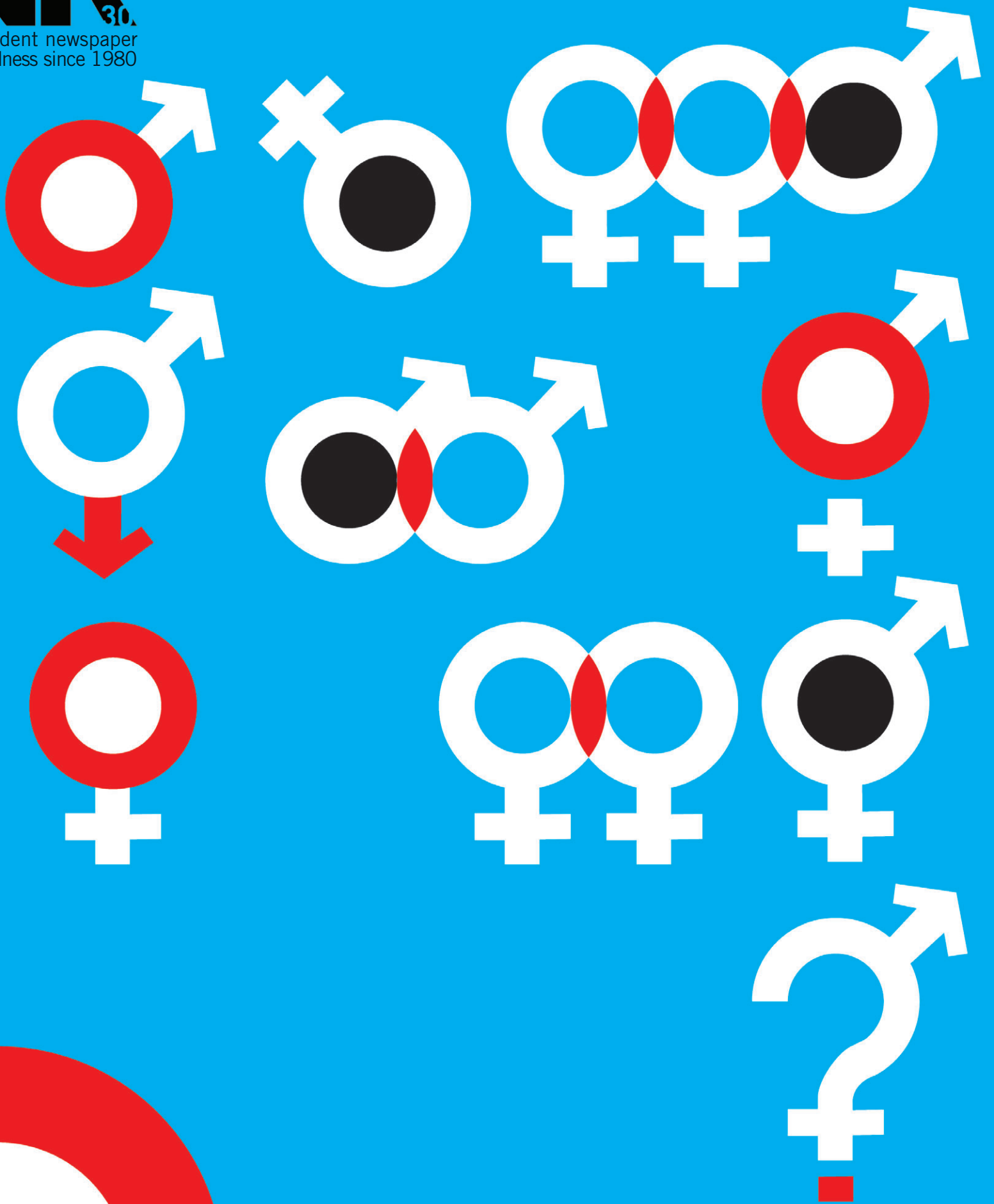


THE

LiNK

30.
concordia's independent newspaper
a giant jenga of nakedness since 1980



ueer

issue special insert

The digital backwater

Author and *Boing Boing* co-editor alarmed by state of Canadian Internet

• GINGER COONS

When Cory Doctorow talks, the Internet listens.

Doctorow is a co-editor at *Boing Boing*, a blog with a higher weekly readership than *The Globe and Mail*. He's also a prolific author who makes all his books available for free download, including *Little Brother*, a dystopian young adult novel that spent six weeks on the New York Times children's best-seller list. Additionally, he's a crusader for fair copyright, equal access to the Internet and the right to privacy.

A major limit on access to the Internet are network caps, the upload and download limits imposed by Internet service providers. According to Doctorow, those caps are bad for the economy.

"It punishes experimentation because you have to ration your network use. What this does is undermine entrepreneurship," he said.

Although not reserved to Canada, the problem is so serious in this country that Toronto-born, London-based Doctorow once wrote that it was subpar Internet that would prevent him from moving back.

"Canada is really lagging among OECD nations in access, speed, cost and equality. They keep trying to redefine what [high-speed Internet] is in order to make us look better," he said. Doctorow instead pointed to Internet speeds in nations like South Korea, which are four times faster than those in Canada.

Doctorow blamed the problem on the lack of competition in the Canadian telecommunications industry. He characterized the current state of affairs, in which a few companies are allowed to control the majority of media and telecommunications interests, as a "total policy disaster."

"Somewhere out there," said Doctorow, "there's an entrepreneur who wants to provide the network

that Canada deserves."

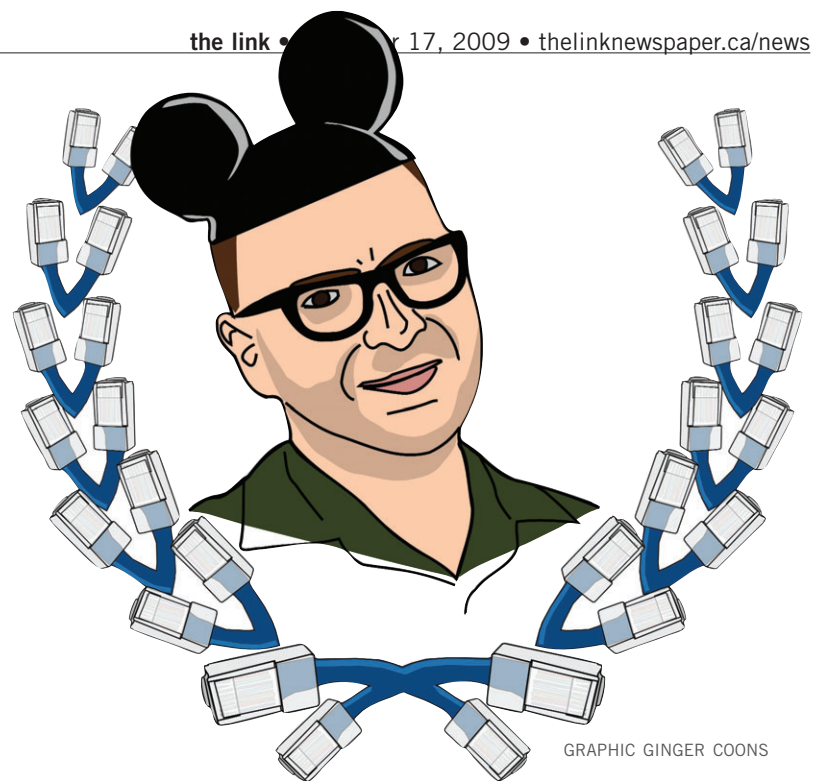
Unfortunately, he doesn't see that happening without the intervention of Canada's telecommunications regulator, the CRTC.

The Internet isn't the only thing Doctorow sees going wrong in Canada. He foresees problems with the Enhanced Driver's Licenses, currently being rolled out in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and B.C. Those licenses are heavily reliant on biometric identification, such as fingerprints, which can prove to be a hugely problematic security feature.

"Fingerprints leak like crazy. How many surfaces do you think you left your fingerprints on today?" he asked.

Copying fingerprints is also easy. Doctorow recalled an event in March 2008 when a German hacker group released the fingerprint of interior minister Wolfgang Schauble to protest biometric passports.

Enhanced Driver's Licenses are being adopted in order to comply



with newly-created American regulations on what constitutes an acceptable document for crossing the border. Doctorow did not view this as a sensible excuse.

"If all the other G20 nations were jumping off western democracy and landing in a boiling pit of fascism, would you jump with them? That's not a basis for good governance."

But it was not all doom-and-gloom from the sometimes-dystopian writer. Doctorow revealed that he had hope for the future of information policy.

"I would like to see a kind of information bill of rights that mir-

rored the UN Declaration of Human Rights and that was widely accepted as kind of rote by people, where you didn't have to explain why privacy is important or why neutral networks are important," said Doctorow, who has pushed for Internet activity to be free from censorship or surveillance by Internet providers or governments. "I think if we got that, everything else would become easier."

Doctorow is currently on a North American tour for *Makers*, his latest novel. It's freely available for download in a variety of formats from craphound.com/makers.

Turcot plan raked over the coals



Rebuilding the dilapidated Turcot Interchange would lead to hundreds of new evictions. Thousands were forced from their homes when the interchange was built in the 1960s. PHOTO ALEXANDRE STEAU

Advisory body chastises province, but leaves significant questions unexplored

• TOM LLEWELLIN

Activist groups in the South-West borough won a partial victory on Nov. 10 when Quebec's Bureau des audiences publiques sur l'environnement rejected the Ministère des transports plan for the Turcot Interchange's reconstruction and expansion.

Stressing the need for a sustainable approach that mixed many kinds of transportation, the BAPE soundly rejected the minister's

argument that traffic concerns should take priority. Car use on the interchange is expected to increase 17 per cent by 2025.

Pierre Brisset, the director of the Groupe de la recherche urbaine, which consulted extensively on the Turcot's redevelopment, said that he hopes to see "serious reflection" over the province's priorities when it comes to transportation planning. "They need to think of eliminating the infrastructure," he said.

The Bureau, however, stopped

one step short from recommending that the complex be fundamentally re-evaluated.

"Pieces of the structure are falling down, but the project involves replacing half of the Ville-Marie Expressway. They should just concentrate on what's broken," Brisset said, seeing no need for the proposed expansions.

The Bureau neglected to address a major concern shared by community and research groups that the north-south axis of the inter-

change—a vital industrial link—be given priority over the east-west axis, which is largely a commuter artery for the bedroom communities of the West Island.

"They lumped the interchange into one," Brisset said. "They didn't segregate the north-south axis from the east-west. And there's lots of alternatives to east-west," he added, suggesting that the former rail yards in the Turcot's western portion be rehabilitated to store commuter trains.

A working group chaired by Concordia urban planning professor Pierre Gauthier developed an alternate plan for the interchange, whose suggestion that portions of the interchange be rebuilt in tunnel was picked up by the BAPE, as were some recommendations to incorporate buses.

The Gazette reported that the needed modifications to the project would drive up construction costs, but was unable to provide any estimates.



An emotional Amine Dabchy puts his arm around outgoing VP Sustainability and Projects John Kyras as the latter reads his farewell. PHOTO JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

CSU VP Sustainability and Projects resigns

Outgoing exec says he needs more time for school and family business

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

An emotional Amine Dabchy, president of the Concordia Student Union, was comforted by those around him as he read out the resignation of VP Sustainability and Projects John Kyras at the CSU Council meeting on Nov. 11.

During the CSU election campaign in March when the governing Vision slate was swept to power, Dabchy credited Kyras as the group's smiling face and chief motivator.

Kyras' infectious smile was on display at Council as his farewell speech dragged the room from tears to roaring laughter.

"When I saw my fellow execs and first gave them the news, there were more tears than [from] cutting onions," Kyras said. "They told me, 'You better take that compost bin with you.'"

Kyras told the Council that the

reasons for his departure were personal and academic.

According to the outgoing VP, the long hours that his position called for had taken a serious toll on his studies—he is in the last year of a civil engineering degree.

"When I saw my fellow execs and first gave them the news, there were more tears than [from] cutting onions. They told me, 'You better take that compost bin with you.'"

—John Kyras,
Outgoing VP Sustainability
and Projects

"Our whole team is extremely dedicated and works full time, more than that, we often have

events and meetings in the evenings. It's full-time with overtime," he said. "It wouldn't be fair to the 30,000 students we serve to be in the office studying all the time."

Kyras' short term could also be a victim of the recession, which the outgoing VP blamed for a downturn at his family's general contracting business. Earning only minimum wage at the CSU, Kyras told the Council that he wanted to spend more time working with his father and helping to support his family.

"I wouldn't have the time to take care of the daily chore of the compost bin, those worms need to be fed," Kyras joked. "Don't worry, we have given some tutorial sessions and [VP Academic and Policy Reform] Helen [Downie] is now vermiculture certified."

The empty VP seat did not stay unoccupied for long as Dabchy

nominated Alex Oster, a political science student with no history of elected office at Concordia, to sit as the new VP Sustainability and Projects. The Council gave Oster unanimous support.

"He believes in the same ideals as us and in a better CSU," said Dabchy.

"Alex Oster is amazing," beamed Kyras. "He had been coming by my office daily and we ate a lot of lunches together, we would talk and he had great ideas about sustainability, for speakers and how to design and lay out the Green Month."

Kyras told the Council about the first time he met Oster, at the ASFA Frosh, and how to help get Oster to his home in Hudson he asked him to help crew a sailboat during a regatta west of Montreal.

They shared two interests, Kyras said—sustainability and sailing.

Who is Alex Oster?

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

On the morning of Nov. 11, Alex Oster was a Concordia political science student who had never run for office in student government at the university. By that evening, Oster had been appointed VP Sustainability and Projects at the Concordia Student Union.

Who then, students may ask, has taken over the position of chief advocate for their sustainability matters?

Oster's most widely publicized foray into student politics was during the previous CSU's attack on the Sustainability Action Fund—a 25 cent per credit group that supports sustainable projects at Concordia—during October of last year.



New CSU VP Sustainability and Projects Alex Oster. PHOTO JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Oster helped lead a campaign that ultimately saved the fund.

In his new position, Oster will sit on the Board of Directors of the SAF.

"Alex [Oster] has been working with [former VP Sustainability and Projects] John [Kyras] for the past few months in preparation of CSU

Green Month," said CSU president Amine Dabchy.

"He has been working pro-bono because he is passionate about sustainability and he has also been working for Sustainable Concordia," continued Dabchy.

The two biggest projects for Oster

to deal with from Kyras' unfinished mandate will be to finalize the organizing for CSU Green Month—a month-long series of workshops and conferences to promote more sustainable living—and to help the other executives with the planning for a future Student Centre.

Briefs

Reggie's new eats

With renovations complete, Reggie's began serving food on Nov. 12. Burgers, chicken nuggets, wings and other offerings are intended to lend the watering hole a "sports bar atmosphere" and draw bigger crowds during hockey games.

Breaking the glass ceiling

An annual survey of recent University of Alberta business school graduates revealed that females surpassed their male counterparts in salary earnings over the past year, with women earning an average of \$43,077 compared to men at \$41,214. University officials were cautious to draw trends from the data, but said they found the results "encouraging."

Campaigning in the classroom

Winnipeg-area Conservative MP Shelley Glover's attempt to give away water bottles bearing her party's name and logo to French immersion students was rejected by the city's francophone school board, who cited rules insisting on no partisan advertising in school. She refused to apologize.

Loopholes for loopholes

The opposition Parti Québécois asked the Quebec government last week to use the *Charter's* notwithstanding clause to override the Supreme Court's recent ruling on Bill 104 and access to English schools. Party leader Pauline Marois said the primacy of French must be affirmed and loopholes closed.

More metro cars, maybe

More new cars for Montreal's metro will be on their way than previously predicted. The original projection of 342 cars at a cost of \$1.2 billion is likely to be enlarged to 765 cars at \$2 billion. New metro cars were last received in 1976.

Some Bixis removed early

Underused Bixi stations in Rosemont were removed earlier than expected, despite an official removal date of Nov. 15. CBC Radio said that the city "may have cheated," potentially leaving Bixi riders with nowhere to dock their bikes.

Concordia rolls out campaign against bedbugs

Reporting more infestations, students get information

• AMI KINGDON

Three weeks into my graduate journalism program at Concordia, I noticed a loonie-sized welt on my knee.

Over the next week, four new ones appeared on my arms and legs. When I picked through my mattress seams and saw a bedbug scurry out, my stomach dropped.

For many Concordia students, bedbugs are becoming an unpleasant reality. The city is experiencing a sharp increase in infestations, particularly in rental buildings and hotels.

The problem isn't restricted to Montreal. In 2008, the city of Toronto's Board of Health formed a special bedbug unit when a survey showed that some pest control companies were getting up to 450 calls a month to exterminate the bugs.

In response to the problem, Concordia's Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank has created a bedbug information package. The package includes a website with information about detecting and exterminating the bugs, legal and health

information, and leaflets that will be distributed around campus to raise awareness about how to deal with and prevent infestations.

"We've launched this initiative because we've seen a steady rise in cases reported to us, especially over the past two years," said HOJO co-ordinator Jonathan Elston. He encourages students to visit the office before they have a problem. "It's about educating students so they can prevent this problem from happening [to them]."

One way students can prevent infestation is to build a bedbug inspection toolkit.

"Students should fully inspect an apartment before they move in or even before they sign [a lease]," Elston said, adding that it can be very hard to get out of a lease. The HOJO website offers instructions on how to create your own kit.

One reason for the bedbug resurgence, according to the website, is that exterminators no longer use broad spectrum insecticides like DDT. Another reason is increased travel.

"We recommend students be

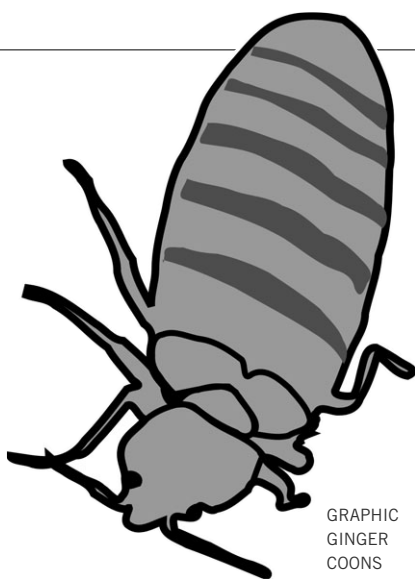
very cautious while travelling," he said. "They should inspect belongings and make sure they haven't brought the bugs back."

While no official statistics are available for Montreal, three out of the 10 students in one of my classes say they are currently suffering from bugs. The problem is not limited to Concordia; in 2008, three McGill residence buildings were infested.

After my own run-in with bedbugs last year, I followed the best advice I could find: vacuuming frequently and thoroughly, and keeping freshly-washed clothes in sealed containers. I slept in my bathtub on a yoga mat for most of August, just so I could get bite-free sleep.

After three exterminations, a \$100 camp bed and liberal use of diatomaceous earth powder, a strong insecticide, I haven't had a bite in three months.

Despite their tenacity, bedbugs can be beaten. HOJO hopes that their website will either shorten the amount of time students need to deal with them, if they can't avoid them altogether.



GRAPHIC
GINGER
COONS



Protesters mingle outside of the Black Watch armoury. PHOTO JOSEPH STE. MARIE

Royal visit protested

Black Watch armoury site of clash with cops

• MARK JAMES

Montreal police made three arrests on the evening of Nov. 10 when an anti-monarchy protest outside of Montreal's Black Watch armoury got out of hand.

Protesters threw eggs at Canadian soldiers as they left the armoury and at the historic façade of the building itself. Many of the protesters were from the the Réseau de Résistance du Québécois, an extreme separatist group.

The organization wanted to send a message to Prince Charles—who was in Montreal as part of an 11-day Canadian tour—that he is unwelcome in Quebec. RRQ protesters carried pickets demanding that Charles go home, and chanted nationalistic slogans calling for a "Quebec for Quebecers" and a "Montreal for the French."

Julien Gaudeau, a spokesman

for the separatist group, said that the prince is "important as a symbol of power given by blood. We don't want this kind of symbol in Quebec. More than 80 per cent of the population in Quebec is opposed to the monarchy."

Protesters resisted police efforts to move them from blocking the entrance of the armoury.

Eventually riot police armed with shields and batons cleared a perimeter around the building, forcing back protesters and royal onlookers.

Some protesters were bloodied in scuffles with riot police but none needed more than minor medical attention provided on scene.

The Prince, who is the colonel-in-chief of the Black Watch, was to speak at the armoury and to present the decorated highland regiment with new colours.

His arrival was delayed by 40 minutes because of the protest.

Are we civilized?

Constitutional lawyer talks about the decline of the Charter

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Julius Grey, a paragon of Canadian law who famously squashed a section of Bill 101, spoke at Concordia on Nov. 12 to highlight what he called the decline of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

"Here we are, 20 years after the *Charter*, [with] less freedom of speech, total snooping, torture and concentration camps flourishing, criminal law being used as a form of repression, the gap between rich and poor increasing and pensions disappearing," said Grey. "Charters of rights across the world are in decline."

Grey, who taught law at McGill and the Université de Montréal, is best known for his strong views on individual rights and his defence of Canada's welfare state. The lawyer had harsh words for the current Canadian, American and British governments and their lax defence of human rights.

"For the first 20 years, the *Charter* did amazing things," said Grey. He credited the charter, introduced by the government of Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau in 1982, with reforming criminal law, ending extradition to countries with execution, modernizing the refugee system, legalizing abortion, granting full rights to homosexuals and ensuring gender parity.

"The *Charter* is no longer popular. What you find is that public opinion has swung behind the *National Post* when they say, 'Let the elected people rule,'" said Grey.

"Across the country, people want tougher sentences until their son gets arrested and they see what its like," he continued. "Criminal law is one of the forms of civil repression in the United States and Mr. Harper is trying to move it that way in Canada."

"You will have two classes of people: one class that is punished and cannot travel, cannot work and



Julius Grey was at home behind the podium. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

cannot get equal treatment, and another class to whom it hasn't happened yet."

The introduction of biometric identification and the increased interconnectedness of government databases would mean that people's criminal records would follow them everywhere, warned Grey.

"The result will be people that are so scared, you will have the most conformist and careful

group," he said. "At a certain point you will be creating a society of robots, well-behaved robots that know that any walking out of line is dangerous."

The continued erosion of the *Charter* could have a harmful effect on social justice and the welfare state in Canada, lamented Grey. The lawyer warned of a creeping class system, one that aims to fill the void left by the *Charter* with

privatized education and health care.

"The *Charter* represents everything that is Canadian," he said.

Despite his pessimistic view about the *Charter's* decline, Grey felt that Canada's Supreme Court was one of the most progressive in the world. He also warned that anti-terrorism laws were "absolutely incredible" and held many risks for individual rights in the future.

What is a 'soft jihad'?

Ezra Levant versus the Human Rights Commission

Ezra Levant is a lawyer, free speech activist and founder of Western Standard magazine. The following interview deals with his opinion on what he sees as the bureaucratic erosion of freedom of speech.

• JONATHON VAN MAREN, *THE PEAK*
(SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY)

BURNABY, B.C.—A UN Human Rights Council resolution could conceivably make it an international crime to criticize Islam and stands as part of a global trend to ban any ideas that could offend, says Canadian commentator Ezra Levant.

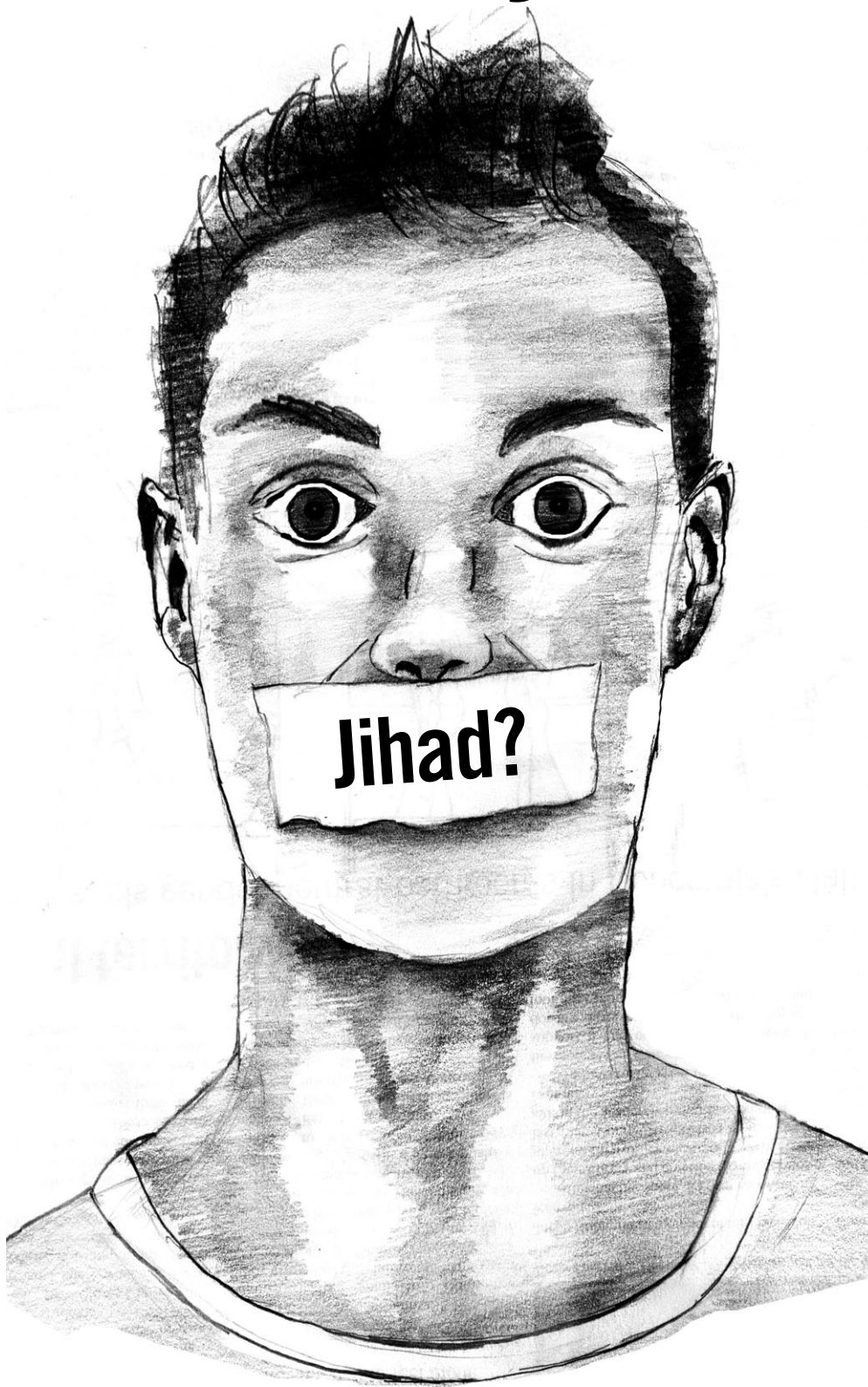
In February 2006, as editor-in-chief of the *Western Standard*, Levant published the Danish cartoons depicting the Muslim prophet and a photo of an Islamic mosaic of Mohammed, to make his point that not all Muslim sects oppose visual depictions of their religion's founder.

Syed Soharwardy of the Islamic Supreme Council of Canada took offence to Levant's editorial decision. After failing to get the police to act on his behalf, Soharwardy filed a complaint with the Alberta Human Rights Commission. The Commission summoned Levant to what he referred to as a "government interrogation," asking him to explain his "intent in publishing the cartoons."

When Levant refused to back down about his decision, Soharwardy withdrew his complaint. His confrontation with the AHRC turned Levant into a self-proclaimed campaigner for free expression and an activist against quasi-governmental intervention in the thought process.

Levant's book on his experience, *Shakedown*, gives a stinging analysis of Canada's federal and provincial human rights commissions. His criticism isn't reserved for Canada alone. Levant is outraged at the recent UN resolution criminalizing certain forms of anti-religious speech.

These laws, he claims, "are [...] to stop any criticism of Islam, and that's sort of what happened to me and Mark Steyn [a freelance journalist for *Maclean's* summoned by the Ontario Human Rights Commission for complaints about his article "The Future Belongs



Freedom of speech hangs in the balance of proposed United Nations resolution.
GRAPHIC CHRISTOPHER OLSON

to Islam"]." Levant calls these attacks against himself and Western values "lawfare," basically using Western liberal laws to shut down political opponents.

"Instead of the harsh jihad of blowing us up, it's sort of a soft jihad of using our own rules," he said. "We have got to go back to the basics and strengthen our countries with freedom of speech, otherwise totalitarian regimes like Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria are going to be telling us what we can and can't say and that's outrageous."

Levant spoke out against the Islamophobia Observatory, an international surveillance operation that keeps a database and files reports on the negative and positive reactions to Islam internationally—everything from mosques being Molotoved, to religiously insulting rap songs, to Boy Scouts being allowed to pledge to Allah instead of God.

"I mean, it's Richard Nixon's enemies list, but using super-computers," said Levant. "This probably has hundreds of thousands of

names on it, including mine, of people who dared to speak out against Saudi Arabia. It's sort of creepy that the United Nations is supporting this. The UN is supposed to support freedom of speech, but now they're supporting attacks on free speech."

Levant remains adamant concerning the right of the individual to say or publish even the most controversial criticism of Islam. When asked if it was worth pursuing—considering what had happened to both himself and Steyn—he replied passionately, "of course it's worth it [...] I mean, I think humans want to be free and Canadians and Americans have a tradition of liberty."

Levant doesn't believe that human rights commissions have any place in Canada.

"I think that our real courts can handle the vast majority of legitimate complaints," he said. "For example, if you're fired from your job because you're black, that's not a legitimate reason to fire someone. In the real courts this would be called wrongful dismissal and

you could sue and get plenty of damages, plenty of money for being harmed that way. If you get kicked out of your apartment lease because you're gay, that's against various landlord and tenant laws. [...] So between protecting people at work and at home that covers most of the bases.

"[People have] invented this pretend 'right not to be offended,'" said Levant. "And to protect that pretend right they're actually hurting real rights like freedom of speech."

Levant also revealed that he was planning to speak out against censorship issues.

"[Censorship has] unfortunately become a tool of [...] groups to shut up their opponents," he said. "At the University of Calgary, in particular, it's being used to shut up various pro-life activists. I say, have a great debate, pro-life versus pro-choice, have free speech. Instead, the University of Calgary, to their shame, has censored one side of that argument. I don't care if you're pro-life or you're pro-choice, the idea that one side of a debate would be shut down, actually using police, is outrageous."

In spite of what he considers sombre events affecting free speech on both the national and the global stage, Levant was still upbeat about how his case played out in Canada.

"Canadians have really reawakened to the value of free speech and they're ringing the alarm on these human rights commissions," said Levant. "So that's the good news—we've got public consciousness. The bad news is we haven't actually changed any laws yet, so people are mad but the politicians haven't listened. [...] I think that contradiction can't remain for long. [...] I'm counting on the people versus the politicians."

Levant noted that he testified recently for a parliamentary committee in an attempt to gut section 13, a section he considers to be the root of all human rights commissions' anti-free speech cases.

"To stop the censorship," he commented, "it's really repealing just one line in a lengthy law."

Levant is alternately adored and reviled by segments of Canadian society, but in either case, his convictions focus on one point: that liberties such as free speech and freedom of the press are precious, and can be slowly eroded without us even noticing.



Liz Valdez and Eric Davis talk dirty in *Adult Entertainment*, one of six plays in the *Suburban Motel* series showing at Mainline Theatre this month.

Outside city limits, outside convention

Play series *Suburban Motel* probes sublimely seedy sides of life

• TOM LLEWELLIN

"You laugh and then a gun goes off and you ask, 'Shit, why am I laughing?'"

To director Mathieu Perron, this is what brings Tableau d'Hôte Theatre's production of George F. Walker's darkly humorous six-part play series *Suburban Motel* into the realm of the absurd.

The plays are all set in the same dingy motel room on the outskirts of a metropolis. They feature an ensemble cast of 20 dysfunctional characters ripe with mistakes and penchants for sample-size bottles of vodka, all of whom have more than a few skeletons in their closet.

The set feels like it has seen far too many squabbles. The putrid wallpaper is speckled with coffee stains and the imprints of crooked pictures long gone. A TV set that looks like it's been in a couple of

cigarette-induced fires languishes against one wall.

"Everybody's been there before," said Eric Hausknost, director of *Risk Everything*. "Crappy motel rooms are the ideal venue for the worst in people to come out. There's a defining moment when you realize that you just hit bottom. Nobody vacations in a motel."

Apart from a couple recurring characters, there's no unifying story arc to connect the plays.

"If there is a [unifying] theme, it's that life is shit," said Perron, who directs *Featuring Loretta* and *Criminal Genius*.

"Every person has their own goals. They want to improve their lives, but they fail miserably," added Olivier Perras, director of *The End of Civilization*.

The characters are each at the end of their rope, indulging in

"Crappy motel rooms are the ideal venue for the worst in people to come out. There's a defining moment when you realize that you just hit bottom. Nobody vacations in a motel."

—Eric Hausknost,
director of *Risk Everything*

lying, cheating, child-deserting and, sometimes, murdering-and-burying.

"They really fuck things up, which is why they ended up in the [motel] room in the first place. And you're watching them dig themselves deeper and deeper into a hole," commented Hausknost.

The Nov. 10 opening night performance of *Adult Entertainment*,

directed by Rebecca Harper, was solid besides a couple of false starts. Two corrupt cops delight in extramarital dalliances as they seriously bungle a case. It isn't long before the objects of their affection take them by the balls and toss them headfirst into sordid reality.

"You have to take the serious angle," said Hausknost, "and treat ridiculous crises with complete and utter seriousness. That's when the absurdity comes out, that life is fucked."

"Tragedy is not someone being hit by a car," said Perras. "Tragedy is when you hit someone with your car and you keep pounding the gas as they [fall]."

Suburban Motel's playwright and former cabbie George F. Walker made his entry onto the Canadian theatre scene in 1972 with *The Prince of Naples*. He has

since written over 25 plays, making him one of English Canada's most prolific modern playwrights. He's notable for his use of strong female characters with men in their lives who inevitably let them down, which Perras said makes him "a sort of English Michel Tremblay."

Perron said that Tableau d'Hôte is lucky to have the chance to bring the series to Montreal for the first time.

"We've been looking at doing this for a couple years," Perron said, "and it just kinda fell into our lap."

George F. Walker's *Suburban Motel* runs at the Mainline Theatre (3997 St-Laurent Blvd.), until November 29. Tickets are \$15 for students, \$20 general admission. For a full schedule of plays, visit tableaudhotetheatre.ca/suburbanmotel.html.

Transcending trends

Glassjaw frontman Daryl Palumbo thinks big and gets in touch with his inner 13-year-old girl

• ADAM KOVAC

It's not often you get to speak to somebody whose work has left an indelible mark on you.

While I'm a big fan of Glassjaw's music, I wasn't the one experiencing the giddiness of a 13-year-old girl when I spoke to vocalist Daryl Palumbo last week.

Instead, it was the man at the other end of the phone, who was strolling through midtown Manhattan during our phone interview.

"Oh man...I'm sorry, I'm sorry, but have you ever seen the movie *Office Space*?" he cried. "I just bumped into Samir from *Office Space*! He asked for my e-mail address! Dude, as soon as I'm off the phone with you, I'm going to call everyone I know."

Besides bumping into the star of a comedic cult classic, Palumbo has a lot to be happy about these days. Glassjaw are on the verge of completing the long-awaited full length follow-up to 2002's *Worship and Tribute*. They're also going to be touring with close friends and fellow

Long Islanders Brand New.

Glassjaw's unique combination of hardcore, punk, atonal jazz, and world rhythms made them pioneers in aggressive music, with the band's name tossed about as an influence by many of those who are just breaking into the music scene.

Still, a lot has changed since 2002. At the time, the screamo sound was promising to be the next big thing, a theory that has since proven not to be the case. Hyped bands like The Used, Thursday, and My Chemical Romance aren't selling like they used to, and scene originators like At the Drive-In have long since broken up.

Despite having little to do with these bands, Glassjaw were nonetheless lumped in with them, mostly because of Palumbo's habit of screaming his head off during particularly intense musical moments.

This raises the question: does Glassjaw have a place in the current music market?

"In terms of what I do, I never thought of Glassjaw as a moment in time," he said. "The things we



Glassjaw, circa 2002: the band's approach to aggressive music inspired a generation of young musicians.

do are far removed from a scene. I feel I'm lucky because since we've played less [recently], we've increased in size."

He noted that it's been over a year since Glassjaw last did a proper tour, owing in part to guitarist Justin Beck recently having his first child. When I asked him about the direction we can expect on the new album, his excitement was palpable.

"It's very rhythm-driven," he explained. "There's an EP worth of more in-your-face type of things, and some material that's rhythm and drum-driven, rather than guitar-driven, but it's all still very huge-sounding. It touches a side [of Glassjaw] that's more open and spacey."

Palumbo's battle with Crohn's disease has caused tour cancellations in the past, but according to

him, he's in fighting shape for this tour.

"I feel pretty good. I live day to day—knock on wood," he said with a laugh. "Mentally, I'm chilling. Physically, it's just one day at a time."

Glassjaw and Brand New play Nov. 20 at 8 p.m. at the Olympia Theatre (1004 Ste-Catherine St. E.). Tickets are \$28 in advance, \$31 at the door.

Lions 'let loose onstage'

PEI natives Paper Lions back up bark with bite

• NATASHA YOUNG

A paper tiger, in ancient Chinese tradition, is anything that seems more threatening than it really is. Indie rockers Paper Lions may not seem dangerous on their records, but be assured: these cats have teeth, and they aren't afraid to bare them in their live shows.

Hailing from Prince Edward Island, the band has hundreds of gigs under their belts and a critically-acclaimed self-titled album, with a second on the way.

Bandmates Colin Buchanan, David Cyrus MacDonald and brothers John and Rob MacPhee have been playing together for a long time. Before adopting the name Paper Lions, the band went by the name Chucky Danger—but as the guys matured musically, explained Buchanan, they soon grew out of the sophomoric moniker.

"We ended up getting kind of tired of it," he said. "We started the band when we were about seventeen. It was a very juvenile name."

Part of that musical maturity



Island boys: Paper Lions bring their acclaimed live show to Montreal this week.

came out of the band's extensive touring.

"We've always been heralded for our live performance," admit-

ted Buchanan. "We're all sort of born performers. We want to make it an experience. We want to break down that barrier between the

audience and the band. We really get to let loose on stage."

That really is what Paper Lions is about: playing live. Notably, in

2007, the band was awarded the title of Touring Artist of the Year from the Canadian Arts Presenters Organization.

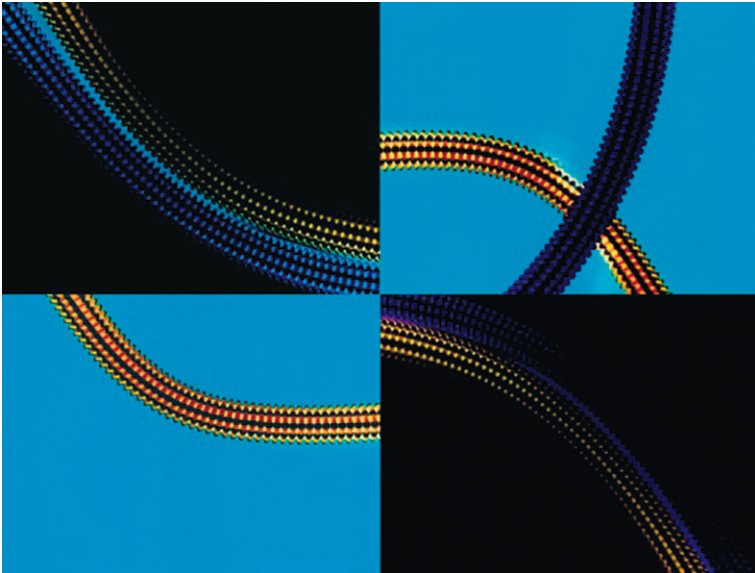
After a few years of seemingly non-stop touring, including a national tour alongside California band CAKE, the Lions parked their van in P.E.I. to begin work on a new album. Due to launch next year, the new EP, tentatively entitled *Trophies*, captures the band as they embark on new stylistic horizons. *Trophies* is all about giving the fans what they go to a Paper Lions show to see.

"We wrote innumerable different songs in a myriad of different styles," said Buchanan. "It's a six-song EP—narrowing it down to just six was pretty difficult. A lot of the stuff [we recorded] was just live off the floor, to get across what the band's really about."

Paper Lions play at Green Room (5386 St-Laurent Blvd.) alongside This Invention Matters and Our Book & The Authors on Nov. 18. Tickets are \$7 in advance or four for \$19 from indiemontreal.ca. \$10 at the door.

Abstracting the practical

Concordia fine arts alum subverts the everyday, from IKEA to Kleenex



A chromogenic colour print from Jacinthe Lessard's exhibition, *En fonction de la forme*.

• ELISABETH FAURE

If you're like most students, chances are there's more than one piece of IKEA furniture in your humble abode. Artist Jacinthe Lessard brings the fake birch out of the home, examining the connection between mundane items like the Swedish pre-fab furniture and postmodern art in a playful context.

"I am obsessed with a diversity of artistic movements that promote great ideals and the remnants of positivist positions in today's world, especially in mass-produced objects," explained Lessard, a multi-disciplinary artist whose exhibition *En fonction de la forme* is currently on display at the Optica Gallery.

Working in mediums including photography, sculpture, and video, Lessard said she wants her audience to be active participants when viewing her art.

"Sure, [product designers] make use of commercial tactics to sell products. The fabricants are well aware of the visual effects of contrasting colours and repeated motifs," said Lessard, explaining her fascination with mass-produced objects. Through her art, she explained, she seeks to expose the dreams of a better life that were once associated with these items.

Lessard obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts and master's degree at Concordia before continuing her studies in Europe.

"For me, studying at Concordia was a real springboard. You meet amazing people from diverse backgrounds, stellar artists who are still very active in their fields," said Lessard. "The photo facilities are exceptional and people who work in this area of the studio art department are truly dedicated to the success of the students."

Lessard recently became the only Canadian artist selected to participate in an international touring exhibition called *reGeneration2: tomorrow's photographers today*. The show is starts its tour next year at the Musée de L'Élysée in Lausanne, Switzerland. A book featuring Lessard's work will be released by British publishers Thames and Hudson in conjunction with the exhibition.

En fonction de la forme is intended to offer what Lessard called a "playful experience," even beyond its conceptual properties. Lessard's intention is for the exhibition to become "a game, where the viewer tries to recognize the original material." Everyday objects like packages of Kleenex, straws, pins, and nail files challenge the viewer's assumptions about form and function.

"It's taking everyday objects that everybody knows and focusing on their plastic qualities to the point where they become abstract," said Lessard.

En fonction de la forme shows at the Optica Gallery (372 Ste-Catherine St. W., room 508) until Dec. 12. The exhibition is free.



To veil or not to veil: the debate over hijabs gets personal in Je porte le voile.

The woman behind the veil

Filming documentary convinced one devout Muslim to abandon the hijab

• TANIA MOHSEN

Natasha Ivisic no longer stands out in the crowd as "the woman wearing a hijab." Today, Ivisic can be mistaken for any secular female Quebecer in her 30s. And that's no longer an issue for her.

Je porte le voile is a 52-minute documentary about identity, acceptance and belief which premiered Nov. 16 at the Cinémathèque Québécoise. Directed by Ivisic and Yanick Létourneau, the film follows Ivisic as she embarks on a spiritual journey to teach her 13-year-old daughter—and even herself—what it means to be a Muslim woman in a Western society.

Ivisic, a blue-eyed brunette of Bosnian-Croatian descent, converted to Islam when she married an Algerian Muslim man.

Ivisic says she started the project "after Sept. 11 and before the Bouchard-Taylor commission [on

reasonable accommodation]" because her daughter, Amina, kept asking questions about wearing the veil.

She says she seized the opportunity to "show the Quebec society who these veiled women are that we see on the street."

"[The film was an attempt to go against] those simplistic, racist, comments on the news and on general television about Islam, about the veil," added Létourneau.

At the beginning of the project, for Ivisic, being a Muslim woman also meant wearing the veil, which she had donned since daughter Amina's birth.

But as filming went on, says Létourneau, Ivisic "started seeing little cracks in her bubble," which led her to question certain things that she once accepted.

"The issue is much more complex; there are different interpretations of the Qur'an," he explains of Ivisic's choice to eventually stop

wearing her hijab.

Ivisic says that, for her, Islam is no longer about embracing the veil. It's rather about becoming a better person—and a better Muslim—one day at a time. She explains that she no longer feels the need to display her religious beliefs; she knows her faith is strong enough to transcend what she does or does not wear.

"[*Je porte le voile*] doesn't pacify, but it opens the minds and the hearts of the people who might have been against the Islamic because they thought that Islam was a radical, dictatorial type of religion," concludes Létourneau, "which it is not."

Je porte le voile will be screened in French and English, with French subtitles, at the Grande Bibliothèque (on the corner of Berri St. and de Maisonneuve Blvd. E.) on Nov. 20 at 8 p.m. The screening will be followed by a debate on the Islamic scarf.

Thinking inside the box

CKUT's Magic Sound Box hits listeners right between the ears

• MADELINE COLEMAN

They've been with you since birth, manipulating your perception of the world around you, guiding your hand during your every waking hour. You've often found yourself wondering whether to believe them. Yet here you are once again, letting them control you like a schmuck.

The overlords are no less than your very own eyes. And if the CKUT DJs have anything to do with it, you can tell them to take a hike—at least for an hour or two.

This week, the community radio station presents the second edition of the Magic Sound Box, a live radio encounter that lets ears run the show.

"We grow up to suppress sound everyday," said Nathaly Arraiz, a CKUT volunteer and graduate of Concordia's electroacoustics program. "When you go out and hear the traffic, you mute it in your subconscious. From my perspective, for people to appreciate what I'm trying to do [as a sound artist], it's important to make them really listen."

"That's the function of the Sound Box," chimed in station programmer and technician Neil Griffith, "cutting off the light, any visual stimuli, so that people can actually concentrate on hearing, which is something that we don't do enough."

The Magic Sound Box invites listeners into St. George's Anglican Church, where CKUT volunteers will usher guests into a smaller area cordoned off by high black curtains. Once inside, eyes closed, listeners will become subject to an immersive radio experience courtesy of the noisemakers positioned outside the enclosure. All notions of front and back are abandoned as listeners are bombarded with aural stimulation from all sides.

The event was inspired by a project first undertaken at Kingston, Ont. station CFRC. Griffith said the Sound Box is meant to tap into "the intimacy of radio and of sound and make a connection with [the] community."

"Normally we all listen to radio pretty privately [at home], so we're asking people to share a private moment together," he explained.

"It will be a very quiet environ-

ment—a very focused environment where you won't be doing dishes and listening to the radio," added Erin Weisgerber, CKUT's funding and outreach coordinator.

The words "magic" and "radio" have rarely been linked since televisions became a household staple. The advent of affordable records, then eventually music downloading and podcasts—which provide radio on demand—displaced radio as a be-all, end-all source for consumers' audio needs.

What more individualistic approaches lack, however, is the power to connect geographical communities in real time.

"The fact that everything is becoming digital, it kind of loses this whole local element," said Griffith. "When you're listening to a radio live, you know it's reasonably close by."

Weisgerber related how, after moving back to Edmonton for a short period, tuning in to CKUT's live stream made her feel right at home.

"In the winter, when it was kind of miserable, I would listen to CKUT and that would give me more of a sense of being there [in Montreal]," she said. "I could hear a real person's voice who was sitting in a real studio."

The noises coming out of the Sound Box will also be broadcast live, sharing sounds with those who can't make it to the performance. The advantage of attending, agreed the CKUT volunteers, will be the chance to be a part of the show.

"I like how it kind of teases," said Griffith of the flimsy fabric barrier between listeners and performers. "Everyone has this imagination when they're listening to

the radio about what that person looks like. Now we're bringing them that much closer. It's almost participatory, but not quite."

"You know when you're there that it's being broadcast live, and that, I think, adds a special element because it's like [gasps], 'Is everything going to work? Is everything going to flow together?'" said Weisgerber.

"I told my 11-year-old friend, who's going to be coming with her mother, to cough and then download the [broadcast from the] archive because then she'll be able to listen to herself on the radio," laughed Griffith.

That same friend, he added, still thinks of radio as a way to hear about traffic, sports and music. Arraiz, Griffith and Weisgerber agreed that the Sound Box is an attempt to transcend those narrow definitions and bring

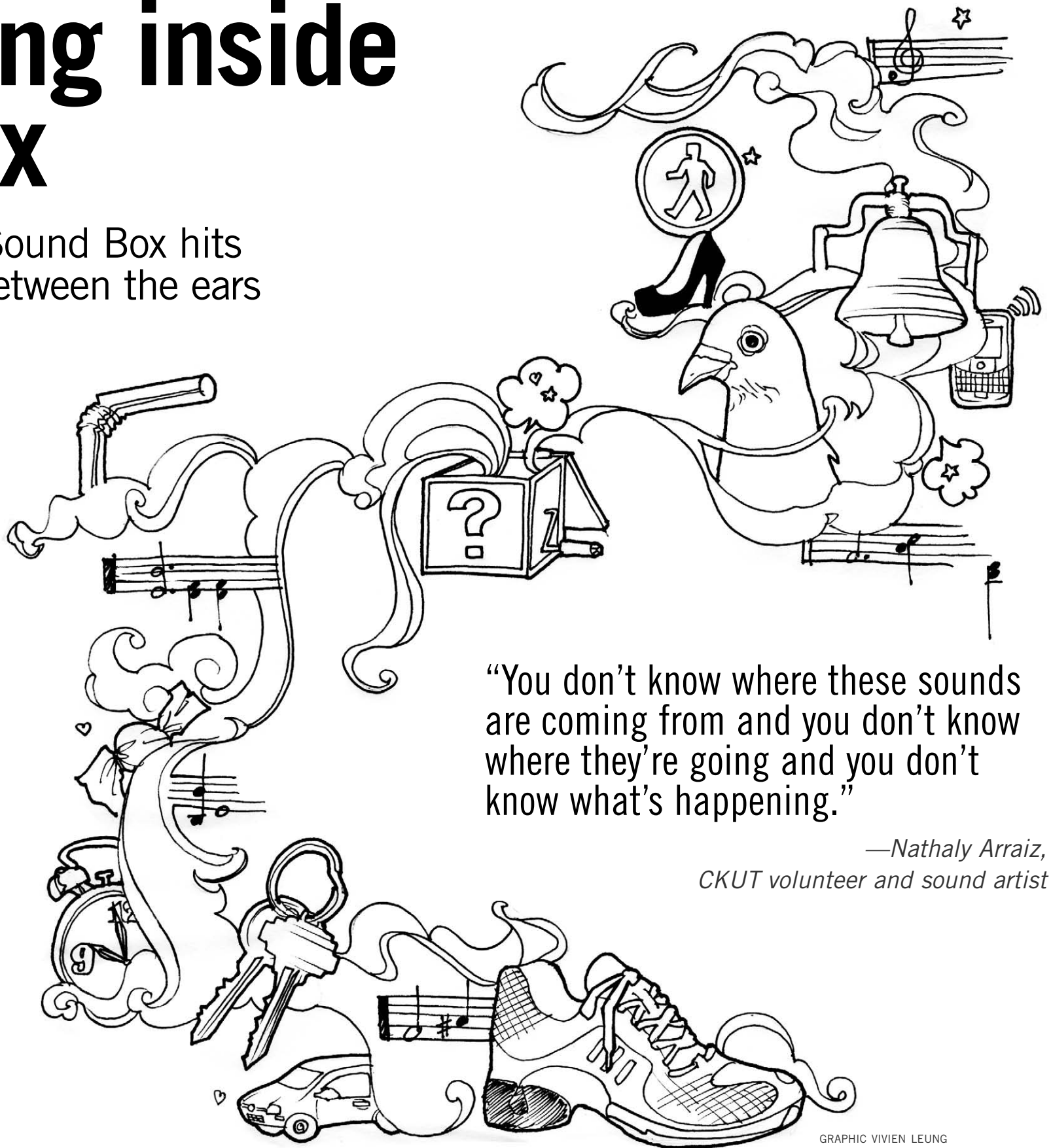
listeners closer to the process.

But no good sound magician reveals all their secrets.

"We are sort of deconstructing radio, but we're not showing you how radio works," concluded Arraiz. "I want it to be magic and I want you to be a child again and be awed. You don't know where these sounds are coming from and you don't know where they're going and you don't know what's happening."

"You just revel in this magic, being imaginative and being childish."

CKUT Radio's Magic Sound Box goes down Nov. 19 in two separate time slots—6:45 p.m. and 8:45 p.m.—at St. George's Anglican Church (1101 Stanley St.). Tickets go for a suggested donation of \$8 to \$12. The show will also be broadcast on CKUT, on your dials at 90.3 FM.



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

"You don't know where these sounds are coming from and you don't know where they're going and you don't know what's happening."

—Nathaly Arraiz,
CKUT volunteer and sound artist

The
DOWN-LOWEvent listings
Nov. 17-23

VISUAL ART

I haven't been a figment of my own imagination

Examining 1970s feminist art and the current practices of artists Aleesa Cohene, Luanna Martineau, Lili Reynaud-Dewar and Lucie Stahl. Vernissage Saturday, Nov. 21 at 3 p.m. Exhibition runs until Jan. 23 SBC Gallery of Contemporary Art 372 Ste-Catherine St. W., #507

MUSIC

Red Mass album launch with Dead Wife Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 8 p.m. La Sala Rossa 4848 St-Laurent Blvd. Tickets: \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door

FILM

Burma VJ at Cinema Politica Filmmaker Anders Østergaard documents the attempts of brave young Burmese journalists to capture a police state on tape. Friday, Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m. Room H-110 in the Hall Building 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Free See cinemapolitica.org/concordia for complete listings.

The One Take Super 8 Event The Double Negative Collective presents the work of 34 Montreal filmmakers, each made with no cuts, no splices—just unmolested reels of Super 8 film. Saturday, Nov. 21 at 8 p.m. La Brique 6546 Durocher St., #402 Tickets: suggested donation of \$5

THEATRE

Death and the Maiden Award-winning play about the conflict between personal fidelity and political alliances, set during an unnamed country's transition from dictatorship to democracy. Until Dec. 6 Centaur Theatre 453 St-François-Xavier St. See centaurtheatre.com for more information.

MISCELLANEOUS

Slowdance Night and *WORN Fashion Journal* launch Dress up, dance slow and pick up the latest copy of Toronto-based indie fashion mag *WORN*. Saturday, Nov. 21 at 8 p.m. Eastern Bloc 7240 Clark St. Tickets: \$10 for entry, magazine and dance card.

— compiled by
Madeline Coleman

Resurrecting the radio star

Nostalgic musical *Till We Meet Again* returns to Montreal for a second go 'round

• BARBARA PAVONE

Canadian wartime musical *Till We Meet Again* bridges the gap between audiences who remember the Golden Age of Radio and younger generations.

Written by David Langlois on the basis of extensive research of the period, *Till We Meet Again* started its 2009 tour in Montreal back in October and has returned for a second go at Concordia's Oscar Peterson Concert Hall. The play transforms theatres into the Mount Royal Hotel and viewers into radio audiences circa World War II.

The hotel is home to a fictional CBC radio show entitled "Music of the Stars," a mishmash of shows typically broadcast at the time. The show's goal is a simple one: to keep the nation informed of breaking news of the war, whilst simultaneously distracting listeners from their grief and sorrow with music and entertainment.

The audience is treated as a real studio audience, complete with "Applause" and "Silence" prompt cards. Speaking directly to the crowd, the cast rallies the crowd to participate by answering questions and singing along.

Divided into three acts, the play follows "Music of the Stars" and the nation itself during the years 1940, 1942 and 1944. Beginning with the first ever recording in 1940, it leads the



The cast members of *Till We Meet Again* engage with audiences, rallying them to sing along.

audience to the show's landmark 500th episode in 1944.

Langlois' goal was to deliver an accurate representation of the period. The realism is enhanced by songs and news clips from the period, using excerpts from a speech by Winston Churchill, actual letters to and from soldiers and real military advertisements.

At the October round of per-

formances, soldier Ron Houseman, played by Michael Daniel Murphy, gave a stellar performance that stole the show. The pain in his eyes was visible as he recounted the atrocities Canada's young soldiers faced abroad. Murphy excelled at putting a human face to war.

Till We Meet Again deftly intertwines light-hearted comedy

and musical numbers with thought-provoking subject matter.

Till We Meet Again runs Nov. 21 and 22 at the Oscar Peterson Concert Hall (7141 Sherbrooke St. W.) Tickets are \$31.50 to \$58.50 for students and \$35 to \$55 general admission. See tillwemeetagain.ca for complete showtimes.

spins

Grand Archives
*Keep in Mind
Frankenstein*

Sub Pop



Grand Archives' second full-length, *Keep in Mind Frankenstein*, brings the ZZs. Why isn't 2009 about originality? I feel like I've heard this record twenty times. And is it just me or can you not understand a word they are singing? When I can make out what they're singing about, they're just repeating things, like "why, oh, why," over and over and over again. The lack of poetic integrity, along with droney, predictable layers of musical accompaniment, lead to a dud of a record. This is the kind of music 18 year-olds cram into a venue for, only to make out with their significant other all night because it's their two-week anniversary. Sigh.

Disappointing for label Sub Pop, which has recently released albums by talents like

Chad VanGaal and Fleet Foxes. If anything, *Keep in Mind Frankenstein's* song titles could make good poem or story titles for creative writing assignments: "Witchy Park," "Lazy Bones," "Siren Echo Valley." Just don't turn to this album for inspiration.

2/5

—Ashley Opheim

Red Mass
self-titled

Semprini Records



Either you love these songs or you hate guitar music. Really really.

Red Mass is a "garage band," which means that no matter what they do, most of these Montreal locals' songs sound like MC5, or is it The Sonics? Sorry, I misplaced my press-release. (jaykay!)

While 10 artists are credited on the record, their live shows are a whole different animal than their studio recordings; the band's Myspace page lists over 30 collabo-

rators. If the massive hype surrounding Red Mass is at all correct, you really don't know what to expect if you go see them live. The creator/man behind the whole thing is former CPC Gangbangs frontman Choyce, backed up by artists from Montreal groups Demon's Claws and Black Feelings among many, many others.

This debut record is a raucous blend of everything rock n' roll, one that doesn't let its genre mixing get in the way of being loud as fuck. The songs are tight and rock hard, avoiding the monotonous cacophony that so often is the end result with boundless musical collectives.

4.5/5

—Tristan LaPointe

Girl + the Machine
Hello Earth

Aporia Records



Some music just works better on headphones, and Girl + the Machine's new

album is, for me, an experience better shared with no one. Don't get me wrong: I'm a sucker for pop music, and *Hello Earth* drowns out the mindless blather of the fools around me in a way I find pleasing. It's just that, until I make friends with more 10-year-old girls, I'm not sure I want to subject others to this album. To be honest, I'm kind of embarrassed to like it. Singer Jackie Liew, the "Girl" in the equation, has a popstastic soprano that shines on "Eyes On U (electro)," a track so sweet it practically gave me a cavity after repeated listens. Liew's voice wouldn't be out of place in a Japanese pop band, and I'm not just saying that because she's Asian. GTM even rock out the same way J-pop bands do: with great enthusiasm and little success.

Save *Hello Earth* for your next babysitting gig and prepare to deal with a music-induced sugar high.

3/5

—Madeline Coleman



Cheers Queers!

Welcome to *The Link's* Queer Special Issue

As old as the very tradition of putting together an annual queer issue at *The Link* are the questions co-ordinators and contributors ask ourselves while working on it: what are “queer issues?” What types of things should we be covering? Who should we talk to? Why is it still important?

Thankfully, we’ve moved beyond the overt homophobia that arose when the queer issue first hit the stands in 1982, when hate mail, threats to editors and mass-destruction of the issue occurred on campus. But the bigotry is not forgotten, and is still a reality for queers on campus and in the larger Montreal area who continue to face an

unacceptable amount of antagonism based on personal and sexual identity politics.

Acknowledging the contentious history of this issue’s past with an attempt to keep it contemporary, what you are reading now is an effort to create a safe queer space in our pages, expand public consciousness and orchestrate an ongoing, evolving dialogue in our community.

There are many “queer issues” out there that deserve investigation and coverage in our paper. Admittedly, we at *The Link* have only scratched the surface of these issues and believe that the important topics not seen here—

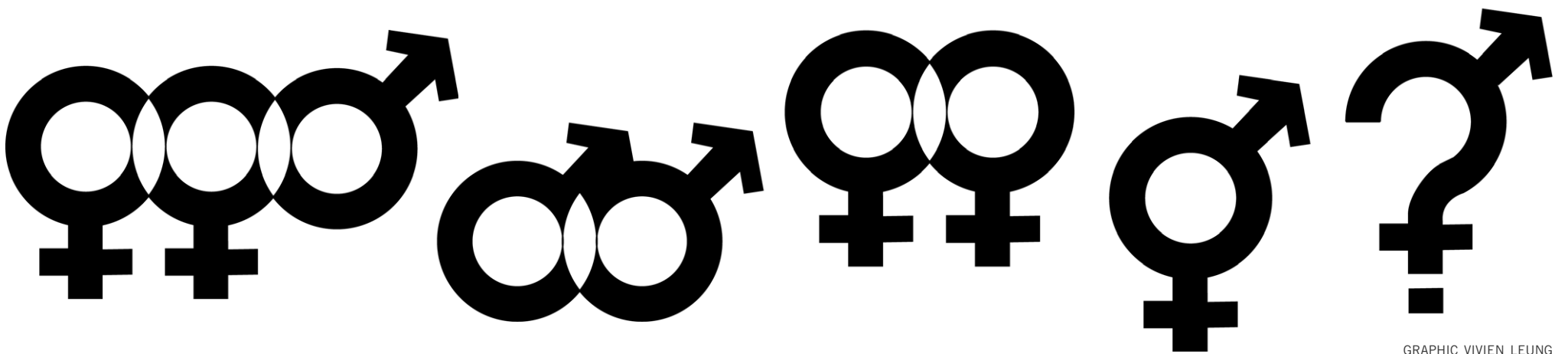
like queer noisemakers, campus-specific initiatives and the ongoing struggles of Trans folk—are things we would like to write about in the future.

This is why we would like to extend an invitation to you, our allies on campus and in the community, to help us queer up this paper on a weekly basis.

Let us know about events going down, activism rising up and about the things that are worth talking and writing about.

A truly queer-friendly Concordia is possible.

—Laura Beeston and Christopher Olson
Queer Issue co-ordinators



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

Return to Queer

Political correctness confuses community



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

• DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

For those of you who are behind in these politically correct times, LGBT is no longer a suitable acronym to describe the queer (or gay, questioning, or pansexual) community.

Apparently, the term doesn’t provide specific enough identification of the people who consider themselves a part of this community, so LGBT continues to evolve into a preferred nomenclature, which currently reads LGBTTTQQIAAPP. The term isn’t easy to use or Googleable, but it’s an amalgamation of the infinite categories that have been posited by those politically correct fac-

tions of the queer community.

In case you were wondering—and I’m sure you were—this unwieldy updated acronym stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Transgendered, Two-Spirited, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Allied (empathetic straight people), Pansexual and Polyamorous.

Now, outside of the question of whether categorizing people’s individual sexual preferences so precisely is useful or necessary, how exactly can we be expected to remember all these terms? I mean, I had to check twice while writing this, and if the LGBT(TTQQIAAPP) movement wants to

stick with such an onerous jumble of terms, they should at least devise some sort of rudimentary children’s song—preferably one that rhymes—so people will actually retain the meaning of it.

More than anything else, this extended acronym seems to go against the spirit of the LGBT(TTQQIAAPP) movement. The queer rights movement is ostensibly about eliminating stigma attached to identifying as a member of the queer community, so is attempting to categorize and box in every possible sexual orientation a positive thing for individual expression? Why is a blanket term like “queer” worse than having to pick

and choose one or more letters to identify yourself with? Why can’t we just return to “queer?”

Ultimately, this label is unlikely to stick, as I imagine most politically correct young minds will prefer the easier-to-remember shorthand of LGBT. The action to extend the acronym is indicative of misplaced priorities, and gives outsiders the impression of a movement mired in existential infighting, unsure of what sort of cohesive identity (if any) it wants to put forward. Fighting for queer rights should not include artificially categorizing the labels of a community worth fighting for.

Queer Concordia back in action

Events start next week with queer picnic in the Hall building

• JESSE SAMUELS

Through focusing on peer education, throwing social events and political activism, campus club Queer Concordia is working towards creating a sense of community for queer students.

"I was in the closet at 25 in Saskatchewan, so I know what it's like to feel alone. I think it is important [Queer Concordia] has a presence," said Joey Donnelly, a Queer Concordia board member.

Though the club has spent the majority of the first semester in a dormant state waiting for its budget to be approved, the seven-member collective has a plethora of plans for the year that will jumpstart their social calendar over the next couple of weeks.

On Nov. 11, Queer Concordia received a \$4,000 budget from the Concordia Students Union, which is \$500 more than

"I was in the closet at 25 in Saskatchewan, so I know what it's like to feel alone."

—Joe Donnelly,
Queer Concordia board member

they had to spend last year.

With money in hand and 288 Facebook friends trickling emails into Donnelly's inbox every day, the club would like to gain a bigger profile on campus.

Their pursuit to "queer up Concordia" will start on Nov. 19 at 4 p.m. with a picnic on the 7th floor of the Hall building. On Nov. 23, the guerilla gays are at it again, taking over in a similar style as last year's "Archie Does Reggie's," but this time in the name of Betty and Veronica.

Holding their annual general assembly is also a top priority for Queer Concordia to get back to the action.

"We need new blood, new members, and



Queer Concordia, located at 2020 Mackay, just got the cash to queer-up campus. PHOTO ELSA JABRE

we need to touch base with existing members. We need to make decisions," said Jacob Robitaille, a member of the Queer collective.

After having spent \$3,000 on sprucing up their library and creating a comfy atmosphere at their office at 2020 Mackay Street last year, Donnelly expressed an interest in aiding the academic pursuits of students on campus.

"We have really great queer and sexualities courses at Concordia and we want to support it and our students' education. It

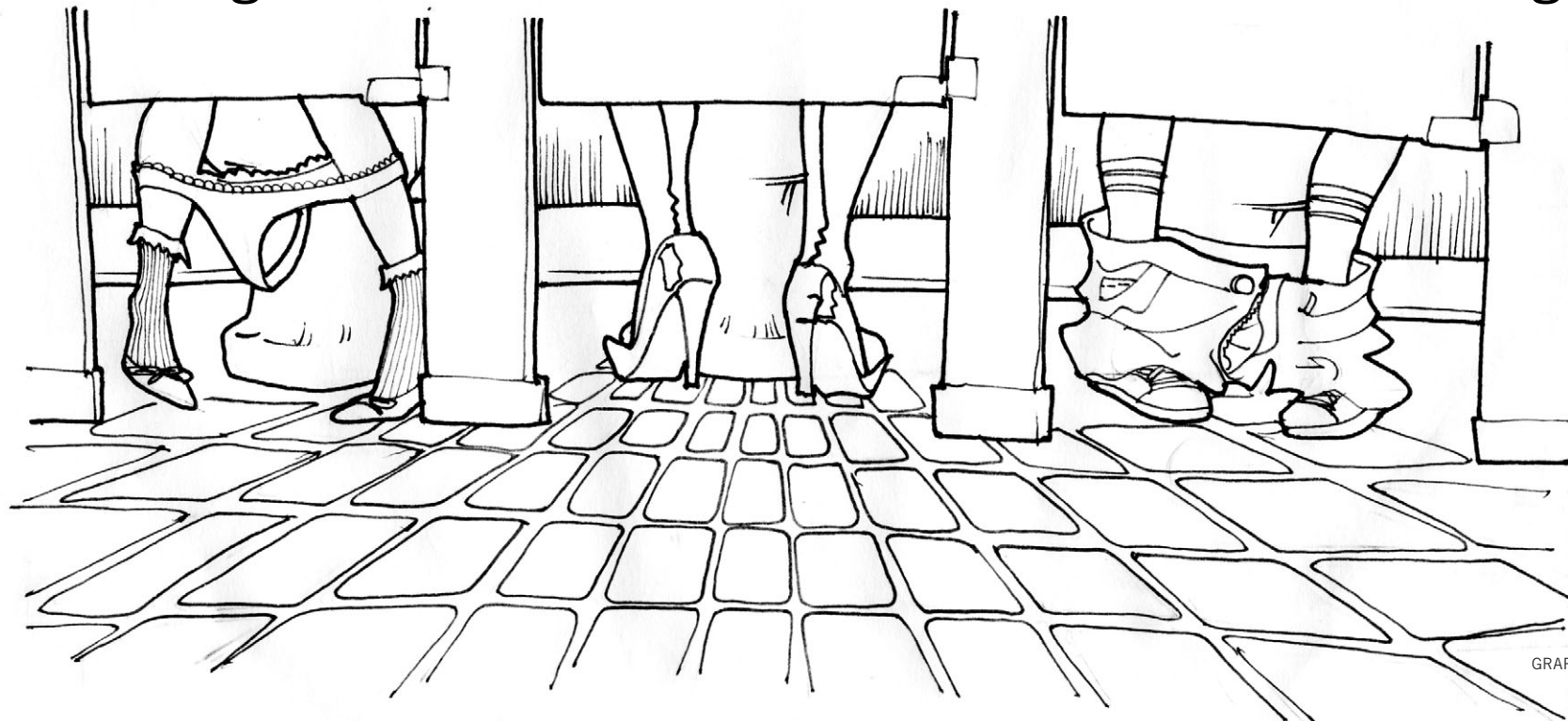
doesn't have to be all about dressing up, looking fabulous and partying," said Donnelly.

Queer Concordia is also looking to work with the 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy and QPRIG.

According to Sohrab Mossaded, the CSU's Clubs Director, the budgets for Concordia's clubs were handed out on Oct. 16 at clubs training day, but because representatives from Queer Concordia were not present at the meeting, they waited longer to receive their budget.

Neutral territory

Asbestos stalls gender-neutral bathrooms in Concordia's Hall building



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

The saga of Concordia's gender-neutral bathrooms continues.

After rumblings from the Concordia Student Union in 2005 about implementing gender-neutral washrooms across both Concordia campuses, much work remains to be done to provide a safe space for queer and transgendered students.

The plans for a gender-neutral washroom in H-692 were recently sidetracked after asbestos deposits were uncovered in the room.

"It's a little bit unfortunate," said Prince Ralph Osei, VP Services and Loyola about the resulting delay and the complications it will cause for future construction. The original cost of the retrofit was estimated to be \$25,000.

"It is going to cost \$27,000 [just] to get rid of the asbestos," he said.

Osei thinks that Concordia should pay for the growing costs of the bathroom, since "they were the ones that did the initial cost assessment."

This is just one in a long series of delays in acquiring new washrooms. In January of

this year, former Concordia Student Union President Keyana Kashfi told *The Link* that gender-neutral washrooms were underway, but that the CSU was waiting for the university to put it in their construction plan.

In April 2008, VP University Affairs Shandell Jack announced plans to implement one-person, gender-neutral washrooms across Concordia's two campuses, with the expectation that they would finally be implemented by the fall.

"Now that we've come across this delay in the Hall building, we want to get the approval from the bodies that gave us

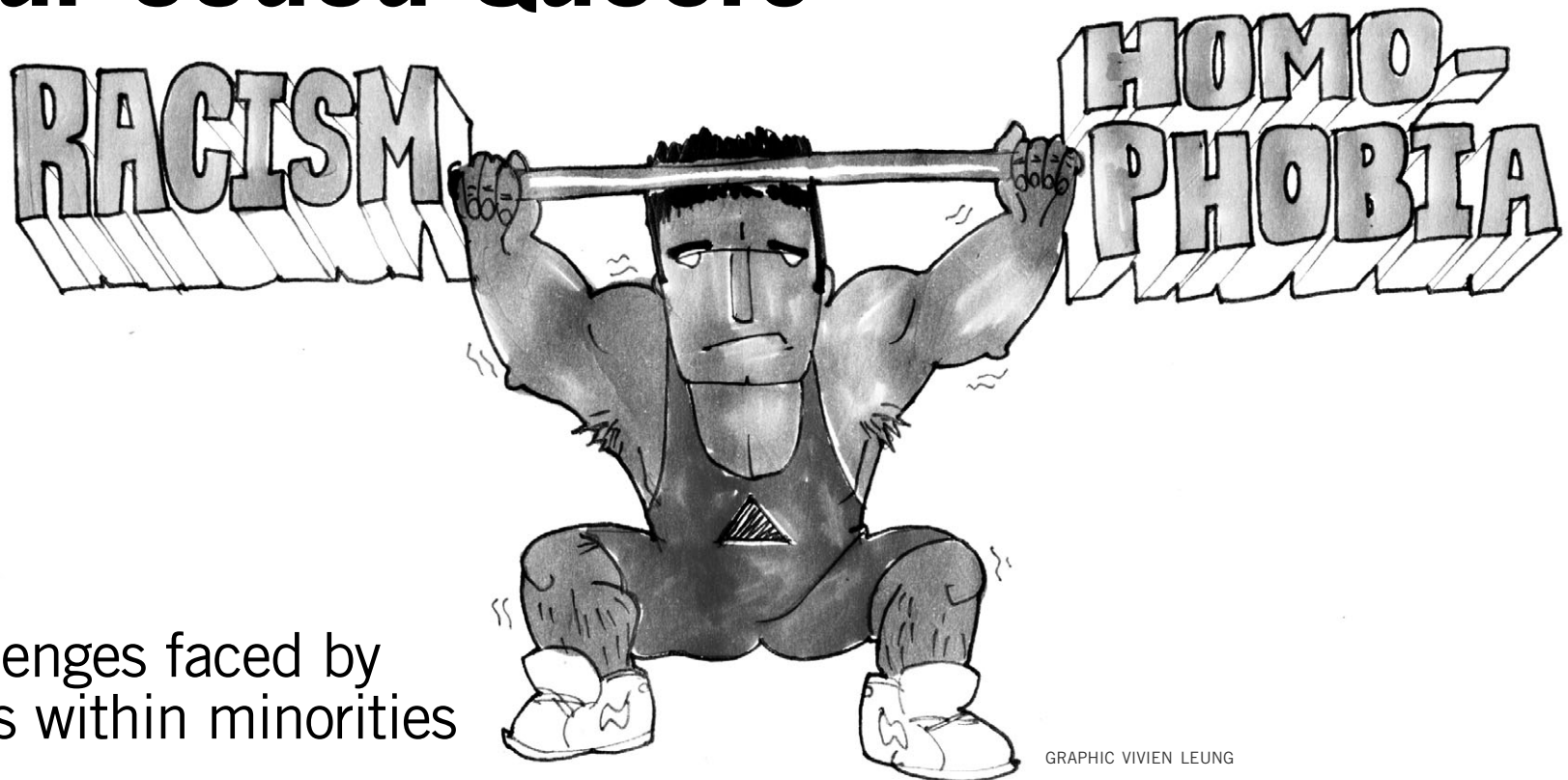
money—the CCSL and CSU—before we go forward," said Osei.

But for some, like Queer Concordia collective member Sam Unger, the process has already taken far too long.

"Why is it a big deal to change the sign on the door?" Unger quipped. "We've been fighting towards getting gender-neutral bathrooms for years and it hasn't happened at all. People need to know that it's actually quite traumatic to use certain [gendered] bathrooms—we're traumatized to take a piss!"

—with files from Clare Raspopow and Laura Beeston

Colour-coded Queers



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

The challenges faced by minorities within minorities

• ARSHAD KHAN

Last week, as I was going around stores in Parc Extension poster for *Taqwacore*—a Montreal documentary about Muslim punk rockers—I entered a dollar store where a young Bangladeshi man was chatting with two middle-aged men.

Falling silent as I entered the store, I went up to inquire about the possibility of leaving a poster in the window. Just to be nice, I even asked if I could purchase some tape.

The young man pointed me to the appropriate section. Upon my return I caught him staring and remarking to the other two about me, assuming that I did not understand Bengali.

“This one, he is not crooked,” he told them.

It’s true that perhaps the

young Bangladeshi was trying to tell his friends not to be suspicious of me, and that I am a native Urdu and Hindi speaker, but I have over 30 years of experience in the language of homophobia and it took only an instant to realize these three men were standing in judgement of my sexuality.

Homophobia sucks in any language.

This incident reiterates my struggle with friends, family and community members who—as soon as they caught wind of someone sexually emancipated—ran for the proverbial hills of homophobic homeland habits.

For an immigrant of colour, it is one thing to struggle with homophobia within my culture, community and family and another to deal with the predominantly white-centric world of gay men

outside of these relationships.

I remember feeling confusion—not knowing how to fit in—and it was only when I came across South Asian and Muslim gay support groups that I found answers and consolation for the in-between world of a minority within a minority: South Asian, Muslim and gay.

The LGBTQ groups in the universities I have attended have been predominantly white, with a cultural identity that’s difficult to negotiate. I was forced to draw a clear line between the tight, colourful shirt-wearing gays and the “normal” dude of colour that no one suspects would ever have gay desire. For all their talk of support, they seemed to be a meat market and a microcosm of all the stereotypes and prejudices against gays, squeezed into one meeting room. Bi? Ba-bye.

There seems to be little activism or queer outreach to South Asian, Muslim or Arab groups on campus, even while everywhere you look is chock full of Arabs and queers. Their worlds intersect here, yet acknowledgment of this fact seems noticeably absent.

In Park Extension, I soon realized that someone was ripping down the posters for *Taqwacore*.

Despite the fact that the film positively depicts Muslims in a world full of prejudice against Islam, somebody was attempting to silence positive independent media influence in the neighbourhood.

There are no clear answers to the diverse problems facing immigrants and queers, but there are also many paths towards self-actualization and emancipation.

I do my part, re-applying posters amongst the crowds of ignorant and hoping that at least one soul will see the poster and be moved to expand their circle of knowledge. I also hope the “average” student will realize that there are others like them who will embrace them for who they are and not judge them for how they look or behave.

If you fear losing your friends, make new friends—homophobes aren’t worth a dime anyway. If you fear losing your family, know that you will find a new one and eventually your own family might come around. The embrace of enlightened communities and allies awaits you. It’s just a matter of when it’s time for your calling to be pulled out of the darkness of intellectual and emotional poverty and into the sunshine of love and liberty.

Family matters

Coming out queer to conservative kin

• RACHEL LAU

Talking openly about sexuality with friends is one thing, but explaining it to your very conservative parents is a whole other story.

For Dawson student Andres Chavez, who has known he was gay since he was 11, revealing his sexual orientation to his mother two years ago was one of the hardest experiences of his life.

“She started crying, telling me ‘It’s just a phase!’” he said.

Chavez believes his Catholic background played a role in his mother’s conservative reaction. When he finally sat her down and came out of the closet, it was because he was

in love and tried to explain himself. Even still, she didn’t warm to the idea that her son was gay and proud of it.

“She accepts it, but [would prefer] if I wasn’t,” he said.

His siblings also have mixed reactions, Chavez said, explaining that his 16-year-old brother doesn’t care, while his 23-year-old sister felt tainted by association and told him she doesn’t want to be humiliated by his ‘gayness.’

To date, Chavez has refused to tell his father about being queer out of fear that he might be disowned. Despite being the only person in the family who doesn’t know the truth, Chavez does not believe he will ever tell him.

“Well, [I’ll tell him] on his deathbed,” he said. “But I don’t believe that [my family] should be embarrassed of me. Your family is the only group of people who are supposed to love you unconditionally, right?”

Another young Montrealer—who preferred using the pseudonym John Smith—is of Lebanese descent and has not told his parents that he is bisexual.

Recalling a time when his mother’s suspicions arose, Smith explained that, “she asked me, ‘do you have something to tell me?’ [but] before I even answered she sat on the floor in front of my bedroom and started crying.

“Deep down I know she knows,” said Smith, who came out of the closet to his friends less than a year ago. His only open-minded family members—a cousin and an aunt—are the only ones in his family who know the truth. Smith said he will never come out to his parents for fear that his mother would go so far as to kill herself.

As time went on, Smith said that his life at home had become increasingly difficult and recounted numerous times when he wanted to run away.

“It’s so hard to be Lebanese and live in secret,” he sighed. “But I don’t want them to think I’m straight. It’s not who I am.”

Now that he’s moved out, Smith surrounds himself with people who accept his lifestyle. He still visits his parents on a weekly basis but admits to dressing ‘more masculine’ in order to make them happy.

For many queer youth, it is extremely difficult when the people in your closest ranks don’t accept who you are or who you love. Finding peace with yourself, your partner or your lifestyle requires honesty. Families don’t necessarily have to take on traditional conservative structures. But ultimately, families come in all varieties, and can be related through blood, friendship, or community.

Feeling alone? Misunderstood? Need to reach out? Check out the queer community resources at the end of this special issue.

When 'The One' is one of many

Gay men redefine monogamy, one fuck at a time



Who says gay men can't be monogamous? GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

• MADELINE COLEMAN

When Kyle first moved to Vancouver from Alberta, he wasn't just moving further away from his parents—he was also entering what he now calls “his slutty phase.”

Kyle is a gay man, one who kept his relationship with his high school boyfriend under wraps. His move to the west coast, where he planned to attend film school, gave him the chance to shed the secrets and lies like an old skin.

“After I moved to Vancouver, I was totally free, out and able to do what I wanted to,” says the 21-year-old, now studying at Concordia. “I definitely wasn't shy about having one-night stands.”

But then he met his boyfriend. More than a year and a half later, they are still together, the union even surviving a long-distance stint when the two lived in cities on opposite sides of the country.

Kyle knows their relationship is unusual. Monogamy may define the norm for heterosexual couples, but gay men are a whole other story.

“There's a stereotype that men, regardless of their sexual orientation, are promiscuous and that they're socialized to be sexual beings,” says Doug McColeman, a gay men's community outreach worker. “The fact that you end up having a community of people that are socialized exactly the same

way—what do you think is going to happen?”

McColeman runs a series of workshops called Phénix which focus on eroticism and risk reduction. He aims to teach gay men the difference between “treating sex as fast food” and real eroticism. or, as he puts it, the “difference between orgasm and ejaculation.”

“I honestly believe that men and women both have the exact same capacity to be dirty and do whatever they want.”

—Doug McColeman
gay men's community outreach worker

He says he sees two definitions of monogamy: sexual and emotional. According to him, young men are the most likely to mix them up.

“I'm probably just speaking for myself, but I don't know if any person—whatever age—finds it easy to make this difference between the two types of monogamy,” he explained. “Over time you begin to understand that there is room for negotiation.”

A survey conducted by San Francisco's Alliant International University found 59 per cent of gay men in committed relationships reported extra-partnership sex. Only 14 per cent of straight guys and 13 per cent

of straight women reported the same thing.

A lot of gay men may be cool with good times on the side, but that doesn't mean the ladies are on board. A mere eight per cent of lesbian respondents said they had done the same deed.

“I honestly believe that men and women both have the exact same capacity to be dirty and do whatever they want,” says McColeman, “but my experience has been that it's more difficult for women to separate the emotional part of sex from the physical part of sex.”

Nikki MacMillan, fundraising and events coordinator for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce non-profit Head & Hands, says women are neither pressured nor encouraged to play the field. She added that lesbian relationships, and their associated stereotypes of “butch” or “femme,” are expected to mimic a heteronormative vision of romance.

“For queer women there's more pressure to conform to a gender role within the relationship and play that out,” admits MacMillan, who also coordinates sex education through Head & Hands' Sense Project. She adds that young men are also subject to pressure, in the form of conflicting messages to both play the field and settle down.

“Even if you don't fit into a masculine gender role [in society], that can come with a lot of pressure and a lot of anxiety,” she said.

Operating outside the bounds of traditional social convention, queer male relationships are pegged as “deviant” whether they're monogamous or not. A scant five years after gay marriage was legalized in Quebec, gay male couples have not yet been forced into the same narrow definitions as heterosexual love.

“I think there's no standard, nothing to live up to,” says Kyle. “I feel like those things aren't defined for gay men, because it's not like there are ‘normal’ or ‘generic’ [gay] relationships.”

It's also hard to be comfortable with a relationship before you're comfortable with yourself, something Kyle says “comes from making mistakes, going outside your comfort zone and defining your own parameters.”

“I think I'm in a generation that's still defining things and coming to some sort of unifying conclusion,” he said. “The idea of wanting equality is about being able to have independence and not having to conform to any specific group norms. It's all about new definitions for everyone.”

The Phénix workshops are coordinated by Directions Montreal, a project addressing the needs of the queer Anglophone community. The workshops each happen in two sessions: one for seropositive gay men, and one for those who are seronegative. For more information see accommontreal.org/gaymen.



Mackenzie Ogilvie and Marissa Plamondon-Lu chill with Store Cat at Bikurious. PHOTO AMELIA SHAW

Feeling Bikurious

Community-based bike shop on the evolution of Révolution and why lube is good for more than just sex

• LAURA BEESTON

Bikurious Montreal, a community-based bicycle shop, is a pleasant place to roll in your wheels, shave your head or make fast friends with the aptly-named “Store Cat.”

Owned and operated by Marissa Plamondon-Lu and Mackenzie Ogilvie since the spring of 2008, Bikurious has grown from what was formerly Révolution Montréal—known colloquially as “the lesbian bike shop” for being one of the few alternative spaces in the heart of an increasingly gay-centric Village—and is now riding into the winter months excited to keep exploring its bikesexuality.

“It was spontaneous,” said Plamondon-Lu, of the duo’s one-week decision to buy out the bicycle business. “But we wanted to keep it going, make it grow, and make it our own [while] still harnessing what Révolution had started.”

With no previous business experience, the two bike-savvy partners discovered a great deal about the transition from paid worker to proprietor.

“Learning the ropes of running an efficient business is something we’re still struggling with,” said Ogilvie. “We’re not ‘business’ people, we’re just people who like doing what we do and are fortunate to do it for a living.”

“When it comes down to the nuts and bolts of how to run a business without losing money—while providing good services and making the space open to people who aren’t necessarily just in here to buy things—it was a challenge [and] there were a lot of bugs to work out in the last year.”

Changing more than simply the semantics on their sign, Ogilvie and Plamondon-Lu said that keeping the shop queer-friendly in the Gay Village has always been a basic part of the gig.

“Bike culture and bike shops in general can be quite intimidating spaces,” said Plamondon-Lu. “People know that it’s a queer-owned space and hopefully they feel safe here. We’re a bike shop with heart—we know [our clients’] names, we remember their bikes and we’re not disconnected from what is going on in the store or the community.”

In peak cycle season, Bikurious will roll out an

average of 10 bikes a day. In the downtime of winter months—with a clientele of mainly couriers and hardcore cyclists—the pair like to focus on using the space for other activities, like sharing their ‘zine library, or hosting art shows, film nights and bike-building workshops.

“We’re always open if someone wants to pitch an event,” said Ogilvie. “If the space isn’t stacked to capacity with bikes and if we’re not up to our necks in work, we’ll do it. We have this place and there are so many things we can do with it that isn’t about fixing bikes.”

Sharing space is part of Bikurious’ mandate. The shop keeps a barber’s chair for JJ Levine—the infamous resident “lesbian haircuts (for anyone!)” stylist—to book appointments.

Heading into winter with the first cycle season behind them, Ogilvie and Plamondon-Lu are excited for the future. When asked about their plans moving forward, they both agreed that, besides a desperately needed espresso machine, they would like to sponsor a cycling team, organize alley-cat bike races and have more of a presence in the community at large.

“I think we’ve been so focused on getting [Bikurious] to a point where it’s sustainable that we haven’t had the time to put energy into other things peripheral to the shop,” said Ogilvie. “But now that business has grown and evolved—and we’re going into this winter with a lot more experience—it doesn’t feel so daunting. I feel like we’re going to have some time to plan some cool things for next year.”

If the pair could give cyclists some final advice about keeping their two-wheeled ride in fit repair going into winter, it would be to “LUBE YOUR CHAIN!”

“Lublify. Just lube. It’s not just for sex,” laughed Plamondon-Lu. “The amount of bike-saving that could happen from just playing it safe and lubing your chain—it’s crazy!”

To check out Bikurious Montreal, head to 1757 Amherst Street or visit revolutionmontreal.com The store charges \$35 for a tune-up, \$55 to \$175 for “winterizing” your ride and \$550 and up for custom-built bikes.

Hairs and Queers

A lesbian haircut is anything you want it to be

• LAURA BEESTON

Though the sign in the window may suggest otherwise, there is really no such thing as a definitive “lesbian” haircut.

“Obviously there isn’t just one [style]—there are a lot of ways to be coded as ‘queer’ without having to have a brush cut,” said stylist JJ Levine, answering the question—that constantly comes up about her business: what is a lesbian haircut?

“People automatically associate [styles] that are not representative of the reality,” Levine said, adding that the *coupe Longueuil* is not a cut in high demand, despite being a stereotypical lesbian qualifier.

“Lesbians can have long hair, or present as femme, which is a big issue when talking about visibility, lesbian identity, hair and the ways they intersect,” Levine explained.

Spending the last three years professionally chopping locks and shaving heads for anyone—about half of her clientele are men—Levine’s popularity has more to do with talent and really listening to the needs of her customers than the lesbian mystique.

“Telling [your stylist] what you want, having them check in and communicate to make sure you’re on the same page about your hair has nothing to do with gender,” Levine said. “But I think people feel like they can get a haircut [from me] that might be connected

with their gender identity without having to fully explain themselves—I get it, you know? Maybe more so than a hairdresser in the mall who is normatively gendered or doesn’t exist in a community of people whose identities are variant.”

According to Levine, who has been cutting hair for the last six and a half years, how you choose to do your ‘do isn’t necessarily political.

“Maybe originally there was this second-wave feminist thing where cutting off your hair was rejecting beauty standards, but that is so far removed from what I’m doing here—it doesn’t hold true anymore,” Levine said. “A lot of my customers don’t think about their hair in this way at all, so if it’s not political for them, then it’s not for me either.”

For Levine, who has a BFA from Concordia, cutting hair may be a dream job and a consistent trade, but art is her real passion.

“[Cutting hair and making art] are totally connected,” she said. “I think about identity and aesthetics constantly and they totally overlap. My artwork is really about community and in a lot of ways certain aspects of this job intersect with that.”

To make an appointment with JJ Levine, call 514-625-HAIR. She can also be found at Bikurious (1757 Amherst St.). Cuts are pay what you can, starting at \$15.



JJ Levine: taking names and chopping locks. PHOTO ZOE CASINO

Switch it up

Concordia grad JJ Levine uses photography to blur gender lines

• S. LEIGNITZER

The work of JJ Levine, a Montreal-based photographer and recent Concordia photography graduate, explores issues surrounding gender, sexuality, self-identity and queer space.

Currently working on a series of photographs entitled *Switch*, what at first appears to be typical studio portraits of heterosexual couples turns into a set of queer photographs that question gender, identity and aesthetic beauty through masquerade and drag. Each pair of couples in Levine's photographs is comprised not of four models, but two. This parody of familiar prom-style portraits is a challenge to the gender roles espoused by such photographs.

The models, often Levine's close friends and lovers, allow for the creation of uniquely intimate documents of a queer community—reminiscent of Nan Goldin's New York photographs. Levine's work also draws strongly from the tradition of portraiture, playing around with its established conventions.

The project's title plays with the multiple meanings of the word "switch," a term often used within homosexual relationships to signify a fluidity of gender roles and power positions, from butch to femme, top to bottom.

Unlike normative prescriptions that see gender roles as biologically determined, *Switch* portrays these dynamics as malleable and subject to change according to dress and subtle mannerisms.

"My aim is to problematize pre-conceived notions regarding sex, gender, and the body in addition to complicating the identities of the subjects whose 'true' genders are never disclosed," Levine explained.

These images call attention to gender roles (or lack thereof) within queer relationships and to the possibilities of play opened up by this fluidity.

In *Switch*, Levine successfully blurs the boundaries between masculinity and femininity while creating visually appealing photographic images.



JJ Levine, *Switch*, Untitled 1, C-print, 2009



JJ Levine, *Switch*, Untitled 2, C-Print, 2009



Find JJ Levine's work at jjlevine.ca.

High school homos

Concordia grad investigates being openly gay in Quebec high schools



Concordia grad Michael Whatling interviewed seven openly gay high school students across Quebec in order to help tell their stories in *A Vigil for Joe Rose*. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

High schools are close knit communities, where everyone knows everyone else. Or at least think they do. For gay students, choosing to come out to your peers can be risky, but for those who succeed, it can often be the most rewarding experience of their lives.

Michael Whatling devoted his PhD at Concordia to understanding what it's like for students to be publicly queer in Quebec high schools. The result is *A Vigil for Joe Rose*, a collection of seven short stories and one novella based on in-depth interviews.

"Even though there are millions and millions of dollars that have been spent on [educational research], none of it has ever changed teaching practice in schools," said Whatling. "Teachers don't read academic journals or academic papers. I wanted to make my academic findings accessible, so I decided to utilize my background in [creative writing]."

Whatling could only find prior research into the experiences of out gay high school youth that were done in retrospect, sometimes years after a student's graduation.

"My research was unique in that I did in-depth interviews," he said. "I didn't just hand them a survey."

Whatling canvassed every anglophone school in Quebec, speaking to guidance counsellors, principals and teachers in his search for participants.

"The reaction I received most often was, believe it or not, 'We don't know any out gay students,'" he recalled.

"Teachers who don't defend students based on their sexual orientation or allow harassment [are] not living up to [their obligations]. My argument is, let's take their licenses away."

—Michael Whatling
author *A Vigil for Joe Rose*

At least one of the school administrators he spoke with took offence to the project, telling him, "We shouldn't be promoting this!" What exactly he was 'promoting' still isn't clear to Whatling.

"On an individual level, whether it's administrators, teachers or kids, they're privately very supportive of the out gay student," he continued. "They'll tell them privately that they admire them, but what I found is that, publicly, no one talks about it. It's a subject that is avoided at all costs."

Once he asked around, out students were more than willing to come forward and tell their stories, he said. Only two out of the seven students Whatling interviewed experienced a great deal of harassment for their sexual orientation.

"It really depends on the school and how seriously they take homophobia," he explained. "There are some schools that don't deal with it at all, and so harassment is allowed to go unchecked. But other schools that have effective ways of dealing with it, then it stops."

Whatling also questioned why teachers don't intervene when students use the term gay pejoratively.

"When I asked why teachers don't do anything about it," said Whatling, "the suits said that [it was] because they hear it so much they would be doing it all day long. [We've gotten] to that point where it's so defeatist."

Under the Quebec Teachers Act, teachers are bound to seven obligations, including the responsibility to "take the appropriate means to foster respect for human rights in his [or her] students."

"Teachers who don't defend students based on their sexual orientation or allow harassment [are] not living up to [their obligations]," said Whatling. "My argument is, let's take their licenses away."

Joe Rose, the book's namesake, was a classmate of Whatling's who founded the Queer Association of Dawson College. Rose was stabbed to death at the age of 23 for sporting pink hair on a city bus.

"The insanity of losing somebody in the way he was lost haunts me even today," writes Whatling in the book, which also features interspersed "Pages from Joe Rose's Notebook," which postulate what words of encouragement Rose would have for his fellow out students.

Whatling would like to see others pick up where his own research has left off.

"I think it would be interesting to see it from the other stakeholders in education's point of view," he said. "My participants were all male students, so I think it would be interesting to see it from the point of view of lesbians in high school, but also from the point of view of teachers."

A Vigil for Joe Rose can be purchased at joerose.viviti.com. The book's facebook page can be found at facebook.com/Vigil4JoeRose.



A Vigil for Joe Rose
Michael Whatling
iUniverse books
216 pp
\$17.55

Faith in the phallus

The Temple Priapus' Montreal chapter finds spirituality in arousal

• STEVEN MASUCH

“Exposing people to the possibilities just opens up doors, it doesn’t close doors,” said Francis, the high priest of the Temple Priapus. Exposure is part of his church—if you attend, you have to be naked and ready to worship cock, as per temple rules.

Francis founded the Montreal chapter of the Church of St. Priapus in 1979 when he was trying to find both his spiritual and sexual identity. He discovered two independent churches already dedicated to St. Priapus; one in Calgary, the other in San Francisco.

The temple’s namesake is a Greek god embodying fertility. Due to his permanently erect member, his name lent itself to priapism, the medical term for an abnormally long-lasting erection.

Inspiration for starting the church goes back much farther than the Greeks. Religious practices from Mesopotamia, Egypt, Japan and areas around the world created the rituals and beliefs of the church today.

Temple Priapus focuses on appreciation and worship of the phallus, and it combines practices and rituals meant to grant success

or better health for the members of the church, as they celebrate the penis. Sex is used as a tool in church practices, but only for spiritual goals.

Now 30 years old, the Temple Priapus is still active and attending to the needs of Montreal men who’ve melded their spirituality with their sexuality. In fact, the church is growing worldwide, with new chapters opening in Seattle and Cleveland. It’s a serious organization, a member of the World Parliament of Religions and Francis has spoken at Concordia University about the church several times.

The temple doesn’t require that new members necessarily leave their current faith, but that they deal with any parts of that faith that would conflict with the practices of the Temple Priapus. The church also doesn’t require that members be gay men—women, straight men and transgendered people can join as long as they believe in the church’s faith.

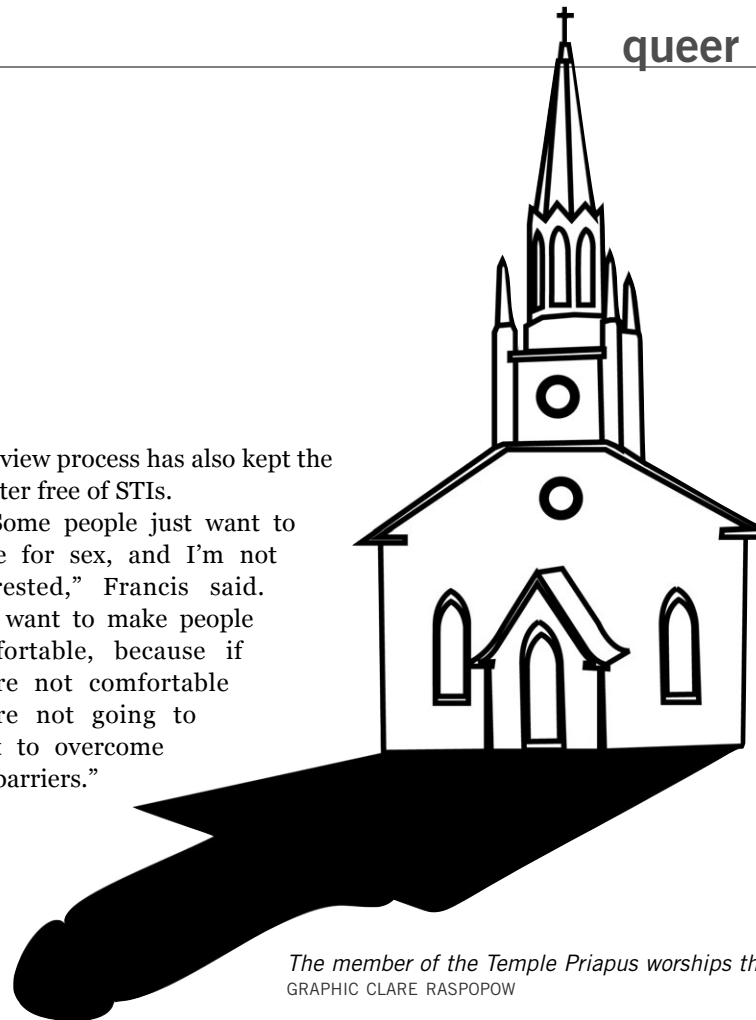
“Part of growing up is not letting other things control what you think,” said Francis.

All new candidates are interviewed to make sure they’re suitable for the temple and to provide a sense of community. This

interview process has also kept the chapter free of STIs.

“Some people just want to come for sex, and I’m not interested,” Francis said.

“We want to make people comfortable, because if you’re not comfortable you’re not going to want to overcome any barriers.”



The member of the Temple Priapus worships the male member.
GRAPHIC CLARE RASPOPOW

Francis has also been an advocate for gay politics outside of the church for decades. He has dealt with HIV/AIDS issues in the community and co-wrote a book about the topic at the beginning of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s.

He still warns people about the dangers of AIDS and syphilis, especially since he believes young people have become more relaxed about prevention, resulting in

increasing infection rates.

Still going strong, the Internet has made it easier for people to find out about the temple and Francis is working on a book about its history and rituals.

When asked about what the temple is providing for its members, he said, “Comfort, I suppose. Acceptance, liberation. And a place where the spiritual aspect is emphasized instead of tolerated.”

LGBTeenage wasteland

Queer youth in Montreal face up to adversity with help from community

• TOM LLEWELLIN

Kevin-John Chaplin, a Dawson College student, is keenly aware of the issues that Montreal’s LGBT youth face—exploring aspects of their identity, dealing with the pitfalls of being a teenager as well as coming to terms with their sexuality. These issues are largely unaddressed by mainstream media, sexual education curriculum and the queer community at large.

“Montreal is more open-minded than [the suburbs],” said Chaplin, “but a lot of people come from out there to get away from a lot of issues.”

Chaplin, who grew up in Lennoxville in the Eastern Townships, had to contend with homophobia and closed-mindedness courtesy of his peers. Even though he admits that media portrayals have made gayness much more acceptable than before, gay bashing is still common in Quebec. He believes that his peers have developed theories on how to react when someone comes out of the closet.

“Theory number one is to beat the gay out of him. Theory number two is to tie him to a chair and force him to watch lesbian porn for three hours,” he said, referring to his own experiences.

After he came out of the closet, kids he knew from high school even came down to the Tim Horton’s where he worked, bought



Kevin-John Chaplin is an active member of Project 10's drop-in centre. PHOTO AMI KINGDON

Boston Cream donuts and wrote “faggot” on the shop window using the cream-filled treats.

“It goes on and on and there’s been plenty of sad reactions,” he said. “The [Service de la police de Sherbrooke] laughed it off.”

Finding acceptance in Montreal, Chaplin is an active member of Project 10, one of the only organizations targeted specifically to LGBT youth in the city. It provides a weekly drop-in as well as helpline services.

LGBT youth are also commonly kicked out of their homes or run away once they

come out.

Due to space constraints, the organization is unable to house anyone, instead referring displaced youth to group homes. Very often, the community housing facilities cater to developmentally disabled adults, and are ill-equipped to provide the counselling and support services that displaced LGBT youth require.

Gay Line and Gai Écoute fill this gap in Montreal by providing helpline services for gay and questioning youth in French and English, but are no substitute for services

that address more pressing needs.

“I know quite a few people who’ve been evicted [by their parents] because they’re gay,” agreed Chaplin.

According to Raising the Roof, a homeless advocacy organization, an estimated 30 per cent of Canada’s 195,000 homeless and runaways are under the age of 18.

Canadian figures aren’t available for the percentage of homeless youth who are LGBT, but according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, LGBT teens make up roughly 20 to 40 per cent of American homeless youth.

Carrefour Arc-En-Ciel, a proposed clearinghouse for services, support and information, is in the process of establishing itself on the outskirts of the Gay Village. With the ambitious aim of being one of the largest centres of its kind on the continent, the group has taken possession of a building and received \$7.8 million in joint federal-provincial funding since 2006.

The Montreal Youth Coalition Against Homophobia’s Secure Space For Youth project also has similar aims, but both projects have been relatively inactive since summer 2008.

For Chaplin, these types of spaces need to be available for peers in his community.

“[LGBT youth] have their own unique needs,” he said. “We need to make sure our voices are heard.”

Transcending sexual categories



Author Lisa Diamond explores the phenomenon of sexual fluidity in women

• GAËLLE ENGELBERTS

It was a one-time crush. The two girls were roommates in college, but it quickly turned into something more. Everybody knew they were best friends, but no one knew that in the intimacy of their room they were actually lovers. After graduation, they went their separate ways and now one is married to a man while the other is engaged.

This is only one of the stories psychologist and author Lisa Diamond heard as she interviewed 100 women over the span of a decade. Without specifically looking for it, Diamond stumbled on an important component of female sexuality, that discontinued and abrupt changes in women's sexual identity represent a larger trend.

As she writes in her book *Sexual Fluidity: Understanding Women's Love and Desire*, "women are particularly likely to possess a flexible erotic potential," which makes it "possible for specific relationships to spark the emergence of authentic—and authentically novel—sexual attractions that might

contradict a person's self-identified sexual orientation."

The concept of fluidity challenges a vision of sexuality as something that can be placed into categories. Demarcations that seem fairly inflexible can turn out to be a lot more flexible than we thought. For example, we tend to amalgamate amorous feelings with lust, despite the fact that love and desire rely on two fundamentally different parts of the brain.

This explains why some heterosexual women she interviewed report having very close and emotionally intense relationships with same-sex friends, without experiencing sexual desire. Because of these discrepancies, "women experiencing these gaps often conclude that no existing identity labels adequately represent their unique experience," explained Diamond.

Most previous academic research was based on men's sexual behaviour and the findings were applied to both genders.

"We need to stop assuming that female sexuality is just like male sexuality," she

said. "So I started with the open-ended goal of just focusing on women for women's sake. Not to compare them to men, not to measure them against men, just to take their own experiences as their own experiences and see in what ways they might be distinctive."

The idea of Sexual Fluidity is simply to acknowledge and celebrate the fact that these orientations are "multidimensional and dynamic," she writes.

According to Diamond, re-evaluating our assumptions about sexual orientation can be threatening to some as "it sort of suggests that folks who might otherwise think that they are perfectly, 100 per cent heterosexual might not fit so neatly and easily into that category as they always presumed.

"For a lot of people, this is a very frightening idea, and one that raises a lot of ire and distress," she continued. "It challenges long-held assumptions about the way everything is supposed to work and it forces some people to come to some conclusions that they might not be that comfortable with."

The educational programs given in school and community centres to dispel myths about sexual orientation and provide support to sexual minorities don't speak to the actual experiences of women, the book asserts.

What it all comes down to, she said, is moving away from closed divisions and preconceived ideas as to acknowledge the fluid reality that can momentarily add an unexpected twist to women's love and desire.

"In open, accepting environments, fluidity can create unprecedented opportunities for self-discovery and reflection," she writes. "Whether society chooses to support or punish such opportunities, of course, is up to us."



***Sexual Fluidity:
Understanding Women's
Love and Desire***
Lisa M. Diamond
Harvard University Press
352 pp
\$17.94

The
QUEER-LOW

Event listings
Nov. 19 to Dec. 2

Dance parties

Cruise Control

A sporadically-planned queer friend-ly cruise party!
Thursday, Nov. 19 at 11:30 p.m.
179 Rue Jean-Talon St. W. Il Motore
Pay-what-you-can starting at \$5

Faggity Ass Fridays

Shaking it for the kids each month, this queer dance party donates all proceeds to the Sense project?a peer-based sex ed program organized by Head and Hands for high school students in Montreal.
Friday, Nov. 27 at 10 p.m.
The Playhouse
5656 Parc Ave.
Suggested donation of \$10

Multi-media lecture series

World AIDS Week
Film screenings, panel discussions, speakers and a variety show.
Now until Friday, Nov. 20
Various locations on the McGill Campus
Visit treatthepeople.com

Shows

De la Drag au Drug
Friday, Nov. 20 at 10 p.m.
Le Drugstore,
1366 Ste-Catherine St. Est
Free

Tits the Season
Was Mary really a virgin? Why does Santa only cum once a year? This burlesque show attempts to tell the true story of Christmas.
Friday Dec. 11 and Sat. Dec. 12
Cafe Cleopatre
1230 St-Laurent Blvd.
\$10 at the door, \$8 with a canned donation

Sounds

Radio Smut
A monthly show on air with an aim to “shake things up, moan in your ears and provoke your inner pervert.”
(The first Wednesday of every month)
Wednesday, Dec. 2
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
CKUT 90.3 FM
secure.ckut.ca

— compiled by
Laura Beeston

Queer resources in the greater Montreal area

Concordia University, Counselling and Development Centre
Counselling for all undergraduate, graduate, independent and continuing education students.
Loyola Campus
7141 Sherbrooke St. W.
AC Building, Room 103
Tel: 514-848-2424 ex. 3545
SGW Campus
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
Hall Building, Room H-440
Tel: 514-848-2424 ex. 3555

2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy
Support group for those who provide respectful, confidential peer-to-peer support, advocacy and resources for those who seek it with a focus on harm reduction, empowerment and self-determination.
2110 Mackay St.
Tel: 514-848-2424 ex. 7431
e-mail: centre2110@gmail.com

Association des lesbiennes et des gais sur internet
French portal that presents a calendar of Montreal gay events and links to local associations.
algi.qc.ca

Queerish Event Guide
Calendar of events happening in Montreal that might be of interest to queer girls.
queerisheventguide.com

Gai Ecoute
French-language phone-based support and resource group for the LGBT community.
Hours: Mon. – Fri.: 8 p.m. to 3 a.m.
Sat.-Sun.: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Tel: 514-866-0103
gai-ecoute.qc.ca

Gay Line
English-language phone-based support and resource group for the LGBT community.
Hours: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Tel: 514-866-5090
gayline.qc.ca

Centre de solidarité lesbienne
Lesbian Social and support organization that aims to provide community and friendship to local lesbians.
4126 St-Denis. St., Ste. 301
Tel: 514-526-2452

solidaritelesbienne.qc.ca

Queerline
English-language support and referral line run by Queer McGill at McGill University
Hours: Mon. to Sat.: 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Sept. to April
Tel: 514-398-6822
queermcgill.ca/ql/

The Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Montreal
Resources and LGBTQQIA social groups. The Open Book Library, a documentation centre on homosexuality in Canada.
2075 Plessis St., Room 110
ccglm.org

Clinique medicale Quartier-Latin
Walk-in clinic with a section to test STDs
905 René-Lévesque Blvd. E.
514-285-5500

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans-identified Family Coalition
Tel: 514-846-1543
familleshomoparentales.org

Gay Chamber of Commerce of Quebec
514-522-1885
1-888-595-8110
cggq.ca

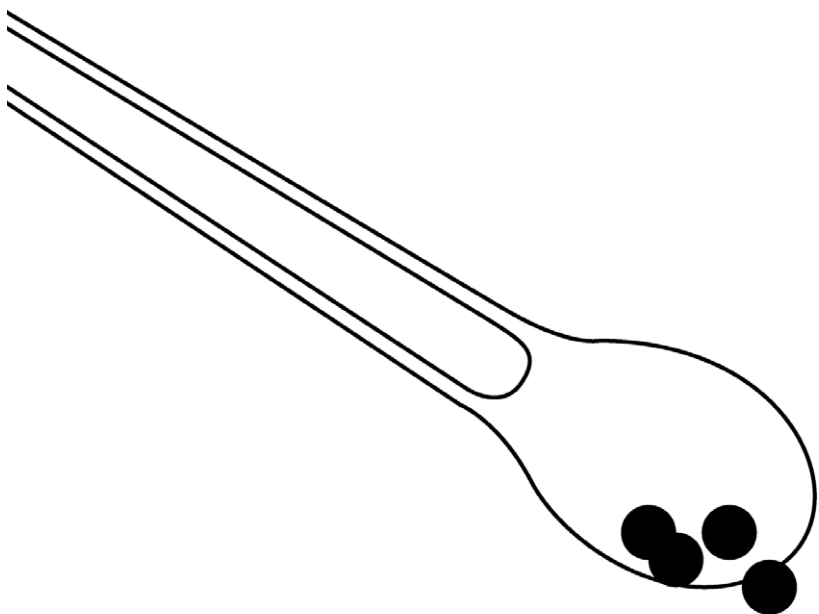
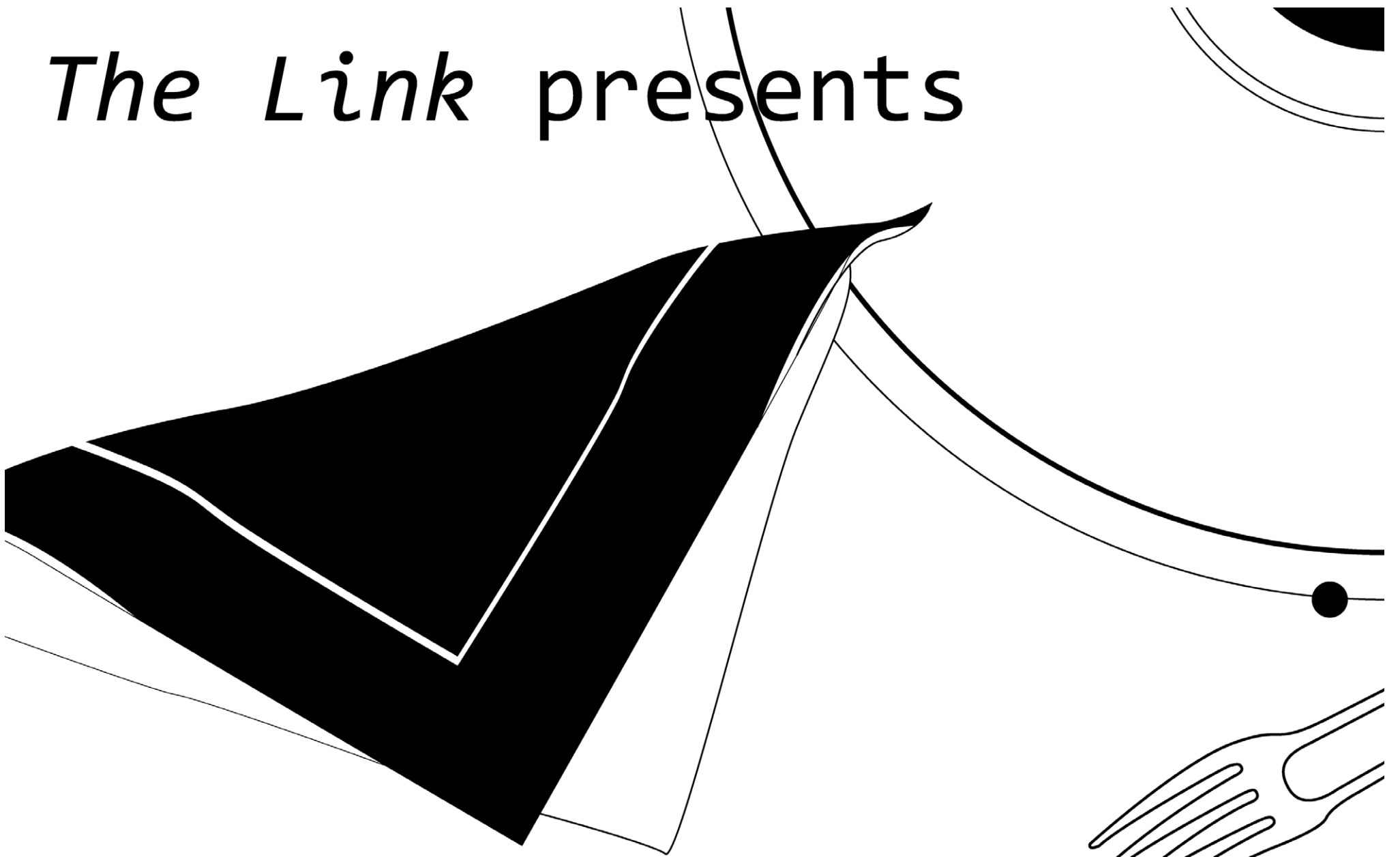
Queer Concordia
2020 Mackay, Rm. P102
Tel: 514-848-2424 ex. 7414
queerconcordia@gmail.com
queer.concordia.ca/

Head and Hands
Provides an environment to promote preventative and non-judgmental help to empower youth.
5833 Sherbrooke St. O.
Tel: 514-481-0277
Hours: Mon. to Thurs.: 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Fri.: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
headandhands.ca

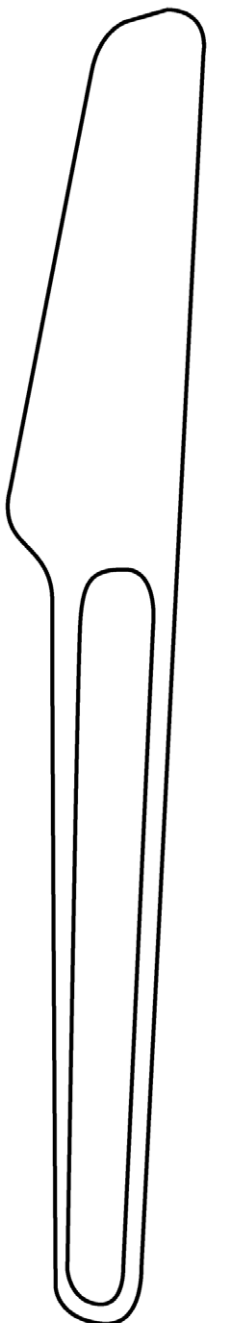
Project 10
Community organization that offers help and support to LGBTQQIA youth between the age of 14 to 25 in the greater Montreal area.
2000 Northcliffe Ave., suite 218
Tel: 514-989-4585
E-mail: projet10@p10.qc.ca
p10.qc.ca

The Queer Issue organizers would like to thank everyone for their amazing contributions and hard work. For additional content unable to make it to press, check online at thelinknewspaper.ca

The Link presents



THE FOOD ISSUE



on newsstands

Dec. 1, 2009



Crust punx in love

Double volume packs twice the fun

• R. BRIAN HASTIE

As the old adage goes, being a teenager sucks. Your parents harass you, school's terrible, your friends are constantly going through their own subtle (or not so subtle) changes and you feel that no one understands. It's even worse when you align yourself with a subgenre that most people aren't too fond of—in this case, safety-pin lovin' punk—and you realize your sexuality isn't like others.

The two volumes of graphic novel *My Brain Hurts* are punk-encrusted, gender-questioning explorations into complex relationships, designed with such a degree of realism that one wonders if they are perhaps autobiographical.

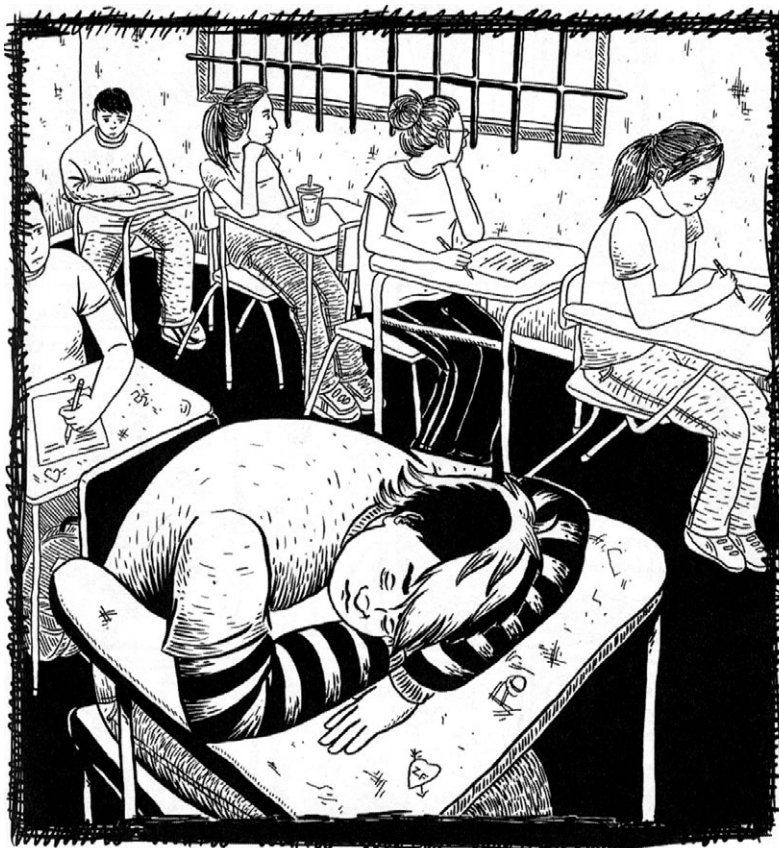
Author Liz Baillie's characters—notably protagonist Kate Callahan and her gay cohort Joey Kaiser—are fleshed-out archetypes whose trials, tribulations and final fates are well-mapped and logical.

Their ultra-personal struggles

are touching, and the twists and turns the story takes are poignant and well-handled. The verbal exchange between Kate and Joey doesn't feel forced or stilted, but rather seem to come from a place of deep understanding about the underlying issues.

In the grand style of D.I.Y. zines, *My Brain Hurts*' panels are all lovingly decorated with home-made care, crammed to the nines with detail. The art is clean, though cartoony, and Baillie's are detailed tableaux so that one gets a proper sense of place.

Protagonist Kate is a closeted lesbian who debates whether or not she can come out to her mother without negative repercussions. In her confusing teen world there are untold desires and potential heartbreaks. Such is the case with her first girlfriend, who ends up momentarily crushing her. Best friend Joey has already surmounted the initial out-of-the-closet situation and has a black eye to show for it, courtesy of his dad.



My Brain Hurts details the personal struggles of protagonists Joey and Kate.

Joey and Kate's journeys intersect as they both try to get a handle on how to define their identities, but it's how they handle themselves and the decisions they make that set the tone for the rest of the narrative, as well as the rest of their relationship. Joey's down-

ward spiral is an intense journey, and it's Kate's ability to circumvent the easy path that makes her a memorable character.

Baillie's strength is her ability to foresee what traps stereotypical teen stories could engage in and avoid them by taking the

harder, less-obvious and infinitely more realistic route. Baillie shows and doesn't tell. She doesn't talk down to the reader, allowing them to form their own ideas and opinions about the book's various "big picture" themes. Gender discourse is a prevalent theme throughout.

Baillie understands her audience well. The title of her comic series is taken from a classic Screeching Weasel album, and her panels are filled with nods to many punk classics (check out the various show posters adorning walls and buttons adorning jackets of many of the characters). She also understands gender politics and displays a subtle wit and resolve in her dialogue and in the way the story unfolds. A truly interesting read.



***My Brain Hurts*
Volumes 1 and 2
Microcosm
Publishing
254 pp (combined)
\$10**

Lit Writ

The Quiet Circle

• XAN ELCOCK

Blank. Thoughts were foreign lands in far away places. Every effort she made to grasp at the fragments of memories sent them scattering like dried leaves in October. Sunlight seeped in with an orange glow and pooled beneath her eyelids. A breeze tickled her lashes. She opened her eyes. White light—bright and fluorescent. The light cooled and blue took over, clear and precise. Nothing made sense. She was suspended in the grey area between living and non existence, and for the moment that was okay. She cocked her head to find her toes, listening for sounds of life other than her own. Nobody.

She eased her head back into the long grass: sprinkled with daisies, alive with the murmur of bumble bees. Summer? No, spring. Late spring. May. Blue sky and tiny tendrils of grass played at the edge of her vision, not a cloud in the sky. Simple, but something. She lifted her right index finger and swirled it in a clockwise motion. It brushed grass and her other fingers. She lifted her left index finger and did the same. Her toes were cold. She wasn't wearing any shoes. They were always cold; she knew that, though she wasn't sure how. Her stomach felt hollow. She couldn't remember the last time she'd had anything to eat. Two swallows darted across the sky, dipping and diving, reeling in the breeze. The sun

warmed her face, and promised to burn her newly-shaven head. She was bald. Bald. She repeated the word over and over in her mind. Perhaps she thought it would change something. Bald. It stung the backs of her eyes with a cruel slap in every repetition. Bald.

It wasn't going to hurt, they'd said, not much anyways. They said it with a vicious laugh and no love in their eyes. They'd done it too. Despite her screams, or because of them. A knee in the crook of her elbow, a fist to the back of her head. Two more feet stomping on her ankles, binding them to the earth. They'd held her like that, a knee on each elbow, a foot on each leg and a hand on the back of her head until she'd submitted, giving in to the strength of the four she was unable to match. And when she was no longer able to fight, when resistance no longer boiled up inside her chest, she'd broken. She had ceased to struggle and in that moment, she wondered, if she had ceased to exist. Razors seared her long auburn hair, chopping it into ugly blood-matted piles. Tears dripped from her eyes like spring-time thaw and pooled on the earth at the tip of her nose. She hadn't dared to cry out; they never saw her tears. They only would have beaten her harder.

"You dirty dyke," they sneered in her ears: whispers so quiet the grasshoppers never stopped hopping.



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

"You pussy-fucking, revolting bitch."

Each had their own insult to add to the barrel. A barrel of sticks and stones that broke more than bones, they crushed at her soul, they reduced her to ash. Whoever said names couldn't hurt, had not been called these names. They hurt her, they whipped her with spikes and sword blades, cutting the flesh of her being, as a knife would cut skin.

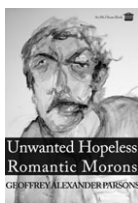
The hours that passed could have been minutes. They could have been days. Time was unfounded. Gradually the beatings faltered, her hair though, was long gone with the winds of days passed. Arms grew tired, their lashes less painful. Feet slipped

off her legs, so often in fact that she could have moved and run away. Could have. Long gone, though was her desire to fight. Long gone was her desire to run. Sleep was all she wanted now, and sleep she did. The bees buzzed round her breast, they tasted her lips for honey. Grasshoppers mistook her for a new type of grass, and jumped between her fingertips. And when she awoke everything was blank. Thoughts were foreign lands in far away places.

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

quick reads

At least he got
three out of four right



**Unwanted
Hopeless
Romantic Morons**
Geoffrey Alexander
Parsons
8th House
Publishing
174 pp
\$15.88

Detailing the escapades of a 25-year old pseudo-intellectual named Tom and his friend Jack, who both have drug and alcohol abuse problems, *Unwanted Hopeless Romantic Morons* progresses at a confusing pace with its multiple transitions between first-person, second-person and third-person narration.

Despite his roguish behaviour, Jack suffers from a serious need for approval and a desire for long-lasting romantic relationships.

Reading the novel is made difficult due to its mixture of crude language and short abrupt sentences, with archaic use of terms and sentence structure. It does, however, provide some sense that Tom, if not the author, possesses some degree of intelligence. Explicit and vulgar sexuality are present only for shock value and fail to provide insight into character or plot.

Despite some of the novel's structural and artistic flaws, there were some beautiful melodic lines that demonstrated the author's innate talent.

2/5

—Lindsay Ryan

What *Diaries* may come



Dead Girl Diaries
Marianne Paul
BookLand Press
192 pp
\$24.95

The first time we meet Maxine, the protagonist of Marianne Paul's *Dead Girl Diaries*, she's writing her own obituary in one of her journalism classes. Not long afterward, she's beaten to death at the side of a highway. The book is narrated by her ghost, who has taken up residence somewhere that isn't quite heaven, but not quite hell either, and is therefore dubbed "the otherworld."

Instead of looking at Maxine's life in linear fashion, Paul illustrates only the most important events in Maxine's life—the ones that, in some way or another, led to her death. From losing a doll carriage competition as a young girl to jumping out of a stalled elevator, the events recounted seem insignificant, but everything she gains from these experiences plays a significant role in her demise.

Marianne Paul, who has a BA in Religious Studies, creates an abstract, unconventional portrait of the afterlife, where Maxine meets God, Buddha and an angel. Paul's real triumph is her portrayal of a life that seems doomed from the start.

4/5

—Kamila Hinkson

Laying the ancient world to rest

The Winter Vault questions man's tampering with nature



The *Winter Vault* is Anne Michaels' follow up to her acclaimed *Fugitive Pieces*. PHOTO MARZENA POGORZALY

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Mankind's ability to divert entire river systems at will, whether or not nature agrees with those changes, is possibly dually our greatest achievement and folly. Author Anne Michaels' *The Winter Vault* contemplates the wisdom of man's tinkering with the natural world.

Overseeing the relocation of the Abu Simbel temple in southern Egypt in 1964, protagonists Avery and Jean lament the dismemberment of three millennia old sculptures dedicated to the honour of Pharaoh Ramesses II and chiseled into solid rock, to make way for the Aswan Dam project. When the ancient Egyptians built the Abu Simbel temple, could they hardly have suspected it to do anything but stay in one place for all eternity?

"The human species has tremendous ingenuity," said Michaels, but whether it's put to good use or not is questionable.

The contrast between modern technology and the careful precision with which ancient man built temples in honour of their gods reveals just how long our species has been exerting its influence over the natural world.

"From the earliest gardens that were made, from the first time that plants were set aside for aesthetic purposes from the wilderness, we've been shaping landscape and shaping actual species," she said.

Her first novel in 10 years, *The Winter Vault* required a large amount of research, and only a small amount of it

made it into the book.

"Most books begin for me with a cluster of questions that are haunting me and I know that they're connected at a very deep level," she said. "I understood how much research I would need in order to get to the core of those questions."

Michaels travelled to Abu Simbel's original resting place, where entire communities, cities and even graves were relocated as part of the mass migration of communities in the wake of the dam project four decades ago.

"It's like a huge ship trying to come to a sudden stop in a harbour and turn around. It's just human nature. We can't adjust our way of thinking quickly enough."

—Anne Michaels
author of *The Winter Vault*

"What's incredible," said Michaels, "is that where the water level was low, you could still see city streets and foundations of buildings just under the water. There's still this sort of ghostly presence of what once was."

A winter vault, as referenced in the book's title, is an outbuilding in cemeteries where the dead are kept when the ground is too frozen for graves to be dug.

"This is also a metaphor for a way of looking at history," said Michaels,

"because that time between death and burial is a very fraught time, and sometimes a body is laid to rest a few months later, 10 years later, a generation later, and sometimes a body is never laid to rest."

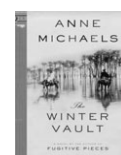
In a poignant passage, a woman coddles the earth above her husband's grave where she has also planned to be buried. Because of the Aswan Dam, she has no choice but to be buried somewhere else, or have her husband's grave moved to a new location.

Halting the degradation of our environment and our own history in the pursuit of technological progress is something that will take time, says Michaels.

"It's like a huge ship trying to come to a sudden stop in a harbour and turn around. It's just human nature," she explained. "We can't adjust our way of thinking quickly enough. There's a certain status quo of how you live, that once achieved, it's very hard to turn people's minds around to the looming disaster."

We're justifiably proud as a species, says Michaels, if a bit excessively so.

"I do have a really basic belief, or faith, in the human species that we have a tremendous opportunity now to reformulate how we live on the Earth," she said. "If we can do it."



The Winter Vault
Anne Michaels
Knopf
352 pp
\$25.00



Over 300 vendors crowded the basement of Église St. Enfant Jésus in Expozine's largest convention ever. PHOTO SARAH LONG

Over Expo-sure

Eighth annual zine fair reaches capacity

• SIMON LIEM

Held in the basement of Église St. Enfant Jésus this weekend, there was an enthusiastic atmosphere at the eighth annual Expozine, with well over 300 vendors taking part in the action and breaking capacity records.

If you walked into the bilingual event you were most likely pulled into a whirlpool of art fans moist from the rain, shuffling around rows of tables and examining goods from a wide variety of independent artists showcasing their talents and printed works.

On Saturday morning, vendors scrambled into the 10,000-square-foot basement to find a place to display their merch, with several artists being turned away due to lack of table space.

"It's not so much putting on an event as it is getting on a wild horse and holding on," said Expozine co-founder and vendor Louis Rastelli.

Constantly moving around, doing everything from writing cheques to stocking toilet paper, the event's organizers and volunteers said they are struggling to keep up with Expozine's success.

"[We] make efforts to dissuade people from coming," said Rastelli, including purposefully not updating their website or advertising registration, so they do not have to turn away so many artists.

Rastelli would like to see Expozine expand, but the constant search for funding is always a problem and most of the volunteers cannot afford to put in more than the 60 hours a week that they already do.

His concern with the logistics of the event may be due to him being in charge of the "nitty-gritty, nuts and bolts, paperwork bullshit," as Expozine co-founder and poster maker Billy Mavreas put it.

Mavreas is more enthusiastic about the growth of Expozine, especially some of its newer elements.

This year marked the debut of an opening party, where vendors can mingle outside of the frantic rush of the fair. There was also readings and a series of panel discussions presented by the Greasy Goose, a group that organizes a community lecture series.

Mavreas hopes that they will be able to feature even more events to give future Expozine tourists more to explore.

Jim Munroe of No Media Kings publishing remarked on how successful the event was in "bringing Anglo and francophone artists of a similar mindset together."

Jeff Miller, zine veteran and creator of *Ghost Pine Fanzine*, thought that the openness of the event was one of the reasons it was so successful. Unlike other zine fairs, there is no cover charge to enter.

"It's free to the public," said Miller, "which is the whole point."



Mouths watered self-consciously at the sight of so many zines. PHOTO TOM LLEWELLIN

Jab-gabbin’ with Carl Handy

Local boxer phones in the latest news from Adrian Diaconu’s training camp



Carl Handy. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

On Dec. 11, Montreal’s Bell Centre will host what may be the most anticipated rematch in the city’s storied boxing history. Last June, Jean Pascal took a unanimous decision against fellow Montrealer Adrian Diaconu to win the World Boxing Council Light Heavyweight Championship.

In a thrilling 12-round bout, Diaconu and Pascal threw caution to the wind, trading power shots and chasing each other throughout the ring to the delight of nearly 13,000 fans.

In the weeks leading up to the fight, *The Link* will be following along with Diaconu’s chief sparring partner, Carl Handy. Handy, a journeyman boxer from Louisiana, has made a career out of fighting all takers.

The Link: *How’s fight camp going?*
Carl Handy: Great as far as I

know. Adrian [Diaconu] is in Altona training right now.

Altona?
Yeah, in upstate New York at our cut man Bob Miller’s gym. I’m headed out there this Wednesday. For now I’m teaching classes at our gym [Centre Claude Robillard].

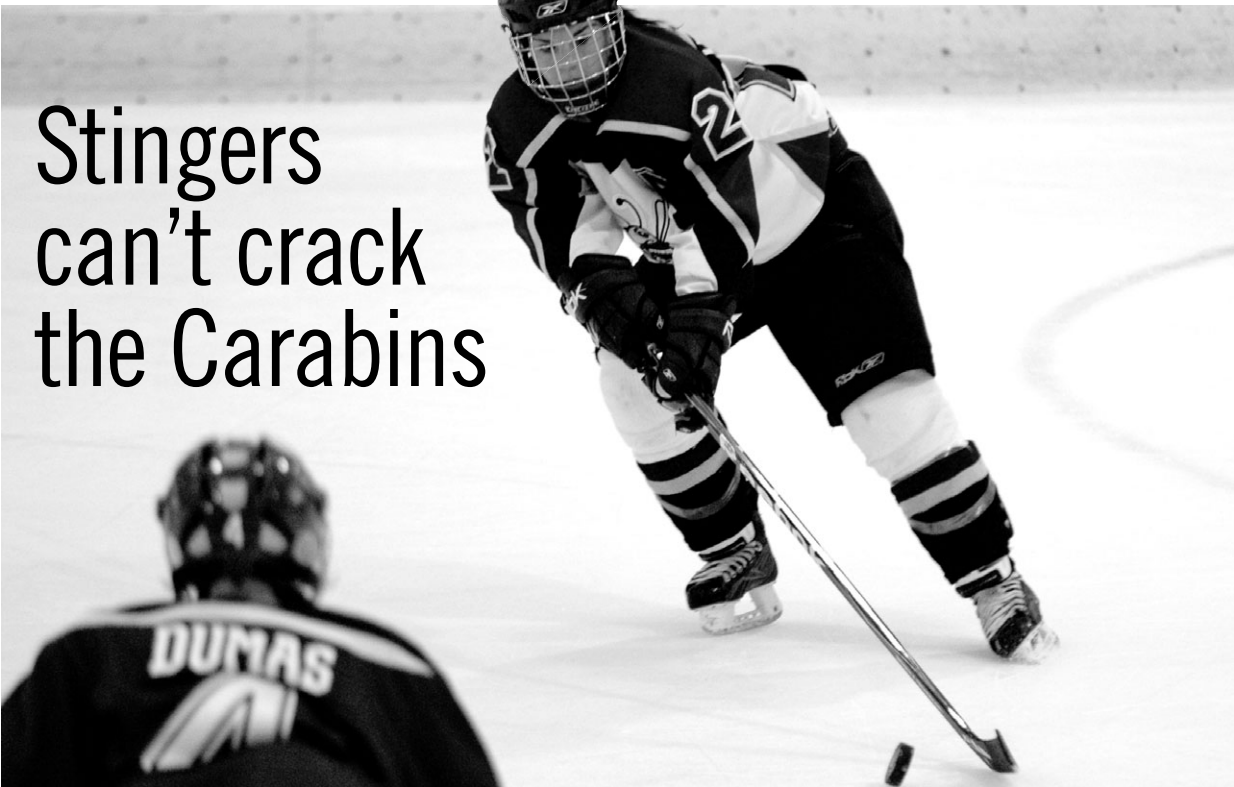
What went wrong for Diaconu in that first fight with Pascal?
Adrian forgot to box. He went in there and tried to fuck Pascal up.

How do you rectify that?
Adrian won’t win a brawl with Pascal. [Pascal] is just too fast and he’s got reach. He’s an elite athlete. But this isn’t the long jump, it isn’t a fight, it’s boxing.

So it’s a case of ‘box the brawler’?
Yeah, Adrian is a great boxer. Much more technical than Pascal. If he uses his technique, he’ll win the fight. Excuse me [Handy puts down the receiver]. Throw a hook off it Freddy. Throw a hook off that jab!

Is this a bad time?
No man I’m just training some guys [puts down the receiver again]. That’s it Freddy, exactly!

Catch up with the latest of Diaconu’s camp in next week’s edition of Jab-gabbin’ with Carl Handy



Stinger defenceman Catherine Desjardins takes a pass. PHOTO ESTHER BERNARD

• ALEX DI PIETRO

Concordia 2 U de M 3

Stingers Keely Covo and Erin Lally quashed a two-goal deficit in Sunday’s bout with the Université de Montréal’s Carabins, but Marie-Andrée Leclerc-Auger’s shootout winner spelled a 3-2 loss for Concordia at the Ed Meagher Arena.

“It was a little difficult to watch in the first period,” said Stingers coach Les Lawton. “Both teams looked flat but we had to work hard for our goals and I was concerned that we wouldn’t have the extra jump that we got in the second half of the game.”

The Carabins prevailed in their two previous meetings with Concordia this season. This last one also went to a shootout.

Led by goalie Audrey Doyon-Lessard who made 45 saves, the Stingers tamed the Carabins’ power play throughout the game.

Doyon-Lessard saved point shots by Leclerc-Auger and Caroline Martin-Guay while the team collectively killed off a Laurie Proulx-Duperre hooking penalty in the bottom half of the first.

The Stingers were kept on their heels for the remainder of the period, and Montreal took a 1-0 lead into the first intermission as Amanda Lalande scored with 2:59 left.

The Carabins doubled their lead early in the second period when Leclerc-Auger grabbed a loose puck at the top of the crease and beat Doyon-Lessard to her left.

Concordia’s Covo re-ignited her team when she hastened down the right and snapped a shot off Montreal goalie Katrina Giuliani’s shoulder and into the mesh just 20 seconds later.

“Between periods I was thinking to myself that we had to be more offensive,” said Covo. “The defence got the puck deep and I was in a good enough position to skate onto it.”

Doyon-Lessard kept her team in the thick of things, shutting down a five-on-three Carabins powerplay.

The Carabins’ failure to convert with the man advantage came back to haunt them five minutes into the third period. The crowd of almost 200 was elated when Concordia’s Erin Lally delivered a high wrist shot, catching Giuliani by surprise and tying the game 2-2.

It was the second goal Giuliani allowed in 15 shots, and Carabins coach Isabelle Leclaire felt it was time to switch to her backup of Catherine Herron.

“Both goals that she gave up were a bit weak,” said Leclaire. “So we didn’t want to take a chance.”

Stinger Catherine Rancourt nearly gave Concordia the lead on a breakaway over a minute later, but she lost her footing just as she was about to shoot.

Neither side was able to break the 2-2 scoreline in both the third period and overtime, but Concordia’s Mallory Lawton had to be helped off the ice 1:59 into the supplementary period.

“I don’t think there was anything illegal that happened,” Covo said of the play. “She’s a tough one, so she’ll be okay.”

All five of Concordia’s shootout participants botched their chances, and Leclerc-Auger was the only one to beat Doyon-Lessard for the Carabins.

The Stingers travel to Nova Scotia Friday where they will play three non-conference games over the weekend. Their next league game is Nov. 28 in Ottawa against the Gee-Gees.

scoreboard

	Home	Away	
Men’s Basketball	Concordia 68 McGill 90	Bishop’s 67 Concordia 82	1-1
Women’s Basketball	Concordia 55 McGill 57	Bishop’s 66 Concordia 66	1-1
Men’s Hockey	Waterloo 2 Western 10	Concordia 0 Concordia 4	1-10
Women’s Hockey	Concordia 2	U de M	1-4-2

schedule

	Who	When
Women’s Hockey	@ Dalhousie @ St FX @ St Mary’s	Friday, 3 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, 12 p.m.
Men’s Hockey	vs York	Saturday, 2 p.m.
Men’s Basketball	@ Laval vs McGill	Friday, 8 p.m. Saturday, 4 p.m.
Women’s Basketball	@ Laval vs McGill	Friday, 6 p.m.. Saturday, 6 p.m.

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



Firas Zahabi (below) watches his class while Peter Sisanphou (above left) works on Jonathan Chaimberg's injured foot. PHOTO CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Philosophy, friendship and fighting

Concordia grad discusses his mixed martial arts credo with *The Link*

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Saturday is for eating cereal and watching cartoons in your bathrobe. Saturday is the day of long showers followed by shaves and the other 'S' in that sacred trinity.

But on this Saturday, like every other Saturday, mixed martial arts teacher Firas Zahabi leads classes at his gym in north-west Montreal. A philosophy graduate of Concordia University, Zahabi made his name as the long-time trainer of current Ultimate Fighting Championship welterweight champion Georges St. Pierre.

After class he's off to a friend's house to catch the Mike Swick/Dan Hardy fight on television. He has a vested interest in the match because the winner gets a title fight against Saint Pierre. After carefully watching the fight, Zahabi will make his way south to Drummondville, where he has professional fighters to corner. But for now, he wraps up his class and takes some time out of this mess of a Saturday to speak with *The Link*.

Ten years ago, Firas Zahabi was at a crossroads. After finishing his studies, he weighed out his options.

"I wanted to either get a masters and then a PhD in philosophy or maybe get into a law school," he said. "But I decided to just take a break."

The break gave him a chance to pursue a career in mixed martial arts, first as a fighter, then as a trainer and owner of Tristar, a mixed martial arts academy just a few blocks from the Décarie.

Under Zahabi's management, Tristar has become Canada's pre-eminent fight school. Six years ago, the school produced the Ultimate Fighting Championship's first

Quebec-born fighter in David L'Oiseau. In 2006, Tristar student Georges St. Pierre defeated Matt Hughes to become the UFC's welterweight champion. These days, UFC contenders like Jon Jones and Kenny Florian flock to Montreal to take part in Zahabi's cerebral training camps.

"I think we just all love mixed martial arts," says Zahabi. "We're lucky because it's so popular now and we can make a living off it. But I think we'd still be training here if there was no money involved. That's what makes it special here."

A heavyset man walks towards us. He begins teasing Zahabi, who introduces the man as Peter Sisanphou—a Tristar instructor of Thai, Lao and French descent.

Before schooling fighters, Zahabi trained obsessively in the martial arts. He learned jiu jitsu, boxed, he became an amateur Pancrase champion and one day he met Sisanphou. Sisanphou helped Zahabi develop into an amateur Muay Thai champion. Muay Thai is a form of kickboxing that emphasizes knee and elbow strikes in addition to shin kicks and punches. Together, Sisanphou and Zahabi travelled to Thailand to train with the world's best Thai fighters.

"In Thailand, we slept on the floor of the gym. Everybody did—the world champion slept on the floor. He ate rice out of the same bowl as everyone else," says Zahabi. "And the shower was a bucket of rainwater; the toilets were a hole in the ground. It was a very humbling experience."

Sisanphou throws something about diarrhea into the discussion but is promptly interrupted by Zahabi.

"I don't think he needs to know about that," he laughs. "This guy, what are you

gonna do? He raised me."

The two continue to tease each other until strength and conditioning coach Jonathan Chaimberg arrives in crutches. Chaimberg quickly becomes the centre of a few jokes.

"We're gonna amputate your foot," says Zahabi. "At least that way you'll never hurt it again."

"If you don't teach a fighter respect and tradition he'll use his skills to bully people. I really don't want that."

—Firas Zahabi,
Mixed Martial Arts Trainer

Zahabi and Chaimberg discuss training equipment for a few minutes. They go into detail, trying to think up more efficient equipment to invent while Sisanphou rubs oil on Chaimberg's injured foot.

"It's like a family here. We all train together, help each other out, hang out outside of the gym," says Zahabi. "When Georges [St. Pierre] finishes one of his fights, he comes right back to the gym to help the other guys with theirs. Even the beginners."

Zahabi's training philosophy is built on respect.

"Other gyms treat mixed martial arts like a sport," he says.

"There's no bowing, no protocol to respect. We're more than just athletes and fighters. We're mixed martial artists. And that means observing certain traditions. If you don't teach a fighter respect and tradition he'll use his skills to bully people. I really don't want that."

"One of the greatest moments of my career as a trainer was when Georges [St. Pierre] beat BJ [Penn] the second time," he continues. "BJ would talk trash, he would lick his opponent's blood when he won, he was a bully. Kids watch that and they assume it's okay to act that way. Georges and I were bullied growing up. It sucked. So when Georges beat BJ, and he gave him a terrible beating, you could see something change in BJ. He became all of those guys he defeated all at once. He felt what they did."

"We could have rubbed it in, we could have said 'fuck you' and given him the finger, but we respect him and his family. We offered him a kind word, offered his brothers a kind word. After that fight, BJ changed. He stopped the bully antics. He took back a lot of the offensive things he had said. He developed a program to help fighters become better people outside of the ring. And that makes me proud."

After our interview, Zahabi has hours of work ahead of him. But he is clearly in his element. He looks happy, fulfilled.

"After a day at the gym, after teaching and going to meetings and studying fight tapes I go home, have dinner with my wife, put my kid to sleep and I train for two hours," he says. "We're always looking for a way to perfect our game. Every aspect of our game has to be evolving every day. The wrestling, the jiu jitsu, the striking. I work on my technique every day, I want to keep what my teachers taught me alive and pass it down. I don't want to be the one who breaks the chain."

For more information about Tristar gym, visit tristargym.com

‘More intense, more aggressive’

Men’s basketball team dominates fourth quarter to win by slim margin

• JAMIE MCCALLUM

Concordia 69 Bishop’s 67

The familiar sounds of swishing nets and squeaking sneakers has returned to Concordia.

In their season opener Friday night, the Concordia Stingers narrowly beat the Bishop’s University Gaiters 69-67 at Loyola Campus. The Stingers were fired up ahead of this one, brimming with the optimism that only a new season can bring. Carte Blanche. A clean slate.

Unfortunately, the Stingers’ optimism didn’t yield results until the fourth quarter.

“We were pretty bad for three quarters of the game,” said Stingers head coach John Dore. “But in the fourth quarter, we dominated. We outscored them 20-5. We played tenacious defence and I think [it] won us the game.”

After being out hustled for most of the first three quarters, the Stingers knew they needed to make something happen at the end of the game. And they played just well

enough to stay in the game going into the fourth, trailing by 13.

To the delight of fans, a 13 point deficit had suddenly shrunk to four, forcing the Gaiters to burn a time out. A late three pointer by Decee Krah, who was 5 for 7 from the three point line, followed by a put-back bucket from Vali Lazarescu gave the Stingers their first lead of the game at 67-66.

With time winding down and the Stingers clinging to a one point lead, the Gaiters missed a wide open lay-up, with Lazarescu again hustling down the board.

In the last play of the game, Onnex Backwood of Bishop’s was sent to the line with the chance to tie the game. With the pressure firmly on his shoulders, the crowd erupted after the first clanked off the rim, sealing the game for the Stingers.

“I was hoping he’d make them both,” said Gaiters head coach Rod Gilpin. “We had a play drawn up if he missed the first but it didn’t work out.”

“We’re still trying to get to know each other and find our identity,” said Krah, who



Stingers guard Jean-André Moussignac heading upcourt. PHOTO ESTHER BERNARD

“First game of the year coming down to the last second. It doesn’t get much better than that.”

—John Dore,
Stingers head coach

finished with 19 points. “So it’s been a little difficult trying to put everything together fast.”

But during the fourth quarter, Krah liked what he saw.

“We got more intense,” he said. “We played more aggressive. We played great

defence and we played as a team. And whenever you do all those things, good things happen.”

Hamza Ruhezamihigo of the Stingers chipped in 20 points and four rebounds while James Clark had the game’s only double-double, finishing with 12 points and 12 rebounds. Hermon Tesfaghebriel led the Gaiters with 16 points.

In a loud and energetic game, boisterous fans filled the stands. Coaches and players were passionately challenging every call, trying to gain an edge.

“The crowd was terrific,” Dore said. “Everyone was into the game. First game of the year coming down to the last second. It doesn’t get much better than that.”

Stumbling out of the gate

Poor offensive play costs women’s basketball the win

• JAMIE MCCALLUM

Concordia 55 Bishop’s 66

The Concordia Stingers women’s basketball team held its season opener on friendly Loyola campus Friday night. Playing in the second part of a doubleheader after the men’s exciting win, the women were looking for a similar result.

They just never really found their groove.

The Stingers were roundly defeated by the Bishop’s University Gaiters 66-55, who basically did everything better.

“We were emotionally too wound up,” said Stingers head coach Keith Pruden. “We made some silly mistakes early and we never got into a good consistent flow.”

Concordia was competitive in the first quarter, leading the game 13-12, but fell apart in the second, being outscored 18-8, ultimately costing them the win.

The Stingers can take pride in the fact that they were competitive in the second half, being outscored by only two points. They also showed some fight, something that didn’t go unnoticed by their coach.

“We fought back into the game twice,” Pruden said. “We were down by 20 twice. We keep playing and we can play with them.



You shall not pass. Forward Anne-Marie Prophet d’s up. PHOTO ESTHER BERNARD

We can beat them, but we have to play consistently for the whole game. We can’t be riding the roller coaster.”

For all their inconsistent play, the Stingers still had a chance at the win going into the final quarter.

But the Gaiters came out in the fourth looking to put the game away. Bishop’s

pulled away when they hit a three to push the lead to a whopping 21 points with just over seven minutes remaining. Concordia’s fight and grit was on display only late in the game. The Stingers kept attacking even though the game was out of reach. Pruden gave credit to the Gaiters defence.

“Bishop’s were very aggressive defensive-

“We were emotionally too wound up. We made some silly mistake early and we never got into a good consistent flow.”

—Keith Pruden,
Stingers head coach

ly as we expected them to be,” he said. “So credit to Bishop’s for playing defence the way that they did.”

The numbers tell the story. The Stingers shot a paltry 33 per cent from the field and an even lower 11 per cent from three. Compare these to 43 percent from the field and 45 percent from three for the Gaiters and there’s the game. The Stingers showed that they can compete on the boards, out rebounding the Gaiters 34-23 throughout the game. But some nights, the shots just aren’t falling.

“I’m disappointed with all the relatively easy shots we missed,” Pruden said. “But I can put that down to home-opener jitters.”

Jill Verhesen of the Stingers had the best all-around game, finishing with 13 points, seven rebounds and two assists. Kristin Portwine finished with 12 and eight while Anne-Marie Prophete led the Stingers in scoring with 14 points. Gabrielle Côté-Caouette of the Gaiters led her team with 17 points.

Bad things come in threes

Stingers can't defend McGill's perimeter shooting

• LES HONYWILL

**Concordia 82
McGill 90**

The Concordia Stingers men's basketball team showed signs of growing pains in a 90-82 loss to the McGill Redmen Saturday.

McGill went 12 of 20 from the three-point line en route to their first victory of the season, while Concordia fell to 1-1.

"We told the guys they had to defend the three and they didn't defend the three," said Stingers head coach John Dore. "[McGill] played well but in the end we made some mistakes: we had the lead, we gave the ball away, we missed two lay-ups and glaring mistakes cost us the game.

"[McGill] played together. They played well offensively and anytime you shoot 60 per cent from the three-point line, you're going to be in a game," added Dore.

"The real story of this game was 17 year-old Nick Langley," said Redmen assistant coach Bill MacArthur. "He scored 12 points in the last four minutes. He took over the game."

Redmen forward Langley hit a



No smiles for the losing Stingers squad. PHOTO ESTHER BERNARD

pair of clutch three-pointers in the dying minutes with the teams still close, propelling McGill to their third victory in their last 29 meetings with Concordia.

McGill finished out a closely-fought first half with a 58-51 lead at halftime. The Redmen went on to extend their lead by another two

points before Concordia rallied to erase the deficit. After an exchange of three-pointers, the Stingers took a 70-68 point lead into the fourth.

The Stingers looked to have the momentum after going up 76-75 on an impressive alley-oop finished off by forward Evans Laroche. The Redmen turned the ball over on the

following play, leading to a break-away for guard Jean-André Moussignac. However, Moussignac was called for a travel on his ensuing dunk. McGill capitalized on the turnover, with Langley hitting a three-pointer to take a lead that the Redmen would not relinquish.

"We're getting better, but we're

not anywhere close to where we need to be," said Dore.

Redmen guard Matt Thornhill had 17 points and six rebounds to lead his team in both categories.

"We knew we had our backs up against the wall," Thornhill said. "We knew the only way we were going to win was if we went hard for 40 minutes and I think the guys executed well today."

Stingers guard Vali Lazarescu had a strong performance for the Stingers with 24 points and seven rebounds to lead all players in both categories.

"He's fitting in. It's only his second game and he's a very good player," Dore pointed out. "We've just got to build a little more chemistry with him and we'll be fine down the stretch."

The Stingers play the Laval Rouge et Or next on Nov. 20, at which time Dore said he hopes his team will have improved its perimeter defence.

"We've got to stop them from shooting threes," Dore said. "We have to play the same way all the time; we can't turn it on and turn it off. As a young team, that's what they do, they have to learn to play from start to finish."

Home stretch heroics

Strong fourth quarter leads Stingers to a win over Martlets

• LES HONYWILL

**Concordia 66
McGill 57**

Yasmin Jean-Philippe's three-pointer with 1:23 remaining led the Concordia Stingers women's basketball team to a 66-57 victory over the McGill Martlets on Saturday.

Jean-Philippe's three was part of a 24-point fourth quarter for the Stingers, who improved their win-loss record to 1-1.

"We made it a lot more difficult than it should have been," said Stingers guard Nekeita Lee, who finished with 13 points. "But it was a good win and at the end we played really hard."

The Marlets maintained a slim lead throughout the first half, while strong play from Lee kept the Stingers close, never falling behind by more than four.

"[Lee] is a great player, we couldn't stop her because she's so quick," said McGill guard Mary-Eve Martin. "She's a great driver, and we tried to stop that, but it didn't work out very well."

Lee's play couldn't overcome the paltry 29.4 team field goal percentage from Concordia that contributed to a 29-26 Martlet halftime lead.

Martin then caught fire for McGill in the second half, draining 14 of her game-high 22

points, helping the Martlets hang on to a slim two-point lead over the Stingers heading into the fourth.

"I did not know [Martin] was such a good shooter, she had me [beat]," said Lee, who was given the tough task of covering Martin for much of the game.

Concordia opened the fourth quarter on a 14-5 run, highlighted by eight points from Jill Verhesen to take the lead.

"We made it a lot more difficult than it should have been."

—Nekeita Lee,
Stingers guard

The Marlets had pulled within three when Jean-Philippe hit her three to put the Stingers up by six and extinguishing hopes of a McGill comeback.

"I think it was [a lack of] intensity and chemistry on the court, and that we didn't play 40 minutes," said Martin about the loss. "We stopped playing, when we were winning, and then they came back. [This game] means something, but it's the beginning of the season and we're still learning, so we'll try and get better and move on from that."

The strong play of Martin was over-



Stingers guard Kendra Carrie (left) shows some bite. PHOTO ESTHER BERNARD

shadowed by Lee, Jean-Philippe, Verhesen and Anne-Marie Prophet, all scoring in double figures for Concordia, while Kristin Portwine lead the team

with 10 rebounds and three assists.

Concordia heads to Quebec City Friday to take on Université Laval's undefeated Rouge et Or.

 Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

Co-op clarification
The Co-op Bookstore's Board of Directors would like to address two concerns raised by the student media coverage with regards to our application to become a fee-levy group. In two weeks, we will present undergraduate students with a referendum question on the fee-levy, and want students to know that we have been actively working on solutions to the challenges touched on by student newspapers.

We would like to clarify how the Co-op would deal with the membership fee policy if a fee-levy was granted. If a student is already a member, they could opt out of the fee-levy without forfeiting their membership. They would also have the option of getting their membership fee reimbursed, as per the regular rules on user-membership. Of course, if a student who is not a member wanted to opt out of the fee-levy they could do so also. Finally, if a fee-levy paying student who is not a member wanted to become one, 50 per cent of their membership fee would be subsidized by the Co-op so that they would only pay \$5 for a refundable user membership.

The second concern we would like to deal with is the issue of our debt to the Concordia Student Union. Although it is not ideal that we have had to request loans, we have worked continuously to be able to meet our debt obligations. We've examined many financial options available to us, and have worked hard to overcome our challenges, in large part with help from the Centre for Community Organizations. We value a critical eye, and welcome open discussion on our future direction as a service to Concordia students. If we received a fee-levy, we would continue to ensure that the students' needs were met first and foremost, dedicating this money to lower prices on book titles, an individual ordering system, and the expansion of our popular and valuable consignment service.

Finally, the Board would like to invite you to our Annual General Meeting happening on Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 6:30 p.m. in H-771. If you have questions or concerns about the Co-op, the AGM is the perfect venue to get informed, especially with regards to our budget, finances and constitution. You will hear year-end reports from the Co-op Staff and Board of Directors, and have the opportunity to participate in the Board elections.

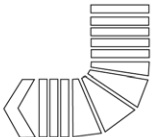
If you want more information, please email coopbookstore@gmail.com or come by the store (2150 Bishop).

—Co-op bookstore
Board of Directors

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

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

send your letters and opinions to
letters@thelinknewspaper.ca



**American system
not for Con U**

We are shocked to learn that Judith Woodsworth, the president of our university, thinks the American model would be a good model for Concordia.

To those who say students in Quebec are spoiled for wanting to protect our education system, you may now understand why we are so concerned. Some of us came from the United States to avoid these types of social policies; we would not have been able to afford Concordia if it had 'American-style' tuition. Some of us came from other countries and, because of recent tuition hikes for international students at Concordia, have to consider transferring to more affordable universities.

The American model, in which most students pay a flat tuition, 'while those with financial difficulties are subsidized by the school,' is not as effective as the president makes it sound. It means turning education into an industry in which it is sold and paid back over a lifetime. Loans and debt affect not only students' well-being and academic performance; they affect their career choices, because to pay back their debt students must choose high-paying jobs instead of work that responds to the social responsibility our president highly praised in her speech to the Canadian Club of Montreal.

While Woodsworth is right that the student financial assistance regime is problematic, this would not be the case if the government prioritized funding our education system. We disagree with the president's idea that 'the best solution' is to charge tuition to those who have money and support those 'who are really in need.' The 'model' for Quebec universities should not be an American model that grants gifts only to those lucky enough—or poor enough—to receive a scholarship, but rather a model based on universal access to education. We wonder if the president realizes that through her comments, she is excusing the Quebec government from its responsibility to prioritize basic services such as education.

Not to mention, it is disconcerting for us that the first person the president cited in her speech was the CEO of General Electric. We wonder if this is a sign that the private sector is increasingly dictating how our president thinks about education in this province. We worry that the president thinks our education system should be run like a business, according to a profit-making rationale, instead of for the benefit of critical thinking, learning and a healthy, just society.

—Nadia Hausfather, PhD Humanities,
Robert Sonin, M.A. Philosophy,
Douglas Smith, Spanish (Expression &
Culture) / Études françaises,
Erik Chevrier, M.A. Special
Individualized Program,
Odile Laforest, SCPA, Concordia

Black-pocalypse now

Why do black movie presidents foreshadow disaster?

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Like most men of my generation, I live by a moral code rooted in the plots of '80s and '90s action movies. I don't trust shifty-eyed, ruggedly handsome foreign men. If something is ever about to blow up, I'll dive away from the explosion after yelling "she's gonna blow!" And I usually have a witty barb handy for when I kill a bad guy or find a dead body ("surf's up, bitch" or "looks like someone punched their last ticket"). I also have a loveable, wisecracking street-smart ethnic sidekick.

So you shouldn't be surprised when I tell you how afraid I am of a black president. It isn't political and it's not the usual 'I'm not racist but...' thing, but it's the action movies. When the president of the United States is black in an action movie, some bad shit is about to go down.

Remember *Deep Impact*? A meteor hits the earth on President Morgan Freeman's watch—which has nothing to do with his race, but isn't an isolated case.

Another '90s classic, *The Fifth Element*, doesn't exactly inspire confidence in a black president either. President Tom Lister Jr.'s aggressive foreign policy almost gets Earth blown up by aliens, but, lucky for him, Bruce Willis had the presence of mind to save the world.

Danny Glover played the president in Columbia Pictures' recently released disaster film, *2012*. So basically, a black president is elected and the apoc-

So basically, a black president is elected and the apocalypse is at hand before his first term is over.

alypse is at hand before his first term is over. The trend isn't limited to action movies either. In Mike Judge's *Idiocracy*, black president Dwayne Elizondo Mountain Dew Herbert Camacho presides over a future United States, in which the country's collective stupidity has turned America into a wasteland. Not even Luke Wilson's aww-shucks charm can turn things around.

Right now you're probably thinking they should have elected Hillary instead of Obama. But guess what? There's a woman president in the movie *Blindness* and in *Blindness*, the whole country goes blind except for Julianne Moore. Not cool.

Movies aren't reality, but life imitates art. Or is it the other way around? In any case, let's just play it safe, impeach Obama and replace him with a white male president like Bill Pullman in *Independence Day*. You'll thank me when aliens try to invade our planet.

heartaches anonymous

*Dear Heartaches Anonymous,
I'm a highly eligible, single, gay male. While I have a great and supportive circle of friends, sometimes I just crave a sweet man to fall asleep next to. The problem is, I just can't seem to meet anyone.*

The environment I work in is full of maternally—yet fabulous—women. I'm not the club type and am leery of hitting on strangers while grocery shopping. It's been a while since my last relationship, but it feels like I've been out of the game forever. I'd like to meet someone, I'm just not sure how. Any suggestions?

—A Little Rusty

Dear, sweet Rusty,
So it's been a while since you've had a boyfriend. How long has it been since you've had a fuck?

I'm a big believer in casual sex for the *célibataires* among us. Sexual frustration probably pushes us into more relationships than we like to admit. Ask yourself whether you really want a boyfriend or whether you just need to get your dick worked.

Besides, an aversion to the club scene doesn't necessarily

leave you out of the dating game.

"The whole idea of going out to a gay bar and hooking up is a bit, I don't know, contrived," offers one guy, who professes to be, well, kind of over it. "I think when you go out, everyone's in a heightened sense of reality, because everyone's drunk and the music's loud. I got tired of that and meeting someone not on proper terms—not meeting them in their natural lives."

In other words, he says, don't feel like you're missing out on myriad romantic opportunities by not entering the fray.

There's so much more to life than running errands and

work—or, at least, there should be. I think it's time to start spending more of your free time in public. Coffee shops, for example, are a notorious pick-up place, both for customers and the baristas.

I wish I had some suggestions I'd feel comfortable tagging with a guarantee, but the truth of the matter is, you just can't force it. Keep busy, try something new and concentrate on satisfying yourself. Shower daily. The more you get yourself out and about, the more likely you are to meet new people. Cast a wide social net and you're bound to catch a good one eventually.

send your relationship queries to
heartachesanonymous@gmail.com

Are you lonely of heart?
Tortured of conscience?
Frustrated of genital?



Expatriate blues

American decries state of social progress in her home country

• NATASHA YOUNG

Being an American is hard sometimes. I spent the entirety of my teenage years in the U.S. of A. deeply ashamed of my home country for electing—and then re-electing—perhaps the most pathetic excuse of a ruler in its history.

I was relieved to move to Montreal to study here at Concordia. I was a happy expatriate, flattered when new friends asked if I was from the Toronto or Vancouver area.

Then, in November 2008, shortly after I had successfully completed the transplant from Maine to Montreal, I was finally able to admit some patriotism when Barack Obama was elected president. Yes, the last eight years were a catastrophe, but we've made up for it. Finally, America is making some social progress! Maybe things will finally be different, and the so-called greatest nation on Earth can begin to play catch-up with the rest of the western world.

In light of recent events, however, I am once again disappointed and, especially, frustrated with the primitive thinking of my country.

First, I was ecstatic to learn that Obama was pushing for a universal health care plan. I kept up with the news, hopeful to see the outcome. Then I learned of the Stupak-Pitts Amendment, tacked onto a bill that would otherwise

fix much of what is wrong with America's health care system.

If a measure similar to the Stupak-Pitts Amendment were to be included in the final bill for universal health care, women would not be covered for abortion by the "public option" health insurance plan or any private health insurance plan that received funding from the government, emergency cases (rape, incest and danger to the mother) notwithstanding.

Being an American is hard sometimes.

This is at least somewhat acceptable, whereas the Hyde amendment, in response to *Roe vs. Wade*, set a restriction on the public funding of abortions. Many private health insurance plans currently cover abortion.

If these companies opted to accept funding from the government under this plan, abortion coverage would be revoked for their customers. Apparently, women would have to seek out some sort of currently non-existent "abortion insurance" that is 100 per cent privately-funded, or just pay for the procedure out of pocket.

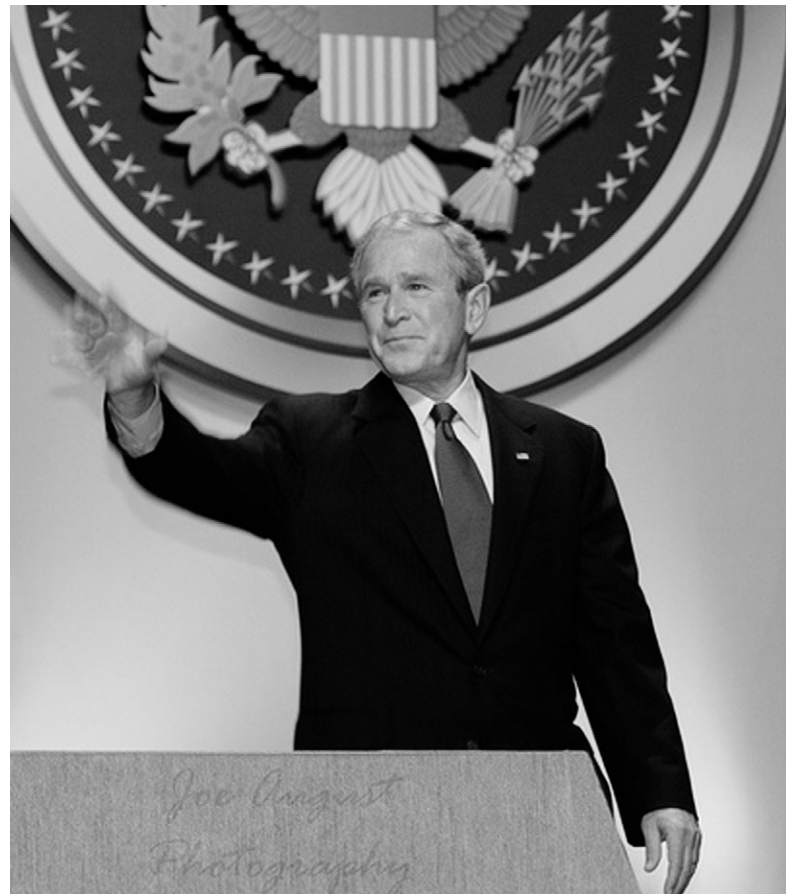
As the only industrialized nation that does not have a universal health care system, there is a lot that needs to be fixed. This

bill is the beginning of some much-needed efforts that are long, long overdue. Thanks to a near-unanimous vote from some 176 Republican representatives, what could have been a great step forward in the name of progress has been heavily set back.

On top of the never-ending abortion debate is the gay marriage issue. Recently, my home state, Maine, voted by referendum to repeal the previously established law allowing gay marriage. This sort of back-and-forth has been going on in many different states—most famously in California. This issue is dealt with differently from state to state. Same-sex marriages are currently legally performed only in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, and Vermont. California recognizes the same-sex marriages that were performed during the period it was legal, and in New York and Washington, D.C., same-sex marriages from other states or countries are recognized but not performed. In just about all of middle America, same-sex marriage is banned in state constitutions. It gets confusing pretty fast.

All that said, it baffles me that there are enough of these churchy extreme conservatives living in Western society in the 21st century to elect representatives to "protect their interests," to "preserve morality."

In my mind, these kinds of people—the people who stage



Wasn't this supposed to be rock bottom? PHOTO AMARINE88

protests outside of Planned Parenthood with blown-up images of aborted fetuses, the people who still insist that homosexuality is an abomination—live in small, sheltered communities and ought not to be taken seriously.

That they have enough numbers among them to actually legally impact the way women deal with their bodies, whether homosexuals can marry, etc., continues

to come as a surprise to me every time a new outrage shows up in the news. My nation may have been ready to elect its first black president, but the sad fact is, as far as the rest of Western society is concerned, much of America is still painfully socially primitive.

That said, I will continue to long for the day I will no longer be embarrassed to flash my American passport. In the meantime, I'll enjoy my expatriation.

Friends don't let friends text and drive

• JUSTIN BELL (INTERCAMP GRANT MACEWAN COLLEGE)

EDMONTON (CUP) — You take your eyes off the road for a half a second, reasoning that not much will change in the split second between glances towards your dashboard. Sitting on the dash of your car is your phone, buzzing away with text messages, reflecting the instant communication of the 21st century.

But travelling anywhere above 50 kilometres per hour, it's surprising how much your surroundings can change in an instant—and how long your eyes are pulled away from the road.

Texting and driving has become the newest safety concern for police forces around the world.

Traffic codes are a matter of

provincial jurisdiction, and Quebec, Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba and Nova Scotia have all passed laws banning various forms of texting and driving.

A woman in Oxford, U.K. was recently given a 21-month prison term for a collision where she slammed into a parked car while texting. The driver of the other car was killed instantly.

While her lawyers tried to claim the sentence was too harsh for what they deemed a tragic accident, her punishment actually seems too lenient for someone who crushed a parked car because she was distracted by her phone.

Police reports from the scene indicate the parked vehicle would have been visible from as far away as 330 metres back and that road

A woman in Oxford, U.K. was recently given a 21-month prison term for a collision where she slammed into a parked car while texting. The driver of the other car was killed instantly.

conditions weren't a major factor.

New laws were enacted in Great Britain in 2003 that increased sentencing for people who are distracted by cell phones, either by calling or texting. It's also a finable offence to operate a phone while driving.

Why are drivers allowed to zip up and down our highways, or travel through school zones replete with children, when we know they aren't paying attention?

What the British have proven, and what Canadians have known for years, is that distracted driving

can be just as dangerous as drunk driving.

In both cases, drivers aren't focusing on their one-tonne vehicle as it careens down the road at breakneck speeds.

We have to stop these unsafe habits. As the up-and-coming generation of technology adopters, students are likely the most egregious offenders.

We've latched onto the marvel of the messages from the ether, effortlessly making their way around the country and across the globe with little effort and with less expense than a phone call.

But driving while texting is akin to trying to write your essay while juggling knives that are on fire, over a pit of jaguars. Jaguars with leprosy. Yes, it's that dangerous.

The New York Times' website has a great application in the paper's technology section demonstrating how difficult it can be to text while driving. You have to type a text message with your mouse while changing lanes with the number pad, only hitting 1-6. Even these two menial tasks, when combined, prove incredibly difficult and crashes quickly ensue.

So while it may seem innocent enough to grab that text from your ladyfriend while travelling back to the city at 140 kilometres per hour, don't do it.

MONEY

The root of all evil or the best green in town?



Come to *The Link's*
brainstorming session.

Friday, Nov. 20, 2009
4 p.m. H-649

It's
all about
the
Bordens.

THE **LiNK** 30.

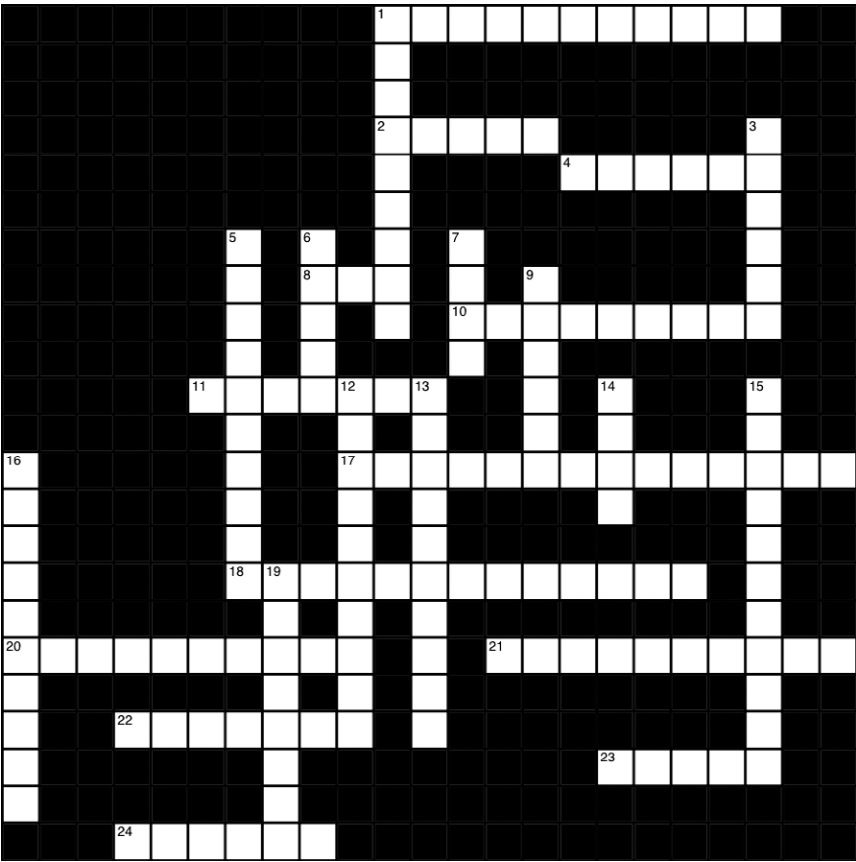
crs wrd

pzzlol

THE URKEL EDITION
• R. BRIAN “OH YES I DID THAT” HASTIE

Across

1. Urkel was a sheer machine when it came to these memorable bits of speech. It's hard to go one work day at an IT firm without someone uttering them. Ah, lost youth. Keep grasping at those straws, cubicle dweller Mark Johnson.
2. The object of Urkel's desire, apart from Lady Science and the White Pony.
4. Steven Urkel's middle name.
8. The TV network that *Family Matters* aired on. Now they've got things like *Lost* and *Desperate Housewives*. A far cry from FM guest stars like the Road Warriors. I wish more professional wrestlers would show up in scripted TV sitcoms or dramas. Just picture Stone Cold Steve Austin (he's still a thing, right?) misting up at the death of one of the protagonists from *Two And A Half Men*. I smell Oscar AND Grammy.
10. After Urkel can't take it, he usually does this. But really we know he's usually just standing outside, hoping to be allowed back in. (Two words)
11. Red and duct-taped, these trusty instruments allowed Urkel to differentiate between closed and open doors.
17. Urkel's smoother, narcissistic alter-ego. I kinda preferred him to Urkel, given that he could actually tie his own shoes. Oh, and buy a pack of smokes without being carded. (Two words)
18. The amount of time it takes Urkel to do the *New York Times* crossword puzzle. (Two words)
20. A novelty hit of the early '90s. Along with V-lce, this record usually gets tossed on at parties when the party gets going to achieve maximum party awesomeness. (Two words)
21. One of Urkel's signature sayings, usually uttered after he blows the shit out of something or puts a hole through the side of a building, much to Carl's annoyance. (Four words)
22. Limited-edition fruit-flavoured cereal. I remember friends telling me that all they did after eating it was puke it back up as it apparently tasted like sawdust and wasted marketing dollars.

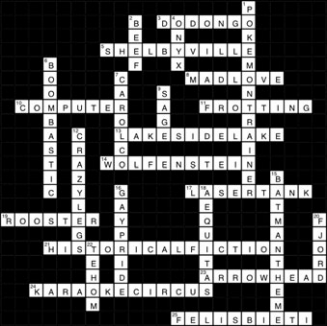


23. The final story arc of the *Family Matters* TV series has Urkel hurtling helplessly through this vast expanse of land.
24. All good nerds crave this dairy product. Oh, and all good nerds crave Mountain Dew too, from what I've heard. At least that's what all of these banner ads online have told me whenever I visit one of them nerd nests like WoW fan sites or MC Lars' website.

Down

1. The serum used to turn boring Steve into fun Steve. Hint: Not Kahlua. (2 words)
3. Urkel's female cousin. She was kinda hot, from what I remembered.
5. Even if you were blinded by a vat of acid that I tend to keep around me, you'd still be able to hear Urkel by this defining noise that he unfortunately makes. It's like a very short wheeze. Oh Hell, now everyone's wheezing. (Two words)
6. The sexy lower half of Urkel's wardrobe that keeps his legs warm. Except for that one time he wore a kilt. That was just unseemly.
7. Urkel's wheels of choice.
9. Generally, if you've never had a date, you've never gotten past first base, let alone a home run.
12. The magical clothing accessory that allowed Urkel to not flash his dong at an unsuspecting public.
13. Another TGIF show that Urkel ended up on

issue 13
solutionz



- during one crossover episode. He landed right in their backyard and never looked back. When people pull that shit, sometimes you can take them down with a bit of force, depending on what part of the world you live in. (Three words)
14. Urkel's defining characteristic, apart from his nihilistic, megalomaniacal tendencies. At least his pocket protector makes him kinda cool, right?
15. Urkel's real name. This actor also voiced Sonic the Hedgehog for a period of time in the '90s. (Two words)
16. Bea Arthur famously joined Urkel on-stage to perform this dance and she definitely had more moves than he did, from what my VHS tape tells me. (Three words)
19. The family that Steve Urkel tormented for 198 episodes of sheer terror.

editorial

Discovering the wrong side of Canada

Discover Canada is, without a doubt, a redefinition of what it means to be Canadian, but is it a good one?

On Nov. 12 of this year, Harper's Conservatives released *Discover Canada: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship*, an updated study guide meant to educate immigrants who aim for citizenship about what it means to be Canadian.

There's no question that each government that comes into power sets a tone that affects not only how the country is run but also how the country defines itself.

In the 1970s, Trudeau's Liberals made us a bilingual nation fuelled by youthful idealism—some said an arrogant and reckless idealism that left the nation under a debt it still struggles with. Brian Mulroney's Progressive Conservatives in the 1980s made us a fiscally conservative country with a penchant for privatization, but also one that finally recognized and apologized for the indecencies our government inflicted on Canadian citizens of Japanese origin during World War II.

There's no doubt that *Discover Canada* is more comprehensive than *A Look at Canada*, the old guide written by the Liberal government in 1995, as it's almost twice the length. But it's not just length the Conservatives have added.

Despite its name, *Look* was blind to many of Canada's black eyes. Its historical section made no mention of the government's decision to violate the treaties it made with the First Nations repeatedly during the nation's infancy and afterwards, place Austro-Hungarian Canadians in hard labour camps during the First World War, displace Japanese Canadians in the Second World War, turn away Jewish immigrants fleeing Nazi persecution in 1939, and its complicity in the effort to systematically eradicate Native culture and history through the disgusting failures of humanity that were the residential schools.

Discover stands as a radical change in tone from the past immigration guide. All of these events are mentioned in the new one—mentioned and justified or glossed over. Apologies are made for the wrongs we've committed in a tone most would reserve for being unable to make it to a dinner party.

The path of Canadian history is presented as a glorious and inevitable march towards power and wealth, inspired by a portion of *Bible Psalm 72* (included in the guide) that espoused a “dominion from sea to sea,” occasionally threatened by events such as Native rebellions. Canadians are defined as faithful Christians who are largely born in Canada and are proud inheritors of British traditions and institutions.

Topics such as the environment, which figured significantly in *Look*, are almost entirely ignored, replaced by paragraphs that outline Canadian athletic and scientific achievements. Instead of being told to preserve nature for the benefit of future generations, prospective Canadians are being told to join the army. Jim Balsillie gets a more comprehensive introduction in this document than the health care system.

When you tell a stranger about the country you come from, do you list the names of the Group of Seven painters? Do you tell them about Terry Fox? Do you list the international organizations that Canada has been a part of?

Or do you tell them about how Canada believes that all humans have a fundamental right to health care? That Canadian multiculturalism dictates that a citizen's ethnic and cultural background has merit and brings value to our society as a whole?

Discover Canada provides new and perspective citizens with more of the particulars of Canadian history and for that it is to be commended. The gaps in the old immigration guide were embarrassing. But in reconceptualizing Canadian identity, the Harper government has cut the heart out of what we most identify with as being Canadian.

—Clare Raspopow,
Production Manager

Read it and weep

BY TRAVIS DANDRO

