unfulfilled, like baking a birthday cake only to find out you forgot the sugar; it looks good, but doesn't taste so great.

It's obvious why Haugland's first book centres on the plights of a reporter. He has more than 40 years of experience as a journalist, 29 of which were spent anchoring CTV Montreal's six o'clock news, and he has seen the television news industry transform since he first signed on in the early '60s.

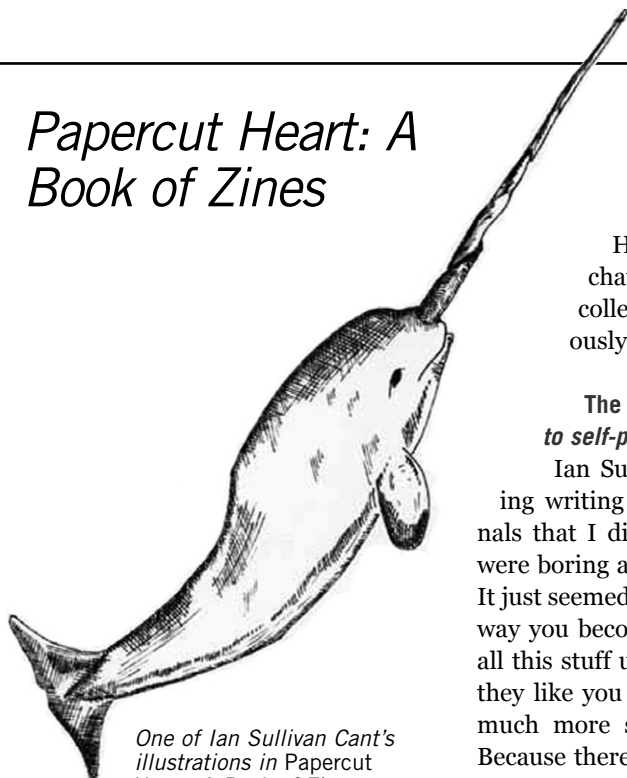
It is doubtful Haugland has the talent to write this story in any other time period than his own. As author Claude Lalumière said in an interview with *The Link* last month, it's annoying when writers “use transparent doppelgängers of themselves as protagonists.”



Mobile 9
Bill Haugland
Véhicule Press
224 pp
\$18.95

Zine scene

Papercut Heart: A Book of Zines



One of Ian Sullivan Cant's illustrations in *Papercut Heart: A Book of Zines*

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Ian Sullivan Cant, a Concordia creative writing grad and one of the organizers of Montreal's Zen Poetry Festival, published his first book *Papercut Heart: A Book of Zines* when he discovered his landlord, Andy Brown, was the publisher of

Conundrum Press. Cant pulled himself away from his U-Haul on moving day to chat about his new book, a collection of 12 of his previously self-published works.

The Link: What made you want to self-publish?

Ian Sullivan Cant: I was sending writing to magazines and journals that I didn't like, that I thought were boring and just junky and banal. It just seemed so absurd to me that the way you become a writer is you write all this stuff until some editor decides they like you enough. It just made so much more sense to do it yourself. Because there's nothing to stop someone from directly engaging with an audience, not having some dull editor who makes some banal literary journal be the gatekeeper to people reading your stuff.

Did you have any ambitious plans when you started?

When I started making zines, I had zero ambitions for it whatsoever. I graduated a little while before and I just wanted some sort of project to

work on to get myself active, and so initially what I did was just take a bunch of decent poetry that I had written in school and just mashed it all together into one thing. I decided to make drawings for them literally because I felt, hey, poetry's kind of boring, let's just add drawings and make it a little more exciting.

Your zines mix poetry and illustrations. What do you like more?

I've always loved comics just because I like words and I like pictures and it's got both, and that's it. That's the depth of my appreciation for them. Usually the words and the images in comics become almost like the editing in film, they become sort of invisible. The writing for a good comic book is usually efficient but it's never really exceptional writing, and the artwork might be very beautiful but you skip over it so quickly. I want to do some things that will separate them a little bit.

Do you still attend zine fairs?

Not as much as I used to. I went to my first zine fair when I was 14, and back then it was completely mind-blowing. I went out and read every-

thing I could get my hands on, and now I go to zine fairs and I pick stuff up and I read stuff but really I don't amass as much of a collection as I used to. I have seen so much of it that I just look for what I think is really great.

One of your zines is in morse code. What the ...-.- --. --. --. Did you bother making the writing any good?

When I wrote a zine in morse code I thought I was just being a big jerk and people were just going to hate me. I had one or two people at zine fairs who picked it up and whispered to their friend, “Oh god, this is in morse code,” and throw it down and walk away. I can't believe that some people actually did translate it, which seems insane. I thought that anyone who was going to put that much work into it I didn't want them to be disappointed, so I put a ton of work into that piece of writing.



Papercut Heart: A Book of Zines
Ian Sullivan Cant
Conundrum Press
172 pp
\$15.00

quick reads

Riveting research



The Fourth Canvas
Rana Bose
TSAR Publications
240 pp
\$20.95

Who knew a doctoral thesis could be so exciting? Rana Bose's second novel, *The Fourth Canvas*, somehow manages to make a story about one man's troubles finishing his doctorate into an intellectual thriller.

A Mexican philosopher and painter, Guillermo Sanchez is found dead in the Seine River in France in the mid-'70s. Thirty years later, Claude Chiragi, a disillusioned McGill scholar, takes up the task of deciphering Sanchez's intricately detailed paintings for his PhD thesis. Claude's girlfriend, Clara, gives him one of Sanchez's paintings for his birthday and they quickly realize it must be part of a series. They begin a search that takes them around the world, hoping to get a better idea of the message Sanchez was trying to convey.

The Fourth Canvas is driven by a series of significant transformations in each of the main characters. At first, each separate story seems too distinct to ever create anything coherent, but they do come together to form an interesting tale in the end.

Be warned, however, that *The Fourth Canvas* is, after all, about a *doctoral thesis*. It does get a little academic at times, but it's entertaining nonetheless.

3.5/5

—Kamila Hinkson

A strong Case against the military



A Case of Exploding Mangoes
Mohammed Hanif
Vintage
336 pp
\$15.00

A Case of Exploding Mangoes is an award-winning novel by first-time author Mohammad Hanif, a BBC journalist and ex-Royal Air Force pilot. Hanif explores the world of the British military system that has thwarted the progress of Pakistan for most of its 62-year existence in this dark and engrossing novel.

The book succinctly deals with U.S.-backed dictator General Zia ul Haq's contempt for democracy and freedom of speech.

Mangoes tells the tale of how the universe seemingly conspired to get rid of this nasty dictator in the 1988 airplane crash that also took with it the cream of Pakistan's military crop along with the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan.

We hear the perspective of a hot-blooded Air Force cadet Ali Shigri, a poor blind girl named Zainab and a nameless crow who all seem to have something to do with the crash that took the country out of the grips of a tyrannical, fanatic dictator... at least for a few years until General Musharraf took the reigns.

To this day, however, the seeds of General Zia's rule bear fruit in the form of teenaged suicide bombers exploding all over the country. *Mangoes* documents the paving of this road to hell.

4.5/5

—Arshad Khan

You can't spell books without "BOO!"

Mélange Magique bookstore a hub for Montreal's pagans



It just wouldn't be a bookstore without a cat. And the Mélange Magique just wouldn't be a pagan bookstore without their resident cat, Tequila. PHOTO AMI KINGDOM

• ELISABETH FAURE

With the countdown to Halloween this week, pagans across Montreal are gearing up for the big day. Popular pagan bookstore Mélange Magique is also getting in on the action.

"It's like New Year's," explained longtime bookstore employee Scarlet Jory. "In the Celtic World, it's exactly that. The old year ends on Oct. 30, and the New Year begins on Nov. 1. So, you have this day that doesn't really exist—it's known as the Day Between Worlds—when the veil between the world of the living and the realm of the spirit tends to be very thin and passable."

Paganism is a broad umbrella term that encompasses many nature-based alternative spiritualities—from witchcraft (or Wiccanism) to Shamanism, or divination, amongst others. Pagans celebrate Halloween, or Samhain (pronounced sam-wan), in two ways.

"You have the dressing up and the partying, the exciting New Year's-kind of festivities," said Jory. "But we also have what is called a 'dumb supper,' or a silent dinner, where you honour the ancestors who passed away. That's a very sombre, very emotional aspect of Samhain."

In honour of Samhain, the Mélange has set up its public altar with a book in which customers are free to write messages honouring departed loved ones.

"Anyone can participate," said Jory.

The Mélange has been around for almost two decades. Opening its doors in 1990, the store now functions as the de facto hub of the Montreal pagan community. Originally setting up shop in a small space above the former Cock n' Bull pub, the store quickly became so popular that it had to move a few

doors down to a more spacious location.

The store soon expanded beyond merely selling books and herbs to include all kinds of magical supplies. In addition, the store offers workshops on a variety of magical topics and has three diviners available to patrons who tell fortunes using such diverse methods as tarot cards, palmistry, and aura-reading.

The books carried by the store span a wide range of magical topics.

"[I]t's known as the Day Between Worlds—when the veil between the world of the living and the realm of the spirit tends to be very thin and passable."

—Scarlet Jory,
Mélange Magiques employee

"We have Wicca and other pagan practices, we've got Shamanism, we've got ceremonial magic," said Jory.

But it doesn't stop there.

"We've got a little bit of the left-hand path, we've got animals and fairies and angels, psychic abilities, chakras, mythologies, divination, astrology, dreamwork, stone lore, herb lore, spell-crafting and East Asian mysticism," Jory said, adding that the store also carries some Buddhist texts.

Its downtown location helps the store serve a large student population. Close to six universities and CEGEPs, the store is frequented by younger pagans and curious students alike. The store also employs students as part-time staff.

In 2000, the store donated some space

Study Spell

Requirements: Pouch, 7 Sticks of Concentration Incense, Eyebright Herb, Parchment, Star Anise, Study Oil, Yellow Candle. Sodalite Stone, 1 knife

1. Use a knife to mark your candle with lines, dividing it into seven sections.
2. Anoint the candle with Study Oil
3. Place the stone at the base of the candle, and the incense behind
4. Place five Star Anises around the candle
5. On the parchment, write:
"I will remember / All that I learn / And need to know / To pass my exams / With success. / An' it harm none, / So let it be."
6. Place the parchment under the candle and stone.
7. Place the pouch to the right of the spell area, and anoint it with oil.
8. Circle the spell area with Eyebright herb
9. Light the candle and incense nightly, over seven days.
10. After seven days, put everything in the pouch.
11. Carry the pouch when studying and when in exams.

and the Montreal Pagan Resource Centre was born. Located at the back of the bookstore, the volunteer-run program offers a drop-in centre, a calendar of upcoming pagan events and helps to connect members of the pagan community in Montreal.

Although the store doesn't endorse any specific practice of magic over another, there is one commonly-requested spell that Jory does not endorse.

"When you do love magic, who's really loving you if you're bending someone else to your will?" Jory said. "Most people who've been under a love spell, when they find out about it, you may never see them again because they will hate you forever. Or, you'll end up with the alternative, which is that if you ever want to leave, you won't be able to get rid of them and you'll end up with a stalker."

Despite expansions and new projects over the years, one thing has never changed at the Mélange Magique.

"We believe very firmly that a bookstore is just not a bookstore without a cat," said Jory.

Over the years the Mélange has housed as many as six live-in cats at a time. Currently, the store has one resident cat, a large tabby named Tequila.

"He is really, really well-spoiled here," said Jory, with a smile.

Mélange Magiques can be found at 1928 Ste-Catherine St. West.

The annual Montreal Witches Masquerade Ball will be held at the RQM Community Hall (6870 Terrebonne St.) on Oct. 30 and begins at 6 p.m. Admission is \$12 at the door or \$10 for a ticket. The evening begins with a ritual to honour departed ancestors, followed by a dance party and an outdoor Celtic labyrinth.

Blanchet inspired by symphonies to create *Symphony*

Acclaimed author of *Baloney* shares his insights and insecurities

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

If you've ever read *The New Yorker* or the *National Post*, you've probably seen the work of graphic artist Pascal Blanchet.

With a style seemingly preserved in permafrost since the 1940s and unthawed in a jilted 21st century, Blanchet's illustrations are youthful, but with an aged look.

"I'm not a big fan of graphic art," said Blanchet, from his home in Trois-Rivières. "Every time I find something interesting or [an artist] I like, I just sit and I can't draw because I feel that my work isn't good enough."

Blanchet has no reason to feel insecure. *White Rapids*, his second book, was named the best comic of 2007 by *The Onion's AV Club*.

Baloney: A Tale in 3 Symphonic Acts is his third graphic novel and his second go-around with comic demi-gods Drawn & Quarterly.

It's the story of the loneliest butcher in the world.

"I've always had a kind of fascination with butchers," said Blanchet. Naming the titular character after "the cheapest meat in the world" illustrates just



Blanchet's style is based on album covers from the 1940s.

how lowly he is, he said.

Blanchet, who's still in his 20s, began doing illustration

work in 2004.

"The trouble is that there's no school for illustration," he

explained. "You have to have some contacts with people you know that work in that [field], because if not it's impossible to find a way to work there."

Blanchet's graphic novels are published first in French by Montreal publisher Éditions de la Pastèque and then in English by Drawn & Quarterly. But it was Pastèque that gave him inspiration to do a graphic novel.

"I sent them a couple of illustrations to see if [they'd] be interested by my work and they answered that they were waiting for me to write a book," he said.

"Usually I find some music that fits with my mood and the images and the story start to build by themselves."

—Pascal Blanchet,
author of *Baloney*

If he doesn't pay much attention to the works of other graphic artists, that's because Blanchet finds most of his inspiration in music. His graphic style can be directly traced back to the covers of some of his favourite albums,

many of which were made using the same silkscreen techniques Blanchet employs—with the exception of Adobe Illustrator, which Blanchet sometimes uses—and come from that same golden era of graphic design, the '40s.

Baloney's villain is the tyrannical owner of a heating company named for one of Blanchet's favourite composers, Dmitri Shostakovich. Blanchet played Shostakovich's "Suite for Jazz Orchestra No. 1" and "No. 2" on a non-stop loop during the creation of *Baloney*—to the frustration of his neighbours and friends. For those unfamiliar with his work, Blanchet included his play list in the book, which he says serves the same purpose as a bibliography.

"It was when listening to the music that the story appeared," he said. "Usually I find some music that fits with my mood and the images and the story start to build by themselves."



Baloney
Pascal Blanchet
Drawn & Quarterly
80 pp
\$19.95

Matters of the *Heart*

Legendary Montreal doctor serves as inspiration for *The Heart Specialist*

• PASCALE ROSE LICINIO

It's clear from the start of Claire Holden Rothman's *The Heart Specialist* that young Agnes will have trouble fitting in. Using her sleight of hand to dissect dead squirrels instead of using them to sew certainly won't help things.

Although Agnes' dream is to become a doctor—like her long-gone father—the pursuit is difficult in Canada at the turn of the century, since many believe she'd be better off trying to find a husband. It's a challenge just for women to be allowed entrance into the amphitheatres of McGill's medical school.

At McGill and at Bishop's, Agnes meets other successful outcasts, fighting prejudice against their sexual orientations, gender, skin colour or religion. At that time, Jewish and black students were also banned from studying at McGill.

Rothman based the character of Agnes on Maude Abbott, the world famous Montreal doctor born in

1869, who was best known for inventing the international classification system for congenital heart disease.

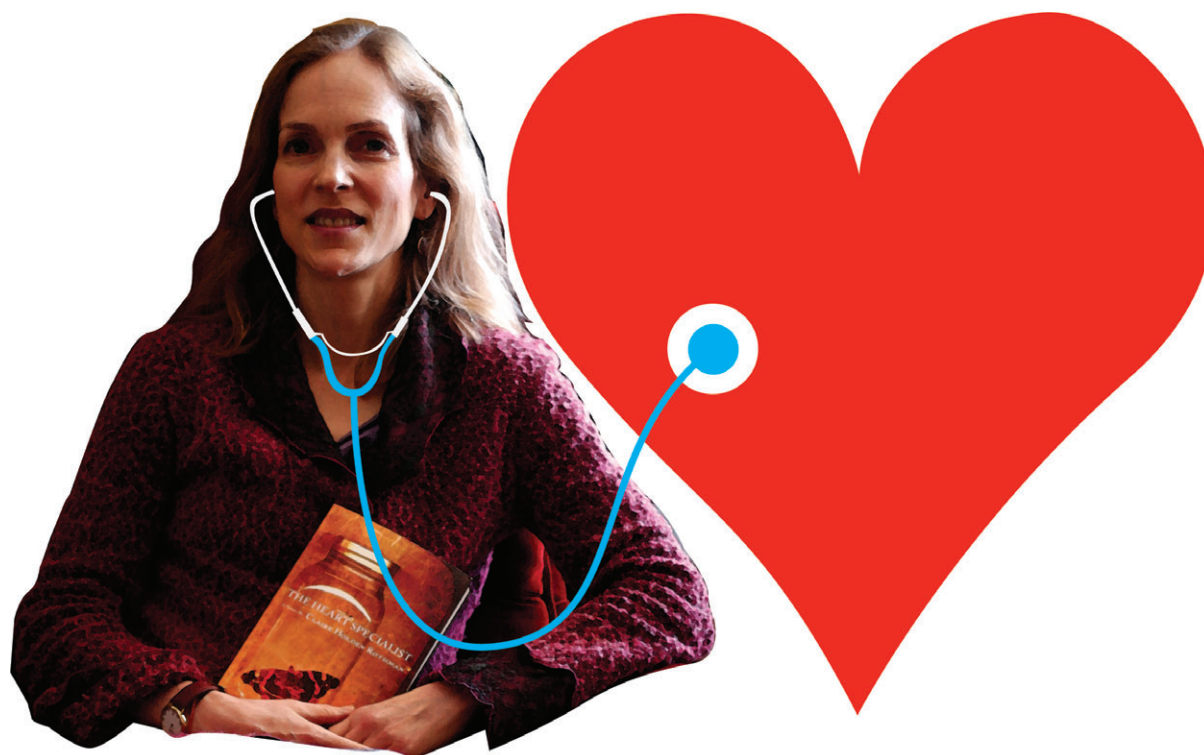
"She didn't get a lot of recognition when she was alive," said Rothman, who wasn't even aware of Abbott when she studied at McGill in the 1980s. "Her contribution actually got recognized only recently."

Nowadays, "Maude Unit" is the name for the follow-up care a child with congenital heart disease will receive once they leave the Montreal Children's Hospital.

Rothman was inspired by Abbot's struggle to receive an education, her passion for science and her impressive career. But when writing about the private aspects of her life—the *other* matters of the heart, including her possible romances—she gave herself some creative liberty.

"I wanted to write about a very, very smart woman, [but] stupid when it comes to love," she said.

Rothman gives a vivid and precise picture of Montreal between the



Claire Holden Rothman took inspiration from the life of famed Montreal doctor Maude Abbott in her book *The Heart Specialist*. GRAPHIC ELSA JABRE & VIVIEN LEUNG

1880s and the 1910s. Rothman learned, among other things, that the number of cars in the city in 1907 only numbered in the hundreds.

Going through the medical collections of that time at the McGill library, she also stumbled upon very liberal books dealing with masturbation.

"They came from Germany," she said with a smile, "but, still,

that was a surprise. This openness in those Victorian times."

The Heart Specialist sometimes dips into too much description where mere hints would have sufficed, but Rothman tells an inspiring story, underlining the often underestimated—and underutilized—resources of those society regarded as misfits.

"I wanted to tell the story of

people in the outside trying to get in," said Rothman. "In the end, they are the ones bringing society something really new."



The Heart Specialist
Claire Holden
Rothman
Cormorant Books
328 pp
\$21.00

'Slamming'

Throw Collective's Poetry Slam wants to blow your lid off

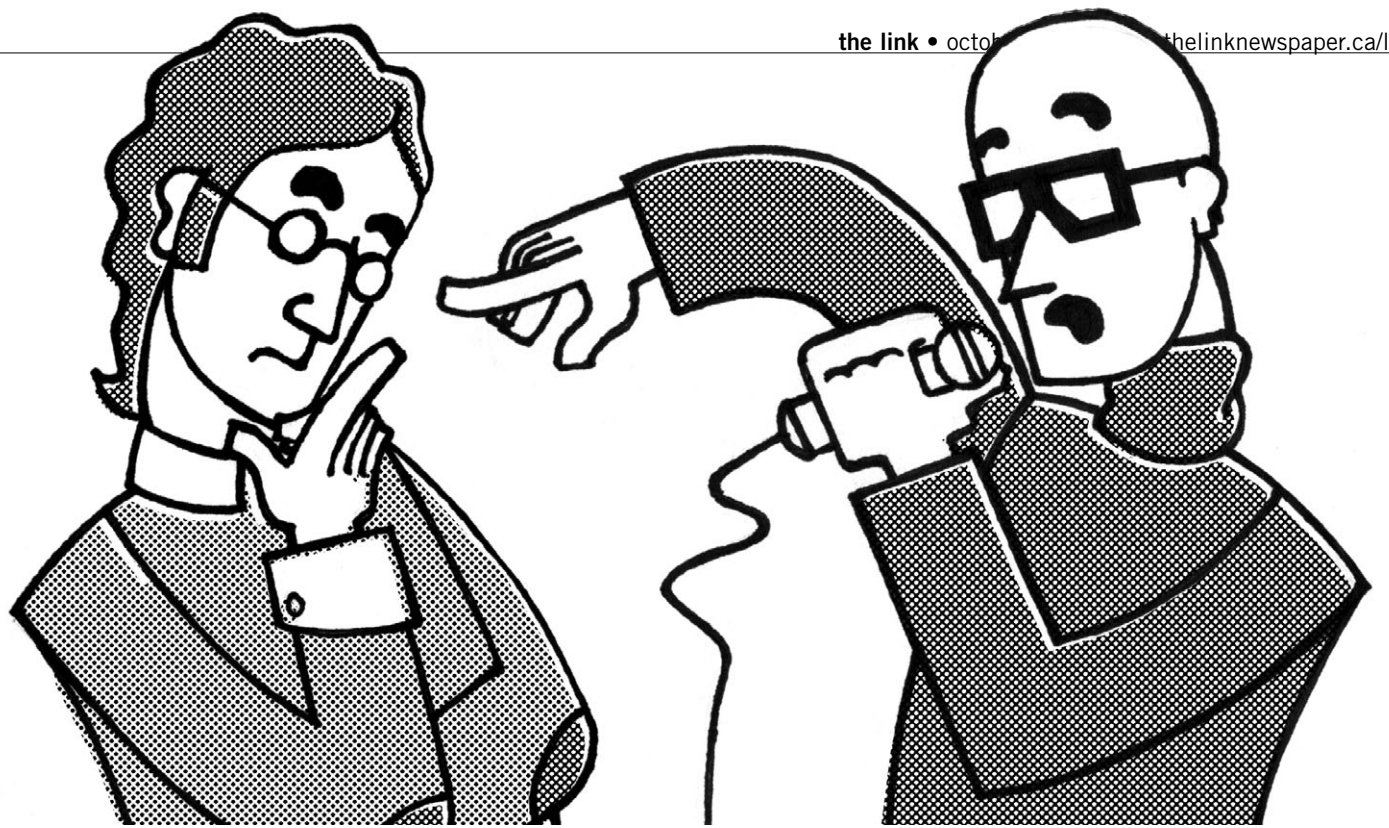
• CELIA STE CROIX

Throw away any clichés you've ever formed about poetry readings. None of them apply to Throw Collective's monthly Poetry Slam.

"It just blows the lid off what people often perceive poetry readings and literary events to be," said the Collective's head coordinator, Chris Masson.

Slam poetry is a competition in which contestants vie for audience votes with the most engaging, provocative and entertaining three-minute performance they can muster. Performers are forbidden from using props, costumes or music to accompany their acts. But apart from that, there are no rules.

"Nothing is off limits at the slam," said Andrea deBruijn, Throw Collective's slam coordinator.



The first rule of Slam Poetry is there are no rules, but there will be judges. GRAPHIC JONAS PIETSCH

Audiences are encouraged to be as lively as the performers on stage. The host presses the audience to let the performers and the five judges, chosen at random from the crowd, really know what they think of each piece.

"People are so engaged and passionate and the things they say are very real and applicable and touching and relevant," said deBruijn.

Masson acknowledged that the competitive aspect is not really the point of the event.

"The competition is really only what you

make of it," he said. "Ninety-five per cent of the time the competition is just a gimmick, just a hook to get the audience."

Throw Collective strongly encourages newbies to come up and perform. Because slam poetry has had a revival in just the last three years in Montreal, Masson and deBruijn agreed that now is the ideal time for first-timers to test the waters and find their voice.

But even if you're not ready to jump in front of the mic, there's still entertainment to

be had.

"[They're] intelligent people who want to entertain you, want to provoke thought and want to stimulate you," said Masson. "Come to the slam to have your lid blown off."

The Throw Collective's Poetry Slam is held the first Monday of every month starting Nov. 2 at 8 p.m. at O'Hara's Pub (1197 University St.). Admission is \$7 at the door.

Lit Writ

Kate and Romell

• CLAY HEMMERICH

"All good adventures start off with a beer."

That's what Kate said to me this one Sunday morning, while we were sitting on a log of a dead tree that fell over a walking path leading to Mount Royal Park. I decided to spend that particular afternoon there with her and her boyfriend, Romell, a Mexican exchange student that could barely speak French or English. Still, we all got along unusually well. Nothing in particular was supposed to happen this day. This day was only supposed to be a little change of scenery, and that it was.

The first winter snow of the year hit Montreal that morning, with more of a gentle pat rather than the knockout punch that Canadians are used to dealing with but can never get used to; fitness freaks, avid dog fanatics, bird watchers, straggling bums, runners, skippers, jumpers, hung-over university students, people passing buy for pleasure or obligation, people from all walks of life strolled past us, with differing speeds and a common steady determination to get from point A to point B.

"POP!" Kate cracked her can open.

"POP!" I followed suit and opened mine.

Then, Romell. "POP!"

A jogger ran towards us, pacing his speed in straight, sober lines. He was in a red track suit with neon stripes. It was one of those three hundred dollar or so track

suits you could buy off that one company that sells overpriced tights. He grimaced at us as we lazily drank our beer and enjoyed the beautiful winter as snow gently draped the auburn scenery with white along the path blanketed by dead, orange, red and brown leaves of autumn. The sun was shining bright, but hidden by clouds, creating pulses of darkness that reminded us winter was near. Then, after a while, the solace of the sun would shine across our faces and relieve the sting that the winter hit us with. Fallen crimson maple leaves would illuminate and then lose lustre in synchronicity with the pulsing light.

He was close enough for us to hear him say, "You kids are wasting your lives, drinking that beer. You'll never grow!"

I shouted out, "Maybe you should stop growing because I don't think those red pants can be any tighter!"

He just jogged past us without a reaction to my insult, so I didn't get the same satisfaction that he did. The jogger was lucky that Kate was there because I was about to whip a stick at the back of his head in a misguided attempt to defend my youthful actions, but she told me to calm down because we already won.

Kate was this wild free spirit with fiery, frizzled hair. Her fearless and accepting demeanour led her across Canada, from British Columbia to Banff, and then here, to Montreal. She would travel where the wind would prompt her. Romell was the same way, but he had more of a quiet con-



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

fidence. He communicated with his notions and looks; his hands spoke. He was tall and lanky, with the genes of a boxer, but he never did anything with his gift. One day I asked him why he wouldn't follow his Dad's footsteps and become a boxer.

I asked him, "Why not?"

He asked me, "Why?"

Touché.

It was about 20 past four that day, we thought before we changed scenes and walked more. It would be more than appropriate to smoke a joint because that's just what we university kids do. Romell pulled a sack of green herb from his jacket that smelled like heaven with a catch; sweet but a little spicy, an aromatic stench. He articulated clearly with only his hands that he'd bust and roll because he knew

we'd screw it up.

He busted it.

Mixed it.

Rollled it.

Lit it.

And I inhaled, inducing death for a split second, as clouds of smoke created coughs as the hot fire caressed my senses. Then I exhaled. My universe became a haze of euphoria and pain, but the pain slowly went away, calm disconnection. Then the ebb and flow of sunshine became brighter. The snow was fluffier. Reds became crimson. Our universe was inverted, even more so. We officially had a new perspective on the day.

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

A shot at revenge

Women's rugby team advances to provincial finals

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Concordia 18 Ottawa 7

After an anti-climactic 18-7 win over the Ottawa Gee-Gees last Friday, Concordia's women's rugby team sauntered off the field unfazed.

There were a few isolated fist pumps and maybe a subtle high-five or two but no real sense of self-adulation, considering that the team shut out all of their competitors but one this season.

As soon as the post-game handshakes were finished, the Stingers formed a series of rows and stretched as a team.

For the team, Friday's win was a foregone conclusion. Beating the Gee-Gees meant advancing to the Fédération Québécoise du sport étudiant finals and potentially avenging last year's 20-20 tie/loss to Université Laval's Rouge et Or. The team was reluctant to talk about Laval since the Rouge had yet to play their playoff game against McGill (Laval won 27-3 the following day).

Weather was a key factor early in the game. It was a particularly cold and wet October night, and the ball was hard and slippery. Backs often shook their hands to keep them from numbing. The hand shaking did little to prevent mishandled balls and dropped passes.

Almost every attempt Concordia made at getting the ball to their backs ended in a turnover or knock-on.

To their credit, the Gees applied significant pressure throughout the first half. Ottawa's sustained effort paid off when Stinger fullback



Cold conditions caused collapse and calamity in early offensive play. PHOTO LAURENT HAN

Jennifer Rosenbaum mishandled a kick return at the Concordia five-yard line.

Gee-Gees back Karen Snell grabbed the loose ball and dove into the try zone to put her team ahead 7-0. It was the first time Ottawa had scored on the Stingers in over 170 minutes of play this season.

"After Ottawa scored, I think we realized how close we were to being eliminated," said Stingers centre Jackie Tittley. "We just came together after that."

Following the try, Tittley led a Stingers counter offensive. Concordia's forwards pushed Ottawa back in unison. A ball carrier would emerge from a ruck only to form a ruck several yards further. The pattern continued until Tittley pinballed through the Gee-Gees

wedge and past the try line to pull within two points of Ottawa.

"When Concordia scored, it hurt our confidence," said Gee-Gees head coach Susanna Chaulk. "We started to think defensively and that's when we lost it."

Concordia took the lead 12 minutes into the second half, when Tittley scored on a penalty kick from 28 yards out. The Stingers rarely strayed from their gameplan, retaining possession of the ball and avoiding lateral movement when possible. Their steady drive into Gee-Gees territory ended with a 15-yard phalanx-like push into the try zone. Stinger prop Sarah Scanlon emerged from the stack of players with her first try of the season.

Tittley finally put the game out of reach

after successfully converting on a penalty kick with just 12 minutes to go. Leading 18-7, Concordia kept the Gee-Gees at bay with the disciplined defence that has been their trademark this season.

"When we didn't score early on we lost our mental edge," said Stingers coach Graeme McGravie. "But when we play with the confidence we had in the second half, it just works."

As the Stingers left the pitch, Chaulk gave her team the dreaded end of season speech. She consoled her team and showed grace in defeat. But for some of the Gees, it was the last rugby they'd ever play with their team.

The Stingers will play Laval for the QSSF championship in Quebec City Saturday at 1 p.m.

'A huge disappointment'

McGill shuts out Stingers men at soccer

• JOEL BALSAM

Concordia 0 McGill 2

In what is rapidly becoming this season's common trend, the Concordia men's soccer team gave up the first goal, grew sloppy under pressure and couldn't recover.

It was all over in the ninth minute of the first half when Redman Stephen Keefe shuffled the ball across Concordia's box to Gareth Pugh, a fifth-year striker. Pugh wasted no time putting the ball behind the keeper.

The result was a 2-0 loss handed to the Stingers by McGill's Redmen.

According to Concordia midfielder Amro Radwan, the early deficits seem to make each game "200 per cent harder."

"It's a huge disappointment because we worked hard at practice and we come to the games

and we wanted to work hard," said Radwan. "Then we get discouraged after the first goal and it sort of deflates us."

The Redmen scored their second goal on a penalty kick, which came after a pair of opposing players collided in the box in the 34th minute.

The Stingers were buzzing in McGill's end for much of the second half but couldn't manage more than two shots on net for the game. Attempting to explain the offensive paradox, Radwan said, "we are trying to go at 100 miles an hour instead of keeping our patience."

On the other side of the ball, Concordia keeper Nicholas Giannone turned away nine of 11 shots on goal. McGill's coaching staff called Giannone the Stingers' player of the game.

"We played strong in the second half, but couldn't come up with it in the end," concluded Giannone.

2

shots taken by Stingers during the game

9

saves made by Stingers goalie Nicholas Giannone

0-7-3

the current Concordia men's soccer record

22

goals scored against the Concordia men's soccer team this season

Like a broken record

Women's soccer can't best the Martlets

• JOEL BALSAM

Concordia 0 McGill 1

On a cold, wet night, Concordia's women's soccer team fell 1-0 to the McGill Martlets last Friday.

The Stingers, who have come a long way since their first matches of the season, still do not have a team that can keep up the pace for a full 90-minute game.

The last time the teams played was on Sept. 18, when McGill won 5-0. Speaking of Concordia's progression between the two matches, head coach Jorge Sanchez complimented his team.

"We've actually come quite a ways," said Sanchez. "It's just not quite enough yet."

On a brighter note for the Stingers, in her first start of the season, goalkeeper Jessie Davis

played a stellar game turning away 12 of the 13 McGill shots.

Unfortunately, the one that got past her was a shot she should have stopped. Davis extended her arms and popped the easy shot over her own head and into the back of the net.

"It sucks, it happens, but you have to get over it," said Davis. "You can't think about it too long, because there was another half to play."

After the fluke first-half goal, the Martlets played a solid defence, holding Concordia to only two shots. Currently second in the standings, McGill will likely be playing in the post-season.

As usual, the Stingers looked to the positives after a disappointing loss.

"It's depressing that we lost, but it's encouraging to see how much the team has grown," said Davis. "We're not the same team as we were at the beginning of the season."

Stingers win national championship



Stingers pitcher Matthew Jacobson douses manager Howard Schwartz with Gatorade. PHOTO ALLAN FOURNIER

• STEVEN MYERS

Concordia Stinger Emmanuel Hamel-Carey scanned the empty diamond inside the Kinsman Memorial Stadium in Oshawa, Ontario, just after Concordia thrashed the Cape Breton Capers 12-2 to capture the Canadian Intercollegiate Baseball Association Championship title last Sunday.

"Anything is possible!" the pitcher shouted beyond the stadium's cement walls and into the sub-zero night.

The Stingers returned home early Monday with the trophy for the first time in Concordia history, having won all three of their Sunday games to claim the national championship.

For manager Howard Schwartz, the championship was a long time coming.

"When we started this season back in January indoors," Schwartz explained, "we had one goal: to play for a national championship in October. And we brought

the trophy home!"

After Jonathan Romaniuk ensured the title win with a strike-out of Cape Breton first baseman Bernie Hart, he clenched his fist and was swarmed by his Stingers teammates, who collectively began a mosh pit on the mound in celebration.

At 5'9", Romaniuk stands small next to his fellow Stingers. But the unimposing pitcher compensates for his size with a stunning curve ball and statesman-like composure. The soon-to-be graduate combined with pitcher Alex Gagnon to snuff out the Capers.

Backup catcher Christian Jadah, who caught Romaniuk's decisive strikeout pitch, provided a much-needed rest for R.J. Leibovitch, whose look of complete fatigue and utter joy provided a glimpse of what it means to play and win three consecutive baseball games in one day.

The Stingers woke up Sunday morning needing three wins to complete their championship journey and they trailed in all

three games, but this was nothing new to a team that refuses to quit.

"Some teams seem to play better with their backs against the wall," said second baseman Jason Katz. "And as the weekend continued, we seemed to get better and better."

Sunday's early morning sunshine was a welcome respite from the downright nasty conditions in the previous two days. A steady winter rain and temperatures hovering around zero degrees postponed a game and made for some uncomfortably cold baseball.

Three teams shared 1-2 records heading into the semi-final round: Concordia, the University of Western Ontario Mustangs, and the St. Clair Saints. The Stingers, by virtue of a favourable run differential, earned a bye. They would play the winner of Western versus St. Clair. When the Mustangs won, it set up a rematch between the two teams.

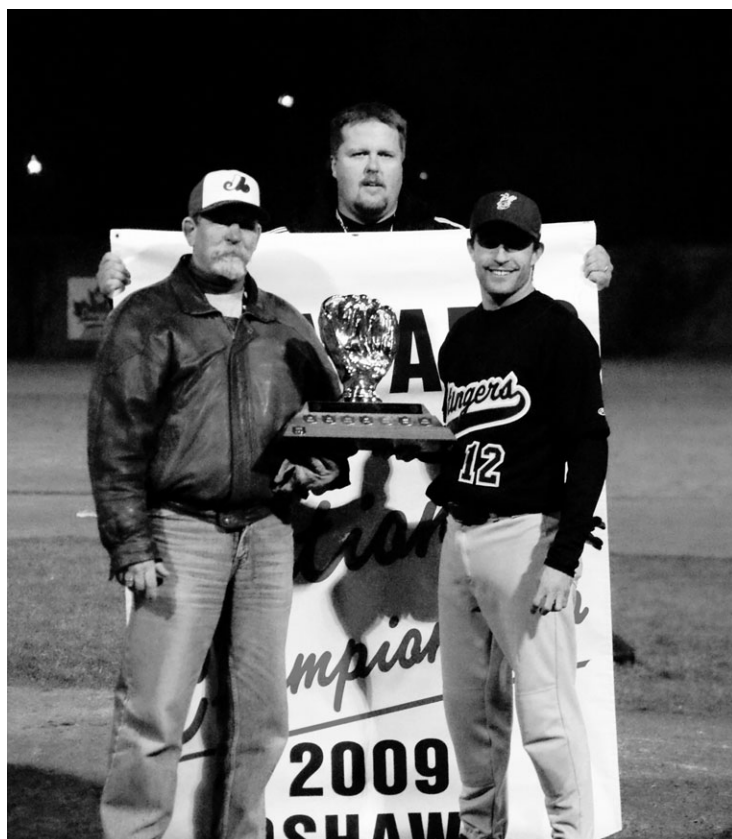
Schwartz handed the ball once again to

team ace and All-Canadian Julian Tucker who, less than 24 hours earlier, defeated the very same Mustangs by a score of 5-0. If the 35-year-old pitcher was tired Sunday afternoon, he showed no sign of it. In four innings, Tucker surrendered two hits, two runs and kept the Stingers close.

In the sixth, the Stingers' offence complimented Tucker's pitching with one disciplined at-bat after another. Three walks and a single by "sweet swinging" Andrew D'Iorio put Concordia ahead, and sent the Western pitcher to the showers to set the stage for the Stingers' most unassuming power source.

Jason Katz flexed some muscle, driving the ball 420 feet into left field. His two run double extended the Stinger lead 6-2 and finished off the Mustangs.

Marc-Olivier Paul quietly completed the often-overlooked work of the middle reliever by shutting down Western's offence. Mo-Paul closed out the game with authority, striking out the remaining three batters.



(Clockwise from top left) Concordia Stingers, 2009 CIBA champions (PHOTO ALLAN FOURNIER); A flying tag for the ages, or, you know, a good couple of weeks (PHOTO ALLAN FOURNIER); Matt Langdon readies himself for another clutch hit (PHOTO GORDON LUSK); The Expos have never been closer to a championship (PHOTO GORDON LUSK).

"I'd been warming up and sitting down in the bullpen all weekend," said Mo-Paul. "I'm always ready to pitch."

The second semi-final, Concordia versus Ottawa, was now set with the winner to take on Cape Breton in the final.

In addition to meeting four times in the regular season and twice in the Northern Division playoffs, Ottawa dominated Concordia in the opening game of the championship tournament two days earlier.

Ottawa coach Ray Lamarre believes Concordia brings out the best in them. The memory of blowing a four run lead the last time the teams played was still lingering in their minds Friday afternoon.

"We were energized when we earned a wild card birth into the championship," said Lamarre, "and ecstatic when we learned the Stingers would be our first opponent. We wanted revenge."

Ottawa's Kevin Brunet also wanted a second chance. He was the hard luck starter and loser in the division champi-

onship. On Friday, Brunet picked up where he left off, changing speeds and throwing strike after strike, befuddling Stinger batters. And this time Brunet squashed any chance of a Stinger rally en route to an 8-1 win.

But Sunday proved to be a different day.

Concordia struck first. Right fielder Ahmed Bamba walked and scored on catcher R.J. Leibovitch's screaming line drive to centre field in the second inning. In the fourth Bomba scored again, this time on a passed ball, extending the Stingers lead to 2-0.

The Gee-Gees rallied in the top half of the sixth with three runs highlighted by a long two run double by shortstop Matt Sacheli giving the Gee-Gees their first lead of the game at 3-2.

And then Ottawa lost control, literally. Three walks, a hit batsman and a wild pitch allowed Kevin Shelton to cross the plate with the tying run and force starter Shane Riley from the game.

Hamel-Carey then entered the game to start the seventh inning and looked oblivious to the pressure. He struck out the first two batters and finished off the Gee-Gees in a matter of minutes preserving the tie.

Hamel-Carey stepped to the plate in the bottom of the seventh with the winning run on third base. When the first pitch eluded catcher and All-Canadian Matty Emery, Nadler raced home with the winning run.

"How can we let three runs score on passed balls in a semi final game?" screamed Gee-Gees coach Dave Dunn. "That's terrible. Absolutely terrible. We beat ourselves."

Concordia had found another way to win on this championship Sunday. The only team they had not yet faced was the Capers from Cape Breton.

"Another uniform, another team to beat," said Schwartz.

Cape Breton jumped out to an early lead in the second inning.

Marco Masciotra led off the third inning

with a walk, his first of three on the night. The All-Canadian Masciotra then stole second base and put the Stinger offence in motion. Three consecutive hits by Katz, Nadler and Langton gave the Stingers a lead they would never relinquish.

Langton proved his worth as clean-up man all weekend long. In game two against Western, he hit a 1-0 curve ball into orbit, solidifying the Stingers' first win. And on Sunday night with the championship on the line, he launched an opposite field bomb that nearly cleared the right field wall.

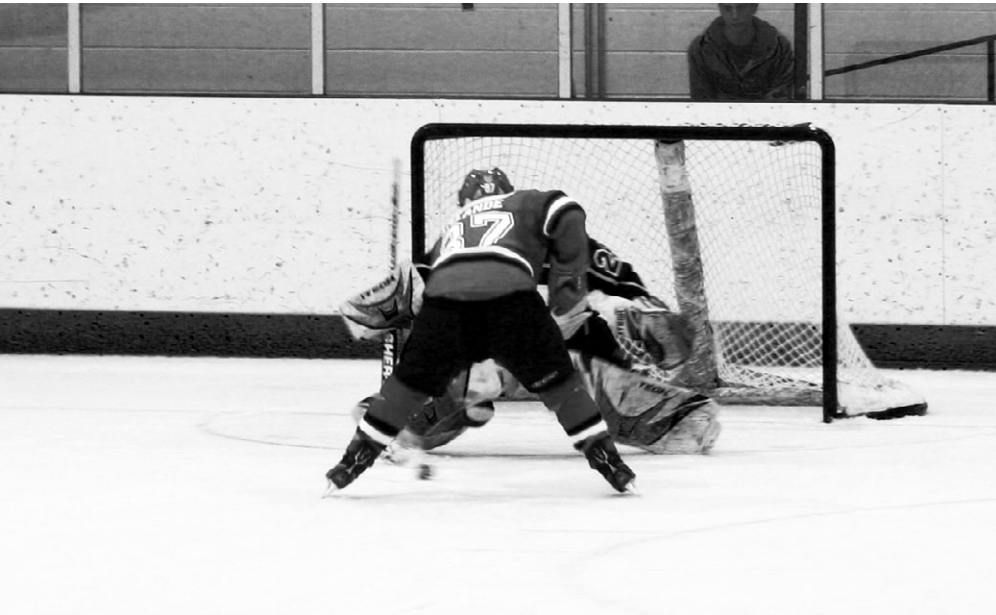
Concordia scored seven times in the inning, added single runs in the fourth and fifth and three more in the seventh to complete their incredible triple header triumph by a score of 12-1.

Early Sunday morning before the unbelievable day began, infielder/outfielder Eddie Evans looked up towards the sky and considered the possibilities.

"We can be anything we want to be."

Firing blanks

Women’s hockey team loses second straight in shootout



(Left to right) She shoots. She scores. PHOTOS ELSA JABRE

• JAMIE MCCALLUM

Concordia 1
UdeM 4

Tied 3-3 with Université de Montréal, the Stingers had victory within their grasp. Overtime had expired and the ensuing shootout gave the Concordia women’s hockey team a chance at avenging last week’s 4-1 loss to the Carabins.

But after failing to score on any of their shootout attempts, the Stingers lost their second consecutive game last Sunday at Loyola.

Stingers head coach Les Lawton can feel the frustration of his team, but is still hopeful.

“We really feel like we’re on the right

track although our record doesn’t indicate it,” he said. “We’ve lost three one-goal games that we could have won and I think that those wins are going to start going our way later in the year.”

“We really feel like we’re on the right track although our record doesn’t indicate it.”
—Les Lawton,
Stingers head coach

After going one goal up on the Carabins thanks to a score by Alexandra D’Ambrosio early in the second, UdeM’s Amanda Lalande tied it up a couple just a few minutes later. Both teams had their share of opportunities for the rest of the



period, but the score stood at 1-1.

The goals came in droves during the third period. In a frantic 20 minutes, both teams scored two goals within the span of a few minutes. Regulation ended with the game tied at three goals apiece. Neither team managed to score in five minutes of overtime. Then came the ill-fated shootout.

In what was either a futility in shot-making or exceptional goalkeeping, neither team distinguished themselves. But the Carabins did what was needed to be done to claim the victory.

After missing their first attempt, UdeM was successful on their second and, once Lalande scored on her team’s fourth attempt, the Stingers were mathematically out of it. The team clearly felt the effects of

playing back-to-back games.

“I thought we looked a little fatigued,” said Lawton. “We had spurts of good play but in general, our consistency still isn’t there and I think that had a lot to do with us playing two pretty tough games in 15 hours.”

The Stingers now fall to 1-4 on the season while the Carabins stayed perfect, boasting a 4-0 record. Up next for the Stingers is a date with the Ottawa Gee-Gees next Sunday, in which they should have some added confidence. Ottawa remains the only team the Stingers have beaten this season.

The Stingers look to get their win on when they visit the Gee-Gees in Ottawa this Saturday at 2 p.m.

scoreboard

	Home	Away	
Men’s Rugby	Concordia 10	Bishop’s 31	3-3
Women’s Rugby	Concordia 18	Ottawa 7	playoffs
Football	Concordia 30	McGill 25	3-4
Women’s Hockey	Concordia 2 Concordia 3	Carleton 3 Montreal 4	1-4
Men’s Hockey	Concordia 1 Concordia 2	Nipissing 4 Toronto 5	0-6
Men’s Basketball	Concordia 86 Concordia 80	Manitoba 74 Winnipeg 71	0-1-0
Women’s Basketball	Concordia 68 Concordia 58 Concordia 71	Carleton 64 Alberta 76 Guelph 55	0-0
Baseball	Concordia 6 Concordia 4 Concordia 12	Western 2 Ottawa 3 Cape Breton 2	playoffs
Men’s Soccer	Concordia 0	McGill 2	0-7-3
Women’s Soccer	Concordia 0 Concordia 1	McGill 1 Bishop’s 0	3-9

schedule

	Who	When
Men’s Rugby	@ Bishop’s	Friday, 8 p.m.
Women’s Rugby	@ Laval	Saturday, 1 p.m.
Football	@ Bishop’s	Saturday, 1 p.m.
Women’s Hockey	@ Ottawa	Saturday, 2 p.m.
Men’s Hockey	@ Toronto @ Queen’s	Friday, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m.
Men’s Basketball	@ Bryant @ Rhode Island	Friday, 7p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m.
Women’s Basketball	@ Regina/Saskatchewan	Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Men’s Soccer	vs UQTR @ Laval	Friday, 8 p.m. Sunday, 3 p.m.
Women’s Soccer	vs UQTR @ Laval	Friday, 6:30 p.m. Sunday, 1 p.m.

Write for sports! Contact us at sports@thelinknewspaper.ca



(Top to bottom) Liam Mahoney continues to impress at slotback. Stingers defence give no quarter. Mahoney sheds a tackle. Cornerback Kristopher Robertson fakes 'em out. Arrian Francois keeps it fresh. PHOTOS ESTHER BERNARD

Stingers inch towards a playoff spot

Rainy weather clinches narrow win for Stingers

• LES HONYWILL

**Concordia 30
McGill 25**

With his team's playoff hopes on the line, Stingers quarterback Rob Mackay set a single season passing record to stave off a second-half rally by the McGill Redmen last Saturday at Loyola.

On a rain soaked field, the Redmen nearly erased a 28-point Stingers lead with 23 unanswered second-half points. But the Concordia defence came through in the dying moments of the game to preserve the win and keep their playoff hopes alive. The loss means the Redmen must win their next game against the first place Laval Rouge et Or to give themselves a shot at making it to the post-season.

"This was unbelievably important," said Stingers receiver Liam Mahoney, who had 11 catches for 117 yards. "Whenever you play against McGill it's an important game but now it had playoff implications, so it's 10 times more important than any other game."

Wet weather proved difficult for game play; a ball slipped out of McGill quarterback Jonathan Collin's hand on an attempted pass and into the outstretched arms of Stingers defensive back Kyle Smith.

"In the first half [the rain was a factor]," said Collin. "That first pick that I threw, the ball just ran right out of my hands."

The Stingers soon capitalized, opening

the scoring as Mackay patiently delivered a 28-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Dan Rodrigues before being planted into the turf.

The Redmen attempted to answer back, driving into the Stingers' red zone, when cornerback Nathan Taylor caught his second interception of the season in the end zone.

The Stingers again capitalized on the Redmen turnover, moving the ball 42 yards downfield before Mackay found slotback Cory Watson in space behind the McGill secondary for a 48-yard touchdown.

After a Rene Paredes field goal gave the Stingers a 19-2 lead, Mackay found Watson again on a 67-yard throw that made the third-year quarterback Concordia's all-time leader in career passing yards. The former record of 2,000 yards was set by Dominique Goulet in 1996.

"I didn't like talking about it because we knew we had to win the game, and that was the most important thing," said Mackay, who threw for 494 yards.

"He's been playing amazing the last couple weeks," Mahoney said. "We knew he was going to get into a rhythm, and once he got into a rhythm we have the best receiving corps in the country—probably the best receiving corps in Concordia history. We just need to get the ball in our hands and [Mackay]'s been doing that."

Parades closed out the half with another field goal, increasing the Stinger lead to 20.

Mackay continued his assault on the Redmen secondary in the second half, leading an 82-yard drive that culminated in a 24-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Sanchez Deschamps, making the score 30-2.

The Redmen offence then woke up, as Collin hit wide receiver Charles-Antoine Sinotte for a touchdown to pull the Redmen within three touchdowns.

The Stingers offence slowed to a halt and Collin led his team down-field again. He capped off the drive by calling his own number, plunging two yards up the middle for a touchdown.

In the fourth quarter, Collin found the end zone for the third consecutive drive when he hit slotback Patrick Dodd on a 17-yard touchdown pass that brought the Redmen within seven points.

McGill defence continued to apply pressure to the Concordia offence, forcing a fumble, an interception and a safety on consecutive drives, the latter of which gave the Redmen the chance to win the game with a touchdown.

In the dying moments of the fourth quarter, with the crowd on its feet, the Stingers defence forced McGill to turn the ball over on downs and sealed the victory.

"It's strange, in the first half of the year we were terrible in the first half," Mahoney said. "And now we're starting off well, then in the third quarter we're going to sleep."

"We scored on our first drive but didn't really do anything after that," he continued, "but our defence played well enough in the fourth quarter to stop them."

The Stingers will play their fourth straight must-win game Saturday against the Bishop's Gaitsers in Lennoxville at 1 p.m.



Justice demanded for 2110

Call to action for gender advocacy group

• MAYA ROLBIN-GHANIE

The Concordia and Montreal activist communities have lost integrity. On Tuesday, Oct. 20, myself and two of my co-workers, Bianca Mugenyi and Aly Stillman, who have all been publicly critical of the way the 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy is being run, were violently dragged from our workplace by the Montreal police, who were called in by 2110 board member Lil Kraus.

For many months, the Centre has been mired in political struggle. We have called for the 2110 Board of Directors to create measures to address an alarming lack of accountability, while the Board and other staff have actively resisted this call to problem-solving with a determination that is truly alarming. Avenues for solving the problem internally have been exhausted.

The issues that we have asked the Board to account for include

but are not limited to: unilateral and authoritarian decisions made by the Board without consultation of staff members who hold a Board seat (including a recent decision to abandon the Centre's consensus decision-making process, which disenfranchised

tions have not been fulfilled, decreasing the overall functionality of the Centre and multiplying the workload of other staff. One example of this was a coordinator who was supposed to plan a Board-training retreat over the summer but cancelled it at the last

The 2110 is a social justice organization that is mandated to promote "gender equality and empowerment, particularly as it relates to marginalized communities."

three of four dissenting staff); breaches of confidentiality; a refusal to outline policies by which staff members can be held accountable and an astonishing hostility toward activism that is made tangible by the Board's discriminatory treatment of staff who bring new people and activities into the 2110 space.

Some staff members have also demonstrated a strange fear of activism. The result is that major components in their job descrip-

minute, explaining that it had not been organized. The retreat has not been rescheduled since, leading to an untrained Board who are largely ignorant of the implications of their decisions.

The 2110 is a social justice organization that is mandated to promote "gender equality and empowerment, particularly as it relates to marginalized communities." The mandate states that the Centre is intended to undertake a wide range of campaigns and pro-

gramming as well as public services. The 2110's most active campaign, Missing Justice—which myself and Bianca Mugenyi are involved with—operates to eliminate violence against indigenous women, a significant portion of which is perpetuated by police.

It should be all the more shocking, then, that when we refused to recognize the legitimacy of our suspensions, fellow activists and gender advocates called in the Montreal police to force us out. When Bianca tried to return inside to retrieve her belongings, an officer slammed her against a wall, twisted her arm behind her back, dragged her to the police car, pushed her against the hood, cuffed her and arrested her.

She was fined \$144 for obstructing a walkway. We, who are criticizing the way the Centre is being run and demanding more from an organization that can and should be doing more, have been suspended without pay (which is in direct violation of the 2110's

employment policy), criminalized and subjected to the violence that we work to combat.

The current 2110 Board are unfit to continue in their current positions. Due to their repeated violations of the 2110 Constitution, the employment policy and workers' rights, my co-suspendees and I, along with many other 2110 members, are calling for their resignation.

Come out to the 2110 Centre's special general meeting on Monday, Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. in EV 1.605 and show your support. Take a stand for accountability and transparency and strengthen activism in your community. Our aim is to recall the current Board and call for the election of a diverse and experienced interim Board of Directors with a mandate to solve problems and promote justice.

To read more about the political struggle at the 2110 Centre, visit 2110democracy.ca.

heartaches anonymous

*Dear Heartaches Anonymous,
Do women still appreciate grand gestures?
Perhaps I should have been born in a different
time, but it seems like the best strategy out there
is apathy. Should I not care? Or should I stand out-
side her window at midnight with a boom-box over
my head and a fistful of poems? Help me,
Heartaches.
—Earnest Young Gentleman*

Dear Earnest Young Gentleman,

Figuring out the ladies really is a bitch. One expects you to throw your most precious frock coat down over puddles so that her dainty feet may tread upon it, while another spits in your face if you so much as try to hold

the door for her, so indignant is she at your belittlement of her status as a strong, independent woman. However, can an earnest young gentleman such as yourself ever hope to keep abreast of the latest fads in etiquette amongst creatures of such petulant inconsistency?

Pretty easily, actually. Heterosexuals tend to forget that their differently-hormoned love interests suffer from a lot of the same weaknesses as they do—a love of baked goods, for example. So the short answer to your question is yes, women do like being on the receiving end of "grand gestures." What they don't like, however, is insincerity.

I once dated someone who lent me

books with flowers pressed inside the covers and presented me with daisies from the front yards of my neighbours. I get cavities just thinking about him, he was so sweet. It was like dating a grandmother in the body of an overly romantic teenage boy. While I'm not suggesting you dive headfirst into the heady world of noxious whimsicality, consider this: those small gestures were infinitely more touching than any pricey dinner date ever could be, simply because he did it all on his own terms.

Why would you serenade a girl below her window or otherwise risk completely embarrassing yourself? Would it be because you love her too much not to, or

because you think you should? Steer clear of the grand gesture if you're trying to apologize for a major fuck-up. It just makes you look like more of an asshole. But then again, I am not every woman.

Do girls like grand gestures? Yes. Do boys like grand gestures? Yes. What about objective-sexuals? I imagine they like them too, not to mention grand structures, as in the case of the American woman who recently became engaged to her favourite rollercoaster.

That said, grand gestures are often a once-in-a-blue-moon kind of thing. Start by brushing up on the small things. How are you at baking?

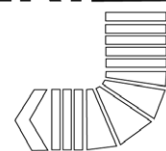
If you're having girl problems, I feel bad for you, son!
You got 99 problems and I'll help you solve one.

send your relationship queries to
heartachesanonymous@gmail.com



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crswrdpzzlol

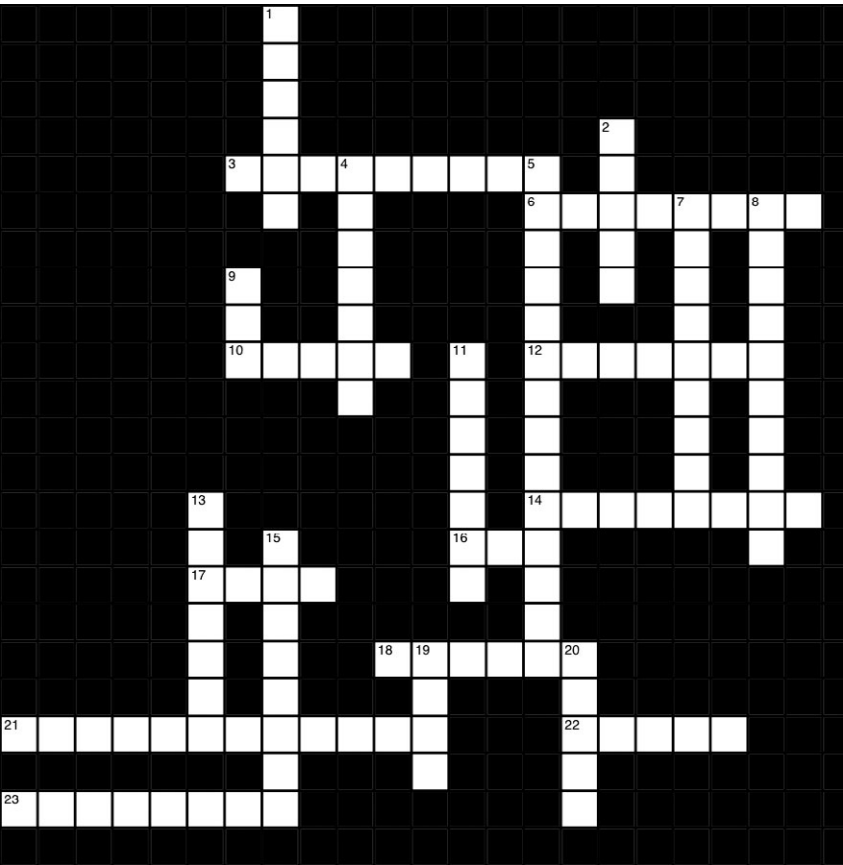
THE “I’D RATHER DO THE FOLLOWING THINGS THAN STUDY FOR MIDTERMS” EDITION • R. BRIAN “GONE TOTALLY AWOL” HASTIE

Across

- 3. A clash of open-palmed hands against the face. Victor gets bragging rights, loser gets to go home and rub menthol on their cheek.
- 6. Where I plan on spending my week off next year. Either that or where Garfield threatens to ship Nermal off to.
- 10. These socially-friendly excuses to go on benders are great places to make future friends and also potentially alienate a future loved one.
- 12. Wriggling yourself on the ground rhythmically over and over as the bass thumps seems like the superior idea when the alternative is learning about which parts of the body do what when tapped with a tiny hammer. This is the dance craze you forgot about.
- 14. Throw out those four-year-old cartons of orange juice and get rid of that Swamp Thing-like character in the closet. Bonus points if you find any survivors in the wreckage.
- 16. Nomnomnom-ing it up, to put it in lolcat terms. Otherwise known as the act of later regretting consuming too much sugar.
- 17. The art of rhythmic body movements. The backbone beat to any good rap song.
- 18. Reign In Blood, Seasons In The Abyss, consider these blissful gifts from the thrash gods. Throw your horns up and stare off into the distance. Who really needs to study biology, anyways?
- 21. Addictive NES game that involves your tiny dinosaur character burping up bubbles to capture enemies for subsequent popping. My five year-old self had that shit locked down. Now I can barely even pass level 13.
- 22. School is hell
- 23. You can either make a tiny train or a flute. You can then take all of the remaining shavings and make a bonfire out of it. It's a win-win situation for you and the homeless people who live on your property!

Down

- 1. Gotta get the paper on the daily grind, you feel me?
- 2. It's either gonna be an episode about disputed paternity or adolescent children gone awry. Either way, consider me tuned in.
- 4. Sticking your hands in the rectum of an inanimate object sounds odd in theory, but can be explic-



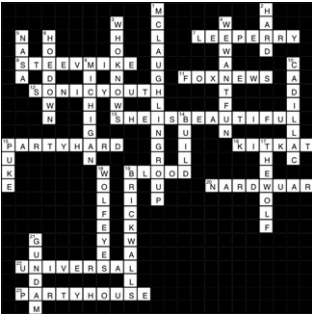
itly hilarious in practice. Consider it the next time you find a milk carton.

5. Aiming for the heart of the outlined human figure in the distance and squeezing off round after round is considered to be a stress-reliever by some. I just see it as a waste of bullets. (2 words).

7. Can refer to either the day itself or the movie which bears the same name... But only the original one, not the shitty Rob Zombie remake. Who the fuck spends an hour doing character exposition? No one gives a shit! It's a slasher!

- 8. Al Green + empty apartment + spare time = this. You're welcome for the suggestion.
- 9. It's where I'm a Viking. Also, the activity that allows me to be closest to my deceased loved ones. Correction: I have no deceased loved ones. They still haunt me in my dreams as if they were still alive.
- 11. The ultimate version of this game is up there on the douchebag scale with playing hackysack and wearing hemp.
- 13. Riding the White Pony sounds way awesomer than trying to learn the particulars of different

issue 10 solutionz



- Chinese dynasties. Consider yourself warned. Not.
- 15. Update your status, post pictures, disclose relevant information, engage in this social media. Become the sheeple Big Brother want you to be.
- 19. Step 1: Walk up to someone on the street. Step 2: Tell them that you work for the cops and that they need to come in for questioning. Step 3: Walk away. Flibbing has never felt so strange.
- 20. The ideal post-bender vacation spot. Dry out, wisen up, don't Lohan this shit up!

Read it and weep

BY TRAVIS DANDRO



editorial

Traffic shaping a negative for Canadians

Canada took a giant technological leap backwards last week.

The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, already up to its ears in a lengthy public consultation over copyright reform, issued a ruling guaranteed to please Canada’s cabal of Internet service providers at the expense of Internet users.

The decision allows providers to engage in traffic shaping practices with minimal restrictions. Instead of treating everything that passes through their networks as equal, traffic shaping allows providers to prioritize certain content—and certain subscribers—over others. Providers such as Bell, Vidéotron and their many wholesalers can now slow down speeds to a crawl if it’s a certain time of day, or if the user is using the network for something they disapprove of (for instance, BitTorrent downloading). If you’re on, say, their \$100 a month plan, you might not necessarily be as affected as you would be if on the cheaper plans that leave room for foods other than ramen.

This violates the principle of network neutrality, which sets out that all Internet traffic is treated equally as it moves through networks, just as all phone calls are treated equally, and users who pay more for their service don’t get dibs over those who pay less.

What does this mean for students and academics? In short, it means that content is no longer treated equally. Even if you’re downloading some particularly bandwidth-intensive digital photos, or if you’re a film student looking to share footage you shot with others, your provider may slow such activities to a crawl based on their thinly-substantiated whims and frivolous claims of preserving access “for everyone”.

As the U.S. Federal Communications Commission has been taking large strides toward net neutrality, guaranteeing the freedom of Internet content from provider intervention, we’re regressing. We enjoyed an early lead over our southern neighbours in terms of broadband use per capita and average download speeds, but as of last year Canada has plummeted to 29th out of 35 OECD nations, meaning that our crippled standing—that is, for those that aren’t willing to fork out \$100 a month and commit to a contract in exchange for top-tier access—will begin to haunt us economically as well.

When the CBC aired *Canada's Next Great Prime Minister* on TV last year, it wanted to reach as much of the younger, television-averse demographic as they could. They did so by making episodes of the program available for download via BitTorrent. Bell, Rogers, Shaw and Cogeco slow down all BitTorrent traffic as a matter of policy, regardless of whether or not the content itself is pirated, as BitTorrent data often is. Even though the show’s episodes were clearly not being illegally obtained, they still took hours or days for many users to download.

Think you can find a way out by switching to an independent provider? If you’re one of the 24 million Canadians who live east of Winnipeg, you’re out of luck. The four companies that own network infrastructure, which they lease out to independent providers, are now allowed to force those providers to traffic-shape as well, and all have declared their intention to do so. Canada’s lack of a regulator with real teeth has created oligopolies that were able to effect rulings like this.

What’s called for now is a national strategy to address the inequalities that threaten to turn into yawning gaps as Internet surfing for the average user becomes an increasingly bandwidth-hungry activity. Heavy downloading is no longer just for basement-dwelling software pirates, but for students and users of all stripes. In an increasingly interconnected economy, we need equal access and equal treatment of content going forward.

—Tom Llewellyn,
Copy Editor