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THE LINK
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Concordia University
Hall Building, Room H-649
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8

editor-in-chief: TERRINE FRIDAY
news editor: JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI
features editor: LAURA BEESTON
fringe arts editor: MADELINE COLEMAN
literary arts editor: CHRISTOPHER OLSON
sports editor: CHRISTOPHER CURTIS
opinions editor: DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ
copy editor: TOM LLEWELLIN
student press liaison: OPEN

interim photo editor: RILEY SPARKS
graphics editor: VIVIEN LEUNG
managing editor: CLARE RASPOPOW
layout manager: MATHIEU BIARD
webmaster: TRISTAN LAPOINTE
business manager: RACHEL BOUCHER
distribution: ROBERT DESMARAIS
ad designer: DAVID KAUFMANN
ADAM NORRIS

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THIS WEEK'S CONTRIBUTORS

Kevin Ahmadi, Jay Black, Esther Bernard, Michael Bramadat, Wilcock, Stefan Christoff, Travis Dandro, Alex Di Pietro, Matthew Fiorentino, Chris Hanna, R. Brian Hastie, Clay Hemmerich, Les Hornywill, Elsa Jabre, David Kaufmann, Adam Kovacs, Stephanie La Leggia, Brittany Levett, Sarah Long, Alex Manley, Tania Mohsen, Ashley Opheim, Jonas Pietsch, Hugo Pilon-Larose, Riley Sparks, Zoe Ritts, Catherine Vallières, Natasha Young.

cover by Vivien Leung

TAs and RAs vote no

Facing pay cuts, lost hours and a badly drafted agreement, first tentative agreement rejected

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

With some members facing a 30 per cent pay cut and the complete loss of guaranteed work hours, the first tentative labour agreement presented to the union of the Teaching and Research Assistants at Concordia was rejected within an hour of being presented.

"We knew that the agreement was not the best we could get and that is why I expected people to be against it," said Balil Abdul Kader, president of TRAC. "But I did not expect the entire room to be against it, because some people would benefit from it."

Grade One TAs—currently paid \$22.50 per hour for master's-level students in Political Science—attend classes, hold office hours, grade papers and provide lectures and tutorials. Grade Two TAs—currently paid \$16 per hour for master's-level students in Political Science—have the same responsibility as grade ones but do not provide tutorials. Under the proposed agreement, both would be paid \$17 per hour.

"The wording on this contract is shit, it needs to be clarified," said



Liam McCarthy, a PSAC senior research officer, talks to TRAC. PHOTO ELSA JABRE

Thomas Leonard, the president of the Graduate Political Science Association. "It's very confusing."

Of the nearly 100 people in attendance on Jan. 21, none verbally supported the contract. The results of the secret ballot vote have not released by the union.

"Some people worked hard to get that agreement to the table; it was more or less the final offer from the university and you get to a point where you need to present the offer to the membership," said Jérôme Turcq, the executive regional VP for

Quebec of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, who negotiated the agreement.

"They turned it down. Was I surprised? Not really, you're always a bit disappointed when it is turned down but that is part of the process. That is democracy and it's fair."

According to Kader, the biggest issue was the fact that the working hours were not well-defined. "We asked for a minimum, a floor of hours, but the Concordia negotiators did not accept the floor. Our negotiators though that it might be

an advantage for us to leave it open-ended, because people could get more," said Kader.

Now that the tentative agreement has been rejected, the next step will likely be arbitration. Concordia and TRAC will present their cases to a judge and await a decision.

"It's always better if you can reach a consensus through bargaining, but sometimes you can't," said Turcq. "What Concordia will probably do is come up with figures and compare themselves to universities in Quebec that are doing similar work. We will, too."

Although some students might not be satisfied with whatever final offer is presented, Turcq cautioned that the first agreement is always the hardest.

"It's a first collective agreement, there is always a difference when people have been part of a union for a longer period. You get your first agreement and improve on it. The next bargaining rounds are easier," said Turcq, who added that it may take up to four more agreements—a process stretching out over several years—before the union could be where it wants to be.

Four months for Pap test results

Concordia's health services wait time 'excessive,' prof says

• MADELINE COLEMAN

She only wanted to get a routine check-up, a quick reassurance that everything was okay.

A Concordia student, who wished to remain anonymous for reasons of confidentiality, said she waited weeks to get an appointment for a Pap smear at Concordia Health Services. But a routine check-up became a classic case of the waiting game when she was told it would take five months to get her results.

If she wanted to find out any faster, the doctor told her, she would have to dish out \$130.

Pap smears, which screen for abnormal growth in the cervix as well as vaginal infections, are recommended for all women over the age of 18 and are strongly encouraged for those who are sexually active.

McGill University's Student Health Services put their waiting time for Pap smear results at about two months, while Université de Montréal's clinic

promises results within eight weeks. The CLSC Métro, just down the street from Concordia's downtown clinic, promises results in less than two weeks for those who already have a doctor at the clinic.

But Concordia's director of Health Services, Melanie Drew, puts the average wait time for Pap results at four months. She said one reason for the delay could be the very abnormalities the test is meant to screen for.

"If there's anything abnormal [in the test], part of the delay is then that the people dealing with the labs have to then refer to the pathologists," she explained. "Sometimes it sits on the pathologist's desk for a while before they get to it."

Drew said the wait times are the product of an overloaded public health system. A private screening for Pap results is available upon request, but it will also cost anywhere from \$115 to \$175.

"Maybe the government's paying for [private screenings at the

CLSC], because here it would be out of our budget," she argued. "There's no way we could do that with the number of Paps that we do here. I mean, I'd have to fire a nurse if we wanted to pay for that."

"Because of the student fees we're receiving, there's just no way we can augment this."

Eduardo Franco, a McGill professor of oncology, called the wait time at Concordia Health Services "highly unusual" and "excessive."

Franco, whose research focuses on screening methods and vaccinations for cervical cancer, nonetheless pointed out that an abnormal Pap result doesn't necessarily indicate cancer. He also said that many Concordia students are unlikely to be considered at risk—hence why their samples are sent to the end of the line.

woman, it would probably be brought to the front of queue."

Concordia Health Services currently send their samples to St. Mary's Hospital Centre in Côte-des-Neiges. McGill Student Health, whose Pap smear results are returned in about half the time as Concordia's, are sent to the Montreal General Hospital. Drew said she would be hesitant to make a snap decision and change labs.

"Would we be remiss in looking around? I mean, we could, but if I call the [McGill University Health Centre] and they say it will take them 10 weeks [to return results], it might still take four months," she argued. "I don't think any of them are going to be willing to give us a guarantee."

Drew added that Health Services would not be willing to switch labs unless the new lab would be willing to take all their test samples, in order to save on courier costs.

"We're trying to do this in the most cost-effective way."

Montreal hip-hop band talks disaster relief

Nomadic Massive is holding a concert for Haiti, but worries about what will come next

• STEFAN CHRISTOFF

As world attention turns to Haiti in the wake of the massive 7.0 magnitude earthquake that struck Port-au-Prince, hip-hop ensemble Nomadic Massive has come into focus for many in Montreal searching for a cultural expression of solidarity with the victims.

Montreal is home to the largest Haitian diaspora population in Canada. A city-wide wave of artistic solidarity with Haiti was launched in the hours after the quake hit; hundreds of artists and cultural workers have taken to stages and to the airwaves appealing for people to extend support towards relief work.

Among them was celebrated Montreal hip-hop ensemble Nomadic Massive, who launched Artists for Haiti, aiming to extend the current outpouring of support for Haiti towards long term solidarity projects lead by artists focused on the island nation.

“We need planned and structured long term solidarity projects, not just immediate aid,” said Vox Sambou, a vocalist in Nomadic Massive. “Continuity is key, as hundreds of thousands of Haitians are being moved around Haiti, from the capital to smaller cities. Often the places that people are going to don’t have proper infrastructure to tend to [their] needs.”

As a progressive hip-hop ensemble, Nomadic Massive has long extended support towards grassroots community-based projects in Haiti and the burgeoning hip-hop scene in that country. Members from Nomadic Massive with roots there organized a trip to the island nation last year. They held a concert in



While waiting to conduct an interview with TVA News, members of Nomadic Massive hang out. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

The public infrastructure in Haiti was already seriously weakened in recent years by a Canadian-backed military coup in 2004 against left-leaning, populist then-president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the first democratically elected leader of Haiti.

Port-au-Prince and distributed their music by hand across the country.

In Limbé, Sambou’s hometown, the Jean-Baptiste Cinéas High School has been a concrete local project that Nomadic Massive has focused on. Offering tangible and direct support, choosing to lend solidarity to a community-based education project rather than towards large

international aid organizations, the group helped the school get new chairs and desks.

“[The high school has] approximately 2,000 students, boys and girls and 100 staff but no funding, no library, no cafeteria, no computer labs, no court to play in,” said Sambou.

In the shadow of the current crisis Nomadic Massive is again working to lend its support

towards the high school. Their concert at La Sala Rossa on Feb. 1 will go to benefit the high school.

As Haiti’s government ministries have largely been reduced to rubble, schools outside the capital will see little or no state funds in upcoming months. The public infrastructure in Haiti was already seriously weakened in recent years by a Canadian-backed military coup in 2004 against left-leaning, populist then-president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the first democratically elected leader of Haiti.

“The coup undermined all public institutions in the country, weakening the government and the ability of public institutions ability to respond to the recent

catastrophe,” said Yves Engler, author of *The Black Book of Canadian Foreign Policy*.

“The destruction of the government-subsidized bus company was carried out by the Canadian-backed paramilitaries in the wake of the coup in 2004 and the UN military forces occupied the only medical school in Haiti, reducing the number of trained doctors in the country,” continued Engler.

Beyond the charity that has poured in across Canada, serious questions as to how Haiti will rebuild after the quake remain—often absent from mainstream media coverage. International politicians converge this week for the first major international reconstruction conference—not in Haiti, but in Montreal.

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon, American Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, French Foreign Affairs Minister Bernard Kouchner and Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive met in Montreal Monday to map out a reconstruction plan with representatives from major corporations.

“It is great to see all the support that people have been giving to Haiti, it is as if the earthquake touched a sensitive nerve across the world,” continued Sambou.

“But the people in Haiti are suffering and not involved in the conference in Montreal,” Sambou pointed out. “We have to stay vigilant to keep the focus on supporting the people in Haiti [...]. Haitians must be in control of their own destiny.”

Artists for Haiti will be holding a benefit concert at La Sala Rossa (4848 St-Laurent Blvd.) on Feb. 1. Nomadic Massive will attend.

Copyright makes freelancing even harder

Queen’s professor looks at landmark ruling in U.S. that put newspapers’ digital archives at risk

• MICHAEL BRAMADAT-WILLCOCK

If the couch-surfing and uncertain income of being a freelance journalist were not enough stress, new decisions about copyright are making the life of a freelancer harder than ever.

In a lecture given at McGill University on Jan. 22, Laura Murray of Queen’s University looked at an American Supreme Court decision in 2001 where free-

lance journalist Jonathan Tasini brought *The New York Times* to trial for publishing his work in a digital archive without paying him for the copyright.

As a result of losing the case, *The New York Times* decided to erase all freelance material from its archives.

When a similar case came up in Canada, another freelance journalist won by a much smaller margin because “those jurors who voted against the freelancer were afraid

of compromising the public’s access to the historical record,” explained Murray. There was a real fear that Canadian papers might follow the lead set by the United States.

While examining the case, Murray looked at historical precedent.

“I find, generally, that looking at historical angles can be quite interesting when you look at different types of media,” said Murray, who noted that in the 1830s the job of

the editor was to collect material and publish it without bylines.

“Nothing was copyrighted,” Murray said. “Sometimes having less copyright produces more innovation.”

According to Murray the “great hope of blog journalism” is the renewal of journalism, without fear of copyright.

“Freelancers in Canada really can’t make a decent living now and we may see what they can get out of [blogging],” said Murray.

In the past, freelance journalists were able to sell their works to as many newspapers as they wanted because the copyright always remained with the author. However, in today’s press system, media conglomerates require freelance journalists to sign away the majority of their rights of authorship before publishing.

“You want people to be able to survive with their profession, and the current system is broken,” said Murray.

Next target: Haiti

Protesters turn out against the risk of disaster capitalism

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Thirty activists, toting placards, flashing picket signs and outnumbered by journalists, stood at the corner of Viger and University Streets on Jan. 25 to protest the perceived militarization and corporatization of relief efforts in Haiti.

Surrounded by an armada of municipal, provincial and federal police, the protest took place outside the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization, where Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon met with American Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner and Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive. The team of diplomats from around the world gathered to coordinate aid efforts in the quake-stricken country.

"The tragedy is not just caused by the earthquake," said Serge Bouchereau, a member of the Résistance haïtienne au Québec, addressing the crowd through a megaphone.

"To understand where this tragedy began, you have to go back to the days of slavery and throughout Haitian history to understand why the Haitian people are on their knees," he continued. "If we had had governments with the Haitian people's interest at heart, [Haitians] would have had more sufficient



Serge Bouchereau speaks to the crowd outside the ICAO. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

infrastructure to withstand the earthquake."

"Right now, there are more troops per square foot in Haiti than in Afghanistan or Iraq," said Yves Engler, author of

Canada in Haiti: Waging War on the Poor Majority. "Rebuilding Haiti shouldn't be an imperialist venture. We should include more Haitians in the reconstruction of Haiti."

Currently, 2,000 Canadian and 3,700 American soldiers are on the ground in Haiti, along with an additional 9,000 American troops on ships off the Haitian coast.

Given the imperialist history these nations share with the small Caribbean republic—both Canada and the United States had a hand in the 2004 removal of elected Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and the U.S. occupied Haiti for 20 years in the early 20th century—protesters are weary of military-controlled aid efforts.

"The focus has been militaristic rather than humanitarian," said Lauren Lallemand, a McGill international development graduate. "In the past, aid money went to building sweatshops and low level jobs in urban areas. You might not realize it, but Haiti is 60 per cent rural. Farmers need long-term sustainable solutions. We need to stand up and let these leaders know we're watching."

In the midst of the chaos outside ICAO, Bouchereau made sure the tragedy that had befallen the Haitian people was not overshadowed by politics.

"We should take a moment of silence to commemorate the dead," he said. "We don't know the extent of this tragedy yet, there are still people trapped in the rubble. So can we please just take a moment of silence in their honour?"

Quebec student unions owed \$413,302.74: lawsuit

Provincial lobby group claims fees were not returned over three-year period

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

On Jan. 5 the Canadian Federation of Students, a national student lobby group embroiled in drama as 13 schools attempt to vote to leave the organization, was sued by its Quebec component in Quebec Superior Court for \$413,302.74.

The CFS-Q—whose members are the Concordia Student Union and Graduate Students Association, the McGill Post-Graduate Students' Society and the Dawson Student Union—claimed in its court filing that it was owed the money due to unreturned fees collected by the national organization between 2007 and 2009.

"Quebec schools have been taken advantage of by the CFS," said Andrew Haig, the treasurer of the CFS-Q. "The CFS has taken half a

million dollars out of this province in the last three years in money that was earmarked for spending in the province. They have provided no accountability for that money."

According to Haig, the CFS-Q has repeatedly asked for documents about where the money was spent and claims that all requests were denied.

CFS National Treasurer Dave Molenhuis could not comment on the lawsuit as it is ongoing, but did confirm that Haig had not requested any documents from him.

"Long before this lawsuit was even contemplated, the CFS national executive had already started shunning Quebec students," said Haig. "Over the last six months, they've tried to close down our component, they've cut us off from the central organization, they've threat-

ened us, misled our members, and now they refuse to tell us what happened to almost half a million dollars in student money."

During the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the CFS-Q was placed under trusteeship when a disagreement about the organization's expansion exploded into an expensive legal battle between its members. Members of the CFS-Q also claim they were harassed and intimidated at the CFS's annual general meeting in November.

Due to the lawsuit, CFS-Q President Gregory Johansson was denied entry to a meeting of the national executive of the CFS on Jan. 8. As president of the CFS-Q, Johansson was ratified as a national executive at the CFS' annual general meeting.

"I showed up to [the national

executive meeting] and they were still sitting. I went to go in and Noah [Stewart-Ornstein, deputy chairperson of the CFS,] said we needed to talk about something. 'There was a vote to ratify you yesterday and the vote did not pass,' he told me. I was shocked," said Johansson, who questioned the legality of the executives' decision.

"He is ineligible to be seated as a national executive representative, so the board voted not to seat him on the grounds that he is party to a lawsuit against the Federation," said Molenhuis.

"What they are doing is unconscionable," said Haig. "Canadian corporate law doesn't let you just refuse to recognize an elected director—especially when they've already been ratified by the members of the company. This is plainly illegal."

Briefs

Metro bidding war starts over again

After a lengthy bidding war to replace the Montreal Metro's green line metro cars, the players are back to square one. Local heavyweight Bombardier and French conglomerate Alstom had been locked in a dispute over the \$1.2 billion contract for 765 cars, whose price may now be closer to \$4 billion. Montreal last received new metro cars in 1976.

Italian cafe in east island firebombed

An Italian café in Rivière-des-Prairies was firebombed on Jan. 24, causing minor damage. The attack fits the profile of a string of attacks last year that had analysts mulling the possibility of a turf war within the Mafia. This is the 21st attack in the last 12 months and the first of 2010.

Quebec defies feds, increases Haitian immigration quotas

In a rare move, Quebec broke with the federal government and chose to increase the number of Haitians that may be reunited with families already here, reported *La Presse*. Quebec Minister of Immigration Yolande James criticized the federal government's refusal to loosen up the criteria in the wake of the earthquake. There was no word on whether she plans to waive the often heavy immigration fees.

No suspects in NDG murder

The Montreal police have no leads on a double murder that occurred Jan. 24 in the parking lot of a St-Jacques Street McDonald's. Witnesses inside heard five or six gunshots ring out from the parking lot and contacted police, reported *Rue Frontenac*. One of the men killed was a paroled double-murderer who feared Mafia contract killers.

Supreme Court will rule on Khadr case

The Supreme Court of Canada is set to rule Friday on the fate of Toronto terror suspect Omar Khadr, currently held by the U.S. in Guantanamo Bay. The decision will decide whether he's extradited to Canada or to face trial at Guantanamo as the Harper government has argued for. The judicial process there has been heavily criticized for a lack of transparency or standards for evidence.



(Left to Right) Deputy leader of the New Democratic Party Thomas Mulcair, Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe and Liberal MP Marc Garneau stand to talk in Phillips Square. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Strange bedfellows at prorogation rally

Grit MP, New Democrat lieutenant and Bloc leader turn out against Harper

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Political rivals banded together on Jan. 23 to protest Prime Minister Stephen Harper's decision to prorogue Parliament until March.

A coalition of politicians—including Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe, Liberal MP Marc Garneau and deputy leader of the New Democratic Party Thomas Mulcair—gathered with activists outside Berri-UQAM metro for a march towards Phillips Square.

"It's an abusive, arrogant misuse of prorogation," said Garneau. "And over the past two weeks Canadians have stood up and said

"It's not okay."

The Montreal protest was one of over 60 held in Canada, with an Ottawa rally drawing a crowd of nearly 4,000. What motivated all these people to brave the cold was Harper's decision to unilaterally suspend parliament on Dec. 30. Although MPs were slated to resume work on Jan. 25, they will now need to wait until March as the government focuses on "re-calibrating" the economic stimulus plan.

Members of the opposition have since levelled the claim that Harper used prorogation to avoid further inquisition into the treatment of detainees in Afghanistan.

The committee looking into the prisoner abuse scandal, as well as every other parliamentary committee, was ended by Harper's decision. Another 36 bills will also end up in Parliamentary purgatory.

The crowd of 400 in Montreal chanted slogans in both English and French as they followed a police escort on René-Lévesque Boulevard. Upon arriving at Phillips Square, organizers promptly set up a makeshift podium and delivered speeches under the gaze of the monument of King Edward VII.

"In Haiti the country is in ruins," said Mulcair. "But their

parliament is meeting in a garage. Here the people are on their feet and the parliament is in ruins."

The crowd at Phillips Square was holding a mixture of Quebec, Canadian and Patriotes flags—a strange scene in downtown Montreal.

"Imagine reading an article in the newspaper two years ago about a prime minister that suspends parliament to avoid a vote of non-confidence," said Daniel Weinstock, a Université de Montreal professor. "Now imagine reading an article, two years ago, about a prime minister that prorogues parliament twice in 12 months to avoid being scrutinized

by fellow elected officials over serious issues.

"Did you ever think that would be possible in Canada?"

In early January, Weinstock drafted a letter accusing Harper of acting "anti-democratically." Since being drafted, the letter has been signed by 175 political philosophers, university professors and constitutional lawyers across the country.

"It's incredible the support we've gotten for this rally," said Michael Angelis, one of the event's organizers. "It's a Saturday morning, it's miserably cold and people are protesting parliamentary procedure. It's encouraging to see."

Graduate students to hold panel on tuition

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

After having met with Concordia University President Judith Woodsworth on Jan. 15, the Graduate Students Association is planning to hold a public panel on accessible education with the president.

The meeting with Woodsworth was convened after members of the GSA expressed concern over the president's statements, printed in *The Link* in late October, in which

she showed enthusiasm for the "American model" of tuition—which she defined as an increased role for the private sector in donations and financial aid.

"We asked the administration to help lobby for government money with students and we asked what they would do in 2011-12 if the tuition freeze was lifted," said GSA VP External Erik Chevrier of the one-hour meeting.

"She said that the university will be trying to lobby for government

money but she did not have specific details. She made it clear that any kind of funding is a priority for [the administration], it was a vague answer."

Funding for the university could come from different sources—private donors, alumni, government or higher tuition—but the president has expressed a preference for better relations and funding from alumni.

"She does seem to project that if the tuition freeze is lifted that tuition will be increased, but she did not go

into detail about that," Chevrier continued. "She told us in an ideal world she would like tuition to be free, but in reality that is not possible.

"She doesn't seem to deviate from that position."

By 2012 the Quebec government's six-year tuition thaw will be complete, having increased the burden on students by \$600 per semester from the price of tuition in 2006. Quebec's tuition in 2012 will still be only half the country's average, leaving some worried that further

increases are planned.

In 2008 the Montreal Economic Institute recommended raising the tuition on a per-program basis, decreasing tuition for programs like political science while increasing the cost of an engineering degree by 200 per cent.

Woodsworth could not provide a clear policy preference.

"I was not disappointed or satisfied with the discussion," said Chevrier, adding that the president's comments were politically neutral.



Concordia's aid, piled in the Hall building lobby. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Concordia raises \$11,000 for Haiti

• LAURA BEESTON

The Concordia Student Union, the African and Caribbean Student Network and Ralliement étudiant Haïti-Canada raised \$11,000 during their Haiti Catastrophe and Donation Drive. They are aiming to double donations by the end of the week.

"It was more than we expected," said CSU President Amine Dabchy of the relief campaign, adding that 100 per cent of all proceeds, non-perishable food items, medical supplies and clothing from the drive bins around campus will be sent to Haiti in the next couple of days.

According to CSU VP Services

and Loyola Prince Ralph Osei, student volunteers have had to sort and store the donations from the bins every evening since the drive began.

"[The student response] has been wonderful," Osei said, adding that volunteers will be hitting the streets around campus to raise additional donations this week.

"We hope that this generosity and solidarity will keep going," Dabchy said. "We will continue that push—accepting donations even after the two-week drive which will finish officially on Friday. We will still be doing our utmost to help these organizations and our students in the community."

Closing Insite would infringe Charter rights

• ANDREW BATES—CUP
WESTERN BUREAU CHIEF

KELOWNA, B.C.—Dean Wilson, a 38-year-old heroin addict with Hepatitis C, and Shelly Tomic, disabled with depression, arthritis and addicted to heroin, have won the battle to keep the Insite safe injection site open.

A decision in the B.C. Court of Appeal has found that laws making such sites illegal infringe on Charter rights to life, liberty and security.

Wilson, Tomic, and the Portland Hotel Society, which operates the site under contract with the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, filed a statement of claim against the federal government in 2007 claiming that closing Insite would violate the users' rights to security of the person.

The group filed the action when the temporary legal exemption that had allowed Insite to operate was set to expire in 2008.

"We were incredibly ecstatic at the ruling," said Liz Evans, PHS executive director.

The B.C. Court of Appeal's 2-1 decision "represented the courts actually supporting the information and the research and the reality of what's actually happening every day on that site," Evans said.

Federal Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq's office would not talk about the government's plans following the announcement.



Insite has saved lives, say supporters. PHOTO JAY BLACK

"While the government respects the court's decision, it is disappointed with the outcome," said Health Canada spokesperson Christelle Legault.

Insite was created in 2003 after Health Canada, under the Liberal government, made an exemption from the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. It had received two exemptions from the Conservative government.

Legault was careful not to say whether or not the government disagrees with Insite's approach, noting that innovative approaches to treatment and rehabilitation were a part of the government's agenda.

According to Evans, scientific research into the matter backs up the need for injection sites like Insite.

The Canadian Medical Association Journal published an

article in 2004 that claimed Insite lowers public drug use and discarding of drug paraphernalia. A 2006 paper from the New England Journal of Medicine stated that an average use of Insite of once a week or any contact with the on-site addictions counsellor independently increased that person's chance to get into rehab.

Health Canada compiled a report in 2008 for then-health minister Tony Clement, noting that Insite had intervened in 336 overdose events, with no deaths.

"Shelly Tomic and Dean Wilson [...] testified in the court document that Insite had saved their lives," Evans said. "There's many people that go every day [into the upstairs detox] who tell everyone who's willing to hear [...] that Insite has saved their lives, and they wouldn't be in detox without Insite."

Moving towards a bilingual McGill

Students call for the university to teach first-year classes in both languages

• HUGO PILON-LAROSE

The dial on the clock struck one on Jan. 13 at McGill University's Shatner building.

Working anonymously in the packed student building, two French-speaking law students, members of the Students' Society of McGill University's Commission des affaires francophones, prepared a presentation that could change the face of McGill.

"McGill should teach first-year classes in English and French," said Alexandre Forest, the commission's president. "That would be helpful for its international reputation and it would also be a way for the university to re-connect with Montreal's francophone majority."

With McGill's future under examination as Principal

Heather Munroe-Blum questions the university's community involvement, research priorities and the quality of its teaching, Forest and his colleagues decided that it was time to debate bilingualism.

According to Forest, McGill is not a welcoming place for francophone students who have never been in an English learning environment.

"McGill is set up in a unique city in North America, whose first language is not English but French. It is also one of this country's highest-ranked universities, with an important number of international students. But where are French Quebecers?" asked first-year law student Julien Adant, also a member of the French commission.

Both men believe that new students at McGill should have

the opportunity of choosing both English and French classes. They argue that the university could reach out to a larger undergraduate population, not only from the city's francophone population but also from French countries around the world.

Since the establishment of the McGill Français movement in 1969 that called for McGill to be opened to francophone students—who now make up 18 per cent of the university—little has been done, although papers and theses can be written in both languages.

"Many francophone students I serve in first-year consultations don't want to write their papers in French, because they are here as part of an immersion process," said Manon Lemelin, an advisor for francophone students. "McGill is not inactive in lan-

guage issues and the administration is looking to re-open the English writing centre soon."

The French commission has had to deal with the issue that many francophone students come to McGill to leave the French language. They have yet to develop an answer for francophone students who argue against a French education.

To help find an answer for that question, Forest organized a Francofête on campus that began the morning of Jan. 26. Conferences, political debates on provincial issues, a carnival and other activities are planned. A panel with local member of Parliament Justin Trudeau, *The Gazette* columnist Josée Legault and Joseph-Yvon Thériault, a UQAM sociology professor, will also discuss the future of French Canada.

"I think it will be hard for [the French commission] to sell their idea to the administration. It would be amazing to have more classes in French and a better knowledge within the McGill community of the reality of French Quebec," said Alexandra Dionne-Charest, a McGill student who recently transferred to the Université de Sherbrooke.

The bilingual proposal is sure to elicit a strong reaction, even at Concordia.

"We don't have any bilingualism policy at the Concordia Student Union, but about 50 per cent of the staff here speak French easily," said CSU President Amine Dabchy. "I have to say the idea of SSMU's French commission is totally genius and it would be amazing to evaluate the possibility to do the same thing here at Concordia."



When Col. J.C.R. Lacroix had to transform a failing Vietnam-style mission in Afghanistan, he turned to the model village plan that has since rescued the Afghan mission. PHOTO TRISTAN LAPOINTE

Canada's Afghan legacy will continue past 2011

The father of the model village plan talks about setting the military mission straight

• TRISTAN LAPOINTE

When Col. J.C.R. Lacroix arrived in Afghanistan late in 2008, the Canadian mission there was poorly-run and out of touch with the local population. Afghans were chronically unemployed and understandably upset about the foreign military presence in their country.

During a conference at McGill University on Jan. 20, with more than a year of strategic hindsight, Lacroix claimed Afghanistan is on the right track—sort of.

“When I arrived in the country, we were fighting a Vietnam-style war,” said Lacroix. “We would go in and clear villages and fight the bad guys out in the country but we did-

n't have the capacity to hold any of the ground we took. We needed a new plan.”

The model for this plan is a village. One particular village which is part of a small hamlet outside of Kandahar called Deh-e Bagh, the central component of a new Canadian strategy dubbed Cantotal.

Cantotal is a combined civil and military effort that seeks to create badly-needed jobs by funding village-level municipal projects like irrigation or schools. In exchange for the aid, the locals need to inform the Canadian Forces of any Taliban personnel from the International Security and Assistance Force—of which Canada is a part—from being

attacked. There are currently seven such villages in and around Kandahar.

Lacroix claims the new strategy is working.

“Right now we've got more civilian contractors on the ground than soldiers,” he said. “We decided to disengage with the Taliban and move our forces closer to Kandahar. That way we can fight [the Taliban] on our own terms.”

Despite Lacroix's optimism, foreign missions in Afghanistan have a documented history of failure stretching back to the 3rd century B.C.E.

Julian Schofield, a Concordia political science professor and a former officer in the Canadian Forces,

said the Canadian mission in Afghanistan may be motivated more by pride than a sense of international altruism.

“These guys at the [Department of National Defence] are loving Afghanistan. For so long they were one of the most neglected parts of the bureaucracy. Now they have a budget, media exposure and tanks. Of course they're going to say things are going well over there,” said Schofield.

Heavy tribalism and a general weariness of foreign intrusion, combined with a weak economy, is what keeps Afghanistan from being receptive to Canadian and NATO generosity, he says.

“Our policy in the country is

nothing new,” he continued. “The Russians did the exact same thing there 30 years ago. They were just as stupid as us. What Afghanistan really needs is a trading partner that won't undersell them on everything they could produce [as Pakistan does].”

However, both men agree that Canada will probably achieve its goal of pulling out its troops by 2011.

“There will be 30,000 new American troops on the ground in the next few months and they'll all be following our [Canadian] model. The number of villages operating under Cantotal will continue to grow. Right now we've got everything figured out except long-term sustainment,” concluded Lacroix.

Cooking for the faiths

Rice Krispies, vegan cooking and enlightened debate

• RILEY SPARKS

On Thursday nights, visitors stepping off Mackay Street and into Concordia's Multi-Faith Chaplaincy are greeted by the scents of Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, the organization's weekly vegan supper.

The weekly meal, which is prepared by volunteers and supported entirely by donation, has attracted a considerable following. According to head chef Julianne Carle, a third-year fine arts student, as many as 120 people attend on an average night.

“Whenever I meet someone new to the university, I tell them to come to Mother Hubbard's,” said John Goldner, a Concordia graduate who said the weekly event's friendly atmosphere and feeling of commu-

nity keeps him coming back.

“It's an opportunity to exchange ideas, talk and make new friends,” he continued. “People are living such isolated lives these days. This is a chance to come out of their shells.”

Named after an old English nursery rhyme, Mother Hubbard's has been serving the Concordia community for a decade. Many in attendance were happy to point out that the weekly meal was older than The People's Potato.

“I feel like I'm rooted in a community,” said Carle, who has been volunteering at Mother Hubbard's for three years, and has been head chef for two.

Finding food suitable for a community as diverse as that served by the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy pres-

ents some challenges, but according to Laura Gallo, supervisor of Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, cooking without animal products helps to make the event as inclusive as possible.

Using vegan ingredients also makes it easier for the cooks to comply with religious dietary laws and to ensure that the supper is open to “all kinds of people,” she said.

For the supper on Jan. 21, Carle and a team of volunteers prepared a potato and rice soup with bread, hummus and Rice Krispies squares for dessert.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard serves supper between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays. Students who attend are asked to contribute \$2 toward the cost of ingredients.



Hummus for the masses every Thursday at the Chaplaincy. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Government pledges to put students to work

\$10 million funding increase to youth job programs

• LAURA BEESTON

On Jan. 12 the Conservative government announced that \$10 million from the economic stimulus package would be transferred to the Canada Summer Jobs program, creating thousands of extra jobs for students who last summer faced the worst youth unemployment rate in 30 years.

Despite the extra money, students may not notice more job opportunities because the demand for jobs is expected to far outstrip the reduced supply from the private sector.

"This is a very, very marginal increase, [considering] youth unemployment is higher than [unemployment in] any other segment of the population," said Michael Savage, the Liberal party's Human Resources and Skills Development critic.

"When you look at the stimulus program and the billions of dollars that are involved, this could be an area where you can get a real, immediate bang for the buck," said Savage. "It's the perfect time. Why wouldn't we invest much more dramatically in students [instead of] tinkering around the edge with this? Why not more?"

According to the federal government, the program—which now has a budget of \$107.5 million—created 37,500 summer jobs for students in 2009. Meanwhile, Statistics Canada

reported that student unemployment was at its highest rate since comparable data became available in 1977—hitting a record 20.9 per cent unemployment in July.

Organizations like the Concordia Student Union's Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank centre are feeling the effect of these numbers.

"We've just been so busy. This is clearly a very significant issue," said HOJO Coordinator Jonathan Elston, explaining that, despite an extremely high demand for work from students, there has been a decrease in the number of jobs available.

20.9

student unemployment rate in July 2009, the highest in 30 years.

"From October to January, the supply of [employers offering] jobs saw a 50 per cent drop since last year. [...] But in November we had 43 per cent more students coming into the office looking for work," said Elston.

The government's plan, which limits jobs to full-time students aged 15 to 30 years old that intend to return to school, aims to "help create the best-educated, most skilled and most flexible workforce in the world." Despite the promises, critics are unsure how invested the government is

in creating student jobs.

"If you can employ 37,500 students with \$100 million, it's not hard to figure out how many more students you can employ by increasing the investment by 30 per cent, 50 per cent or 100 per cent—pick a number!" exclaimed Savage.

"The program is already in place, lots of students need work and lots of organizations need students—all they have to do is put more money into the envelope," he added.

For Concordia students who can't afford to wait for a government-guaranteed job and are hoping to bolster their job-finding strategies this summer, Elston recommends starting now by registering with HOJO, picking up a list of resources and referrals or dropping by one of their job search workshops.

To deal with the increasing demand, the CSU plans on opening up a HOJO outpost at the Loyola campus in the SC building—below The Hive—on Feb. 2.

"We're here to empower our students to find work, even if the job market isn't as good as it was last year," Elston said. "But students should prepare in advance. If you were unemployed last summer, it doesn't have to be that way again."

The Concordia Student Union's Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank will host their next workshop on Jan. 26. For more info, visit csu.qc.ca.



More digging on de Maisonneuve Boulevard. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Tunnel on track for March opening

• TOM LLEWELLIN

The endless amount of construction work surrounding the Guy-Hall Tunnel is finally winding down, according to the administrative official in charge of the project.

"We're on track to open the tunnel sometime in March," said Peter Bolla, associate vice-president of Concordia's facilities management.

The twice-delayed \$5 million project, for which the construction began in December 2008, has had to share space with the metro line running directly under de Maisonneuve Boulevard, as well as the usual underground infrastructure.

"Underground work is always more complex than above-ground work," Bolla said. "You have to take that into account."

The 120-metre tunnel connects the Hall building to the GM building, which includes the Guy Street exit of the Guy-Concordia

metro station. Originally targeted for a September 2009 opening, it was pushed back to December.

"We hit bedrock a couple of times," Bolla commented. "But we factored that into the plan and the budget."

He added that the ground also absorbs large amounts of runoff from nearby Mount Royal, necessitating a longer-than-usual pumping process and a round of additional measures to keep the tunnel dry.

The last remaining hole on the southeast corner of de Maisonneuve Boulevard and Bishop Street has been given over to electrical work for the last three weeks. Spacing Montreal contributor and Concordia student Adam Bemma posted a photo of the tunnel last week, showing lights and tiling partially installed. Closed-circuit cameras will also run along the length of the tunnel.

"We're still on-budget," Bolla maintained.

Student Union readies reform package

No centralized opt-out system, only internal CSU changes promised

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

After years of calls for reform, the Concordia Student Union may finally be getting serious about cleaning up its act.

At the CSU Council's February meeting, VP Academic and Policy Reform Helen Downie is expected to present an eagerly-awaited reform package.

"One of our platform points when we were running was to look into the student union because some of the issues in the past stemmed from our own bylaws and standing regulations," said Downie. "We wanted to create a focus group looking within

the student union at our documents while comparing them to other student unions."

The CSU's past problems include threats of prosecution and libel, extortion by sitting executives, police being called into stormy Council meetings, Council chairs expelling opposition councillors, biased rulings and half million-dollar boondoggles by incompetent bookkeepers. The list goes on.

To rectify the situation, a reform committee was convened in June. Composed of Downie, VP Services and Loyola Prince Ralph Osei, councillors Dimitry Destounis and Vanessa O'Connor,

überculture coordinator Lex Gill and Canadian Federation of Students-Quebec Treasurer Andrew Haig, the committee now meets weekly.

"I know there are a lot of rumours going around about opt-out fees, but we have decided before questioning the accountability and transparency of other groups on campus we will focus on the accountability and transparency of the CSU," said Downie.

Rumours that the CSU was considering centralizing the fee levy opt-out system—allowing students to easily stop paying fees towards certain campus groups—

went no further than the discussion phase, according to Downie.

"What we would like to do is sit down with the representatives from the student groups and better understand what the CSU's relationship is with them," said Downie. "Presently we don't know what the relationship is and what it should be."

Another part of Downie's reform package will be the subject of student participation in the CSU's institutions.

"We want to take a look at accessibility by making the Council minutes available to students in more of a promotional way as well as making the agenda

available," said Downie. "It's not that we are hiding anything, but we want to correct the situation where we are not promoting the fact that we have a council where students can attend and voice their opinions."

There are only four months left in the current CSU administration's mandate, not to mention the 2010-2011 executive campaign season starts late February. Pressure is mounting to finish uncompleted campaign promises. With The Hive café now open and the schedule for CSU Green Month finalized, only the Student Centre and reform program are outstanding.

Staying out of the red

Get more for your dollar—and less on your bill—with these tips

• CHRIS HANNA

January brings more than simply a new year of resolutions to lose weight or quit smoking—it also brings debt.

Canadians were expected to spend an average of \$891 on gifts alone in December, according to a Scotiabank survey. For students in particular, splurging in December may mean struggling to make ends meet come January.

Whether you spent all your savings or used your credit cards and are grimly waiting for your statement, when you factor in looming tuition fees and textbooks, the debt may seem insurmountable.

But no need to fret: *The Link* is here to help.

Cash—Dough—Moolah

There are many words for money, few ways for a student to make some legitimately and a million reasons to spend it. Whether your folks are helping out or you're providing for yourself, you should start budgeting by keeping a log of what's coming in and what's going out.

"If you're not working and earning some money, now's the time to start," said Harold Simpkins, a senior marketing lecturer at Concordia's John Molson School of Business. "If you are working and have an income, budget every expense and stick with your budget."

This may be easier said than done, but lim-

iting yourself to spending less than you make every month makes a world of difference.

Here's a tip: if you can have two bank accounts, do it! Sneak some money into one every week and pretend it doesn't exist. This can be used for incidentals and other things you can't plan for as well as back-up when the going gets tough.

Coffee and a Big Mac is NOT a meal

We students are notorious caffeine addicts, and the two-or-so dollars spent on coffee every day really adds up at the end of the month.

According to Arshad Ahmad, a JMSB associate professor, not spending \$3 on coffee or energy drinks every day results in "savings that can easily amount to \$1 million at retirement—assuming you are a young student."

If you can't kick the caffeine habit, make coffee at home and carry it in a reusable mug. One pound of coffee (readily available at grocery stores or even your favourite coffee shops like Starbucks and Tim Hortons) makes about 45 cups, depending on how strong you like your joe. A pound costs in the \$15 range, which means your cup of coffee costs you less than 35 cents.

Similarly, start thinking about brown bagging a lunch or packing light snacks to munch on between classes. Healthy cheap meals are not so easy to find downtown.

Unless, that is, you happen to dine at The People's Potato on the seventh floor of

Concordia's Hall Building, which offers students free/pay-what-you-can four course vegan meals. They operate Monday through Friday and start giving out food at 12:30 p.m. You pay 37 cents per credit in fee levies to The People's Potato, so you might as well get something out of it. Bring your own Tupperware and you'll enjoy the speed of the Tupperware-only line.

Not only is it free, but the meals are diverse and the Potato truly is socially responsible. Gustavo Rodriguez, a volunteer at The People's Potato of over two years, says the kitchen keeps a log and aims not to repeat the meals in any given week.

Through the Potato, you can order food baskets filled with fresh veggies at cost price—which is very helpful for those with growing grocery bills. The kitchen also aims to educate students about food and sustainability, so check the bulletin board outside the kitchen regularly for seminars on cooking and food politics.

Hit the books

There is a cheaper way to buy textbooks—and not just some photocopies from a guy in his basement. Amazon.ca is your sure way to save money on those wretched things that you'll only use three times a term. Their books are nearly always less expensive than the Concordia bookstore—check out the prices we compared.

And when you're finished, sell 'em back with the other things collecting dust on your shelves—books, CDs, DVDs—on the Amazon Marketplace for a small fee. That's a good way to fund next term's textbook budget, too.

Ditch your ride or ride a bike

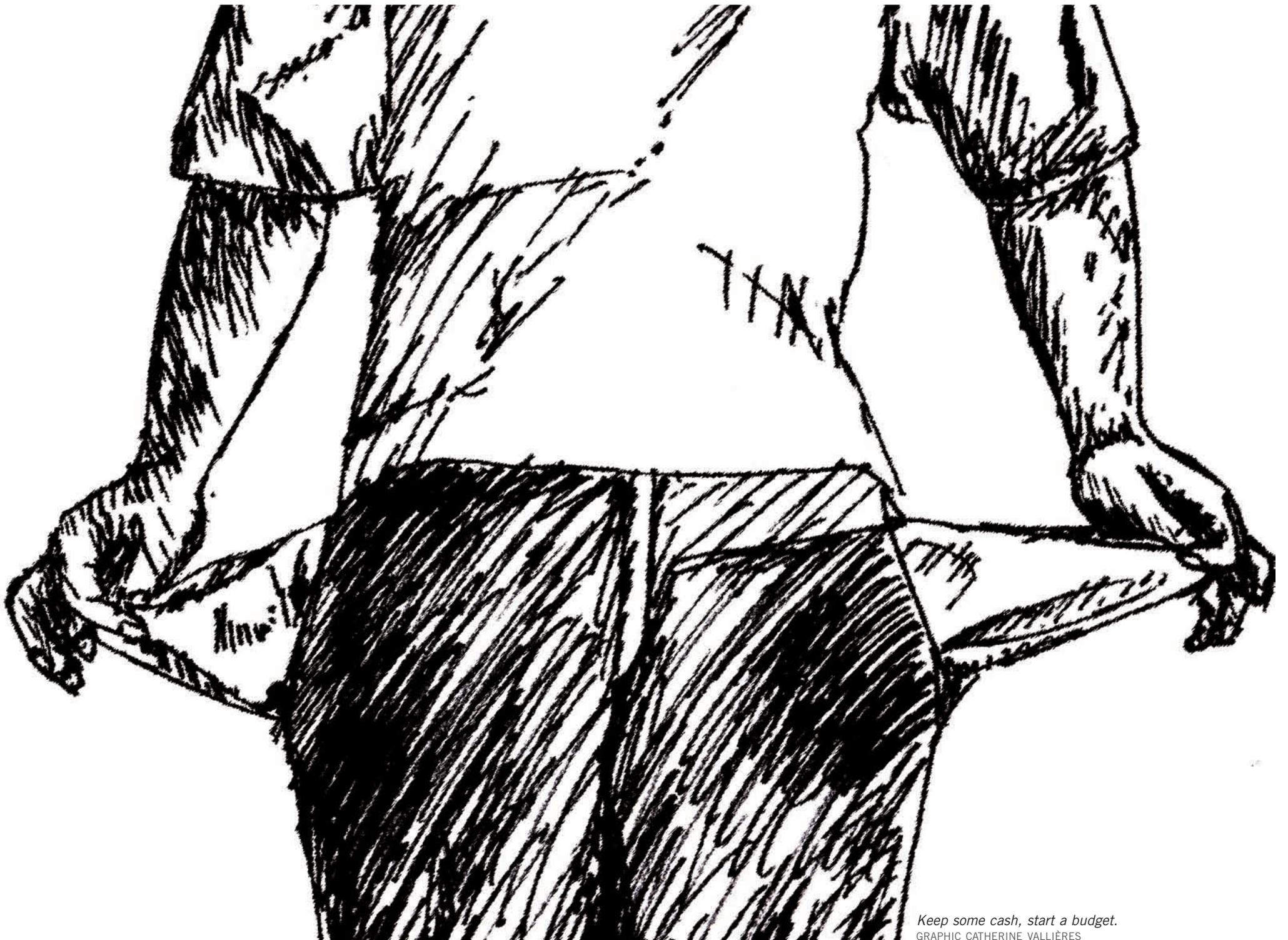
To many of us students this is a no-brainer, but another way to save some dough and get to know your fellow Montrealer—regardless of how crazy, chatty or smelly they may be—is by using public transit. A discounted student Opus card will set you back \$38.75 a month if you live on Montreal Island and \$89 if you don't, but the key is taking transit on the regular (that means weekends and days you don't have school, too).

Vices and good times

Biting our nails or pen caps isn't nearly as tough on our wallets as some of the things we students are addicted to.

"Way back in my days as a student, many of us spent excessively on alcohol and tobacco," admitted Simpkins. "Consumption of these less-than-healthy products has dropped dramatically, [...] but to those who still imbibe [should] cut back or quit. You'll live longer and feel better."

Then there are those pesky gadgets. Why do we insist on having both an iPod and a phone that plays music? The thought of giving up a phone with e-mail, Internet, music and



Keep some cash, start a budget.
GRAPHIC CATHERINE VALLIÈRES

weather alerts may be unfathomable, but Simpkins attests that “less dependence on handhelds results in less spending on them.” This makes the cost of your iPhone or Crackberry’s data package all the more real.

If you are seriously in debt, this should be obvious: going out for drinks, dinner or dancing a couple of times each week is financially straining. If it seems unreasonable for you to cancel these types of social gatherings altogether, limit them.

Better yet, entertain your guests at your place; you don’t have to use coat check, the bar doesn’t have a last call and the drinks aren’t ridiculously marked up. One night out can be substituted by two nights in at least.

Not-so-fantastic plastic

These plastic cards might have been your best friend and your weapon of choice during the holidays, but your relationship is likely to turn sour come payment time.

According to the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada, 41 per cent of cardholders are unaware of how much the interest rates on their cards are. While most average around 20 per cent per year, some department store and speciality cards range in the 30 per cent rate.

If you are going to use your card, make sure you can pay them in full. The minimum payments that credit card companies suggest on your statement each month can

mean you will inevitably pay more in interest.

Ahmad also suggests improving your “financial literacy” by getting informed and learning “the language used by bankers and credit card companies.”

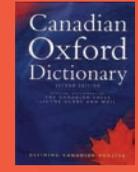
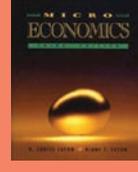
Here’s a scenario: you actually spent \$891 on your credit card last month. If you make the minimum contributions to your debt—paying the minimum \$20 every month, while they charge 20 per cent interest—you will be paying off this debt for the next 83 months. In the meantime, you will have racked up \$750 in interest (assuming you didn’t use your credit card for anything else).

Budgeting and using your debit card instead of credit are sure ways to have some extra cash on you in 2010. By knowing how much money you have coming in, you can know how much (or how little) to spend. Using your debit card also means you only spend money you already have. This eliminates the fear of receiving a shocking credit card statement you won’t be able to repay.

So, forego your daily macchiato and cheeseburger and take a look at the money you’ve spared.

Don’t forget that the 2009-10 winter tuition fee payment deadline is Jan. 31 at 11:59 p.m. Pay it up, or a \$75 penalty fee—plus interest—will be charged to your student account.

Book prices

	Bookstore prices		Amazon.ca	
	New	Used	New	Used
 Mapping the Political Landscape POLI 202	\$103.95	\$78.00	\$82.63	\$39.99
 Canadian Oxford Dictionary	\$59.95	\$45.00	\$37.58	\$34.29
 Micro-economics ECON 201	\$124.90	\$93.70	\$80.89	\$29.00
 Frankenstein	\$16.68	\$12.70	\$2.75	\$0.01

Unsung heroes of late-night type

Local production looks at the newspaper copy desk in the age of downsizing



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

• TOM LLEWELLIN

After years of ever-increasing pressure in Canadian newsrooms, David Sherman hit the wall.

Sequestered behind the copy desk of *The Gazette*, the feature writer-turned-copy editor found himself facing deadlines that left no longer than 20 minutes for news story rewrites.

"It dawned on me that the job was definitely impossible to do properly," said Sherman. Instead of picking up the pace, he left *The Gazette* and penned a play called *The Daily Miracle*.

The production, directed by Guy Sprung, opens at Bain St-Michel this week. It looks at the absurdities that face the unsung heroes of the rapidly-contracting newspaper industry: the men and women that grace the copy desk. They're responsible for editing and rewriting stories, writing headlines and even determining just what the paper will look like, all under tremendously tight deadlines that grow ever more narrow as newspapers continuously downsize.

Sherman is a long-time veteran

of the industry, who saw the number of copy desks at *The Gazette* shrink from two to one—with no corresponding decrease in work.

"There [would be] a little bit of a situation at 12 a.m.," he laughed.

Sherman originally left *The Gazette* on stress leave, but never went back. After years of dabbling in screen and stage writing, he took advantage of his leave to begin writing full-time.

Miracle's cast of characters includes Marty (Arthur Holden of History Television fame), recently back to work after a work-induced nervous breakdown.

"The night desk is a very isolated place," said Sherman of the stress

inherent to the job. "There will be maybe six to eight people working in this huge, empty newsroom, and it's all pressure."

Another character, Elizabeth (Ellen David of the CBC's *18 to Life*), is a single mom who comes up against prejudice from her mostly male colleagues and is forced to choose between her work and home life. David said Elizabeth's predicament is far from unique among female journalists.

"It's a juggling act, always," she said, "and there's this drive to compete as an equal. The 'Wall of Fame' at the back [of the play's set] has

maybe one or two pictures of women. It's almost like an old boys' club."

Sherman created Elizabeth's character as a composite of the women he worked with in his early days when the typical newspaper was "an all-male bastion, with men doing the hiring. The women being hired were almost always attractive."

He added that attitudes have changed in the past decade, with more women than ever now occupying management positions.

Men and women alike are affected by something else the last few years have wrought. Namely, the migration away from print and towards a wider variety of sources online.

"In 10 years I can see [my character] sitting in a car in a Tim Hortons parking lot, sending a story to some webmaster."

—Ellen David,
playing Elizabeth
in *The Daily Miracle*

"In 10 years I can see [my character] sitting in a car in a Tim Hortons parking lot, sending a story to some webmaster," joked David.

Sherman took a documentary-style approach to the material, playing up the absurdity and black humour in creating intense pressure in what he admits is "not an intrinsically fascinating place."

"That extra time [to look things over] is gone now," he said. "You can't even think about what you're doing."

The Daily Miracle starts Jan. 28 and runs to Feb. 14 at Bain St-Michel (5300 St-Dominique St.). Tickets are \$15 for students, \$20 general admission. See infiniteatre.com for full show schedule.

Cotton Mouth refreshes

Local band won't leave you high and dry



Getting ahead (left to right): Alex Cooper, Martin Horn, Jeremy MacCuish and Louis-David Jackson of Cotton Mouth.
PHOTO SARAH LONG

• ASHLEY OPHEIM

Cotton Mouth doesn't make the kind of music you would expect from their name. They definitely don't leave a dry sensation in your mouth and, in fact, the moniker has nothing to do with the supposed feeling one gets after smoking some green.

"My girlfriend came up with it," explained frontman Martin Horn. "At the time she was doing a lot of work in fabrics in the [Concordia] studio arts program and so I guess she had cotton on the brain. It doesn't really mean anything. I didn't think 'til later that it was what people used to describe what the mouth feels like when they're high."

Cotton Mouth is composed of Horn and all three members of Montreal trio Parlovr, Louis-David Jackson, Jeremy MacCuish and Alex Cooper. Known for their impressive live sets, the band's music combines hypnotic melodies and heartfelt lyrics that resonate in all the right places.

Horn admitted that he is "always surprised" to hear people

are fans of the band.

"Mostly what I'm trying to do is to avoid clichés that make me cringe personally," said Horn. "And so for a long time, all I was doing was indirectly writing songs that were kind of mean-spirited advice to my friends."

A Montreal native, Horn grew up in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

"When I was a kid I played sports and normal kid stuff, but I got weird somewhere along the way," said Horn, who began violin and piano lessons at the age of six.

He continued lessons for seven years, but explained that he "was always very lazy."

"I didn't really practice enough," he continued, "and I wasn't interested in music at all. Then at 16, for some reason, I decided I wanted a guitar."

"I'm a big nerd. I have a lot of difficult and frustrating hobbies like audio electronics and trying to teach myself computer programming—stuff that, you know, shouldn't be fun but for some reason I find it so."

Cotton Mouth came together when Horn invited drummer

MacCuish to play on some songs he was recording—a collaboration which resulted in the whole Parlovr crew getting on board. The band released a split EP with Dishwasher last spring and hopes to finish either an EP or an album by May, although Horn admits that sometimes his writing needs time.

"Sometimes I'll write something and I'll end up with a demo that I won't like so I leave it and come back to it a few months later," he said.

Self-deprivation always helps, too. Horn explained that, when writing a song, he needs to constrain himself and work around a single idea.

"I try and work with a limited subject matter or limited instruments to try and get the most interesting thing I can get out of a very small number of choices," he concluded, "so I don't get overwhelmed."

Cotton Mouth plays at Jupiter Room (3874 St-Laurent Blvd.) Jan. 28 at 9 p.m. with Sean Nicholas Savage, Fluxus and Montoire. Cover is \$5.



A scene from Mark McGuire's film *Shugendo Now*, screening in the Quebec International Ethnographic Film Festival at Concordia this week.

Around the world in 20 films

Ethnographic film fest brings worldly documentaries to university cinemas

• STEPHANIE LA LEGGIA

Female bullfighters from Spain, punks from Pakistan and men from a shantytown on the outskirts of Tokyo meet at last in this year's Quebec International Ethnographic Film Festival.

The event aims to bring together some of the best of visual anthropology and social documentary, both from Canada and abroad.

"We tried to think about which films would complement each other, which films would bring something unusual or particularly fitting to the festival," said Kate Husted, a Concordia anthropology student and festival coordinator. "And then, of course, some we chose simply just because they jumped out at us."

From a womanless village to transsexualism in Barcelona, FIFEQ's roster of films will not only educate but also force you to acknowledge how little you really know.

Husted said she was so impressed by last year's festival that she ended up spending full days checking out the programming.

This year, she joins other Concordia students as well as volunteers from McGill and Université de Montréal in coordi-

nating the four-day festival.

"It's each school that chooses the films they would like to screen," said Husted. "It's us, the students organizing the festival, that get to choose."

All filmmakers whose documentaries are featured are invited to the festival, many of whom, Husted pointed out, travel long distances to come. The featured guest at the Jan. 29 Concordia screening comes from a little closer to home—John Abbott College teacher Mark McGuire presents his film *Shugendo Now*, a documentary set in the Kumano mountains of Japan. The full-length film sheds light on Japanese mountain asceticism and the relationship between religious ritual and urban life in Osaka and Tokyo.

"We are pretty excited about it," said Husted of the film, adding, "All the films are great. We had so many to choose from that our favourites, the best of the best, are all worth seeing."

FIFEQ jumps between UdeM, McGill and Concordia campuses Jan. 28 to 31. Concordia screenings go down Jan. 29 from 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the J.A. De Sève Cinema (room LB-125, 1400 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.). For screening schedules, see fifeq.ca.



Bridget Keating's portraits feature recognizable and unknown faces alike in her show with Shawna McLeod, Vanitas, at the PUSH Gallery. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Familiar faces

Painting exhibition shows the ways we reveal and conceal

• NATASHA YOUNG

The mess on your bedroom floor may be more revealing than your Facebook profile will ever be.

Artists and Concordia grads Bridget Keating and Shawna McLeod shed light on the relationship between who we are and how we want to be seen in *Vanitas*, the latest exhibition at Mile End's PUSH Gallery.

Keating's portraits display celebrities, cult idols and unknown faces pulled from the depths of social networking sites. McLeod's paintings feature chaotic heaps of indiscernible objects in an empty space, as if the piles have been neglected by an unseen inhabitant.

McLeod and Keating's respective messages of familiarity with objects and the impersonality of faces make a bold, almost paradoxical statement.

"It's pretty arbitrary who I paint," admitted Keating at the show's vernissage on Jan. 21. "I started being interested in the attitude portrayed by the people I paint, but then, as I was working, I started to get more interested in the colour and composition."

Her oil paintings take on an attitude of their own because of the public perception of their subjects. The paintings star the likes of Pete Doherty, Mick Jagger, Axl Rose and David Hasselhoff, as well as less recog-

nizable faces. One piece, the title hints, was taken from someone's profile picture.

"Sometimes, I decide I don't want to see the face," explained Keating, whose painting of actor Johnny Depp has his face obscured by white fingerprints. "For the Johnny Depp one, I wanted to experiment with touching the surface of the canvas. The white fingerprints could also be smoke."

The jumble of items in McLeod's paintings mirrors the multiplicity of Keating's faces. In the same way that our minds are overstimulated on a daily basis by faces of celebrities and strangers alike, our psyches are similarly overloaded with

objects and images.

A set of smaller paintings focus on simple objects: the tip of a peacock feather; a hairbrush, stick of deodorant and bottle of nail polish remover sitting on a vanity; a dartboard with a dart stuck in the wall. These breaks in the chaotic installation paintings suggest an intimacy with everyday objects, taking singular items out of the fray of messy bedroom debris.

"I like having a personal relationship with the things around me," said McLeod. "These are all like messy bedrooms."

Vanitas is at the PUSH Gallery (5264 St-Laurent Blvd.) until Feb. 21.

spins

Dessa
A Badly Broken Code

Doomtree



It's clear that Dessa has a lot to say from the very first track. Touching on subjects from an awkward childhood to failed relationships, the Minneapolis artist's second album finds a healthy balance between singing and rapping. Though she is primarily known for her exorbitant skills, she is no slouch in the vocals department—a talent that becomes obvious on the album's sole true ballad, "The Chaconne."

At its core, the album is steeped in melancholy and heavy lyricism. This is where Dessa shines and is clearly most comfortable. Tracks such as "Children's Work" and "Mineshaft 2" explore sincere emotion while still packing a

heavy punch. It's when she ventures outside of these zones that she stumbles. The far-too-upbeat "Bullpen" is a bewildering break from the flow of the album. The seemingly obligatory shout-out track "Crew" also detracts from an otherwise focused project.

A Badly Broken Code takes the listener on a sombre yet very enjoyable trip into Dessa's psyche. There are bumps in the journey, but there are also moments of brilliance.

7/10

—Kevin Ahmadi

Taking Dawn
Time to Burn

Roadrunner



Taking Dawn is what rock has been waiting for these past 20 years—halle-fucking-lujah. They sound as glam metal should: big choruses that are "catchier than herpes" and strong

thick guitar riffs that make you wet. It's sex, drugs and rock n' roll, minus the drugs. Enticing? You'd think so. The 39-minute debut LP will have you saying "it sounds a lot like ..." from the first to last track. Devoted to the '80s school of glam metal, these dudes from Las Vegas could have been touring with Guns n' Roses, Skid Row, Mötley Crüe and Bon Jovi if they were born two decades earlier. And even if you don't particularly enjoy any of these bands, there's a cover version of Fleetwood Mac's "The Chain." One listen and it's stuck in your head. Success!

8.5/10

—Tania Mohsen

Fear Factory
Mechanize

Candlelight



What a strange and twisted road industrial

mindkillers Fear Factory have travelled. The last 10 years of this band's existence have been a mess of intra-band struggles: members demonized then welcomed back into the fold, legal struggles between band members and turn-on-a-dime reconciliations. The band's current configuration is actually a hybrid of classic Fear Factory and of Canadian noise band Strapping Young Lad, with two members from each camp. And yet, through it all, they manage to conjure up some of that old Fear Factory steez. Songs like "Powershifter" and "Oxidizer" harken back to a better time without totally living in the past, improving upon the band's original "industrial+death metal=good times" formula. It's ironic to think that the most Fear Factory-like album of the last decade was actually created with only half the original lineup.

7.5/10

—R. Brian Hastie

The DOWN-LOW

Event listings
Jan. 26-Feb. 1

ART

Il était là

Concordia fine arts students Michael Magnussen and Maxime Brouillet explore absence, identity and belonging.

Until Friday, Jan. 29

VAV Gallery

1395 René-Lévesque Blvd. W.

Works on Paper part. 2

Works by more than 30 artists united only by their choice of medium: the humble paper page.

Thursday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m.

Red Bird Gallery

135 Van Horne Ave.

MULTIMEDIA

VISION QUEST III

Video art and punk rock with music from Black Feelings, TONSTARTSS-BANDHT and more.

Thursday, Jan. 28 at 9:30 p.m.

La Sala Rossa

4848 St-Laurent Blvd.

Tickets: pay-what-you-can

MUSIC

Golden Isles album release show

with Homosexual Cops

Saturday, Jan. 30 at 9 p.m.

The Green Room

5386 St-Laurent Blvd.

Tickets: \$7

BENEFITS

FaGAGAty Ass Fridays

Monthly dance party goes Lady Gaga.

Wigs and bodysuits encouraged. All proceeds go to the Sense Project's holistic sex education.

Friday, Jan. 29 at 10 p.m.

The Playhouse

5656 Parc Ave.

Tickets: \$10 suggested donation

Kalmunity Live Organic Music Marathon

Members of Nomadic Massive and more in a fundraising concert for the CECI Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund.

Tuesday, Jan. 26 at 8 p.m.

Le Consulat

1442 Bleury St.

Tickets: from \$7

In the Key of Dignity

The Yellow Door Choir fundraising concert

All proceeds going to NGO Equitas and Red Cross efforts in Haiti.

Saturday, Jan. 30 at 8 p.m.

Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Church

5333 Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Ave.

Tickets: \$20 general admission, \$15 for students

—compiled by
Madeline Coleman

quick reads

Punchy prose



The Night is a Mouth
Lisa Foad
Exile Editions
154 pp
\$21.95

Lisa Foad's first collection of short stories will subject the reader to her twisted thoughts, as she forms sensational images that will embed themselves in your mind for days to come. Readers can expect *The Night is a Mouth* to be nothing less than brave and unapologetic. Foad is a regular contributor to *Xtra!*, a Canadian queer magazine famous for its slogan, "where queers conspire."

At times sexually lewd but always highly impactful, *The Night is a Mouth* embodies feminist angst and turmoil. The dilemmas of a lost teenager trying to find her father, and then being used by men who claim to be this person, is explored in "Lost Dogs," and a young girl named Adelaides exposes her virginity to vulnerability during a date in "The Words." Everything is graphically represented, but Foad's prose pioneers something poetic and romantic.

Though it is only 154 pages, *The Night is a Mouth* took some time to read and to decipher. Far from ordinary and beyond original, Foad breaks new ground with a new kind of storytelling; it is not for the conventional or the faint of heart.

3/5

—Clay Hemmerich

The male muse



In Their Youth: Early Portraits
Greg Gorman
Damiani
140 pp
\$50.00

Photographer Greg Gorman took inspiration from the youth, beauty, innocence and sensuality of the male body to create *In Their Youth: Early Portraits*. Gorman was able to bring out the best features in his celebrity subjects in beautiful black and white shots. Despite their popular movie star images, Gorman draws out his subjects' innermost passion, trust and confidence, offering a revealing glimpse at what might be their true selves.

To show that he can take a great photo, which can be appreciated for its esthetics instead of its popular subject, Gorman places an unknown model (or as of yet unknown in the annals of Hollywood) on an adjacent page to his celebrity subjects.

Gorman's most recent muse, after Leonardo Di Caprio, is Alex Pettyfer, an English actor and model who is showcased in the last seven photographs of the book. This collection of work will not disappoint the avid photography buff and casual reader, as its pages are filled with stunning captures and graceful portraits.

4.5/5

—Elsa Jabre

This cat will touch you

Iowa librarian steps on cat's magnificent shoulders to achieve movie stardom



GRAPHIC CHRISTOPHER OLSON

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Imagine a cat so wonderful, so magical, that simply owning it entitles you to a biopic about your life starring Meryl Streep in the role she was born to play: you.

That's what happened to Iowa librarian Vicky Myron when she adopted Dewey Readmore Books, an orphaned orange-haired tabby placed in the book return bin one frigid night. Dewey's popularity gradually spread outside of his Iowa hometown, become the subject of trans-American pilgrimages up until his death in 2006.

Dewey's inspirational story is documented in the authoritative biography called *Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World*.

The Link: *How much is the book about you and how much is about Dewey, would you say?*

Vicky Myron: Dewey's always the main character, but it's split into three main characters, and that is Dewey, myself and the town of Spencer, Iowa. We didn't plan it that way, but as [Brett Witter and I] were writing the book as just a cat story, it didn't work. We found that the town of Spencer and my history and Dewey's life were so intertwined and so similar that we had to put them all together. It's actually a story of survival and love and friendship.

Was he a very intuitive cat?

Very intuitive. He knew if people were down or having a bad day or had lost someone, and he would spend extra time with those people. I know it sounds extremely strange, but he could read my mind, or read

my body language or read my face. I'm not sure, but I had to be careful, not only of what I was saying out loud, I had to be careful of what I was thinking. If he'd be walking by me in the library and I was thinking about library business, he'd rub against my leg or sit by me. But if I was thinking he has a vet appointment at 4 p.m., he would take off running and hide from me for hours. He wouldn't hide from the rest of the staff, just from me.

How does he compare to some of the other pets you've had?

There's hardly any comparison. Dewey wasn't like a regular cat. We had a different relationship, a very close relationship and it's hard to explain [it] in words. He was an old soul in a cat's body, and definitely much more than a cat. That's the only relationship I've had in my life with an animal that was that intense.

Do people like to tell you about their own cats?

I hear many, many cat stories, and I look at many, many cat pictures. Luckily, my fiancé is my personal assistant, and he talks to the crowd as they're standing in line and he gets to hear all the cat stories, so that by the time they get to me they're not quite so wordy.

How does getting a movie deal starring Meryl Streep feel?

Oh, it's incredible. I think that's been the biggest shock of everything that's happened—and a lot has happened. I was very honoured that she loved the book and wanted to play the part no matter

which studio we went with.

Is she planning to study your mannerisms?

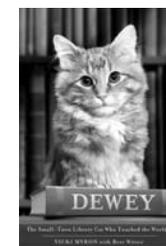
Yes. Which will be very strange, but very interesting.

Have you had any cats since Dewey?

I have a cat now. It was another stray. A friend of mine was going to work and saw a truck swerve to miss something and found this tiny kitten in the middle of the road half-frozen and full of plumps of ice. [She] rescued him and decided that the library should adopt him. The library said no, and I happened to be down there that day doing a documentary on Dewey, and they introduced me to this tiny kitten and we took him home. His name is Page Turner.

Do you think the book has encouraged people to adopt cats?

It's encouraged them to adopt cats, but more than that. The e-mails and the fan mail that I'm getting by the ton are more than that. Most people say that they understand Iowa better, they understand the Midwest better, they understand my story and relate to it, and people have gone back to school because of reading the book. They've gotten out of a bad relationship because of the book.



Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World
Vicky Myron with Brett Witter
Grand Central Publishing
288 pp
\$19.99

Don't dick with Dickner

Migrant Montrealer finds treasure in trash

• R. BRIAN HASTIE

Nicolas Dickner's *Nikolski* is not what it seems.

Originally published in French to much critical fanfare in 2005, the novel's English unveiling has created an equal amount of hype.

Nikolski, primarily set in the early 1990s, centres around three free spirits who have found their way to the bustling metropolis of Montreal.

Noah, who has spent his youth leading a nomadic life with his mother driving around western and central Canada, has finally decided to settle down and go to school, picking a university. His major? Archaeology. His narrative thread leads him towards a life he never expected, surrounded by bizarre yet enchanting people, including his thesis adviser who is obsessed with garbage and waste.

Joyce Doucet hails from a tiny island located in the St. Lawrence river. She moves to the mainland to go to high school and in her final year runs away to Montreal, unsure about what she wants to do with her life.

She quickly finds employment at a fish stall and her narrative then centres around the search for her missing mother, taking part in modern (techno-)pirating antics and dumpster diving for spare parts. Her journeys through these places of waste are similar to the work Noah does on dig sites, searching for that particular piece of interest. Joyce's narrative ends on a sour note, but explaining that bit would ruin the strange yet not-so-stunning surprise.

At first, the novel reads like a pedestrian tale of a fish-out-of-water experiencing life in the big city. As the book progresses, it becomes

readily apparent that this novel, rich in symbols and mythology, is much more complex. Dickner has made this singular work a statement about modernity by weaving factual history with borrowed

and established myths, as well as craftily-composed characters that pique intrigue as the plot unravels. The novel's name, taken from an Aleutian village located in Canada's vast north, is also the place where jack-of-all-trades protagonist Jonas Doucet is found. His ancestors Noah and Joyce Doucet both unwittingly take part in many of the same activities and traditions the original Doucet partook in.

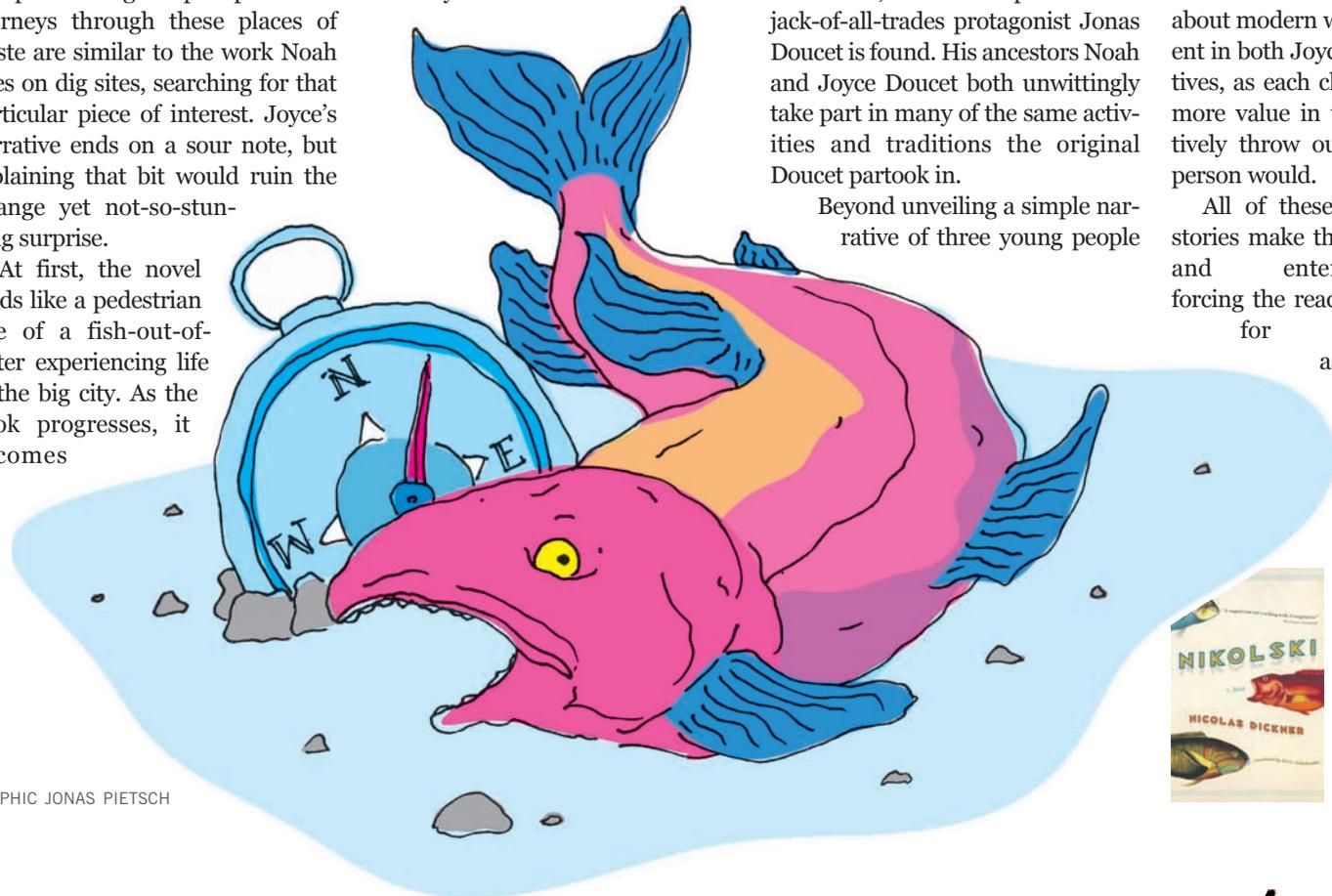
Beyond unveiling a simple narrative of three young people

coming of age, this novel also concerns itself with the sea, and all that comes with it. Tales of pirates past and present are abundant, mythologized and discussed in reverential, hushed tones. The commentary about modern waste is made apparent in both Joyce and Noah's narratives, as each character finds much more value in the trash we collectively throw out than the average person would.

All of these tightly interwoven stories make the book an engaging and entertaining read, forcing the reader to actually think for themselves,

as well as leaving several salient points that may or may not linger in your head for days.

Nikolski
Nicolas Dickner,
translated by
Lazer
Lederhendler
Vintage Canada
290 pp
\$13.02



GRAPHIC JONAS PIETSCH

Lit Writ

Sound Diary No. 08

• ZOË RITTS

Sleep has never come easily to me. It is a fickle, unattainable thing that I so desire but don't naturally get much of.

When I was a child, I would, over the course of a night, travel from my own bed to my brother's, then crawl up between my parents, and occasionally end in a fort fashioned from mismatched pillowcases and sheets in the bottom of the linen closet.

I take a long time to fall asleep, even now, because my mind takes a long time to shut down, whirring away long after I'd like it to.

The first sounds I hear when I get into bed are those that are loudest and most distant. The worrisome whine of an ambulance siren, at first far, then fast approaching before fading again. Or, the hiccuping beeps of an obese midnight garbage truck making stops in the narrow alley behind my apartment.

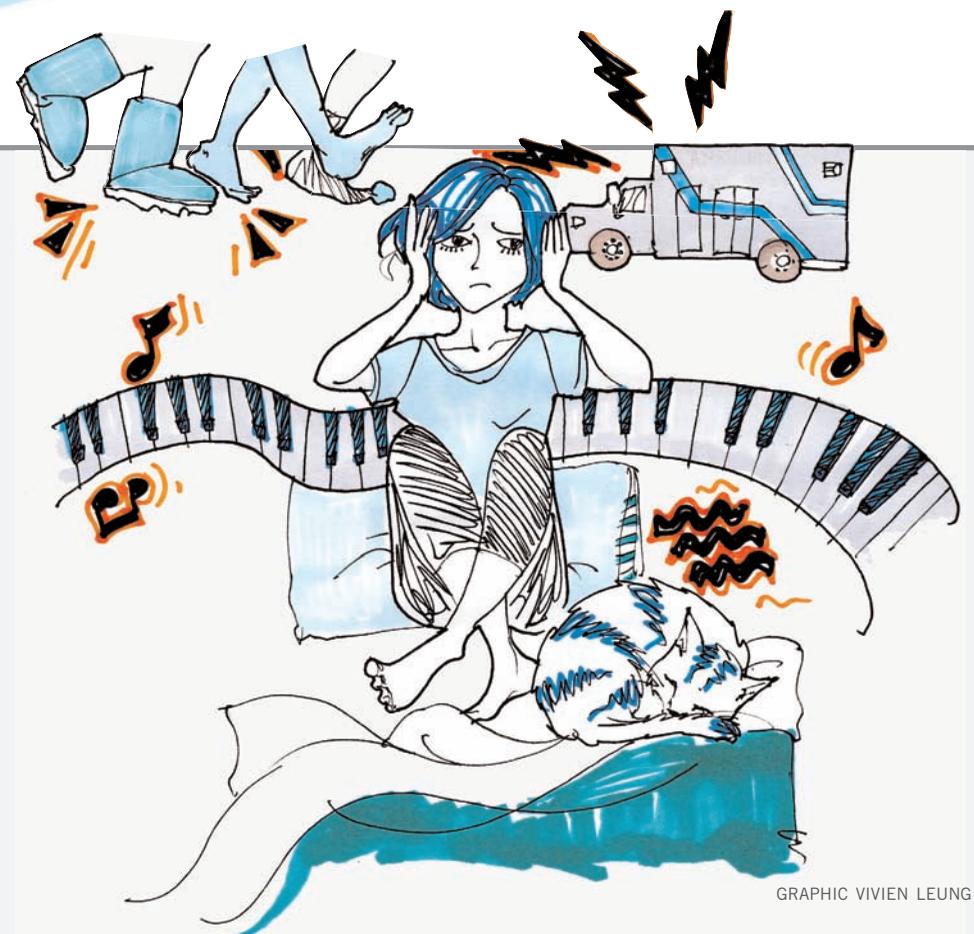
The closer to sleep I become, the closer the sounds I notice actually are. The next set of sounds are within the walls of my building. The girls who live above me, about five of them, seem to run up and down their groaning staircase for fun. Their footsteps are a thunderous roll

descending from above. They have a piano up there—frightening considering how steep and narrow their only entryway is—and sometimes orphan bars of music drift down to me.

From down the hall in my own apartment I hear my night-owl roommate eat with clinking fork and knife from our second-hand china plates, or put forgotten mugs of coffee back into the microwave. It's she who often forgets to turn off the light that manages to shine, somehow, into my room, so sometimes I stumble half blind out of bed to turn it off. This activity postpones sleep a little bit more. From the other end of the hall my second roommate laughs and talks on the phone. Her voice rises and falls silent for minutes at a time, and I'm pulled back to consciousness when she exclaims.

Once they've gone to bed, I'm alone with the most intimate of sounds. I rustle in my soft bed sheets. My cat, now a fragile 14 years old, snores softly beside me. It is too adorable to mind. I might hear the muffled throb of my own heartbeat if I'm lying with one ear deep in a pillow. Finally, the closest to silence I know at night—a barely existent ringing. It's either Tinnitus, or silence.

All the while my mind has been run-



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

ning. Each outside sound is an interruption, a hurdle followed by a distracting thought, idea, or a fragment of a song from within my own head. I have my very own iPod in my imagination, though large portions of songs are often missing. I can also hear, with perfect clarity, the voices of people I haven't seen in years.

Sleep is near. Just when I am tired

enough to lie beneath all of these sounds, the old radiator in my bedroom will suddenly BANG, and a flash of white passes over my eyes. Then, hopefully, finally, sleep.

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



**Women's & Men's
Special Issue**

Brainstorming
Session

Friday Jan. 29, 2010
@ 4 p.m.
H-649

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Stingers get played

Men's basketball team 'underestimates' hungry Bishop's squad

• DAVID KAUFMANN

**Concordia 61
Bishop's 74**

Concordia's men's basketball team came out flat last Friday as the Bishop's Gaiters bit their way to 74-61 victory.

The loss marks the Stingers' fourth straight, dating back to Nov. 21 when they edged the McGill Redmen in a 69-64 battle.

"We have to be mentally tougher when we make mistakes," said Stingers head coach John Dore. "We have to overlook it, defy it and move on."

Both teams came out trading baskets, but the Gaiters didn't waste time taking control as they jumped out to an 11-4 lead.

The game's action died early in the second quarter as it took almost three minutes for either team to register a basket. But Bishop's broke the scoring when they netted a basket and a free throw to increase their lead to 22-17. The Stingers stumbled their way to halftime trailing 32-23.

The third quarter saw Concordia continue to fight back into the game, trailing by just two points near the end of the frame. However, Gaiters forward Damon Thomas-Anderson scored five straight points to put his team up 55-48 going into the fourth.

The Stingers fell behind even further in the fourth, as the opposition dominated them for the rest of the game. To add insult to injury, Stingers forwards Evens Laroche and James Clark fouled out, putting

an end to any hopes of a comeback.

Among the many factors that impeded the Stingers was the fact that they missed 19 shots from the foul line. But for Coach Dore, that was just one of many problems.

"We didn't perform as well as we could, they out rebounded us, we were very poor from the free throw line, we turned the ball over, we lost the game," said Dore.

"We might have underestimated our opponent which we shouldn't have, and we just came out flat," said Stingers guard Pierre Thompson.

With their record falling to 2-6, the Stingers saw their playoff hopes begin to dwindle. "If we want to make to playoffs we have to win every game from now on," said Clark.

While the Stingers looked to move on from this loss, it was all smiles for the Gaiters—who managed to win without their starting point guard.

"The one team we don't want to face without our starting point guard is Concordia," Gaiters head coach Rod Gilpin commented. "I don't know how many turnovers we had, but we had a lot, and we were fortunate our defence let us hang in there."

The Stingers will have their hands full next week when they take on top-ranked Université Laval Rouge et Or in Quebec City on Friday before heading across town the following night for a date with the Redmen. Games start at 8 p.m.



Gaiter forward Damon Thomas-Anderson gets the dunk. PHOTO BRITANNY LEVETT

Con U burns out

Women's basketball team lets a second half lead slip away

• DAVID KAUFMANN

**Concordia 52
Bishop's 63**

Concordia's women's basketball team started strongly but faded away as they dropped a 63-52 decision to the Bishop's Gaiters last Friday.

The game got off to a promising start as the Stingers opened the game with a 13-5 lead in the first quarter. Concordia continued to press the Gaiters, led by forwards Nekeita Lee and Kristin Portwine who scored 12 points apiece.

"We played fairly well for about 25 minutes and not very well for the remainder of the game," said Stingers head coach Keith Pruden.

For the Stingers, the wheels began to come off in the second quarter when their players began missing shots by the handful. Even at the end of the half when they still had a 28-21 lead, Pruden implored his players to play with more discipline.

By the third quarter, the Gaiters gained momentum. Their unstoppable run started off with three-point shots from point guards Katy Germain and Melanie

Ouellet-Godcharles. And, just like that, the Gaiters ended the third quarter leading the Stingers 43-37.

Bishop's built on their momentum heading into the fourth quarter where they turned a modest 51-46 lead to an overbearing 63-48.

"We didn't maintain our concentration for the whole game," said Pruden, who said he didn't see this loss as a hurdle for the playoffs. When asked what this game meant for the rest of the season, he said, "There's eight games left in the season.

It could go either way."

Across the court, the Bishop's team was happy to salvage a win after being dominated for the first half.

"Every win you could get in that tough league is tough because [competition is fierce]," said Gaiters head coach Alex Perno. "So it's very important to stay alive for the playoffs."

The Stingers will try to bounce back when they hit the road for games against the Laval Rouge et Or Friday and the McGill Martlets Saturday. Tip-off is at 6 p.m. for both games.



A trio of Stingers hustle for the ball. PHOTO BRITANNY LEVETT

Rudy strikes again

Fifth-string goalie wins second-straight start for Stingers

• LES HONYWILL

**Concordia 3
Ottawa 2**

The man they call “Rudy” led the Concordia Stingers to their second straight win on Friday, beating the Ottawa Gee-Gees 3-2.

After a four-year wait, goalie Mike “Rudy” Shrider won his first home game start to help the Stingers move into the eighth and final playoff spot in the Ontario University Athletics East division.

“You don’t predict those kinds of things,” said Stingers coach Kevin Figsby. “Who would predict that the guy who was your fifth starting goaltender at the start of the season would win you two major victories?”

Shrider made 27 saves en route to the victory that avenged Concordia’s loss in their previous meeting with Ottawa. After the final buzzer, the goalie was mobbed by his teammates as his favourite song, “Piano Man” by Billy Joel, was played throughout Ed Meagher Arena.

“Mike Shrider has practiced every day for four years,” Figsby said. “He was always the first guy on the ice and the last guy off. He never asked a question, never asked when he was going to play,



Stingers backup Mike “Rudy” Shrider stonewalls the Ottawa Gee-Gees. PHOTO BRITANNY LEVETT

understood his role, accepted his role, and I think what you’re seeing is a tremendous amount of respect from his teammates.”

Shrider was named player of the game and gave a wave to the crowd as chants of “Rudy” rained down from spectators and teammates.

“I don’t think that I stole the

game, our team played really well in front of me,” Shrider said. “I just made the saves that I needed to make and thankfully the boys came through in the end.”

“It was a back and forth game,” added Gee-Gees coach David Leger. “I actually don’t think it was anything more than both teams

having a chance to score on the power play and we didn’t capitalize. At the end of the day they scored a nice goal to end it.”

Shrider received help in the victory from team captain Marc-Andre Element. With four minutes remaining in the third period, Element pounded his own rebound

past Gee-Gees goalie Riley Whitlock from his knees to give the Stingers the lead and eventual victory.

Marc-Andre Rizk and Anthony Pittarelli also scored for Concordia.

“I think the boys definitely know how close we are [to the playoffs]; it’s just a matter of putting wins together,” Shrider said. “We’ve got four games in a row now with [regulation] points. We’ve just got to keep that going.”

The loss leaves Ottawa in last place and three points behind Concordia for the final playoff spot.

“We knew the implications before the game and we’ve known the implications since Christmas,” Leger said. “We’ve dug ourselves into a hole and we’re paying for it by playing game sevens all over the place.”

Shrider got the start because regular starter Max Joyal is day-to-day with an abdominal strain. Figsby said he expects Joyal to get the start next game against the Trois-Rivières Patriotes.

“It’s a week thing, and it just needed some rest,” Figsby said. “Thankfully we got by the last five periods to give him that rest, but we certainly want to have Max for that stretch drive.”

Athletes and alcohol

Examining the effects of binge drinking on athletic performance

• TIEJA MACLAUGHLIN, *THE CORD* (WILFRID LAURIER)

WATERLOO (CUP)—Every athlete knows that in order to excel in any sport, a high level of commitment, responsibility and sacrifice is required. The body must be in peak condition both physically and mentally in order to perform at an elite level of competition.

The effect of alcohol on athletic performance is often underestimated, but if you take the time to examine how much it actually alters the body, it’s staggering.

Alcohol is a toxin.

It destroys the body’s ability to heal itself, erases any positive effects of working out and practising proper nutrition and lessens brain function and mental capacity.

The University of Notre Dame has reported that if a person consumes five drinks in a given

night, it can take three days for his or her body to fully recover. The 100 to 150 calories per drink is converted directly into fatty acid, comparable to three hamburgers from McDonald’s.

“I’ve talked to all of my players and they understand the negative effects [of alcohol] and how long it takes to leave your system,” said Lynn Orth, head coach of the Wilfrid Laurier University women’s lacrosse team. Orth implements a 48-hour no-drinking policy before game days.

The policy has clearly been working for Orth, who has coached her team to seven straight Ontario University Athletics championship games.

Most athletes should recognize that quick recovery time, whether post-injury or post-workout, is essential. However, the consumption of alcohol erases the benefit of training. The muscles’ source of energy,

adenosine triphosphate (or ATP), is reduced, lowering endurance and making one weak and tired.

Protein synthesis also diminishes, resulting in impeded muscle growth. Testosterone and the human growth hormone (commonly known as HGH), which are essential hormones in muscle growth and tissue repair, are decreased by as much as 70 per cent, not to mention the body becomes severely dehydrated.

“Our practices are so physically demanding that you don’t need the effects of alcohol compounded on top of that,” commented Gary Jeffries, head football coach and manager of football operations at Laurier.

Not only physical performance is affected—a player’s mental game is thrown off after alcohol consumption. Brain cells are killed; therefore, the ability to learn, store and retain informa-

tion, such as plays, is altered. Sleep patterns can be disrupted as well, affecting one’s memory formation, among other things.

“You can probably only hit a 60 per cent performance level,” said Erik Kroman, captain of the Laurier men’s volleyball team. “It’s obviously detrimental to your performance when you’re hungover and tired from drinking.”

While some athletes walk a fine line between partying and competing, successful individuals and teams are ahead of the pack, outworking their competition and tweaking their bodies into top shape.

“Players know they’re not supposed to be drinking,” said fifth-year Laurier baseball player Elliot Shrive. “As a varsity athlete and a responsible adult, you should respect your teammates and want to play enough not to do it.”

“You can probably only hit a 60 per cent performance level. It’s obviously detrimental to your performance when you’re hungover and tired from drinking.”

—Erik Kroman,
captain of the Laurier
men’s volleyball team

Stingers sidelined

Power play turnover costs women's hockey team the game

• ALEX DI PIETRO

**Concordia 3
Ottawa 5**

Ottawa Gee-Gees forward Taryn Brown scored a short-handed goal late in the second period leaving Concordia's women's hockey team feeling despondent after a 5-3 loss to the University of Ottawa at the Ed Meagher Arena last Saturday.

"This game was disappointing in the sense that I thought it was one we could have won," said Concordia coach Les Lawton. "We came back to make it 4-3, but I thought that [short-handed goal] was the turning point of the game."

The Stingers' only win this season came when they hosted the Gees back on Oct. 18, and though Saturday's game started with Concordia having the better share of chances, a couple of unfortunate calls and mistakes led to their first loss versus Ottawa in 2010.

"We definitely played better than the last time we were here," said Gee-Gees coach Miguel Filiatrault. "But that first period—in our estimation—was not a good one."

Concordia's Natalie May had a breakaway opportunity midway through the opening period, but back-up goaltender Marie-Hélène Malenfant made the save for the Gees.

After continuously creating opportunities at even-strength and with the man advantage, the Stingers fell behind on a goal that bounced off Gee-Gee Ashley Burrill's skate with 3:14 left in the first. However, a rapid reply by May tied the score at 1-1 at the end of the first.

"Everybody was excited in the dressing room after the first period," said Stingers defenceman Mary-Jane Roper. "We changed up a lot of the lines and went with six

defencemen, which went well for us. But when [the Gee-Gees] got the lead, everything went downhill."

Burrill replenished her team's lead early in the second after banging in a Gee-Gees rebound. Once again, Concordia answered back with Catherine Rancourt flipping the puck in after Malenfant couldn't hang on to Emilie Bocchia's wrap-around attempt.

Tempers flared when Ottawa's Dominique Lefèbvre delivered a hard hit on Stinger Alynn Doiron at 13:26. As Concordia was already in the process of killing off a penalty, Doiron's injury provided the Gee-Gees with an unwarranted five-on-three and the Gees quickly made use of it by giving their team a 3-2 lead. Doiron—who was down for some time—apparently sprained her ankle and will be sidelined indefinitely.

Both teams were administered six minutes in penalties during the second period, including a double minor assessed to Gee-Gee Carley Porcellato for roughing and slashing, with 14:05 remaining.

The Stingers were desperate to tie the game and thus left Meghan George to patrol the point. After Concordia spent almost all of the power play time in the offensive zone, the Gee-Gees got a chance to clear. George attempted to trap the puck, but couldn't keep it inside the line. That's when Gee-Gee Brown poked the puck away from George and fired it toward Stingers netminder Audrey Doyon-Lessard. The puck ended up near the end-boards, but Doyon-Lessard's attempt to clear it behind her goal ricocheted off the boards and landed to an onrushing Brown—who guided it into the unguarded net.

"That goal gave us a huge confidence boost," said Filiatrault. "If we had given up a power play goal instead of that, then the game



Concordia defenceman reaches for a cold one, a cold Gatorade that is. PHOTO ESTHER BERNARD

could have been completely different."

Rancourt scored quickly in the third period, but a late goal by Gee-Gee Cassandra Sparks froze the score at 5-3.

The Stingers recorded another 5-3 loss at home the next day against the UdeM Carabins, but will try to make up for some lost points when they face the Carleton Ravens in Ottawa this Sunday.

Briefs

UFC 113 rescheduled

UFC 113, a mixed martial arts card promoted by the Ultimate Fighting Championship, was slated to take place on May 1 at the Bell Centre in Montreal. The card has since been rescheduled for May 8 so as not to compete for ratings with a May 1 boxing match between Floyd Mayweather and Shane Mosley. UFC 113 will still take place at the Bell Centre.

Rampage vs Rashad postponed

A grudge match between former UFC light heavyweight champions Rashad Evans and Quinton Jackson was bumped from the UFC's forthcoming Montreal show. A bout between welterweight contenders Josh Koscheck and Paul Daley is expected to fill the vacancy. The winner of this match will likely be the next contender for Georges St. Pierre's title.

Un québécois au Superbowl

Sherbrooke native Samuel Giguère is headed to Miami. While a trip to Disneyland remains a possibility, Giguère will be in Florida to play wide receiver for the Indianapolis Colts as they take on the New Orleans Saints at Superbowl XLIV on Feb. 7. Giguère was a practice roster player for the Colts but made his debut on the team's active roster returning kicks against the Buffalo Bills on Jan 3. Before his time in the NFL, Giguère was a receiver for the Université de Sherbrooke Vert et Or.

scoreboard

	Home	Away	Record
Men's Hockey	Carleton 2 Concordia 3	Concordia 3 Ottawa 2	6-15
Women's Basketball	Concordia 52 UQAM 85	Bishop's 63 Concordia 80	3-6
Men's Basketball	Concordia 61 UQAM 91	Bishop's 74 Concordia 80	2-7
Women's Hockey	Concordia 3 UdeM 5	Ottawa 5 Concordia 3	1-13

schedule

	Who	When
Men's Hockey	@ UQTR @ Ottawa @ McGill	Wednesday, 7:15 p.m. Saturday, 7 p.m. Sunday, 3 p.m.
Women's Basketball	@ Laval @ McGill	Friday, 6 p.m. Saturday, 6 p.m.
Men's Basketball	@ Laval @ McGill	Friday, 8 p.m. Saturday, 8 p.m.
Women's Hockey	@ Carleton	Sunday, 1 p.m.

(Con)struction

Enough with the digging already

• CLARE RASPOPOW

As the saying goes, “In this life nothing is certain but death and taxes.” We Concordians have the privilege of adding a third: construction.

This May will be the end of my third year at this school—that’s 24 months of wandering the Concordia ghetto, waiting for the shuttle bus. During my tenure at this school there has never been a period where some part or other of this campus wasn’t completely torn apart.

The bike paths on de Maisonneuve Boulevard, the EV building, Mackay Street, Norman Bethune Square, the MB building, the tunnel; no sooner is one construction project finished than another springs up in its place. Wooden security barriers disappear from one side of the street just to appear on the other.

I should probably be proud of all of this growth in the neighbourhood. We’ve got shiny new buildings and a safer place to ride our bikes. One day, I’m told, the Quartier Concordia will be a pleasant place for people to gather. But I’m never going to see it and so I find it hard to care.

As it stands, the tunnel is already four months behind schedule. Norman Bethune Square has an estimated completion date of 2011. Once our renovatory attention has been torn from the big pit in the ground, it will shift to the recladding—renovation of the exterior—of the GM building. This construction project isn’t due to some serious structural flaw—there’s nothing wrong with the GM! Concordia is just spending \$11.6

million on a new exterior so that the GM building will look like the EV and the MB.

In their quest to make the Sir George Williams campus something we can boast about to the rest of Canada’s universities, the administration is making it positively uninhabitable for students. When’s the last time you could cross from the front door of the Hall building to the door of the Library building? We’re told that all of this work is being done so that Concordians will have a place of their own, but when exactly will we be able to take possession? Five? Ten? Fifteen years?

Sure, when it’s complete, a tunnel will be appreciated come the cold months of winter. New buildings give us a place to learn (or a place to house the newest level of our bureaucracy). But is making our buildings match really a priority? Our construction projects seem to be leaving the realm of the practical and moving into that of the vain.

Like an aging starlet who can’t stop going under the knife, our school can’t seem to leave well enough alone, and opt for construction for construction’s sake. We bring out the jackhammers every time our inferiority complex gets the better of us, and it’s the students who suffer.

If our university really wants to make Sir George Williams a pleasant place for students to be, they would do better to get rid of the construction and let students go about their academic lives unhindered. Take some of that construction money and put it towards, I don’t know, student health. But how likely is that? Getting rid of death or taxes would probably be easier.



A snapshot of perpetually-under-construction de Maisonneuve Boulevard. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

THE LINK

2009-2010 General by-elections

General by-elections

Feb. 19, 2010

4 p.m. H-649

The following people are eligible to run:

Travis Dandro, R. Brian Hastie, Shawna Satz.

The following people need one more contribution to be eligible to run for a position or vote:

Riley Sparks, Esther Bernard, Les Honywill, Clay Hemmerich, Elsa Jabre, Ashley Opheim, Jonas Pietsch.

The following people need two more contributions to be eligible to run for a position or vote:

David Adelman, Michael Bramadat-Willcock, Oksana Cueva, Travis Dandro, Alex Di Pietro, Chris

Hanna, David Kaufmann, Adam Kovac, Stephanie La leggia, Sarah Long, Tania Mohsen, Catherine Vallieres, Natasha Young.

The following people need three more contributions to be eligible to vote:

Maude Abouche, Kevin Ahmadi, Jacques Balayla, Audree Bisailon, Simon Bouchard, Marie-Eve Bourque, Gene Duval, Derrick Eason, Kamila Hinkson, Brittany Levett, Simon Liem, Alex Manley, Lupe Perez Pita, Zoe Ritts, Rebecca Rosen, Daryna Rukhlyadeva, Jesara Sinclair, Hiba Zayadeen.

The following positions will be open:

Photo Editor

Student Press Liaison

Applications for the positions must be posted one week before the election in *The Link* office, Hall building, room H-649. Applicants must have contributed to at least four (4) issues this semester as of Feb. 12 and must include a one-page letter of intent, as well as three (3) contribution samples.

For more information email: editor@thelinknewspaper.ca or call 514-848-2424 ext.7407.

Goodnight, sweet prince

Late-night wars end on a bitter note

• MATTHEW FIORENTINO

"Nobody in life gets exactly what they thought they were going to get. But if you work really hard and you're kind, amazing things will happen."

—Conan O'Brien

On Jan. 22, a mere seven months after he began, Conan O'Brien found himself saying goodbye to the most coveted desk job in television history, showing an Augustinian sense of acceptance following a two-week media maelstrom which saw O'Brien celebrated as a comedy hero, while former *Tonight Show* host Jay Leno and NBC executives took it on the chin in a big way from critics and fans alike.

It isn't the first time a *Tonight Show* host has quit over a disagreement with NBC brass. In 1960, following their censorship of a joke performed in his monologue the night before, Jack Paar stunned the audience by announcing he could no longer host the show amidst controversy, saying only "You have been peachy to me always," before walking off the set just minutes into the broadcast. Echoing Paar's sentiments a half-century earlier in a statement released last week, O'Brien wrote, "My staff and I have worked unbelievably hard and we are very proud of our contribution to the legacy of *The Tonight Show*. But I cannot participate in what I honestly believe is its destruction," in reference to NBC's demands that the show be moved from its time-honoured 11:35 p.m. time-slot to 12:05 a.m. And while over the past two weeks O'Brien may have lost his temper with his bosses, he never lost his sense of humour.

Like Jack Paar, Jerry Lewis, Dick Cavett and David Letterman, O'Brien was a cham-

panion of smart television. While his comedy remained decidedly apolitical, he instead turned his guns on the form and content of television itself. He was the quintessential video modernist; a hothead in a cool medium. He honoured the everyman tradition that Carson had established while flipping the genre on its head with bits like "Desk Drive" or his send-up of the cult animated show *Clutch Cargo*.

As a kid I used to stay up all night watching Time Life ads for "The Best of Johnny Carson." In high school, I spent math class reading Steven Wright jokes I had cribbed in the margins of my notebook. I got an asthma attack once from laughing too hard at one of Larry "Bud" Melman's appearances on *Late Night with David Letterman*. I could spend hours telling you why *The Simpsons* is really John Swartzwelder's show. I've always found television to be a geeky obsession and for me, Conan O'Brien was the king of the geeks.

But somewhere in the duties of being host of *The Tonight Show* looms the threat of becoming a licensed jester. Such a notion is perhaps best epitomized by *American Splendor* author Harvey Pekar's appearance on *Late Night with David Letterman* in 1988 in which Letterman callously derided Pekar for suggesting that he was a shill for NBC and General Electric. It was a fine line that Letterman straddled for most of his career, having built his reputation on being "anti-establishment," and it is an accusation that he has since failed to address head-on.

Before the Enlightenment, great writers and artists were often beholden to patrons. Television is fundamentally a medium for advertising; from the point of view of the corporate quislings at NBC, the commercials are the most important thing on the



Fans gather at a rally in support of Conan "CoCo" O'Brien. PHOTO: LITLNEMO

air. In a medium where the bottom line is increasingly the message, there is little room for moral free agents. O'Brien clearly coveted *The Tonight Show* job, but in a moment that seemed to be the culmination of all the transgressions fans have had to suffer over the years with the cancellations of television high watermarks like *Freaks & Geeks*, *Arrested Development*, *Futurama*, *Andy Richter Controls The Universe* and

countless others, he refused to let his vision of the show be dictated by pinhead executives that couldn't ad-lib a fart at a baked bean dinner.

For the next seven months O'Brien will be off the air, but if anything's for certain, it's that his inevitable return will be a sure sign to the brass at NBC that he outfoxed them all.

Until then, goodnight, sweet prince.

Police brutality must be kept in check

Upcoming events underline importance of accountability

• TOM LLEWELLIN

Brutality at the hands of police officers may be out of the national imagination for the time being, thanks to the nominal conclusion of the mess surrounding the death of Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski at the hands of the RCMP, but it shouldn't be off the agenda, especially locally.

The Montreal police—and to a lesser extent their provincial counterparts, the Sûreté du Québec—can be fairly secure in the knowledge that they can undertake whatever arbitrary measures they wish with few repercussions, save a stillborn disciplinary hearing, or a bit of invective splashed across a news story's comment thread.

Last Boxing Day, a fight in Place-des-Arts metro station resulted in a police reaction befitting a small riot; the only thing missing, according to bystanders quoted in the English and French media, was an actual riot. *The Gazette* reported that trapped

bystanders were allegedly struck with nightsticks after being herded toward, not away from, the epicentre of the fracas. After the police sealed off most of the exits, except the smaller de Bleury Street exit, bystanders were beaten for not leaving fast enough. Perhaps most chillingly, two black youths had their heads slammed against trains by multiple officers at Berri-UQAM station 500 metres to the east. In the end, no one was arrested, and Montreal police spokespeople offered up no evidence to justify their actions at Berri.

It isn't off-base to think that the people in uniform that swung the truncheons won't face any sort of administrative sanctions—meagre as they may be—thanks to the considerable influence of police unions.

When 18-year-old Fredy Villanueva was mistakenly killed by Montreal police almost two years ago, the supervisor of the two officers involved didn't bother to separate the two pending investigation, as is standard

When 18-year-old Fredy Villanueva was mistakenly killed by Montreal police two years ago, the supervisor of the two officers involved didn't bother to separate them pending investigation, as is standard procedure, as he "believed in the honesty of police."

procedure, as he "believe[d] in the honesty of police." Nor was Jean-Loup Lapointe, who fired the four shots, charged criminally. He claimed in his incident report that Villanueva had punched Lapointe in the face despite his hands being restrained.

In theory, the police exist not because the public must be viewed with suspicion, but because the public consents to being policed—giving up a few liberties in exchange for safe, orderly cities and towns. Without public consent, their authority—and monopoly on violent force—becomes illegitimate.

Events occurring over the rest of the

semester, such as the Forum contre la violence policière et l'impunité at the Park Extension Community Centre this coming weekend, aim to cast some light on the causes and solutions of ill-treatment of citizens. How productive they'll be remains to be seen, but the promising turnout in years past shows that Montrealers won't take poor treatment lying down.

The Forum contre la violence policière et l'impunité takes place this weekend at the Park Extension Community Centre (419 St-Roch St.). Check forumcontrelaviolencepoliciere.net for schedules.

 Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

SAF, not the CSU, providing funding

Last week's issue of *The Link* featured coverage of January's Concordia Student Council Meeting ["Concordia student union mulls vegetarian future," Jan. 19, Vol. 30, Iss. 19]. It was incorrectly reported that the CSU had approved \$50,000 in funding for sustainability initiatives. The \$52,400 that was approved for funding was from the Sustainability Action Fund, an independent entity. I was reporting this funding to Council as I am the CSU representative to the SAF. The SAF will be accepting new applications for event/project funding until Feb. 25 and we will be holding public consultations on Feb. 12. For more info check out the "initiatives" tab on the Sustainable Concordia website.

—Alexander Oster,
VP Sustainability and Projects,
Concordia Student Union

Both humane and sustainable

What many of us have learned recently is that abstinence from meat—in other words going vegetarian—is sustainable. However, what many of us do not realize is that the animals who are slaughtered for meat are also the same animals who produce the milk and eggs that many non-vegans consume.

"Humane" products are also unsustainable as they are at best a marketing tactic employed by an abhorrent industry and at worst a product that demands more land to feed and to graze. In 2006, the United Nations released a report titled "Livestock's Long Shadow: Environmental Issues and Options." Cows, pigs, chickens, camel, buffalo and sheep accounted for 18 per cent of greenhouse gases. Since then, it has

increased to 51 per cent, according to World Watch Institute.

I propose forgoing vegetarian options and offering vegan options instead. It is clearly the most sustainable choice. In addition, it is the most ethical and healthiest choice as well.

—Chastity Castro,
Independent Student

The Ethical Choice

I'm writing in regards to the article recently written in *The Link* about Ethical Choice Policy (Dietary Choices) ["Concordia mulls vegetarian future," Jan. 19, Vol. 30, Iss. 19]. I am myself quite implicated in school-related events and have a particular interest in Concordia Student Union events. I am also vegan.

I'm vegan because I care about this planet and about the beings (both human and non-human) that inhabit it. Thus, healthy, sustainable, ethical, vegetarian and vegan food choices matter to me! I strongly suggest that the CSU include such dietary (and lifestyle) choices at every single future event.

—Stephanie Laoun,
Art History

More vegan love

I was delighted to hear about the initiative to increase vegetarian options on Concordia's campus ["Concordia student union mulls vegetarian future," Jan. 19, Vol. 30, Issue 19]. The desire for meat-free meals is ever-increasing on university campuses. A study by Aramark, a leading food-service provider, found that nearly a quarter of students are actively seeking vegan meals when they sit down to eat. This shift is causing colleges all over North America to increase the number of vegan entrées available in their dining halls.

In fact, meat-focused dining halls are preventing tasty vegan meals from appearing on the menu, both leaving health-conscious people famished and obscuring awareness of the limitless options available in place of meat, dairy products and eggs, which are large sources of saturated fat and cholesterol.

These unhealthy products translate into not only obesity but also a whole list of deadly ailments, such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer. The World Cancer Research Fund has repeatedly stated that a key to lowering the risk of cancer, heart disease and strokes is to eat a plant-based diet. Women who eat meat daily are almost four times as likely to get breast cancer as women who don't eat meat as frequently, and men with diets rich in meat, eggs and dairy products are almost four times as likely to develop prostate cancer as men with the lowest meat intake are.

As Lucas Solowey points out, plant-based foods also are much better for the environment. An extensive study by the United Nations concluded that the livestock industry is "one of the leading causal factors in the loss of biodiversity" and "a major stress on many ecosystems and the planet as a whole."

There are plenty of reasons to give healthy and eco-friendly foods a larger place at the table, and those who can't resist munching on meat and dairy products will still have plenty of options. For more information on why vegan food is becoming popular, visit peta2.com.

—Drew Winter,
Peta2 College Campaigns Assistant

Mixing up our legal terms

My name is Michael and I am a volunteer

law student working with the Concordia Student Union's Legal Information Clinic. I am writing in reference to an error published in the article "Sex work that works" written by Laura Beeston [Vol. 30, Issue 19]. In the "Decoding the Criminal Code of Canada" portion of the article, located on page nine of the issue, it was stated that, "An 'indictable offence' is a lower level category of crime for which the maximum prison term is five years less a day," and "'Summary' offences are considered by lawmakers to be more serious and all carry a prison term of at least five years and a mandatory trial by jury." This is in fact incorrect. Indictable offences are offences which are considered to be more serious while summary conviction are considered to be less so. Moreover, the definitions provided by the article are inaccurate, please refer to the following link so the proper definitions of Summary and Indictable offences:

<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/pcvi-cpcv/guide/sech.html>

—Michael Bellomo,
CSU Legal Information Clinic
Volunteer Law Student

Helping hand for Haiti

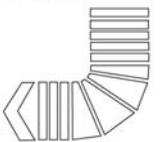
Last week, we all heard and saw the devastation on-going in Haiti. The number of lives that have been lost continue to climb. Many of us may have friends and know fellow students that have been affected one way or another either personally or through family ties. The Concordia Student Union is reaching out to Concordia's 30,000 students to help support and save lives in Haiti. Since last week, we started a donation drive to receive non-perishable food, summer clothing and money to send down to Haiti. Please help by dropping your donations anywhere in the bins scattered around campus. Money donations should be sent to the CSU receptionists on both campuses (H-711 in the Hall building and the SC building at Loyola). Rest assured that 100 per cent of the donations will reach Haiti.

We are working with all groups on campus to coordinate our efforts, please do your part by donating to this noble cause!

—Concordia Student Union executive

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

send your letters and opinions to
letters@thelinknewspaper.ca



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

heartaches anonymous

*Dear Heartaches Anonymous,
Imagine my surprise when the hot guy in class walked in and announced himself as the TA. Looks aren't everything, and while my other class members might not appreciate his jokes about Chicago style, the nerd inside of me eats it up. This is something I want to pursue, but I don't know what the policies are on going out with your TA. Does dating my TA interfere with the A+ I'm hoping for? Is it even allowed at Concordia? He is only my "teacher" for this semester, but waiting until the end of semester would be crushing.*

—Hoping for Some Advice and an A+

Dearest Hoping,

The wild and uninhibited youth in me says, "Go forth, young Hoping, and conquer the loins of the man who marks you on class participation!" He's bound to spend many intimate moments with your harried exam-time handwriting, so why the hell not just cut out the middleman and be intimate with you?

This is, of course, the advice of an incautious mind. TA-lovin' is a delicate thing. There are no "official" rules against it, but there are certainly many who would virulently oppose it—namely, Concordia. The university's TA Guide admonishes TAs who cross the romantic line, telling them they "would be wise" to admit to a conflict of interest and transfer to a different lecture group.

It's funny that you ask whether dating your TA would interfere with your desired A+. Unless you started dating this hunky intellectual and he became self-conscious about possibly favouring you and tried to overcompensate by giving you terrible grades, I don't see why this wouldn't help you. That said, the conflict of interest issue is definitely problematic. It seems impossible that he wouldn't look at your work differently if you did get together. And then there's the whole issue of fall-out from a break up. Rejected advances

and the ensuing awkwardness, or worse: charges of sexual harassment.

Hey, I don't want to be the bearer of bad news, but this shit might be a little too hard to negotiate to be worth it right now.

It's a whole different kettle of fish if you realize that he's definitely the guy for you. But c'mon, there's three months left in this semester. Can't you keep it in your pants until May?

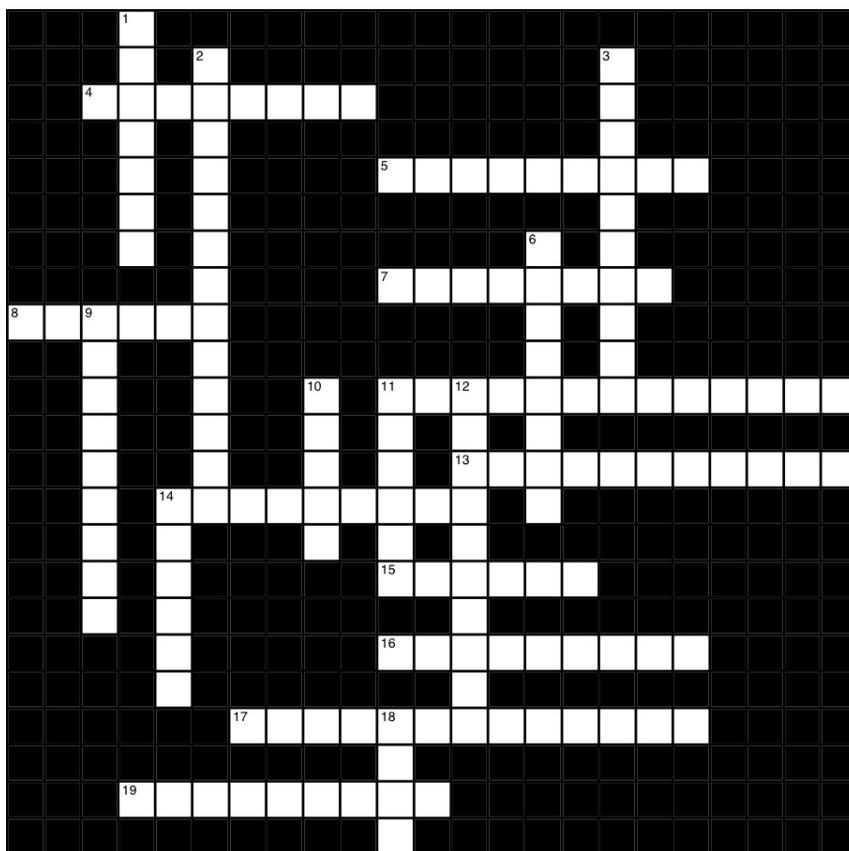
send your relationship queries to
heartachesanonymous@gmail.com

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



crsward pzzlol

THE "NUT" EDITION
• R. BRIAN "DOUBLE-ENTENDRES ARE MY FORTE" HASTIE



Across

- 4. This nut is also known as a cob nut or a filbert.
- 5. David Duchovny's most famous alter-ego just wanted to believe... Believe in everything that goes bump in the night. (2 words)
- 7. Founder of the Peoples' Temple. Led his "disciples" to Guyana, only to force them to drink Kool-Aid. Never without those sunglasses, either. (2 words)
- 8. Nut of the Prunus Genus, comes in green and blanched steez.
- 11. If The Beatles had never recorded "Helter Skelter," countless individuals would be alive today. Yo, his album *Lie* was pretty terrible too, no wonder Dennis Wilson was afraid of this dude. (2 words)
- 13. *30 Rock* character who is most likely to keep a list of conspiracy theories under his pillow, adding to them at will. (2 words)
- 14. This type of nut will show up in your ice cream. Also, Pinocchio's nut of choice.
- 15. Shelled nut, usually of the Persian variety, can be purchased at Wal-Mart's everywhere.
- 16. Reptiles! A New World Order! The Queen Mum sucks human blood out of fearful victims! Perfect fodder, if you plan on drinking that brand of Kool-Aid. (2 words)
- 17. Crazed, diseased killer claimed 17 victims; died in prison after being beaten to death with a weight bar in November of '94. (2 words)
- 19. Alias Dennis Rader, used "binding, torturing and killing" as his M.O. (2 words)

Down

- 1. Punk rock visionary, believed his body was a temple of rock n' roll worship. Was originally named Jesus Christ, as his father believed he'd be the new

messiah. With a childhood like that, I'd be kinda messed up too. (2 words)

2. Claims to have met Nordic alien "space brothers" and taken flights with them to Venus. One of the most famous UFO pictures of all-time was taken by him in 1952, though debate still rages today about its authenticity. (2 words)

3. Founder of the Westboro Baptist Church, famous for picketing funerals of dead soldiers and slinging (often nonsensical) anti-gay slurs with a religious bent. (2 words)

6. Heir to the Lear Jet fortune, this certified pilot will tell you all about the secret astronaut corps for a few dollars. (2 words)

9. Two of their specials include M. tetraphylla, and M. integrifolia. Also comes in poisoning varieties. This nut's name also reminds me slightly of school, though I'd be hard-pressed to remember why.

10. The only type of nut I'd feel comfortable eating in a pie setting. Unless you count apples as a nut, not that I do.

11. Nuts that are very rich in oil content and are produced in 32 countries around the world. Their name kinda looks like a synonym for money and mastication if they had relations.

issue 19
solutionz



12. His take on Satanism isn't as kooky as most people lead you to believe. He just recognized that the Devil is inside of all of us. Live and let die. Also, pretty menacing-looking cueball. (2 words)

14. Called a groundnut, earthnut, pig nuts, pygmy nuts, monkey nuts, goober peas... Charles Schultz should've used one of those titles instead, methinks.

18. Founder of a UFO organization/pseudo-cult that counts more than 55,000 members. Its headquarters is located in France. Claimed to be able to clone people in 2002. The world yawned.

editorial

Show us the money

If I go to Concordia University Health Services for a Pap test, I now know that a four-month wait for results is not unusual by their standards. Though McGill University and Université de Montréal get their results processed within reasonable time frames, it takes Concordia at least twice that amount of time to make sure I'm healthy.

I also know that the university needs to put down the knife; we're addicted to revamping our image. Nothing shows this better than the unnecessary plan to fork over a cool \$11.6 million in order to ensure the GM building's façade looks just like its EV and MB twins.

If I become a teaching assistant at Concordia under the proposed collective agreement between the university and the Teaching and Research Assistants at Concordia, I now know that I would take a pay cut from what teaching and research assistants are paid elsewhere, and I could be paid less than a Starbucks supervisor.

Research-based institutions like the University of Toronto and Queen's University offer salaries closer to \$40 per hour for graduate work. Carleton University, a comprehensive university that's comparable to Concordia, pays its teaching assistants at the undergraduate and master's level an hourly rate of \$20.38 and \$36.36, respectively. Students at Carleton are also guaranteed to work 10 hours per week and sick leave is granted at the rate of one hour for every 10 hours worked.

In comparison, the proposed agreement that TRAC—in conjunction with the Public Service Alliance of Canada—considered signing with the university is shameful. Not only does it fail to define what happens in the event of a union strike, but it offers its PhD-level students a measly \$12.30 to \$22.94 per hour. Master's-level and undergraduate students' proposed wages are \$1 to \$5 less, and \$2 to \$9 less per hour, respectively (also, a teaching assistant's contract can be terminated at any time with one week's pay).

Health and education seem to continually fall into the tragic commons and our university will not pick up the slack. Concordia's Health Services cannot really be blamed for the budget they were given to work with. Millions are instead allotted to scrape off and patch up the exteriors of our buildings and to beef up middle-to-upper university administration.

In a recent *Maclean's* article, it's revealed—through data compiled by Statistics Canada—that, as tuition rates across the country continue to rise, the most apparent causal result is the marked increase in administrative personnel. As the research points out, just over half of instruction budgets goes towards professor salaries, down from almost two-thirds in 1988.

"These 'savings,'" the article states, "are used to fund increased cost levels for non-academic staff, travel, benefits and professional fees."

Well, let's break down Concordia's bureaucracy a little bit for clarity's sake. At our university, there are approximately 40,000 students, which includes full-time and part-time undergraduate and graduate students. There are at least 85 senior-level administrators (including the president, her two chief officers, and her six vice-presidents and their upper-level executives). Just to give an idea of the number of employees each office has, the office of Concordia's advancement and alumni relations vice-president has approximately 45 employees—and that's one vice-president out of six, excluding the chief communications officer and chief financial officer. And, as *The Link* reported Jan. 12, Concordia spends more than any Quebec university on perks for senior-level administrators.

Concordia's top-heavy structure is doing nothing but inflating its ego and increasing its chance of winning a chest-thumping contest. We know it's inevitable for tuition rates to rise reasonably. However, one begs to question for whom the increases benefit. It's quite obvious they won't go towards Concordia's lecturers, nor its teachers, nor a lab with more cost-efficient testing for Health Services.

In case we've forgotten, this is a university. Let's cut the fat and put students back where they belong: at the top of our priority list.

—Terrine Friday,
Editor-in-Chief

Read it and weep

BY TRAVIS DANDRO

