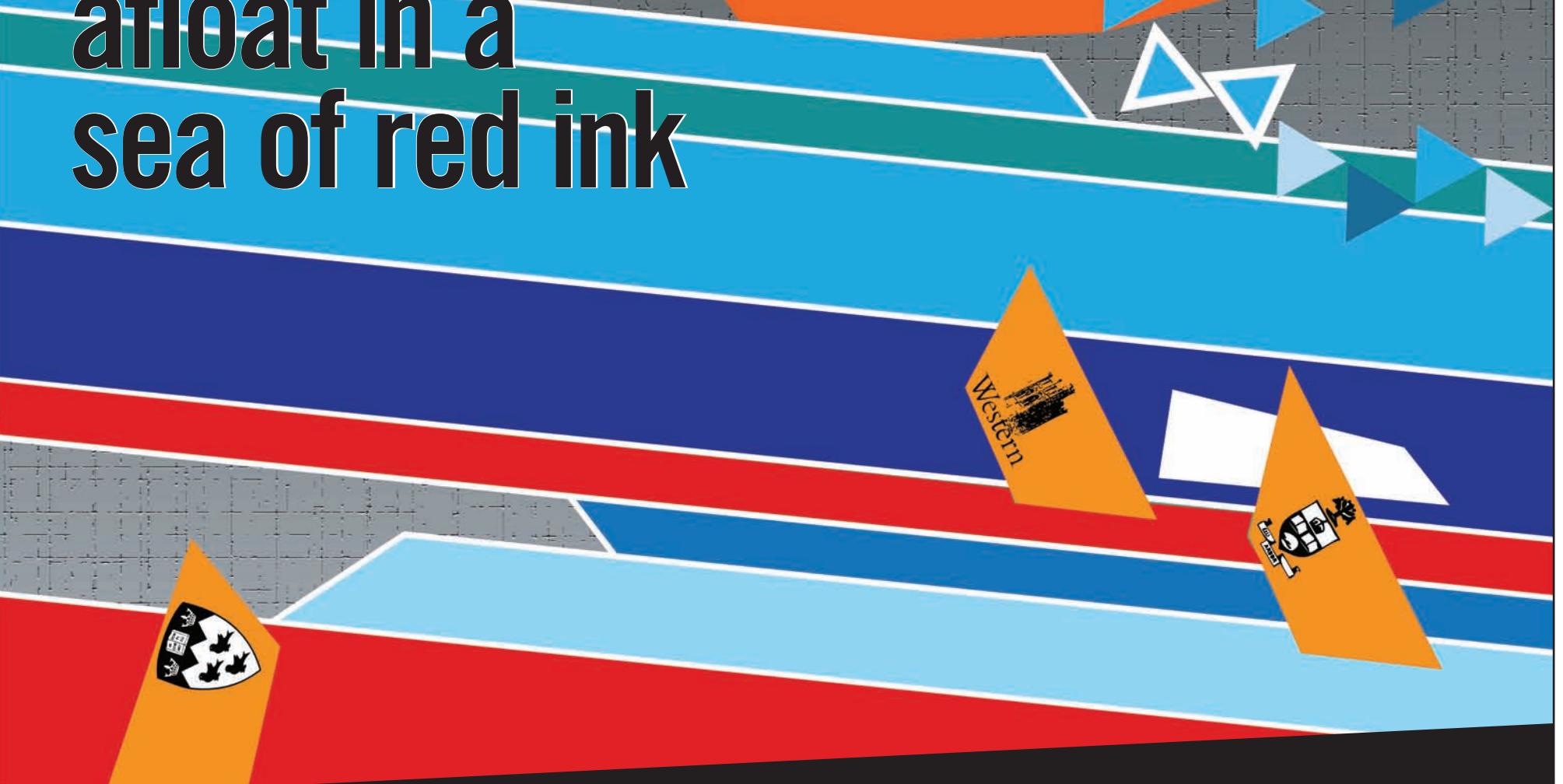




Concordia afloat in a sea of red ink



Con U slashes deficit while others sink • News 3

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THE LiNK
CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Tuesday, January 5, 2010	ext. 7405 arts: (514) 848-2424 ext. 5813
Concordia University	ads: (514) 848-2424 ext. 8682 fax: (514) 848-4540
Hall Building, Room H-649	business: (514) 848-7406
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.	
Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8	
editor-in-chief	photo editor
TERRINE FRIDAY	OPEN
news editor	graphics editor
JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI	VIVIEN LEUNG
features editor	managing editor
Laura Beeston	CLARE RASPOPOW
fringe arts editor	layout manager
Madeleine Coleman	MATHIEU BIARD
literary arts editor	webmaster
Christopher Olson	TRISTAN LAPOLINTE
sports editor	business manager
Christopher Curtis	RACHEL BOUCHER
opinions editor	distribution
Diego Pelaez Gaetz	ROBERT DESMARAIIS
copy editor	DAVID KAUFMANN
Tom Llewellyn	ad designer
student press liaison	ADAM NORRIS
OPEN	

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THIS WEEK'S CONTRIBUTORS

David Adelman, Oksana Cueva, Travis Dandro, Clay Hemmerich, Shawna Satz, Ariane Valmont

cover by Vivien Leung

Concordia's first quarter cause for cautious optimism

University set to slash deficit, according to projection

• CLARE RASPOPOW

In the face of a disastrous financial year worldwide, with universities across Canada saddled with unexpected deficits, Concordia University has received some financial good news. Not only has the university not fallen further into debt, it seems it's managed to drastically reduce its deficit for the year.

At December's Board of Governors meeting, controller Nathalie Laporte announced that the expected deficit this year had been reduced to a mere \$900,000. Early budgetary estimates placed the deficit at approximately \$4.2 million with a total debt of \$56 million.

Laporte pointed to increased student enrolment as one of the reasons for the unexpected windfall.

Chris Mota, director of media relations, warned against becoming overly optimistic.

"The first results are good, but that is the first quarter only," she said.

Due to pressure from the Board of Governors, the university began issuing quarterly updates this year before the normal annual report. Laporte's estimates are based on the university's first quarter results alone.

"I think [the deficit reductions are] what we'd like to hear but I think it's premature to make [assumptions]," said Mota.

But even cautious optimism is more than many Canadian universities can hope for. In November of last year, Queen's University Principal and Vice-Chancellor Daniel R. Woolf announced that, for the first time

in the university's history, Queen's is in a deficit position, with a projected operating deficit of \$8.3 million.

"We are—indeed—facing serious circumstances," he announced in his financial update.

"The first results are good, but that is the first quarter only."

—Chris Mota,
director of media relations

The main reason for Queen's current deficit is the beating the university's pension fund took in the stock market downturn. It, like many other universities, has a defined-benefit pension. This means that when the assets of the pension fall below the liabilities, the university is legally required

to make up the difference out of their operating budget.

This situation is affecting universities all over Canada. The University of Toronto has projected a \$45 million deficit for 2009-10. The University of Western Ontario announced in early 2009 that they expected a \$41 million shortfall in operating revenue.

Mota could not comment on the state of Concordia's pension fund, nor was the fund addressed in the December Board of Governor's meeting. Concordia's second quarter results should indicate whether the university's first quarter results were misleading.

"I expect that the second quarter results should be coming in in the next few days or weeks," said Mota.

\$58,000 donated to feed hungry students

Recession sends students in search of food aid in record numbers

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Facing the highest youth unemployment in a decade, Concordia University students turned out in record numbers to seek food aid. To meet their unfortunate demand, wallets opened wider than ever before as over \$58,000 was donated to the university's Multi-faith Chaplaincy.

"The response has been stellar," said chaplaincy coordinator Rev. Ellie Hummel. The chaplaincy has run the year-round Student Emergency and Food Fund since the establishment of Concordia University in 1974.

"It's an amazing initiative by the Multi-faith Chaplaincy, especially in this time of crisis when so many students have been hit by the economic downturn and can't afford food," said Concordia Student Union President Amine Dabchy.

"We are not a charity. We don't have a budget. What we take in is what we put out," said Hummel, who distributed \$58,000 worth of

supermarket gift cards to needy students. Due to the high demand and the need to give all of what it receives, the Food Fund has had little money to cover the overhead needed to process and distribute the gift cards.

"We are a bit of a victim of our own success. It is a very popular program," said Hummel. "Sometimes people ask me what they need to do in return. Often I say nothing, but sometimes I say you need to be nice to others. It is really a gift."

When Hummel announced the record amount that the fund had received at Concordia's Dec. 10 Board of Governors meeting, the response was overwhelmingly positive. Some governors immediately took out their chequebooks and asked who they should write the cheques to.

"To help this fund, the CSU put forward \$5,000 for students in need during the winter term," said Dabchy. The CSU will provide its own gift cards in a service that will run parallel to



Rev. Ellie Hummel is a champion of the food fund. PHOTO TERRINE FRIDAY

the chaplaincy's project.

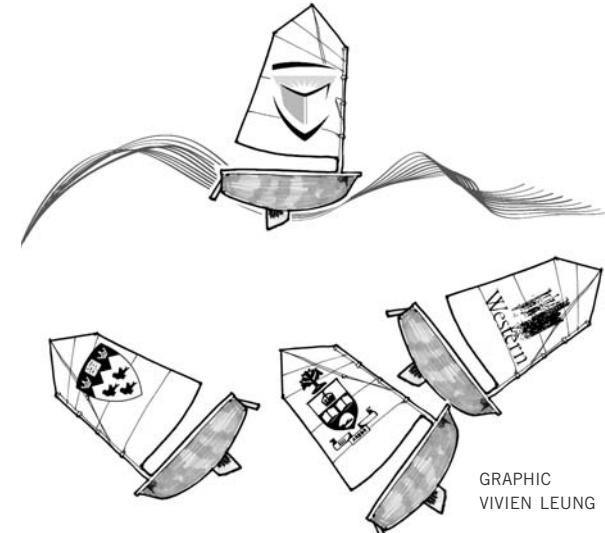
Both Dabchy and Hummel blamed the weak economy for the strong demand, citing the high youth unemployment rate—nearly 20 per cent during last summer according to StatsCan. Despite the hardship, Hummel warned that not all students could get help.

"Most students could use some spare money but it really needs to be a crisis situation," she warned. "Your account balance needs to be

low; you can't afford food, your fridge is empty and you can't last two days until you get paid."

As the economy begins to recover the demand for aid should fall, but due to the high enrolment caused by people fleeing the recession, demand could remain high for the next year.

"More students are in school this year because of the crisis and because of the crisis more students are in need," said Dabchy.



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

Remembering the Gaza dead

Montrealers pause one year after the Gaza War killed thousands

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

The names of the 1,417 Palestinians killed in last year's war in Gaza echoed through downtown Montreal as they were read aloud amidst the snow and sleet of Phillips Square on Jan. 3.

"It was not easy, either physically or emotionally," said a shivering Osama Alkefer after he had read two dozen names. Alkefer had been looking for Boxing Week specials on Ste-Catherine Street before joining the demonstration as he walked past The Bay. Protest organizers invited anyone attending the event to take a turn reading names.

"People don't think of the [Palestinian] victims as actual human beings with lives, names and families," said Brian Aboud, a member of the organizing committee for the demonstration.

"Reading their names is an appropriate way of remembering the scale of the destruction and the killing," he continued. "They are not invisible victims."

The anniversary of the first day of the three-week war, dubbed Operation Cast Lead by the Israeli Defense Force, was on Dec. 27, but Aboud said that the Jan. 3 demon-

stration was a build-up to a larger event planned to mark the last day of the war on Jan. 18.

"I feel sadness for the people that passed away, innocent people, just because they practised their democratic right and chose a government," said Alkefer, referring to the Hamas government that was elected in the Gaza Strip in 2006.

"People don't think of the [Palestinian] victims as actual human beings with lives, names and families."

—*Brian Aboud, member of demonstration's organizing committee*

"They were punished for their choice."

Following the election of Hamas—identified as a terrorist organization by the United States, Canada and the European Union—diplomatic and economic sanctions were imposed on the Gaza Strip by governments around the world, including the Harper government.

"The Gaza invasion is an event that stands out in our minds as an



The head of Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights' Concordia chapter, Doug Smith, holds the megaphone as the names of the Gaza dead are read aloud. PHOTO CLARE RASPOW

especially upsetting and traumatic episode," said Amy Darwish, who attended the demonstration. "It's important to remember the people who lost their lives and to remember the ongoing siege and blockage of Gaza.

"It remains a virtual prison."

The heavy snow was just another element for the many seasoned protesters in Phillips Square.

"I have been active in support of the Palestinian people as a Montrealer for nearly 20 years and we have been coming out in the snow for nearly as long," said

Aboud. "We hope that one day we can come out and celebrate something, as opposed to commemorating death."

Stay tuned for next week's full-length feature on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Stinger Dome is up, but not open

Some Stingers have already 'blessed' the dome through play

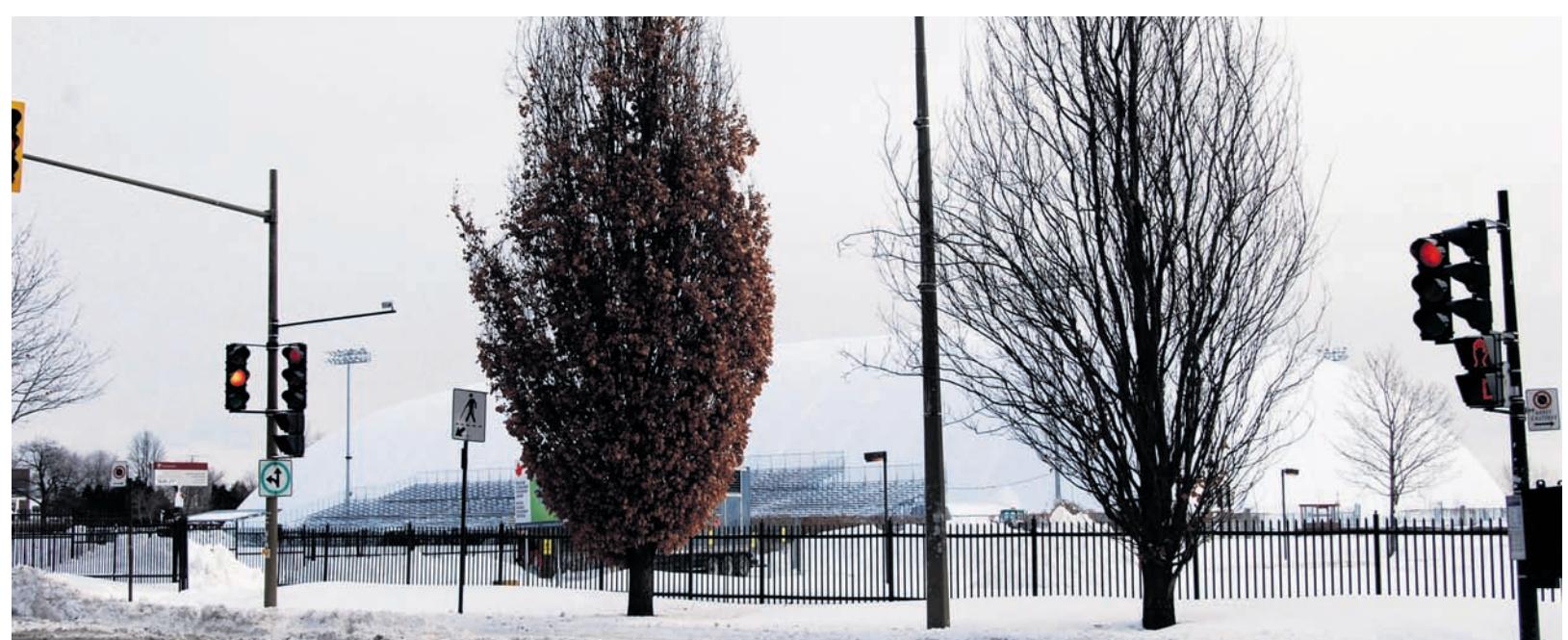
• MADELINE COLEMAN

The Stinger Dome lurks behind the bleachers at Concordia's Loyola campus, the massive off-white structure blending neatly into the winter sky. Despite already hosting some of Concordia's athletes, Director of Recreation and Athletics Katie Sheahan said the facility will not be officially inaugurated until the end of January.

"We've blessed it with a bit of participation before we've christened it," Sheahan said, a decision which she attributes to the fact that weather prevented the dome's completion until after the original November construction deadline.

"A project of this size and magnitude and innovativeness makes it a little difficult to predict [how long it will take] when you're putting things in it for the first time," she continued.

Sheahan confirmed that the major infrastructure of the Dome, including the mechanics and the air inflation system that keeps it aloft, has already been completed. All that remains is to put on the fin-



Hardly visible amid 30 centimetre-deep snow that blanketed Montreal before Jan. 4, the Stinger Dome stands over Loyola's lower field. PHOTO MADELINE COLEMAN

ishing touches, including "fine-tuning the official hook-ups with Hydro-Québec for the permanent power source."

The dome requires constant support from its air inflation units, meaning its mechanical systems must always be operating as

long as the dome is in use. Sheahan admitted that sustaining its structure requires substantial electricity.

"We have a program that allows us to manage and monitor the exact needs of energy, whether it be heat or the support," she said.

Soccer, rugby, football and flag football players will have immediate access to the field, but Sheahan said she hopes to bring other sports, including golf and cross-country running, into the dome.

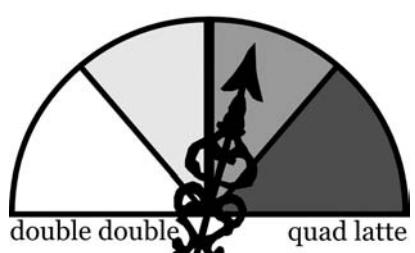
"It's designed for the beauty of its interior space in the sense that

there are so few places where you can have that kind of unrestricted interior playing surface with no columns and seven stories of space," she continued. "It's got the versatility, with its height and its length, that will really make the project a great success."

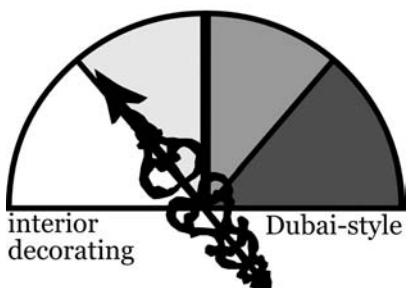
A look forward to 2010

A brief peak at six factors that will shape student life over the next year

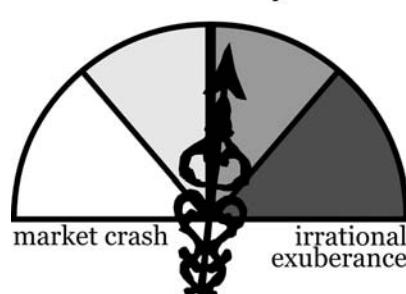
Price of Coffee



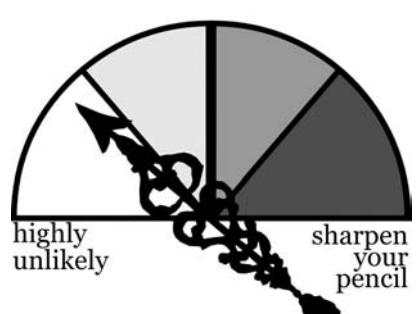
Construction at SGW Campus



Economy



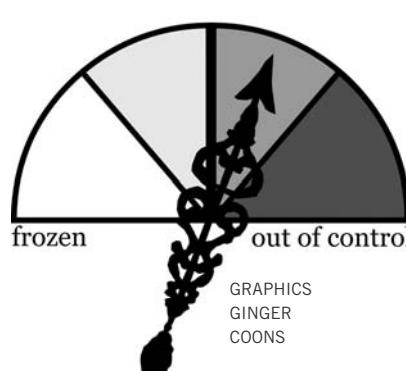
Election



Jobs



Tuition



135 hours in the Desert Bus

Group raises \$140,000 for charity by playing world's most boring video game

• ANDREW BATES, THE PHOENIX (UBC OKANAGAN)

KELOWNA, B.C (CUP)—After more than five straight days of gaming, Internet sketch comedy group LoadingReadyRun were wracked with exhaustion in their Victoria, B.C. headquarters.

At 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 25, the troupe completed its 135th consecutive hour of playing what is widely regarded in gaming communities as the most boring video game ever made: Desert Bus. Many of LoadingReadyRun's members had been up for more than 24 hours by the time their quest was over.

The task was not aimless: the comedy group raised close to \$140,000 through the event, called Desert Bus for Hope, for Child's Play—a charity that donates video games, books, money and other

goodies to sick children in hospitals around the world.

"The success of DBfH this year was so beyond what we were expecting, I barely have words for it," said Kathleen de Vere, a member of LoadingReadyRun. "We are all so incredibly proud and happy to have been able to do this, and be so successful."

The challenge of DBfH was simple: the more people donated to Child's Play, the longer the LoadingReadyRun team had to play Desert Bus. Money was also raised through charity auctions and by accepting dares for donations such as singing, re-enacting scenes from webcomics and going to see *New Moon* in the theatre while wearing eyeliner and tight pants.

Desert Bus, a mini-game from a Penn and Teller video game that

was never released, was a commentary on overly realistic video games. In it, the player must drive a bus from Tucson, Ariz. to Las Vegas, Nev. in real time.

The game therefore consists of driving a bus for eight hours down a bare, straight desert road. Players can't pause or put the controller down because the bus veers slightly to the right if not corrected. Once a player reaches Las Vegas, he or she earns one point, at which point the bus turns around to drive for another in eight hours.

The world record before 2009's event was six points—also set by LoadingReadyRun—and was set this year at 14 points before driver Bill Watts lost control of the bus while trying to sing Queen's "Don't Stop Me Now" for a donation.

According to de Vere, the event, now in its third year, has been

gaining steam ever since its inception.

"Our first year, people were sort of amused at what we were doing, but also very confused," she said. "This year, the Internet basically cracked its collective knuckles and went wild."

One fan even used the event to propose to his girlfriend, donating \$20 to have his marriage proposal to another fan posted on the event's webcast overlay. She said yes.

"I think DBfH really shows how amazing gamers are," de Vere said. "I truly believe that geeks like us are actually more generous and philanthropic than a standard-issue human. After this year, I am starting to suspect that the people who helped, donated, watched and encouraged us are actually superhuman."

Briefs

Parliament shut down until March

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has suspended Parliament for the second time in two years, until after the Olympics. Harper cited a need to "recalibrate" his government's economic stimulus program. The move has shuttered an investigation into the handling of Afghan detainees, will allow the Conservatives to take control of the Senate and kills 30 government bills.

Mayor kills green space program

At the first post-election city council meeting on Dec. 3, Mayor Gerald Tremblay announced that due to budget constraints, Montreal's green space program would be terminated to help fund the maintenance of existing parks. Environmental groups warn that the city's goal of protecting five per cent of the island's green space will not be reached without additional funding.

Scuffle spills across downtown metro stations

A fight that broke out inside the metro at McGill station on Dec. 27 led to the sealing of three nearby stations by police. *The Gazette* reported that trapped bystanders were allegedly struck with nightsticks at Place des Arts station and that two black youths had their heads slammed against metro wagons by officers at Berri-UQAM station. No arrests were made.

Royal visits costs RCMP \$270,000

Providing security for Prince Charles during his 10-day visit to Canada in November cost the RCMP an estimated \$270,000, most of which went towards lodging for police, reported *La Presse*. The cost of using a Canadian military plane and security detail was not included.

City launches anonymous corruption hotline

The city of Montreal, in the wake of last year's front page corruption scandals, launched a phone and Internet hotline that will allow city employees and contractors to anonymously report ethics violations by bureaucrats.

Student union promises a Winter Wonderland

Concordia's week-long Winter Orientation to lessen the blow of snow

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

For students dreading the walk back to school through the snow and slush, the Concordia Student Union is putting on Winter Wonderland, the 2010 winter term orientation.

"It's a little 'welcome back to school' kind of event," said Kristen

Gregor, the CSU's VP student life, as she announced the schedule for the four-day orientation.

Warm drinks will greet students at Reggie's and the adjoining terrace as the orientation starts at noon on Jan. 5. Free popcorn will follow on the evening of Jan. 6 as *UP!* is shown in the Hall

building's well-heated H-110.

"Winter Orientation is a little different from the Fall Orientation," said Gregor. "In the summer, everyone is coming off of a long break. Most students now have only been off for two weeks. We are starting back right into it."

A dance party held at the Telus

Theatre on the corner of St-Denis and Ste-Catherine Streets on Jan. 7 will headline the orientation calendar. Ending the first week of braving snowplows and long lines at Student Services, the sequel to "Many Tastes of Concordia" will let students sample free food in front of the CSU's 7th floor offices the afternoon of Jan. 8.



Dance Animal: proving sex appeal and humour don't have to be mutually exclusive.

Unleashing your inner Dance Animal

Comedy dance troupe works the pheromones at Centaur Theatre

• DAVID ADELMAN

Have you ever seen an aphrodisiac kick in onstage? You haven't until you've seen Dance Animal.

Robin Henderson, the brains behind the comedy dance troupe, said she thinks Dance Animal has got what it takes to knock down sexual assumptions and boundaries. The show is successful, she believes, because it incorporates humour and hypersexuality.

"I don't shy away from the sexiness in our play and we can get away with it because we cover the sexuality with humour," she explained.

Starring members of local improv teams, including members of the Uncalled For group, their show *Dance Animal Presents: Dance Animal* won the 2009 Just For Laughs Best Comedy Award at last year's

Montreal Fringe Festival.

"It [was] a mixture of imagination and things I notice and admire in pop culture, such as the show *Flight of the Conchords*, which motivated me to create Dance Animal," said Henderson, who envisioned comedic actors performing dance onstage, but with the focus on their facial features instead of the finesse of their moves.

According to cast member Anders Yates, the play—and its gay, lesbian and hetero cast—is meant to break down sexual boundaries. Henderson said her favourite scene is the one choreographed to the song "No Sex For Ben" by The Rapture: one where a character named Ben Rama, desperate to fornicate with senior citizens, finds himself rejected by both males and females.

"This scene is meant to express how senior citizens do

continue to have sexual relations, and we show this using the hyper-sexualization of senior citizens," Henderson explained.

Both Yates and Henderson agreed that every cast member brings their special animal attraction to the show—pheromones galore.

"I don't shy away from the sexiness in our play and we can get away with it because we cover the sexuality with humour."

—Robin Henderson,
choreographer and director

All 10 of the cast members have their own character and animal name. Henderson, who goes by the name "Dance Tiger," explains that the show has three levels of movements: dancing,

scheming, and sketches, all of which break down the show into a series of monologues and dances.

Yates—better known as "Dance Salmon"—said Henderson focuses on making the cast and audience feel sexy.

"The show is playful and energetic, as is the relationship backstage with the cast," he noted. "A lot of our personality goes into our character, and after every rehearsal or show I am completely exhausted."

Henderson worked in both French and English monologues to capture the city's bilingual spectrum.

"I wanted the scenes to incorporate Montreal and its many places, from Mount Royal to St-Laurent Boulevard," she said.

Despite Dance Animal's success, Henderson admitted that she "took a giant risk" in trying to

get this show off the ground. Dance comedy isn't exactly a well-established genre. According to Yates, however, the risk paid off; he said the production is unlike anything he has seen before. The cast loves each other and has truly become a pack of animals.

"The chemistry you see in Dance Animal is real," he said.

Dance Animal Presents: Dance Animal takes the stage at the Concordia Student Union's Winter Dance Bash on Jan. 7 at 8 p.m. at the Telus Theatre (1280 St-Denis St.). Admission is free. They'll also appear at Centaur Theatre's (435 St-François-Xavier St. in Old Montreal) Wildside Theatre Festival, from Jan. 5 to 16. Tickets are \$12.50 for adults, \$10 for students and anyone under 30. See centaurtheatre.com/wildside_festival.html for full festival listings.

The Peelies pass it on

Local band flies under the radar, flies south

• MADELINE COLEMAN

"We might just play one shitty show in a basement," says guitarist Marie-Andrée Boudreault, taking a drag of her cigarette.

"But we're going to be in Texas!" chimes in drummer Roxane Guertin Berthiaume. "It's gonna be sunny! Free burritos!"

Local five-piece and self-proclaimed "girl group" The Peelies are sprawled across the couches in Guertin Berthiaume and Boudreault's apartment, sipping beers and pondering what it means for them to book a gig at this year's South by Southwest. The Austin-based music festival is one of the biggest on the continent—not bad for a band with only a handful of shows under their belts.

"We didn't want to play too much in Montreal so people don't get too sick of us," says guitarist Laurence Lauzon-Bouchard.

"All the shows that are coming up [before SXSW] will be like practice," laughs bassist Sophie Montpetit.

The Peelies—who took their name from Pele, the Hawaiian goddess of the volcano—might just find themselves blowing up in 2010.

The five started playing together last spring after Boudreault, a Concordia student, and Guertin Berthiaume took a trip to the 2009 iteration of SXSW. Inspired by the trip, they rounded up three friends, divvied up musical duties and let their creative genius run free.

"The first practice," says Boudreault, "we did a two-word song. Basically, we just screamed 'it's alright' for the whole song. And then after we listened to it and we were like, 'whoahhh!' All five laugh. "We were like, 'Wow, we're really good!'"

All five members of The Peelies are Québécoise and originally tried to sing in both French and English. These days they find themselves veering more towards English because, they say, French lyrics tend to sound "cheesy." That, and it just sounds better.

"With the kind of voices we have, I'm not comfortable singing in French," explains keyboardist Morgane Duchêne-Ramsay. "Some



(Left to right) Roxane Guertin Berthiaume, Marie-Andrée Boudreault, Laurence Lauzon-Bouchard, Morgane Duchêne-Ramsay and Sophie Montpetit of The Peelies. PHOTO MADELINE COLEMAN

songs are meant to be in English and some songs are meant to be in French."

"You're really limited if you sing in French," adds Boudreault. "I don't think we could have played South by Southwest."

Currently working on an EP to be released by the time they head to SXSW this March, The Peelies hope their rock sound will translate into nothing more than really, really good live shows.

Lauzon-Bouchard says they're most

inspired by bands who just seem like they're having a great time onstage, citing Atlanta rock band The Black Lips.

"We want to be like the girl version," she says, then laughs. "I want to be the next Rolling Stones!"

The Peelies play with The Dutchess and the Duke and Medication at II Motore (179 Jean-Talon St. W.) on Jan. 11 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$14 at the door.

spins

Rumble Devils *Diablos Guapos*

Stumble Records



"What I know is that you want a big fuckin' party," croon the Rumble Devils on the track "Kids These Days," and that pretty much sums up what we're looking at here. I want a band who knows I want to party, man. The Devils, sadly, only knew this for about a track and a half.

The rest of the record sounds like three dudes who spend most of their time listening to the Epitaph catalogue and skimming Auto Hebdo for used Camaros. This would be fine if they actually rocked, but unfortunately they don't. Nor do they really convince on the whiskey and cocaine tip. On top of that, they don't even have a stand-up bass!

One more lame, hick-punk record for the pile. What a sweaty, Bud-soaked pile it is.

1.5/5
—Tristan LaPointe

Devil's Hotrod *Dirty Rocks for Broken Hearts*

Stumble Records

If the Stumble Records roster is anything to go by, 2010 is going to be a boom year for Southern Canadian rockabilly. In fact, we at *The Link* are so excited about the prospects for pompadours and motorcycle boots in the coming decade that this week we're devoting two-thirds of our spins to Satan and engine-related jerk rock! Just kidding, sort of.

Dirty Rocks for Broken Hearts sucks. But to be fair, all rockabilly sucks. People only

enjoy it when either the band's gimmick is utterly irresistible or they rock way hard. The only exception to this rule is the enjoyment that comes from accidentally seeing a band play without paying cover because you were at the bar so long before they set up. Unfortunately, this is not how I listened to Devil's Hotrod. Their drummer plays the spoons.

2/5
—Tristan LaPointe

Final Fantasy/Owen Pallett *Heartland*

For Great Justice Records



Tired of being mistaken for your childhood heroes? Owen Pallett certainly was. The Artist Formerly Known as Final Fantasy would now like to revert to his Christian name for

Heartland, an album that certainly won't be confused with soundtracks for early '90s video games. The disc's recording took Torontonian Pallett from Reykjavik to Prague—where he recorded with the Czech Symphony—to Toronto and New York. These sounds may be well-travelled, but they seem more heartsick than airsick; Pallett says *Heartland* is meant to chronicle a relationship, but from the point of view of the other person. "I've been in love with Owen ever since I heard the strains of Psalm 21," sings Pallett of himself on "Tryst with Mephistopheles," his role reversal unfolding atop an almost-dancey grab-bag of electronic beats and string arrangements. *Heartland* swoops over your head like an owl at night and refracts off the surface of a lake in the summertime. Gorgeous.

4.5/5
—Madeline Coleman

The DOWN-LOW

Event listings
Jan. 5-11

MUSIC

Holy Cobras
with Ultrathin
Thursday, Jan. 7 at 9 p.m.
L'Escogriffe
4467A St-Denis St.

Li'l Andy
with Daniel Isaiah Schachter
Friday, Jan. 8 at 10 p.m.
Le Divan Orange
4234 St-Laurent Blvd.

ART

Intermission: Films from a Heroic Future
Wander through a cinematic maze of film screenings on the theme of speed and space, including archival footage from NASA and the National Film Board of Canada.
Until Feb. 28
Canadian Centre for Architecture
1920 Baile St.
Free for students

FILM

Grindhouse Wednesdays presents the director's cut of 1970 cult horror classic *I Drink Your Blood!* and a performance by Velvet Trench Vibes. All proceeds go to HIV/AIDS awareness programs by Head & Hands.
Wednesday, Jan. 6 at 9 p.m.
Cinema L'Amour
4015 St-Laurent Blvd.
Tickets: \$10

The Best of Ottawa International Animation Film Festival 2009
Animated films from Canada, China, Estonia and beyond come together in a showcase of the highlights from North America's biggest international animation fest.
Until Jan. 7, every day at 9:30 p.m.
Cinéma du Parc
3575 Parc Ave.
See cinemaduparc.com for more information on the films screened

Dreamland at Cinema Politica
A documentary about the conflict between preserving unspoiled nature and developing in the name of renewable energy, set against the fjords of Iceland.
Monday, Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m.
At Concordia's Hall building,
room H-110
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.

—compiled by
Madeline Coleman

Sex work that works

How changing laws could change lives in the sex industry

• LAURA BEESTON

Sex workers and their allies gathered and demonstrated across Montreal last December to promote solidarity, labour rights and condemn violence.

Local sex-work organization Stella Montreal demanded justice be served to alleged serial sex-worker rapists Giovanni D'Amico and Marco Chevalier, and organized "The March of the Red Umbrellas," held on Dec. 17. The march marked the seventh annual International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers.

"Why should we accept that sex workers face criminalization and suffer violence?" demanded Émilie Laliberté, the interim general coordinator who has worked with Stella since 2004. "We need to get rid of judgment and think about the people working in the business and about [their] basic human rights."

Current prostitution laws are ineffective, according to the 100-strong who marched from Papineau metro station to Café Cléopâtre on the lower St-Laurent Boulevard, red umbrellas held firmly against the wind and falling snow.

"There are no bad women, just bad laws!" the marchers shouted together. "La violence ne fait pas partie de ma job!"

New year's resolutions for the criminal code of Canada

The exchange of sex for money is legal in Canada, but the federal government, which is responsible for criminal law, has criminalized the workers' ability to organize and negotiate virtually every aspect of conducting their business. This circumstance is markedly at odds with the ability of sex workers to be safe and secure.

"Every way possible to make our work safer is criminalized," said Laliberté, referring specifically to articles 210 to 213 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

"We can't hire a chauffeur, we can't receive clients in our apartments or a hotel room, we can't hire a receptionist or bodyguards, [and] we can't negotiate prices and services," she explained. "If we want to fight exploitation and violence in the business, the laws in place [...] have been [doing] more harm than good for years."

Decriminalization of sex work—removing the legal barriers that make sex workers vulnerable to violence and exploitation—has recently been a hot-button issue in Ontario, after professional dominatrix Terri-Jean Bedford, along with Valerie Scott and Amy Lebovitch, went to a Toronto court last October.

Challenging the Criminal Code of Canada with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, these women contended that the abolition laws in place—specifically operating a "common bawdy-house" and "living off the avails of prostitution"—are in direct violation of the right to security of the person enshrined in section 7 of the Charter.

The women also argued that a model similar to New Zealand's—which decriminalized sex work in 2003 in favour of regulated services—would best suit Canada. Research has shown it ended up drastically improving the safety of sex workers and their clients.

"We need to look at this from a labour rights perspective," said Jessica Yee, executive director of the Native Health Sexual Alliance and board member of Maggie's, an organization created by and for sex workers in Toronto.

Restorative justice would be a good model for workers in Canada, she added. "We need to restore people's rights to have access to justice and safety in their working environments—wherever that might be."

Subverting stereotypes

Once the marchers reached Café Cléopâtre, many women and men working in or alongside the industry were given space to express their experiences on the job through dance, spoken word, storytelling and music.

"I will not die a stereotype!" thundered Mira Soleil from the stage during a spoken-word performance that brought the crowd to their feet.

If Canadian laws are ever going to change, so must the popular labels and discourse, which lead to misunderstanding of the experiences and identities of working women and men.

"There is one word to describe the industry: diversity. We need to see more of these different realities," said Laliberté. "There needs to



20,000+

the number of sex workers in the greater Montreal area, according to *The Gazette*

60

the number of attacks reported at Stella by sex workers in 2009

12

the number of sex workers in Montreal who have been killed since 1998

60

the number of names on the "Bad Trick List," available to sex workers through Stella

be space and visibility in the community to address what sex workers have to say, what they need, and not fall into sensationalism."

"It would be great to hear some of [our clients]," she said. "I think it would make people realize that [johns] aren't disgusting bastards, but possibly your cousin, father, doctor—anyone."

Subverting the reinforced stereotypes in media and popular culture is a large step towards finding solutions to end violence against sex workers and making the laws and practices safer.

"Yes, December 17 is about violence prevention [and acknowledging] that the physical violence is harmful," said Yee, "but stigma, shame and discrimination are also very powerful tools used to dominate people. [...] How can we resist colonialism, sexism, racism and ageism as it pertains to sex work and sexuality? There are a whole bunch of issues going on here."

Despite social and work-related challenges of working in the sex industry, Yee is hopeful that opening up a dialogue with those who are currently in the business is an empowering step towards changing social policies, especially as the industry itself shifts and evolves.

"It's not unrealistic to think that we could be the generation that loses the stigma," she said.

Selling a service

A sex worker's perspective

• ARIANE VALMONT

"Selling your body" is an expression used ad nauseum by those opposed to the decriminalization of sex work, demonstrating the contempt they feel towards us—sex workers.

As an independent escort for the past three years, I am directly concerned. I have never felt like I'm selling my body to anyone. I am doing a job I love and that I chose.

The men I meet in this context are mostly friendly and eager for me to feel comfortable with them. I am always the one who determines the limits of our meeting.

My body belongs only to me. What

I offer my clients are erotic services, tinged with tenderness and warmth. We are far from the sordid and degrading images that some think represent a reality that they know little or nothing about.

Violence against sex workers does exist. We cannot, and should not, deny it. But what are the real causes? Trendy popular discourse blames the customers, presenting them as immoral beings with few scruples. But in fact, these customers we are talking about are your brothers, your friends, your colleagues, your neighbours, your husbands, or other respectable citizens who are only seeking simple moments of pleasure in good company.



However, there are those people for whom sex workers are soulless whores willing to do anything for a few dollars, and unfortunately they will not hesitate to treat them as sub-human if given the opportunity.

But who is at fault here? Is it really sex work itself, or is it society's representation of sex work that provokes and exacerbates this violence? Criminalizing sex workers is tantamount to branding them and identifying them as outcasts, as women of "ill repute."

This leads to a series of consequences: violence, basic services being denied or poorly delivered, the need to isolate oneself from the com-

munity, the requirement for workers to constantly seek respect and affirm their dignity.

But if we choose instead to criminalize the customers, the message that sends is clear: sex workers are just poor victims unable to discern what is good from what is evil, to choose what is best for themselves. One way or another, criminalization helps to endorse some form of violence, whether physical or psychological, or by presenting them as second-class human beings.

Three women decided to oppose this tyranny by defending their rights and those of their clients before the Superior Court of Ontario. Their

names are Valerie Scott, Terri-Jean Bedford and Amy Lebovitch. I applaud such courage. Their struggle is only beginning, because there is much more to do.

Prejudice against sex workers is firmly anchored in our society, and it will be a long road of challenges to overcome popular stereotypes and misguided beliefs.

Until such a legal initiative is started in Quebec, my sincerest wish is that the media give an unbiased voice to all parties, defendants and opponents of decriminalization. Give us a chance to show you that reality is not always what you think or would like to believe.

"Every way possible to make our work safer is criminalized. We can't hire a chauffeur, we can't receive clients in our apartments or a hotel room, we can't hire a receptionist or bodyguards, [and] we can't negotiate prices and services."

—Émilie Laliberté,
coordinator for Stella Montreal

Decoding the Criminal Code of Canada

An "indictable offence" is a lower-level category of crime for which the maximum prison term is five years less a day.

"Summary" offences are considered by lawmakers to be the most serious, and all carry a prison term of at least five years and a mandatory trial by jury.

Section 210. Bawdy-houses: Keeping a common bawdy-house

(1) Every one who keeps a common bawdy-house is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.

Landlord, inmate, etc.

(2) Every one who

(a) is an inmate of a common bawdy-house,
(b) is found, without lawful excuse, in a common bawdy-house, or
(c) as owner, landlord, lessor, tenant, occupier, agent or otherwise having charge or control of any place, knowingly permits the place or any part thereof to be let or used for the purposes of a common bawdy-house,

is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

Section 211: Transporting person to bawdy-house

Every one who knowingly takes, transports, directs, or offers to take, transport or direct, any other person to a common bawdy-house is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

Section 213: Offence in relation to prostitution

(1) Every person who in a public place or in any place open to public view

(a) stops or attempts to stop any motor vehicle,

(b) impedes the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic or ingress to or egress from premises adjacent to that place, or

(c) stops or attempts to stop any person or in any manner communicates or attempts to communicate with any person for the purpose of engaging in prostitution or of obtaining the sexual services of a prostitute is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

Definition of "public place"

(2) In this section, "public place" includes any place to which the public have access as of right or by invitation, express or implied, and any motor vehicle located in a public place or in any place open to public view.

The long walk home

Lillian the Legend explores the emigrant experience



Lillian the Legend chronicles Russian emigré Lillian Alling's transcontinental journey on foot, and her stop in Canada's northern territories.

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Due to the unsteady employment being an artist often entails, Concordia graduate Kerry Byrne has had a lot of odd jobs—including counting people for an airport survey, being a sitter for the elderly in a chronic-care facility and serving as a nude model. Fighting tedium, pity and anxiety, many of these jobs served as inspiration for her sketchbook, which she later distributed as zines through Montreal's Distroboto.

She finally got her big break from a Jeunes volontaires grant, which covered her rent and expenses for a year and gave her the time to write and illustrate her graphic novel *Lillian the Legend*.

While living in Dawson City, Yukon a few summers ago, Byrne came across a pamphlet outlining the story of a 1930s Russian immigrant named Lillian Alling. Supposedly spurned by her experiences in the New World, she took up the unorthodox task of walking back to mother Russia through Canada's northern wilderness.

"There weren't really well-established roads," said Byrne, "but there were these telegraph lines that would cut through the wilderness and every so often there'd be a telegraph cabin with a man living in the

middle of nowhere, manning the line and making sure that no branches had fallen on it."

Lillian became the subject of much gossip among the lonely mountain men, who kept track of her journey and prepared for her arrival at each station.

Figuring out how often to stick to historic truth when much of the legend is possibly apocryphal to begin with was difficult, said Byrne.

"I really, really struggled with some of the political aspects of telling a story about a Russian immigrant in the past, and even just trying to write dialogue in the [style of the] '30s," said Byrne. "But it's such an incredible story that it felt like it needed to be told and remembered."

Lillian's life prior to her epic journey is also a mystery, so Byrne extrapolated from the experiences of other European immigrants to explain Lillian's possible motivations for deciding to return home the long and hard way—including a possible brush-in with a famous factory fire before the adoption of modern fire codes.

"There weren't the kinds of fire safety standards in place [in 1928]," said Byrne. "They just had some buckets of water, and the doors opened in rather than out. A lot of people died in this horrific fire, [but] that was not necessarily something that

happened to her. I just imagined that she would be working in that industry as many young women did at that time."

Between avoiding journalists hungry for a story and learning to trap and cook wild game, Lillian was arrested and thrown in jail for vagrancy by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, where she spent a winter in prison and suffered a miscarriage after being raped there.

What makes Lillian's journey all the more tragic is where she was heading: back to Stalinist Russia.

"At that time, Stalin was taking more control, and where she was going it was all gulags," said Byrne.

Whether she survived the journey or not is unknown.

"There is this eyewitness account of [a person] who remembered seeing a woman being arrested on the other side with two indigenous people who had perhaps canoeed her from Alaska to Russia," said Byrne.

There the story ends and passes into legend.



Lillian the Legend
Kerry Byrne
Conundrum Press
64 pp
\$15.00

quick reads

Cricket on your conscience?



Batting on the Bosphorus
Angus Bell
Greystone Books
352 pp
\$16.95

When I think of cricket, I think of a group of men in a sunny field, dressed in all white, drinking tea during long breaks between hours of inaction. I think of a more clean-cut, classical version of baseball.

Angus Bell's travelogue, *Batting on the Bosphorus*, made me think differently about cricket. He takes the reader through a zany, booze-addled adventure through eastern Europe—where the sport remains obscure—in an effort to spread the game he loves.

Bell's desire to travel through eastern Europe was triggered by a hustling fortune teller who prompts him to listen to the voices in his head. That voice is personified by his dead uncle who died in the war. I forgot to mention, his uncle died at the age of one.

An eclectic and entertaining read, Bell's imagination is just as crazy as the characters and events he encounters. Don't know anything about cricket? No worries! There's a glossary highlighting terms and rules that you'll need to know. This novel will get you hooked on cricket and will have you batting in whites in no time.

4/5

—Clay Hemmerich

The art of reflection



Souls in Plain Clothes
Corrado Paina
Mansfield Press
71 pp
\$16.95

In Corrado Paina's short poetry compilation *Souls in Plain Clothes*, his free verse sounds like random thoughts tagged together; a patchwork of philosophy. Paina peculiarly decides to dedicate every second poem to someone's honour, and one can sense that many of his poems are linked to family members.

The book's titular poem refers to his time spent in Tadoussac, a popular Canadian whale watching destination, where each wave is described as carrying the name of a dead loved one, and where waves are "souls in disguise...traveling souls in plain clothes."

In "Planning death," Paina starts us off with a question: "At what time does one die?" He provides a list of options, followed by his own conclusion: "died at 30 buried at 70."

The last section of the book, called "Thirst," is a compliment to Toronto's chaotic diversity, its giant grey walls and enormous concrete skyscrapers to whom Paina owes his dual sense of identity.

The book leaves the reader in a state of dissipation, like flipping quickly through a stranger's diary. Nevertheless, Paina plays on common ground with the reader, naming familiar places, rivers or simply everyday situations. If you enjoy meditation even in the slightest, *Souls in Plain Clothes* offers a lot to meditate on.

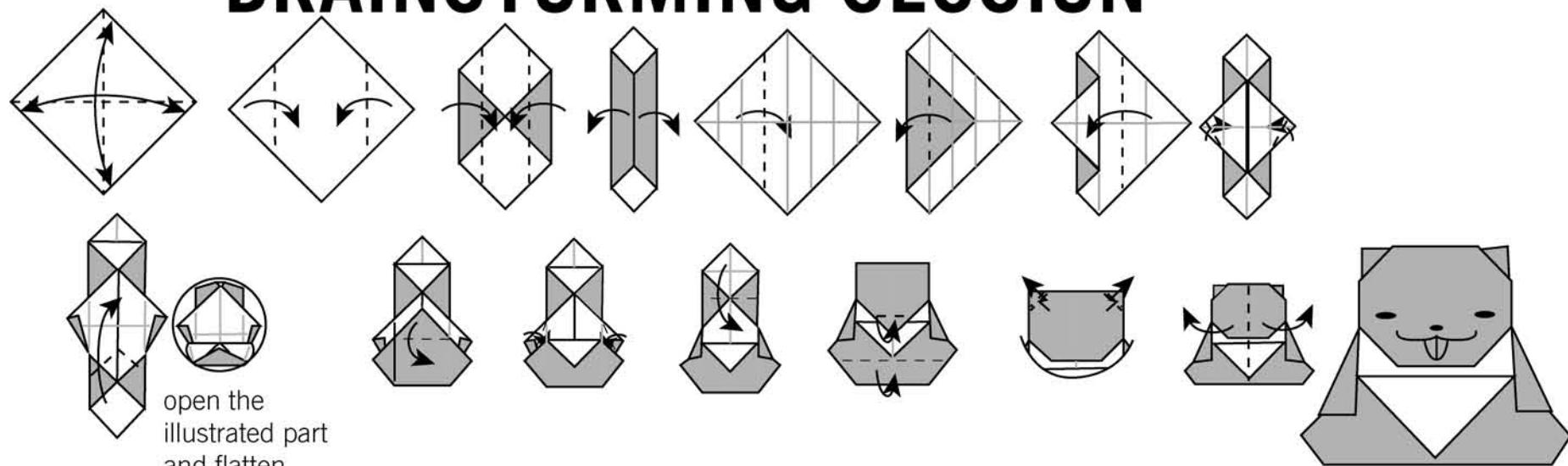
5/5

—Oksana Cueva

THE LINK

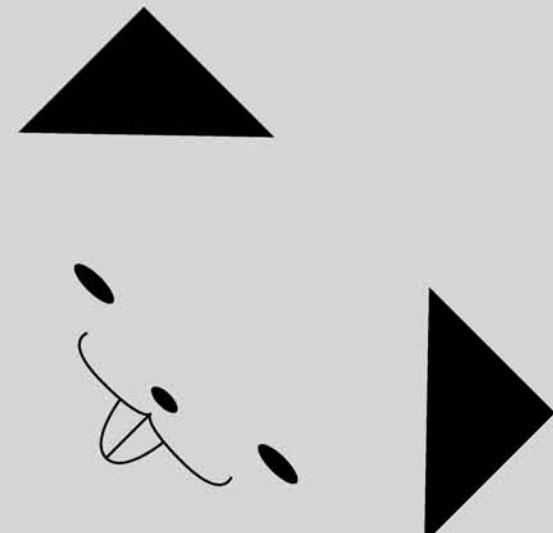
SUSTAINABILITY SPECIAL ISSUE BRAINSTORMING SESSION

Recycle this page
after folding the origami
bear.



open the
illustrated part
and flatten.

JAN. 8, 2010
4PM@H.649



Chariots of ice



With no boards, plastic nets, Belgian beer and a tennis ball for a puck, residents of Lachine and Saint Henri take to the Canal to ring in the new year with style. PHOTOS CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

On Dec. 30, with one day left in 2009, Lachine residents Nicolas Pepin and Jaden Schols loaded a car with shovels, geared up for the cold December afternoon and took a trip down highway 720 into Montreal's South West borough. Parking their car along Beaudoin Street, the pair scaled down the Lachine Canal's stone walls and started digging.

Last November, Parks Canada official Carole Loiselle discussed the possibility of opening the Lachine Canal for ice skating. And while the gap between possibility and reality could take years to work through the big, red Parks Canada idea machine, this pair of Montrealers took matters into their own hands.

"It wasn't so bad," said Schols, a high school student. "The snow was actually pretty light."

For hours, Schols and Pepin shovelled through the white mess, eventually reaching the Canal's icy surface. By day's end, the two had cleared an area large enough for pick-up hockey games.

"We've been playing hockey every day since," said Pepin, a

father in his 40s.

Three days later on Jan. 2, Pepin and Schols rounded up a rag tag group of friends and relatives for another afternoon of hockey. With plastic nets, a tennis ball and no boards to contain it, the scene was straight out of a Canadian five-dollar bill.

"It's a great way to ring in the new year," said Rob Christie, a Westmount High School math teacher.

"We should be keeping the ice maintained all winter long."

When the game's pace slowed, one goalie cracked open a bottle of beer and combined one Canadian tradition with another.

"This is great," he said. "Last year we were playing in our boots, now we're on skates. Maybe next year we'll get pads and a scoreboard."

As onlooking pedestrians watched, children cleared snow on a separate patch of ice.

"Soon we'll be having chariot races over there," said Pepin. "Like Ben-Hur on ice or something."

Pepin plans on keeping the game alive all winter. "We'll be here every Saturday, weather permitting."

Montrealers take to the Lachine Canal for a good ol' hockey game



scoreboard

	Home	Away	
Men's Basketball	Saint Mary's 80 Laurentian 94 Laurier 60	Concordia 62 Concordia 85 Concordia 62	2-4
Women's Basketball	Queen's 66 Manitoba 60 Simon Fraser 74	Concordia 83 Concordia 75 Concordia 59	2-4
Men's Hockey	Rostock 6 Halle 4 Pferdeturm 1	Concordia 5 Concordia 3 Concordia 10	4-12

schedule

	Who	When
Women's Hockey	@ McGill	Saturday, 2 p.m.
Men's Basketball	vs UQAM	Friday, 6 p.m.
Women's Basketball	vs UQAM	Friday, 8 p.m.

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



Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

Nothing new here

Bravo to Aaron Lakoff. Indeed, the use of the anti-Semitic card to stifle criticism of Israel is by now as familiar as it is transparently dishonest. In *Beyond Chutzpah: Reflections on the Misuse of History*, Norman Finkelstein writes that "The 'new-anti-Semitism' is neither new nor about anti-Semitism." In fact, it is about desperate apologists unable to justify their support for Israel's crimes resorting to slandering critics of the state they worship. And it fools no one.

—John Dirlirk
Applied Social Science

Fear not unfounded

I picked up a copy of *The Link* and was surprised to find the article written by Aaron Lakoff, a member of Not in Our Name Concordia. He claims that there has not been a rise of new anti-Semitism on campus, nor does it even exist.

As someone who has seen this new anti-Semitism spread across Canadian campuses in my capacity as a student leader, I can tell you that Mr. Lakoff is just plain wrong.

Throughout my time at Concordia, I have seen numerous examples of blatant anti-Semitism masquerading behind a thinly veiled illusion of anti-Zionism. I have personally witnessed a group of students marching through the Hall building shouting slogans like "Ibtach el yahud" (which to my rudimentary understanding of Arabic translates to "kill the Jews").

Let's be perfectly clear—legitimate debate over Israeli policy is of course acceptable and encouraged through academic dialogue. Unlike most other countries in the Middle East, Israel is a liberal democracy that encourages such free exchanges of ideas.

That said, there is a point at which well-intentioned debate is overrun by hatred and intolerance, creating an environment where dialogue no longer exists. On campus, this

happens when anti-Israel groups are aggressive in their tactics to delegitimize the state of Israel and deny its right to exist.

The anti-Israel sentiment of events like Israeli Apartheid Week is based on intimidation and bullying, and is solely focused on making students feel threatened and unwelcome on campus, not about bettering the situation of the Palestinian people. There is nothing progressive or liberal about that.

True academic freedom cannot take place in an environment where fear and intimidation are tools used to silence your opponents.

Anti-Israel groups on campus do not seek dialogue. "Peace" is not in the vocabulary of the Israeli Apartheid Week or boycott movements. As a former president of Concordia Hillel, I have tried to organize peaceful events to create dialogue, to build bridges, and to foster relationships. Rather than opening dialogue to find ways to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, anti-Israel groups shut down progress before it can even begin.

A university is supposed to strive for an atmosphere of respect and tolerance, where open dialogue is encouraged. That atmosphere cannot exist when a portion of this student body are attempting to demonize and intimidate another.

—Edouard Fuchs
VP Finance, Canadian Federation of Jewish Students

Is that really what men want?

So if I understand correctly, to attract men, women should alter their repulsive natural bodies with ultraviolet capsules, and above all a mental gag order (Vol.30, Iss.16, Pg.9). Is it not a little sexist to intimate that most men want pneumatic orange bubble-head hairless clones for casual trysts? Ladies and gents, take the opportunity of university to find your

own definition of beauty. Hone your minds to cut deep into the stereotypical junk that society tries to cram down your throats. After all, you are what you eat...

—Carolyn Zwicky-Perez
Psychology

Warm welcome from the CSU

I want to extend to you all a warm welcome back from a much-needed break. Last semester the Arts and Science Federation of Associations rose above and beyond the standard of what was expected, and rest assured that we still have a lot in store for the remainder of the year.

Thank you to those who have been faithful in attending our many events, and to the executives of each member association for their hard work and efforts thus far. I invite you all to come and visit the ASFA office to say hi or even to give any suggestions or ideas, as we appreciate all student input. Also, keep an eye out for our next cultural food night, which will be Jamaican rum and patties for \$5: all you can eat and drink!

—Heather Lucas
VP Internal of ASFA

On behalf of Concordia Student Union executives, we would like to wish you a happy new year, with all the best to you and yours. Hoping that you got the chance to unwind properly before hitting the books again for another fun semester.

Alongside, we would like to offer our warmest welcome to our new Concordia students. Our campuses can be maze-like at first, but rest assured, we offer campus maps at the CSU office, located on the 7th floor of the Hall building and other locations all throughout our unique campus.

The CSU is the representative body for all

undergraduate students here at Concordia. Our doors are always open to respond to student needs and we always stay accessible and transparent. Feel free to drop by anytime in person, on our web site, csu.qc.ca and on Facebook.

We would like to point out that the Winter Orientation week begins Tuesday, Jan. 5 and will last until Friday. Numerous events will be taking place all throughout campus. This is a great occasion for both new and returning students to get a chance to meet fellow students, relax a little, and most importantly, have a good time.

Another interesting addition to our semester is that the downtown Webster library will be offering 24-hour access to all students. The laptop borrowing service has also extended its hours. This is a great step forward, proposed by the CSU last semester.

Last semester was exciting, and now we are looking forward to working together again this semester to make it another success and take the CSU to new heights.

—Amine Dabchy
President, Concordia Student Union

MYCAH still active

On the topic of creating a secure space for youth in your Queer special issue, Tom Llewellyn wrote in his article "LGBTTeenage wasteland" that the Montreal Youth Coalition Against Homophobia (MYCAH) has been relatively inactive since summer 2008 without contacting us. We would like to correct this information.

Since the summer of 2008, MYCAH has been active in continuing the process toward the creation of a safer space for queer youth. We did write a thesis on the situation of queer youth in Montreal that was sent to the Quebec government, we held meetings with Montreal city coun-

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.

heartaches anonymous

Dear Heartaches,
I've been with the same girl for the past four years and I'm starting to think she's the one, by which I mean the one I'm going to marry, not the one I'm meant to be with. I don't want to lose her, but I can't shake the feeling that I could be doing better. Am I right in thinking I should keep searching for the perfect woman, or am I imposing impossible standards on my girlfriend? Is true love real or is there something to be said for settling for second best?
—Good but Not Great

Dear Not Great,

I am amazed. It is amazing that you are still with this girl. It is amazing that you feel marriage is something that just happens, whether you like it or not. It is amazing that you stayed with someone for so long without really feeling all that excited about her. But mostly it's amazing how much this letter says about you,

rather than your girlfriend.

So you worry about both losing your girlfriend and the possibility that she's inferior. Look, GBNG. Are you afraid of being alone? It's okay to say. A lot of people are. Why else would you have resigned yourself to eventually marrying someone who you don't seem to think is good enough? Are you worried that you're not good enough?

"The perfect woman" only exists insofar as I believe it is possible to find someone you will absolutely love. Yes, true love is real, but it doesn't mean it comes easily. I fear that the impossible standard you might be imposing on your girlfriend is that she isn't, well, somebody else.

This marriage business is ridiculous (come now, we're modern folk) and I think the real issue lies within your own self-image. Maybe your girlfriend isn't

right for you. Find the strength to recognise that, then find a way to prepare yourself for the possibility of spending some time alone. In short: never settle for second best! Call me a romantic, but

love is all about being able to look at everyone that isn't the object of your affection, and think, "You're all a bunch of chopped liver."

Good luck!

send your relationship queries to
heartachesanonymous@gmail.com

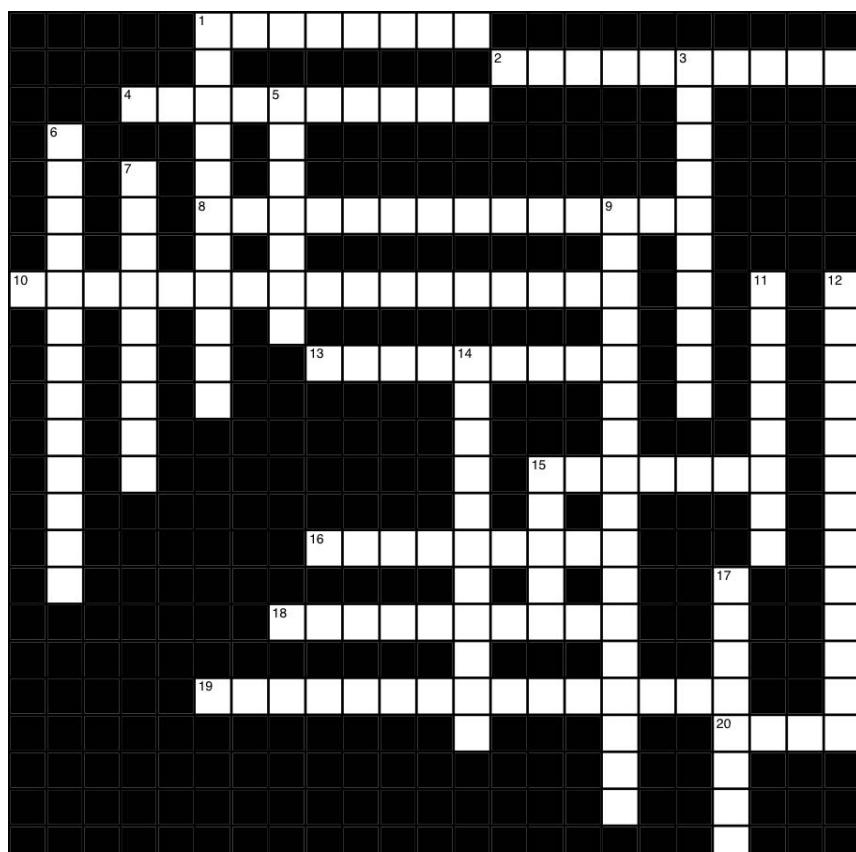
Are you lonely of heart?
Tortured of conscience?
Frustrated of genital?



pzzlol

crswrd

THE "COP DRAMA" EDITION
• R. BRIAN "I AIN'T GOING DOWN LIKE THAT" HASTIE



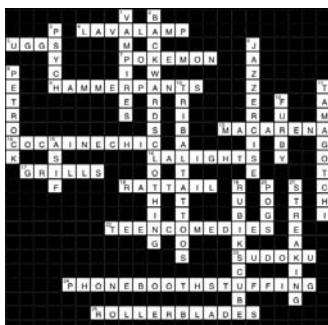
Across

- The father that built the house of *Law & Order*.
- Recent Canadian hit, starring a man who once rode to Canadian fame as rocker Joe Dick.
- Creator of the critically-acclaimed *The Wire*. His first brush with TV fame was via *Homicide: Life On The Street*.
- Early '80s CBS show, starring Tyne Daly and Sharon Gless. It is considered to be one of the first successful female-centred cop dramas.
- Chuck Norris somehow manages to use his fists and feet for eight seasons of bad guy takedowns. Apparently you can go up against an entire squad of Mexican drug runners and still survive. Huzzah.
- A Buck 65 song, off of 2007's *Situation* album. It details what it's like to be a dick in lyrical form.
- Police drama + musical + Randy Newman theme song = fail. Didn't even last half a season.
- Don Johnson and Philip Michael Thomas team up to look amazing in shitty '80s clothing while Phil Collins' "In The Air Tonight" plays as the duo drives around the streets of Miami at night. Apparently this used to be considered badass, according to those who witnessed it when it first aired. I honestly do not trust this assessment as these guys still consider a fannypack a valid fashion accessory.
- The awesomest-named CSI character, portrayed by actor William Petersen.
- Steven Bochco's first successful TV series.
- A Robin Hood figure with a shotty, wandering the streets of Baltimore. Just don't kill his boyfriend or he'll get you.

Down

- Detective John Kelly from *NYPD Blue* quits the show at the height of its fame to pursue acting opportunities, only to end up playing a cop on *CSI: Miami* eight years later. So much for diversifying your portfolio, genius.
- Legendary TV lawyer (played by Raymond Burr) who inspired the lead-off track to Ozzy Osbourne's 1995 *Ozzmosis* album.
- One of the earliest police dramas, aired from 1951 to 1959 for 276 episodes. Joe Friday will set you straight, and that's just the facts, ma'am.
- Television actor who gained prominence by playing one of the cops on *Homicide: Life On The Street*, only to be the only member of that cast to play the same character on a *Law & Order* spin-off for 10 seasons.
- Special U.S. agent who is the central character in a serial thriller presented in real-time. The snake in the snizz? He's got it covered.
- Actor who plays detective Elliot Stabler on *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*. He'll punch you the fuck out if it turns out you're a bad person.
- Captain Kirk grabs a gun, then grabs onto the hoods of cars for two entire seasons. I guess having Heather Locklear hang around you makes you kinda cool.
- Television actor who gained prominence by playing one of the cops on *Homicide: Life On The Street*, only to be the only member of that cast to play the same character on a *Law & Order* spin-off for 10 seasons.
- Actor who plays detective Elliot Stabler on *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*. He'll punch you the fuck out if it turns out you're a bad person.
- Canadian dramedy starring a mismatched Mountie and an American partner. The series stars Mr. Passchendaele himself.

issue 16 solutionz



12. The break-out star of *Homicide: Life On The Street*, who now stars opposite Ray Romano on the tragicomedy *Men of a Certain Age*. And I swear to God, that show is kinda good, despite having Ray on there.

14. Late '60s crime drama set in an exotic locale (currently most well-known in TV circles as Dog's home state) that almost starred Gregory Peck.

15. Erik Estrada portrays a member of the California Highway Patrol in this violence-free TV show. He wore really tight pants and it kinda still gives me nightmares. Avoid the reruns at all costs.

17. Canadian dramedy starring a mismatched Mountie and an American partner. The series stars Mr. Passchendaele himself.

editorial

The Nameless Decade

Why is it important to decide what to call this past decade?

I realize that in the near future, when events of these past 10 years are dissected and rendered nostalgic for commercial purposes, it would make logical sense for everyone to agree upon a particular term to identify the bizarre decade we just endured. Without any sort of precedent, we have floundered to come to a consensus. ("The Bush Years" seems entirely too bleak.)

Now, I must confirm that there is a considerable camp forming behind "the noughties," (including several *Link* editors who shall remain nameless). But not only is this term offensive phonetically, the term "naughty" should only be used when chastizing children or during foreplay. While the term does have some high profile backers, notably the BBC, it hasn't yet been enshrined as the "official" name of the decade.

It's not really important what name is decided upon (and, sadly for me, some variation of "naughties" is bound to end up designating my formative years), since the name that some future nebbish online radio host will use to categorize Radiohead songs is ultimately pretty insignificant. What's more interesting is the failure of any one term to catch the public's imagination.

Why is it that we have failed to come to a consensus on this issue? What does it say about the world around us?

In an era defined by merged corporations and conglomerates of staggering breadth and power, it's hard to believe that no one media entity has seized the reins and dictated to the masses the term with which future generations can refer to us, such as "Boy, how do you explain the success of those Jonas Brothers? Times were different in the Oh-Oh's." (Alright, so I might be an optimist.)

I understand that perhaps this whole naming thing just takes some time and a decade from now, there very well may be a universal acceptance of a specific term to define the 9/11 years. But with a whole decade spent pondering this question, there's no one accepted truth. And the nature of truth is really the only reason that our failure to name this past decade is meaningful.

Let's say hypothetically that the *New York Times* ran a front page story tomorrow declaring that the years 2000 to 2009 will definitively be named "The Noughties." How many people would this convince to start using the term? How many people would even read the story in print? And how many people, while reading this story, would have several other windows open on their computer with several other reputable news sources? Which of these declarations is "true" in any meaningful sense?

Where a major metropolitan newspaper used to have the ability to influence opinions well beyond its own borders, now it scarcely has the ability to retain the attention of those within them. It is available to everyone, but captures no one.

The nature of truth has vacillated on too many issues to name, from the proliferation of global warming deniers despite a near-consensus on the issue within the scientific community, to the ever-nebulous reasons for the actions of the military (what is torture to a prisoner of war is not to an Enemy Combatant). The debate on these issues is near endless, not because there is anything new or illuminating to unearth, but because there is no way for us to agree on what's universally accepted as factual. There's enough rhetoric and propaganda to validate anyone's point of view, making everyone's world view legitimate. I can start a blog and authoritatively declare that this past decade will be called "the Lost Decade," but I wouldn't know this to be true, nor would anyone reading it.

Everyone can continue debating what the name of this decade should be. I'll be reflecting on whether any of us will ever be able to agree on anything any time soon. Maybe that's a more fitting legacy for this past decade than any name could ever be.

—Diego Pelaez Gaetz
Opinions Editor

Read it and weep

BY TRAVIS DANDRO

