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Who's gonna pay?

CFS hits Concordia Student Union with \$1M bill • News 3

Student union says they're in the clear.

Former student union president says union has unremitted fees.

Canadian Federation of Students demands the money.



\$48M student centre set for January • News 4

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THE LINK
CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 30, Issue 23
Tuesday, February 16, 2010

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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 Valiante, Ellis Steinberg, Shawna Satz, Jonathan Metcalfe, Matthew Brett; non-voting members: Rachel Boucher, Terrine Friday. Typesetting by The Link. Printing by Transcontinental.

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\$1,033,278.76 owed: Canadian Federation of Students

Concordia Student Union says claim is unfounded 'We don't know what it's for,' says student union president

• TERRINE FRIDAY &
JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

In a legal memorandum sent to the Concordia Student Union on Feb. 10, the Canadian Federation of Students—a national lobby group—claimed that the CSU owes them \$1,033,278.76 in unpaid membership fees, equivalent to two-thirds of the CSU's yearly operating budget.

Although the memorandum was delivered to the CSU last week, it was accompanied by an acknowledgement signed by 2008-09 CSU president Keyana Kashfi dated April 19, 2009.

The demand for outstanding fees comes in the midst of the CSU's campaign to defederate from the CFS. The CSU has not been granted a referendum—where Concordia students will be given the opportunity to vote—due to new bylaws adopted by the CFS at their Nov. 25 to 28 Annual General Meeting. The petition was delivered to the CFS's national offices on Oct. 19.

"When you look at that amount, you can't believe it," said CSU President Amine Dabchy. "Are you serious? A million dollars? It's like a couple of them just sat together and chose what seemed like a good number.

"I think this is how they're going to alienate more and more Concordia students," Dabchy continued. "Because now, there's not only one reason to leave the CFS, there's 1,033,278 reasons."

The problem could have arisen from the ambiguity between payments made to the CFS and the CFS-Q, its Quebec component. Payment records from the university indicate that cheques were made out either to the CFS or the CFS-Q every year from 2000 to 2009. According to the documents provided by the CSU, the total amount paid between those dates was \$1,558,332.92, or an average of almost \$200,000 per year.

"Undergraduate students of Concordia University have enjoyed the benefits of membership since joining the Canadian Federation of Students in 1998," said CFS National Treasurer David Molenhuis.

"One responsibility associated with membership in the [CFS] is the paying of annual membership dues to ensure that the collective work of Canada's national student



CSU President Amine Dabchy would be hard-pressed to pay the CFS over \$1 million from his \$1.6 million annual budget. PHOTO JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

movement can be advanced.

"The Concordia Student Union has failed to remit the entirety of these membership dues to the Federation for an extended period of time."

According to Molenhuis, there were years since 1998 where the correct fee amount was not collected by the CSU. However he could not go into details about what years the student union had been delinquent and by how much.

"This is not a nice organization," Dabchy countered. "Seeing what's going on, people should be informed. Our role as a student union is to inform the students of what's happening."

Motion Six

At the CFS's AGM, the controversial Motion Six was accepted according to the CFS executive. At the time, members of the CFS-Q protested that only 44 of the 68 members had voted for it—less than the two-thirds required for quorum.

Motion Six of the CFS bylaws requires 20 per cent of the student body to sign a defederation petition and allows "no more than two referendums on continued membership in any three-month period," even though there are currently 13 petitions filed with the CFS. The CFS now also requires the repayment of all outstanding fees "no less than six

weeks prior to the first day of voting [in a defederation referendum]."

Although the CFS emphasized the importance of following Motion Six, it still recognizes the CSU's defederation petition, which garnered only 18 per cent of the student body vote.

"We sent them successive letters to give us a [referendum] date," Dabchy said. "At least four. Give us a date. Give us a date. Give us a date."

The legal memorandum sent to the CSU on behalf of the CFS, states McGill University's Post Graduate Students' Society and the Alberta College of Arts and Design Students' Association—both small member organizations—are already slated to hold CFS referendums between March 30 and April 1, 2010.

Kashfi responds

According to former CSU president Keyana Kashfi, part of the missing amount was caused by the student union's failure to adjust the fees to the consumer price index—an indicator that calculates the costs of goods and services based on inflation.

"It was brought to my attention in late March of last year by a university official that the CSU had not been collecting the right amount of fees," said Kashfi. "The fees are supposed to be

adjusted every year with the CPI. That's problem one because it never happened."

Kashfi said the other issue was that students enrolled under the John Molson School of Business and the Engineering and Computer Science Association had only started paying fees after a 2007 referendum, even though the agreement with the CFS states all undergraduate students are members.

"Since the CSU never adjusted the fees with the CPI every year, and the JMSB and ECA were not paying fees for so long, that amount had accumulated," Kashfi said. "It was closer to \$1.6 million, but we negotiated it down to [the current amount]."

Kashfi maintains that she would not have signed the document stating the CSU owes the CFS \$1,033,278.76 if it were not true.

"The reason why it's coming to light now is because the CSU, within their own right, has decided to defederate [from the CFS] and before you can defederate [...] you have to pay what you owe," concluded Kahfi.

The CSU has the option to repay the outstanding amount six weeks before a defederation referendum, get locked in to a 10-year payment plan or head to court.



Frigo supporters fill the CSU meeting. PHOTO JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Frigo Vert's fee levy request denied again

Frigo may need to reduce hours

• CLAY HEMMERICH

At the Feb. 10 Concordia Student Union Council meeting, Le Frigo Vert's request that a 12 cent per credit fee levy increase be put on the ballot of the March general election was denied in front of a room full of Frigo board members and supporters.

"This issue is not resolved and Concordia students will hear more about it," said Frigo board member Micheal Xenakis.

A similar fee levy request in October was also rejected by the Council. Had the fee levy been approved, the Frigo would have received as much money from students as The People's Potato: 37 cents per credit.

"Our primary mandate is to provide healthy, nutritious food and talk about food issues and anti-oppressive issues," stated Frigo board member Amanda Dorter to the Council. "A lot of [students] don't know who we are. One of the things the fee levy aims to do is to increase the promotions of [Le Frigo Vert]."

After the fee levy was rejected, Dorter told the Council that hours would need to be slashed to balance the Frigo's budget. She added that the Frigo might also need to close on certain days and discontinue certain products.

Regardless of under-exposure, the store currently experiences 20-minute lineups according to Dorter and would need the extra money to increase store hours to reduce the waits.

"It's important to think of us as a not-for-profit and not a busi-

ness," said Dorter. "We've seen an almost 50 per cent increase in students using the store since 2007. The busier we get, the more it costs to maintain the service. Sales increased drastically, but our profits have gone down."

According to Dorter, the store's low markup on organic food and high foot traffic in the store during lunch hour has driven the Frigo into a \$10,000 deficit.

CSU councillor Leah Del Vecchio asked if the deficit could be eliminated by changing the store's business model.

"The Frigo Vert is a beacon of a social economy. It could easily be a Wal-Mart, but this is how it is supposed to be," said CSU VP Sustainability and Projects Alex Oster. "It is a different business model for a reason, not just haphazardly."

Despite the \$10,000 deficit, many on Council seemed to have a problem with a recent wage increase from \$14 per hour to \$15 per hour. According to the store's own proposal, nearly half of the fee levy increase would go to paying the wages.

"We make under poverty line. The wage increase would put us at the poverty line," said Dorter.

"One of the main reasons why I came to Concordia is the array of initiatives. I think these things reinforce a sense of community," said CSU councillor Ethan Cox.

"All [the Frigo] are asking today is for students to vote democratically to see if they value this service enough to increase its funding."

Student centre to open within a year

Student union to seek extra \$2.50 per credit

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

The Concordia Student Union could open the doors to a student centre at Concordia's downtown campus in January of 2011, provided that students approve a new \$2.50 per credit fee levy.

The student centre, with an estimated price tag of \$43 million, will be housed inside an existing building to be bought by the student union and the university.

"The idea of a new development is not within the realm of possibility for Concordia students," said CSU VP Sustainability and Projects Alex Oster. The price of a new building was pegged at \$78 million.

To fund the project, the CSU will introduce a ballot question at the March general election to add \$2.50 to the current student centre fee levy to bring it to \$4.50 per credit. Over the past five years this levy has built up a fund of nearly \$7 million.

The current \$2 per credit fee levy includes a sunset clause and

will expire in 2014.

"I thought an interesting strategy would be to not harmonize the two fee levies and keep them separate. So that the one that ends can be adjusted," said Oster. "In 2014, three years after our purchase date, we will be in a much better position to understand what we need."

Concordia will not move on the project until the student union has \$10 million ready, at which time it will match funds. With the larger fee levy, the student union will have reached the \$10-million target by January of 2011.

"There has been design work done on several sites," said Oster. "The number of sites has been narrowing."

While the CSU will not disclose what the prospective sites are, a space agreement has been signed with Concordia which will give students control of 62 per cent of the student centre.

All student services will move into the new building, including clubs offices, the student union,

the student newspapers, the health clinic, the multi-faith chaplaincy, The People's Potato and possibly the Frigo Vert. An amphitheatre with 1,000-people standing room is also being considered.

"All retail space will be [the CSU's]," said Oster. "Concordia sees this as a large concession, however I think they are getting a pretty sweet deal out of this."

"To them, I think it's the branding of Concordia University. It's part of their vision of a unified campus."

The renovations on the site should be conducted to LEED Silver certification, the third highest level of qualifications for a green building. The student union is also considering the possibility of selling naming rights to the building, perhaps earning students as much as \$2 million.

"This is a legacy we will be leaving for Concordia University. If this fee levy passes, students will be purchasing a building within a year and it will be theirs," Oster concluded.

Cinema Politica to seek more money

CSU Council approves half of reform package

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

The eight-hour Concordia Student Union Council meeting on Feb. 10 was among the most tumultuous and far-reaching sessions yet during the eight-month-old administration of President Amine Dabchy.

Cinema Politica, a Concordia-based organization known for its Monday night documentary screenings, will seek a 5 cent per credit fee levy increase at the March general election. If approved, Cinema Politica would receive 7 cents per credit.

"We attract the best audiences, the best films and the best filmmakers at Concordia," said Ezra Winton, Cinema Politica's founder. "We remain the hub."

The Cinema Politica network has 55 members across the world.

With the additional money Cinema Politica will be able to cover the increasing costs of showing documentaries while promoting and staffing a new viewing library at the university. A new student work festival is also planned.

After unanimously approving Cinema Politica's ballot question, the CSU Council voted to require that one-third of food at future CSU events be vegetarian and that a vegan option also be provided.

After six months of work, only half of a 14-point reform package introduced by Helen Downie, CSU VP Academic and Policy Reform, was approved by Council.

A proposal to introduce an open question period with a time limit at the start of every Council meeting was rejected; lowering the quorum for the CSU's Annual General meeting to 2 per cent of students was accepted, and a proposal to require open tendering for all contracts over \$50,000 or more was returned for more study.

Amid some controversy, a female leadership award was accepted. The award will not require new money as it will be created out of one of the 21 existing CSU scholarships.

Proposals to introduce an easier recall and impeachment of the CSU executive and to normalize relations with external associations

were rejected. An increase in the size of Council to 30 members from the current 27 was approved.

The CSU Judicial Board, the student union's often marginalized judicial arm, was the subject of four reforms. A new system for recording case decisions, a permanent case schedule and a requirement to hold evidence for 12 months were approved. A proposed presumption of innocence clause was rejected until a lawyer could explain the impact that proposal would have.

Electoral rules were also tightened as slates can no longer be disqualified without sufficient evidence.

"Helen's policy reform committee is amazing and I think it was a great idea," said Dabchy. "These people are doing amazing work and they are dealing with issues that were once taboo. Everyone is afraid of change."

"We want to fix a lot of things."

The politically-sensitive slate system—where councillors and executives are elected through parties—and the convoluted fee levy opt-out system were not addressed.

The ASFA candidates speak

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Innovation



(Left to right) Teresa Seminara, Aaron Green and Taylor Knott.
PHOTO JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Sitting in *The Link's* office four days before the start of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations' election, presidential candidate Aaron Green and members of his Innovation team were confident about their chance of winning.

Its dark blue posters posted all over the Hall building, the Innovation team was prepared to talk policy.

"I see ASFA as an organization that provides valuable services to students and provides social activities that allow students to facilitate new friendships in a non-classroom setting," said Green of the 18,000-member faculty association.

"We would like to have open financial committee meetings," added Green, who sits on the committee. "I would prefer to have people to come and request special project funding, to motivate for why they think their initiative should be supported."

As part of a plan for a more transparent ASFA, Green vowed to publish the budgets of all of ASFA's 31 member associations online.

"We also want to bring more potential employers to Concordia, to allow people to network with them," said Green. "We would also want conferences, workshops and speakers' series."

According to Green, these events would cater to students from both

the arts and science sides of the federation.

"I think the services that ASFA provides is one of its most misunderstood aspects," said Green. The presidential candidate also called for a revamped Green Week, coupled with simple sustainability initiatives like giving out ASFA mugs, as well as free LSAT tutorials.

"Just during elections the amount of times people have asked me, 'What is ASFA?' has been sad," said Taylor Knott, VP communications candidate. "Part of my portfolio is eliminating that."

Knott cited social media and an updated website as her main tools to defeat student apathy.

"Some of the other teams have a lot of really great platform points, I won't lie. Perhaps we might want to incorporate them next year. But our team, collectively, has more ASFA-related experience," said Green.

One of the main criticisms lobbed at Innovation has been the presence of two members of Conservative Concordia on the team; Green is the organization's VP communications and Knott is its president.

"I don't think that how people vote in federal elections should not be an issue in ASFA elections," said Green. A member of Liberal Concordia, Teresa Seminara, is also on the Innovation team.

New Energy



Nicole Devlin, Joel Suss, Michaela Manson, Marco De Gregorio.
PHOTO TERRINE FRIDAY

The rallying cry of New Energy, a team trained at the command of faculty associations and ASFA student groups, was summed up by Michaela Manson, the candidate for VP Academic and Loyola.

"We are the underdogs in the game," Manson said.

In a meeting with presidential candidate Joel Suss—who ran for Concordia Student Union president last year with the Fresh slate—and three of his VP candidates, Suss spoke of his vision for a more activist ASFA.

"We want to give students more opportunities and get them more involved," said Suss. "Whatever they are passionate about, we want to give them a gateway through workshops and networking."

With more of the assembled executives speaking than had been the case with Innovation, the New Energy team announced increased academic achievement, extra-curricular and needs-based awards, free French tutorials and an emphasis on academic training. The team debated itself on the French tutorials, some wanting students to teach while others wanted qualified French-as-a-second-language professionals.

To increase the exchange between ASFA and students, Marco De Gregorio, New Energy's VP communications candidate,

pledged to make full use of ASFA's online presence.

"The current ASFA website is less than stellar," De Gregorio said. "I believe it needs an updated calendar that includes all the member association events, otherwise there will be too much clutter [...]. I want to increase the interaction between students and the website, while using more social media."

In trying to distance itself from its opponents, New Energy stayed away from the topics of partying and frosh—often derisively said to be ASFA's main purpose—and delivered a serious pitch to students.

"I think what needs to be communicated to students is, 'Don't be bought and sold by gimmicky platforms that aren't going to improve your day-to-day situation.' Sometimes people can be sold on hockey tickets, but we are seeking to make things better for Concordia students on a day-to-day basis," said Manson, who is the current co-president of NDP Concordia.

"I feel that we are coming across as more authentic, with real policies," said Suss, who added that students had approached him in the hall and had commented that he seemed to just be a normal student running for office, not a politician.

Briefs

Lower Main project scaled back

The Quartier des spectacles construction on St-Laurent Boulevard that would have resulted in Café Cleopatra being razed has been pared back significantly. The projected size of the two main buildings in the project have been cut by half and a cultural centre has been put on hold.

Metro, bus more popular than ever

Public transit use has increased by 15 per cent over the last five years, while the number of car trips fell for the first time ever by one per cent, reported an Agence métropolitain de transport study released on Feb. 15. In Montreal proper, over two-thirds of people travel by public transit.

Montreal fraudster gets 11 years

Disgraced Montreal investor Earl Jones was convicted of scamming his mainly-retired clients out of \$50 million on Feb. 15 and received an 11-year sentence. Jones used capital collected from clients to pay himself, without any actual investment returns being generated. The scam ran for over two decades and defrauded hundreds.

Canada repatriates alleged Haitian coke smugglers

The federal government has cleared the way for four accused criminals, three of whom are Canadian citizens, to be extradited to Canada. The three, one of whom owns a St-Leonard buffet, was held at the Port-au-Prince jail before the earthquake after being allegedly found with 2.35 kilograms of cocaine.

VANOC unapologetic over lack of French

Despite criticism that the opening ceremonies for the Winter Olympics contained almost no French, organizing committee chairman John Furlong insisted Feb. 15 that "there was no need to apologize" to francophones as they had done their best to make the Games bilingual. Parti Québécois leader Pauline Marois called it part of Canada's "indifference" towards Quebec.



GRAPHIC JULIA WOLFE

Stronger team missing in action

The Stronger team did not return *The Link's* invitation to speak about its platform.

Stronger's absence at the last ASFA Council meeting before the election also meant that they could not be approached.

"I would have preferred that Stronger had been at the ASFA meeting," said Green. "As there were many accusations that went back and forth about [Canadian Federation of Students] involve-

ment in that team."

The presidential candidate for the Stronger team, Charles Brenchley, was previously the president of the Dawson Student Union. During his tenure, then-VP finance Shanice Rose managed to embezzle \$43,000.

The current executive of the Canadian Federation of Students-Quebec has also expressed concern over five cheques totaling \$300,000 that were issued

during 2008-09, when Brenchley was treasurer of that organization.

On Feb. 9, Brenchley wrote on Stronger's Facebook page, "*The Link* falsely states that I was Treasurer of the CFS-Q. At a meeting I voluntarily took on certain roles that included the research for the audit process. I was never given authority to make financial decisions without consultation of the board, nor was I a signing officer of the organization."

Documents from the CFS-Q

clearly show that Brenchley was elected as the organization's treasurer. There exists no proof that Brenchley was ever given or not given power as a signing officer, nor that his ability to make financial decisions was ever limited by the CFS-Q's Board of Directors.

Documents outlining Brenchley's position at the CFS-Q can be found at *The Link's* website at thelinknewspaper.ca



Raymond Paquin calls for a new business model that allows for waste to be reused and returned to profitable use. PHOTO ELSA JABRE

Building a sustainable global economy

Second Sustainability Mashup challenges corporate world

• LAURA BEESTON

On the first floor of a building bearing the name of one of Canada's founding business tycoons, Concordia students and teachers tore through the values of the corporate world at the second Sustainability Mashup on Feb. 9.

"Democracy stops at the corporate gate and poisons democracy outside the gate," said Satoshi Ikeda, a Canada Research Chair in political sociology, as he addressed a crowd that had doubled in size since the previous Mashup on Feb. 2.

"The corporate mindset is individualistic, materialistic, exclusionary and apathetic," continued Ikeda. Arguing that social inequality is inherent in the corporate busi-

ness model, Ikeda said that corporations isolate society from nature and labour rights.

"We need a new business paradigm," agreed Raymond Paquin, a professor at the John Molson School of Business. "Business got us here and businesses are the only ones that have the wherewithal, resources, ingenuity, global reach, power and flexibility that can actually get us out of it. Governments can't. Governments won't, well, they might—but they haven't yet."

Paquin made a point of explaining the benefits of industrial symbiosis—a business model where entrepreneurs use each other's waste to turn a profit. Comparing the model to the zero-waste natural world, Paquin saw a sustainable advantage in lowering waste and

increasing the social capital created by businesses working together.

Business networks that have adopted industrial symbiosis are providing economic and environmental payoffs. In Denmark, industrial symbiosis created a \$60 million market, diverted 388,000 tons from landfills and offset 342,000 tons of carbon emissions in five years.

"We are all dominated by consumption," said Ikeda, who argued in favour of community gardens. "The social economy is local, community-based and interactive."

When invited to engage in general discussion, members in the audience of the MB auditorium had much to say about social economy. Many questioned how useful a sustainable business model could be in

developing countries or outside of academia.

"We've been taken by the power of the idea of sustainability," said Paul Shrivastava, the director of the David O'Brien Centre for Sustainable Enterprise, who was sitting in the audience. "It's a bit of a fad among western academics and intellectuals, but there are different concerns among the desperately poor people and their representatives."

"We're talking corporate hunger versus real hunger—the concept of sustainability is meaningless when the main concern is getting the next meal on the table. Unless sustainability deals directly with the extreme grinding poverty of millions of people, its relevance is not apparent."

Complaints fly as ASFA heads to polls

All three teams face chief electoral officer with problems

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Rather than tear each other's posters down, the Arts and Science Federation of Associations' executive candidates have spent the electoral campaign volleying complaints at one and another.

"Both Diana [Soler, Deputy Electoral Officer] and I kind of laughed and said, 'This is going exactly as we expected.' I have a little more faith in the decency of candidates," said ASFA Chief Electoral Officer Colby Briggs. "Some people have made the joke that I have to play mother, but sometimes I need to go and say, 'Okay you two, you need to stop fighting.'"

Much of Briggs' time over the weekend was spent dealing with a

complaint by ASFA councillor Beisan Zubi against Stronger.

In the complaint, Zubi pointed to similarities between Stronger's posters and that of Amalia Savva, running for president at the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa. Zubi also found similarities in the registration for Savva and Stronger's websites.

"I have exonerated Stronger on everything," Briggs said. The CEO showed the posters to the chair and a professor of the department of design and computational arts.

"They were somewhat confident that they were not made by the same person," Briggs said, who also looked at the poster's original documentation and found that they had

been designed on a personal version of Photoshop.

To look at the registration coincidence, Briggs actually registered a domain with GoDaddy.com.

"I had Charlie [Brenchley, presidential candidate for Stronger,] come in to my office without him knowing why, and I had him show me his Go Daddy receipt in his email," said Briggs. "I saw his purchase history, it was only stronger.asfa.ca."

Briggs found no link between Savva's and Stronger's websites.

Michaela Manson, New Energy's candidate for VP Academic and Loyola, filed a contestation with the CEO that ASFA councillor Vanessa O'Connor had tried to convince her to drop out of

her team in exchange for a future position at the Concordia Student Union.

"I am shocked. I just dropped from managing that affiliation earlier that week," said O'Connor when she was asked to comment.

According to the contestation filed with the CEO, O'Connor and Manson met on Feb. 10.

O'Connor admits the meeting took place, but differently.

"Michaela told me she would be missing much of the winter semester because she would be in Europe," said O'Connor. "I didn't encourage her to stay, but I didn't ask her to leave."

Briggs dismissed the complaint because O'Connor was not working for another team.

Students ask: where did the money go?

Quebec keeps \$35 million in student aid from students



Everybody just wants to get paid. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

• RILEY SPARKS

Nearly 150 students gathered outside of Quebec Premier Jean Charest's Montreal office on Feb. 11 to protest the provincial government's appropriation of \$35 million of federal money intended for Quebec students.

The Quebec Federation of University Students, who organized the protest, said in a press release that Ottawa transferred \$115 million to Quebec through the Canada Student Grants Program, \$35 million more than last year's transfer. But according to the Federation, the extra millions disappeared in the provincial government's budget.

"We won't wait any longer," said CSU campaign coordinator Alejandro Lobo-Guerrero, who attended the protest. He accused the provincial government of using the money to balance its budget. "He's the worst," said Lobo-Guerrero of Charest's track record on student aid.

The protesters, some of whom had travelled from as far away as Chicoutimi and Rimouski, also included many Concordia students.

When asked what he thought the government would spend the \$35 million on, Concordia student and Arts and Science Federation of Associations councillor Aaron Green guessed, "something they think is more important than students."

"I don't know what that could be," added Alexa Newman, president of the Concordia Applied Human Sciences Student Association.

Students, spectacle and Kafka

Concordia theatre triptych sexes up classic novella



Scenes from *Metamorphoses*, a three-part theatre suite starring Concordia students. PHOTOS MARTIN REISCH



• ASHLEY OPHEIM

Sometimes the inspiration you need is already lurking on your bookshelf.

"I had read [Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*] in university but hadn't reread it in over 30 years," said Harry Standjofski. "I stumbled upon it a couple of summers ago and I thought, 'This would make a great play!'"

Metamorphoses is a suite of unrelated plays that revolve around the concept of change. The show, which began its dramatic journey Feb. 11, consists of three one act plays: *Morph*, *Love Is Like Water* and *Evelyn Lee*.

"The plays are not only differ-

ent stories, they are in completely different styles," explained Standjofski. "It's like a book of unrelated short stories. It's been a pedagogical exercise putting these three stories together."

The series is Standjofski's fifth production at Concordia. He said his favourite aspect of working in collaboration with university students is the ability to work with a large cast.

"I like to put on plays with a lot of people and that is very difficult in the professional world," he explained. "I like that sense of spectacle and having all these bodies on stage. When I get one of those ideas, the most logical place to put them on is with the univer-

sity where the cast size isn't a problem."

The multitasking Standjofski is an actor, director and playwright. He wrote two of the acts in the *Metamorphoses* showcase, reworking Kafka's novella to make it more contemporary, sexy and humorous.

He described *Morph*, for which the creative team and cast are all Concordia students, as "energetic and heightened," a breath of fresh air. *Evelyn Lee* had "been sitting in [Standjofski's] head for a long time. It is more like realism than the other two."

Love is Like Water is in a slightly different style, subdued and romantic. It is a "duo, story-telling

kind of show" that flourishes in the intimate theatre space.

Standjofski said he hopes that the actors keep "kicking it up" as the show continues its run at Cazalet Studio on Concordia's Loyola campus.

"What has been amazing here," he said, "is how well the actors have literally 'metamorphosed' into their characters over the past few days."

Metamorphoses runs Feb. 17 to 20 at Cazalet Studio (7141 Sherbrooke St. W., under the Loyola chapel). Shows are at 8 p.m. Feb. 17 to 19, and 2 p.m. on Feb. 20. Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors, \$10 general.

"I like that sense of spectacle and having all these bodies on stage. When I get one of those ideas, the most logical place to put them on is with the university."

—Harry Standjofski,
director of *Metamorphoses*

Blue Skies turn 10

Local concert promoter throws party of, for the decade

• MADELINE COLEMAN

"We never had a plan," admitted Meyer Billurcu, co-founder of Blue Skies Turn Black. "I remember we got to five years and we were thinking, 'Wow, this is insane, where did all the time go?'"

This month concert promoter and erstwhile record label BSTB turns 10, celebrating with a three-night party at Il Motore featuring the cream of the crop of local indie music.

BSTB got its start when Billurcu and his partner, Brian Neuman, were working together at a radio station and decided to

start their own label. As time passed, however, they quickly realized that signing bands was more difficult than predicted.

What they never saw coming was their incredible skill in promoting those bands' shows. Before they knew it, Neuman and Billurcu were putting on five to eight shows a week.

Along with the newest addition to their team, Andre Guerette, BSTB have spent the last 10 years meeting bands, organizing and promoting shows, struggling and succeeding, and making friends along the way. Those same friends are among the artists gracing the stage at their three-night bash.

"I guess the plan was to take something that was more of a party atmosphere, more fun and no stress, and everyone could just have a good time," said Billurcu, excited about having old friends and musicians in the one room.

One of BSTB's first signed bands was Halifax-based two-man band Special Noise.

"They're really nice dudes," said Noise guitarist and lead vocal Jeff Simmons of the BSTB crew. "The thing I like most about Montreal shows is that it's become a home."

Billurcu emphasized the importance of supporting local bands. The thrill of discovering



Emilie Marzinotto, Brian Neuman, Dounia Mikou, Meyer Billurcu and Quinn Caruana of the BSTB team.

great music right around the corner, he said, is what makes the hard work all worth it.

"You know when you've had a

really long day and the last thing you want to do is be at a concert, but then you discover a band they become your new favourite and it kinda turns things around," said Billurcu. "Moments like that make it really great."

Bands including Adam and the Amethysts, The Besnard Lakes, Black Feelings and Thundrah (among many others) will take stage at Blue Skies Turn Black's 10th Anniversary Party at Il Motore (179 Jean-Talon St. W.) Feb. 25 to 27 at 8:30 p.m. Cover is pay-what-you-can, with a suggested donation of \$10. See blueskiesturnblack.com for more information on this and many, many other shows.

Ready for his close-up

Owen Pallett, aka Final Fantasy, 'opens his bathrobe' with new album

• MADELINE COLEMAN

Owen Pallett is stretching, yawning and asking his boyfriend for an order of buttermilk pancakes.

"Sorry," he says, turning his attention away from room service and back to the telephone. "Just a slice of domestic homo life."

Reclining in a Halifax hotel room the morning after a gig, the musician formerly known as Final Fantasy could use the rest. The solo artist, who says he hasn't been home since last summer, is in the midst of a tour promoting his newest album, *Heartland*. It's a sweeping bit of musical fiction, thick with classical instrumentation and melancholy vocals. It's also the first to be released under Pallett's real name since he adopted the Final Fantasy moniker for 2005 album *Has a Good Home*, followed by the Polaris Music Prize-winning *He Poos Clouds*.

Pallett spoke to *The Link* about *Heartland*, getting personal and why the world has been waiting for Lady Gaga.

The Link: *You set the story of Heartland in a surreal other world. When you're writing something like that, do you feel like you have more distance from it than if you're writing about your personal life?*

Owen Pallett: No. It's still about me, obviously. I mean, c'mon. Nothing I could ever write is ever not going to be about me—or any other fiction author, right? In a way I feel that it kind of betrayed a lot more of myself than the other records, which were kind of clever. I felt a little laid-bare.

In what way?

I felt like I was maybe opening my bathrobe a little too much to everyone. I haven't found a way of thinking about it in terms that are less than melodramatic but it was really meant to be sort of a gift [laughs] for people. And I feel like the giftiness of it could be taken different ways. It could be seen as this proud pretentious statement. People just want to listen to music that is not made because people want to make something for you, but because people have to make something for you.

How does it feel to hear people's reactions to the record, knowing that you put so much of yourself into it?

The tricky part is when it's recontextualized. That's when things become really weird. It's been interesting to see different schools of media's reactions. People in the U.K. just have this



Owen Pallett: "I don't want to go so far as to say that people who are making albums are doing humanitarian efforts."

"I don't really think of an orchestra as a group of people. An orchestra is a tool."

For the full transcript of The Link's interview with Owen Pallett, see thelinknewspaper.ca/blog

knee-jerk reaction to the idea that it might be a concept record and were like, "Absolutely not. We cannot get behind this." Which is really kind of fascinating to me and disappointing, because I like touring the U.K. Conversely, I'm on the covers of magazines in Japan all of a sudden. I've always felt proud of everything that I've done, but this is the first record I've done that I've also felt is watertight.

A lot is made of the fact that you

bring classical music together with pop music, and it's often treated as if it's this really crazy juxtaposition. But to you as a musician, do you really separate those things in your mind?

Not like meat and dairy. I'm not trying to deny that these genres exist. I'm just so used to listening to pop music and so used to writing for a symphony orchestra that I really don't make any differentiation. I often feel, too, that all the best pieces of classical music exhibit the same qualities as the best

pieces of pop music, so I just kind of don't understand why people would think about these things differently.

Can you put your finger on a piece of pop music that exhibits those qualities?

Oh, definitely. You want to know my number one? It's Peter, Bjorn and John.

That album *Writer's Block*, you could teach a counterpoint course off of it. The relation between the rhythm and the vocals and either the guitar or the bass...

I read this thing where Regina Spektor got a lot of shit because she said that The Strokes are like Mozart, and she's actually correct—The Strokes are a lot like Mozart. But everyone was just like, "What a dumb bitch!"

I was reading something about Lady Gaga where the writer had this hypothesis that the reason she's so popular is that she pretty much only writes choruses. She concentrates on the catchy chorus and that's her big thing.

I disagree of that assessment of Gaga.

Why?

I think the reason Gaga's successful has little to do with her music and more to do with these larger semiotic notions about the way that she's cast herself in this role, and that whatever she is—and I'm not even sure what she is, I don't want to try to make any assumptions—basically the world needed something like what she was. The world is filled with celebrities who are all about their own agenda, and Gaga was just kind of like, "I am basically your slave. All I do with my life is make this music for you people." I just think that's a really powerful statement, to just kind of present yourself essentially as the concubine of the world. You are essentially there to work at being the object of the world's desire.

You said that when you were making this album, you felt like you were giving a gift to people. But in her case she's just giving herself completely. Is that what you mean?

Exactly, and I don't think I'm alone either. There are a lot of people who are bandying around the whole topic of the album being dead, and the album is not dead. The album is just no longer a viable form of making money. So I don't want to go so far as to say that people who are making albums are doing humanitarian efforts, but when people are making albums now it's no longer necessarily about, "Let's make a lot of money—you've got the brains, I've got the looks."

It's an actual act of giving. It's like, I'm going to take months of my life and I'm going to deplete my bank account and go into the music studio and make something that's going to make me no money and going to make a lot of people happy.

I mean, look at the new Joanna Newsom record—I feel like she's completely hitting the nail on the head. She's making a triple album and the whole thing is called *Have One on Me*. I mean, what do you think she's talking about? [laughs] It's almost an acknowledgement of the preposterousness of what she's doing.

I hope you're making enough money to cover your room service.

Are you kidding me? I'm loaded! [laughs] No. I'm a solo act, I don't have a band I need to pay.

Owen Pallett plays Théâtre Outremont (1240 Bernard Ave. W.) on Feb. 20. Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door.

Drinking, art and owls at the Big O

• TRISTAN LAPOINTE

Nuit Blanche is soon upon us. Feb. 27 is the night when Montreal cultural centres—from galleries to, uh, the Olympic Stadium—keep it going 'til dawn.

For those who love the winter party season, this is the big one. It's time to get wild and "appreciate art" in public. For those Montrealers who dread the municipally-enforced party season, look on the bright side: you can rejoice in the rare opportunity to steal beer and make out in art-filled office buildings!

Public transit gets in on the action too; the metro will run all night long.

If you can't find something to do on Nuit Blanche, then you probably don't like fun. While we couldn't list everything that looked good this year, here are *The Link's* picks for all type of good times broken down by neighbourhood.

Pôle Maisonneuve

Keep in mind the eastern section is mostly for families from the east end 'burbs. As such, it's pricey and oddly light on the art. If you don't mind spending a little money (\$10.50) they're opening up the Biodome (4777 Pierre-de-Coubertin Ave., Pie-IX metro)—with black lights! It's just like during the day, costs more and will probably have more security. But how cool will it be to go in the Atlantic bird room at night?

For those who "just love to play disc, bro," the Olympic Stadium right around the corner (4545 Pierre-de-Coubertin Ave.) is opening up its playing fields for all-night games of Ultimate Frisbee. They'll also be flying live owls around the stadium in a performance they call "Dazzling Birds of Prey." Attendance costs zero dollars. We wonder what will happen when a bird of prey decides to well, prey in front of hundreds of children.

Quartier des spectacles and Centre-Ville

This is where the throng comes, so if you can battle the crowds be sure to check out the band Capture at the Museum of Contemporary Art (185 Ste-Catherine St. W.) who are putting on a marathon concert.

Apparently the group is only partially human and substantially automated; their singer is a robot and some of their tunes are pre-programmed algorithms.

As always, the Canadian Centre for Architecture (1920 Baile St.) is having a generally awesome party that will invariably descend into drunken dancing. Included in the evening are an outdoor cinema, ice bar, film screenings and workshops. It's also your last chance to see the CCA's exhibit *Intermission: Films from a Heroic Future*.

Plateau-Mont-Royal

The unofficial "chill zone" of Nuit Blanche, events in the Plateau are always a little more low-key than their downtown counterparts. Red Bird Gallery (135 Van Horne Ave.) is hosting an "Art Anarcholympics." Expect the politics to wear away as the beer consumption grows.

Experimental music, video projections and the famous Rick Trembles collide at beloved café Le Cagibi (5490 St-Laurent Blvd.).

If you recently moved to Montreal and can't leave the house without bangs or red lipstick then prepare to get excited by pictures of you and your friends at Ctrlab's (3634 St-Laurent Blvd.) show of photos from party blog *The Friend Attack*. It's free, and maybe they'll even be on hand to photograph their own party.

Old Port

Old Port will be fairly teeming with goings-on. Trek to water's edge and get lost in a labyrinth of fir trees being constructed on one of the quays. It's free and mazes are awesome.

The Concordia peeps behind student art festival Art Matters will be set up in District 101 Espace Creatif (48 Notre Dame St. W.) with a preview to their own festivity, starting March 1. Installations and performances abound, but book your spot because space is limited (see art-mattersfestival.com for more on that).

Griffintown residents will be set up at the New City Gas Company building (140 Ann St.) with multimedia displays and heated discussions on the future of the neighbourhood.

Art Souterrain

No longer just a series of mallways connecting boring '60s office buildings, Montreal's notoriously disappointing underground city is being repurposed for one night only. Divided into 10 zones to correspond with downtown's major buildings, there will be exhibitions all through the underground complex. No word yet on the *Logan's Run* reenactment we've been petitioning for.

Artist Kim Waldron's *The Dad Tapes/The Mom Photographs*, an exploration of the public and performative nature of family photographs, will be at Complexe Guy Favreau (200 René-Lévesque Blvd. W.).

Palais des congrès (201 Viger Ave. W.) delivers on the creepy-installations-you-can-walk-through front with a "Lipstick Forest," which is exactly as it sounds, and *Infiltrations*, an examination of the convention centre's architecture through colour.

The Vision Diversité pavillion at the Eaton Centre will host all underground performances from harmonicas to slam poetry, set to go down from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

See montrealenlumiere.com or Google "Nuit Blanche Montreal" for more info and full schedules.



Heeere's Annie!

Alternative talk show
'more DIY than David Letterman'



GRAPHIC CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

It may not be live, or even on TV, but Montreal artists are finally getting their own talk show.

Late Night in the Loft is an emerging-artist showcase that will be filmed at the Coeur de Jeanne Mance this week. Hosted by Concordia grad Annie Briard, *Late Night* will turn the spotlight on a variety of acts and performances from Montreal.

"The idea is that it's completely focused on indie arts and emerging artists, so it's definitely more DIY than David Letterman," said Briard.

Late Night in the Loft is a sort of sister show to Toronto's *Late Night in the Bedroom*, which was founded by Concordia grad Joshua Barndt last year. Like its

Toronto equivalent, *Late Night's* Montreal edition is filmed in front of a live audience and then screened online via podcast.

"I've done a lot of curating of shows in the past, but nothing like a webcast," said producer Shereen Soliman, who graduated last year from Concordia's new media program.

The goal of the show is to showcase works that are hidden from the mainstream media, she explained. "I think it lowers barriers, to allow some artists who are doing some cool stuff to show their work."

If the pilot gets picked up for a series—a decision determined by funding and audience response, rather than a network executive—*Late Night in the Loft* could become, at the very least, a seasonal occurrence.

"We're kind of debating whether to bring it to TV or to keep it online," said Briard. "What's great with online is that we have complete freedom of exactly when and where we do it and who the guests are."

Local experimentalists Dynamo Coleoptera will be the musical guest during *Late Night's* premiere episode Friday, their last gig before kicking off their national tour.

"It's unfair to call them a band, because they're really a multi-disciplinary act," said Briard, explaining that Dynamo incorporates handmade instruments and video projections into their act.

Other guests during the show will include Montreal's Throw! Poetry Collective, actor and playwright Joseph Bembridge and a

discussion with artist Frédéric Loury about Art Souterrain, which for the second year has converted Montreal's metro, as well as the Palais de congrès, into a public art gallery for all night culture fest Nuit Blanche.

"[*Late Night*] is really about making art accessible and giving young artists a kind of platform to showcase their works," said Briard. "That's what it's about, and then the show or the TV or the web, that just becomes the kind of support medium."

The pilot episode of *Late Night in the Loft* will be filmed at Coeur de Jeanne Mance, (6585 Jeanne-Mance St., loft #301) on Feb. 19 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Admission is free. Visit latenightintheloft.com for more information or to watch the podcast.

spins

Hot Chip
One Life Stand
EMI



Hot Chip probably should have called their new album *Harvey Dent*, because the record is incredibly two-faced. It might have been even smarter to just split it up into two albums, and titled one "Awesome Songs" and the other "Suicide for Your Ears" (I trademark that title, just in case I ever start a band). For most of the songs on the album, Hot Chip takes the overused, repetitive "hip-house" sound and attempts to turn it into indie-rock gold. Half the time they succeed, especially on the six-minute crunky ride of an opening track "Thieves in the Night." Another highlight is the slow-burning, Bloc Party-esque "Alley Cats," a song that gets

better every time I listen to it. Unfortunately, half of the album is just as bad, if not worse, than the genre they were trying to improve on.

"Awesome Songs" 10/10
"Suicide for Your Ears" 0/10
—Eddie Majnemer

Dommin
Love is Gone
Roadrunner Records



We all know about heartache and the loss of love. But we don't all thank our ex-lovers for lyrical inspiration when we release an album, now do we? Kristofer Dommin, the frontman of this power metal band, does just that. All the songs are sung with the hiss of agonizing passion. The layered sound of the guitar blended with the smooth bass line imitates the disrupted

feeling we get when love says no. Easy to listen to, it's clear that the band aimed for a radio-friendly audience. The lyrics are baroque and darkly romantic, sometimes over-the-top-cheesy, but it contributes to the band's message: love is one tough cramp to walk off. Oh, and don't ever expect to skip the bumpy trail to the happy ending. Fear not, fellow lovesick hearts, this is road trip music—the soundtrack to every mile of your heartbreak.

7/10
—Tania Mohsen

Sade
Soldier Of Love
Sony



Helen Folasade Adu was busy making smooth jams while the majority of you were still living inside your fathers' ballsacks.

From 1984 onwards, Adu (known more famously as Sade, also the name of her band) has been crafting passionate ballads in search of ways to perfect her signature sound, which came to life on 1992's *Love Deluxe*. The reclusive artist comes around and hands the world an album every decade or so. She continues her slow evolution with *Soldier of Love*, introducing subtle electronica elements to her music. The album's title track is classic Sade—big on drums, reverb-drenched percussive elements and vocal melodies—and indicative of the direction of the rest of the album. Though the majority of *Soldier Of Love* sounds eerily similar to her previous work, the record retains enough enjoyable elements that it can be forgiven. Just call her the AC/DC of smooth R&B.

8/10
—R. Brian Hastie

The DOWN-LOW

Event listings
Feb. 16-March 1

VISUAL ARTS

Dialogix: Art & Society
Works by Art Education students.
Vernissage Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m.
Artists talk from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Runs until Feb. 26
VAV Gallery
1395 René-Lévesque Blvd. W.

Quoi de Neuf, Julie?

Videos weaving fact and fiction from artist Julie Lequin.
Screening for Nuit Blanche Saturday, Feb. 27 at 10 p.m. and 1 p.m.
Until March 7
La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse
4296 St-Laurent Blvd.

LECTURE

Artist John Greer discusses his exhibit *Apprehension* with Prof. Norman Cornett.
Saturday, Feb. 20 at 1 p.m.
Galerie Samuel Lallouz
1434 Sherbrooke St. W.
Tickets: \$20 for students

MUSIC

The Pop Winds
with Ommacobba & the East Side Marijuana Band, Omon Ra II and D'EON.
Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 9 p.m.
Le Divan Orange
4234 St-Laurent Blvd.
Tickets: \$5

Fucked Up
with Kurt Vile and Slobs
Sunday, Feb. 21 at 8 p.m.
La Sala Rossa
4848 St-Laurent Blvd.
Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door

THEATRE

Women Beware Women
The grad class of the National Theatre School in a play by Thomas Middleton.
Tuesday, Feb. 23 to 27 at 8 p.m., 7 p.m. on Feb. 27
Ludger-Duvernay Theatre of the Monument National
1182 St-Laurent Blvd.
Tickets: \$9

DANCE

Free rock n' roll dance classes all night long for Nuit Blanche—do the Rockabilly Jive until the sun comes up!
Saturday, Feb. 27 from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m.
Ecole de danse Rock Avenue
5445 de Gaspé St.

— compiled by
Madeline Coleman

THE LINK **30TH ANNIVERSARY**
Canadian University Press Regional
CONFERENCE

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for *The Globe and Mail*

Alex Panetta

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Mark Smith

Reporter for the Associated Press
and White House Correspondent

David Secko

Concordia Professor

Brian Gabriel

Concordia Professor

Marilou Seguin

Reporter for *Rue Frontenac*

Loreen Pindera

Reporter for the CBC

Giuseppe Valiante

Reporter for the *National Post*

Linda Kay

Concordia Professor

Andrew McIntosh

The Link Alumnus and former *National Post* Reporter



March 6, 2010

The price of safety

Security at the Vancouver Olympics is stronger, higher and faster



Don't let the cuteness of these "Aboriginal" mascots fool you: the Games are a high-security machine. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

It's the largest security exercise in Canadian history.

One billion dollars have been spent.

Fifteen thousand police, soldiers and security guards have been deployed.

Helicopters are on standby 24 hours a day, as boats and airplanes patrol.

One thousand cameras and hundreds of kilometres of fences have been erected.

For two weeks in February, sections of the city of Vancouver will be sealed with airport-like security, all in a bid to keep the 2,632 athletes at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games safe. The government admits that the threat of terrorism is very low, but will still spend twice as much on security as it did on building venues.

The situation is not as bad as that depicted in *The Vancouver Sun*, which literally reported that police were at every corner in the city, or *The Guardian* newspaper, which, apart from calling Canada a "thuggish petro-state," is preparing itself for the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London.

In a bid to protect what the Canadian government describes

as "the first international 'mega-event' to take place in Canada in the post-9/11 era," critical journalists have been stopped at the border, watch lists have been compiled and enforced through surveillance and neighbours have been questioned.

"I felt under siege. I felt monitored and surveilled. I felt, as a journalist, violated," said American journalist Amy Goodman on her radio show, *Democracy Now!*, after she had been detained at the Canadian border.

In November 2009, Goodman was travelling to Vancouver as part of a book tour. As she attempted to cross the border into British Columbia at the high-traffic Peace Arch crossing, the Canadian Border Services Agency interrogated her.

According to the well-known journalist, she had been asked repeatedly what she was coming to Canada to talk about, and guards had gone through written notes and laptops belonging to her. The CBSA did not believe her when she said she wanted to talk about health care and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"[The border guard] made it clear by saying, 'What about the Olympics?' And I said, 'You mean

when President Obama went to Copenhagen to push for the Olympics in Chicago?' He said, 'No, I'm talking about the Olympics here in 2010.' I said, 'Oh, I hadn't thought of that.' And he was clearly incredulous that I was not going to be talking about the Olympics. He didn't believe me," said Goodman.

The award-winning journalist was given a 48-hour pass to stay in Canada and then was told to get out. When the CBSA was contacted to explain Goodman's treatment and its silencing of Olympic dissenters, it explained that privacy concerns prevented a response.

On Feb. 8, less than a week before the opening ceremonies, another American journalist, Martin Marcias, was pulled aside by the CBSA in Vancouver International Airport. After a seven-hour detention, during which Marcias explained that he was travelling to Vancouver to cover protests against the games, he was denied entry into Canada and sent back to the United States. No reason was given.

The Integrated Security Force, the Olympic security agency led by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, has taken unprecedented steps to ensure it keeps control of

The government admits that the threat of terrorism is very low, but will still spend twice as much on security as it did on building venues.

the Games. Apart from the massive screenings of individuals both involved in the Olympics and protesting around it, more direct measures have been prepared.

In the months leading up to the Games, the Vancouver police unveiled the Long Range Acoustic Device, a sound-based crowd-control weapon used against protesters at the G-20 summit in Pittsburgh last year. The LRAD fires a sound wave of nearly 150 decibels above the normal human threshold for pain.

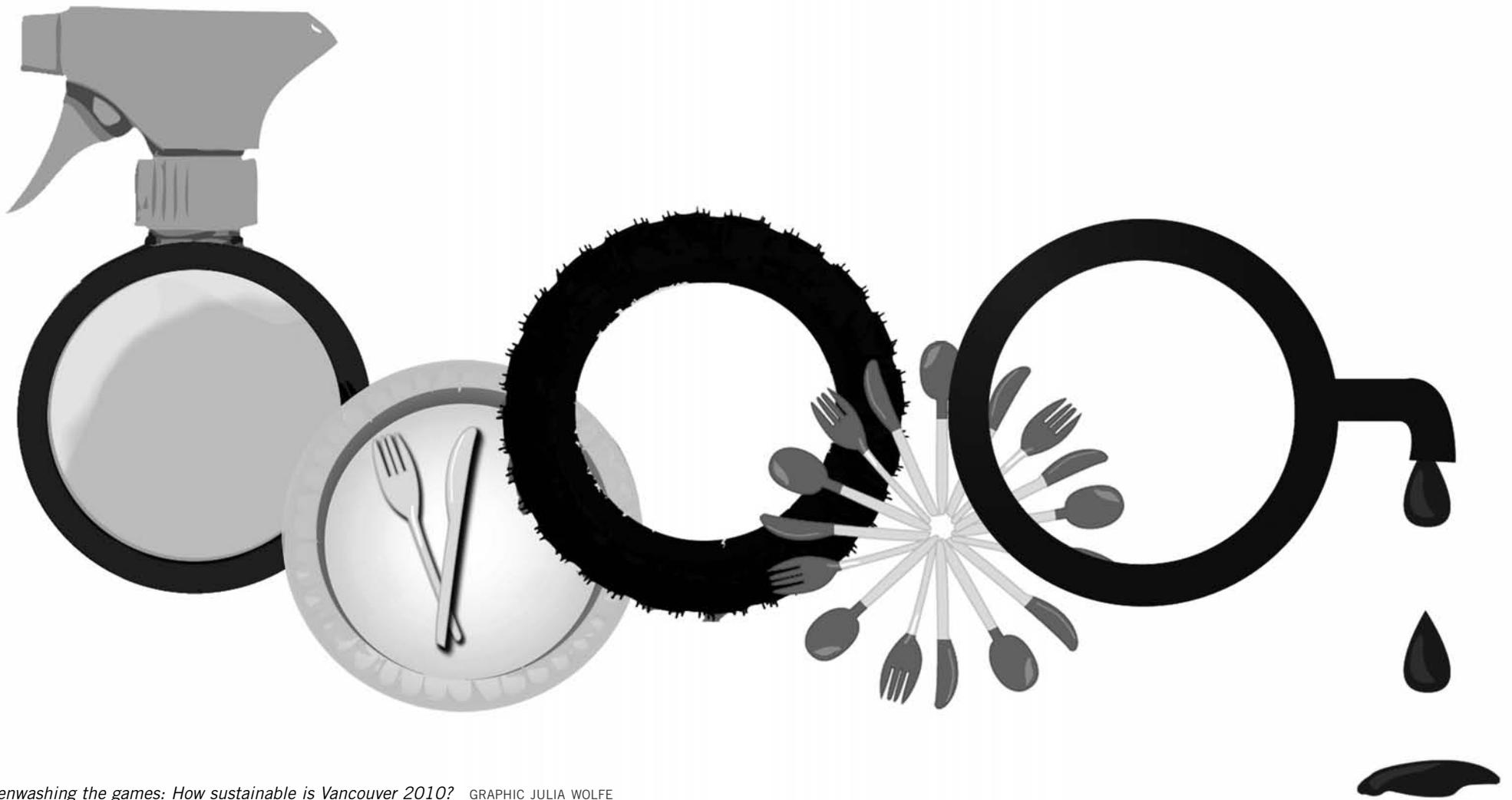
The protests against the games, organized by a multitude of groups including No2010, have had many issues around which to organize. Despite charges that native lands were illegally used or the Games have become a boilerplate of corporate greed, the most serious criticisms have been about the expense of the Games. The \$1 billion on security alone is more than the city of Vancouver's

entire budget, a budget that was under strain even before the Games began.

Dubbed the "Bailout Games" by some due to the fiscal rollercoaster that accompanied the Olympics and the global recession, the financial impact of the event will be felt for years to come. Despite the glossy ads in Vancouver, budget shortfalls announced at the municipal and provincial level in December led to laying off 233 government employees, 800 teachers and the recommended closure of 14 schools.

Fears that the homeless would be rounded up and driven out of Vancouver never materialized, but the diversion of funds away from poverty eradication programs ensured that little was done to help them.

After the closing ceremonies have become a memory, the cameras have been taken down—by law they must be—and the Olympic venues become sporting facilities for the people of Vancouver, one further legacy will remain. The Vancouver Olympic Games required the most extensive security presence in Western Canada since the Second World War, not to avoid terror, but to stamp out any form of dissent.



Greenwashing the games: How sustainable is Vancouver 2010? GRAPHIC JULIA WOLFE

Sustainability: The Olympic-sized debate

• **ASHLEY WHILLANS—THE UBYSSEY (UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA)**

VANCOUVER (CUP) — In 2003, when Vancouver was selected to host the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, the Vancouver Organizing Committee made a promise: Vancouver's would be the first sustainable Olympics in history.

Now with 5,000 athletes, 10,000 media members, 14,000 volunteers and 2.3 million attendees taking part in the Games, the questions remain. Will Vancouver live up to its claim? Is there such a thing as a sustainable Olympics?

Already figures suggest that 328,000 tonnes of carbon, or the equivalent of approximately 65,600 extra cars driving for a year, is expected to be emitted into the atmosphere during the Games. Air travel alone will contribute 226,000 tonnes of total emissions, according to a report published by the David Suzuki Foundation.

However, this environmental pollution is just the tip of the melting iceberg. Most people

think about the environment when they think about sustainability. In the wake of a mega-sporting event such as the 2010 Olympics, this concept becomes more complex, said Robert Sparks, director of the University of British Columbia's school of human kinetics.

"Sustainability is not just economics and the environment," Sparks said. "When we think about sustainability, we should also be thinking about development, health and physical activity."

To lessen the environmental and social impact of the Games and help Vancouver live up to its sustainability promise, the Vancouver Organizing Committee solicited the help and advice of UBC.

Academia takes the reins

Since the bid's win in 2003, UBC has been involved with a number of projects that assess the ecological impact and increase the overall sustainability of the Olympics.

One of these projects is the first comprehensive Olympic Games Impact report, a report seeking to

determine the social, environmental and economic impact of the Games.

These reports will track the number of people made homeless by the Games, environmental factors such as air quality and the number of tourists, and the businesses and jobs created or changed because of the Olympics, said Rob VanWynsberghe, associate professor of human kinetics at UBC.

Is it enough?

While many professors and employees at the UBC's sustainability office can't say enough great things about the initiatives and research being developed at the university thanks to the Olympics, not everyone on campus is as enthusiastic.

Sarah Stevenson, a fifth-year biochemistry student and board member of the Student Legal Fund Society, said UBC-led projects will have little to no effect on the overall sustainability of the Games. She is especially concerned that the research of the OGI reports would largely be "ignored" by VANOC and the city of Vancouver.

"The impact of UBC's initia-

tives will be a minor contribution at best to the overall sustainability of the Games," she said. "To believe that UBC's Olympic Games Impact reports would be treated seriously is naïve."

She also argued that while many Olympic venues, including UBC's own Doug Mitchell Sports Centre, have Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification that considers the carbon footprint of the venue and how it was built, this might only be part of an Olympic "greenwashing" campaign. Greenwashing is when a company or organization spends more time and money creating and marketing a "green" image than actually being green.

She claimed that while the Whistler Sliding Centre is supposedly LEED-certified and therefore sustainable, it uses the same amount of energy it takes to run all of the facilities at Whistler and Blackcomb combined.

"These types of sustainable claims are absurd, and a total falsification of the global consumption that occurs every year an Olympic Games is held," said Stevenson.

All downhill from here

While not all students and staff at UBC agreed about whether or not the Olympics are sustainable, everyone did manage to agree on one point—the need for sustainable initiatives after the Games are paramount.

"The Olympics alone cannot bear the burden of achieving sustainability," said newly-appointed UBC director of sustainability John Robinson.

"I think the best way to think of this is not so much whether what we do at and for the Olympics will ensure the continuance and reinforcement of sustainability, but instead how what we do at and for the Olympics will fit into a larger strategy of promoting and fostering sustainability at UBC and beyond," he said.

Regardless of how much or little UBC contributes, or whether the Olympic targets are met, society must continue to foster and promote sustainable initiatives, added Shaw.

"Sustainability is something we should do all the time, under all circumstances—not just for special events."

14,000

number of Games volunteers.

226,000

tonnes of total emissions from air travel alone, according to a report published by the David Suzuki Foundation.

328,000

tonnes of carbon expected to be emitted into the atmosphere during the Games.

2.3

number of attendees in millions flying into Vancouver to take part in the Games.

5,000

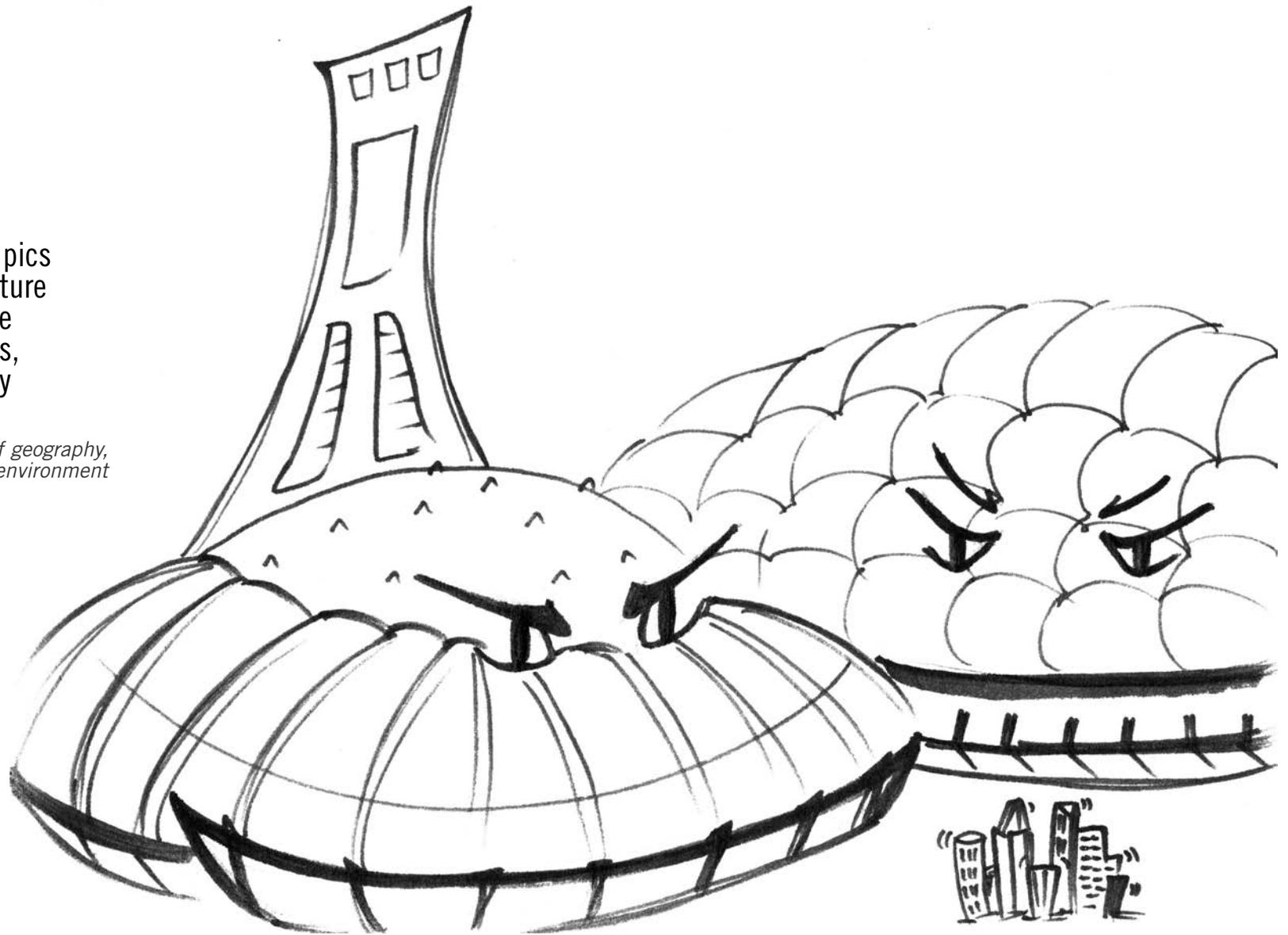
number of athletes flying in for the Games.

Still not worth the bailout

Olympic budget making a mountain out of a mega-project

“Mega-events like the Olympics leave a legacy of infrastructure that influences where future growth and spending occurs, but not much else. Certainly not sustainability!”

—Craig Townsend, professor of geography, urban planning and environment



The legacy of Olympic venues might not be worth the expense in the long run. GRAPHIC DARYNA RUHKLYADEVA

• LAURA BEESTON

Despite a claim of sustainability, environmentalists and urban planners are unconvinced that Vancouver's Olympic Village is worth the billion dollar price tag.

“There has been an attempt, at least on a symbolic level, to make the Olympic events and infrastructures about the environment and therefore worth the money, but ultimately, the people saying that sustainability is the primary goal of these projects are green-washing,” said Craig Townsend, a professor of geography, urban planning and environment at Concordia.

“This Village is ultimately a mega real estate project, which has used the Games to generate support that would have been difficult to generate at any other time, especially in a global recession,” he added.

In a secret meeting on Jan. 19, 2009, the provincial government of British Columbia passed Bill 47, allowing the Millennium Development group to borrow \$458 million from the province to pay for the remaining construction of the Olympic Village after the original lender, Fortress Investment Group, backed out last fall.

“This is a lot of money that the provincial government could be spending in other areas,” Townsend continued. “In terms of the traditional lasting impacts on the urban environment, mega-events like the Olympics leave a legacy of infrastructure that influences where future growth and spending occurs, but not much else. Certainly not sustainability!”

Citing “The Big Owe” Olympic Stadium of Montreal, which was built for the 1976 Olympics and amassed a debt of \$1.5 billion that

was finally paid off in 2006, Townsend was wary about the over-ambitious government spending on these types of projects.

“Building something this expensive and permanent for a short-term event is bound to be problematic. Quite often the scale of these facilities is beyond the size of regional or local communities. In the case of Montreal, the Olympic Stadium was premised on an anticipated [amount of] rapid growth post-Games that never really arrived. As it turned out, Montreal had a decade of slow growth and we were stuck paying for these facilities that didn't have any use.”

Townsend, who specializes in urban transportation systems, was also quite skeptical of the other projects currently siphoning provincial money in preparation for the Games, which he believes

have been underreported in lieu of the Village scandal.

Specifically, he considered the \$1.9 billion Sea-To-Sky Highway renovation project from Horseshoe Bay to Whistler “the exact opposite” of sustainable operations, arguing that there is “something perverse” about building a highway that connects the suburbs with an elite resort.

“Why should the public be putting this huge amount of money into something that is going to benefit just a very small number of people? Is that fair from a societal perspective? No. Sustainability is not just about preserving the environment. It is about the ways to build equality. The Olympics celebrate lifestyles that are inherently problematic for sustainability and this project specifically endorses the current inequities.”

Along with the criticisms of

“sustainable irony” inherent to the 2010 Olympic plans, Townsend said what it all comes down to is business as usual.

“I appreciate the attempt to brand the Games with environmental initiatives, but if B.C. wanted to promote sustainability, they would have done something else entirely,” he said. “I find it depressing that the people in charge have been dishonest in telling people how much they love the Earth one day and then funding an eight-lane highway the next. This is, quite simply, superficial marketing. To a certain extent, the concept of a sustainable Olympics is just an add-on of selling the project.”

The true costs of the infrastructure projects initiated by the Games cannot be known until well after 2010, according to official reports from the Vancouver Olympic Committee.

10,000

number of media members covering the Olympics.

\$9.2

in billions, the estimated total of infrastructure and other Olympics-related costs.

\$1.0

in billions, the price of security for two-weeks worth of Olympic Games.

30

years it took Montreal to pay off its Olympic debt.

135%

increase in the number of homeless in Vancouver between 2002 and 2008.

On 'manifesse' contre les Jeux Olympiques

A history of subversive surveillance

• LAURA BEESTON

The history and solidarity of queers and other so-called subversives in the face of increasing surveillance and repression during the Olympics was the topic on the table during "Street Clean-ups, Street Protest: Criminalization and Resistance from '76 to 2010," a lecture hosted by Q-team and Quebec Public Interest Research Group-McGill on Feb. 7.

Though much has changed in the 34 years since Quebec hosted the Olympic Games and many miles separate Montreal and Vancouver, important patterns of social struggle are repeating themselves, according to activists and authors, giving context to national issues that have been thrust into the forefront as Canada basks once again in the world's spotlight.

"At the moment, the feeling in Vancouver has various aspects to it that were the same that [Montreal] had in 1970s," said Patrizia Gentile, who launched her book *The Canadian War on Queers: National Security as Sexual Regulation* at the lecture.

Through the rhetoric of security, Gentile said, "Olympic clean-ups today are really about the

same things: silencing anyone who is speaking from a place of anti-imperialism, anti-colonialism or anti-capitalism."

Reported by various alternative media sources since B.C. won the bid, the human rights-related issues playing out in Vancouver encompass themes of increased police repression, criminalization of minority groups and suspicion of anti-Olympic organizing.

What's happening in Vancouver today can be compared to an Olympic-era Montreal in the '70s, where gay bar raids and lefty-inclined organizations were surveyed and interrogated in the lead-up to the opening ceremonies.

"[Surveillance] was actually on a much larger scale than we really imagined—even in our wildest, most paranoid conversations," said Ross Higgins, founder of Archives gaies du Québec and professor of sexuality studies and queer theory at Concordia University. "They were basically keeping track of what we were having for breakfast," he joked.

"We are able to show, through Access to Information requests, the way in which the Montreal police force were in constant communication with the Royal

Canadian Mounted Police, trying to get surveillance on gay bars and radicals living in Montreal," added Gentile. "[They] were particularly interested in the left movement and used the Olympic clean-up campaign not just to silence the queer community, but also to find whatever connections it had to 'the left' in order to create records and collect names."

Searching through a massive amount of declassified documents from the government in researching *Canadian War on Queers*, Gentile also discovered an attempt by the RCMP and Canadian military to exempt themselves from the guaranteed anti-discrimination rights outlined in Section 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"They argued that homosexuals were basically operationally ineffective to securing the Games," said Gentile. "It's amazing that we're able to trace this history. You can also find that the Canadian Security Intelligence Service has lists and lists, hundreds of pages of groups put under surveillance—from housewife committees right down to the revolutionary Marxist groups—and any student group is on these lists as well. [Students]

are also seen as subversive because of our arguments against the nation."

"We actually owe the security apparatus a very big debt, because [they] documented things we weren't at the time, and now we have all these notes," added Higgins.

These major crackdowns and anti-queer purges were a major part of state formation, the panelists argued.

"Gentrification, moral and social cleansing initiatives and criminalization were national campaigns," Gentile contended. "They are still very much queer issues, and were queer issues in 1976."

Bridging the disconnect between different generations of queers and different eras of Olympic Games reveals important patterns of intersecting social turmoil and institutional interests.

"We were and we are in a position of struggle," said Gentile. "Especially around the time of the Olympics, where issues of nationalism are always at the forefront."

"Olympic clean-ups today are really about the same things: silencing anyone who is speaking from a place of anti-imperialism, anti-colonialism or anti-capitalism."

—Patrizia Gentile,
author and activist



The Olympic Games has a long history of sweeping social minorities, civil rights, dissenting politics and protesters out of the streets. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

Race for rights

Olympic flashpoints of civil protest



• TERRINE FRIDAY

In April 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested for protesting against segregation in Birmingham, Ala. Four months later, King led the March on Washington where over 200,000 people heard him deliver his famous “I Have a Dream” speech.

Less than two years later, black nationalist Malcolm X was assassinated during a speech in New York City (his original last name “Little” was changed to “X” as a sign of solidarity with illiterate slaves who commonly signed their names as “X”).

Stokely Carmichael, a black nationalist, coined the term “Black Power” before visiting Sir George Williams University (one of Concordia University’s predecessors) in 1967.

The American Black Panther Party, whose original mandate was to promote black unity and protection, was founded in 1966 by Bobby Seale and Huey Newton. The organization, which attracted a handful of radical activists, was labelled a terrorist organization by the American government.

In April 1968, American presi-

dent Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act, which prohibited discrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing. This updated the 1964 Civil Rights Act prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour and/or religion, the 1965 Executive Order 11246—the first enforcement of employment equity—and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. It also followed King’s assassination by a week. It’s still unclear whether King was killed due to his involvement in the civil rights movement or his strong, vocal dissent of the Vietnam War. He was assassinated exactly one year after a public speech denouncing the U.S. presence in Vietnam.

Part of this history was also the lead-up to the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City, where American sprinters John Carlos and Tommie Smith raised their fists—known as a symbol of black solidarity and then linked to the Black Panther Party—on the podium while the American national anthem blared. The International Olympic Committee banned both athletes from the Olympic Village, as well as any subsequent Olympic games.

Carlos and Smith put the demand for equal rights on the global stage with their display of black pride. Neither were active members in the American civil rights movement; they were ordinary Americans—though extraordinary athletes—who wanted to live ordinary lives.

The 1968 Olympics also coincided with the aftermath of the Mexico City Massacre, where hundreds of student activists were killed (ironically) for denouncing the Mexican government’s human rights abuses.

This Olympic season is a time to pay tribute to not only black history but also to the civil liberties that surround the Games. Forty-two years later, the Vancouver Olympics’ mandate is to promote “integrity, honesty, respect, fairness and compassion.”

Until we acknowledge the history of the human rights movements on the international stage, we cannot understand its value.

For more info about the American black civil rights movement, read Steven Lawson’s *Running for Freedom: Civil Rights and Black Politics in America Since 1941*.

This Olympic season is a time to pay tribute to not only black history but also to the civil liberties that surround the Games. Forty-two years later, the Vancouver Olympics’ mandate is to promote “integrity, honesty, respect, fairness and compassion.”

50 years of dissent

April, 1967: A “Queer-sweep” of downtown Montreal takes place as part of preparation for Expo ‘67. Police then allegedly arrested several officials involved with the Expo organizing committee, but the arrests were stricken from records.

Oct. 2, 1968: the Mexico City massacre takes place. Thousands of students and protesters were killed by police, just 10 days before the Olympics were held in the city.

Oct. 16, 1968: American sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos are banned from the Olympic Village for raising the Black Power fist during their medal acceptance. The Black Panther Party, who used the gesture as a symbol, was considered a terrorist organization at the time.

1968: SPVM announce that there are over 12,000 homosexuals on file with the police

1971: 100 gay liberationists assemble for a demonstration on St-Denis Street.

Sept. 5, 1972: the Munich Massacre unfolds during the second week of the Olympics, where Israeli athletes were taken hostage and murdered by the Black September Organization.

Feb. 4, 1975: 36 people are arrested after the police raid Aquarius Sauna on Crescent Street.

May, 1975: 2,600 signatures are collected for a petition to the Minister of Justice pushing to include sexual orientation in the Quebec Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

May 14, 1976: 89 people are arrested and a list of 7,000 members of Comité homosexuel anti-repression (CHAR) is seized after police raid the Neptune Sauna.

June 19, 1976: The first pride march occurs in Montreal, seeing 300 people take to the streets of René-Lévesque Boulevard.

July 17, 1976: during the Olympic opening ceremony in Montreal, 25 African nations announced their boycott of the Olympic Games due to the International Olympic Committee’s refusal to bar New Zealand from the games. The New Zealand rugby team had been touring South Africa, then an apartheid state and then banned from participating in the Olympics.

October 21, 1977: Truax Bar is raided, 146 people are arrested.

October 22, 1977: 2,000 people block Ste-Catherine and Stanley Streets during rush hour to protest the raid on Truax bar.

Summer, 1980: over 60 nations, led by the United States and including Canada, boycotted the Olympic Games held in Moscow as a sign of protest to the U.S.S.R.’s invasion of Afghanistan.

Summer, 1984: the U.S.S.R. boycotted the Olympic Games held in Los Angeles as a sign of protest to the U.S.’s 1980 boycott.

July 27, 1996: Christian extremist Eric Robert Rudolph’s pipe bomb kills two and injures 100 during a concert at the Atlanta Summer Olympics.

Summer, 2004: Arash Miresmaeili, an Iranian judoist, refused to compete in the final against Israel’s Ehud Vaks. Although Miresmaeili denied it was due to Vaks’ nationality, he received a handsome sum of money upon his return to Iran.

Telling it like it is

Using labels to define an 'other'

• ORPHÉE LADOUCEUR-NGUYEN

"You can call me everything or anything except the 'n' word," said Reggie Newkirk, a leader in the American civil rights movement. "Don't call me a nigger. I will not tolerate that."

"Don't call anyone a negro," said Michael Farkas, director of the Black History Month roundtable. "It won't go with everybody. But I actually like it when my friends say 'Hey le neg!'"

When I first started exploring the still-existing taboo around the different labels attributed to black people, I was confident that I was going to get a clear and definite answer to my "simple" question of terminology. Well, I didn't—and I doubt anyone could ever find one.

Seeing how the words "black," "afro-Canadian," "black Canadian," "nigger," "negro," "person of colour," "coloured" and "visible minority" all have pretty distinct etymologies, the usage of such terms all boil down to being sensitive and respectful. To be able to do that, you need to have a basic understanding of the historical and socio-political contexts behind the existence of those labels and more importantly, of races.

Referring to someone as "coloured" or "negro" nowadays is not at all understood and

accepted in the same way as it was half a century ago, nor does it mean the same thing in New York as it does in Montreal. A key thing to understand in this whole labelling business is that labels are dynamic. Terminology and meanings change over time and geographical space and there is absolutely nothing we can do about it except adapt.

According to Giovani Burgos, assistant professor at McGill University's sociology department, the preferred label is not as important as the reason behind that preference. Burgos explained that preferential use of terminology is usually a question of power.

"The shifting categories in terms of labelling are due to either empower or to disempower people," he said. Burgos explained that some people want to "reclaim certain labels to put them in an inferior category [whereas] others want to reclaim those labels in order to put a positive spin on it."

If we look at the example of the term "black," which was used in the past to denigrate people, we can see how this black empowerment movement tried to reclaim the categorization of "black as inferior" into something positive. It was brought into play in the 1960s American cultural movement of "Black is beautiful"—which promoted the idea

that black people's natural features are not ugly in opposition to media depictions.

This racial classification and hierarchy all started back in the age of slavery.

People created "blackness" and "attributed inferiority attributes to blackness and superiority attributes to whiteness," said Burgos. Science has long since proven that there is in fact no biological basis nor genetic foundation to race; it's clear that race is a social creation.

Farkas said that blacks themselves adopted and espoused those rules, which were perpetuated in social interactions. As a result, he said, it is still ingrained in the black community.

Although race was designed with a specific intent to marginalize groups, Burgos contends that "racism is like a cancer: if you ignore it, it is not going to go away." Canada's tendencies to avoid using the word "race" and opting for a more neutral word like "multiculturalism" systematically perpetuate "colour-blind racism"—an ideology which pretends that by disregarding any differences based upon races and avoiding the topic of racism as a whole, the problem of racial inequity will naturally disappear.

Colour-blind racism is a key to maintaining "white privilege." If nothing is done to acknowledge differences and to fight racial



Keep it simple, or you might end up looking stupid. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

oppression, thus maintaining the status quo, only the group in power will benefit.

Terminology is a powerful tool, and it really comes down to being respectful and mindful of the ever-changing etymology in time and geographical space while still acknowledging some

people's personal preference and disposition.

The next time you're unsure about how to define someone else, just ask them. That way we might be able to gradually transcend racial stereotypes, instead of waiting for the government's rhetoric to change.

Haha, racism!

Knowing good humour from straight-up bigotry

• LAURA BEESTON

Racism, friends, is a big fuck-ing joke.

I know that's not what you expected to read in a Black History Month special insert, where we're all about trying to get to a better place, to remember history and condemn oppression, to give context to contemporary reality, while commending the moral fibre of those who fought against institutional and social inequality in the past—but the joke's on us. Racism is alive and well and I think I might know a reason why.

Lately, I've been around some really awkward social situations, listening to people with big personalities—and even bigger mouths—give their two cents about the world in what they

believe is appropriate humour.

Now, I'm not inherently against the "wise guy" or the well-timed gag or guffaw. Who doesn't like to hear a crack or two at a party? I dig it. But I'm starting to notice a trend that is maybe even worse than a racist joke, if possible, and it's the fact that most people are really not willing to call out a bad-form joke when they hear it, or call out the person telling the joke for being an asshole. Straight up.

What I'm referring to here is a loose definition of "racism," where it's not necessarily always about race. Theoretically, the joke *could* be about natives, Asians, blacks or Mexicans. Or it could be about homos, women, bums or retards—pick your minority group. Regardless, there are too many times when assumptions

and stereotypes are overtly picked on or played-out without someone else willing to call it out for what it really is: bigoted.

I don't think it's necessary to get into the specific comments or punch lines that have been floating around my social circles and inspired this rant, but I really do wonder who is policing the proliferation of racism if it isn't the individual—if and when they hear it.

As a side note, I'm not meaning to be overly Sarah-Palin-politically-correct on this issue (I did just use the word "retard," right?) and I do believe that sometimes—tastefully done—there is a time and place for kidding around and celebrating the differences among us all, but I digress. The reason that intolerance continues to fester is because we as individuals

aren't willing to stand up to people when they're out of line and tell them, "Hey, that mama joke just isn't funny, man. You should really show some respect." Or "Dude, X doesn't have any homosexual preferences, so don't whine about it being gay." Or, "Hey, Jan Wong, the Canadian University Press national conference is not a "transgender conference" made up of "boy-girl-boy-girl" where everyone has to "self-identify," and we also don't appreciate your self-deprecating humour about how badly you drive" (true story, I really do wish I had had the chance to tell her that).

My point is, we all need to keep our ears open for this shit and actually say something when the joke has gone too far. Otherwise, who really gets the last laugh?

Intolerance continues to fester because we don't stand up to people when they're out of line.

Queering Black History Month

Égale Canada director speaks about being queer in the black community

2010 'a good time for conversations around race and sexuality'

• TERRINE FRIDAY

When Akim Archer walked into a local restaurant in Toronto three years ago and saw a poster of reggae star Elephant Man promoting his upcoming tour dates, he said he “got pissed off.”

Archer, who works as director of policy and research for the gay rights group Égale Canada, was appalled that Canada would allow an artist who preaches hate speak to come into the country.

“I just thought, ‘Something has to be done about this,’ because he’s being given a platform to perform and [...] he represents a certain element of homophobic violence,” Archer said.

Out of the movement to prevent Elephant Man from entering Canada, Stop Murder Music was born.

Archer, founder and spokesperson for Stop Murder Music, said the organization’s mandate is not only to stop the spread of hate speech—which the organization found most frequently in Jamaican dancehall reggae—but also to rectify the perception of the Caribbean as being a homophobic place.

“We wanted to correct the information in the media and let people know that [homophobia in the Caribbean] is something new. That element of violence has not always

been there,” Archer said. “The objective was to raise education and awareness about what the music actually meant. Although some people enjoy dancehall—I myself enjoy dancehall—there’s certain songs and artists that are offensive.”

Archer, a law school graduate, has also been successful in getting iTunes to remove some music inciting hate towards the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities, including songs from Sizzla and Beenie Man.

“It was not their entire albums,” Archer noted, “just the specific songs that glorified hate and violence and murder, or that could be considered to be contravening the criminal code.”

In Section 319 of the Criminal Code of Canada, it states that anyone who incites hate against an identifiable group can be subject to penalty ranging from a summary conviction to a two-year prison term. Although the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms asserts equality before and under the law, it does not protect gender identity. The Northwest Territories, under their territorial Human Rights Act, is the only place in Canada that does (other provinces protect sexual orientation only).

Besides focusing on Stop Murder Music, Archer said his goal is to educate people about the often-ignored

intersectionality of colour and gender identity.

Similarly, in his publication called *Negotiating Stigmas: Black Gay Males Reconciling Race and Sexuality*, Northwestern University PhD candidate Marcus Hunter discusses the lack of qualitative theory regarding black identity and the resulting effects of leaving minorities out of queer theory and discourse.

“This [omission] imposes a cursory homogeneity upon the black community, wherein certain dividing lines within the community are blurred or ignored altogether,” he wrote. “Thus, the nuances of smaller communities within this larger minority are not considered.”

Although Elephant Man was not in the end denied entry, Archer said the goal was never to stop his entire tour.

“[It] got a lot of media attention and a lot of community involvement, and with that, there were many cancellations of his tours. Although some went ahead, that was fine. In my eyes, that was positive. It was important the conversation [started] and people were taking notice of this issue.”

For more info about Égale Canada and their 2010 Queering Black History Month award recipients, visit egalecanada.ca.



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

It didn't end with Obama: The politics of race

• SURER DERIA

“The past is but a ghost, the future a dream.”

—Bill Cosby

If you're a university student, you've probably come to the educated conclusion that history is subjective; subjected to the personal views and political agenda of those who get to write it.

Black History Month is meant to offer a bigger glimpse of history, whether it be Canadian, modern and/or African, by highlighting the contributions of people of African descent. Acknowledging African contributions in science, philosophy and the arts in our history books is a way of countering revisionist views that view race as a part of modern progress.

The argument for not highlight these achievements is familiar: why bother highlighting the history of a race as something separate? Why not include these fixtures of history as a part of Canadian history, and disregard the race and/or cultural origins of said individuals and groups?

Well, other than the fact that multiculturalism is a relatively new aspect of Canadian history, racism and xenophobia are old and real.

Looking back over the past decade, we can acknowledge that Canada had a recent mock trial for “reasonable accommodation.” Paris survived violent riots in its poor suburbs. America elected a black man as president while, sadly, protests of his leadership continue on grounds that thinly veil an obvious distrust of the leader’s

“otherness.” In defence of Obama, former president Jimmy Carter told the American news media that “there is an inherent feeling among many in this country that an African-American ought not to be president and ought not to be given the same respect as if he were white.”

Even post-racial America has some glitches, and why wouldn't it? Hundreds of years of oppression doesn't disappear overnight, especially when injustice was supported by such strong champions as religion and science. It wasn't too long ago that reputable scientists and academics made claims of physiognomy—the discredited study of facial and other features that vary across races—to prove a racial hierarchy, such as in Herrnstein and Murray's famed book *The Bell*

Curve. Although such assertions have since been abandoned by most intellectuals, rogue scientists like Nobel prize winner James Watson still pop their heads out every now and then to say things like “blacks are inherently inferior to whites” without alluding to the bases upon which superiority is measured, nor the cultural, social, political and economic implications grounded in who creates these bases.

The free world is outdated: it's based on old values that are based on white, heteronormative thought. Some might still assume that merit, skill and intelligence are the main factors in casting people in pivotal, power-wielding roles, but we must be able to acknowledge that there are institutional factors that have kept other groups—such as women, Aboriginals, Asians, Hispanics and

Africans—largely marginalized as perpetual observers.

To those who still wonder why this month is important, it's because Black History Month is more than a celebration; it's a month of education, something we as university students are invested in. This month is about reviewing our history books, asking why events are left out, who our favourite writers really were and acknowledging why their origins can contextualize our current social dynamic.

Black History Month in many ways is a gateway to learning about different perspectives from other minority groups. In discovering the histories of Canada's pluralistic communities, perhaps we can all move a little closer to honouring our multicultural society.

McGill's African studies program leads Canada

• KAMILA HINKSON

"Do you remember 1968?" asked Professor John Galaty, head of McGill University's African studies program. It was a time of revolution around the world, he explained, and Montreal was no different.

"There were people on the streets of France, there was a raising of consciousness vis à vis the developing countries in general," he continued, "and so the African studies meetings in Montreal became the site of revolution."

A year later in 1969, the African Studies Association, a non-profit organization created to bring people with a scholarly/professional interest in Africa together, held their 12th annual meeting in Montreal.

But the Montreal Black Caucus wasn't impressed with the ASA's work. Instead, they suggested modifications to the ASA's mandate, such as splitting the 12-person committee equally between "six Africans and six Europeans."

Although the ASA discarded their demands, some suggestions were catalyst for change. One of those changes was the 1969 birth of McGill's African studies program, the first of its kind in Canada.

The interdisciplinary program offers both a major and minor for undergraduate students who are interested in learning about the continent. The disciplines range from history, anthropology and political science to economics, geography and Swahili language classes.

"The interest in Africa at McGill is much wider than our program," Galaty said. "Every time we offer a course, 200 to 300 students turn out."

Although McGill's African studies program might be cause for celebration, there are still no African studies departments in Canada; all programs are interdisciplinary. Where McGill focuses on social sciences, the program at Carleton, for example, also offers courses on African French literature, as well as music and cinema.

Vanier College will launch their new black studies program in the fall of 2010, which will focus on the African diaspora and the experiences of blacks in North America.

Still one of few programs of its kind in Canada, Galaty contends the study of Africa is important because their problems have global implications.

"Issues of the African state, resources, conflict, conservation; these are some of the most important issues facing not just Africa, but also the world," he concluded.



Students are lined up against the wall in the Hall building, awaiting further orders from police.

How I learned to stop worrying and love the Riot

The untold stories of Concordia's 'computer incident'

• WES COLCLOUGH

The university indexes it as the "Computer Incident." We know it as the Computer Riot.

In light of Black History Month, it is important to consider the events leading up to the Sir George Williams University Computer Riot and what it means for social equality and human rights in Canada.

The late 1960s was a tumultuous time, a time of great social change. Montreal became home to a growing black consciousness that was up until that point dormant in Canada.

One of the key figures in the rise of black consciousness in Montreal was C.L.R. James, a pan-African nationalist born in Trinidad, who took up his year-long residency in Montreal in 1967. Upon his arrival, James was introduced to black nationalist Stokely Carmichael, who spoke at Sir George Williams University.

This was our institution's first taste of revolutionary black consciousness. Their meeting was consequential in the sense that a flame was summarily passed from James to Carmichael, a symbolic shift from traditional means of campaigning to the younger generation's adoption of more radical activism.

When McGill University hosted the Congress of Black Writers in 1968, the event helped galvanize political intentions and empower black determination in ways never before seen. During this conference many black writers, intel-

lectuals and activists came together in solidarity, generating a sense that the struggle for equality was far from over. The writers traced the history of colonialism and slavery to present-day oppressions, which later fuelled the outrage over complaints of racism on the part of SGW professor Perry Anderson, who taught medical school prerequisite Zoology 431.

The first official complaint of discrimination from West Indian and Asian students was laid against Anderson on April 28, 1968. After what seemed like a floundering and unjust judicial process at SGW, over 200 students of various backgrounds entered the ninth-floor computer centre and occupied it for two weeks.

This may seem like old news, but how often do we hear of the fact that the computer centre was well-cared for, and the computer, a massive calculating machine that could not be easily moved, was carefully preserved throughout those two weeks of occupation? The students, well aware of the symbolic capital the computer held, occupied the computer centre and decried the de-personalization of university life that occurred as a result of the computer.

It was only in the last day, when negotiations broke down, that fury broke out in the Hall building, at which point the police sprang to action. During the confusion, fires were set and the computer, which the university paid \$1,000 per hour to rent, was utterly demolished.

As IBM computer cards flut-

An aspect of the affair often ignored was the presence of CIA agent Warren Hart, who encouraged factionalism and disruption.

tered to the ground from the burning Hall building, counter-protesters shouted racist slurs. Meanwhile, black activists marched in support of the protesters carrying signs that read "Montreal, Alabama" and McGill University activists carried banners denouncing what they saw as neo-imperialism.

Police arrested 97 students, just less than half of whom were black. This event sent political shockwaves reverberating throughout the Caribbean with protests and riots against the racism of the Canadian institution.

What we do not always hear about is the damage that was done to the students themselves. According to Rosie Douglas, a computer centre occupier who later became prime minister of Dominica, a student named Carolee Hutchinson died from wounds she received from police when she was arrested. Douglas was imprisoned along with such notables as Senator Anne Cools.

An aspect of the whole affair often ignored by historians was the presence of black agent provocateur Warren Hart, on loan from the American Federal Bureau of Investigation, suspected to be part of the agency's Covert Intelligence Program. The purpose of the COINTELPRO was to "increase factionalism, cause disruption and win defections" initially in

Communist groups, later expanding its mandate to include dissident groups such as the Black Panthers and the Socialist Workers Party. If Hart was there when the police raided the computer centre, who is to say he did not set the fires and instigate the damage of the computers? Furthermore, Douglas stated that Agent Hart was constantly trying to goad him into violent and criminal acts, going so far as to try to convince him to plant dynamite at the university.

The years of political and social organizing that led up to the computer riot were by and large spearheaded by black students, but the entire affair also expresses a respect and desire on the part of students, the Montreal black community and activists to come together in mutual solidarity.

The computer riot, Canada's largest student riot, may be a point in the annals of Montreal—and Concordia—when Black Power and revolutionary consciousness merged in ways that it never had in Canada's history. It should be celebrated as a significant moment when people of the African diaspora pushed powerful institutions toward accountability and led a radicalized student body into action, gaining respect and authority, dignity and self-determination out of a desire for positive change.

Seeing sounds

Racializing alternative and hip-hop music

• MADELINE COLEMAN

Martin Cesar never questioned whether he was listening to the right kind of music.

As a kid who never quite fit in, he fell in love with the rock of bands like Sonic Youth and never looked back. Relating to the alienation he heard in that music, rock became a refuge for a teenager who says he always felt like an outsider.

But a few years ago, Cesar—lead singer of Montreal-based experimental pop band Think About Life—suddenly found he didn't fit the definition of what an "indie rocker" was supposed to be.

It was around that time that the genre started blowing up in popular media, and with it came images of the kids who were supposedly the only ones involved: "vintage" clothes, thick-rimmed glasses and overwhelmingly white and middle class.

Cesar, who was born in the Seychelles off the coast of Africa, found himself suddenly "weirdly self-conscious."

"Race has never even defined me," he says now. "I'm Creole, and that's a long history of races and cultures mixing.

"[But that stereotypical image of a white indie rocker] sort of put my cultural standpoint into question and whether my race is what people see more than the actual person that I am."

We might like to think the only black and white in music comes on piano keyboards, but pop music history tells a different story. White people in North America have been eating up "black" music since the 1800s, but it's been harder for black people to cross into white milieus; black musicians in the American South during the 1940s would sometimes get beat up just for daring to have a drink in the same "white" venue they had just

played. The hostility softened further north, where Detroit-based Motown Records propelled black artists with soul sensibilities into the pop mainstream.

Chuck Berry, a black American singer, songwriter and guitarist considered by some to be the father of rock and roll, pioneered a new sound that was picked up by white artists like Elvis Presley. Presley brought a love of black gospel into "white" pop music—a winning formula that some have decried as exploitative of black musicians.

Craig Morrison, an ethnomusicologist and Concordia professor, disagrees.

"For him it was just all music," argued Morrison. "So when it came out, it came out as this melting pot, Elvis-style."

If black musicians were marginalized, it was not because of the wishes of white musicians. Rather, it was a product of big record companies and a mass culture that still valorized white achievements over those of minorities. Some cities were so opposed to integrating black and white, said Morrison, that they banned rock and roll altogether—a music genre he called a "black and white hybrid."

"[But] the great coming together that had been rock n' roll and soul music kind of splits apart again for many reasons, the simplest and strongest [being] the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.," said Morrison, adding that the rise of the militant Black Panther Party made race relations more about opposition than harmony.

The impact, Morrison said, was black musicians' transition towards priding themselves upon what they considered "black music" and rejecting the "whiteness" of rock.

"After Jimi Hendrix, who was huge and black in rock?" Morrison pointed out. "You

weren't finding new rock performers that were black because it was separated."

There is still a noticeable absence of black faces in both indie rock bands and audiences, but is the reverse true for traditionally "black" music forms?

"The real truth about hip-hop today is it's post-racial," said music journalist Morgan Steiker, who wrote a hip-hop column for Montreal weekly paper *Mirror*. "So you can't say anymore, 'Oh, it's just a black thing' or it's a black thing that white folks took. It's become this absolutely global culture that's almost like a blank slate. People appropriate it for themselves."

Though he admitted he doesn't think we should ignore that hip-hop started as a way for black musicians to work around "particular social contexts," he said it can still be hard for white kids to prove they've got the life experience to back up their lyrics.

"There's the self-consciousness of putting on a front and spicing up your life to have that cred," Steiker said. Artists who are neither white nor black are more likely to find relevance in the narrative of struggle, he continued.

"Hip-hop was born out of revolt and rebellion. It's a much more believable narrative to say, 'I'm an Asian-Canadian with an immigrant background and I'm an outsider and I'm revolting against the system.' It's more respected than 'I'm a white kid from the suburbs.'"

On the flip side, Cesar says his own skin colour has prompted others to question his credibility, too. His band has always worked from a "punk, DIY" ethos, said Cesar, but reviewers didn't seem to think he could pull it off.

"[When I started releasing music] the [reviews] that I was reading basically concentrated on my lack of authenticity, as a black



Music is about hearing and feeling, not looking. GRAPHIC ALEX MANLEY

person falling into punk rock—as if it was just this new thing I was getting into, like I didn't know what I was doing," he said. "I found it really offensive because it just makes me come off like I have no connection to it."

And then there were the comparisons to TV on the Radio, a successful indie rock band boasting an almost entirely black lineup. Cesar, the only black member of Think About Life, thinks the similarities between the bands are more visual than aural.

"[I've started to think] a good music journalist is when you see a finished article [about our band] and it doesn't include TV on the Radio or other bands where one of the band members is black," he concluded. "That's great."

Steiker may say that hip-hop is a "blank slate," but there's still a lot written on the surface of indie rock. Narrow definitions of who will want to listen to the music—and ultimately take part in the communities that grow around it—could be alienating to those who don't feel they fit the bill. What was a refuge for outsiders could end up pushing people out.

Cesar says there's "a lot of bigotry indie rock right now," with an emphasis on race that taints coverage of artists any darker than ecru.

"It just has to do with the overcommercialism that has been happening in indie rock in the past four, five years," he explains. "We'll get over it, but it's a shame."

Diary of a random black woman

Colour doesn't really mean that much for me. It's definitely with me every day but it isn't my focus. I mean, there are times where others seem to make the distinction (as if it matters).

Like, this guy I'm dating made a joke about how it's funny that he's the white dude into hip-hop and I'm the black girl who's into rock and roll. Sometimes it's as subtle as that. At other times, there's clearly more animosity

involved.

I will say that I'm generally used to being the minority. In high school, I was the only black girl in my grade. Even the types of music and movies I like lead me to shows where it's mostly white people.

My immediate family is mixed and our influences come from Canadian culture more than Haitian. I think, if anything, it's unfortunate, missing out on my Haitian culture. In my case, I truly

believe that it was circumstantial; my Haitian father was quite busy building a career and a life for his family.

In my career, I've never thought that race would stop me from achieving what I need to. I believe in myself. I want my future children to live in a place where our differences are celebrated, but ultimately a place where our cultural, spiritual and other differences are a non-issue. They need

to know who they are and where they come from.

I'm lucky to be at a university where Black History Month activities and events are exciting and socially conscious. I suppose during this month, I am more aware and try to be more involved than usual. But I always try to learn more about myself and my background regardless of what time of the year it is.

—Laura Fontil

In my career, I have never thought that race would stop me from achieving what I need to.



Women's and Men's Special Issue

on newsstands
March 2, 2010

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2009-2010 General by-elections

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**Snacks will be
served!**

Canada's other game

First-time author Josh Massey discusses tree-planting culture

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

McGill graduate Josh Massey would like to see another sport added to the Olympic Games: tree-planting.

"I'm pretty sure that if we had a Team Canada of tree planters, they would out-plant anyone in the world," said Massey from his home in northern British Columbia.

"Growing up in Canada, you look for things that are expressions of Canada," he continued. "Tree-planting is one of those things that goes side-by-side with hockey, something that maybe doesn't define us as Canadians but is something we're really good at."

Massey started as a tree-planter while living in Ontario before taking root in northern B.C., where he was struck by the unique culture

belonging to tree-planters.

"We have these hardcore professional planters with customized shovels working out in their off season, like, giv'r, you know?" he recalled.

While studying at McGill at age 22, Massey began work on *We Will All Be Trees*, a novel which attempts to depict and preserve tree-planting culture.

"[Tree-planting] takes people out of their urban context and the comforts of their urban life and it throws you into this primeval kind of caveman-like society where all the trappings of propriety, cleanliness and manners falls to the wayside," he said.

We Will All Be Trees—the titular line was stolen from Dante, by way of Atwood—reflects the threat of homogeneity in both human and tree circles.

For instance, said Massey, planters in B.C. thought that by replanting deforested areas with Lodgepole pines, which grow quickly, they could speed up the process of harvesting. They didn't count on the mountain Pine Beetle, however, which devastated the ecosystem when presented hordes upon hordes of its favourite snack. The same is happening to cultural diversity by way of westernization and industrialization, said Massey.

"Planting is part of the forestry industry," he admits, "but it's a self-corrective measure, so the intent there is good but it's still tied to the forestry industry as a whole. You're not really providing a solution, you're just putting a Band-Aid on something."

Massey isn't what some might consider a treehugger, though.

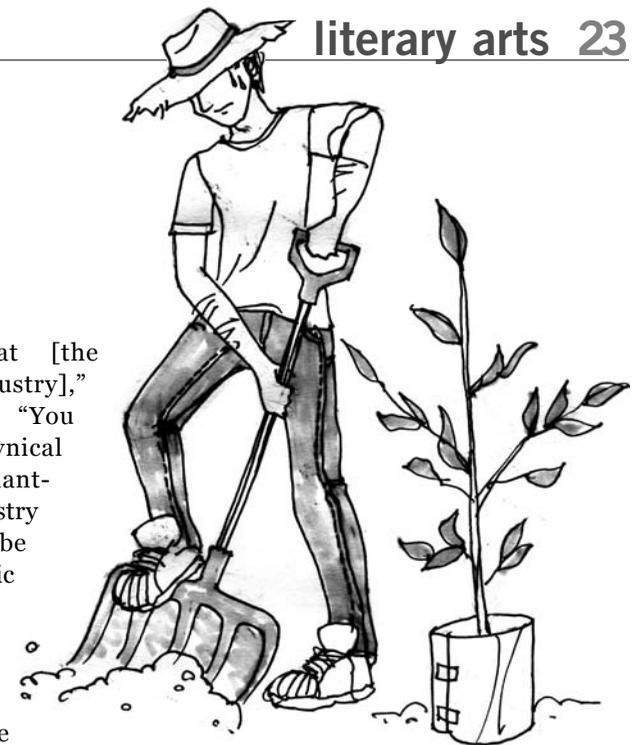
"There's different ways you

can look at [the forestry industry]," said Massey. "You can be cynical about tree-planting and forestry or you can be sort of realistic about it."

"It's so easy to just criticize these industries," he continued, "and then it's like, shit, I drive my car with gas in it, and I'm writing on a piece of paper that came from trees."

Getting the opinion of his coworkers on the book was important to Massey, to show that he had accurately represented life as a planter in Canada's north.

"I'm not trying to represent exactly the way it was up there as a



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

writer," said Massey. "I was just sort of called upon to represent things fairly accurately."



We Will All Be Trees
Josh Massey
Conundrum Press
254 pp
\$15

Lit Writ

Allan Barrowman

• EMMA HEALEY

At school it's best if you keep quiet. There's this kid named William who sits in front of me and just puts things up his nose. All day. You just watch it. It happens really slow but it happens. Pencils, erasers, paperclips—anything that shouldn't go anywhere near your face, really. Nobody sits near him because they're too grossed out, but I figure if I stay behind him it's not too dangerous.

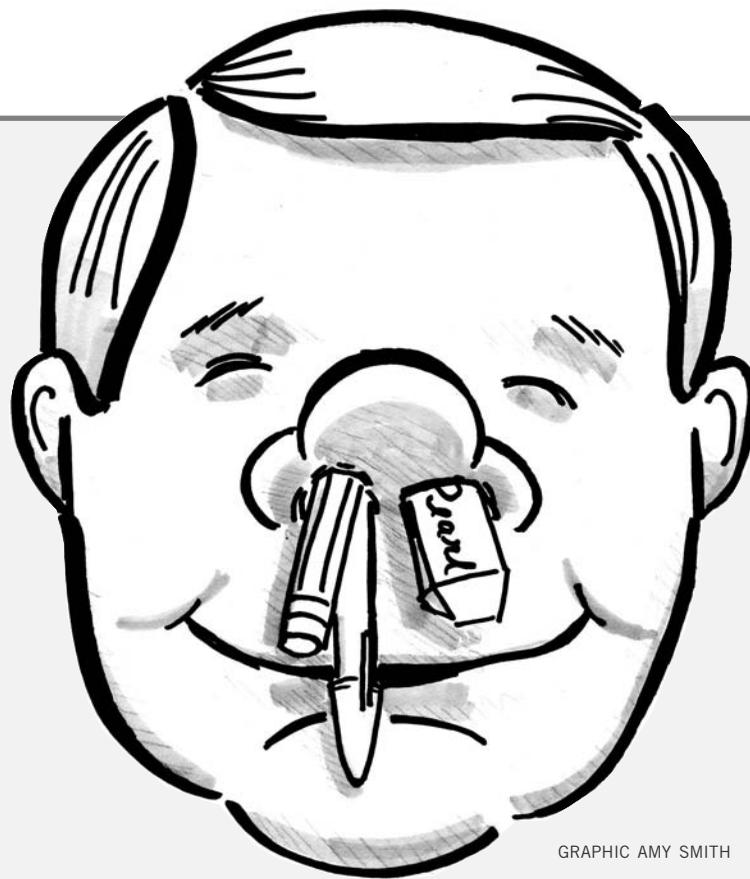
Mr. Gordon makes a lot of trips to the staff room, so people just kind of eat or talk or do whatever they want. William puts things up his nose. A lot of the girls in our class sit up front in this big group together. When they laugh you can't really tell what they're laughing about, and the sound of it makes the palms of my hands itch. Mostly I read.

Allan came into our class kind of late. He started in November, too early to be the Interesting New Kid but just late enough for people not to like him. On his first day he was wearing a shirt that said VANCOUVER on it, jeans with an elastic waistband that kind of bunched up around his stomach and brand new bright white tennis shoes. William had one of those really cheap clear-plastic Bic pens and was slowly working it into his nose, cap and everything, just going for it.

Allan's scary dad waited in the doorway while Mr. Gordon intro-

duced Allan to everyone. William kept twisting the pen further and further up into his nostril and Mr. Gordon said "Allan, why don't you go take a seat next to William?" because of course that seat's always empty. And William didn't look up, he just kept pushing and pushing, slow, steady. Allan's skin is so white he's almost see-through and he looked kind of worried but nobody in the class said anything, so he pushed the straps of his backpack up his shoulder and went to sit next to William. His dad was still standing in the doorway, taking up practically the whole thing with his big weird square body. All the girls in the front of the class twisted themselves around to look. Things rustled. Mr. Gordon started writing something on the board but nobody paid any attention. Allan started taking books out of his backpack.

Then it happened. William made this tiny, squished noise and there was this flood of bright red, like marker-coloured, not real dark red like you think blood's supposed to be. Cartoon. Over everything. William's whole desk, his books, his shirt, his pants. Some of it dripped onto the floor. The girls in the front row squealed hard. I saw Allan's dad wince, just for a second. When you think about the amount of blood a person has in them, you figure it has to stop somewhere. There's other stuff that needs to fit in bodies too—bones and nerves and brains and stuff. So, like, not



GRAPHIC AMY SMITH

all blood. But it just kept going. It was kind of almost impressive, I thought.

"Holy shit," said Allan's father.

"Try pinching the bridge of your nose," said Mr. Gordon, who knew he was being totally useless.

William just sat there, watching himself pour out of his nose, beaming.

The lunch bell rang right then and everybody grabbed their stuff and bolted as fast as they could, manoeuvring themselves around Allan's father. I pretended to be on a very important page of my book. When I looked up, Allan's eyes were dinner plate-huge and glistening. He looked like somebody had torn him in half.

"Do you want to come to lunch?" I asked him, and he nodded, staring down at his shoes, which were covered, now, in a million tiny bright red dots.

Allan Barrowman (12 years, 7 months, 5'2", blonde/hazel, the slight ectomorphish tilt/softness which on a 12-year-old causes elementary school gym teachers to scratch their heads with clipboard-corners and sigh, 106 Pearson Ave., Toronto ON, closest subway station Dundas West, accessible by streetcar routes 504 and 506, lake-adjacent, off-white Nike sneakers with those spring-coiled, untieable laces, jeans w/ elastic waistband and superfluously fly-positioned

button, developing eczema that will worsen with adolescence, nervous tic in left eye, SpeedRacer™ two-wheeler bike in Ice Navy ridden once as a kind of polite concession and now collecting cobwebs in the garage, 17 Redwall series children's paperback novels gold-spined and reflecting afternoon light through bookshelf-coextensive window, PDD-tested three times between ages 8-11 on recommendations from suspicious teachers because of difficulties with verbal communication and nervous tic in left eye [see above], tested negative each time (there are words for this like "shy" or "withdrawn" or "late bloomer" if you are his father and attempting not to throw a pencil sharpener at anyone mid-parent teacher meeting), inexplicable and somewhat perplexing tendency toward singing Trooper's 1977 single "We're Here For A Good Time (Not A Long Time)" while washing the dishes, every night, consistently, sub-breath and key, regardless of number of dishes or the fact that he cannot name the artist or song title, Cheerios for breakfast every morning, good at math, of course) picks up the phone, stares into the receiver, and then puts it back down again, liking the soft click that it makes when he does that.

Then he clears his throat.

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

Stingers almost take it

Controversial calls cost men's hockey team dearly



(Clockwise from bottom left) McGill's Alexandre Picard-Hooper nets the game winner. The Stingers watch as the Redmen are awarded the Corey Cup. A scrum breaks out in front of Concordia's net.
PHOTOS RILEY SPARKS

• DAVID KAUFMANN

Concordia 3 McGill 4

In a game tainted by bad refereeing, the Stingers nearly did the impossible: the men's hockey team almost beat McGill to win the 23rd Annual Corey Cup, a feat they have not performed since 2002.

Ultimately, the home team fell 4-3 in overtime last Friday at Ed Meagher Arena.

Going into the season's last game before the playoffs, Stingers head coach Kevin Figsby had a clear message for his team.

"Follow the game plan to the finish!" he said. "We're a young team; 50 per cent of our players are first-year. If they don't get that message to their heads, then we'll have problems. If they get that message through there then we'll have tremendous success," he added.

The Stingers certainly had enough support for the match. The entire Stingers athletic community was in attendance, including the national championship-winning men's baseball team who were honoured prior to the opening faceoff.

Attendance aside, the game started off in McGill's favour as right winger Francis Verreault-Paul wasted little time opening the scoring only 1:22 into the first. But the Stingers weren't going to let their guests steal the show so easily. A few minutes later Stingers centre Kyle Kelly netted his ninth of the season after connecting from a pass from left winger Alexandre Monahan.

Concordia got its first lead of the game later in the period when left winger Daniel Michalsky slipped one past Redmen goaltender Hubert Morin for his second of the season.

Referees threw a wrench in the Stingers' victory plans in the sec-

ond period. Centre Marc-André Rizk received a phantom call for goaltender interference. To add insult to injury, the Redmen got a questionable goal seconds after the call when defenceman Sébastien Rioux scored one off of a high stick.

Figsby was furious about both calls.

"I thought it was a horseshit call and I thought the high stick was a horseshit goal," he said. "You've got to have better refereeing than that in a game like tonight's," he added.

In the second half of the period McGill pulled ahead when defenceman Benjamin Morse potted one on Stingers goaltender Maxime Joyal. But the Stingers came alive late in the third. Captain Marc-André Element posted himself in front of the net and deflected a pass off of centre Brad Gager to send the game into overtime.

Though the Stingers competed

for 60 minutes, they burnt out in sudden death. McGill defenceman Alexandre Picard-Hooper caught Concordia sleeping as he scored the game winner early in the frame.

This was another aspect of the game that didn't sit well with Figsby.

"I'm upset at the way we made that play at the end of the game. We talked about it in practice, we just didn't execute it," he said.

Figsby was, however, thrilled with the effort his players put forth. "I'm completely, completely satisfied with the way our team played tonight," he said. "I thought our guys battled hard, I thought we competed hard and I thought we deserved to win."

McGill head coach Jim Webster also had praise for the Stingers.

"I'm clearly giving Concordia credit for playing their best game against us. I thought they were more disciplined, and more organized," he said.

"I thought it was a horseshit call and I thought the high stick was a horseshit goal."

—Kevin Figsby,
Stingers head coach

The Olympic spirit delusion



GRAPHIC CLARE RASPOPOW

Cheating, violence and hurt feelings since 776 BC

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

During the Olympics, it's likely that at least one person will fail a drug test and inevitably incur the wrath of some sports writer or two-bit political backbencher accusing the athlete of soiling the "Olympic spirit."

This same spirit might sell Coke bottles or credit cards today, but it doesn't hold much water historically. Cheating, politics and gruesome violence have been a part of the games since their inception in 776 BC.

The Greeks, though a thoughtful and innovative people, were also a notoriously violent and ruthlessly competitive lot. Throughout antiquity, Greece was in a perpetual state of war with the Persians and rival Mediterranean states. In the event that a suitable army of foreigners wasn't up for a fight, Greeks would turn their swords on each other. Civil war was such a problem in those days that there needed to be a month-long truce in order for the Olympics to take place.

For some Greek states, laying down their spears for one month every four years was a hard sell.

In 420 BC, the Spartans engaged in a military manoeuvre on Elian territory during the Olympic truce. Not ones to be upstaged, the Elians launched a full-scale military assault on the Pisians and other allies after a wrestling match during the 364 BC games that involved thousands of soldiers and lasted an entire day.

Violence also plagued the games themselves. Runners would sometimes be thrashed for a false start. Boxers could line their leather gloves with metal. And then there was Pankration—a no-holds-barred street fight that took place in a pit.

When rules were instituted to remove groin strikes and eye gouging, Sparta threatened to boycott the games (apparently it's not a real fight without the threat of blindness or sweaty dick-punching). Pankration was so violent that, in 564 BC, one competitor actually managed to win a fight despite being dead. Arrhichion of Phigaleia was caught in a chokehold and, as he struggled to remain conscious, the Phigaleian reached for his opponent's toe, broke it and forced him to submit from pain. When the judge attempted to

Pankration—a no-holds-barred street fight that took place in a pit—was so violent that, in 564 BC, one competitor actually managed to win a fight despite being dead.

raise Arrhichion's arm in victory, he noticed the fighter had been choked to death. How's that for spirit of the games?

Of course, not every event at the ancient games was outright violent. The javelin throw, for instance, only implied violence. Outside of an Olympic context, the javelin was a brutal weapon, used as a kind of missile to impale barbarians or other Greeks in war. In this sense, the javelin throw was really celebrating the most efficient killers of the time.

Before the advent of steroids and human growth hormones, the ancients had to be creative when cutting corners. In 388 BC, boxer Eupolus of Thessaly paid three of his opponents to take a dive. King Phillip II of Macedon held eques-

trian victories in the 356, 352 and 348 BC games even though he wasn't actually Greek or at the Olympics. Apparently there was some leniency with the rules if you had hordes of invading soldiers at your disposal.

But the honour of the ancient Games' most ridiculous instance of cheating belongs to Roman emperor Nero when, in AD 65, he entered the four-horse chariot race with ten horses. After falling off his ride, Nero was still declared the winner.

There was also no historical equivalent to today's amateur athletes in antiquity. Rather than toiling in poverty for the glory of sport, ancient athletes were indulged with a lifetime of prizes, fame, lavish meals and sexual partners.

The Olympics are more than just a game, but so is Monopoly. When was the last time you played that game without nearly coming to blows with a loved one? At its core, competition is an ugly thing. And with more than just a hotel on Baltic Avenue at stake, the pressure to win can lead a person down a pretty fucked-up road. It was true with the Greeks and it's true in Vancouver.

Briefs

Con U vs UQTR in playoffs

Concordia's men's hockey team will be facing the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières Patriotes in the first round of the Ontario University Athletics playoffs. The Stingers are 1-3 against the Patriotes this year. In their last meeting, Concordia blew a third period lead to lose 4-3 in a shootout. The best of three series kicks off Wednesday night in Trois-Rivières, with a return game scheduled for Friday at Ed Meagher Arena. Puck drops at 7:30 p.m. for both games.

UFC adds four bouts to Montreal show

The UFC's upcoming Montreal card is filling up. On Feb. 12, the Las Vegas fight promotion announced two additional main card and preliminary card bouts. With the official announcements, UFC 113 now includes:

- *Lyoto Machida vs. Mauricio Rua (for the UFC light heavy-weight title)*
- *Paul Daley vs. Josh Koscheck*
- *Kevin Ferguson vs. Matt Mitrione*
- *Jeremy Stephens vs. Sam Stout*
- *Alan Belcher vs. Patrick Coté*
- *Marcus Davis vs. Jonathan Goulet*
- *T.J. Grant vs. Johnny Hendricks*
- *Tim Credeur vs. Tom Lawlor*

Belfort out of UFC 112

A shoulder injury has forced Vitor Belfort out of his April 10 bout with UFC middleweight champion Anderson Silva.

Brazilian grappler Demian Maia will take Belfort's place on the card. Maia is a Brazilian Jiu Jitsu world champion. He is 12-1 as a mixed martial artist with eight wins coming by way of submission.

Silva, also a Brazilian, is 10-0 in the UFC. He has defended his title five times. The fight is scheduled for April 10, in Abu Dhabi. The Abu Dhabi show will cement the UFC's partnership with Flash Entertainment, a United Arab Emirates subsidized entertainment company that bought a ten per cent stake in the UFC this January. It will be the promotion's first venture in the UAE.

No candy on Valentine's Day

Women's hockey team loses last home game of season



A pair of Martlets close in on Stinger defenceman Alynn Doiron. PHOTO ESTHER BERNARD

• ALEX DI PIETRO

Concordia 0 McGill 3

In their last home game of the season, Concordia's women's hockey team kept the score low but couldn't stop the McGill Martlets from winning 3-0 on Valentine's Day.

"We played [the Martlets] tough, which is something that we haven't necessarily done on a consistent basis this year," said Stingers coach Les Lawton. "We had a chance on the power play near the end, but unfortunately, we couldn't capitalize on any of our opportunities."

Sunday marked the last time that centres Mary-Jane O'Shea and Emilie Luck would suit up for the Stingers at Ed Meagher Arena. Both players are in their fifth year

with the team and will not be coming back next season.

"It feels really weird that we won't be playing here again, after almost five years with the team," said O'Shea, who is the only member on the Stingers' roster that scored in their last regular season win against McGill at home, which occurred back in November of 2005.

"We saluted them today," said Lawton of O'Shea and Luck. "If they leave here with solid friendships and a lifetime full of memories, then I think we've done part of our job."

Concordia netminder Audrey Doyon-Lessard saved 37 of the 40 shots that the Martlets took on the day. One particularly impressive save came at the expense of McGill's Alexandra Wells. Wells redirected a point-shot headed for the top right corner roughly seven

minutes into the first period, only to be stopped by the arms of the sprawling goaltender.

"[Doyon-Lessard] kept Concordia in the game," said McGill coach Amey Doyle. "[However,] I was happy that our team didn't get frustrated and worked hard to stick with the game plan."

Fresh off a hat-trick performance against Ottawa on Saturday, McGill forward Ann-Sophie Bettez, the league's top scorer, netted two goals in the opening period against Concordia. However, there was question of a high stick on Bettez's first goal, as she found space in the slot and batted the puck past Doyon-Lessard with 7:31 to play.

Bettez doubled her team's lead just over three minutes later, as she made her way down the left side, put the puck through Stinger Emilie Bocchia's legs and went

across Doyon-Lessard to sneak the puck into the bottom right corner.

McGill's Vanessa Davidson nearly made it 3-0 on a breakaway early in the second period, but Concordia's Meghan George dove to steal the puck from the Martlets' point leader.

"I saw that it was [Davidson] and I was really excited, because I knew I had her," said George.

Stinger Alexandra D'Ambrosio rammed right into the open door at the McGill bench six minutes into the third period and was helped off the ice after barely moving for almost three minutes.

"She seems to have a bit of a concussion and has a huge scrape on the upper part of her shoulder," said Lawton. "It was a scary situation because she initially had a problem with her vision."

Martlet Jordanna Peroff capped the scoring at 3-0 with 46 seconds

"It feels really weird that we won't be playing here again, after almost five years with the team."

—Mary-Jane O'Shea,
Stingers centre

remaining in the game.

Already eliminated from playoff contention, the Stingers will finish their season as they visit Carleton on Saturday and McGill on Sunday.

"This is a team with a lot of character," said Lawton. "We haven't had a lot of success on the ice this season, but I'm really proud that we've got that young base of leadership that can take some kids under their wing next year and hopefully have a little more success."

scoreboard

	Home	Away	Record
Men's Hockey	Concordia 3	McGill 4	8-20
Women's Hockey	Concordia 0	McGill 3	1-17

schedule

	Who	When
Men's Hockey	@ UQTR vs UQTR	Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. 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	@ Carleton @ McGill	Saturday, 6 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m.

Interested in writing for sports?

Got something to say about the Stingers' hockey records?

Write to us at sports@thelinknewspaper.ca

Re-assessing Concordia's financial plan

Is a surplus a sign of true success?

• MATTHEW BRETT

Concordia now has a \$1.7 million surplus, according to a report last week by *The Link*. But at what cost?

First came the university's strategic planning process, an attempt to rank Concordia among the top five comprehensive universities in Canada. A radical shift in tone was evident during the strategic planning process, and the plan is becoming a product of the financial crisis than concerned input from faculty and staff.

The university began to sell off significant real estate assets early in the crisis. Millions in assets were sold off as student space was consolidated in the new MB and EV buildings.

The academic value of Concordia has likewise eroded. The two libraries were supposed to focus on an improved research mandate as part of the strategic plan, but last year they were reported to face a near \$700,000 shortfall in the 2009-10 budget.

Head librarian Gerald Beasley, a welcome addition to the administration, is now forced to make "difficult decisions regarding cancellation of journal subscriptions and other cost-cutting measures."

Professors are, of course, our greatest academic value. The Concordia University Part-time Faculty Association strike last year must likewise be placed in a broad context of state-led financial

reform and the erosion of our universities.

Notice, also, the reason Concordia has returned to a surplus in the first place—the students. Financial crises are proven to increase enrolment rates as people find shelter from the storm, and that's certainly the case here as well.

Increased enrolment has caused increased demand for student space, and things have reached absurd proportions. Students and faculty trip over each other on the escalators during peak hours and these dense transit points look like clogged meat-producing machines. Good luck to anyone with a disability.

This increased demand for space has spurred the development of the new MB and EV buildings and the subsequent gentrification of "Quartier Concordia" on the corner of Guy Street and de Maisonneuve Boulevard. Notice the benches around Norman Bethune Square are designed specifically to drive out the homeless who once congregated there. Well done, Concordia, shuffle the problem elsewhere—out of sight, out of mind.

Yes, this is a sweeping criticism, but it stems from real disappointment with the state of this institution and higher learning more broadly. The financial crisis will just be another nail in the coffin for our once vaunted education system.

What's a university to do?



Students should ask President Woodsworth, is Concordia's economic plan helping students? PHOTO ELSA JABRE

heartaches anonymous

Hi Heartaches,

I think I might have a problem. I was watching some streamed porn while masturbating and I am guessing it must have been a very amateur production since I noticed there was a dog under the bed.

For reasons unknown to me, the dog's presence really turned me on. Never one to shy away from sexual exploration, I decided to let my dog into my room while I spanked it and it really got me off. I should specify that I am not attracted to dogs at all, it's just their presence that I guess turns me on because it feels so wrong.

So, what's your verdict? Am I a freak for this?

—Not a beast lover

Dearest Beastly,

Oh, you. I've heard worse—namely this one story about how animal patrol services were alerted that there was the corpse of a dog rotting in the woods near a residential neighbourhood, and when they went to load it into their truck they found a man having sex with

send your relationship queries to
heartachesanonymous@gmail.com

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



it. The dead dog. Turns out it was this guy's girlfriend's. His girlfriend's dead dog.

Now, I've got a question for you: what should his girlfriend have done? How will she ever live it down? Is this

something she brought upon herself by failing to bury/hide her dog's corpse better? Is it her fault for dating someone who would rather be lurking around the back door of overcrowded animal shelters? Do you think she

burned every photo of her, her boyfriend and poor, dead Fido?

We will never know what happened to the ex-dog owner or her self-esteem. But what we do know is that you don't actually want to have sex with dogs—right?

I am down with neither the boners of dogs nor the idea of boners for dogs. I am firmly convinced that if wrongness gets you off, there are plenty of "wrong" things in this wide world that do not involve innocent animals. Perhaps you will argue that your dog is not so innocent and is in fact oversexed, so much does he love humping the human leg, but trust me: he doesn't know what the hell you're doing and you better not drag him into it.

Okay, fine, I guess it's no big deal if your dog happens to wander in while you're getting down with yourself. But for the love of dog don't look at him.



Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

ASFA needs Innovation

It is with great pleasure that I express my support for Aaron, Elliot, Alexa, Chad, Terry, Taylor, and Allie as candidates in the upcoming Arts and Science Federation of Associations elections.

I believe their "Innovation for Your ASFA" slogan is very much representative of the strong team leaders they have demonstrated to be. They have repeatedly showed their determination to improve ASFA and each one of the candidates has been a critical voice on ASFA Council this past year, ensuring that Arts and Science students were represented fairly.

I am very grateful to have worked with passionate individuals like them, who asked the right questions, made judicious choices and suggested wise solutions to improve ASFA. They share common goals such as financial records being made available to students and a shared passion to hold more events at Loyola unite them. Doing the right thing at the right time is what is behind the people affiliated with "Innovation for Your ASFA."

In contrast with other candidates, Aaron, Elliot, Alexa, Chad, Terry, Taylor, and Allie possess experience in ASFA's activities. All have taken part in major activities of the organization and were councillors, committee members, frosh leaders and/or regular volunteers.

I urge you to take a few minutes and check your ASFA candidates' background in student politics, contact them through Facebook or email if necessary and ask them the right questions. Then I strongly believe you, Arts and Science students, will make a wise choice in this year's election. Please make sure to keep democracy alive at Concordia and vote on February 16, 17 and 18.

—Audrey Depault,
Former ASFA VP Finance

This past year, Amir Sheth has led the Arts and Science Federation of Associations in one of the best social event years that Concordia has experienced. Following in his footsteps is Allie McDonald, running for Vice President of Social Affairs in the "Innovation" campaign group along with Aaron Green for ASFA's President.

While the competition is fierce, I believe that the best choice for the 2010-11 VP Social is Allie. Allie has supported ASFA's 2009-10 team in all their endeavours, most notably her participation as a frosh leader in September and her enthusiastic appearances at every ASFA event this year. This has provided her with not only an understanding of how these events are run, but also represents her dedication to the experiences that make the school year a truly memorable one.

I have no doubt that Allie knows what Concordia's students want, which is reflected in her original campaign ideas and promises for the future of ASFA's social calendar: pub crawls, club nights and new developments like a Con-U Igloofest and "Party for a Cause" in association with a rapidly expanding University of Toronto charity group.

Allie's unmatched passion and determination make her a true leader, but her ability to work with others is what will really help make some great changes for our school next year. Allie, in working with tremendous leaders like Aaron Green and VP Finance candidate Alexa Newman, as well as the rest of the "Innovation" team, will provide Concordia with nothing short

of amazing results. Join me in support of a team that has your best interests at heart.

—Emma Robertson,
English Literature

Michaela makes me happy

I am writing to express my support of Michaela Manson, who is a running candidate for VP Academic and Loyola affairs for the Arts and Science Federation of Associations.

As one of her close friends, I have to say that you could not find a more dedicated, compassionate, or involved candidate. She actually cares about you the students and not some bank balance. Michaela keeps high ethical standards and would see to it that the ASFA serves as an accountable and credible organization.

With another crazy Concordia election underway and all of its accompanying confusion, it can be hard to know who to vote for or to even give a damn, but if you care about where your tuition is going and you want a caring and intelligent VP Academic and Loyola Affairs, Michaela Manson is the one for you.

—Allie Murphy,
English Literature

This is a show of support for my friend Michaela Manson, who is running for VP Academic and Loyola Affairs, to put some new, vibrant energy into the Arts and Science Federation of Associations. Michaela is one of the brightest, most personable and sincere friends I've made in Montreal.

She is the complete package: personality, intelligence and dedication. Michaela isn't interested in the petty politicking that so many of her competitors seem to thrive on.

Having seen her conduct in school and volunteer endeavours I can vouch for her energy, creativity, and commitment to the betterment of the Concordia community. Good luck Michaela. Concordia needs some progressive, honest student advocates, with the heart and brains to match their best intentions. You've earned my vote, without a doubt.

—Dillon Katrycz,
Sociology

Going Green for ASFA elections

As I'm sure you have noticed over the past week, there has been passionate campaigning concerning the upcoming Arts and Science Federation of Associations elections. As a student enrolled in the Honours program of political science, I have examined all the candidates and platforms very seriously. While I recognize the passion and dedication demonstrated by all candidates, there is one particular candidate who I strongly believe will make a great leader for ASFA. This man is Aaron Green.

Being leader of any association is challenging, and ASFA is no different. As an association that represents 18,000 students, our president needs to have a complete skill set that includes experience, procedural knowledge, charisma, responsibility, passion and flexibility. While many candidates try to project these qualities, Aaron Green truly exemplifies them. As a current independent councillor, he has involved himself in many oversight committees, giving him invaluable knowledge as to how ASFA operates. In his tenure at this position, his track record is solid

and without controversy. Furthermore, Aaron has been a vital part of the Concordia social community, which gives him the ability to turn a great idea into an outstanding event.

While the above mentioned qualities are great assets, the most important reason we should vote Aaron president is his dedication towards openness and transparency. ASFA has a budget of nearly \$400,000, which we as students support through our tuition fees. We as students should care how this money is spent, and Aaron's pledge to increase financial transparency is one we should support. While such information is already accessible, easier access to this information gives us greater say in how our money is spent. While many electoral campaigns promise transparency, Aaron's party, Innovation, has provided a clear statement as to how this can be accomplished. The energy and passion I have seen from their campaign truly demonstrates their passion towards improving ASFA for all Arts and Science students. We should have full confidence that their promises will be kept.

Finally, while I may be endorsing a particular candidate, I strongly encourage all Arts and Science students to vote. Please take some time over the next couple of days to examine all candidates and see which ones appeal to you. Through voting, we can choose the ASFA that will best represent us in the future.

—Nicolas Cuillerier,
Political Science

I am writing to you today in order to declare my support for Aaron Green as president of Concordia's Arts and Science Federation of Associations. Over the past few years I have witnessed Aaron's uncanny ability to balance his commitments to the ASFA Council, his studies and his friends; never giving any one engagement less than a hundred and ten percent. Aaron is loyal, sensible and has no trouble standing up for what is right. I know that Aaron is the best candidate for president as he possesses the focus necessary to get the job done without forgetting about who it is he representing. A vote for Aaron Green as president is a vote for a better Concordia.

—Bernard Priest-Blais,
Biology

REALLY excited about Habib

Vote for Dania Habib as VP Social!

Dania can be absolutely sure that she has my vote. I have known Dania for almost a year now and I can tell she is an amazing, caring, and responsible person. She's got a great personality; always a smile on her face and ready to help people in whatever situation they are in with whatever it takes!

As a VP Social, Dania would be a perfect match for the position since no other person can be as friendly, welcoming, and sociable as she is! If we would have a VP Social as Dania, we, Concordia students, would enjoy of so many benefits and take advantage of so many events in the social calendar, which would be more than perfect for us!

—Claudia Vanegas,
School of Community and Public Affairs

Innovation claiming false connections

It has come to my attention that a slate run-

ning for executive positions within Concordia's Arts and Science Federation of Associations, known as "Innovation", has been claiming affiliations with the New Democratic Youth and in particular NDP Concordia, both in last week's paper and on your campus during classroom presentations.

I strongly urge you to inform students on your campus that these allegations are false. Further, I ask that you remind candidates that untruthful verbal claims concerning our youth section are a sign of clear and utter disrespect for the work our youth are doing not only in Quebec, but across Canada.

To my knowledge, the following students are not in any way affiliated with the NDP Youth section or NDP Concordia, as was incorrectly reported in last week's edition of *The Link*: Aaron Green, Chad Walcott, Elliot Kmec, Alexa Newman, Teresa Seminara, Taylor Knott, Allie McDonald, Serge Keverian, Richard Patenaude, Megan-Jane Renshaw.

I respectfully request that you understand the severity of these claims and ask that team "Innovation" withdraw them immediately. Given that I have also been informed that both Aaron Green and Taylor Knott are executives with Conservative Concordia, I am particularly concerned that students would be led to believe that a team with Conservative ties is in any way associated with the NDP. Significant conflicts have arisen with similar infiltration attempts with student unions in Ontario as well, and as such, on behalf of all New Democratic Youth, I write with grave concern regarding this misrepresentation.

—Reem Zaia,
Co-Chair, New Democratic Youth of Canada

Charlie and the Fleet of Letters

I am thrilled to learn that Charlie Brenchley has decided to run for President of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations.

I first had the pleasure of working with Charlie in 07-08 when he was President of the Dawson Student Union and I was VP Loyola & Sustainability of the CSU, and then again in 08-09 when I worked as the Club Coordinator for the DSU and he was their VP External. I immediately saw in him the qualities of an excellent student leader and activist. He reflected the values I held truest to my heart at the end of my time at Concordia.

He is an individual who understands that a student union is a union, and not a student government. He is an individual who understands that to advance the needs of a union/association, you must respect and work with all students, and not debase yourself and your membership by engaging in petty politics. Brenchley is a fierce and passionate advocate for student, labour, human, queer, women, aboriginal and artist's rights and I trust that he would bring his progressive values to Concordia and provide Arts & Science students a chance to actively engage with the issues that shape our lives. I highly encourage all Arts & Science students to vote Charlie Brenchley for president and to get out the vote for a Stronger ASFA on February 16th, 17th & 18th.

—Mathieu Murphy-Perron,
CSU VP Loyola & Sustainability, 2007-08

Contrary to what a recent article in *The Link* has implied, the presidential candidate Charlie Brenchley from the group A Stronger ASFA, has proven through his past endeavours to be a dedicated and trustworthy leader.

I first met Charlie at Dawson College where we both were in the North-South Studies program. This program gave us the opportunity to travel, bringing with us medical supplies and funding for local projects, to the developing nation of Nicaragua. For as long as I have known him, Charlie has been involved in improving his academic and social environment.

As the former president of the Dawson Student Union and captain of the Dawson Rowing Team (which I was a member of) his dedication never faltered. His tireless efforts to ensure that matters were handled with respect and understanding is a testament to his strong leadership capabilities. Therefore, I encourage you to head to the polls this week and vote for Charlie Brenchley and the Stronger ASFA team.

—Élaine Charlebois,
History

Top Rank(in)ed candidate

I am writing to express my sincere support for my friend, Andrew Rankin, in the upcoming Arts and Science Federation of Associations election. Having known Andrew for over five years, and coached rugby with him for two, I can say with great confidence that he embodies all the necessary skills and characteristics to succeed in the position for which he is running, VP Academics and Loyola Affairs. His charisma, leadership skills and intellect make him a perfect candidate for the job. His participation will undoubtedly enhance the overall success of the ASFA executive body.

—Nicole Paznokaitis,
Psychology

This is a letter in support of my friend and classmate Andrew Rankin who is running for VP Academic in the Arts and Science Federation of Associations elections taking place next week.

Andrew and I have been friends since CEGEP and I can safely say that he would be great for this position. Not only is Andrew a close friend of mine, but this year we've gotten the chance to be classmates, allowing me to see his academic capabilities. Andrew is a focused worker, determined to do well in his classes and is not shy about speaking up.

Since knowing Andrew, I've seen him maintain a balance between schoolwork, extra-curricular activities and his social life and he makes it look pretty easy. He would be a great VP Academic.

—Chloé Trudeau,
Urban Studies

Goldfinch makes impression at Frosh

As you probably have heard, the Arts and Science Federation of Associations elections are coming up on the 16th, 17th and 18th of February. Sometimes students walk through their university experience not taking in everything it has to offer, which is regrettable. I know Anna Goldfinch from Frosh and you should vote for her because she is one of the most dedicated people I know. Anna is honest, responsible and commits to the goals she sets. I know for sure that a stronger ASFA cares about what it is doing for you and is genuine about what they want to achieve.

—Mindy Miller,
Political Science

 Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

Chawlie and Anna AWOL at ASFA

I am writing to express my strong misgivings about Anna Goldfinch and Charles Brenchley running for President and VP Internal of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations.

As an ASFA councillor for the last year, representing the Political Science Students' Association, I can confirm that neither of these two individuals have ever attended an ASFA meeting. And when the cheerleader Anna Goldfinch came to my class and attempted to convince my peers about her "qualifications," and I asked her how many ASFA meetings she has been to this year (she lied and tried to claim "a couple..."), she apparently said that amounted to me harassing her. Dude. GTFO of my class.

Charlie is no better. He's in his first year at Concordia, running for prez of the largest faculty association at Concordia... Anna, don't you remember last year? No matter the fact that the only thing I can think when the kid opens his mouth is "Chaaaawwwllieeee! Charlie bit my finger!" (Charlie bit my ASFA?) but most troubling is Brenchley's proven and despicable allegiance to the Canadian Federation of Students. They will, I have no doubt, sell out Concordia students in a second for their sugar daddies at the CFS.

You may think I sound harsh, and maybe I do, but I'm fucking graduating. I want to know that my school is going to be left in the most capable, trustworthy and honest hands, and these kids are not that. So get out there Feb 16, 17, and 18 and vote. Just not for them.

—Beisan Zubi,
VP Internal, Political Science
Students Association

Innovation's ties to former executive

I was shocked when I read that the Innovation slate for the Arts and Science Federation of Associations executive included "financial accountability and transparency" in their platform. This team are just a bunch of puppets for current ASFA President and former Concordia Student Union VP Leah Del Vecchio. Want proof? Just look at their posters; they look exactly the same as Del Vecchio's did last year.

All throughout the year, Leah and her puppets have been finding new ways to swindle you out of your hard-earned student dollars.

Hey guys, students didn't elect you to increase your own pay!

Innovation supports taking money away from our student associations to increase their own pay. Do you? This week, whatever you do, don't vote Innovation!

—Mary Sweeny,
Certificate in Accounting

Phones still offline

As student elections approach it is time to assess the current Concordia Student Union executive. One measure I always take is to see if the basic student services are attended to and if members are responsive. It is noteworthy that the phones on the floor of the CSU offices that we pay for through our fees and are certainly the most frequently-used and single most popular service provided by the CSU have not been repaired since they came into office.

—David S. Rovins,
Independent Student

McDonald a team player

I'm writing to voice my support for Allie McDonald in the upcoming Arts and Science Federation of Associations election as VP Social. I have had the pleasure of being close to her for the past three years and I cannot think of anyone is more dedicated to setting and serving at her goals for socialization success. Approachable, compassionate and headstrong, she has more drive than anyone I know. Allie McDonald is a true team player, so vote for her as VP Social in the upcoming elections.

—Sarah Lane,
Studio Arts

Aaron for ASFA

I am writing to express support for Aaron Green's bid for Presidency in the Arts and Science Federation of Associations. Over the past year, Aaron has represented Arts and Sciences students on ASFA Council with a positive attitude and an enviable work ethic. I feel Aaron is the best candidate for President as he has the experience ASFA needs to allow Arts and Science students to make the most of their undergraduate experience at Concordia. An all around nice guy, Aaron makes friends easily and has all the character traits I believe make him worthy of holding such an important position in ASFA. I encourage everyone to vote Aaron Green for President of ASFA!

—Virginia Clarke,
Political Science

I am a fourth-year student here at Concordia, and was (during the 2008-2009 academic school year) a member of the Concordia Student Union Council. In my four years, I have been incredibly involved with the Arts and Science Federation of Associations and CSU, and have seen it all. There have been some years which have been tainted in controversy and corruption, and years which have been favourable to both the CSU and ASFA. This year has been the latter, with both the CSU and ASFA doing amazing jobs amidst no controversy. I hope that next year will continue this trend.

As such, I would like to voice my support for Aaron Green. He is running for President in the upcoming ASFA elections, and I believe he would be the best person for the job. In his years at Concordia, Aaron has made it a point to be heavily involved with the CSU and ASFA. He is aware of the goings-on at the two student groups and has been at the forefront for numerous events. He has demonstrated vital leadership qualities, as well as being an incredibly nice guy. He's someone that will try his best cater to the needs of others without compromising his own values or impeding on the values of others. With his determined attitude and a strong collection in Innovation, the future of ASFA will be in good hands if one votes for Aaron and Innovation.

I would also like to voice my support for Richard Patenaude in his quest to be an independent councillor. I have known Richard for two years, and can attest that he is a goal-oriented, driven individual that would be phenomenal for this position. Virtually everyone that knows Richard knows that he is quite the approachable guy and will try to help people to the best of his abil-



by Diego Pelaez Gaetz GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

ities. I hope that everyone who reads this letter will be interested to find out more about Richard; talk to him if you can and I guarantee you will understand why he is the man for the job.

The key thing is to be informed. Look at the past accomplishments of the people that I listed and of the other contenders as well. Know who and what you are voting for, and try to make the best decision you possibly can. I urge everyone to vote, because we will all be affected by the decision in the end.

—Kevin Thompson,
Sociology

JMSB left out

Next week from February 16th-18th I will not be voting in the Arts and Science Federation of Associations election. As a JMSB student I do not have the privilege to do so. This is unfortunate because the Arts and Science Faculties make up such a large part of Concordia University and ASFA has always contributed to better life on campus for students of all stripes.

This year, arts and science students have the opportunity to vote for a party that will permanently reform ASFA into the great student association it has always had the potential to be. Innovation pledges to bring financial transparency to ASFA, clearing once-and-for-all the fog that surrounds the appropriation of its large budget. This is of primary concern because ASFA is financed through your tuition and currently only a select few know how this money is spent. As a sitting Independent Councillor for ASFA, current team Innovation presidential candidate Aaron Green knows what needs to be done and isn't afraid to roll up his sleeves and get down to business.

Also, as the only presidential candidate with any experience holding an office in university politics, the choice is clear who is most qualified to run ASFA. Green will be able to hit the ground running and no time will be wasted making Concordia a place we can all

be proud of.

Speaking of pride, McGill isn't the only school with a lush green campus in the city. The Loyola campus is a beautiful property, rich in history. I look forward to attending the many events and tournaments that Innovation for ASFA plans to organize at Loyola, ending the long standing alienation between the two campuses.

With polling stations on both campuses from February 16th-18th, I urge all arts and science students to vote for Aaron Green and his team at Innovation for ASFA. This is your opportunity to be proactive and have a say in your university experience and Innovation will make sure Concordia University is a school we are all proud to attend. Aaron Green will be the next ASFA President, and you can take that to the bank.

—Robert Dlhosh,
John Molson School of Business

President of Poli Sci talks straight

From a veteran of the Concordia student politics scene, here is a quick piece of advice for the undecided Arts and Science voter: Ignore the slogans of the various groups and don't put much weight on the campaign

points listed on the posters you see around campus. The vast majority of an Arts and Science Federation of Associations executive's responsibilities are already set in stone, so make it your responsibility get to know candidates on a personal level. The most important qualities of an ASFA executive is their dedication to the job and their qualification for the position they are vying for.

ASFA is an organization with a massive budget responsible for dozens of member associations and therefore the need for a qualified executive should far outweigh one's preference for a particular type of social event. When the candidates come to your classroom, talk to them! Do they seem genuinely interested in their position? Do they have experience running a student organization? Are they personable? Intelligent? What is there reason for running?

Look for candidates with depth in their responses.

If you ask a question and receive a cliché in response, be wary.

And finally, scrutinize any conspiracy theories you may hear about a particular candidate.

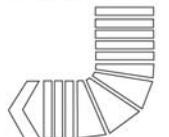
Good luck to all the candidates,

—Evan Sheres
President, Political
Science Students Association

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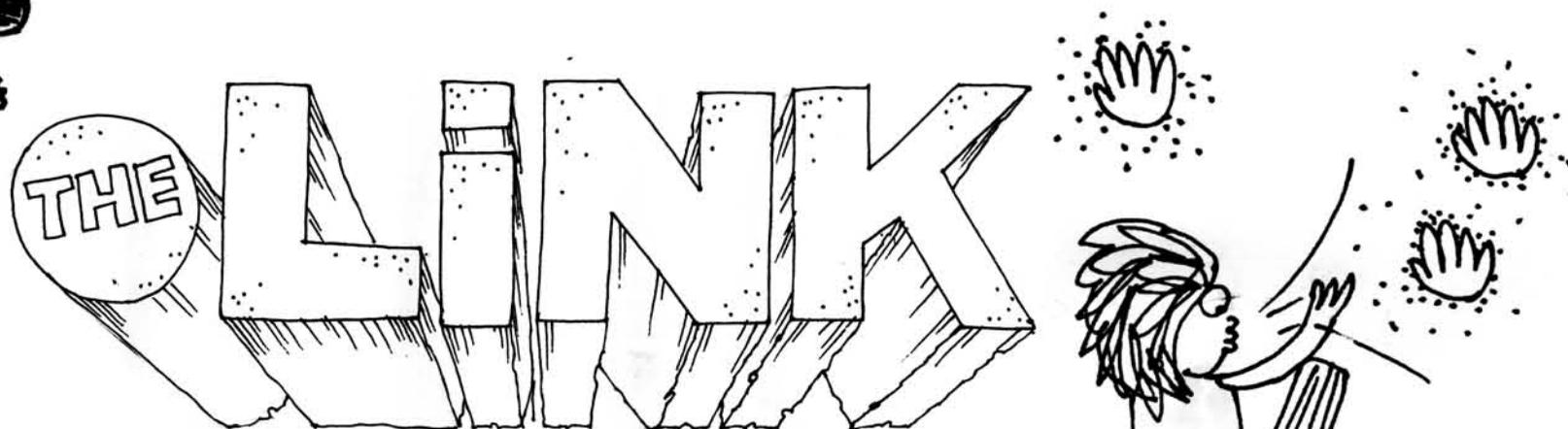


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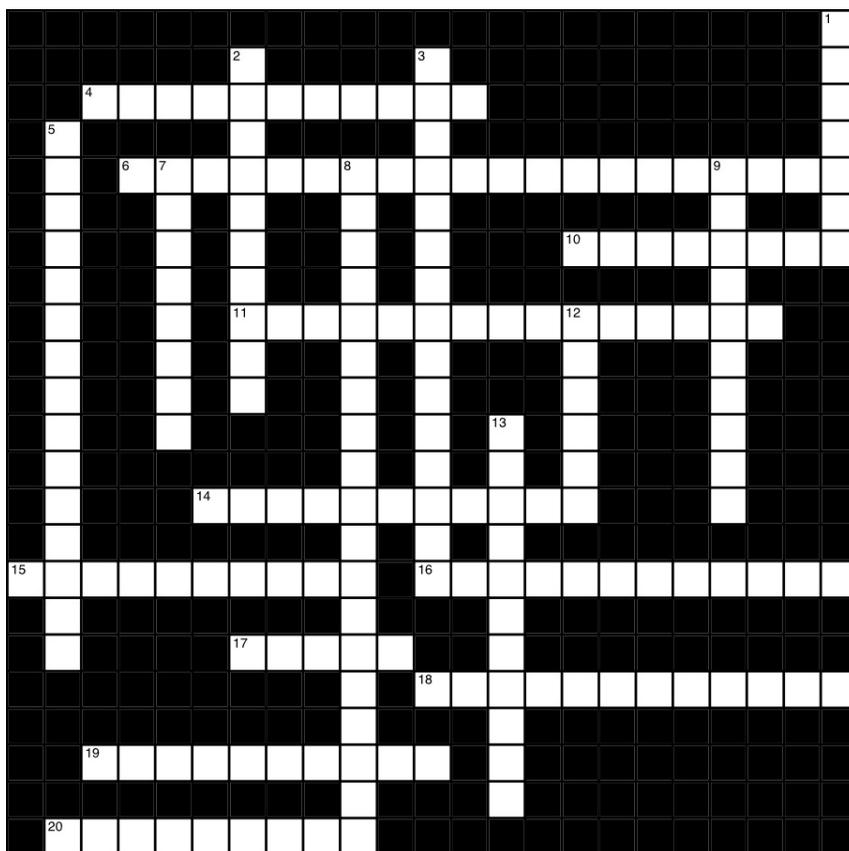
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crsward pzzlol

THE "MOVIES YOU WISH YOU HADN'T SEEN" EDITION
• R. BRIAN "YEAH, I'M A FILMIC SNOB" HASTIE



Across

4. "I guess we found out his weakness: bullets."—LL Cool J. There's a reason why this Christian Slater-starring epic was shelved for years... It's just that bad.

6. Sly Stallone teams up with his mom to wipe out bad guys. Apparently this isn't a documentary, contrary to popular belief. (Six words)

10. The boat can't go under 50 mph! Oh, wait, hold on. That sounds ridiculous. I blame Jason Patric. (Two words, numeral spelled out)

11. Chuck Norris goes back to the Asian hellhole whence he came. (Hint: Not bad kung fu movies.) Also notable for showing how great Chuck looks when dialling the phone. (Three words)

14. Oh, check this shit out: Vin Diesel plays a Mr. Nanny to a bunch of annoying kids! Isn't it a riot? Yeah, no one else bought it either. Someone out there thinks it's funny, though. (Two words)

15. One of the biggest money-losing disasters of all-time finds web-footed Kevin Costner hanging out on man-made rafts for the majority of the flick. Yeah, it was as boring for me to type as it was for you to read.

16. "Run honey! The wind is chasing us!" Ah, the 2008 comedy of the year had Mark Wahlberg running scared from every gentle breeze that came his way. (Two words)

17. The acting genius behind both *Step Up* movies decides to not back down when it comes to facing the wimpy kid from *3rd Rock From The Sun*. Way to piss on my childhood memories of good times with this terrible re-imagining of one of the best toy/TV show tie-ins of all-time. (Two words)

18. Since when can dolls have babies? Ask Redman. Or Jennifer Tilly. (Three words)

19. 1959 Mexican epic that pits good ol' St. Nick against Pitch, an agent of Satan. Oh, and St. Nick's best friend is Merlin and they live in a castle on a cloud with tons of children. I wish I were making this up. (Two words)

20. V. Ice (as he now calls himself)

rides a motorcycle around and battles bad guys. At least that's what I think happens in the movie... Having seen it a few times, I still can't decipher what exactly occurs, other than Rob Van Winkle's desire to fix his hair constantly. (Three words)

Down

1. Do you really need a sequel when it comes to a giant shark chasing unsuspecting swimmers? Thought not. Though they did make another two films after this one, nothing can touch the first, often considered to be the first great summer blockbuster. (Two words)

2. Kevin Costner-directed film starring Kevin Costner...in the future! He hands out letters in a post-apocalyptic world for 177 minutes. Yes, you read right: Kevin Costner. (Two words)

3. Shakespeare classic + *Toxic Avenger* = this. (Three words)

5. Shot-on-video undead epic. The mullet-wearing dad is pretty much the best part of the whole film. (Two words)

7. The residents of Nilbog have a secret... Oh my Godddd. (Two words, numeral spelled out)

8. One of the strangest films ever to gain any sort of attention involves a family being tortured by the "fear-some" Master and his "dastardly" assistant Torgo. Luckily it's only 74 minutes long. (Five words)

9. Bruce Willis' first major misstep involves him trying to steal priceless artifacts. The only thing he did was steal my goddamn money. (Two words)

12. *Aliens* + *Titanic* + *The Abyss* + *Terminator* = This blue-tinged piece of trash

13. Chuck Norris and a dog team up to take down crime. Hint: They

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hand out a buttload of parking violations along the way too. (Four words, numerals spelled out)

Corrections

In the article entitled, "Tough new ASFA election rules," [vol. 30, iss. 22, pg. 5] *The Link* wrote that Leah Del Vecchio had called the Feb. 2 ASFA special Council meeting. The meeting had been called by councillors Aaron Green, Alexa Newman, Vanessa O'Connor and Stephanie Siriwardhana.

In the same article, *The Link* wrote that Nicole Devlin was a ASFA councillor. She is the secretary.

In an article entitled, "One month to Moncton," [vol. 30, iss. 22, pg. 8] *The Link* wrote that Sabrina Allard had received an offer from the *Métro* daily, Josée-Raphaëlle Brodeur received the offer.

Taylor C. Noakes was identified as being affiliated with The Dominion Institute (vol.30, iss.22, pg.15). Noakes is no longer affiliated with this group.

In the article "Suggested reforms shot down by CFS," (vol.30, iss.22, pg.29) Andrew Haig was described as the treasurer of the CFS-Q. His opinions were not representative of the CFS-Q as a whole.

The Link regrets the errors.

editorial

Reading the fine print

Concordia's months-long process to defederate from the Canadian Federation of Students hit another unexpected snag this past week. The CFS's long history of bullying tactics has proven useful over the years, but this time, the CFS has turned to threats of legal action to prevent our school from ever leaving the fold.

At their November assembly, an alteration in the CFS's bylaws changed the rules in the midst of a national defederation drive. As a result, we now need to pony up our outstanding fees to the CFS at least six weeks before we can even hold a referendum about leaving the organization. The CFS also did not give a reason why this new bylaw would be applied retroactively to outstanding fees.

Despite the justifications of former Concordia Student Union president Keyana Kashfi, it's hard to believe that we really owe the CFS the \$1 million-plus that the national student lobby group has accused us of, on the part of—again—retroactive application of rules.

Even if the CFS's justifications are valid, it's entirely unclear where the exact figure of \$1,033,278.76 came from. Why would the CFS suddenly realize in mid-2009—during the hotly contested turnover of CSU control and the end of the "Evolution, Not Revolution/New Evolution/Blue Evolution/Experience/Blue Unity/Orange Unity" dynasty—that we owe them the equivalent of the CSU's yearly operating budget (although the claim is they're now demanding two-thirds of it)? Shouldn't they have been a little more chafed by that fact prior to Concordia moving to defederate?

Surely there is a number cruncher on the well-paid staff of the CFS that has arrived at this figure from a variety of factors and variables, but it's fuzzy as to whether these mathematical justifications are based on fact.

The only proof students have that we actually owe the CFS more than a million dollars is the word of our former president. According to Kashfi, she would not have signed the agreement to pay the CFS this money if it wasn't true. Although she claims to be smart enough to realize the repercussions of signing a false document, Kashfi might be unknowingly caught in the crossfire of a CFS-CSU shootout.

Sorry, but with the amount of embezzlement and controversy our union has been involved with over the past decade, we're going to need more than the word of a former CSU president before we fork over the money for the overpaid salaries of a woefully out-of-touch student lobby group.

With the Arts and Science Federation of Associations elections this week, this issue becomes even more important. With one of the slates running Charles Brenchley, a former employee of CFS's Quebec branch as president—the same guy who left a trail of missing money at his various jobs, including his tenure as president of the Dawson Student Union—students need to be vigilant in fighting the influence of the CFS on our campus.

The bottom line is that the burden of proof for this exorbitant demand lies with the CFS. Concordia appears to have paid their dues from 1999-00 until 2008-09. The paperwork shows the CSU paid approximately \$200,000 a year to go towards... well, we're not entirely sure. Overpriced agendas? Trips to hockey games?

The CSU is in an unenviable position right now, with the massing legal forces of the CFS setting their targeting laser on the corner of de Maisonneuve and Mackay. Here's hoping the CSU is undeterred by this bush-league intimidation ploy and continues to fight for what Concordia students voted for by the thousands: to remove ourselves from the clutches of the CFS.

—Diego Pelaez Gaetz,
Opinions editor