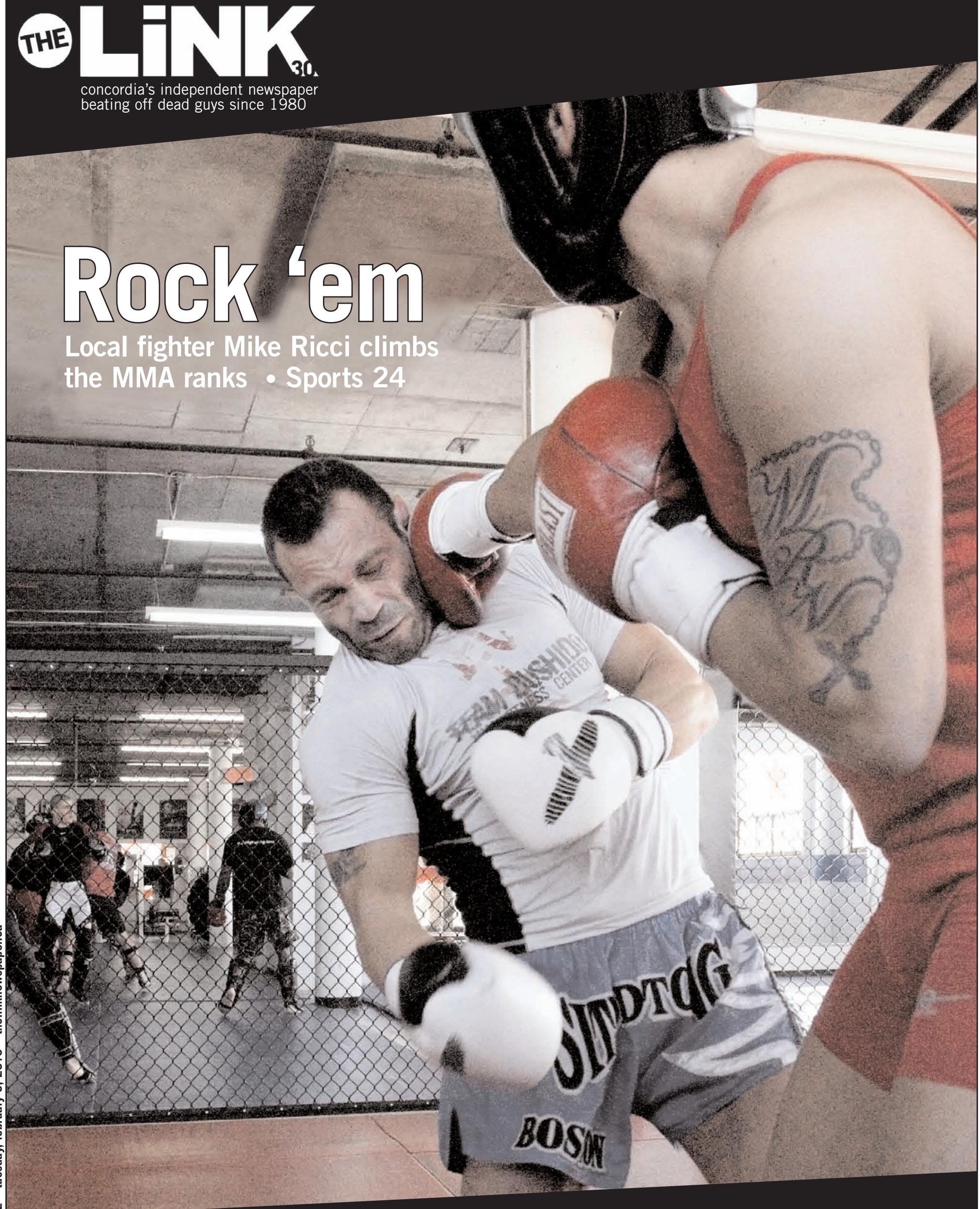


Rock 'em

Local fighter Mike Ricci climbs
the MMA ranks • Sports 24



Who are your ASFA candidates? • News 5

contents

8 news

Meet the new dean of arts and science. He got plans.

13 features

He'll make your panties disappear... MAGIC!

18 fringe arts

Basia Bulat takes her Canyonero on the road

21 literary arts

There's plenty of room on the life raft for a new anthology

23 sports

Men's hockey team heads to post season

30 opinions

Secrecy only helps police brutality

THE LINK
CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 30, Issue 22
Tuesday, February 9, 2010
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
editorial: (514) 848-2424 ext. 7405
arts: (514) 848-2424 ext. 5813
ads: (514) 848-2424 ext. 8682
fax: (514) 848-4540
business: (514) 848-7406
interim photo editor
RILEY SPARKS
graphics editor
VIVIEN LEUNG
managing editor
CLARE RASPOPOW
layout manager
MATHIEU BIARD
webmaster
TRISTAN LAPOLINTE
business manager
RACHEL BOUCHER
distribution
ROBERT DESMARAIIS
DAVID KAUFMANN
ad designer
ADAM NORRIS

The Link is published every Tuesday during the academic year by the Link Publication Society Inc. Content is independent of the University and student associations (ECA, CASA, ASFA, FASA, CSU). Editorial policy is set by an elected board as provided for in The Link's constitution. Any student is welcome to work on The Link and become a voting staff member. The Link is a member of Canadian University Press and Presse Universitaire Indépendante du Québec. Material appearing in The Link may not be reproduced without prior written permission from The Link. Letters to the editor are welcome. All letters 400 words or less will be printed, space permitting. Letters deadline is Friday at 4 p.m. The Link reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length and refuse those deemed racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, libellous, or otherwise contrary to The Link's statement of principles.

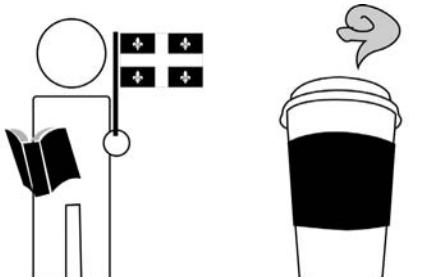
Board of Directors 2009-2010: Matthew Gore, Giuseppe Valente, Ellis Steinberg, Shawna Satz, Jonathan Metcalfe, Matthew Brett; non-voting members: Rachel Boucher, Terrine Friday. Typesetting by The Link. Printing by Transcontinental.

THIS WEEK'S CONTRIBUTORS

David Adelman, David Barlow Kreina, Esther Bernard, Caroline Chan, Megan Dolski, Emma Healey, Clay Hemmerich, David Kaufmann, Adam Kovac, Stephanie La Leggia, Gabby Leon, Leo Leung, Alex Manley, Jaime McCallum, Ashley Ophir, Hugo Pilon-Larose, Helen Savage, Mireille Tarcha, Julia Wolfe, Hiba Zayadeen.

cover by Riley Sparks

The university's \$1.7 million surplus could buy:



567 Quebec student tuitions for one year

340,000 luxury coffees



3,728 student STM monthly passes for a year

GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

\$1.7M surprise surplus

Economic downturn paid off for Concordia

• TERRINE FRIDAY

Thanks to an increase in student enrolment in all faculties this year, Concordia University's projected annual revenue has grown by over \$5 million, erasing the expected deficit of \$4.2 million and creating a \$1.7 million surplus.

The figures were presented during the Feb. 3 Board of Governors meeting where members were given the university's financial overview, which now includes a quarterly budget and projected revenues.

"We had budgeted for 500 weighted [full-time equivalents], but we're going to generate 700 more than that," said Nathalie Laporte, the university's financial services controller. Each FTE, the metric unit used by the university and government to calculate the value of a student, is equivalent to one student enrolled in 30

credits per academic year.

Laporte explained that the total increase of 1,200 FTEs was primarily due to the economic downturn.

She went on to clarify that despite the projected surplus, the money brought in by the extra enrolments was already allotted.

"The surplus is [calculated without accounting for] the reserve fund for liabilities," explained Laporte. "So, we're actually generating an extra \$1.7 million from operations which is [then] directly reserved to pay for the [university's] financial liabilities."

These financial liabilities include debt repayment and knocking down the accumulated deficit of \$10 million. The most pressing liability is the outstanding pay equity settlement, which includes retroactive payments to female employees as far back as 2001. The balance that the uni-

versity still has to disburse, yet to be confirmed, must be paid by December 2010.

The university, which recently moved to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in order to function in line with provincial regulations, is still waiting for the provincial government to approve its 2008-09 audited financial statements.

On a dimmer note, the university provost's 2008-09 Academic Priorities Fund, which generated \$1.2 million in graduate bursaries, was not renewed for the 2009-10 academic year due to "recurring faculty expenses."

Apart from financial information, the February meeting included a 2010 Action Plan presentation by first-year dean of arts and science Brian Lewis. The plan included decreasing class sizes and enhancing the quality of the undergraduate-level student experience.

Quebec needs to choose local

Fruits and vegetables should not be a luxury for the poor

• MADELINE COLEMAN

The Quebec government needs to stop putting business first and put its focus on encouraging the production of healthy food from local sources, argued speakers at the Feeding Montreal Conference on Feb. 2.

Social responsibility means more than just selling local produce, said Zackary Rhissa, a community liaison director for the Moisson Montreal food bank. It also means providing poorer neighbourhoods with more food options, beyond the fare found in dépanneur snack food aisles.

"The supermarkets that sell most fruit and vegetables base themselves in neighbourhoods where they know people can afford food," said Rhissa. As a result, people in poorer neighbourhoods often find themselves far from quality

produce, encouraging unhealthy eating habits.

Rhissa explained that Moisson Montreal's food bank feeds about 115,000 people a year—people for whom "buying fruits and vegetables is a luxury."

One of Moisson's large-scale projects, the Good Food Box, was started to providing inexpensive weekly fresh produce. As a result, the program coordinators have had to prioritize cost over origin, often favouring imported produce.

Moisson's food bank currently receives about three per cent of its funding from the provincial government. The Good Food Box gets nothing from Quebec.

The speakers agreed that the main advantage of local food for consumers is that they know where their food is coming from and what standards were used by the farmer. Under some local food programs,

customers are invited to visit farms to see for themselves.

Frédéric Paré, the food sovereignty coordinator for the Food Sovereignty Coalition, said that only 33 per cent of the food on Quebecers' plates comes from the province. That number has been steadily falling.

"When we let market forces take control without intervention, that's what happens," said Paré. "The state intervened to sustain agriculture, but only for the sake of the market. It became about industry before responsibility."

Paré and Rhissa, as well as other speakers, emphasized that Montrealers should choose locally-grown products whenever possible.

"If you can do it, you should do it," said Paré. "Food sovereignty needs to be the result of social choice, a collective choice, as consumers and as distributors."

Bringing Valentine's Day to the streets

Montreal non-profit helps homeless with food and show

• CLAY HEMMERICH

Whatever you might think about Valentine's Day, it is not meant to be spent alone.

On Feb. 6, the Face to Face Learning and Intervention Centre held its fourth annual Valentine/Friendship Party for Montreal's homeless and socially isolated. The Centre provided free clothing, free food and a warm evening with music for anyone who needed a break from the cold city streets.

"Last year, about 500 people showed up," said Face to Face Community Administrator Mathieu Forget. "We're expecting about 600 people today."

With posters up around the city and volunteers notifying the homeless about the event, Face to Face hoped for as large a turnout as possible.

"There is an abundance of resources available for people that need help during Christmas," said Forget. "But during Valentine's Day, people are overlooked."

"There is enough food to give everyone that comes in at least one plate," said Forget, who added that the chef was proud of the evening's meal of green salad and the much-anticipated Angus beef stew.

Deborah Driver, the community co-ordinator in charge of managing, training, and recruiting volunteers, said that Concordia and McGill students were on hand to volunteer.

"We are always welcoming people to volunteer," said Driver. "It is a hands-on program, where volunteers interact directly with people who need help."

Volunteers were given 16 hours of training, providing them with scenarios and face to face interaction with the homeless so that they know what to expect and were prepared to help.

Volunteers often become Active Listeners, who provide over-the-phone counselling or become street workers.



2,500 bikes
290 stations



6,000 bikes
400 stations



5,000 bikes
400 stations



50 bikes
4 stations



? bikes
? stations

GRAPHIC JULIA WOLFE

Bixi expands across the world

More bikes and stations expected in service's second year in Montreal

• TOM LLEWELLIN

After a successful first-season run, with over one million rides logged, Montreal's public bicycle service Bixi is preparing to expand to four other cities worldwide in its second year.

"The bikes are being fixed. We have lots of time to get ready for the second season," said Bixi communications coordinator Béren-gère Thériault.

With 5,000 bikes at 400 stations in eight boroughs—now including the eastern fringe of

Côte-des-Neiges/Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—the locally-designed Bixi program is the largest of its kind in the Western Hemisphere.

The details of Bixi's recent expansion to London, Melbourne, Boston and Minneapolis, Minn. remain under wraps for now. Thériault would not comment, referring *The Link* to a press conference to be held mid-month.

Ville St-Laurent borough mayor and city executive committee chairperson Alan De Souza noted at the close of the Bixi season last November that the bikes tended to

travel in a downhill direction—mostly from the cyclist-heavy Plateau-Mont-Royal and Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie boroughs to downtown—and not back up again. Trucks were required to pick up errant bikes late at night and return them to their northerly stations.

Bixi bikes currently have only three speeds and weigh over 20 kilograms, a vandalism-thwarting design that makes the bike more cumbersome than a regular bicycle.

A seven-speed design, whose

additional gears would make hill-climbing easier and increase the bike's maximum speed, was piloted last fall. Feedback was "really positive," commented Thériault. The redesign, however, remains a pilot project and a large-scale rollout of the improved models is unlikely in the near future.

There is currently no plan for an expanded Bixi network in Montreal, though Thériault emphasized that the program would be evaluated at the end of each season.

The service currently accepts

only credit card payment and Thériault said that there are no plans to include any other payment methods.

"We need to know who took the bike[s]," she said. The service places a \$250 hold on a user's credit card for each bike taken out, to be returned to them when the bike is docked in a station.

Montrealers won't know whether more Bixi stations will be established in NDG until mid-March, when borough councils finalize second season plans in preparation for an April 1 rollout.

One pinch of design and a dash of geography

Green Month mashup sees no quick fix to sustainability

• LAURA BEESTON

The first of three Sustainability Mashups lectures kicked off the Concordia Student Union's Green Month on Feb. 2, with faculty members from the geography and design departments mingling over problems of researching and planning for sustainability.

"I don't believe that one discipline can handle sustainability as an issue on its own," said P.K. Langshaw, from the department of design and computational arts. "It might be overly optimistic and grassroots to say, but institutions just don't move quickly enough. Cross-discipline methods are needed to work together to tackle these issues."

Langshaw told the small-but-engaged crowd gathered in the MB building's auditorium to forget their pre-conceived notions and invited them to imagine a different path to progress.

"What is sustainable development? I don't understand what

that means," said Jochen Jaeger, professor in the department of geography, planning and environment. "Sustainable growth is a contradiction when you only have one planet."

PowerPoint-happy throughout his part of the lecture, Jaeger cited an ingenuity gap in society. "We have increasing knowledge, but not increasing wisdom when it comes to development projects."

Jaeger cited Montreal's recently-redesigned Turcot interchange as an example of good policy in theory being spoiled by bad planning.

"How can design do 100 per cent good? How can we imagine what 100 per cent looks like?" asked Langshaw. "[Humans] are totally capable of thinking in the long-term, but we're just lazy."

Using the EV building's seasonal falling ice warnings as a local example of incomplete planning, Langshaw questioned the design. "How do we build without considering nature? Winter happens in



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

Montreal. This should become a part of our subconscious."

Jaeger spoke of the same problem at the planning level.

"The documents from [Transports Québec]—Quebec's own documents on environmental and public transit policy from 1992 and 2006—do not conform to the plans they've put forward today," said Jaeger, sounding exasperated. "Sadly, I observe an increasing gap between the claims of current policy documents on one hand and the reality of ongoing decision-

making on the other."

To rise to these contemporary challenges, the speakers agreed that the more disciplines that come together to work towards sustainability the better.

"Several perspectives on any issue will lead to a more holistic understanding of [sustainability's] complexity," said Alex Oster, CSU VP Sustainability and Services. "The challenges facing us as an Earth and as an ecosystem have no single quick fix."

Guide to CSU Green Month

R4 Workshop
Feb. 9 (3 p.m.) @ LB Atrium

**Sustainability Mashups Series:
Social Responsibility & Eco.**
Feb. 9 (7 p.m.) @ MB Auditorium

Outdoor Composting at Loyola
Feb. 10 (1 p.m.) @ the Hive

**CSU Sustainability Lecture:
Cameron Stiff**
Feb. 10 (5 p.m.) @ H-711

Container Gardening
Feb. 15 (2 p.m.) @ Greenhouse

Earthkeepers screening
Feb. 15 (7 p.m.) @ H-110

**Sustainability Mashups Series:
The environment and you?**
Feb. 16 (7 p.m.) @ MB Auditorium

**The Vegan Iron Chef,
with George Laraque**
Feb. 17 (2 p.m.) @ H-711

Tough new ASFA election rules

'Outside supra-student groups' cited as a concern

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Two weeks before the Arts and Science Federation of Associations heads to the polls, strict new election procedures were unveiled by Chief Electoral Officer Colby Briggs at an ASFA special Council meeting on Feb. 2.

Candidates are now required to disclose their links with other candidates, give receipts for all campaign expenditures and abide by a sanctions schedule that removes votes—or leads to disqualification—for transgressions during the two-week campaign.

"The reason I was particularly strict with the rules is because I have received many complaints that both Concordia-based groups and outside supra-student groups have the intention of getting involved in these elections," said Briggs. "They have no business getting involved."

The biggest controversy of the evening came when ASFA President Leah Del Vecchio, who called the meeting, attempted to introduce additional electoral reforms.

"Although I have read through most of the proposed changes and most of them have already been enacted by my office, the fact that we are opening [the election's rules] during an election is the biggest conflict of interest I can imagine," Briggs told the Council.

The reforms were not adopted



CEO Colby Briggs (centre) explains his new elections procedures to the ASFA Council. PHOTO JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

as Del Vecchio was humbled by a series of motions from councillors Aaron Green and Elliot Kmec. Defeated once, Del Vecchio was unable to secure a seconder when she tried to introduce the same reform motions half an hour after they were refused initially.

Following her final rebuttal, she called for a closed session, which removed the proceedings from public oversight.

"I thought it was important and I did expect some hesitation as to the timing, but I did not expect people to be so opposed to security precau-

tions," said Del Vecchio. "I thought that a lot of those precautions were going to be implemented by the CEO, but it was brought to [my] attention that not all of them would be. I thought it would be a good idea to put them in the standing regulations."

Among the reforms not included in the CEO's new procedures, Del Vecchio cited the lack of a leave of absence provision that would require candidates to not sit in any position at the university.

"[Del Vecchio] seemed very concerned with the electoral process.

Her intentions were to fix something that she thought was missing in ASFA, however I don't think people were receptive to the manner in which it was gone about—with a special meeting called at the last minute," said political science councillor Beisan Zubi. "I also think the rules were rushed; they were not as well-formulated as they could have been."

An additional motion during the meeting to allow for more members to join ASFA's Judicial Committee—which currently has only three members—was rejected.

A look at the candidates

Three groups vie for control of 17,000 Arts and Science votes

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Elections in the Arts and Science Federation of Associations do not have parties or slates, but that does not stop candidates from endorsing each other and choosing a slogan to represent their group.

At present the election looks like it will be pitting three main groups against one another: Innovation, Stronger and New Energy.

Based simply on Facebook friends, Innovation and Stronger are deadlocked.

"It's looking messy," said Colby Briggs, ASFA's Chief Electoral Officer. "I might pull all my hair out."

The CEO recently announced strict new elections rules that will govern the competition between the three groups.

Stronger

Charles Brenchley	
President	
David Adelman	VP External
Anna Goldfinch	VP Internal
Jacob Dobias	VP Finance
Andrew Rankin	VP Academic
Sarah Moore	VP Comms
Dania Habib	VP Social

Headed by Charles Brenchley, Stronger is the most controversial of the three groups. *The Link* reported in February 2008 that during his tenure as president of the Dawson Student Union, then-VP finance Shanice Rose managed to embezzle at least \$29,000.

The current executive of the Canadian Federation of Students—Quebec have expressed concern over five cheques totalling \$300,000 that were issued during 2008-09, when Brenchley was

treasurer of their organization. The cheques allegedly routed funds from the provincial branch of the organization to the national office. The five cheques are now part of a court battle involving the Quebec branch and the national CFS organization. The two are no longer officially linked.

Innovation

Aaron Green	
President	
Chad Walcott	VP External
Elliot Kmec	VP Internal
Alexa Newman	VP Finance
Teresa Seminara	VP Academic
Taylor Knott	VP Comms
Allie McDonald	VP Social

The Innovation group, headed by ASFA Councillor Aaron Green, has links with Conservative Concordia, Liberal Concordia and NDP Concordia. Innovation's

posters promise financial accountability, pub crawls and other social events.

New Energy

Joel Suss	
President	
Brittany Levett	VP External
Nicole Devlin	VP Internal
Shahzaad Dal	VP Finance
Michaela Manson	VP Academic
Marco DeGregorio	VP Comms
Natasha Launi	VP Social

New Energy is the late-comer in the campaign. Led by Joel Suss, who ran with the Fresh slate in last year's Concordia Student Union election, New Energy includes former CSU councillor and current ASFA Councillor Nicole Devlin. The group proposes a grab-bag of policies including more academic and student association support.

Briefs

Natural Spaces program uncancelled

After announcing in December that a \$36-million program to acquire and conserve green spaces in Montreal would be removed from the 2010 budget, the Tremblay administration bowed to popular pressure last month and reversed itself. The \$36 million Natural Spaces program will be spread over three years.

NASA grounded

The American government's deficit-reducing plans have essentially put an end to manned spaceflight. The United States will invest \$6 billion in a public-private partnership with Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic. Missions now handled by NASA will pass to the private sector as the space agency is reformed to become a regulatory body.

Église du Centre-Ville burns down

The condemned Église du Centre-Ville on Réne-Lévesque Boulevard, built by the Franciscan order in 1893, burned to the ground on Feb. 6 after over 150 firefighters were called to the scene. The church was shuttered in 2005 after the order learned that the necessary repairs would cost \$5 million. Municipal plans to refurbish the landmark never materialized.

McGill votes to allow secret military contracts

On Feb. 10, the McGill University Senate will vote on whether to remove research guidelines stipulating that all military-funded projects must be announced publicly. McGill's participation in military research and weapons projects spans the 20th century. Bomb and missile projects with the U.S. Air Force and Canadian Forces continue today.

Jack Layton diagnosed with prostate cancer

Leader of the federal New Democratic Party Jack Layton announced Feb. 5 that he had received a diagnosis of treatable prostate cancer last December. He immediately noted that he would continue in his role as party leader and Trinity-Spadina MP.



Members of Engineers Without Borders in front of a simulated picturesque background. PHOTO CAROLINE CHAN

You don't need a degree to be an engineer

Engineers Without Borders: New mandate, new mission, everyone's invited to pitch in

• CLARE RASPOPOW

The Engineers Without Borders workshop on Feb. 2 had little to do with engineering in the classical sense. In fact, the entire organization has little to do with engineering these days, according to Concordia chapter president Rob Austen.

"It's engineering in the broader sense of the word," he explained.

The small group of people who came to find out more about EWB's agricultural efforts in Burkina Faso spent the hour-long meeting learning about the administrative and social problems that keep the largely agrarian country impoverished.

The workshop was just a small part of the massive educational outreach program EWB has undertaken to teach everyone from high school students to university administrators about the complex problems people in developing nations face. Everything from the effects of introducing genetically modified seeds to the difficulties of allocating resources in a country that doesn't know who needs what.

The holistic and analytical approach fits the new mandate the organization recently adopted. In January 2009, the EWB's Board of Governors literally burned its old mandate—"simple technology, dramatic results"—in front of 800 delegates at the national conference in Mississauga, Ont.

During the following six months, members from chapters all across Canada provided input as to what direction the EWB

should take in the future.

"We realized that we really had to analyze everything to do with the situation," said Austen. "It's not going to take one silver bullet [to solve their problems.]"

Last summer Austen spent four months in Burkina Faso working with local unions, rural organizations and farmers to develop and share long-term farming strategies.

Farah Haddad, EWB Concordia's VP Education, spent that summer in Ghana working with the government's district planning offices, setting up data analysis and collection tools to promote "evidence based decision making" when it comes to the country's resource distribution.

Austen explained that the EWB wants to help the people in the countries they work with come up with lasting and sustainable solutions to their problems.

The help EWB members provide rarely falls into the realm of engineering anymore and organizers for the Concordia chapter are eager to get students of all backgrounds involved.

"We love non-engineers," said Adam Spilka, EWB Concordia's Director of Curriculum Enhancement who ran last Tuesday's workshop.

"There's a position for everyone whether you want to commit a lot or commit a bit," Austen said, adding that one of the students who went abroad last summer was a Concordia drama student.

But despite the new mandate and a growing membership, the EWB still has problems, one of which is how it's viewed by the

public.

"I think the problem with the EWB is that it's going to take a lot of time to do what we want to do," admitted Austin.

He said the incremental progress of the organization is one of the biggest challenges it faces as the public doesn't get a sense of the work being done. Unlike organizations such as Médecins sans frontières that provide immediate and visible relief after a disaster, the help contributed by the EWB is neither so instantaneous nor so obvious.

Austen also said he believes that the group's work is hindered by North American misconceptions about what life is actually like in the countries they work in. People incorrectly assume that people in Africa are either helpless tragedy-stricken victims, or simply not capable enough to solve their own problems.

"Life there is just like here, it's just not as comfortable," he said. "And by that I mean it's a little more human."

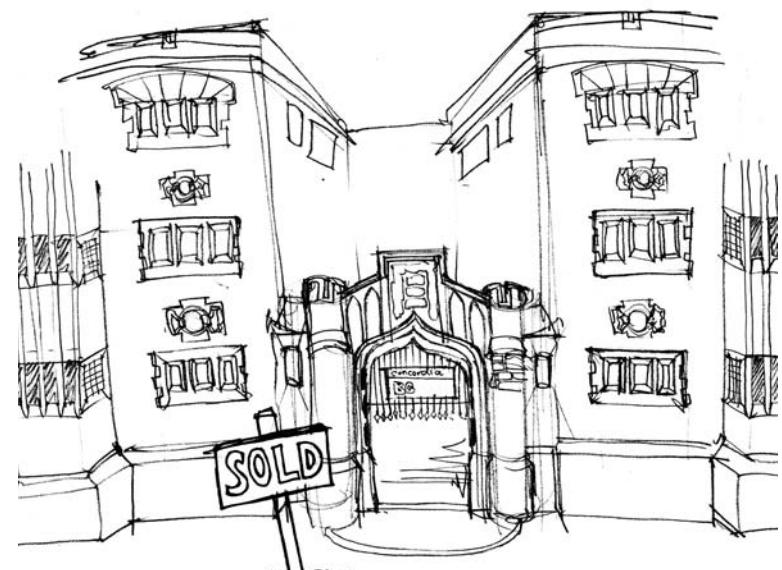
Upcoming EWB events

- Be My Fair Valentine Event, in the Hall Building until Friday

- Screening of the movie *Earth Keepers* in collaboration with Cinema Politica on Feb. 15

- EWB's Work In Ghana Workshop, Thursday Feb. 18

- Night Without Borders. A workshop held as part of Nuit Blanche, highlighting cultural diversity on Feb. 27



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

So long, Bishop Court

University prepares to sell legacy property

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

In 1955, a seven-and-a-half apartment in the Bishop Court building cost \$75 a month. The apartments, complete with a powder room and a maid's quarters, overlooked an inner courtyard with a fountain and rich vegetation.

Fifty-five years later the fountain is long-gone, but the Bishop Court building is still standing, now home to offices for Concordia staff. The building will soon enter the next stage of its life as the university prepares to unload the property for \$3.2 million.

"There has been regular interest in the building and right now the university is working through offers that have been submitted, but the building sale has not been finalized," said Clarence Epstein, the director of special projects and cultural affairs in the president's office. "If the deal moves as smoothly as it has been, it should be closed in the next while."

Built in the Tudor Revival style by John Archibald in 1904—the same man who designed the original Forum on Atwater Street—the building was one of the first custom-built apartment buildings in Canada. When Concordia's predecessor, Sir George Williams University, bought the apartment building in 1976, there was worry that the sale would change the historical property.

"Sir George does not realize that they are destroying,

irreparably, an object of art," said Michael Fish, an architect with the group Save Montreal, to *The Georgian* in 1976.

"Since the time that building was acquired to now, the university has been growing in a westward direction and the priorities are, for buildings that the university acquires from here on in, that they would prefer custom-use facilities," said Epstein.

"There has been regular interest in the building and right now the university is working through offers that have been submitted, but the building sale has not been finalized."

—Clarence Epstein,
director of special projects
and cultural affairs

This marks a sea change for Concordia, which inherited a rich—and dwindling—portfolio of old downtown buildings from Sir George Williams University. It had made it part of its mission to refit and restore old buildings. Bishop Court was purchased for that purpose.

The sale of the building will not interfere with the ongoing Quartier Concordia project, of which Epstein is co-chair, because Quartier Concordia ends on the west side of Bishop Street. The east side, where Bishop Court is found, is part of the Quartier du Musée.

One month to Moncton



PHOTO JÉRÉMIE DIONNE

• HUGO PILON-LAROSE

Prepping in the CJ building at Loyola Campus, 33 communications and journalism students are getting ready to end Concordia's reputation as a loser.

After years of finishing next-to-last at the all-in-French competition, they are convinced that this is their year to be at the top of the Communications Games.

"We are serious and we want to succeed this year. Concordia was seen as a beginner in past years and that really didn't represent how good our program is," said Julien Gauthier, the co-head of the team.

Unlike other faculty competitions, the CommGames puts an emphasis on professional challenges. Ten of the 13 challenges are directly related to the media and are judged by professionals in communications and journalism.

Past years were hard for Concordia, coming in last in several challenges. To change its standing, this year's delegation decided that more practice was needed. For the past five months delegates have had weekly Sunday practices. The impact of their training will be seen on March 2 in Moncton, N.B.

"This year for the first time, we are an official [Concordia Student Union] club," said Gauthier. "Our objective is now to be recognized [...] by the communications department, which is hard because some teachers think we are only going to Moncton to party."

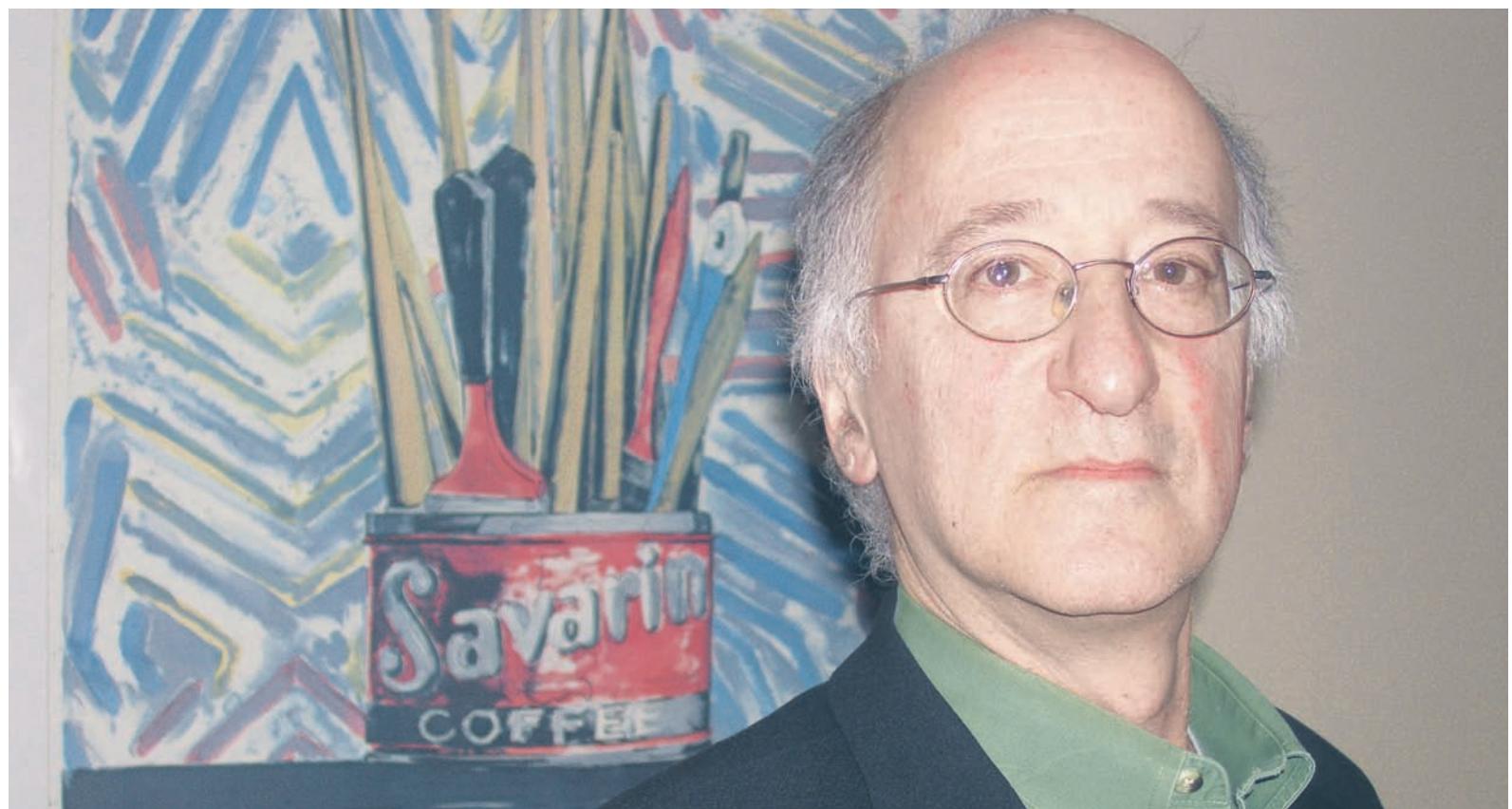
"I have met the communications chair to work out the professional side of the games, as delegates will miss one week of scheduled classes," said the Communications Guild President and co-chief Charles D'Amboise. "We have been informed that students will still lose points for their absence."

For journalism students, the games are where they prove their skills, according to the team's other co-head, Sabrina Allard. After her news-writing performance at last year's games, Allard received an offer from the Métro daily to contribute stories.

"Networking is a plus at the games, because we are able to prove our abilities to people in the industry," said Allard.

Meet the man

New dean of arts and science promises 'to spread the paint'



Brian Lewis, current dean of arts and science. PHOTO TERRINE FRIDAY

• TERRINE FRIDAY

Brian Lewis returned to Concordia this year to take up the post of dean of arts and science. Lewis, a former communications associate professor at Concordia and the Director of Communications at Simon Fraser University, is now leading Concordia's largest faculty, with over 18,000 students.

With an operating budget of almost \$100 million, the faculty of arts and science accounts for almost half of the \$207 million operating budget of all four faculties at Concordia.

The Link sat down with Lewis to ask him about his views on sustainable education, graduate-level research and advancement.

The Link: Arts and Science students account for almost half of the student body at Concordia. Do you feel pressured to seek donors in order to support the faculty?

Brian Lewis: If I can add value to arts and science through building relationships, that's something I absolutely want to do. I'm not pressured to do it; I feel responsibility to find resources.

It's hard for a professor to [generate an influx of money for special programs], it's my job to put the professor in touch with people who can support their activities.

In terms of the advancement, it isn't just about making money, it's about making relationships. And the way I see Concordia, it's a very, very engaged university. It's part of the life of this city. That's why it

attracted me. I'd like to get to know people in the city, get to know friends of Concordia, project our image to the community more effectively—all of that's advancement: building relationships.

Sustainability is important at Concordia. What types of sustainable initiatives are you taking as dean of arts and science?

I like to say there has to be an endgame to everything we start. If we're planning something, we have to know how we're going to keep it going. A lot of [university initiatives] get launched because an opportunity comes along without a lot of thought about how we're going to maintain it. So, expectations can be built without being satisfied at the end. Part of my function as dean is to make sure the planning goes into these opportunities so we can keep them going. We have to find the appropriate infrastructure, the appropriate resources, we have to make sure there's a critical mass of interest.

From an academic perspective, sustainability means creating programs that there's a demand for, that people are interested in and that we have the resources to support.

Enrolment at the university increased significantly over the past year. How did services compare?

There's no one-to-one correspondence between one student and more resources. At the end of the year, everything's aggregated to see what kind of extra support we need or where we have too much.

For example, when the number of students goes up by 40 per cent, our budget doesn't go up by 40 per cent. You sort of have to absorb the capacity and see where the pressure points are. We have to relieve the pressure from those spots. Then this becomes part of the planning for the next cycle.

For example, what I'm focusing on is providing more TA support [...]. I think we need more tutorials and more support for graduate students. Tutorials give students the opportunity for a smaller class environment and they give the graduate students an opportunity [...] to learn how to teach.

The union of Teaching and Research Assistants at Concordia are currently in negotiations for an initial collective agreement. What do you think about student compensation at Concordia for research and teaching?

Students have to be fairly compensated, and I think the scales are probably set across institutions. Before I got here, [Concordia made] sure that the comparators were equivalent for faculty members; there are similar salary scales across universities. The same kind of bars have to be followed for the TAs and for research assistants. [...] There is no reason Concordia students should be paid less.

What do you think your biggest challenges will be moving forward?

When I met with the professors in the department, a lot of people shared the vision that we need to enhance the experience of the stu-

dents through interdisciplinary [programs and] through letting them move back and forth across programs, developing programs which maybe haven't been foreseen yet but which may be important to them. The question is, how do you find the time to make that a reality? It's a time-management issue, just because it's a big faculty.

I'd like to find the time to be able to develop [departmental] intersections, where we can offer students something more than other universities can offer. That's my goal for the future: to add value to what the faculty's already offering, from a level that's not embedded in any one department and that can see a bigger picture. I'd need a lot of support with that. I need student support, I need faculty support, I need administrative support.

It's the apocalypse, your budget is chopped down to size and you can only afford to keep three programs. Which ones do you keep?

There's no way I can answer that question. [Laughs] There's no way I can answer that question. That's not the way it would work. If it's the apocalypse and your budget is cut way down, you really have to try to spread the paint. There are too many expectations and hopes and dreams attached to too many different programs to let your ego determine [which programs to keep]. You've got to find a way to [cancel] programs that just aren't functioning for anybody, or find a way to spread the paint.

Or you fight back, you take a stance and say it can't be done.

Harmonies for Haiti

Concordia sings a song for aid money

• HIBA ZAYADEEN

Harmonies for Haiti, a benefit concert with performances by Concordia's staff, alumni and students, was held on Feb. 6 in the Loyola Chapel.

The concert lived up to its name, as pieces including the "Hungarian Rhapsody" by Liszt and "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen filled the venue.

With the event filled to capacity, nearly \$1,500 was raised through donations. According to Cynthia Hedrich, an admissions counsellor at the John Molson School of Business and one of the organizers of the concert, the federal government will match the donation with all proceeds split between the Red Cross and Oxfam.

Most of the musicians involved in the show were students from Concordia and McGill.

The first half of the concert was made up of solos, including one song performed by Hedrich herself. The Carmina Choir, a Montreal group of singers that perform classical and popular music, lit up the second half along with other choirs and duets.

"The show was fantastic, considering they only had two weeks to make it happen," said Anne Richard, who watched family members perform from her seat in the audience.

"I really enjoyed the show, but the part I liked most was when they did 'Les Misérables,'" said Adam Richard, another audience member.

To organize the event, Hedrich paired up with a col-



A performer in the Loyola Chapel sings nearly a month after the earthquake struck Haiti. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

league at the JMSB, Danielle Pullen. Sharing a strong interest in music, the pair received a helping hand from Concordia's music department and the JMSB.

"Basically, Danielle came 'round the corner and said, 'Can you learn a song in two weeks?'

Let's put together a concert.' We felt compelled to do something to help out," said Hedrich. Pullen studied music at Concordia.

"It's really just been a bunch of everyday people getting together and doing some music," said Hedrich.

Extortionate condos

Montrealers protest West Bank condos

• RILEY SPARKS

Chanting slogans and waving Palestinian flags, two dozen protesters gathered outside Mont-Royal metro station Feb. 7 to condemn two Montreal-based firms involved in the construction of condominiums in the West Bank village of Bil'in.

Organizer Ramy Bassam accused the two firms, Green Mount and Green Park International, of breaking international law by building the housing inside Bil'in and selling it to Israelis.

"The West Bank is considered an occupied land and the occupying

power—which is in this case Israel—cannot move their own population inside the occupied lands," Bassam said. Article 49 of the Geneva Convention states that an occupying power may not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies.

Calling the issue "divisive," Bassam said he thinks a peaceful resolution is possible.

"Hopefully it will be solved in court. That's the best place to solve this issue," he said.

A Quebec Superior Court justice dismissed a 2009 lawsuit filed against the two companies.



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

Fan or critic

Voice of the Habs discusses sports journalism

• KARINE GUILLET

When he was asked why he decided to become a sports commentator, Michel Lacroix laughed.

"Pure luck," he said with a huge smile on his face.

Before he was the official voice of the Montreal Canadiens, Lacroix was an athlete. His big break came when he was injured before a competition but decided to go anyway. An announcer was sick and Lacroix, with his deep broadcast voice, was asked to step into the booth.

Lacroix was the latest guest at An Evening with a Great Communicator, organized by the Université du Québec à Montréal's school for distance education, on Jan. 27. In 45 minutes Lacroix tried to explain the role of sports announcers and of sports journalism itself, drawing on his 35 years of experience in what he called a sports spectacle.

The ultimate question for Lacroix was whether to be a fan or a critic.

The question seemed appropriate as Lacroix will cover figure skating at the Vancouver Winter Games. What would be more appropriate: to stay solemn as Canadian athletes enter the rink or to take pride in presenting them with enthusiasm?

"Critic... and fan at the same

time," said Lacroix, adding that everything lies in the art of finding a proper balance. Announcers should have control over their own reactions and not fall prey to sensationalism, he continued.

"If you have nothing to say, don't say anything."

—Michel Lacroix,
voice of the Habs

"I announce goals," Lacroix said. "I don't score them."

That doesn't mean that sports commentators are kept from feeling pride in the athletes they introduce. After all, part of their role is to keep the attention of the listening audience. According to Lacroix, the key is to look though a child's eyes, no matter how experienced the announcer is, and to respect the audience and the athletes.

Finding a balance will not be Lacroix's biggest concern during the Olympics. He is more worried about the lengthy coverage of the event.

For figure skating alone, he will have to provide 40 hours of on-air commentary—a long period during which a lot of mistakes can be made.

The Bell Centre's voice already has a game plan: "If you have nothing to say, don't say anything."



According to the Quebec Superior Court, this struggle should be in Israel. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

The status of which women?

Violence against women should be a health priority



Canada needs to take care of its own before going abroad. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

• TERRINE FRIDAY

On Feb. 14, activist organization Missing Justice will hold their first memorial march in Montreal for missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Complimenting the movement initiated by their Sisters in Spirit Vigil last October, Montrealers will gather in the streets, continuing to call on the federal government to answer for missing and murdered Aboriginal women, as well as end the inequalities in social services, healthcare and instances of violence against women.

"How many Aboriginal women in Canada have been murdered or gone missing in the last 20 years?" asked Craig Benjamin, spokesperson for Amnesty International.

"The Native Women's Association of Canada has compiled 520 from limited sources, but [they] were not provided by police records. That list is necessarily only part of the picture, but why don't we know the full picture? Why don't we know it? Because the government of Canada is not counting. The lives of Aboriginal women mean so little that when they are murdered or disappear [that] their lives are not being counted."

Amnesty International has recommended that the federal government create and implement a coordinated national plan of action and work closely with Aboriginal communities to pursue data collection and analysis, as well as address the staggering rates of violence against Aboriginal women.

"We begin to get a picture of the scale of this problem with

the very fact that the true number [of missing women] is unknown," Benjamin said. "We get a sense of the scale of the failure of Canada as a society [and the failure] of the federal government in their responsibility to ensure the lives of women are valued and are protected."

Violence as a national health priority... or not.

On Jan. 27, Prime Minister Stephen Harper set out Canada's year-long agenda as 2010 president of the G8 and announced his target issues for the year: healthcare for women and children in the developing world. Since then, Harper has come under fire from critics—including federal Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff—for not addressing the health concerns of Canadian women before tackling women's health abroad.

Status of Women Canada's website states the federal organization "promotes the full participation of women in the economic, social and democratic life of Canada."

Besides acknowledging the 1989 École Polytechnique massacre, there is no mention of violence against women on their website (let alone First Nations women), nor are there any concrete plans to tackle these issues. Although violence against women is reportedly rising, there is no proposed legislation, solutions-oriented planning nor a call to arms to promote peace and equality.

Although SWC has proposed government-sponsored gender-based analyses, this 15-year-old plan is mostly preamble.

As of press time, SWC was unavailable for comment.

Intersecting issues

In Canada, the health of women in marginalized communities is in crisis, chief among them Inuit and First Nations. Inuit women are more than twice as likely as other demographics to experience life-threatening complications during childbirth and, according to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, First Nations women report violence at a rate of almost four times that of non-First Nations women.

Health Canada's 2003 report on First Nations and Inuit health focuses on smoking, alcohol consumption, frequency of sexual activity, number of sex partners, use of birth control and body mass index in its statistical profile. It also compares the occurrence of Pap tests and mammograms among the First Nations community to "the general Canadian population." First Nations receive more Pap tests than other groups, but less mammograms, which are a key breast cancer prevention tool.

Health Canada's report states that "First Nations are in a unique position in terms of health care in Canada," but fails to mention any violence against women. Instead, it commends itself for the increased services it offers First Nations communities that are not available to non-First Nations: prescription drug coverage, dental and vision care and coverage for emergency transport that is a necessity for isolated areas.

Gwen Healey, executive director of the Arctic Health Research

Network, noted that the Inuit Tapiruit Kanatami and Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association identified several indicators (such as family planning, abuse and assault, prevalence of traditional values, mental health and depression) critical to health in their communities.

In contrast, a 2004 report by the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs identified housing, early childhood programs, family violence, women in urban areas and fetal alcohol disorders as important health issues affecting First Nations women. The AHRC also states that "ethics and meaningful engagement in activities related to their health and well-being are inherently linked to the settlement of specific land claims."

This rift in understanding of health concerns is evident in the lack of quantitative and qualitative reports on the status of Aboriginal women's health. Research either lacks depth, is non-inclusive or, sadly, non-existent. Without a clear picture, we're unable to fully address the many complex problems that plague women in Aboriginal communities.

Missing Justice will host a round-table discussion on violence against Aboriginal women on Feb. 11 at 6 p.m. (255 Ontario St., room 3.84). The annual Missing Justice memorial march will be Feb. 14, starting at Parc Émilie-Gamelin (Berri-UQAM metro) and ending at Parc des Amériques (corner Rachel Street and St-Laurent Boulevard). For more info, visit missingjustice.ca.

—with files from Laura Beeston

Inaccess to information

Jumping through hoops for answers

• LAURA BEESTON

Moved by the Vigil for Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women last October, the search for solid answers was prompted after repeatedly hearing that no one really knows or counts how many women have suffered or died from a systematic and racist violence that targets First Nations women in this country.

I'm not a fan of mystery. So, with a naïve belief that specific and reliable information about this sexist, nation-wide pandemic should be available and that the Aboriginal women must be accounted for somewhere, I decided to file an Access to Information and Privacy request. I did this because, I thought, surely the government knew more than they were letting on about these issues.

Following the application procedure to a tee, I sent my request with the standard, five-dollar cheque in mid-September and waited for a response.

On Sept. 25, 2009, I received a letter stating that Indian and Northern Affairs Canada had received my ATIP inquiry. One month later, on Nov. 26, I was asked to make my search more specific.

During this time, the provincial government of Manitoba was putting together a team, called the Manitoba Integrated Task Force for Missing and Murdered Women, to deal with the growing numbers of Aboriginal women and teens who were being killed around Winnipeg and to re-examine a few decades worth of unsolved cases.

Having already narrowed down my request, I now asked to see internal reports, recommendations and correspondence letters between the Manitoba and federal governments. I also requested any additional information regarding any statistics and figures on exactly how many women have gone missing.

Suspecting these figures might not exist, I also requested any accounting recommendations that had been made on the federal or provincial government's part.

About a month later, on Dec. 16, I received a bill of \$86.70 in "searching costs," as well as a letter informing me that an extension of 260 days beyond the statutory 30-day time limit was necessary for the processing of this request, due to the volume of records involved, the necessity to consult with other governmental departments and the interference to government operations resulting thereof.

So I mailed them another cheque and I am still waiting, more than four months after my initial request and with another eight months to go before I'll see any documents.

I really wonder what type of information my \$91.70 will reveal and if I will ever actually get what I'm looking for.

Though I acknowledge that waiting for government documents can't compare to families' search for answers after a daughter, sister, mother, aunt or friend is killed or goes missing, the bureaucratic hoops one must jump through renders even a basic search for information virtually impossible.

So, the initial question "Where are our women?" remains unanswered. And with it, I still wonder, where is the information?

THE **LiNK**

Frosty
Festivus

PARTY Thursday, Feb. 11,
WITH at 8 p.m.

@ Brutopia, 1215 Crescent St.



Mental mating

Self-proclaimed love guru teaches the art of attraction



Apparently, hypnotism is all you need to make the connection. GRAPHIC CAITLIN CHARBONNEAU

• MIREILLE TARCHA

Love is on the brain for those of us who want to make Valentine's Day magic with a special someone. For Bedros "Spidey" Akkelian, a third-year Concordia sociology student, teaching others the tricks of this trade is just part of the job.

Spidey's experiments range from hypnosis to performance, from magic to mentalism, and have led him to create what he now calls the Art of Attraction. It's a program for people—mostly men—who hope to improve their social abilities and interactive skills.

"I've been a magician and performer my whole life and noticed in my teenage years that when I performed magic, there was a certain attractive quality to it," he said.

Spidey started AoA by trying to figure out how to play up attractive qualities and perfect the art of attracting potential love interests, but was unsure where to begin. He said he was used to hiding behind his magic during shows and "didn't even know how to walk up to people."

His process of figuring out the

delicate social graces of modern romance may seem contentious or unethical to some. For example, Spidey claims he spent weeks observing the homeless—whom he believes to be masters of approach.

"They have the gift of walking up to someone and within minutes, they get money from them," he said. Spidey figured if they were successful approaching strangers, he could "surely get a conversation or a phone number or something." Spidey says he can now "walk right up to a girl and ask for her phone number. I can approach her and demonstrate interest, I can even start under the radar and then move towards deeper connection and attraction, which eventually became my style."

Spidey spent three months testing and discovering the different types of social approaches, favouring a trial-and-error approach. For the first two months, he was reluctant to try out his new technique, and when he did, he didn't fare very well.

But as time wore on, Spidey started to notice the patterns of social interaction.

"Things as subtle as body language can make a difference," he said, explaining that women are masters at reading subtext. "It doesn't matter what you're saying. If your body isn't saying the same thing, they know it."

After figuring out how to apply his newfound techniques, he reintroduced his magic into the equation and added elements of neurolinguistic programming, which is a method of speaking that gives you the ability "to guide people in certain directions."

Last year, when Spidey was interviewed by *Mirror*, he rebuffed the interviewer's suggestion that "hypnotizing a girl into desiring one's mighty bone [is] pretty well the moral equivalent of slipping Rohypnol into her drink."

"It's not hypnosis and the emphasis is clearly not about getting laid," he argued. "We're not manipulating girls here, we're just increasing our attractiveness to them."

A great believer in monogamy, Spidey teaches his students that the goal is not to simply "pick up," but to create a deeper connection for a strongly-rooted relationship, one

that emerges from value and respect—all for a price of \$995.

There are many other programs out there that teach men how to approach women, but Spidey claims his is about making a connection.

"It doesn't matter what you're saying. If your body isn't saying the same thing, women know it."

—Bedros "Spidey" Akkelian

who pick up on the confidence. It doesn't matter to Spidey if students are single or in happy relationships, since he says anyone can gain from taking his workshops.

"Rules of attraction are fundamental," he said. "Whether it's a four-year relationship, a two-week relationship or if I'm approaching someone for the first time, there are certain things [...] that will create and maintain a connection."

Spidey emphasized that attraction doesn't have to mean seduction.

"There's a good reason this program is not called 'The Art of How to Sleep with Women,'" he said. "These guys are part of a social world [and] the universal rules of attraction can be applied to a business meeting just as much as they can be applied to [romance]."

"Women have a sixth sense. Teaching guys how to drop their motives, be who they are and just go with it is probably the simplest way to explain what a guy can get out of a workshop with us."

For more information about Art of Attraction, check out spideyaoa.com

Black History Month: Part II

For three weeks, The Link will examine the role of Black History Month in 2010.

Advertisements
that appeared
in Quebec
newspapers

**Quebec - November -
Private sale/Female (11) -
No logo**

TO BE SOLD, a very healthy
handy Negro Girl, about
Eleven Years of Age, speaks
both French and English.
Enquire of the Printers hereof.
[*Quebec Gazette*, 17 November
1768]

**Quebec - March - Private
sale/Female - No logo**

A VENDRE
UNE NEGRESSE qui est
présentement en ville. L'on
pourra s'adresser à Madame
Perrault pour le prix.
[*Quebec Gazette*, 4 March
1784]

**Montreal - August -
Private sale/Male (24) -
No logo**

To be Sold by Private Sale.
A Mulatto, of about 24 Years
old, just arrived from Detroit;
has had the small Pox, speaks
good English and French;
those who chuses to purchase
him, may inquire at the
Subscriber.

Montreal, 23 August 1786
Jos. ROY
[*Montreal Gazette*, 24 August
1786]

**Montreal - July -
Escape/Male (35) -
Standing logo**

TEN DOLLARS REWARD
RUN-AWAY from the
Subscriber, a Negro Slave
named Ishmäel, about 35 years
old, 5 feet 8 inches high, pretty
much marked with the Small-
pox [...] If any person appre-
hends said NEGRO, and gives
notice thereof to the
Subscriber living at the Batoe-
gate, he or she shall receive
TEN DOLLARS Reward,
besides all reasonable Charges;
but, whoever carried him off,
entertains, or employs him
after this public notice, will be
prosecuted according to Law.
Montreal, July 16, 1779
JOHN TURNER
[*Quebec Gazette*, 29 July 1779]

The truth about slavery

Done with Slavery reminds Montrealers of our colonial history

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Every so often, a book with an astonishing breadth of research comes along and becomes the archetype for its field for decades to come.

Historian Frank Mackey, author of *Done With Slavery: The Black Fact in Montreal*, hopes he hasn't written one of them.

"I don't want anyone to come out and say [*Done With Slavery*] is the definitive book on the subject," said Mackey, "That's not what I want. I want it to spark some kind of debate."

The book, whose provocative title recalls the "French fact in Quebec" or even the "English fact," arrives in time for this year's Black History Month.

"I didn't write the book for Black History Month," insisted Mackey, even though he's inundated with requests for guest lectures and interviews each February due to his previous research into the history of blacks in Montreal, to which he's happy to oblige.

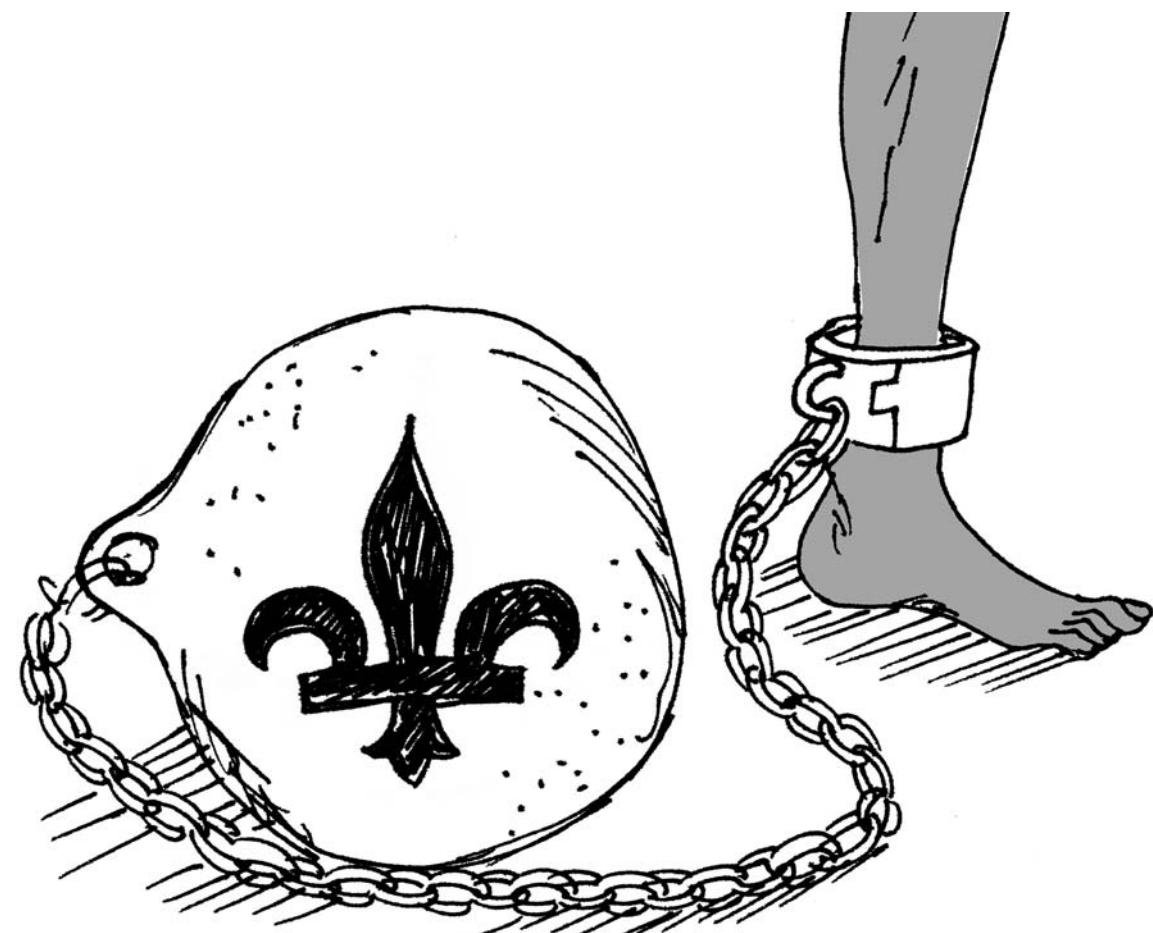
"I think a lot of people today, black and white, are not aware that slavery existed here," he said.

The problem is that when people think of Canada, says Mackey, they think of a country founded in 1867. But from the middle of the 18th century to the beginning of the 19th century, slavery was common in Montreal and pre-Confederate Canada, if not exactly enshrined in law.

Without a law condoning slavery, there was no need to abolish slavery either. And yet, for decades, authorities didn't intervene in the purchase and selling of slaves. Even James McGill, after whom McGill University is named, is recorded to have purchased and sold slaves while conducting errands on behalf of the government.

The lack of laws supporting the rights of slave owners also meant that there were fewer repercussions for owners who misbehaved.

"You might find that soldiers were whipped a hell of a lot more than slaves here," said Mackey. "The big thing is not the physical brutality, but the psychological hell of 'you're obviously inferior, you're shit, that's why you're a



Frank Mackey recalls Montreal's history of slavery in *Done With Slavery*. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

"The idea of a shipload of slaves who have been crammed like sardines under the decks of ships, sick and dying, it's alien, it's not part of the package. The slaves who came here, it's like they're wrapped in cellophane, like food in the grocery store."

—Frank Mackey,
author of *Done With Slavery*

slave. Let's face it, you're not going to get out of it because you're black and you can be bought and sold."

Even if slaves weren't as victimized as their cousins south of the border, this doesn't mean we should blind ourselves to the fact that slavery existed here, he maintained.

"It's more a history of mentalities than anything. The historic importance of slavery outweighs the demographic importance. Even had there been just one, and it was accepted that you could have a slave, that says something important about the mentality of people at the time and their values."

Mackey fears the knowledge of Quebec's past dalliances with slavery isn't "sexy" enough to make a

lasting impression due to the overwhelming role of slavery in the United States.

"You wouldn't have *Gone With the Wind* or *Roots* happening here," he said. "There were no imports straight from Africa. The idea of a shipload of slaves who have been crammed like sardines under the decks of ships, sick and dying, it's alien, it's not part of the package. The slaves who came here, it's like they were wrapped in cellophane, like food in the grocery store. You get your meat and there's hardly any blood there."

Unlike the pervasiveness of slavery in the U.S., where uprisings were a genuine concern and where slaves sometimes outnumbered whites, "here, slaves were kind of a convenience, and to a

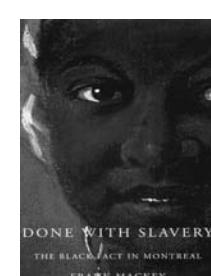
large extent they were servants, except that they were bought instead of being hired," he said.

Nearly half of the book is made up of appendices and reproductions of newspaper ads, including some that ran in *The Gazette*, which clearly show the open and honest exchange of slaves, which Mackey hopes others will look up and verify for themselves.

Mackey, who is white, dedicated the book to his black grandson. In 1974, he adopted a girl from Haiti.

"He has to know someday what it was like for blacks here, according to his grandfather who is white and not black," he said.

"I'm not speaking for blacks in writing this book," continued Mackey. "It's just that [this history] is not being told."



**Done With
Slavery**
Frank Mackey
**McGill-
Queen's
University
Press**
604 pp
\$49.95

Canada: land of the free

Understanding black history before and after confederation



A plaque commemorating Jefferson Davis is on The Bay building "in part to provoke us into attention, into action, into the will to learn." PHOTO ILLUSTRATION RILEY SPARKS & DAVID BARLOW-KRELINA

• TAYLOR C. NOAKES

Walking down the west side of The Hudson's Bay Company building, a Montreal landmark, you will notice a peculiar plaque on the wall. It is dedicated to the memory of Jefferson Davis, the president of the southern Confederate States of America, and it was installed by the Daughters of the Confederacy in the early 1960s. Davis, who moved to Montreal after the end of the American Civil War, took up residence in a manor house that once stood on the building's site.

A few years before Davis arrived, John Wilkes Booth spent several weeks gallivanting from pub to tavern in a drunken stupor, telling all who would listen about his plan to murder then-president Abraham Lincoln. A few years before Booth arrived, British agents secured weapons and supplies for the Confederacy; ships were loaded in our very own port.

Each February, I hear murmurs and whispers that Canada has a dirty little secret. Something pertaining to an untold history of slavery in Canada. Each year I feel compelled to clear the air.

There has never been slavery in Canada.

There were a few slaves who worked as domestic servants in New France, though slavery was not practised here simply for the fact that it was economically untenable.

New France's primary economic activity was trapping beavers for the purposes of European high fashion, an economic activity that requires some degree of cooperation with the local population rather than subjugation and oppression. After the conquest of New France in 1763, the British colonial authority enacted many new and socially progressive laws, an indication of a growing societal shift that was taking place across the pond.

The Enlightenment's humanistic concepts were gaining renown in the United Kingdom, and legal changes in the U.K. would quickly be imposed on the entirety of the British Empire, and, soon thereafter, the world. It began with the Wilberforce Act of 1807, which banned the international slave trade. By 1834, abolition was in full force. Canada, at the time very much a core component of the Empire, was no exception. In effect, though slaves had been kept in what is now considered Canada, slavery had come to an end in this country at least 100 years prior to its birth in 1867. The sins of the father, or in our case, grandfather, are not the sins of the son.

It is often argued that slavery is not talked about because it would taint our current image as a multicultural society. The problem is that Canada's cosmopolitanism is not an image, but our reality. Since the birth of our nation, and for hun-

dreds of years prior, our nation grew as an inherently Métis state—one in which cooperation and integration between the founding races created a new national identity, one in which racial purity would be anathema to our success.

Thus, when the first major wave of black immigrants came to Canada from the United States, immediately after the American War of Independence, they settled here free. Seventy years later, more and more blacks would come to Canada to escape persecution in the American South, via the Underground Railroad. There are communities all over southwestern Ontario and Nova Scotia, notably Chatham, Preston and Amherstburg, which are primarily black and focal points of Canada's strong black history.

Consider that the Canadian black population was little more than 32,000 in 1961 and almost 240,000 by 1981. This is because our government actively encouraged immigration from the Caribbean and Africa. Moreover, if it seems as though there is very little scholarly information concerning slavery in Canada, the Occam's razor approach—that the simplest explanation is always the best—would indicate a sincere lack of information rather than a vast academic/governmental conspiracy.

This does not mean Canada's rich black history isn't worth

exploring, but rather quite the contrary; there is much to be discovered and learned. However, we must be prudent not to continue promoting our colonial mindset. In another sense, we cannot hold ourselves responsible for what New France did, or the British Empire, or the U.S. We are only responsible for what we have done as a nation, according to our laws and customs.

We have a history of institutionalized racism that is balanced by our innate humanism, our promotion of racial harmony and cultural/societal integration. Our nation is by no means perfect, but when you consider the glaring exceptions—the Japanese-Canadian internment camps, residential schools, the head tax levied on Chinese—our nation and its people are more inclined to explore, apologize and heal rather than sweep under the rug.

Consider that aside from South Africa, we are the only other nation to confer a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We should be proud that our people demand the courage to address the wrongs of the past. Again though, we must be very careful to not address and apologize for pre-Confederation Canada. It is indicative of the colonial mindset that we believe slavery happened here in a way comparable to the U.S.

We do this because we feel our own history, one which is lacking in

war, oppression, defeat, etc., is somehow less valuable than the histories of the empires which led to our foundation. Consider our founding fathers, prudent jurists, well-educated men seeking racial equality, striving for a balanced welfare state. Consider the American founding fathers; rich, Freemasons, slave-owners.

To conclude, you may wonder why it is that our city has a plaque dedicated to Jefferson Davis, or why we named a metro station after supreme fascist and anti-Semite Lionel Groulx. The answers, as always, are complex, require a fair bit of dedicated study and often leave you with more questions. There is no quick fix or easy answer, our history is not so cut and dry. But the plaque remains and the name's unchanged in part to provoke us into attention, into action, into the will to learn.

We should be careful not to see our history at face value, or as extensions of another's history. Instead we should retain our impartiality, look beneath the surface for the objective truth and recognize our pride when merited. The fad of Canadian self-deprecation must end if we ever want to truly understand black Canadian history in particular and the history of our nation.

Taylor C. Noakes is a program assistant at The Dominion Institute

sions black expressions black expr

Black White Brown Yellow

Black, White, Brown, Yellow
 Black, White, Brown, Yellow
 Blue...green?
 Aliens; strange...
 Black, White, Brown, Yellow?
 But different shades of each.
 Black, White, Brown, Yellow
 Design, when reduced to shades,
 blinds our eyes.

Black, White, Brown, Yellow
 Speech is freedom,
 transcending;
 And denomination is limiting,
 hindering Self
 from "Potentially."
 Black, White, Brown, Yellow.
 No more,
 no less; just
 Black, White, Brown, Yellow.

Overwhelmingly social
 stigmata.
 Genetically refuted and
 socially "absoluted":
 Black, White, Brown, Yellow
 Curse that is gift,
 from ancestry:
 Tradition inmuted
 + pride eternal and uncompromised
 = intolerance?

Black, White, Brown, Yellow
 Indoctrinated notions,
 Conceptions of my "race," My-
 Self:
 "If I am this
 and this means that
 then I am that"?
 But am I that?
 Black? White? Brown? Yellow?

No:
 Too simple to know what is I
 Too simple to shape what is I
 Too simple to control what I is?

Black, White, Brown, Yellow
 Questions of racism are
 Questions intolerant, and
 ignored:
 For if I am this
 and this means that,
 I still remain this:
 Black, White, Brown, Yellow

— Stéphane Detchou



GRAPHIC TERRINE FRIDAY

Black history is our history

Considering the Harlem renaissance and black scholarship as any other

• DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

"Our differences are only cultural."

—Dave Chappelle

Being a so-called "mixed-race" child can sometimes be a confusing experience. It's especially confusing when 99 per cent of people would disagree with my claim by looking at me.

Yes, I am lily-white. Practically translucent. But my name is also Diego, and I am half Mexican. I'd like to think that this half of my genetic makeup should have some sort of deeper meaning to me, that it should in some fundamental way affect my character. This is what I've been taught, and—at least to me—this idea seems to dictate the continued existence of Black History Month.

I of course empathize with the

historical plight of black people. Our shared history is an ugly one, with the scars from many years of institutionalized bigotry still not completely healed. As an English major, the writers of the Harlem renaissance have amazed and inspired me as much as any other literature I have come across. I have read the work of Eldridge Cleaver and, far from being horrified, I felt a deep, aching empathy for the iconoclastic former Black Panther.

So it may surprise some of you to hear me deride the existence of Black History Month. It could be that I'm pragmatic, and due to my relatively privileged background cannot really fully empathize with the plight of any marginalized people.

This last claim is, of course, ridiculous. Race is an imaginary idea based on skin pigmentation. Biologically, we are all bastard

half and third and quarter breeds to the point where making any sort of distinction between us has zero scientific merit. Indeed, this hunger for equality and acceptance is largely what prompted the creation of Black History Month in the first place.

Ideally, this month to celebrate black icons of history would have been a temporary stop-gap until we remove the restrictions that stop these historical figures from appearing more frequently in our regular curriculum. Would we need such a month if high school students had to read Countee Cullen and W.E.B Du Bois along with Shakespeare? Would we need to celebrate civil rights activists explicitly in February if they made their way into our history books along with Sir John A. Macdonald and Pierre Elliott Trudeau?

I know we do not live in a utopian universe. Racially-motivated hate still exists and still has a powerful grasp on a certain segment of the population. But is the solution to ghettoize and restrict the study of black culture to one month per year?

The fact is that everything Black History Month stands for should apply to everyone. Everyone should take ownership of the writing of Frederick Douglass, of the music of Duke Ellington. I want to live a world when I no longer ask myself of the significance of being "racially mixed" because that idea will be cast out of intelligent discourse and exposed for the farce that it is. Our differences are only cultural, after all, and if race one day no longer plays a significant role in our culture, perhaps we can begin to move forward collectively as the human race.

essions black expressions black ex

Madiba: The rising of the sun

Celebrating Nelson Mandela's 20 years of freedom

• PRINCE RALPH OSEI

This week, the world will celebrate the release of an icon who was unjustly put behind bars for one-third of his life.

Convicted of treason and sabotage and labelled a terrorist in 1964, Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour. He spent 27 years in prison, mostly at Robben Island.

On Feb. 11, 1990, Nelson Mandela—fondly known as Madiba—was released from Cape Town's Victor Vester prison by the South African apartheid government. This was the beginning of a new chapter in the history of South Africa, and for Africa as a whole.

Speaking to a gathering of 50,000 people after his release, Mandela said, "I greet you all in the name of peace, democracy and freedom for all."

Having become the personification of the anti-apartheid movement, Mandela's uncompromising speech reiterated the very words he had spoken during his trial in 1964: "I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

Although members of the African National Congress were in disagreement, Mandela sought to work in tandem with



Nelson Mandela. GRAPHIC MATHIEU BIARD

people of all political stripes—including those who helped lock him away.

Today, at 92 years old, Mandela serves as a success story for Africa, a continent wrought by the civil unrest, wars and genocides that were the residual effects of colonialism. Instead of encouraging anger and bitterness, Mandela became the uplifter of the hopes and dreams of both black and white South Africans. Now, as he enjoys his much-deserved life with close family, Mandela is not only one of the world's most revered statesmen, but he also stands tall among the world's greatest. His struggle for a democratic South Africa has endeared him to the entire world.

Mandela's release led to South Africa's first multiracial democratic elections in 1994. The much-feared racial bloodbath predicted to follow Mandela's election as president never materialized. Today, his "rainbow nation" serves as a beacon of hope for Africa and

"I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society."

—Nelson Mandela

the world. It teaches the world the outcome of a culture of non-violence and is an example of peaceful co-existence of two racially divided societies. It is a showcase of forgiveness.

He led an entire nation of 41 million people to forgiveness and reconciliation by establishing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. On the celebration of his 90th birthday, Nobel laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu could not have described him better: "[He is] an icon of forgiveness and reconciliation, a moral colossus."

Not only is Mandela a fighter, he is an educator; he conceded his eldest son had died of AIDS in a country and a continent where the disease is still stigmatized.

His dreams for South Africa might not have come to complete fruition, as racially charged crime continues to ravage its citizens, but the rainbow nation must not waver.

As we celebrate Black History Month by recognizing the achievements and struggles of Africans in the diaspora, let us mark the release of Madiba and wish him long life.

- "Racializing music"
- "Kidding around along racial lines"
- "Montreal's jazz culture"
- "Queering Black History Month"

- "Black Power: an Olympic flashback"
- "Who will save Obama?"
- "Diary of a random black man": part three

Diary of a random black man: part II

I didn't really think about becoming a social worker. My last few years of high school were at institutions mired with racial tension (read "Sugar, Spice and Pepper Spray" at montrealmirror.com).

In '98, kids started doing things like spray painting "nigger fountain" and "white fountain." I went to the administration and said I wanted to be a part of the solution and they didn't take me seriously. Then, ironically, I ended up being expelled.

The incident happened on Sept. 11, 1998. It was a Friday. Someone pushed me from behind and I flew into this guy who was part of a gang called "Crazy Ass Delinquents." His reaction was to throw a punch. So I fought back. A sort of riot broke out and someone ended up getting stabbed in the hallway. This guy who punched me took the blame and I took the blame. He got suspended for two weeks. I got kicked out. I never really could understand it.

As part of my anger management contract, I had a social worker who would come to check up on me, but she really wasn't helpful. She would actually encourage me to fight, to defend myself.

One of my teachers, Mr. Howard, inspired me to think about what I was going to do after high school. To be honest, I wasn't thinking that far ahead. Mr. Howard suggested thinking about social work and teaching kids how to deal with anger management, which I thought ironic. So, I applied.

After I got in to Dawson College, I contemplated whether social work was something I really wanted to do. I wasn't focused and I got into trouble a few times. It wasn't until I realized I was doing this for myself, and not as a part of some contract, that I took an interest.

I remember the following year when I entered human relations at Concordia, the program coordinator recognized my name and singled me out as a troubled stu-

dent. It immediately turned me off, but then I realized she didn't even know me.

I ended up winning the Ross Seaman award at Concordia for academic excellence and service to the community. I graduated from human relations at Concordia and completed my master's degree in social work at the University of Toronto on scholarship. School was always easy for me and I never really felt like I had to try hard, but I always had so much going on in my life. I never thought about putting in the effort until I was in university.

I now work in Toronto's north end at C.W. Jefferys Collegiate Institute, the same high school where Jordan Manners was shot and killed three years ago. Overall, they're good kids. Some come to school and do things they would never do at home, mostly because they just want to be feared or they don't want to be bothered. I know from my own experiences that living in a low-income neighbourhood, you see things and you feel pressured to do things. I try to make students question their own judgement.

I think my experiences made me humble and I have a lot more respect for life. I definitely reflect on my own experiences to figure out how to best help others in my community. My own social worker wasn't the best, so it pushes me to do more than her, to push students to do better.

When I was told my story was inspirational, it made me laugh; I'd been running around all these years trying to find someone to inspire me. I remember thinking, "I'm not going to be shit." Because that's what I used to hear. Now, I'm just trying to not be a contradiction. I want the students to be able to not only listen to me, but also look up to me.

I could've been dead, so I'm grateful.

—Tesfa Mattis

Next week's issue of *The Link*:



Singer and musician Basia Bulat, currently based in London, Ont., says she felt at peace in Dawson City, Yukon. "That was probably the moment in time when everything made sense."

Home is where the autoharp is

Ontarian multi-instrumentalist Basia Bulat takes new album on the road

• TOM LLEWELLIN

On the heels of a gig in Brooklyn, Basia Bulat reflected on the recording process for *Heart Of My Own*, her recent follow-up to Polaris Music Prize-nominated *Oh My Darling*.

"I was nervous," admitted Bulat, "but now it's just very peaceful. It was good to let it brew."

Bulat's music is a blend of catchy, jangling folk-pop with liberal sprinklings of strings, banjo and autoharp. Recorded on tape at famed Mile End studio Hotel2Tango over the course of six months, *Heart Of My Own* is warm and tastefully produced.

The optimistic record, loosely

themed around self-discovery, shows Bulat isn't afraid to dabble in darker motifs. Opener "Go On," a darkly ominous minor-key guitar number, recounts feelings of being chased by spectres from the past.

"I was just all over the place," said Bulat of the record, which came on the heels of her travels across North America and Europe. "A lot of the record feels like going on the train and seeing everything through a window."

More than anything it was about "finding something in [herself] that feels close to home."

"When I finally made it to Dawson City, [Yukon], that was probably the moment in time when everything made sense; my life

made sense. It's a very peaceful place," Bulat explained.

Her first record, *Oh My Darling*, came together when the London, Ontario-based musician cashed a student loan to pay for studio time. It was a collection of mostly preliminary rehearsal tracks. *Heart Of My Own* feels more confident and certain of itself, with solid backing from a who's-who of Montreal session musicians.

Bulat said she took her time, spending only about a week a month at the studio in Montreal. The luxury of time resulted in an airy sound especially apparent in the title track, featuring Erik Arnesen of Great Lake Swimmers

"A lot of the record feels like going on the train and seeing everything through a window."

—Basia Bulat,
on her new album
Heart Of My Own

fame on banjo.

Bulat plays an autoharp, a zither-like instrument, which she has dubbed Canyonero after the fictional SUV of *The Simpsons* fame, on most of the tracks.

"It's a forgotten instrument," she said. "It needs another chance. It's always thought of as a novelty [but] it's an instrument like any

other."

A former English major, Bulat was pursuing her master's degree at the University of Western Ontario when she put her studies on hold to tour.

"The songs on the album are a document, but when you play them live they become something else," she said. "I'm not at that point where every show feels the same. Every night there will be a song that's the song of the evening. I'm lucky to have such a generous audience, though. I'm very grateful for that."

Bulat plays L'Astral (1220 Ste-Catherine St. E.) Feb. 12. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$17 at the door.

Terror in the outback

Fear and paranoia in Australian dance theatre thriller *Roadkill*



One broken-down car, two young lovers and a very menacing stranger in Splintergroup's production of *Roadkill*.

• HELEN SAVAGE

It's late at night in the Australian Outback. A young couple is stranded in a broken-down car, miles away from civilization. When a nearby payphone proves to be broken, they decide to make the most of their isolation and begin making energetic love in the back seat. Suddenly, a menacing figure appears outside the car, watching them...

So begins a gripping journey into the heart of Australia's vast and deserted outback. Part thriller, part road movie, *Roadkill* is a tense, cinematic piece of dance theatre exploring the effects of isolation through risky, intensely physical dance sequences.

Performing in Montreal for the first time this month, contemporary dance collective Splintergroup brings the show from their home base in Brisbane, Australia. The three-person cast of choreographers/dancers said *Roadkill* was inspired by the myths and mystery surrounding Australia's ominous countryside.

"There are times when we look out into the audience and see couples holding onto each other. One night, people were asking to be escorted out to their cars!"

—Grayson Millwood,
dancer and choreographer in *Roadkill*

"We play with sensationalized reports of backpacker murders and urban legends," said Grayson Millwood, who plays the menacing stranger. "The piece is a bit of a tip of the hat to B-grade horror movies, which we're all really into and fascinated by."

When researching the piece, Millwood and co-star Gavin Webber, who plays one half of the stranded couple, drove out into the middle of the Australian desert to get a sense of how scary such a vast expanse of uninhabited land can be.

"We were in the middle of nowhere, with nothing but black space around us," remembered Millwood. "We turned off all the lights, took out our flashlights and tried to scare each other. And it was really easy! It's so frightening out

there—your worst nightmare would be to see someone walking out of the darkness towards you."

So how does this sense of anxiety and anticipation show itself onstage?

"We tapped into our own fears of being out in the wilderness, but we never realized it could be so effective to make a dance theatre piece that is so scary," Millwood admitted. "There are times when we look out into the audience and see couples holding onto each other. One night, people were asking to be escorted out to their cars!"

While there is some dialogue in the piece, the performers use explosive dance movements to push the narrative forward and express the physical nature of fear. For Millwood, this allows the audience to connect with the story and char-

acters in a way that he thinks would be impossible to convey on film.

"Live theatre has a certain kind of visceral appeal that film will never have," he said. "Of course there are lots of advantages with film but it can never put the person right in front of you. I think it's really quite poetic and beautiful, and I love seeing dance used this way."

The set is as stripped-down as the dialogue; just a car, phone booth and stones on the ground provide the frame.

"There's a vastness to the Australian outback that I think people in a lot of other countries just can't grasp," said Millwood. "We can't wait to see the reaction in Canada where you do have these vast open spaces, and you can recognize just how scary the wilderness can be when you're alone at night."

Roadkill plays Feb. 10 to 13 at La Cinquième Salle (175 Ste-Catherine St. W.). Tickets are \$31 general admission, \$21 for those 30 and under. See cinquimesalle.com for more information.

Sentence structure

Architects write off new show at the Canadian Centre for Architecture

• ASHLEY OPHEIM

Architecture has been freed and expanded by its relationship with language, say the curators of *Take Note*, the latest exhibition at the Canadian Centre for Architecture.

The fifth in a series of CCA exhibitions developed in partnership with universities, the show celebrates the architectural "footnotes" that have allowed architects to break free of the rules and give structures a refreshing rebelliousness.

"The work is not only a narrative, but also a different way of looking at architecture," said Sylvia Lavin, *Take Note* curator and director of critical studies in architecture and urban design at the University of California, Los Angeles. "It's about architecture adapting to new technology and organizing itself around new ideas."

Take Note, assembled by Lavin and graduate students Whitney Moon and Esra Kahveci, examines the ways architecture has situated itself within wider cultural contexts through writing.

The minimalist exhibition draws its material from the CCA Collection and other archives, as well as works from contemporary architectural studies.

The pieces chosen by the curators range from documentation of small countercultural movements to developments in conceptual art, linguistics and philosophy.

"Each object relates to something that attempts to track architectural development in making use of emerging technologies and in its engagement with pop culture, mass media and advertising," explained Lavin.

"The idea of private and broader public is a dilemma for an architect, so there has been an attempt by architects to transform the intellectual conversation around architecture," she concluded. "*Take Note* is an attempt to articulate how architecture now communicates with the broader public."

Take Note shows at the Canadian Centre for Architecture (1920 Baile St., corner St-Marc Street) until May 30. For more information see cca.qc.ca.

The DOWN-LOW

Event listings
Feb. 9-15

VISUAL ART

ART LOVE

Fundraising auction for Concordia's fine arts grad students' exhibition. Thursday, Feb. 11 at 6 p.m. MFA Gallery in the VA Building 1395 René-Lévesque Blvd. W.

My Own Private Dante's Disneyland
Photographic self-portraits by Jacinthe Loranger. Vernissage Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. Show runs until Feb. 14 Red Bird Gallery 135 Van Horne Ave.

On movements in Manila
Photographs of the Philippines, with a focus on grassroots social movements, by local journalist Stefan Christoff. Until March 1 Kaza Maza 4629 Parc Ave.

FILM

To Shoot an Elephant

Documentary following the Free Gaza movement during Operation Cast Lead in 2008 and 2009. Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. Room H-110 in the Hall building 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Free

Montreal International Romantic Film Festival First year of the festival features classics like *Casablanca*, the Montreal premieres of *Ugly Melanie* and *Guy and Madeline on a Park Bench*. Opening night party Friday, Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 12-18 Cinéma du Parc 3575 Parc Ave. For more information see fifrmirff.org.

MUSIC

Make Love to that Mic, Girl!

Live female MCs presented by Lickety Split Smut Zine, featuring Giselle Numba One, VERA with ROLYWRA and T-Cup. Friday, Feb. 12 at 9 p.m. Green Room 5386 St-Laurent Blvd. Tickets: \$5-10 suggest donation

LECTURE

Governor General's Award winner Stephanie Bolster in dialogue with Prof. Norman Cornett. Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. Galerie Samuel Lallouz 1434 Sherbrooke St. W. Tickets: \$20 for students

—compiled by
Madeline Coleman

Stop worrying, start working

Green-minded documentary proposes eco solutions



Environmental activists Mikael Rioux and Christian de Laet in Sylvie Van Brabant's documentary *Earth Keepers*, showing at Cinema Politica this week.

• STEPHANIE LA LEGGIA

Famine, air pollution, the destruction of habitats—we've all heard about the consequences of global warming. Now what are we really supposed to do about it?

Montreal filmmaker Sylvie Van Brabant says her film *Earth Keepers* is her contribution to those who are tired of feeling doomed.

"Other documentaries that I've seen often leave you feeling powerless, and when you're powerless you can't do anything," said Van Brabant. "So it was very clear to me that I had to offer solutions, and I knew that they were there."

Earth Keepers follows the young Quebec activist Mikael Rioux. Tracking him as he

launches Quebec's first ecological festival, Echofête, and travels to India and Sweden, Van Brabant filmed Rioux's quest for innovative solutions to global warming.

"I wanted someone young. I wanted somebody who was sort of interested and touched by the environment," explained Van Brabant. "I liked his integrity. I knew he was still in evolution."

With the help of his late mentor Christian de Laet, an environmental activist who died in 2008, Rioux seeks answers from prominent environmentalists such as Ashok Khosla, the president of Development Alternatives, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai.

"We need to change our mindset. We need to at least think how we deal with each other, otherwise

we can destroy each other and ourselves as we compete for these resources," Maathai tells Rioux in the film.

Earth Keepers explores ways to transform humanity's industrial processes into something beneficial for farming, production and construction. Innovations like biologist John Todd's "living machines," which use methods pulled from nature to filter waste from water, were developed by citizens who were tired of depending solely on governments and corporations for ecological initiatives.

"Citizens must reclaim their own power. You can't blame the mayor. Those days are over. We must spearhead change," de Laet tells Rioux in the film.

Van Brabant said she hopes

her film will become more than just another documentary—she hopes it will help to stimulate a genuine environmental movement.

"The messages of the film are very simple," she said. "People have to get involved and start demanding, creating, and I have a lot of faith in the young generation. I'm asking people, what do you want, what do you need, what can we do to make it go faster?"

Earth Keepers screens at Cinema Politica Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. in room H-110 in Concordia's Hall building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.). The event is co-presented by the Concordia Student Union's Green Month and Engineers Without Borders. Sylvie Van Brabant will be present at the screening.

spins

Ben Gunning *Mal de Mer*

Zunior Records



Ben Gunning describes his sophomore album as a song cycle dealing with the disillusionment of a cruise ship employee. Jazz guitars and pianos mix with vaguely psychedelic synthesizers and off-kilter rhythms. It feels vaguely reminiscent of an unhinged lounge quartet gone off the deep end. Through it all, Gunning maintains a monotone croon that doesn't convey malaise so much as boredom. Still, the songs are just odd enough to keep your attention. This might be the first lounge jazz album to give a shout out to T-Pain's omnipresence in the cultural landscape.

Yes, there are auto-tuned vocals. And yes, this album is still the perfect soundtrack for a candlelit dinner at sea. Cruise ship passengers will love it.

6.5/10
—Adam Kovac

Adam Palmer and the Specialest Lights

Eleazar Records



Adam Palmer may have some kind of musical ability, but his ability to irritate me far surpasses any possible talent. When listening to his folktronics stylings while driving, I had to lower the volume in order to prevent a 42-car pile up. Adam Palmer sings with a very soft voice that only succeeds in sounding creepy. Even if the lyrics to his songs

had merit, listening to him whisper each word is horrifying. Adam Palmer and the Specialest will neither get you pumped for a party or help you relax. His music puts you on edge. The bad edge. Out of the whole album, I tolerated one song: "My Daughter, She's Kind." And even that song title, in itself, is irritating.

2/10
—David Adelman

The New Enemy *Shakedown EP*

Independent



Some bands kill it live, but leave a lot to be desired in their studio efforts. This phenomenon is enough to make many otherwise good groups sound like shit and is something to be keenly aware of when reviewing an album.

You don't want to take a journalistic dump on a bunch of guys just because they had to be sober and in the studio for a couple of days. It was with this attitude that I had to approach *Shakedown*, and after much youtubeing I can safely say that Toronto's The New Enemy don't suck. In fact, they're pretty good.

But that said, they don't always convince. Sure, they're heavy, tight and contemporarily thrashy, but *Shakedown* at times feels like it's just ticking the boxes on a modern punk checklist. Maybe it's just the nature of an EP to be unfocused, but guys, please pick a vocal style. You can't have whiny screamo wails AND youth-crew chanting. The New Enemy shows promise, but they really need to work on being more coherent.

7/10

—Tristan LaPointe

Striking the literary lottery

Here Be Monsters features stories, plots pulled out of a hat



You never know what you're going to find in *Here Be Monsters*, even if you're one of its writers. GRAPHIC GABBY LEON

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Imagine a world where people spend their entire lives on the Internet, and where a group of friends must defend themselves from a psychotic artificial intelligence who also happens to be the president.

Now, does this sound like a story that someone pulled out of a hat?

Here Be Monsters: No Room On the Life Raft, a self-published anthology compiled by Alexander Newcombe, Duane Burry and Vincent Mackay, is the result of a literary lottery consisting of story elements conjured by its three members and selected at random.

"We got together every week or so and did these writing exercises," said Newcombe, a recent Concordia creative writing graduate. "Eventually we decided that we wanted to put together a collection, both as a goal for ourselves to have polished, finished stories, and because we thought it would

be a good way to get something out there."

Each member of the group would write down story suggestions, such as the location a story might take place, a specific genre, a character or a subject topic, and turn around a story in 20 minutes.

"It can be completely unrelated, but that's the idea: to get us thinking of things that we wouldn't normally think of," said Burry, currently doing his master's in linguistics at Concordia. "It's to add a bit more variety and take us out of our comfort space."

"It breaks the patterns, too," said Mackay, the group's only francophone member. "It just sort of throws you off balance and makes you try new stuff."

"That's one of the big draws for me," said Newcombe. "We have a structure in which you have to make an idea, and also a structure in which it doesn't matter if it's terrible. I mean, some of the stuff we write is terrible. It's only meant to be read for those two minutes

when you read it out."

The stories that appear in *Here Be Monsters* are those that have managed to survive subsequent drafts, as well as the input of the other members of the group.

"[They] go through the same process that any story would go through," continued Newcombe. "It's just the initial germ that's created by this wacky lottery."

The anthology held its launch party at Burritoville this past November, where audience members were encouraged to shout out writing prompts which the three writers then had to spin into stories proper.

"We went to the back of the bar and came back 20 minutes later with three pretty ridiculous stories, but everyone was pretty well lubricated at that point, so it was okay," said Newcombe.

Proving that good things come in threes, the trio has plans to release a new issue every three months and hopes to expand the zine into a proper anthology with a call

for submissions.

"The goal in the beginning was to at least break even," said Burry. "If people read it and say, 'When's the next one?' then all the better."

"There's always a little stigma surrounding self-published work," said Newcombe. "But now that it's out and I've looked at some of the other zines around town, I think that we are putting out something that's not identical to anything else."

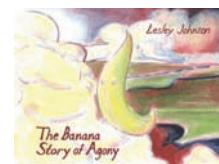
You can find copies of *Here Be Monsters* at the Concordia Community Solidarity Co-op Bookstore (2150 Bishop St.). You can follow them online at herebeamonstersanthology.blogspot.com. The launch of Issue 2: Safer Where You Are will take place at Burritoville (2055 Bishop St.) on March 12.



Here Be Monsters
Alexander Newcombe
Duane Burry,
Vincent Mackay
70 pp

quick reads

Blue Banana



The Banana Story of Agony
Lesley Johnson
Conundrum Press
72 pp
\$15

Lesley Johnson, the author of *The Banana Story of Agony*, is blue. Actually, make that violet, like Violet Beauregarde in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*—after turning into a giant blueberry. Chalk it up to bad photography or a near-fatal overdose of colloidal silver, but I wouldn't put it past the author of such an eclectic collection of stories to turn her skin blue for the purposes of provoking a double-take from her author portrait.

The Banana Story of Agony is a cross between a children's picture book and a graphic novel. The stories are all remarkably forthright. The title story features a banana that waits in trembling fear to be eaten, while "Susan Had a Chicken on Her Butt" should win an award for truth in advertising. Susan did, as I discovered, have a chicken on her butt. I won't ruin the ending to "There's No One Home," in which a purported Santa Claus asks to be let into a little boy's house, because I'm still not sure it had an ending. The meaning of "Love," the first of the stories, is equally intangible—and so, I fear, is the meaning of love.

I'm not entirely sure what to make of *The Banana Story of Agony*, but if its goal was clarity, colour me confused.

4/5
—Christopher Olson

Not-so-beautiful Children



The Beautiful Children
Michael Kenyon
Thistledown Press
191 pp
\$18.95

I was lost and disoriented while reading Michael Kenyon's haunting first novel, *The Beautiful Children*. Throughout the book, I simply did not know what was going on.

The book starts off with a man suffering from amnesia. He tries to remember his life by looking at pictures of his son and the flute he played professionally, but nothing ever reaches him. The only thing he can recall is the name "Sapor," not knowing if it is his name or a place.

The story also follows the amnesiac's young son, who becomes homeless in the absence of his father. He dubs himself Star and loses himself in the city streets with a group of not-so-beautiful children who have also been subjected to a world of sex, drugs and violence.

The images Kenyon draws up often leave one wondering why they are there at all, and trying to decipher if they are ingenious or simply unpolished.

The Beautiful Children is as confusing as an amnesiac's world would be, but there is no humour inside its bleak pages. If you enjoy dark, poetic prose, pick up this book. But if you enjoy the little pleasures in life, like laughing and smiling, stay away!

2/5
—Clay Hemmerich

Suite cello skills

A pop music critic broadens his horizons with Bach

• MEGAN DOLSKI

Classical music is often misconstrued as the exclusive pleasure of brainy music majors and gangly old men in turtlenecks with wiry, ponytailed gray hair. While classical music may have its die-hard fans, scholars and quirky virtuosos, that doesn't mean it's beyond the reach of today's pop and rock crowd.

Concordia alumnus and author Eric Siblin offers the uneducated music lover a peek into the world of classical music in his first book, *The Cello Suites: J.S. Bach, Pablo Casals, and the Search for a Baroque Masterpiece*. It won him the McAuslan First Book Prize at the Quebec Writers' Federation Literary Awards this past November.

Prior to writing the book, Siblin didn't consider himself classical music-savvy.

"I had zero knowledge," he

explained. "My background was totally in the rock world."

Siblin plays guitar and is a former pop music critic for *The Gazette*. He says he tried to write a book for people like him: those who loved music, yet knew nothing of the classical genre.

Despite his initial lack of expertise on the subject, or perhaps because of it, *The Cello Suites* is incredibly well-researched.

Siblin's findings led him to Bach concerts, conventions and finally to Europe. He even attempted to learn how to play the cello as part of his all-inclusive Bach extravaganza. Siblin described this experience as one comparable to learning how to do calligraphy, archery and golf simultaneously.

Siblin tells the story through three separate narratives which intertwine as he unravels the dense trail of mysteries surrounding Bach's six lost suites.



Siblin learned to play the cello as part of his research. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

The book also follows the tale of Pablo Casals, a young boy who rediscovered the suites and saved them from obscurity. The third narrative is comprised of autobiographical tidbits in which Siblin inserts anecdotes from his own quest to learn the story behind the suites. Siblin's personal comments are fresh and entertaining

and keep the reader from overdosing on facts or falling into a history-induced coma.

After an engrossing five years spent familiarizing himself with Bach and classical music in general, Siblin is happy to have broadened his musical horizons.

"I've become more of a balanced listener who can now listen to Bach as well as to Beck, Bjork, Bono and Bob [Dylan]," he said.

Siblin's work is thorough, informative and unlike anything you've ever read. If you don't enjoy reading *The Cello Suites*, you can at least use all of your newly acquired knowledge to brag about your intellectuality to all of your Top 40 friends.



The Cello Suites
Eric Siblin
House of Anansi
Press
319 pp
\$29.95



Cockatoos couple for life, regardless of orientation.

Z
i
n
e

S
c
e
n
e

My Animal Gaydication



• LAURA BEESTON

You may have recently seen Johnny Forever gracing "The Front" section of *Mirror* as a Lady GaGa impersonator, or stuffing "turkey" onstage at a Christmas burlesque show. *The Link* caught up with this mega maven, who's currently pursuing a master's in art history at Concordia, to discuss *My Animal Gaydication*, a zine about, well, gay animal practices.

The Link: How did this start?

Johnny Forever: This is chapter one, the only chapter in existence so far. I think for my next one I'm going to focus on hyenas, where this project actually started in my brain years and years ago. I was thinking a lot, as I always do, about animal culture, you know? Like, the way that animals in the wild or in captivity organize their social structure.

Hyenas—which, I don't know if you know, [Johnny] adopts an English

accent)—have a matriarchy and also have clitoris that engorge to roughly 75 per cent of the size of the male phallus, and can be inserted into other female hyenas for pleasure.

Where did you hear about this?

I don't even remember. I think I Googled and Googled and Googled and found it. A lot of my information also comes from this one book [called *Biological Exuberance: Animal Homosexuality and Natural Diversity*.]

Tell me about "Chapter 1: *eolephus roseicapillus*: the galah or Roseate Cockatoo." I decided to start with the cockatoo for no particular reason, other than the really sweet image you have in the centre of a "wing stretching" performance, where lesbian cockatoos actually perform these mirror-image movements with each other for ages. They'll sit across from each other and do the exact same thing for hours. Cockatoos generally couple for life and once they're together they spend, like, 65 per cent of the time inches apart.

What types of reactions have you got from My Animal Gaydication?

Good ones. I think people are often surprised and truly charmed because animals have this magic about them. You tend to hear it in storybooks and in a lot of lore that animals have certain archetypes that are developed, usually perpetuated through personification.

Like, the wolf is the villain or the pig is the capitalist, etc.

I find those things truly problematic because animals, especially the ones that we eat or keep as pets, have it so rough in representation. It's just so wrong. They're definitely cast as lower than humans, and it sets up this type of hierarchy that justifies truly cruel practices [and] heterosexist and homophobic kind of visions of the world where, you know, sex is reproductive and that's that. It's total bullshit!

How does making a zine fit in with the rest of your artistic practice?

I think it's probably been the crux of my artistic practice for a while. I like when things are free or cheap and I don't tend to prioritize large-scale works over these tiny, infinitely reproducible kind of crappy things. I think it fits in really well with the way that I generally consider art practice to be just a daily style of being.

You have a sweet blog and I imagine it has different freedoms than a zine for your artistic practice and vice versa. What do you get out of each of them?

I think I'm into the different materials, you know? I mean, [with the blog] you have pixels and a screen, which for some is more accessible. [With a zine] you have a piece of paper, which has its problems—I mean they both do. I think that I'm going to keep making print zines for the reason that, when I'm in front of a screen for too long, I miss face-to-face interactions. With tiny zines, I like having a bunch of them in my pocket and giving someone something to remember me by.

You can find copies of My Animal Gaydication at the 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy's zine library (2110 Mackay St.). To read Johnny Forever's blog, visit johnnyforever.wordpress.com or mamabopress.wordpress.com.

Stingers clinch playoff spot

Men's hockey team ends RMC's playoff bid

• DAVID KAUFMANN

**Concordia 4
RMC 2**

Concordia's men's hockey team put in another solid effort last Friday, beating the Royal Military College's Paladins 4-2 at Ed Meagher arena, securing themselves a playoff berth and eliminating RMC from post-season contention. The Ottawa Gee-Gees had been tied with Concordia throughout the season, fighting for the last playoff spot, but the team lost to both McGill and the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières this weekend, taking themselves out of the running.

The Stingers' game saw fights on both sides but it was Concordia who drew first blood when centre Marc-André Rizk scored his fourth of the season, getting one past RMC goaltender Andrew Fleming. With their playoff hopes on the line, the Paladins tied it up at the end of the first when left-winger Landon Lavictoire potted one to tie the score up at one point apiece at the end of the first.

In the second period defenceman Andrew Palombaro connected from a Peter-James Corsi pass, giving the Stingers the lead once again. But the Paladins fought back once more when forward Matthew Pinder got one past Stingers goaltender Maxime Joyal midway through the period to tie it up again.

Concordia regained the lead in the final frame when centre Kyle Kelly netted his eighth of the sea-



The Stingers swarm goalie Maxime Joyal in celebration. At a distance the RMC watches longingly. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

"They're playing like a unit and they're listening more in practice and they're [...] translating it into the games."

—Kevin Figsby,
Stingers head coach

son. In the dying minutes of the period in an effort to send this game into overtime the Paladins pulled their goalie. The move

proved to be the final nail in the RMC's coffin as Stingers rookie George Lovatsis got an empty netter, effectively sealing their fate.

This was a game that didn't sit well for the RMC. When asked to comment, head coach Adam Shell declined, but Stingers head coach Kevin Figsby was all smiles about the victory.

"We're two points out of seventh place tonight with four points left on the table," Figsby pointed out.

Since coming back from

Christmas, the Stingers have obtained points in seven of their last 10 games. Figsby said the success is coming from the newfound chemistry of his team.

"I think right now, we're following the game plan," he said. "There was a period in time where guys would get frustrated and try to do everything by themselves. Now they're playing like a team, they're playing like a unit and they're listening more in practice and they're [...] translating it into the games."

Con U drops overtime thriller

UQTR rallies to defeat the Stingers in a shootout

• DAVID KAUFMANN

**Concordia 3
UQTR 4**

Stingers head coach Kevin Figsby did his best to prepare his team for their game against top ranked Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières Patriotes: "It was my job to make sure in practice that we battled, we competed, and we worked," he said.

And although Concordia remained competitive throughout the hockey game, Figsby's men ultimately dropped a 4-3 shootout decision to their Patriotes guests Wednesday. This came just days after losing to the McGill Redmen in an 11-0 rout.

The Stingers got off to a slow start, allowing 28 shots on goalie Maxime Joyal in the first period alone. He kept a cool head, allowing only one goal in the first.

Figsby wasn't satisfied with his team's slow start so he switched centre Charles-Antoine Messier to the second line. The gamble paid off as he scored two quick goals in the second period to give Concordia their first lead. Both teams then clamped down defensively for the rest of the period.

The Stingers' fortunes faded early in the third period, as UQTR centre Francis Charland caught the Joyal off guard scoring his 19th of the season 51 seconds into the period. Stingers

"I think what you saw tonight was playoff hockey."

—Kevin Figsby,
Stingers head coach

captain Marc-André Element fired back quickly, scoring two minutes later to put his team in front.

For the rest of the third it seemed like the Stingers were going to walk away with two points towards their season total, but Patriotes centre Alexandre Blais put a stop to those hopes when he snuck one past Joyal to tie it up.

The game still couldn't be settled in overtime and went to

shootout. For the first four rounds it seemed like the opposition was going to steal the show, but every time they scored, the Stingers returned fire. Every time UQTR shut the door, Concordia did the same. It was up to Stingers defenceman Michael Blundon to put it away once and for all, but Patriotes goalie Jean-Christophe Blanchard made a kick save to preserve the tie.

UQTR centre Étienne Bellavance-Martin then sealed the game, beating Joyal to make the score 4-3 Patriotes.

Although the Stingers wouldn't walk away with the win, their efforts pleased Figsby.

"I think what you saw tonight was playoff hockey," he said.

Briefs

Gainey steps down

Bob Gainey announced his resignation as Montreal Canadiens general manager Monday. The Habs made the playoffs four out of Gainey's five full seasons as GM, since he was hired in 2003. But the team struggled as of late, posting a 28-26-6 record this season. Gainey was a Canadien for his entire NHL career; winning five Stanley Cups, four Selke trophies and the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP in 1979. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1992.

Slice vs. Mitrione in Montreal

A heavyweight bout between reformed street fighter Kevin "Kimbo Slice" Ferguson and Matt Mitrione has been scheduled for UFC 113 in Montreal.

Ultimate Fighting Championship President Dana White confirmed the news at a press conference on Feb. 4.

Stingers land top prospect

Blue chip quarterback Tyler Pritty will join Concordia's men's football team next season. Concordia was just one of nearly 40 schools in Canada and the United States that scouted the high schooler. In 2009 Pritty lead Markham District High School Mauraders to a Metro Bowl win, passing for 265 yards and two touchdowns. The 17-year-old Ontarian also won Metro Bowls with St. Michael's College in 2007 and 2008. Concordia University announced the acquisition on Feb. 4.

Stingers football season just eight months away.

Concordia University's men's football team released their 2010 schedule last week.

Sept. 4 @ Bishop's
Sept. 11 vs. Montréal
Sept. 18 @ McGill
Sept. 25 vs. Bishop's
Oct. 2 @ Laval
Oct. 9 vs. McGill
Oct. 16 @ Sherbrooke
Oct. 23 @ Montréal
Oct. 30 vs. Laval

Beating on tough guys

Local prodigy Mike Ricci trains, fights and breaks onto the international stage



(Left to right) Ricci leans away from a right hook, then throws a counter jab. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

In the minutes before his first amateur fight, Mike Ricci had cold feet. He sat in the venue's changing room with his trainer Firas Zahabi and voiced his concerns.

"Firas, I feel sick," he said. "My arms feel heavy. I'm really nervous."

"Alright," replied Zahabi. "Close your eyes and I'll help you calm down."

Ricci obeyed his teacher, and once his eyes were shut, Zahabi slapped him in the face.

"You feel better now?" he asked.

"Yes, I really do."

Ricci went on to knock his opponent out in the bout's third round.

Four years after that first match, Ricci was beating on some local tough guy in Appalachian Quebec. His previous fight had taken place in a movie studio off the Champlain Bridge.

On Jan. 18, American mixed martial arts promotion Bellator Fighting Championships signed the Montreal fighter. This spring, Ricci will fight on a televised card in Bellator's second lightweight tournament. A berth in the tournament final could land him a shot against third-ranked lightweight Eddie Alvarez.

A noble start

Ricci started fighting less than six years ago. He had played football for years—even college ball at Vanier College—but his slight build had become increasingly problematic.

"I loved football, but I was too

small," he said. "I was just 170 pounds. It got to the point where I would have had to start taking drugs to stay competitive."

In the following months, Ricci taught himself some basic fighting techniques. He bought books on Brazilian jiu-jitsu and signed up at a boxing gym.

"The people at Champs [boxing gym] weren't friendly," he said. "So I would spend a lot of time working on technique. There was a chart on the wall that showed how to throw punches. I remember trying to recreate them in the mirror."

A friend of Ricci's noticed his eagerness to fight and recommended Tristar gym.

"I learned quickly," he said. "After six months of training I earned my blue belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu. Then one day [Zahabi] told me I was ready for an amateur fight."

Before enlisting in his first fight, Ricci was an enthusiast. Fighting was a hobby—a strange hobby but a hobby nonetheless. Now he would be competing against legitimate rivals, training six days a week, fighting men who throw down like it's their job because it is their job.

"From that point on I paid my dues," he said. "When they want you to become a fighter at Tristar, you get put through a meat grinder. I remember sparring often, with much better fighters. They'll either make you quit or beat the weakness out of you."

After winning his first three amateur bouts, Ricci turned pro and the early stages of his career tested the

young pugilist's resolve. He fought on short notice, against unknown opponents for dog and pony operations in Montreal, Laval and Drummondville. His fights were also regularly cancelled; an opponent would get injured, a second-tier promotion would fold.

And though Ricci excelled at his newly adopted sport, it was psychologically daunting.

"Sometimes you really start to doubt yourself," he said. "You think you'll never be able to win, you'll never be able to finish this round or this fight. I almost cried the first time they cancelled one of my fights. You really get worked up."

While Ricci piled up wins in his first five professional matches, Tristar's notoriety as a martial arts academy grew.

"At first I trained with [UFC welterweight champion] Georges St-Pierre and David Loiseau," Ricci said. "But soon guys from all over the world came to the gym, so I would train with these elite fighters. Sometimes I'd get lit up, but sometimes I'd get my lumps in too."

Now with just five pro bouts to his credit, Ricci will be facing a steep jump in competition on the international stage. But the young Montrealer remains confident.

"I've been training with the world's best fighters," he said. "I believe you play to your opponent's level. If I can get away with just knowing a single leg takedown and a few simple combinations then I might coast a little bit. But I don't have that choice at Tristar. I have to



"Sometimes you really start to doubt yourself. You think you'll never be able to win, you'll never be able to finish this round or this fight. You really get worked up."

—Mike Ricci,
professional MMA fighter

use every tool I have to win against these guys, and I'll have to do the same in Bellator."

Fridays are for fighting

Feb. 5, Ricci invited a colleague and I to attend a Tristar sparring session. The fighters began filing in around 11 a.m. They warmed up, shadowboxed and by 11:30 it was time to get to work.

After lacing their boxing gloves up, the men paired up. Ricci was in the gym's cage, opposite a Boston welterweight. The buzzer sounded and they began stalking each other.

Ricci dipped his opponent's first punch and immediately returned fire, connecting with an overhand right. He stepped in and out of his opponent's range seamlessly, avoiding damage, timing his strikes, peppering the other man with combinations: a right cross followed by a left hook and another cross, a stiff jab and a shin kick to the liver.

His next opponent was UFC veteran Jonathan Goulet.

Ricci chose his punches carefully against the crafty journeyman, land-

ing isolated blows and eventually planting a straight right into Goulet's chin. A good punch, hard enough to make Goulet smile.

The subtleties of Ricci's game were impressive. He rarely threw a punch off balance, he never back peddled, opting to circle away from his opponent's power hand instead, and he didn't load up or loop his punches like a drunkard. Every movement was the deliberate product of his training.

Midway through the round, Ricci caught Goulet with a glancing kick to the head. Blood began to gush from above his right eye. Zahabi rushed over to help his pupil, while Ricci cleaned up the mess.

Goulet walked it off and Ricci examined his next opponent.

"This guy is going to kill me," he said. "He gets me every time."

His new adversary was a French kickboxer, much taller and wider than Ricci. The Frenchman kept Ricci at bay with low kicks and jabs. He connected with several combinations but Ricci kept his composure and worked for a takedown. Towards the end of the round, the Frenchman booted Ricci square in the teeth. The kick sent him crashing into the mat. Ricci bounced back to his feet and pressed his opponent.

He was outgunned with no recourse but to keep getting beat up. The round quickly ended. Ricci just stood there as the blood trickled down his chin, clearly contemplating what had just happened. He smiled and shook his head. Back to the drawing board, I guess.

Stingers cling to playoff hopes

Con U defeats Laval to stay in the hunt

• JAMIE MCCALLUM

**Concordia 60
Laval 56**

The Stingers haven't clinched a playoff spot just yet, but last weekend's 60-56 triumph over the Université Laval's Rouge et Or was a step in the right direction.

With only four games left in the regular season, the Stingers found themselves last in the standings before playing host to Laval last Saturday. The 4 p.m. tilt gave them the opportunity to get some momentum on their side and to climb into a tie for fourth place with Bishop's, heading into the final three games of the season. The top four teams make the playoffs.

"We got to look at numbers and see where we're at," said Stingers head John Dore. "We could finish as high as third or as low as fifth."

He added that the remaining games are "all must-wins."

Considering they have won only one of their last eight games and that Laval currently sits second in the standings, the Stingers faced an uphill battle. The Rouge et Or were looking for some positive momentum of their own after a lopsided 18-point loss to UQAM the night before.

And in the opening minutes, the Stingers looked like a team on a mission. Thanks to guards Deceee Krah and Pierre Thompson, the only two Stingers to score in the first, the home team scored the first seven points of the ball game. Laval responded with a 16-14 lead at the end of the first.

In the second quarter, Krah showed why he's the team's top scorer, leading the Stingers to a five-point lead at 34-29 going into halftime.

Halfway through the third, it looked like the Stingers were going



Stingers guard Jean-André Moussignac calls for a pass. PHOTO ESTHER BERNARD

to run away with the home game. They held a 10-point lead with only seven minutes remaining. But the Rouge et Or showed why they're a playoff team with a late run, leaving the teams knotted up at 46 with one quarter to go.

Both teams stepped up their game in the fourth quarter. Players chased down loose balls, took charges and coaches chewed out players for missed assignments. With just over four minutes to go, the Stingers were desperately

clinging to a one-point lead. Forward James Clark came up with some big plays down the stretch, including a pair of free throws followed by a fadeaway jump-shot in the dying moments to put his team up 58-53. But Laval didn't go quietly.

A late steal and a layup, followed by an all-important three pointer, brought Laval within two points. The team had a chance to win it at the buzzer, but forward Étienne Labrecque's three clanked

off the iron, ending their hopes. Forward Evens Laroche iced the game at the line, giving the Stingers a two possession lead at 60-56 with only seconds remaining.

The Stingers shot 50 per cent from the field in the first half but only 25 per cent in the second. Krah stressed that it was their defence and rebounding that got the job done.

"Coaches are always preaching defence," he said, "and we played

50

Stingers first half field goal percentage

25

Stingers second half field goal percentage

17

points scored by Stingers guard Deceee Krah

14

points scored by Stingers guard Pierre Thompson

very good defence in the second half."

Krah led the team in scoring, posting 17 points, six assists and no turnovers. Thompson scored 14 while Kafil Eiyitayo chipped in with nine rebounds. They did a good job in boxing out Xavier Baribeau, Laval's leading scorer as well as the smallest player on the court at 5'8". He shot only 2-14 from the floor.

When asked about the team's playoff hopes, Krah was positive.

"We still feel very hopeful. We are very high-spirited right now," he said. "This game was big for us."

After giving up a winnable game to McGill the night before, Clark admitted that the atmosphere around the team was not positive.

"The locker room wasn't a nice place to be," he said.

This win should, if only momentarily, brighten the mood.

scoreboard

	Home	Away	Record
Men's Hockey	Concordia 3 Concordia 4 Concordia 1	UQTR 4 RMC 2 Carleton 6	8-19
Women's Basketball	Concordia 60 Concordia 74	McGill 72 Laval 78	4-9
Men's Basketball	Concordia 69 Concordia 60	McGill 77 Laval 56	4-9
Women's Hockey	Concordia 3 Concordia 1	Ottawa 5 Carleton 3	1-16

schedule

	Who	When
Men's Hockey	@ McGill	Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Women's Basketball	vs UQAM @ Bishop's	Friday, 8 p.m. Saturday, 6 p.m.
Men's Basketball	vs UQAM @ Bishop's	Friday, 6 p.m. Saturday, 8 p.m.
Women's Hockey	vs McGill	Sunday, 3 p.m.

The Link brings the Canadian University Press
national conference to you!

Workshops on:

- The fundamentals of layout
- Interviewing tips & tricks
- Journalism & new media
- Freelance arts writing

Friday, Feb. 12 at 4 p.m.
H-649



2009-2010

General by-elections

General by-elections
Feb. 19, 2010
4 p.m. H-649

The following people are eligible to run and vote:

David Adelman, Laura Beeston, Esther Bernard, Mathieu Biard, Madeline Coleman, Christopher Curtis, Travis Dandro, Terrine Friday, Justin Giovannetti, R. Brian Hastie, Clay Hemmerich, Les Honywill, Elsa Jabre, Adam Kovac, Stephanie Leggia, Tristan LaPointe, Vivien Leung, Tom Llewellyn, Christopher Olson, Ashley Opheim, Diego Pelaez Gaetz, Hugo Pilon-Larose, Clare Raspopow, Shawna Satz, Riley Sparks.

The following people need one more contribution

to be eligible to vote:

Jonas Pietsch.

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.

Laval paints the town Rouge

Women's basketball team can't complete a late game rally

• DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

Concordia 74 Laval 78

Despite a frantic comeback attempt in the final minutes, Concordia's women's basketball squad ultimately succumbed to Université Laval's Rouge et Or, the sixth-ranked team in the country, at the Loyola sports complex Feb. 6.

The Stingers trailed the whole game but refused to submit to the visiting powerhouse. Con U gave Laval their biggest scare of the game in the fourth quarter when forward Nekeita Lee scored on a fast-break layup, bringing the Stingers within three points with 33 seconds left in the game. Lee had several steals in the final period as Concordia scrambled to come back from a 13-point deficit. However, Laval guard Chanelle St-Amour dashed any remaining hopes with a brilliant one-handed runner with just 15 seconds remaining. She finished with 17 points and five rebounds.

The fourth quarter was also marked by some odd officiating. Laval was not penalized until that quarter, but was then suddenly penalized for three seconds in the key on four different occasions.

"Keith [Pruden, the Stingers' head coach,] worked the referees and they responded," said Laval coach Linda Marquis. "We didn't adjust."

Pruden had a different view



Stingers captain Kristin Portwine posts up in the paint. PHOTO ESTHER BERNARD

on the matter. Despite getting a technical foul for arguing with the referees in the fourth quarter, Pruden was adamant in his view that Laval post players were spending too much

time in the paint, a view that seems to be backed up by the officiating anomaly in the fourth quarter.

"If [the referees] had called it that way the whole game, [Laval]

would have lost," said Pruden. "I'm satisfied with the officiating normally, but these guys were bad."

The loss was the second in a row for the Stingers after a tough

loss Saturday to the McGill Martlets.

"If we had played like this last night, we would have run McGill off the floor," said Pruden. "So in that sense, this game was definitely easier to watch."

With a younger squad than in years past, the Stingers are still working on mastering the mental part of the game.

"We've got a bunch of new girls, and we're starting to work as a team, adapting to each other's strengths and weaknesses," said Stingers centre and team captain Kristin Portwine, who finished the game with 15 points and seven rebounds. "We've just gotta try to finish these games and follow through."

Fighting for playoff position down the stretch, the weekend was a blow for the Stingers, but hope remains.

"The whole problem is we're not playing consistently. We box out when we remember to. We play hard when we remember to. That's why we have so many close games," said Pruden. "I suppose this is the part where I make a comment about the limited attention span of that generation...video games and such."

Despite the mental lapses, Pruden still believes in his team's chances at the post-season. "I'm very confident," he said adamantly.

The visiting coach agreed. "If they keep working hard, [Concordia], McGill and Bishop's are all on a similar level," said Marquis.

Ravens leave Stingers weak and weary

After clinching a playoff spot, men's hockey team gets blown out by Carleton

• DAVID KAUFMANN

Concordia 1 Carleton 6

After two good outings, the Stingers men's hockey team came out flat against the Carleton Ravens last Saturday in a 6-1 loss at the Ed Meagher Arena. This comes less than 24 hours after dominating the Royal Military College Paladins to a 4-2 win and just days after a shootout loss to the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières Patriotes.

Although the Stingers played a game the night before, head coach Kevin Figsby thought it was no excuse, considering

Carleton was in the same boat.

"I thought fatigue was a big factor in the third period, but Carleton played better than we did and they deserved to win," Figsby said.

Stingers right winger Marc-André Rizk, who scored the lone goal for his team, was equally disappointed. When asked if his team was riding on a high from the previous two games he responded by saying, "Maybe a little bit, but it's not an excuse. Every team has the same schedule as us."

The Stingers got off to a slow start, but managed to compete with the Ravens in the first period. The Ravens scored first when forward Chris Downey caught

the Stingers defence sleeping for his first of the season. Carleton shelled Stingers goalie Maxime Joyal for the rest of the period, forcing him to make 15 saves.

Joyal matched his first period save total in the second but couldn't stop centre Joey Manley when he connected on a pass from forwards Brandon MacLean and Ryan Bérard for his sixth of the season. Toward the end of the period, it seemed like the Stingers had some life when Rizk scored a shorthanded goal, his fifth of the season.

But whatever life Concordia showed in the first two periods quickly faded when they allowed four straight goals from the



Ravens forward Ryan Bérard steals the puck. PHOTO ESTHER BERNARD

Fred Parker wasn't terribly impressed with his team's play.

"I think we played well enough to win," said Parker. "I don't think either team played well, but we played better than Concordia."

This was a game the Stingers would like to forget heading into the post-season. Figsby, however, remained upbeat.

"We started the season 0 and 11 and we're now in the playoffs," he commented. "That's a tremendous amount of adversity that we've faced [...]. But we keep struggling and we keep working and we keep moving in a positive direction, so I can't get too upset with today's loss."



Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

Repairs not just for show

I read with interest your latest editorial and article referring to the planned renovations of the GM building (vol. 30, iss. 20, pg. 24). Like all of Concordia's managers, I share your concern that money should be spent on only the most carefully evaluated projects. It is therefore important for me to point out that the work being planned for the GM building is designed to achieve more than merely "matching" the facade to that of the neighbouring EV and MB buildings.

The "Guy-Metro" building went up in 1965. That's 45 years ago! Its heating and air-conditioning systems—antiquated and inefficient by today's standards—are in need of an upgrade. The building's poor exterior wall insulation further contributes to energy waste. Energy efficiency is an area in which Concordia is proud to have made great strides over the years. For the last 12 years, we lead all other major Quebec universities with the lowest energy consumption per square metre of building. The renovations will also help to improve the overall quality of the air inside the GM, an important consideration for the building that now houses Concordia's Health Services clinic, Performing Arts offices and classrooms, and many administrative units. The building will also soon welcome other areas, including the Institute for Co-operative Education.

Many proposed infrastructure upgrades to the GM building have been in the university's plans for a few years now. We are very fortunate that the money that will be invested on the GM building infrastructure projects comes from the provincial government's new infrastructure program which provides money to upgrade the infrastructure in older buildings such as the GM and the Hall (elevators, escalators, etc.). According to the terms of the government grant, the money cannot be directed to projects of any other nature.

As your article notes, we continue to work to ensure Quartier Concordia continues to be "a pleasant place for people to gather." In fact, it's our hope the Quartier becomes a point of pride for all Montrealers, within the Concordia community and beyond.

—Peter Bolla,

*Associate Vice-President,
Concordia Facilities Management*

Habib a great communicator

My name is Pauline Lambton and I'm a student at Concordia University.

I'm writing because of the new discovery I've made that Dania Habib and Anna Goldfinch will be running for VP Social and VP Internal respectively in the upcoming Arts and Science Federation of Associations elections. I have had several classes with Dania and Anna and would like to notify those interested in the well-being of our school and the importance of ASFA that they would make excellent candi-

dates. I have recently done a group project with these two students in which we were assigned to organize a public panel debate on food security in Montreal. Dania Habib and Anna Goldfinch's organizational and communication skills throughout the development of our panel were closely tied to the great success of the event (which was held last Tuesday, Feb. 2 at the Bronfman Centre). Voting is important and knowing that who you're voting for is competent and hard-working is even more important.

—Pauline Lambton,

School of Community and Public Affairs

We need more Moore

Training year-round as a competitive mountain-biker, teaching cross-country skiing and taking a full courseload might make some people grumpy or stressed, but Sarah Moore always has a smile on her face.

As someone who has worked with Sarah on many projects I can say she is a student with excellent organizational skills and she is a most enjoyable group member. She is always ready to help people out, sacrifice her time and make sure people get along.

I wholeheartedly support Sarah Moore for VP Communications in the upcoming Arts and Science Federation of Associations elections.

—Nicole Dyer,
Communications

More Moore support

As a close peer of Sarah Moore, I am very lucky to be surrounded by such positive energy all the time. The fact that she is a student in communications and journalism makes her an ideal candidate for the Arts and Science Federation of Associations' VP Communications.

Whether in the classroom, out training for wild sporting events or out campaigning, Sarah shows she is a hard worker in every sense. These, and many other reasons, are why I believe that on Feb. 16, 17 and 18, everyone should get out and vote for Sarah Moore as VP Communications for the next year.

—Julia Haney,
Communications

Team Brenchley

Knowing Charlie Brenchley, both as a peer and long-time friend, I can vouch for the fact that he would do a bang-up job as President of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations for 2010-2011. He is dedicated in all that he does and I do not doubt that the wealth of experience he would bring to Concordia student activism would be much appreciated. I encourage all to vote Charlie Brenchley for ASFA President on February 16-18th. He is probably one of the most dedicated people I know. He hasn't and will not rest until he is pleased with the work he has accomplished. He will turn the ASFA into something entirely new, different and improved. I'm looking forward to seeing his ideas expanding and becoming reality.

—Devin August Ornstein,
Political Science

I am thrilled to learn that the former president of the Dawson Student Union has decided to continue his legacy of progressive student leadership by presenting himself as a presidential candidate in the upcoming Arts and Science Federation of Associations elections. Charlie was an instrumental force in his years with the DSU and helped our Union become financially accountable, have a more workable relationship with Dawson College, and most importantly, create a union that fosters the political and societal engagement of its members.

In his first two years with the DSU (VP Recreational 2006-07 and President 2007-08), Charlie encouraged and oversaw the creation of several clubs, including Vanguard (social activism through art), Access (advocacy for students with disabilities) and the Social Justice Club. Charlie helped develop a spirit of student activism at Dawson and inspired me and a whole generation of student leaders to get involved.

I could not fathom a better candidate for the President of ASFA. I encourage all arts and science students to vote for Charlie Brenchley for President and to get out the vote for a stronger ASFA on Feb. 16, 17 and 18.

—Carl Perks,
Dawson Student Union president

Dobias 'reliable and trustworthy'

I am writing this letter for my friend Jacob Dobias, who is running in the upcoming Arts and Science Federation of Associations elections as VP Finance. Jacob is a very close friend of mine, and although we only met just over a year ago, I consider myself very lucky for we have many great memories together.

Jacob is a kind and well-organized guy. He truly believes in treating everyone equally and emerges himself in as many types of new experiences that he can, whether it involves school, travelling, or volunteering, for example. Jacob is responsible as well as reliable and trustworthy, and for those reasons I am glad that I know him, and sure that he will do a great job as VP Finance.

—Melissa Evans,
History

... As well as calm and level-headed!

For the Arts and Science Federation of Associations elections I support Jacob Dobias. Since meeting Jacob, I have seen him as a friendly, honest, and responsible person. He shows traits such as these and more in his job as a resident assistant. He shows many great qualities of an organizer through events that he helps put on for the residents. He is well liked at his job and handles situations with a level headedness and calm that has great effect. Jacob is a good student and shows a great amount of ambition in all

things he sets out to do and I know he will show the same with the tasks he is faced with as VP Finance.

—Matt Fournier,
English & Creative Writing

The Adelman crew

This is a letter in support of my friend and classmate David Adelman in pursuit of becoming the Arts and Science Federation of Associations' VP External.

I can't think of a person more suitable to take over the position. David works extremely hard in whatever he does, whether it be on an article for *The Link* or *The Concordian*, a documentary film about the Dominican Republic (currently in production) or an assignment for class.

David is already the co-head of the Journalism Students Association and is doing a great job planning fun events and attempting to unite the historically rocky relationship between communications and journalism students.

I have never met anyone so eager to be social and become friends with everyone he meets. As your friend, he will try to do whatever he can to help you out. I know that he will do the same in representing his friends in ASFA. Vote David Adelman for VP External!

—Joel Balsam,
Journalism

by few. If elected I can say, without a single doubt in my mind, that Andrew will be an excellent member of the ASFA student body.

—Curren Dewan,
Mechanical Engineering

More praise for the immortal Tito

Christopher Curtis' excellent and most important article on Quebec corruption should remind everyone of the need to solve the deplorable and continual problem with the road situation in this province (vol. 30, iss. 21, pg. 5). Unlike Vermont and Ontario which have similar climatic conditions, our roads start deteriorating soon after they are repaved. Previously this was thought to be due mainly to the use of inferior materials and not digging deep enough. Now it is alleged that organized crime makes three per cent off all road construction, which may help explain why our roads are continually repaired in a never-ending circle of increasing taxes and frustration with time delays in travelling. Hopefully more articles like this may cause our MNAs to solve this historically incredible problem with our transportation system.

—David S. Rovins,
Independent Student

I'm Down with Dania

This following letter is to show my support for my friend Dania Habib.

I really think that she would make a great VP Social of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations for so many reasons. Dania has been in over four classes with me and she is just one great soul!

She is social with everyone around her, even the people that aren't. She's incredibly good at multitasking, is punctual, and is a very reliable person. She's also very responsible, she never lets someone down, is a hardworking person, but above everything she's really exceptional for being able to be all these qualities at the same time. Make a wise choice and choose Dania!

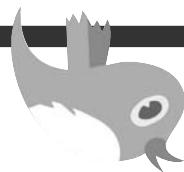
—Elizabeth El-Maalouf,
Hispanic Studies

The truth about Charlie

Two years ago, I was a student at Dawson College when Charles Brenchley was president of that CEGEP. During the time when he was supposed to be managing the affairs of our union, almost \$40,000 of funds were skimmed out of the union's accounts by one of his staff members. At a time when Charlie was supposed to be in charge of the union, no one could even get an apology out of him for the lack of oversight and controls.

When I saw that he was running for President of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations, I literally couldn't believe my eyes. If Charlie couldn't handle a small CEGEP student union, how can we trust him to run the second-largest student organization at Concordia?

**Follow The Link on Twitter @linknewspaper
Read our blog at thelinknewspaper.ca/blog**



Suggested reforms shot down by CFS

If Charlie has a plan for avoiding the same mistakes he made at Dawson, I want to know what plans he has to do different this time. If he's at all interested in being elected honestly, he also owes it to us to come clean about his past.

—Chandra Makaria,
Economics

Last year, the Canadian Federation of Students' deputy chair got stuck on camera vandalizing Con U elections posters to help out Arts and Science Federation of Associations candidate Anna Goldfinch. At the time, she said she had no involvement with the CFS. This year, Anna's running again, and, surprise, surprise, she's on a slate topped by a former member of the CFS-Quebec executive.

Then again, I guess it's probably hard for Anna to run on any slate not backed by the CFS—after all, her brother has been a paid employee of the organization ever since leaving Concordia, and family—well, you can't go against family.

But still, why can't the CFS stop messing around in Concordia's backyard? Why can't they stop interfering in our elections? Why can't they let us, Concordia students, make up our own damn minds?

Less than two weeks ago, two of the biggest

campaigners that the CFS has got—Brent Farrington and Noah Stewart-Ornstein—were in Montreal, sniffing around Concordia's unions and faculty organizations. More than one student told me personally that they had been approached to help out the CFS in ASFA and CSU elections. Fast-forward two weeks, and here we have a more or less obviously pro-CFS slate running in the ASFA elections.

Now, I don't expect Anna or her team to discuss their affiliations to the CFS, or to tell us whether they or their family are taking money for their efforts—but I'm willing to be surprised.

Earlier this year, more than 15 per cent of Concordia students signed a petition to leave the CFS. We did this because the CFS takes more than \$300,000 per year in annual fees off of Concordia students, with no clear benefit to us. Now here we've got an ASFA slate being organized by CFS hatchet-men, and being run by federation staffers and their siblings. If this is how the CFS spends student money, I don't want their bony hands in my wallet.

Anna Goldfinch and Charles Brenchley owe Concordia's ASFA students an explanation of their involvement with the CFS. This is a serious issue at Concordia, and it's dishonest to sweep it under the rug.

—Ainsley Pritchard,
Political Science

Quebec component unable to push through suggested changes

• ANDREW HAIG

Three months after the Canadian Federation of Students' infamous annual general meeting, cracks are finally appearing in the federation's wall of silence.

At the last meeting of the CFS in November, Quebec's delegation—including members from the Concordia Student Union, McGill's Post-Graduate Students' Society and Concordia's Graduate Students' Association—proposed a package of reforms designed to address the many serious complaints that Concordia students had registered with the federation. The package of 43 reforms included demands for financial accountability, reporting of salaries by executives and staffers of the federation and guarantees that the CFS would not influence local elections.

At that meeting, Quebec delegates were subject to an organized policy of back-room opposition and harassment, the result of which was that the proposed reforms were defeated almost without exception and with almost no debate. At the time, CFS executives denied any campaign against Concordia delegates, arguing that the membership had simply disagreed with the reforms.

Last week, however, an executive of the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union broke the CFS's code of silence in an interview with *The Varsity*. In the article, Bodia Macharia detailed exactly the sort of

harassment and opposition alleged by Quebec delegates.

According to Macharia, she and other members of the UofT delegation were instructed to vote against any proposals advanced by Quebec delegates, had documents withheld from them—including copies of motions—and were harassed if they associated in any way with delegates from Quebec.

Sadly, none of this is particularly novel. During the last wave of defederations in 2008, a group of former CFS partisans published "The CFS is broken and can't be fixed." The article detailed CFS tactics designed to control delegates to general meetings, including isolation of independent candidates, organized opposition to any unsanctioned motions and constant monitoring of inexperienced delegates by CFS staffers.

These are the same allegations, almost word for word, being put forward by both Quebec delegates and now Ms. Macharia. What all of this shows is that Quebec's reform package was doomed before it was ever sent off to the CFS. The act of trying to reform the CFS, rather than the reforms themselves, was what offended the federation's executive.

So why raise this now?

At Concordia, the CFS is the 800-lb gorilla in the room. Everyone knows the weight the CFS carries in CSU and ASFA politics, but who wants to anger the federation by talking about it?

At Concordia, we've seen a variety of CFS employees accused of interfering in our elections and our student government. Last year, deputy chair of the CFS Brent Farrington took a position as chair of the CSU at the same time that the union was negotiating a multi-million-dollar contract with the CFS's healthcare partner. The previous year, a CFS-Quebec organizer was alleged to have tried to extort \$25,000 from the CSU's insurance broker in order to fund that year's election campaign. In 2008, the deputy chairperson of the CFS was captured on camera ripping down Concordia election posters.

This year, with revelations of a deliberate CFS plan to silence and disenfranchise Quebec—and with a former CFS-Q executive, Charles Brenchley, running for president of ASFA—the CFS has become one of the fundamental issues of this campaign.

Now, I'm certainly not arguing for litmus tests in Concordia politics. Being in favour of the CFS is a respectable perspective and should never disqualify anyone from office. Still, whatever their stance, candidates owe students an explanation of their plan for Concordia's involvement in the CFS. For candidates with past ties or financial interest in the federation, this obligation should be absolute.

Concordia's student media need to ensure that this issue does not slip through the cracks of this election in a wash of flashy posters and uncertain promises.

Andrew Haig is the treasurer of the CFS's Quebec branch.

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,
send your relationship queries to
heartachesanonymous@gmail.com

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



Dear Unqueer,

I'm glad to hear that there exists straight men who watch gay porn with what we could call, maybe, a Platonic enjoyment. Hey, if we can claim to love watching *Inglourious Basterds* without wanting to kill Nazis ourselves—okay, bad

example; If we can enjoy watching *There's Something about Mary* without wanting to bang Cameron Diaz or watch *Iron Chef* marathons without wanting to eat until

our digestive juices seep out of our pores...I'm not sure where I'm going with this.

Unqueer, I don't think you're in it for

the cinematography. I think if you want to watch gay porn with your girlfriend, it is because gay porn gives you major boners. You're not alone, because it sounds like it gives your girlfriend total ladyboners too!

Stop focusing on whether this makes you "gay" or "bisexual" or whatever. There's no reason to speak about it in those terms. If your sex life is already secure and you feel comfortable, bring it up with your gal. She might be a little taken aback, but assuming you don't fall for homophobes, she will recover. Explain to her that you think she's way hot, but that you also find gay porn way hot, and that you don't feel these things should be mutually exclusive. Hey, she's already got some on her computer. Stop being so embarrassed and throw it on while you throw it in.

Police brutality forum sells itself short

Concordia-endorsed event boxes itself in with confused media policy

The event's organizers have, by trying to offer much-needed safety for police victims, overstepped their bounds and sadly limited their message to the confines of a subculture.

• TOM LLEWELLIN

The third annual Forum Against Police Violence and Impunity, held last week in Park Extension, was by all accounts successful. It drew over 300 interested and informed citizens eager to learn about the many sides of police brutality in Montreal. However, the heavy-handed media policy that the organizers adopted displayed distressing signs of a bunker mentality that threatens to marginalize the very real and pressing concerns of those afflicted by police violence. The seemingly-arbitrary manner in which rules were enforced or amended compounded the problem.

The forum—a working group of Quebec Public Interest Research Group-McGill, and endorsed by QPIRG-Concordia—started out with the best of intentions. They set out to offer protection from reprisal, spin or libel to people who've been victimized by the police. Any media present—corporate or mainstream media were specifically excluded—were asked to check in at a desk, wear name tags and identify themselves when asking questions, which is all fairly standard procedure. The ethical problems with the policy that soon began to appear were numerous and quickly began to compound.

The waiver that all media were made to sign required them to turn over all audio, video and photographs after the event. The weekend's events were almost entirely open panels with large numbers of people in attendance and met the criteria of a public event—that is, they were advertised and open to the public at large, with the exception of police and mainstream

media. In this situation, requiring independent media to turn over digitized recordings and photographs is a clear violation of a journalist's right to control his or her source material—without obligations to provide it to any third party. A spokesperson admitted that I probably didn't need to sign the contract in the first place.

The policy also stipulated that media had to obtain consent from each panelist as to whether they wanted to have their remarks recorded or quoted in any publication, despite the event being—again—public. Reporters were obligated to observe a seven-day waiting period before publication, in case speakers wanted to retract their comments. Giving sources that much control over information, even if we strongly sympathize with the ordeals they've gone through, is a major breach of journalistic integrity.

Another ethical breach occurred on the second day, one that—according to media staff—was not supposed to happen. An outreach worker speaking at a panel on police profiling of youth told a story of youths that had been at the receiving end of racially-motivated harassment by Montreal police, an ordeal that ultimately culminated in their acquittal. After the panel finished, one of the facilitators announced to the media in the room that the story, in which no one was named, was "off the record." Furthermore, we were told, it should be stricken from our notes and audio recordings.

Going "off the record," contrary to popular belief, is a privilege that journalists extend to their sources; sources can't automatically receive



it whenever they like. To grant the privilege, there has to be real fear of reprisal should the person's name or remarks make it to print or to the web. Retraction most certainly cannot be given after the fact, nor can it be doled out like candy. The forum's guidelines originally specified that facilitators were supposed to give out criteria for what's on and off the record before the panelists started speaking, which is somewhat less insulting than a retroactive retraction, but still ethically dubious.

The historical record of what was said must be strictly adhered to regardless of whether or not it might give people the willies, or as *The Guardian* put it in a piece on the issue of attribution in the online age, it begins to "look like a picked-over buffet." Ground rules are suggestions, not absolute edicts.

Chicago newspaperman and humorist Peter Dunn

coined the expression that the media exists "to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable." However, principles and reality are two entirely different things.

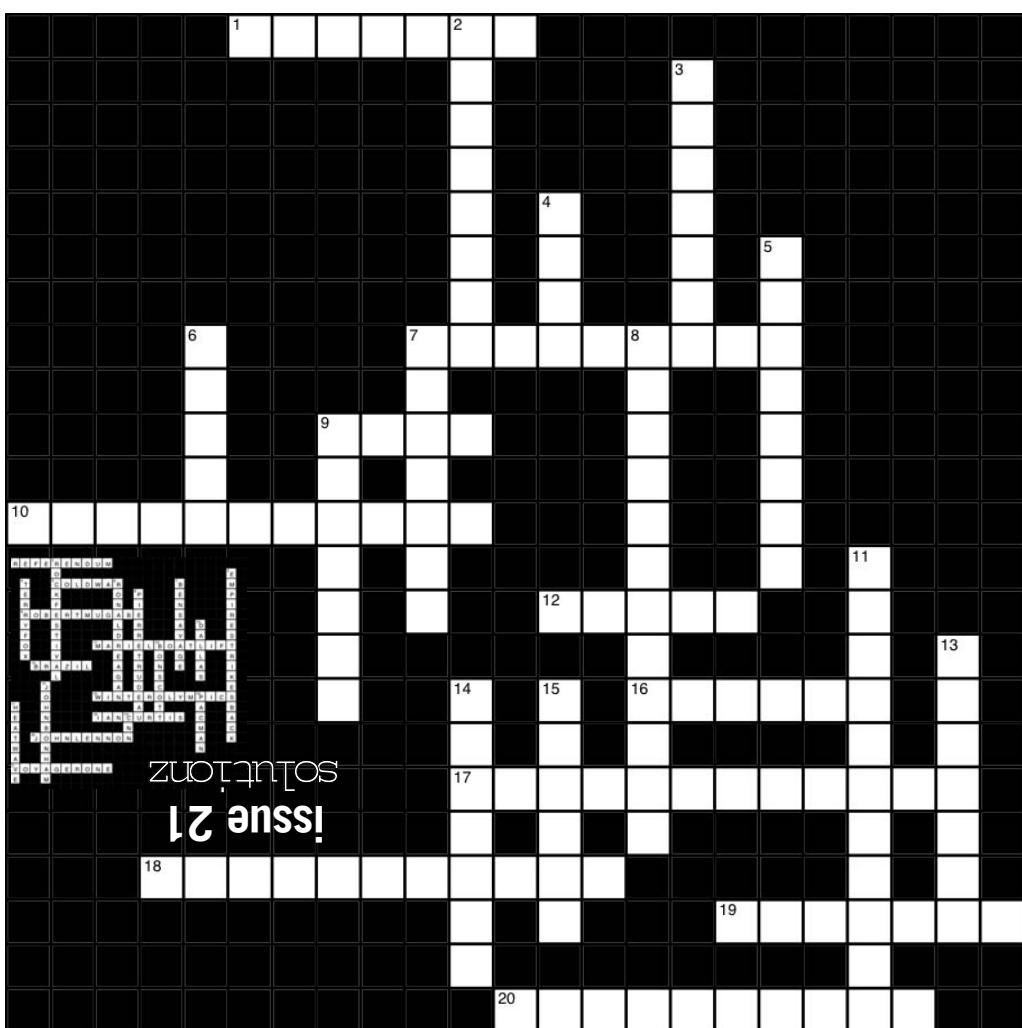
We at *The Link* are keenly aware of the mainstream media's many failings. But the killing of Fredy Villanueva, an innocent bystander playing dice in a park in Montreal North, brought on tales of police duplicity, union coverups and gross incompetence in the handling of the case that were widely disseminated. It's increasingly difficult for the media establishment to continue to turn a blind eye. In short, they're beginning to realize that the facts are not on the side of the police and that it's their job to talk to all people concerned.

Events such as this can speak to the organizers' good intentions—in this particular case, the evidence is clearly on their side. However, the

biggest fly in the ointment isn't encroachment from the "corporate media," but obscurity. The closing of ranks that occurred at the forum effectively, in the eyes of mainstream media and mainstream society, perpetuates the myth that these concerns are the near-exclusive providence of activists, radicals and anarchists. The architects of the policy have ensured that, by aiming to offer much-needed safety for police victims, they've overstepped their bounds and limited the degree to which their message can spread, further entrenching themselves—with our great chagrin—into a subculture.

It's our hope that the next iteration of the forum will acknowledge that public condemnation of police activities is growing and that it's no longer a niche issue. Accurate, ethical and unencumbered reporting by as wide a variety of outlets as possible should be allowed to flourish.

Crossword



Across

- Turns out free love will actually cost you five dollars a box. Well worth it, in hindsight. (plural)
- Clothes need soap too, you know. Keep your whites white, and your purples a pukey, strange colour.
- The primary cleanser of the body, and no, it's not water.
- The perfect bathroom accessory. Can also be used to terrorize the front of a house, if you have enough of it. (Two words)
- Boost your sugar levels and rot your teeth, all in one easy move. Doesn't get chewier than that.
- These ground-up beans make for a good time when placed in hot water. Can also be used to smudge on your cheeks so you look like you've been workin' in the coal mine all day.
- Liquid that contains dissolved substances in order to give it therapeutic value. (Two words)

18. One-half of the hair-treating duo. Complements the first coat just fine.

19. Stuff a few of these up your nose and you'll be looking like a champ. Did I say champ? I meant to say chump.

20. Paint your cuticles red, for all I care. (Two words)

Down

2. The central reason why one's brain would rot. Comes in both *Star* and *People* variety.

3. Smell your best, ladies.

4. Your posture isn't what it used to be, but thanks to these wooden or aluminum sticks you can definitely keep up appearances.

5. Your daily required zinc and other assorted components keep your body in check. (plural)

6. Apple in liquid form make Brian a strong man.

7. Comes in the child or adult variety, Velcro or

slip-on. Protects your clothing from yourself. (plural)

8. Tell your mom you're happy she finally got her hair done with this token of written affection. (Two words)

9. The other half of the hair-treating duo, usually the first to be put in.

11. Clean up your idiot friend's messes with ease. It's like a Dustbuster, but without the vacuuming power and actually involves more of a wiping action. (Two words)

13. From brown to purple to green to blue, show The Man that you mean business by fucking with your follicles.

14. Female accoutrement, meant to absorb bodily fluid. (plural)

15. This blue liquid allows you to clean your windows, and can also be used as an effective defacto cologne for the uninitiated.

Read it and weep

BY TRAVIS DANDRO



editorial

Conservatives denying the simple truth

Turns out abortion has nothing to do with women's health—or so some have argued this past week. When Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff dared to suggest the two might be linked, he was called "pathetic" and "sad" by Conservative (and conservative) pundits who hoped to delegitimize any mention of abortion. Their dismissiveness has the unintended effect of putting Ignatieff's critics unsteadily on the defence, dodging questions and name-calling instead of facing the issue head on.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced last week that, as host of the upcoming G8 meeting this summer, Canada would make foreign aid to support women's and children's health a top priority. Harper made vague gestures towards better access to clean water, vaccination and proper nutrition.

Ignatieff pointed out that if Harper wanted to talk about saving the lives of pregnant women, the prime minister was going to have to put abortion on the table. The Liberal leader reasoned that botched operations were a major barrier to solving the plight of women in developing nations. But pro-lifers, including several religious leaders, refused to acknowledge this.

"I thought it was pathetic for a political leader to suggest that abortion is somehow tied to the health of women and children," Bishop Fred Henry of Calgary told the *National Post*, in a leap of logic that seemed to infer medical operations performed on women actually have nothing to do with women's bodies.

Harper spokesperson Dimitri Soudas echoed the sentiment, again calling Ignatieff's suggestion "sad" and claiming that the proposed focus on women and children's health "has nothing to do with abortion."

If the proposal has nothing to do with abortion, it's because the Conservatives blatantly refuse to address the issue. Ignatieff's response followed logically from Harper's announcement. The American pro-choice non-profit Guttmacher Institute announced last fall that at least 70,000 women die a year from unsafe abortions. "Virtually all abortions in Africa and in Latin America and the Caribbean were unsafe," the research centre reported, noting that the number of women who died from botched procedures was probably lower than in reality because many less developed countries have draconian anti-abortion laws that force women far underground.

And that's the thing: Harper's proposal and Ignatieff's response were about women's health beyond the privileged scope of the western world, not in Canada. Abortion is easily accessible Canada and even covered by public health care in some provinces, including Quebec. Soudas seemed to suggest that Ignatieff is still harping on about a solved problem, when in fact ol' Iggy was thinking outside our borders.

Soudas also accused him of turning women's health into "political football." By ignoring demonstrable connections between access to safe abortions and the betterment of women's health, it is actually the Conservative spokesperson who is taking the human element out of abortion, turning it into an abstract talking point. And it's not only about the mothers: children have a better chance of a healthy upbringing if their mothers are prepared to raise them.

At press time, the Conservatives have not confirmed whether or not they will encourage discussion of abortion at the G8 summit. Nor has Harper elaborated on how much money he wants to dedicate to his proposed initiatives. Whether or not the resulting foreign aid will cover safe abortion—and we sincerely hope it will—politicians must be able to discuss it without being derided. It would be more legitimate to take a strong position against abortion than to dismiss it. Right now the Conservatives haven't done much more than condescend.

—Madeline Coleman,
Fringe Arts editor