

Over before it started

Fusion slate tramples
competition within minutes
during Concordia Student
Union's poster night • News 6



Queer Semaine carves out safe space • Fringe 17

'A bunch of Orangemen and Loyalists'

Separatists tell English Quebecers to go back to Canada



Mario Beaulieu (left) and Pierre-Luc Bégin are optimistic about a rebirth for the sovereigntist movement. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Sporting a woollen pullover and a pair of slacks, Raymond Villeneuve looked like any other balding old man.

Between bites of his egg roll, Villeneuve spoke loudly, in a sharp, deep tone.

"We'll chase those Canadians back to Canada by force," he said. "The English in Quebec may consider themselves Quebecers, but they are really Orangemen and Loyalists who by and large refused to acknowledge the nation of Quebec."

Villeneuve was a founding member of the Front de libération du Québec, the paramilitary separatist group responsible for robberies, bombings and the murder of Quebec labour minister Pierre

Laporte in 1970. Villeneuve himself was convicted of manslaughter in 1963 when he planned a bombing that killed a night watchman at a military base in Montreal.

The former *felquiste* was just one of 30 gathered on March 3 to attend the launching of Pierre-Luc Bégin's new book, *Le génocide culturel des francophones au Canada*, detailing the decline of French in Canada. Bégin addressed the crowd at the Montreal headquarters of the ultra-sovereigntist Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste.

"The fall of the French language was no coincidence; it was planned, organized and orchestrated by English Canada," said Bégin, who is president of a non-profit sovereigntist printing house. "Bill 101 won't protect the French language. The

Canadian Supreme Court will keep butchering the bill and we can't expect them to stand up for the French language. The only solution is to have an independent state for French speakers."

Bill 101 is a piece of legislation that came into effect in 1977. It initially defined French as the official language of Quebec's courts, public institutions and private businesses alike. A series of Supreme Court decisions subsequently loosened some of the bill's harsher provisions.

"I don't think anyone in the separatist movement wants to deny the anglophone minority their historic rights," Bégin continued. "But anglophones have to realize they don't have dominion over the assimilation of immigrants in this province."

Although event organizers stressed their aversion to xenophobia, the book launch had bigoted undertones.

"The Italians and Jews have stunted the separatist movement for decades," said an audience member who refused to identify himself. "The Italians want things to stay as they are. Our current system benefits the Mafia and the Jews have always voted Liberal, they're just another kind of mafia."

The launch came just days after former Parti Québécois premier Lucien Bouchard all but declared the issue of sovereignty dead and warned of creeping radicalism in the PQ. But to a small group of militants in a townhouse on Sherbrooke Street, the movement still has a pulse.

CUSACorp brings in first profit ever

Reggie's profit margins turn around student corporation

• CLAY HEMMERICH

The Concordia Student Union's for-profit subsidiary, CUSACorp, is enjoying a resurgence as it is poised to post its first profit ever: \$66,623 from May 2009 to January 2010.

The student corporation lost \$67,587 in 2008.

"Our goal this year was to get CUSACorp to stand on its own," said CSU VP Finance Sam Moyal. "But we knew that would be difficult to reach."

CUSACorp suffered in the past as the rent from the Hall building's Java U location could not make up for losses from Reggie's. At the start of 2010, the CSU wrote off a \$228,205 debt it was owed by CUSACorp. Moyal said that the debt could not be paid off at the time.

"We really believe that Reggie's can be profitable," said Moyal. "We thought the best thing we can do is let it start from scratch."

To turn around its finances,

CUSACorp concentrated on eliminating Reggie's deficit.

"We did not raise alcohol prices," said Moyal. "But there have been a few minor changes."

Those changes were visible to students as a \$3 cover charge was introduced on Thirsty Thursdays, the Arts and Science Federation of Associations' Hockey Nights were extended and food, such as pulled pork sandwiches, nachos and other pub favourites, was added to a new menu.

"Students seem happy about the new changes," said Moyal. "The CSU did not receive any complaints about the cover charge prices on Thursdays."

Since CUSACorp's financial situation became more stable, Moyal said that longer term planning was easier for the student corporation.

"There is no limit to what CUSACorp can do," said Moyal, who hinted at a new student-run café managed by CUSACorp at The Hive on the Loyola campus.

Briefs

Ontario bans Israeli Apartheid Week

On Feb. 25, the Ontario legislature passed a unanimous motion to prohibit Israeli Apartheid Week on Ontario campuses, believing that it denotes "hatred against Israel [and trivializes] the suffering of those who were victims of the true apartheid regime in South Africa."

More money for students

After just one mention in the March 3 throne speech, students were the recipients of millions of new spending in the following day's budget. More than \$100 million will be spent on internships, increased access to post-secondary education and funding Canada's research-supporting councils. Most of the new money will not last beyond 2012.

Homosexuality hidden from immigrants

Canada's new citizenship guide, which placed controversial emphasis on the country's military roots, reignited debate when the Canadian Press learned that all mentions of gays and lesbians were stricken from the guide's final copy. Immigration Minister Jason Kenney, a strong critic of same-sex marriage whose office produced the guide, claimed that he took no part in the decision.

\$150,000 donated to ENCS

Mechtronix World, a corporation founded by Concordia graduates, donated \$150,000 to the faculty of engineering and computer science on March 5. The donation will revamp the engineering laboratory in the basement of the Hall building. Previously dubbed "The Cage," the laboratory will be renamed "Intelligent Machines World."

UdeM lecturers strike

Over 2,000 non-contracted lecturers at the Université de Montréal, who teach almost half the school's undergraduate courses according to their union, walked off the job on Feb. 24. They are asking for smaller class sizes and a pay increase of 3.8 per cent over four years to bring the school in line with the national average.



(Clockwise from top left) Surging up the escalator to poster the Hall building. A debate over the placing of Community's posters between a member of the Community slate and a Deputy Electoral Officer. The flood of purple as Fusion candidates ready themselves to go. CSU VP Clubs and Promotions Stephanie Siriwardhana, running with team Fusion, heads up the escalators.

PHOTOS ALEX FAMILI, MADELINE COLEMAN & RILEY SPARKS

A wave of purple, a speckle of orange

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Once upon a time, candidates would jockey for position at the bottom of the Hall building escalators, the seconds would tick down to midnight, the count would reach zero and a great roar would shake the building as candidates thundered up the escalators, leaving every inch of poster board covered in a rich rainbow.

The 2010 poster night was not one of those nights.

The start of the 2010 Concordia Student Union general election campaign that started at midnight on March 9 might very well set the tone of the election as the purple Fusion slate—the pampered child of the incumbent Vision slate—trampled the orange Community slate.

“We ran against Change last year,” said current CSU President Amine Dabchy. “There is change this year: no CFS.”

In anticipation of the Canadian Federation of Students, the Fusion slate—led by current CSU VP Services and Loyola Prince Ralph Osei—

turned out in strength.

With most of the current CSU executive wearing purple Fusion shirts—worn either inside-out until campaigning began at midnight or wearing the previous year's Vision shirts—student government will slow to a crawl as candidates are forced to step down from their current positions by elections rules. Three of the eight current CSU executives are running for office.

The most serious criticism of Chief Electoral Officer Oliver Cohen, in his second term, might be that he let the purple hoard out early, two or three minutes before midnight depending on whose watch you consult. Poster rules were tighter this year, as Cohen limited the number of posters on each cork board.

“Each year we add new rules, hoping that we learned from our mistakes,” Cohen said while sitting relaxed in his office earlier in the day. “Maybe one day we will hit perfection. Everyone knows perfection doesn't exist.”

The general election will be held on March 23, 24 and 25.

Community slate: outnumbered and outresourced

Presidential hopeful comments from behind the throng

• MADELINE COLEMAN

A knot of purple T-shirts and bouncing wigs clamour around the base of the escalators in Concordia's Hall building, the backs of their shirts stuffed with pre-taped posters.

It's poster night, and the Fusion slate have put on their warpaint.

Hanging a few metres behind the throng, Michael Xenakis is waiting quietly with a fistful of posters in one hand. The other members of his ragtag slate, Community, mill about, only brandishing their orange posters or raising their voices when Fusion rallies a chant.

“We're out-numbered, out-resourced,” Xenakis said, looking on and shaking his head. “We have no option but to run faster.”

Community is the “other” slate. Fusion's presidential candidate, Prince Ralph Osei, was this year's high-profile Concordia Student Union VP Services and Loyola; Xenakis is on the boards of The People's Potato and Le Frigo Vert.

He ran in last year's CSU election, too, that time for Decentralize.

This time around, Xenakis is heading a team that says its focus is on taking back student space, specifically in the new student centre, a building which he complains would be “completely owned by the administration.”

The presidential candidate denounced the domination of the Chartwells foodservice provider, promising that Community will fight for more student-owned services on campus. Previous student union administrations have been too short-sighted with their money, Xenakis argued: too much student cash has been squandered on one-off events when it should have been invested in building a sustainable community.

Community's stance on defederation from the Canadian Federation of Students matches that of Fusion: they want out, and will take it to court if necessary.

Chief Electoral Officer Oliver Cohen fired the proverbial gun slightly before midnight and the

candidates bolted up the escalators, sprinting to the walls with posters and staplers outstretched. The Fusion slate, accustomed to elections, taped their campaign posters together, one of which can cover nearly an entire board.

One bulletin board on the Hall building's mezzanine was a wall of purple, with one conspicuously orange Community poster smack in the middle.

Xenakis isn't a fan of poster night. He thinks it encourages cheap tactics rather than democracy, commenting that Fusion's poster blitzkrieg is “good, if you don't like competition.”

“I think competition is important in politics,” he said. “But...”

So why do CSU candidates join the fray, jockeying for the best positions and the most square inches on the campus' bulletin boards, if politics should be about more than a flashy poster?

Xenakis sighs.

“Because it's what wins,” he said.

—with files from Laura Beeston



(Clockwise from left) Community slate presidential candidate Mike Xenakis puts up a poster. CSU VP Sustainability and Projects Alex Oster helps put up posters. Two members of the Fusion slate help put up posters, surrounding a lone Community poster. CSU VP Clubs and Promotions Stephanie Siriwardhana in the Hall building lobby. PHOTOS RILEY SPARKS, BRITTANY LEVETT & JAMIE KLINGER

Fusion dominates poster night

Staffed with student union veterans and off to an early lead

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Running virtually unopposed and festooned in purple warpaint, the Fusion slate stormed up the Hall building in hordes.

In the opening seconds of the Concordia Student Union's 2010 general election campaign, Fusion overwhelmed their relatively inexperienced Community rivals, quickly snatching most of the building's prime poster space for their candidates.

"We were looking forward to a campaign against the Canadian Federation of Students," said Concordia Student Union President Amine Dabchy—currently running for a Board of Governors position on the Fusion slate. "But they aren't running. They're watching us though," he continued, pointing to Audrey Peek, former Arts and Science Federation of Associations presi-

dent and leader of last year's Change slate. Peek is now running the "Yes" campaign in support of the CFS.

A question on this year's ballot will ask students if they want to defederate from the CFS, a national lobby group that has been at odds with the CSU since October 2009.

"The CFS had a mandate to represent its constituents across the country and failed miserably," said Lex Gill, a Fusion candidate for CSU Council. "The conflation of a service-based-in-advocacy organization has turned into nothing more than a multimillion-dollar racket."

CSU VP Services and Loyola Prince Ralph Osei led the charge as Fusion's presidential candidate.

"We're looking forward to some healthy competition," he yelled over the crowd's jubilation. "We have to treat this like a

close campaign."

Beyond the CFS question, Fusion's platform focuses on building upon the current CSU executive's achievements: implementing monthly town hall meetings, expanding the Loyola Luncheon, a water bottle-free campus, the greening of Mackay Street and the launch of the oft-delayed student centre project.

Fusion's campaign also marks Melanie Hotchkiss' return to student politics. Hotchkiss resigned as the Dawson Student Union's president in 2006, shortly after there was a call for her impeachment at a general assembly of Dawson students.

Purple posters lined the Hall building just 20 minutes into the election season. With five times more candidates than Community, Fusion's political dominance will likely extend far beyond poster night.

'Business as usual'

Chief Electoral Officer Oliver Cohen holds a tame poster night

• CLAY HEMMERICH

Chief Electoral Officer Oliver Cohen—who is in charge of regulating the Concordia Student Union's general election—found that the March 9 poster night was "business as usual."

No security breaches broke out and no fights amongst opposing slates had to be broken up. If he had needed to, it wouldn't have been much of a fight. Fusion's 40 purple shirt-wearing candidates far outweighed Community's eight orange shirts.

"The crowd of candidates is minor this year," said Cohen, who held the position last year. "Three elections ago, anybody would be allowed to poster the boards, but now we have a rule where only candidates are allowed to poster."

As a result, Cohen has never experienced the level of chaos that prior CEOs reported facing.

Besides the reshuffling of posters to maximize board space and other minor complaints, Cohen was rarely in a quarrel or questioned. His phone barely rang throughout the evening—an evening that neared its end 15 minutes after it had started.

Audrey Peek, 2009 candidate for the Change slate, which ran in opposition to Vision, filed a contestation with Cohen against the question on the upcoming referendum to remain in the organization. Cohen confirmed that Peek was leading the Yes committee for the referendum, encouraging students to continue their CFS membership.

Cohen said he'd review the contestation later in the week.

Pedestrian priority at Concordia

New diagonal intersection could make walking at downtown campus safer



Putting a scramble at the corner of de Maisonneuve Boulevard and Mackay Street will make it easier and faster to get to the Hall building. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

With tens of thousands of pedestrians, cars and bicycles competing for space, the sidewalks and crosswalks of Concordia's Sir George Williams Campus can be chaotic.

The solution, according to Allégo Concordia, would be a scramble intersection.

At a scramble, all four traffic lights turn red and pedestrians are allowed to cross the intersection at a diagonal, allowing for faster and safer pedestrian crossing. A scramble was installed two years ago at the intersection of Yonge and Dundas Streets in Toronto—none exist in Quebec.

Allégo, a part of Sustainable Concordia that helps students walk, bike and use public transit to get to university, went to the City of Montreal with a plan to install a scramble at the intersection of de Maisonneuve Boulevard and Mackay Street.

"There are always a lot of people waiting to cross from the southwest side to the northeast side, because most of the traffic is from the metro station to the Hall building," said Marilyn Tremblay, Allégo's former coordinator. Tremblay oversaw the project after Audrey Noeltner, a Concordia urban planning student, proposed the idea to Allégo.

"The city seemed to like it but

they did have some concerns. If the timing of the crosswalks were to change, as it would, then the traffic timing of all of de Maisonneuve would be thrown off," said Allison Reid, Allégo's current program coordinator. "It's really expensive to coordinate a street's lights."

There is also concern about the impact of the soon-to-be-completed tunnel linking the Hall building to the Guy-Concordia metro station, a conduit expected to relieve foot traffic at the intersection targeted for the scramble.

"When the tunnel is open, Allégo will be recounting the pedestrian traffic and what path it is taking," said Reid. "We will see if it is still

feasible and then resubmit the report to the city."

Scrambles are illegal in Quebec. Although there are intersections with four-way red lights, pedestrians are not allowed to cross diagonally.

"I think of it every time I cross an intersection, how efficient it would be if I could just cut the corner instead of waiting," said Reid. "What's interesting is that so many of us do it anyway here. The number of people who cross diagonally regardless of what the lights say is surprising—it's so dangerous."

Allégo received full support from Concordia on the project, Reid and Tremblay confirmed. According to

Tremblay, who is now directing the rebuilding of Le Massif ski hill near Quebec City, the scramble would do more than help traffic; it would also help set Concordia apart.

"[Noeltner's] goal was not only to make the intersection safe, but also to create a community feeling," said Tremblay, who added that the scramble could be integrated into Concordia's existing Quartier Concordia project. "By putting down special pavement markings, the scramble would become a landmark."

"We don't have the typical campus. We have an urban campus so we need to have urban elements to signal our campus."

Drink from a fountain on Concordia's bottle-free day

• LAURA BEESTON

For the first year ever, universities across Canada will celebrate Bottled Water Free Day on March 11, with student organizations mobilizing to increase student awareness of water politics, privatization issues and falling access to water fountains.

During the March 22 to 26 World Water Week, TAPthirst will deliver a petition in support of a bottled water ban on campus and ask students to think twice about where their water comes from.

"We need to start getting people to think about the water they're drinking," said Stephanie McConkey, a member of the TAPthirst collective. "March is water month for us and we're trying to go at this from a bottom-up approach. We really need students' support to put pressure on the administration to create a truly sustainable Concordia."

"R4 estimated the total number of bottles thrown out on campus at 1.2 million per year, which is around 24 bottles per student on average," said TAPthirst member Alex Matak. "Beyond waste, it's not just about bottled water and a consumer choice [...]. It's one of the biggest human rights and environmental issues out there."

According to Hospitality Concordia Director Johanne De Cubellis, the university's contract with PepsiCo, who currently provides beverages and bottled water in vending machines across campus, is set to expire in December 2010.

"Something we want to see are the trends on campus," De Cubellis said. "I know that on some universities there is already a ban on the sale of bottled water and I'm curious about the mentality and trend going on at Concordia."

There is a growing trend of banning water bottles from campuses across the country. St. Thomas University, Ryerson University and Queen's University plan to ditch the plastic by 2013.

"This is something that can gain momentum," said McConkey. "Look at the plastic bag campaign and how fast cloth bags have caught on. Or the reusable mug. Bottled water can catch on just as quickly."

A marked decline in the number of drinking fountains has resulted from the on-campus sale of water bottles. In newer buildings, fountains are concentrated solely around washrooms.

"The state of our public water infrastructure here at Concordia is dismal," said Matak. "We're not just about taking away people's access to bottled water—it has to come hand in hand with an increase in public water access that's better."



The crowd marched towards Jean Charest's office. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Step forward, two back

• RILEY SPARKS

Two hundred men and women marched on March 7 from Phillips Square to Jean Charest's office as Montreal's Women's Day March

enters its second decade.

Organizer Alexa Conradi said that lack of sex education, disregard for women's reproductive rights and sexist advertising have set Canada "two steps backwards."

31 billion

litres of bottled water consumed annually in the U.S.

17 million

barrels of oil used to produce U.S. bottled water annually

2.7 million

tons of plastic used to bottle water each year in Canada.



Some pension funds are investing in vulture firms that are benefiting from the Haitian earthquake. PHOTO FAIZ IMAM

Quebec's pension system is broken

'Pensions are not a sexy topic,' says analyst

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

All of Quebec's public employees are covered by a pension system facing record losses, while a record low number of Quebec's private employees even have a pension. Reform is needed.

A panel of experts held a roundtable discussion March 2 on pension reform at Concordia's Samuel Bronfman building. Pensions became an issue of public interest when the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, the province's public pension management system, posted record losses upwards of \$39 billion in 2008.

"Pensions are not a sexy topic," said Leo Kolivakis, an independent economic analyst. "But when you look at how badly the economic crisis hit pensioners, it gets sexier."

The Caisse was created in 1965, but only set its first official mandate in 2005 under Jean Charest's

Liberals. The new mandate required that the Caisse seek "optimal" returns, prompting a widespread shift in the organization's investment strategies.

Where the Caisse had previously looked to invest in Quebec, it now set itself to increasing its bottom line. Under the leadership of Caisse President Henri-Paul Rousseau, the Caisse invested on inflated real estate, paper mills, hedge funds and other speculative ventures.

"Pension funds, such as the ones of civil servants and university endowment systems, provided money to vulture funds, to distress funds, to hedge funds to create this turbulence in the markets," said former CDP Capital president Michel Nadeau.

Nadeau contended that the problem of under-performing pension funds is a luxury compared to the situation most Quebecers face.

"One hundred per cent of public employees are participating in the pension system. So don't cry for the civil servant pensions," said Nadeau. "Thirty per cent of the private sector is participating in the pension system. Most workers today will have to work until they are 70 or 75 years old. That's the real challenge for our generation."

Both Nadeau and Kolivakis agreed that all Quebecers should be covered by a government-run pension plan. The pair also advocated further reform to the current pension system.

"Workers need better representation on the board of directors of their pension funds," said Kolivakis. "If you're going to invest money on behalf of a pension fund, make sure you know the risk that you are taking and make sure that you're not trying to gain [unrealistic] benchmarks to maximize revenues."

Greening the Plateau

Green roofs and streets in Project Montreal's urban lab

• TOM LLEWELIN

"Public spaces should really be for the public and not for cars," said Car Free Mile-End founder Mathieu Vick at Greening the Plateau, an event organized by the Mennonite Friendship Centre on March 3. "There must be more green spaces."

Residents packed the centre on Duluth Street to hear how the Plateau-Mont Royal borough, led by Project Montreal, could become safer, greener and more sustainable. The Car Free group, assisted by students from McGill's school of urban planning, laid out its plan for a car-free St-Viateur Street West.

"The most important thing in all of this is consent from the public," said Vick, who envisions a multi-use living street with organic markets.

Greening Duluth, a group formed by the Friendship Centre, also intends to make the cobblestone Duluth Street a showcase for environmentally-conscious and pedestrian-friendly urban planning. The people behind Mural Norte-

Sur, a \$6 million park built in a former parking lot, were commissioned to help with the project.

"There are a lot of greenish spaces and not enough natural spaces," said Marke Ampe of the Mile End Citizens' Committee, who asserted that the amount of green space was underestimated.

Santropol Roulant, a meals-on-bike-wheels non-profit, showed the crowd a rendering of their new facility on Roy Street East, which will incorporate a rooftop garden and organic waste composting.

The provincially-funded Montreal Centre for Urban Ecology's Patrice Godin spoke of his group's efforts to expand their green roof program and create more "îlots de fraîcheur" in dead spaces.

Project Montreal local association head and mayoral spokesperson Pierre Dodin stressed his party's commitment to a "green network" of streets, including a plan to expand the number of designated green alleys to 25. The alleys are

unexpected havens of foliage, incorporating wildflowers and gardens.

"They are a social link for families and a way to educate children about nature," said Dodin.

He acknowledged that raising citizen support for the project—especially in a borough where many residents are quasi-nomadic—nonetheless has its challenges.

Citizens rallied around Project Montreal's plan to begin clawing back parking in the borough.

Two-thirds of Montreal Island residents travel to work by bus or metro and seven per cent use a bicycle, according to a recent Agence métropolitaine de transport study. Car Free Mile-End argued that car usage in the borough needed to be limited for both environmental and safety reasons.

"The majority of public space is reserved for cars," Vick said. "Children can't be expected to just play on the sidewalk."

St-Viateur Street will be closed this summer to cars from Parc Avenue to St-Urbain Street.

'We don't owe them anything'

Student union finds proof against CFS's \$1 million claim

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

The Concordia Student Union is fighting back after receiving a legal memorandum on Feb. 10 from the Canadian Federation of Students—a national student lobby group—that claimed the CSU owes them over \$1 million in unpaid membership fees.

In the memorandum sent to the CSU, the CFS claimed students in the John Molson School of Business and the Engineering and Computer Science faculties had not paid dues since joining in 1998.

Not so, said CSU VP External Auob Muntasar.

"We haven't been able to get a solid answer out of them about why we owe them a million dollars," continued Muntasar, noting the JMSB and ENCS faculties only joined the CFS in 2007.

"We have proof that we don't owe them anything," echoed CSU President Amine Dabchy.

In a fax the CSU sent to the lobby group in 1998, only 595 students from the arts and science and fine arts faculties voted in favour of joining the CFS—492 opposed. Business and engineering students did not vote to join.

The CSU also produced a report from 2005 written by the CFS's national executive representative in Quebec at the time, Brent Farrington, who confirmed that only arts and science, and fine arts students were members. Farrington was deputy chairperson of the CFS in 2009.

"I don't know how this adds up to a million dollars," Muntasar said, perplexed. "I don't know why [former CSU president] Keyana [Kashfi] signed [a legal memorandum acknowledging the unpaid fees]. It doesn't make any sense."

"Intimidation," whispered CSU VP Services and Loyola Prince Ralph Osei, who alluded to an upcoming referendum question for students to leave the CFS.

Since *The Link's* Feb. 16 interview with the CFS, the organization still has not stated explicitly what the outstanding money is for and, furthermore, why it was acknowledged near the end of Kashfi's 2008-09 mandate.

"The matter is pretty simple as far as the federation is concerned: the Concordia Student Union has the responsibility to remit fees from all dues-paying members of the union," said CFS Treasurer Dave Molenhuis. "That's all I can

offer you for comment."

The means by which students in the ENCS and JMSB joined the CFS was also strange, according to Muntasar. Students never voted to join, but began to pay fees after then-student representative Noah Stewart-Ornstein introduced a motion to Concordia's Board of Governors.

"The Board said that had the motion arose and had people started to question it that it would have been reconsidered—but no one found out," Muntasar said. "Students started paying for it and they never knew. The more information we get, the shadier this seems."

According to Muntasar, the CSU had yet to have a productive discussion with the national lobby group.

"They don't care, they don't care at all. There isn't anything that we can tell them that is going to get them to change their opinion of the matter. Right now they think they have the upper hand because they think that they can legally bind us."

"The hardest thing to explain to people is that they are not logical. It's nonsense after nonsense."

On March 3, the CSU Council voted unanimously to approve a Feb. 25 presidential decree that will place a CFS referendum question on the ballots of the student union's upcoming election. Before the council meeting, the CFS sent a letter by bailiff to Council Chair Sohrab Mossaded, expressing its opposition to the decree.

"Had we gone to court and gotten referendum dates, they would have sued us for how we ran the referendum," Muntasar said, adding that it would be better to present the CFS and a judge with a fait accompli after the election.

According to the CFS, presidential decrees are not covered by its referendum rules.

"I'm not familiar with decrees or edicts," said Molenhuis. "They aren't covered at all in the bylaws of the federation. The bylaws are clear on referendum process; there isn't a section on presidential decrees."

According to Osei and Muntasar, the student union is preparing to bring their case to court.

"I'm going to the gym to get ready," Osei joked.

Molenhuis could not comment on whether the CFS was ready to bring the matter to court.

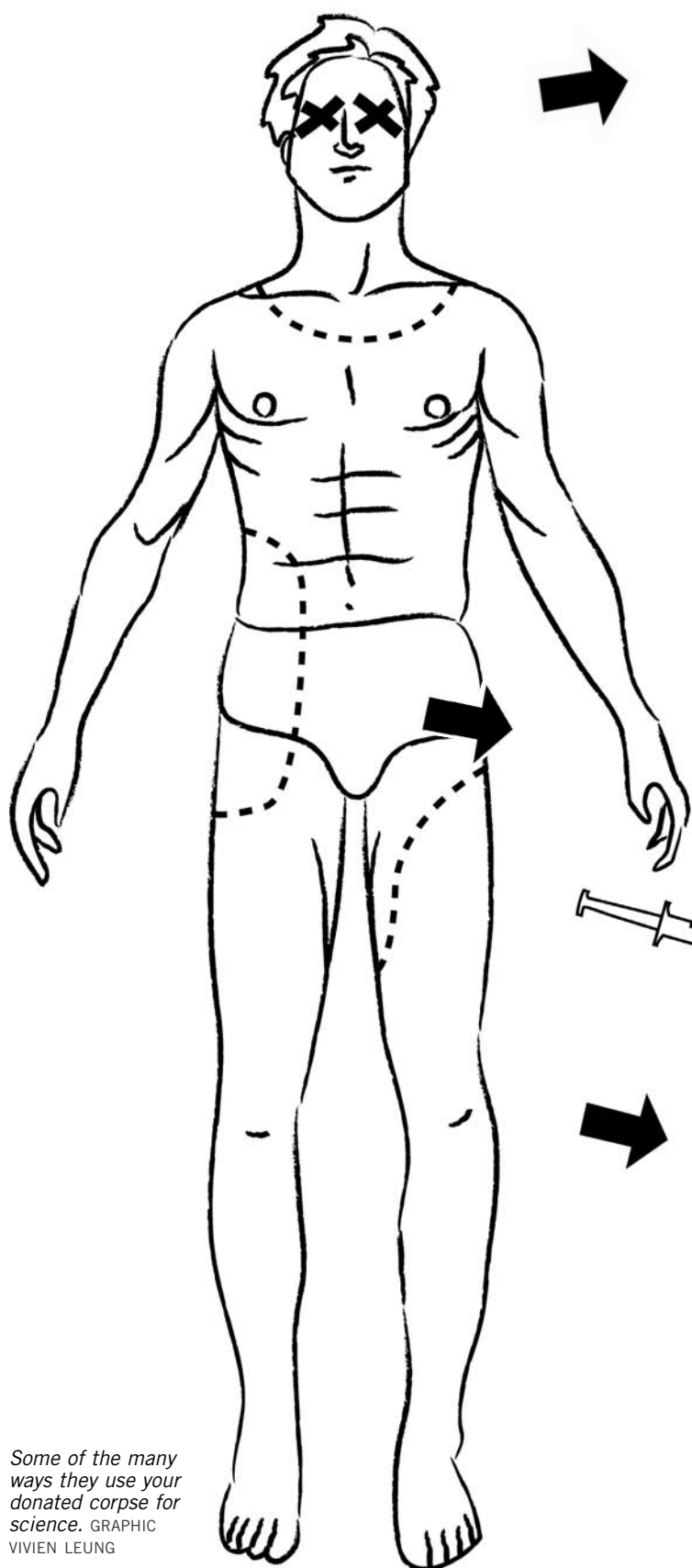
ON NEWSSTANDS MARCH 16, 2010

THE LiNK
SUSTAIN
ABILITY
SPECIAL
ISSUE



Life after death

For the love of medical research



Some of the many ways they use your donated corpse for science. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

• **DAMIAN PURDY, THE MANITOBA (UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA)**

WINNIPEG (CUP) — Whoa, you just died. Nice one. Only a moment ago, there you were—alive, lying in bed, in a clean white room. Your family was standing all around you, vaguely bored. It looked as if you were slowly being eaten away by the hospital lights. And then, all of a sudden, you just up and died.

Ah well, no time to cry or wax philosophical. There's work to be done.

You're going to be a busy body, if you'll excuse the pun. Are you going to the army base so they can use you for target practice? Will

you be physically transformed into a penis? There are so many possibilities. And it's all because you decided to donate your body to science!

Yes, you made a good decision when you checked the box to donate your body for "Medical Research Purposes" on your Medicare card. Indeed, if you had checked "Medical Education Purposes" instead, you'd likely be headed for med students right now where they'd poke and prod you for a bit, before giving you a respectful cremation. It's nice and all, but a touch boring, to be honest.

"Medical Research" is where the real action is. I commend your courage in choosing it back when

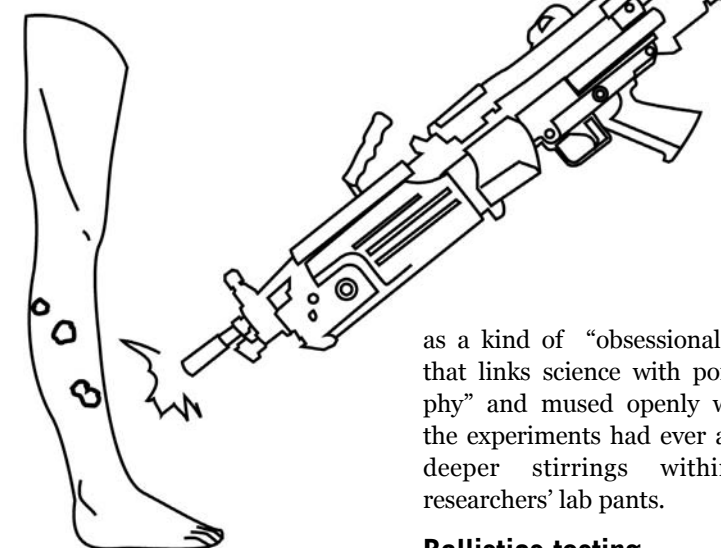
you were alive. It's such a vague term that you might be unaware of the post-mortem adventures you're about to have. Let's discuss a few thrilling options.

Tolerance testing

One possible fate is tolerance testing, in which bodies like you are put through a series of incredibly violent blunt impact trauma experiments. It's pretty sweet.

In this scenario, you would likely end up at a research centre like

Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich., where you get smashed to shit in automobile crashes. An even more exciting possibility is that you will end up at NASA, where you will be crash-landed inside



futuristic spacecraft. Indeed, NASA revealed in 2008 that it employs post-mortem human subjects in "extreme landing scenarios" for its still-experimental Orion Capsule project.

Don't be nervous, though. Tolerance testing simply finds out exactly what happens when the soft contours of your flesh meet other less-forgiving geometries at incredible speeds. These findings are then published in medical journals

under oddly alluring titles like "Response of the Head, Neck and Torso to Pendulum Impacts on the Back" (2001) and "Tolerances of the Human Face to Crash Impact" (1965).

In the latter study, researchers employed a catapult to hurl cadavers face-first into blunt objects "with increments of force until fracture occurred." The resulting "progressive failure of facial structure" is coolly documented, revealing neat tidbits like, "the frontal bone of one 66-year-old head fractured with a force of 330 G on the 2.5 sq. inch block" and that "the teeth and maxilla can withstand forces of more than 150 G if applied to a contoured area of about 4 sq. inches." Cool, eh?

Anyway, this is probably more than you need to know, but the obsessive detail and strangely poetic undertones of these near-fetishistic reports caught the attention of English author J.G. Ballard, who was moved to incorporate elements into his novel *The Atrocity Exhibition*. The author actually claimed that these reports could be read

as a kind of "obsessional fiction that links science with pornography" and mused openly whether the experiments had ever aroused deeper stirrings within the researchers' lab pants.

Ballistics testing

This one is exciting! You might have heard of it. In 2004, news emerged that cadavers willed to Tulane University in New Orleans, La. were in turn sold to the U.S. Army where they were summarily blown apart in landmine experiments. The general public was horrified by this. I'm not entirely sure why, because the practice of shooting, stabbing and exploding bodies like you is an open secret in the medical research community.

Indeed, a scan of the *Journal of Biomechanics* reveals articles with titillating titles like "Biomechanical Response Corridors of the Thorax to Blunt Ballistic Impacts" (2004).

Mary Roach, in her book *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*, documents the long history of armies formally and informally "firing into dead bodies for the purpose of teaching the effects of gunshots in war."

These days, organizations like the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology's Ballistic Missile Trauma Research Lab would love to have you for highly-choreographed munitions experiments. They might test land mines on your legs. Or shoot new kinds of bullets and/or lasers into your meaty thighs. Or test body armour on you, or shoot you in the face with non-lethal projectiles. You'd be pretty good at any of these.

Harvesting for parts

Perhaps the single most inspiring post-mortem adventure you can undertake is to have your parts harvested. I should warn you, however, that this decision will decimate you.

Note that this is not "decimate" in the truest Latin sense of the word. That is, "reduce by one-tenth," in accordance with the punitive mechanism of the Roman army, where 10 soldiers were forced to draw lots and club the loser dead. No, no, this is the modern colloquial usage, meaning you will be reduced absolutely to inhuman gristle, to pulp.

Wait, it's okay. Your parts will find new life in strange and beautiful ways. For instance, your precious collagen will soon engorge the meagre lips of others. Your fatty tissues—the ones you've always been so self-conscious about!—will smooth the wrinkled faces of aging women. Grafts of your skin will extend and enlarge the penises of sad men. You will be a humanitarian! You'll help wrinkled women sag a little bit less and wrinkled men sag a little bit more.

I could go on about other medical research experiments available to you. Like the one in which you are dropped out of airplanes to see what happens (answer: you break) or in which synthetic muscle implants re-animate you. Yes, I could go on. But the glaze in your eyes is becoming very dim. Your appendages grow taut. Your odour is now aggressive. You must get to work quickly. Science has waited your whole life to have you like this, in this premium condition. But it can't wait much longer.

Gretzky's trade to the L.A. Kings still stings

Globe and Mail reporter Stephen Brunt explores the Great One's decision to leave Canada

• STEVEN MYERS

It starts with dusty socks and a slide across the marble floor. Then, hot humid breezes surrender to northern winds, your dad lets the water run free and—abracadabra—come Christmas morning the backyard transforms into your very own Bell Centre ice.

You glide and slide and nothing else matters. A stick, a puck, a goal and a gang of friends appear. Maturity is measured by points-per-game in pond leagues. It's a Canadian ritual much purer than maple syrup.

But we're seduced by our southern neighbours. We do what the Beverly Hillbillies did—pack up our bags and move somewhere sunny. But we thought this would never happen: not to Canada, not to Wayne Gretzky.

On Aug. 9, 1988, the announcement of Wayne Gretzky's trade to the Los Angeles Kings changed the National Hockey League forever.

In *Gretzky's Tears: Hockey, Canada and the Day Everything Changed*, author Stephen Brunt's explosive flare as a writer cannot be understated. In it he traces the trail of pivotal players involved in that infamous moment when Canadian hockey lost its innocence.



Was it Gretzky's wife, the Edmonton Oilers owner or financial paradise that sent the prodigal hockey player south?
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION CHRISTOPHER OLSON & CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Brunt, a *Globe and Mail* sportswriter, identifies the motives and origins of all parties involved in Gretzky's departure. This book is as much psychological as it is historical. As a result, the supposed end of Canada's hockey fairy tale becomes much more digestible.

The cast of characters spans Betty Crocker to Al Capone—from Wayne Gretzky's hardworking father to the strange criminal

mind of Kings owner Bruce McNall, who wound up in prison.

Brunt begins with a tale we all know, that of the once-in-a-lifetime hockey talent. Nurtured by a father preaching skates and ice and skates and more ice, Wayne could do no wrong early on. He was the "great one" destined for the top, and when he made it there the world quickly took notice.

Piecing together what hap-

pened is cold detective work which Brunt pulls off with an incomparable writing style prone to colourful bursts as well as all the background research and provocative interviews. Readers are left with more questions than answers.

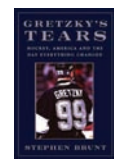
Did Edmonton Oilers owner Peter Pocklington announce the sale without consulting the necessary parties? Was Gretzky smitten by his lovely model of a wife Janet Jones and, as a result, more vul-

nerable to her need to be under L.A. lights, like a Canadian version of Yoko Ono breaking up the The Beatles? Or was McNall's offer, to ride the esquire's coattails into financial paradise, too good to refuse?

Brunt ultimately identifies Gretzky as the pioneer of a new age of hockey stars that no longer swear blind allegiance to tradition and loyalty. Gretzky opted for money instead, when he skirted the entrenched 19-year-old draft rule and signed with the rival World Hockey Association.

While Wayne laced up his skates and dad iced a rink, Bay Street venture capitalists dreamed of American greenbacks. The door was open. It was Canada's gift. In Brunt's words, "Gretzky made the game relevant where it had never mattered before."

In Canada, we can always look to our five-dollar bill as a reminder of what is most important. In the words of Roch Carrier, "our real life was on the skating rink."



Gretzky's Tears
Stephen Brunt
Triumph Books
255 pp
\$24.95

Zine scene

Fun is Free Press



• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Concordia alumnus Paula Belina, founder of the Fun is Free Press zine distro, has been living for the last year entirely off the charity of strangers and proceeds from her zines. After a year spent on the road, Belina, a native Montrealer, currently lives in a shed in London, Ont. but plans to return to the city once she gets back on her feet.

Winner of *Mirror's* best zine award in 2003 for *Street Eaters*, which ended its 39-issue run in 2006, Belina's zines run the gamut from block prints to collections of surrealist

games and tips on how to make your own zines on the cheap.

The Link: How did you end up in London, Ont.?

Paula Belina: I couldn't find a place to live [in Montreal] and ran out of money, so in July I tried to walk from Montreal to London. It was going to take 20 days. I made it all the way to Kingston and pretty much was starving. I ran out of ideas of what the hell I should do, and then finally, I just got a lead about someone who had a shed in London, and they were totally like, "Yeah, I'll feed you, no problem." I did her dishes and helped clean a bit and she let me live in her shed all summer. I still feel the connection here to Montreal, because I walked along the St. Lawrence and could see how the history of the architecture moved along down into Ontario. So in my mind I still feel like I'm with family here in London.

Did you make a lot of sales at last year's Expozine?

I think I did okay. I mean, whatever I made was gone within a couple of days to pay for gas, to pay for food. It wasn't anything sustainable, long-term. My mission at the end of my tour was to somehow prove to myself that I could survive, but what it proved

to me was that there's an isolation paradigm in our culture that suggests that every person must do everything by themselves, including making their own money, paying their own way—like if you ask for help you should be ashamed of yourself.

How did you come up with the name Fun is Free?

I think I got that in Boulder, Colo., and it was a spraypaint stencil that said "fun is free." I'm very dedicated to the things I do being accessible and being made in such a way as to flow really easily between people. Since I stopped *Street Eaters* four years ago, I've been mailing out zines that I make. I did one called *Sparkplug*, and now I do *GoodGoodBonBon*. I had to stop *Sparkplug* because I just didn't have money anymore, but now I made *GoodGoodBonBon* really small. I know from the feedback [that] it goes through people's hands, lots of people get to look at it. I like that it's not elite, I've always liked zines for that.

How many zines are you working on now?

I've gotten contributions [for the *Birdcage* zine] from New Orleans, New York, London, Ont., Montreal, Victoria—they tend to be like that because I guess I've travelled around

enough and I try not to lose touch with friends who have thus scattered from Montreal. And then I collect surrealist games, so I have a bunch of zines that I continue to do called *Fun is Free (Association)*, and those are all surrealist games or just absurd, ridiculous games that I invent by myself or with friends.

I find ways to make zines out of everything, pretty much. Like my friend in Portland just called yesterday, and she's like, "What do you do every day there in London?" So I'm trying to make a zine for her tracking the next five days of what I do. [Zines are] just such an amazing format that I just keep coming back to. I just adore it, and because of my budget I've been making tiny, tiny zines now. There's an instruction in *GoodGoodBonBon* about how to make an eight-page zine from one piece of paper, so even with no money I figured out a way to make zines—I did a miniature pocket-sized emergency surrealist poetry zine that I slip into people's pockets or I leave on the bus.

You can order copies of *GoodGoodBonBon* and other zines by contacting Fun is Free Press at funisfreepress@gmail.com. You can follow Paula Belina on her blog at funisfreepress.blogspot.com.

The other London of punk

Treat Me Like Dirt proves Lester Bangs wrong about everything Canadian punk



Liz Worth at Disques Sonik on March 6, for the Montreal launch of *Treat Me Like Dirt*. PHOTO EMMA HEALEY

• EMMA HEALEY

It's hard to find good writing about the rise of punk rock in Canada. While Canada had a thriving punk scene in the '70s, to many outsiders it seemed like nothing more than the little sibling of big-name scenes in the United States and the United Kingdom.

American rock critic Lester Bangs best summed up this attitude with his pithy dismissal of Toronto band the Viletones: "[Lead singer Nazi Dog] hung from the rafters, crawled all over the stage, and hurled himself on the first row until his body was one huge sore. Somebody asked me what I thought and I said, 'Fine with me [...] now every band in the world is the Stooges.' I didn't tell Nazi Dog that, though; I told him: 'You guys were cooler with hockey haircuts.'"

Bangsian sarcasm and outsider cynicism aside, the Viletones were a band who influenced countless young Canadian punks and still have a

following to this day, just like the Forgotten Rebels, Teenage Head and the Diodes, along with countless other Toronto punk bands.

While there were no Stooges-style antics at the March 6 Montreal launch of Liz Worth's book *Treat Me Like Dirt: An Oral History of Punk in Toronto and Beyond*, it felt a little more like a punk show than your average book launch. Between the lack of space, the leather jackets, the scene veterans and the drunk guy who heckled publisher Ralph Alfonso as he spoke to Worth about her experiences researching the book, the event felt less like a traditional reading than a conversation between Worth, Alfonso and the audience.

In many ways this seemed appropriate: punk has always been, at its core, a collaborative culture. The best evidence of this is the literature the scene left in its wake, from fanzines to books like Legs McNeil and Gillian McCain's *Please Kill Me*, a history of the rise and fall of

punk in New York City; Marc Spitz and Brendan Muller's *We Got The Neutron Bomb*, about the golden years of punk in L.A., and now Worth's book. Between these and others, punk seems to have more oral histories than all other genres of music combined. Books have been written about every band and genre and scene imaginable, but there seems to be something about punk that invites (or requires) testimony. This makes sense to Worth, who said that "punk suits oral history because it was never just about the music. The fans and the girlfriends, [...] the people who helped bands put out 45s, all those people were just as important as the bands. It's about everyone working together [...] you couldn't have a book about just the bands."

While the U.S. and U.K. are constantly producing new books and reissuing old albums that capitalize on punk's enormous historical and cultural impact, Worth's book is the first of its kind in Canada. That's not

to say we're lacking in stories—in fact, quite the opposite.

"Sometimes I would sit down with people and they would just start talking; I'd have no room to ask questions," Worth said. "They'd say, 'No one's asked me about this for 30 years.'"

Alfonso said that Canadian publishers' lack of understanding on the subject may have something to do with the lack of literature: "People think punk only happened in New York and London."

"London, Ontario!" yelled someone in the audience. And while that might sound like a joke, Worth's book is proof that the scenes in Toronto, Hamilton and London were as complex, diverse and influential as anything New York had going on.

Take that, Lester.



Treat Me Like Dirt
Liz Worth
Bongo Beat
384 pp
\$39.99

quick reads

Clerical classifieds



God of Missed Connections
Elizabeth Bachinsky
Nightwood
88 pp
\$17.95

God of Missed Connections happens everywhere. The poems in this book move fluidly through settings (past Ukraine, present-day Canada) and subjects (the Ukrainian Holodomor famine, modern alienation), but stay grounded by Bachinsky's voice. While her tone is always somewhat serious and deliberate, there's a wry humour that peeks out of the poems here.

Bachinsky also has a clear handle on the technical aspects of poetry. She plays with sonnets, with rhythm and meter, while never stepping over the line into preciousness. This means that even if you haven't thought about sonnets since grade 12 English, you'll recognize a definite feeling of being carried through a poem from beginning to end—that there's a direction to everything.

This is also the case with the fragments of speech and found language Bachinsky incorporates into her poems, but always beautifully and with purpose. Sometimes she seems more magnet than human, moving through the world and picking up small things.

While not every reader might be able to identify personally with Bachinsky's chosen topics, she explores them with such grace and deftness that by the end of the book, one feels an intimacy with the poems, and in some sense their subjects.

4/5

—Emma Healey

A life worth remembering



Accelerated Paces
Jim Oaten
Anvil Press
176 pp
\$18.00

Jim Oaten has no problem expressing what is on his mind. Crossing all boundaries of imagination, he blends reality with fiction in *Accelerated Paces*, a collection of random short stories. Whether he is at the back of his parent's car, wandering the streets of a bombed-out Beirut, or striving to remain sane in the wings of the mental ward, Oaten tells it like it is. With the weight of early-onset Alzheimer's on his shoulders, Oaten struggles to remember events in his life before they slip into darkness.

"The very process of retrieving a memory not only creates but also challenges that recollection forever," he writes.

Although the book's small size might imply that it doesn't contain much, readers will find it filled with personal voyages and literary truths. Blending topics such as the first Gulf war, CNN and religion with Oaten's personal anecdotes and opinions, this book is nothing short of a good read.

4/5

—Shereen Ahmed Rafea



Work by student Jessica Watchorn, on display at Visceral Reactions.

Move it

Visual art asks for the first dance at *Visceral Reactions*

• R. BRIAN HASTIE

“Movement is transformation,” said Dylan Parks. *Visceral Reactions*, the one-night Art Matters event she co-curated with Emily Leblanc, shows that those three simple words are much more complex when one considers the implications of the transformation.

Visceral Reactions includes seven performance pieces, four visual artists and three video submissions. But the focus, Leblanc explained, is on “drawing a link between visual art and dance.”

“They’re so seldom put together, and they influence each other so much,” added Parks, a dance student at Concordia along with Leblanc.

“We wanted to provide a different environment to view dance,” Leblanc said. “Usually you sit quietly and the show begins, and I thought it would be interesting to have a vernissage before and people can talk about the show, create more of a social environment before viewing [the performance].”

The curatorial statement Leblanc and Parks originally submitted to the festival summarized their goals to reveal how visual art affects dance and vice versa—and how both transform the human body.

“Our visual artists, especially the photography and the paintings, convey a sense of movement,” Parks said. One photographer, Maxime Brouillet, will show a set of photos of himself dancing, a narrative told through stills. “It’s incredible how they’ve transformed one art form into another—at least that’s how we’re relating the two.”

Visceral Reactions is on for one night only at Studio 303 in the Belgo Building (372 Ste-Catherine St. W., room 303) on March 13 at 6 p.m. Performances are at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Digital unreality

Video show *The Body is Obsolete* blurs the line between flesh and hardware



The viewer is privy to artist Tyson Parks' most mundane moments in his video “Bruch’s Memory,” showing in *The Body is Obsolete* this week.

• TOM LLEWELLIN

Art Matters show *The Body Is Obsolete*, co-curated by Alissa Jafiarova and Claudia Burneo, probes questions of how nature and technology interact and how that interaction, in turn, changes us.

“Technology dissolves all boundaries,” said Jafiarova. “We have an option. We can be a plant if we want to.”

“Technology and the animal part of humans are all connected,” Burneo added. “The evolution of nature and the evolution of technology [go together].”

The show was curated in cooperation with the Art Academy of Video Art, an association of Concordia video artists founded in 2004, and features the work of nine Concordia students. The exhibition’s genesis was inspired by Canadian schol-

ar Marshall McLuhan’s theory of augmented reality: the idea that technology can enhance consciousness and break down the boundaries between people.

“Technology is not an invasive thing so much as an extension of ourselves,” explained Jafiarova. “It makes us more capable [...] and changes our reality.”

Anne Milligan’s video installation “The Kingdom of Plastics” is a tongue-in-cheek take on what she calls the “religion of plastics” that post-war society has built itself around.

In her work, Gregorian chants drone on as 1950s archival footage of shiny new consumer products plays, intercut with video of Barbie dolls being torn limb from limb and household objects being wrapped in cocoons of Saran wrap. The end effect is a ritual that’s hypnotic

but grounded in reality.

“We use plastics so much. They infiltrate so many parts of our lives,” Milligan said. “There’s an element of the sacred in it [...] but I use plastic all the time; it’s in all kinds of things.”

Below the projection screen is a suitcase she hopes people will fill with their own objects and wrap in cellophane. The end goal of the installation is to undertake a “plastic pilgrimage” to a provincial park next month and dump the wrapped objects on the railroad tracks that separate the park from a large plastics facility as a sort of offering.

For Tyson Parks’ “Bruch’s Memory,” Parks wore a camera on his head and filmed all his everyday domestic tasks, from pouring yogurt into a bowl to cleaning the floor. Presented together in a three-by-three

“Technology is not an invasive thing so much as an extension of ourselves.”

—Alissa Jafiarova,
co-curator of *The Body is Obsolete*

grid, the effect is unsettling, a series of mundane invasions of privacy that keep repeating.

“We’ve always had technology since the beginning of cavemen and [stone] tools; it always evolves,” commented Jafiarova.

“Maybe we’re going to evolve into something else,” Burneo offered. “Maybe cyborgs are the next step for humankind.”

The vernissage for *The Body is Obsolete* takes place March 9 at CtrlLab (3634 St-Laurent Blvd.) at 8 p.m. The show runs until March 12.



Arden Wray's photo series "Natural History" catches her close friends in quiet moments. Her work shows in photography exhibit *Seven Minutes in Heaven*, opening this week. PHOTO ARDEN WRAY

Fumbling with intimacy

Photography show *Seven Minutes in Heaven* comes out of the closet

• STEPHANIE LA LEGGIA

Whether they're studying art or accounting, one thing many university students have in common is the unforgettable awkwardness and vulnerability they experienced in high school.

"[It's] based around transition and youth transition, and we realized those who come to university are kind of in a transitional time," said Alannah Clamp, co-curator of photo exhibition *Seven Minutes in Heaven*. "We just really wanted to work with the age group and the context and loca-

tion in which the show was going to take place."

Seven Minutes in Heaven takes its name from a party game popular with the hormonal set: two teenagers, one closet and a time limit—do the math. Though many volunteered to play, it would be hard to deny the pressure and vulnerability the rules of the game imposed on the players. It is these feelings that the show's curators hope to evoke with the pieces they've selected from 14 student photographers.

Alannah curated *Seven Minutes* with her twin sister,

Rossanne Clamp. Both are art history grad students.

"We realized it's kind of weird to be twins and to be doing kind of the same thing, but we're actually just really into the same things," laughed Alannah.

The photographs in the show include subjects that range from Italian in-laws to teenage skateboarders to high school friends, each image a highly personal documentation.

"I'm usually shooting people I'm close to in domestic places, so I guess all of them are about intimacy and comfort, honesty and

closeness," said photographer Arden Wray. Her collection, "Natural History," includes photos of her closest friends and their relationships.

Another photographer, Kinneret Sheetreet, isn't married, but the photos in her collection "Marriage of Convenience" explore pre-wedding cultural rituals—ones that she is worried she may miss out on.

"I'm not romanticizing marriage," explained Sheetreet. "It's really about exploring my family traditions."

"There's a strong domestic

component in the show, a lot of interior spaces, a lot of social moments," said Alannah. Although the pieces in *Seven Minutes* are of different sizes, people and places, they all link to one another as a series of transitional moments. "We wanted a lot of artists," concluded Rossanne. "It's a group show, so the more the better."

Seven Minutes in Heaven shows at Galerie Lilian Rodriguez in the Belgo Building (372 Ste-Catherine St. W., room 405) until March 21. The vernissage is March 11 at 6 p.m.



(Bottom left) “By employing scientific theories in art, people are making art that is magical,” says Stephanie Bokenfohr, curator of Art Matters show *Magic and Science*, pictured here with artist Amy Ball. *Magic and Science* kicked off with a vernissage at Galerie Yergeau on March 6. PHOTOS ASHLEY OPHEIM

I put a spell on you

Mixed media show *Magic and Science* makes room for the mystical

• ASHLEY OPHEIM

Has anyone else noticed the buzz of magic in the air—the feeling that humankind is on the brink of discovering something unknown, an unimaginable secret of the universe?

If you have, you’re not alone.

Curator Stephanie Bokenfohr promises her Art Matters show *Magic and Science* will “amaze and haunt you.”

“Originally, I was just really inspired by objects that have lenses,” Bokenfohr says of the show’s inspiration. “Anything from film projectors to cameras, kaleidoscopes and telescopes. The images these objects create are very stunning.”

The curator’s fascination with lenses evolved into a mixed media showcase that opens up a space for mystical discussion.

Magic and Science is one of Art

Matters’ largest shows, including artwork by 18 Concordia students. Viewers can expect interdisciplinary works including installations, sculptures and two-dimensional works such as drawings and photographs.

“Together, this alchemy of different disciplines will create a real space of awe-striking magicalness,” says Bokenfohr.

She admits she was surprised by the overwhelming interest in her show. Dozens of artists were interested in providing installations.

“I think it’s awesome how students in fine arts are so interested in magic—it’s really exciting,” Bokenfohr says. “I didn’t know that people were thinking the same things I was.”

Science and technology are constantly breaking new ground for human understanding. *Magic and Science* argues, however, that

the more we understand about the world, the more we realize we have yet to discover. That’s where, explains Neal Moignard, “magic comes in.”

“Seeing something you don’t understand is magic,” says Moignard, whose collaborative piece “Whorl” is featured in the show. “Magic is the act of accepting something that is in front of your eyes without understanding it.”

Bokenfohr says she thinks art’s fascination with magic is a result of artists’ resources. Technology is allowing magic a concrete space in which to exist.

“By employing scientific theories in art, people are making art that is magical,” she says, “so it’s almost using art to explore a scientific theory.”

Artist Amy Ball, who has an installation in *Magic and Science*, says magic is “something that

takes you back to that feeling you felt when you genuinely thought you saw magic when you were young—that feeling of being like, wow!”

“Magic can be found in objects and moments that inspire a sense of wonder,” adds Brianna Oversby, who has also provided an installation created in collaboration with fellow student Katerina Lagasse.

The beauty of magic may be in its varying definition. Although it means something different to everyone, everyone can agree that magic is a feeling worth experiencing.

“I think that, on an esthetic level,” says Bokenfohr, “the materials that look magical are immaculately beautiful.”

Magic and Science is at Galerie Yergeau (2060 Joly Ave.) until March 19.

“Magic is the act of accepting something that is in front of your eye without understanding it.”

—Neal Moignard,
artist in *Magic and Science*

Write, rally, revolt: Radical Queer Semaine

Queer community talks civil rights and captures the flag

• LAURA BEESTON

The word “radical” may get thrown around a lot, but what does it mean for Montrealers today?

The question keeps cropping up for the folks behind Radical Queer Semaine—a 10-day bilingual program of dialogue, activism, workshops, art and a gamut of gay ol’ times.

“For us, the meaning is rooted in community and it’s non-commercial,” said RQS collective organizer Jordan Arseneault. “It’s this burning desire to occupy a space together as a group where you can have a hell of a lot of free reign [...] that is totally as inclusive as possible of people who aren’t being heard in the mainstream.”

Born out of a reaction to increasingly corporate public queer events like Pride and Divers/Cité, RQS is working it independently for the second year running and hopes to create a homo haven that isn’t just a party scene—though there is plenty of that in the program.

“If [they] can’t dance, they won’t come to the revolution,” admitted Arseneault. “Yes, the community was built on the dance floor [and] partying is still totally at the centre of the queer culture, [but] if you’re not part of some queer student group, you might not have a space where you can go and discuss with like-minded people how to be more active and more informed by a diverse set of queer issues that are still affecting people in your community.”

Arseneault argued that freedom of speech, decriminalization and same-sex marriage are just the beginning of civil gains for queer folk.

“[Those] might be things you can check off a checklist, but they haven’t made life that much different for trans folk, sex workers, queers in prison or HIV-positive people in our community,” he said. “There is a sense of wanting to take up the torch.”

Laura Boo, an RQS volunteer who hosted an anti-capitalist dating and love letter writing workshop on March 6, agreed that the opportunity to discuss queer politics and grow as a community is what makes the week

both rad and necessary.

“There are so many life experiences that I don’t have, but I choose to try to understand by getting together and learning from other people,” she said. “If people who are a part of my community are being fucked with, then I want to stand in solidarity with them.”

“People who talk about gay liberation as being ‘over’ [ignore] others for whom this is not the case. I think it’s really important that we don’t ring the victory bell until everybody’s crossed the finish line.”

Keeping conscious of the battles that have yet to be won, while creating a space “free from the phobias and ‘-isms’ that are present to people,” is what Arseneault believes RQS is all about.

“Everything that we take for granted now is still something that could be taken away from us by people like the Harper government,” he said. “[RQS] is a recognition that you have people who, as a community, have each other’s back. It’s a really beautiful feeling to get you through the winter.”

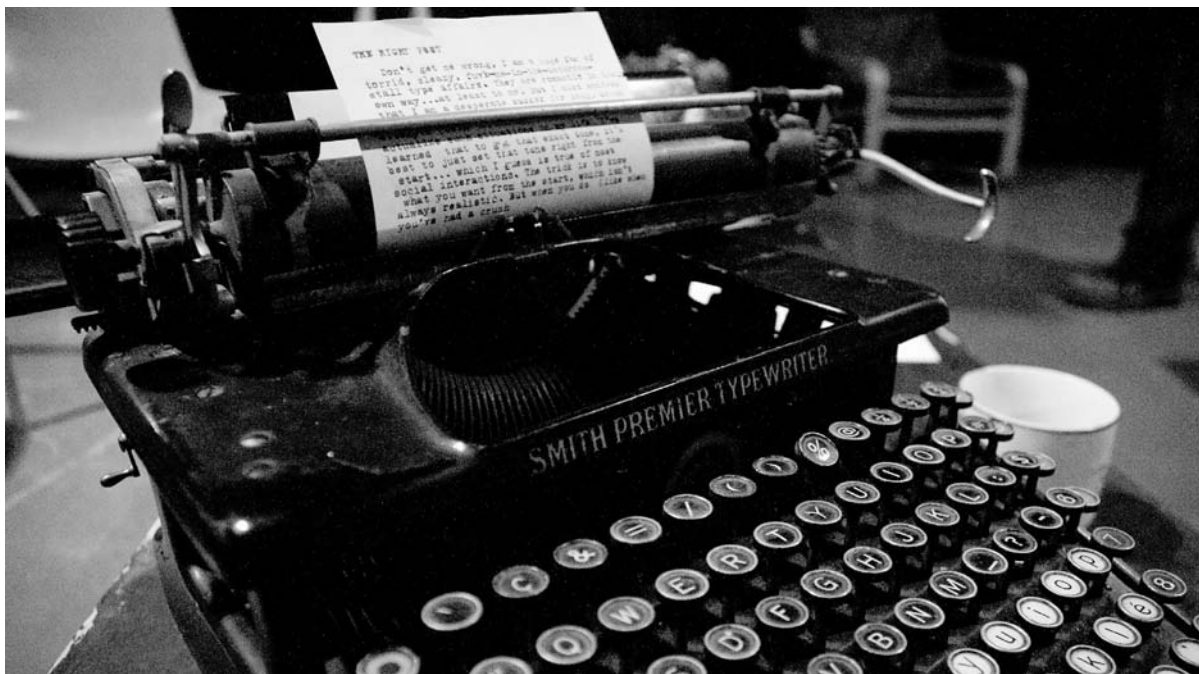
The RQS program is packed with events as diverse as the participants, including a queer punk show, queer ballet lessons with “Noisy” Nora Rohman, karaoke and more.

“People who are new to the scene and don’t necessarily want to get involved in a political debate can get involved and engaged in other ways. There are lots of moments for that in the week,” said Arseneault. “Maybe you don’t want to join us for the open panel discussion on how sex is political, but everyone loves to play capture the flag!”

Besides, he said, if you’re going to go out and party, party with the people you love.

“If you go out and spend 10 bucks, why not put it not only where your mouth is, but where you want your ass to be, where you want your mouth to be and where your community is?”

Radical Queer Semaine runs until March 14 at the Mise au Jeu space (90 de la Gauchetière St. E., second floor). All events are free. For more information, see radicalqueersemaine.org.



(Top to bottom) An attendee to Radical Queer Semaine's love letter writing workshop taps out sweet nothings on typewriters provided for the event, coordinated by Laura Boo and Telyn Kusalik. A work in progress. The resulting love letters were compiled for a zine-style guide to romance in Montreal. Queer Montrealers and co. turned out for RQS' platonic speed-dating event on March 6.

PHOTOS RILEY SPARKS

The
DOWN-LOWEvent listings
March 9-15

ART MATTERS VERNISSAGES

Material Applied

Interior, furniture, object and jewellery design.

Thursday, March 11 at 6 p.m.

Show runs until March 21

Les Territoires

Belgo Building

372 Ste-Catherine St. W., room 527

Cave Conventions

One-night loft party/exhibition

Friday, March 12 at 10 p.m.

163 Van Horne Ave.

Emergent Behaviours

Film, performance and electronics.

Saturday, March 12 at 8 p.m.

L'Envers

185 Van Horne Ave.

MUSIC

The Besnard Lakes album release

with The Sunday Sinners

Friday, March 12 at 10 p.m.

Il Motore

179 Jean-Talon St. W.

CLUES

with Braids and Oromocto Diamond

Friday, March 12 at 9 p.m.

La Sala Rossa

4848 St-Laurent Blvd.

FILM

Boy I Am and *Girl Inside* at Cinema Politica

Two documentaries exploring sexuality and gender through the transition from male to female and vice versa.

Monday, March 15 at 8:35 p.m.

1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., room H-110

THEATRE

Father Land

The sons of Saddam Hussein, mobsters and a high-schooler collide one morning in Westmount.

March 9 to 28

Bain St-Michel

5300 St-Dominique St.

For more information, see infinithetre.com.

LECTURE

Neuroscientist, photographer and sculptor Dr. Ivar Mendez in discussion with Prof. Norman Cornett.

Saturday, March 13 at 1 p.m.

Galerie Samuel Lallouz

1434 Sherbrooke St. W.

Tickets: \$20 for students

— compiled by
Madeline Coleman

Time trials

Our Lady Peace can hold a note, says band's drummer

• ADAM KOVAC

Musicians die young. Not necessarily in the physical, shuffle-off-this-mortal-coil sense. No, the life of a rock and roll star is short, in that being around for even 10 years makes one a respected elder. Such is the case with Our Lady Peace, a band that has outlived almost all of their contemporaries from the '90s, and yet, according to drummer Jeremy Taggart, still has as much enthusiasm today as when Taggart joined the band in 1993.

"I've been in this band half my life. My teenage years to adulthood were spent in this band, so the beginning seems like a long time ago. It's been 17 years!" Taggart reminisced. "The fact that we've sold so many records so many times is amazing, but the biggest thing is that we still love to play music, and I love to play my instrument."

When a band has been around as long as OLP, a few things are guaranteed to happen. The band is bound to amass a large back catalogue—they're currently up to seven studio albums—and fans are going to start complaining when their favourite obscure songs are bumped off set lists to make room for new material. Taggart said OLP figured out a way around this on their newest tour by dividing their shows into two sets. On any given night the first set is their albums *Clumsy* (1997) or *Spiritual*



"We're playing the record as it feels to us, and hopefully we're not dating ourselves," says Our Lady Peace drummer Jeremy Taggart.

Machines (2000) played in their entirety, while the second set is a hodgepodge of tracks from the rest of their albums.

"You don't get an opportunity to hear a lot of those tracks live. It's an opportunity for fans of those songs to hear them in a smaller theatre environment," explained Taggart. "We picked [those albums] off the bat, but there's no reason we couldn't do other records in the future."

Critics might accuse the band of cashing in on nostalgia, or say that

by focusing on older material the band is admitting the newer stuff isn't as strong. Taggart acknowledges there is nostalgia involved, but claims that these shows are a thank you to long-time fans for sticking with the band.

"We understand the impact of these records, and to play those songs from beginning to end is going to be nostalgic, of course," he said. "We're playing the record as it feels to us, and hopefully we're not dating ourselves."

While the current OLP tour is a

celebration of their past, Taggart asserted that everything to follow will be anything but a rehash.

"It's 2010 now. In 1993, being in a band and making music was just different, for better or worse," he said. "It's a different time now, so while the sound has changed, we're still making music based on the same ideals."

Our Lady Peace plays two shows at L'Olympia (1004 Ste-Catherine St. E.) March 9 and 10 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$49.50.

spins

Latte D. Kyd
meanwhile...

Independent



Kyd kicks off this hip-hop/rock crossover with both guns blazing, a sonic assault on the senses that makes her profound vocal power inescapable. If you're engaged in aerobic motion, the first few tracks are surefire energy boosters. The later tracks come as a bit of a relief, as Kyd eases the listener into a more laid back, mid-tempo mood swing that is smoother on the eardrums. The lyrical message also gets deeper. She starts the record with full-on bravado, bragging about her curves in "Super Hero Woman." By the sixth track, "Sixth Cents," Kyd shares a more introspective perspective on life, only to later bring it back to her in-your-face party sound with "U Know U Want It" and a cover of Prince's "Kiss" (which might have been better left to her live shows).

The musicians are skillful and the arrangements have finesse, often adding disco flavour to Kyd's vocal stylings. If you're ever

in her hometown of Toronto, Kyd and her band would be fun to check out.

7.5/10

—Emily Brass

Titus Andronicus
The Monitor

XL Recordings



It looks like the industrious lads in Titus Andronicus have found a cure for sophomore slump: excise the punk sound from your last album, then take one part of the same philosophy, throw in some concept album, and mix. Douse the whole thing with epic ambition far surpassing everything you've ever attempted before. Bake for a year or so while out on the road, remove from oven on the 150th anniversary of the naval battle you claim your album is about. Should serve one and a half times as much music as your last album, be filled with long, sprawling epic jams that stop, start and change on a dime, refuse to get out of the listeners' heads while compelling them to sing along. Pepper with segments of your friends reading aloud from Civil War-era documents, and let cool in the expansive wastes of the internet while non-paying customers bicker.

Sit back and look smug for a few minutes before going out on tour again.

9.42/10

—Alex Manley

High On Fire
Snakes For The Divine

E1 Music



Gnarly-mouthed riffmaster Matt Pike has created what is perhaps his definitive statement. High On Fire's fifth album is chock full of memorable slabs of metallic goodness and fine musicianship. For the first time, Pike's gargles-with-rocks-and-nails vocals are at the forefront of the mix, quickly followed by his thick series of doomcasting chords. The percussive section stands out as an independent element, unlike on the sludgy mix of previous records. The cleaner production is a welcome change and allows subtler elements to poke through, such as particular drum hits or guitar squeals that would have previously been buried in the mix. Lyrically, it's more of the same as Pike continues to combine the everyday with the mystical—see first single "Frost Hammer." A stellar effort from a band that

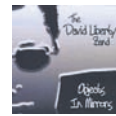
rarely lets us down. Bonus: where else can you hear someone yell out, "Bastard samurai!" and really sound like they mean it? Yeah, that's right.

9/10

—R. Brian Hastie

The David
Liberty Band
Objects In Mirrors

Freudian Slip Inc.



Although I rather enjoyed Mr. Liberty and his merry band, I would never see him in concert. Their country/folk rock stylings remind me of a mix between the Barenaked Ladies and Dewey Cox in the movie *Walk Hard*. The lyrics are very witty; in Liberty's song "Van Gogh," he sings about how he isn't the "alpha male" and how he is "less the hammer" than he is the nail. The happy-go-lucky tunes really carry across the message of his words. The David Liberty Band is a great band to listen to with a few friends around a fireplace, smoking cigarettes and discussing poetry, but they aren't the kind to give you euphoria at a concert.

7.5/10

—David Adelman

Ice race not so frosty

Cyclist enters event, looks towards childhood longingly



Participants paid \$6 to race in either the tortoise or hare race. PHOTO ALAN MACQUARRIE

• ALAN MACQUARRIE

It became apparent in the days leading up to Montreal's annual bicycle ice race that the term "ice" might be misleading, and that the entire event would have to be re-adjusted on account of the massive thaw.

The date itself is a pretty big one in the cycling community, and people of all backgrounds and bike types show up with glee to tackle the shitty elements of the end of winter.

At its apex, the crowd neared 80, but only about 30 of the bravest paid \$6 to race in one of two categories: tortoise or hare.

I was a tortoise.

The difference between the two categories was an extra 25 minutes of racing for the hares. When I saw the venue, I was reminded of a military training ground, so I decided to forgo the abuse.

Tony Alfonso, the organizer, marked off a figure eight track behind St-Henri's École Polyvalente that would include a mountain of snow, a dirt jump, a foot-deep bog of mud

and water, ice, rocks, tree debris and a rusty metal pipe adjacent to a flaming barbecue.

At the crux of the figure eight, two opposing lanes would merge at the foot of a small dirt mound christened "Heckle Hill" by those who stood proudly on it to throw empty beer cans and encouragement at the racers.

Let's add wooden stakes. Tony was driving them in with a sledge hammer in order to outline the course, increasing the odds of cyclist impalement.

Veggie dogs were cooking on the barbecue that was strategically placed at a not-quite-safe distance from the course. Giant rocks were just hanging out everywhere, waiting to set you straight.

My initial assessment was along the lines of "fuck no, I'd like my six bucks back."

A pair of ass cheeks mooned us from the school's third-floor window. Perhaps they were the Saturday detention victims blowing off steam or the convivial welcoming committee.

From the fire exit of the gymnasium, onlookers exclaimed the "why" of it all.

"Why do this?" said a rational person.

Events like these are about collectively accomplishing something inane, like getting dirty and badly hurt in the name of cycling.

Tony called my name and I joined a five-strong pack of tortoises at the starting line, at the foot of Heckle Hill. He yelled "go" and the pack unleashed.

We were funnelled into the first turn, a dicy little elbow of granular snow and water that made navigating your bike a contact sport. Elbows, knees and toes.

The second turn was all mud, with Tony's wooden impalers on one side and the chainlink fence of a baseball cage on the other. Beyond it, the bog that sent me off my bike in the second lap seemed to get so deep it could engulf you and spit out your bones.

Between each near-bailout, I rekindled my childlike impulse to play in the mud and get dirty. When the muddy spray comes off the front wheel and hits your face, it reminds you that you are, after all, still

an animal, and all the Blackberries in the world aren't going to change that.

Pressing on through more obstacles and a steadily-degrading course, I completed my category without really achieving anything or winning a title. The only thing I got was chain lube.

I was a loser among tortoises, but I felt like a dog in the rain and decided to keep drinking with the bike couriers on Heckle Hill. Perhaps I would eventually dry off.

I even cheered a two-man collision as one cyclist failed to land the dirt jump and was greeted violently by Jesse, a bike courier. His 140 pounds of flesh and bone came down from a high-speed jump and totalled the fallen bicycle, rendering the wheels completely useless and the cyclist completely pissed.

Amidst the mud-stained and cheerful riders, the bright sun, the ass cheeks and the broken bicycle parts, smashing your bike and getting your face covered in the earth's bounty is just about the most fun you can have on two wheels.

Vélo
boulot
dodo

Dogshit
afternoon

• TRISTAN LAPOINTE

It feels like I haven't ridden in a year. My thighs are sore, my knees are popping and my feet keep falling asleep.

Yes, the good weather has broken me off my bad winter habit of cycling only when necessary. While hopping on the bike for cross-neighbourhood trips doesn't actually add much mileage to my total tally, it's certainly increased how often I ride hard without warming up. That practice is a perfect way to develop stress injuries, so if you find yourself doing it, it might be a good idea to gear down and spin back a bit.

Spring soreness of course isn't a universal problem, so in the spirit of universal readability let's discuss something else, like dog shit. Since the thaw, it's been showing up everywhere in various states of decay. After a tireless day of paper pushing and number crunching (I direct this, of course, at cyber arts students), the last thing you want to find after throwing your bike over your shoulder to carry it upstairs is a long strip of poo on your hoodie.

Or maybe I'm the only one that's had this problem. Obviously the only way to avoid this is to check your bike for crap, or avoid running over it all together. You can spray your frame with WD-40 to prevent road debris from sticking to it, but the corrosive nature and horrible stink of that stuff doesn't really make it worthwhile. Besides, if you do find some on your bike it comes off easily with soap and water, or even more easily with citrus de-greaser and a wire brush.

Maybe I'm the only one who's getting covered in crap at the end of every day, but it's certain I'm not the only cyclist who's already had to deal with the revenue riders, er, bike cops. They're finally back and are still endlessly spinning away on the tiniest gear of their over-loaded mountain bikes. Equipped with Oakleys from 1991 and generally no English, they'll give you a \$37 ticket for just about anything. Including (but I'm sure not limited to) riding on the sidewalk, wearing headphones, running a red light, not having brakes (you only need a rear in Montreal—WTF?), not wearing a helmet in Westmount and probably any other reason they can think to give you one. While I don't advocate running from bike cops when they yell "arrêt-le," it's definitely not hard. Flee at your own risk and if you do get caught, don't be fooled; the city actually gives you six months to pay the ticket.

To be fair, 37 bucks for running a red is pretty cheap compared to the \$250 drivers get for the same offence. The problem is that none of the common offences for cyclists have anything to do with making cycling in the city safer. Maybe some day the city will actually consult cyclists about what works and what doesn't. Until then, wear a helmet, run brakes and when you swerve to avoid that giant pile of dogshit, make sure it's not into me.

Briefs

Wrestlers wrangle four medals at nationals

Concordia University's wrestling team cleaned up at the CIS national championships last weekend. Stingers Matthew Miller and David Tremblay won gold medals in their respective weight classes. Rookie Elisabeth Williams won a silver medal and Nikita Chicoine brought home a bronze medal for Concordia. The Stingers men placed fifth overall in the tournament while the women placed sixth.

Two Stingers named to women's all-star team

Jill Verhesen and Kristin Portwine will represent Concordia's women's basketball on the QSSF's women's all-star team. Veteran guard Verhesen led the Stingers in rebounds and assists. She was one of the team's top scorers, bested only by fellow Concordian Portwine who led the QSSF with a 50.4 field goal percentage.

All-star running back Concordia bound

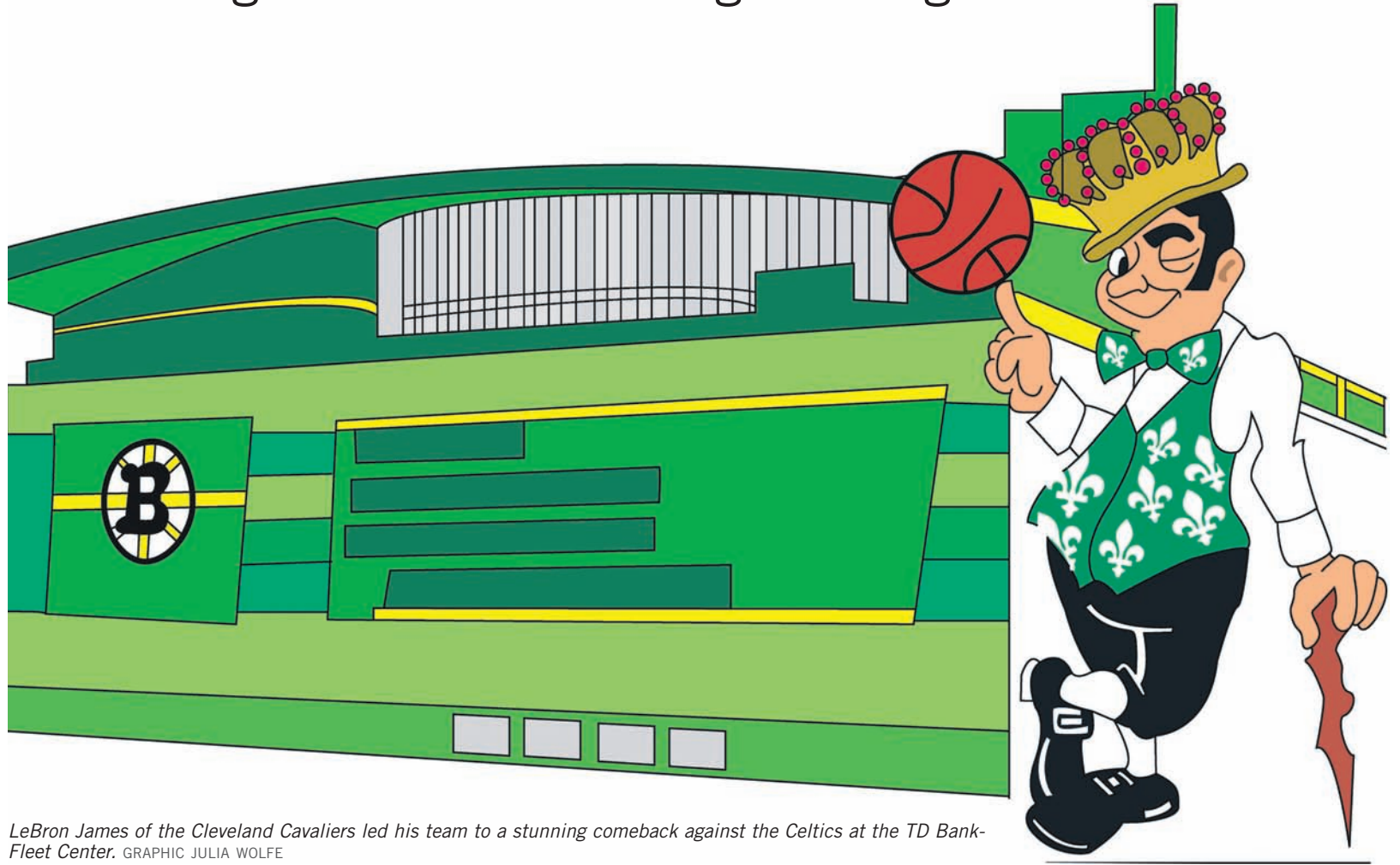
Paul Thompspon will play ball for the Stingers next season. On March 1, Concordia University announced that Thompson signed a CIS letter of intent and will attend the school this fall. In 2009, the 18-year-old running back won Mississauga Warrior's MVP award and also nabbed a spot on *The Toronto Star's* 2009 All-Star team. In addition to playing running back for the Warriors, Thompson also returned kicks for the Mississauga football club.

Men's basketballers named to all-star team

Stingers Evans Laroche and Decee Krah have been named to the QSSF all-star squad. Second-year forward Laroche led Quebec in rebounds this year, averaging 7.8 boards a game. The young Montrealer also led his squad in steals and blocks. Krah, a third-year guard, led his team in points per game and led the QSSF in three-point shots made. In other basketball news, Stingers guard Jean-André Moussignac earned a spot on the QSSF's all-rookie team.

An audience with the king

Weathering a storm for a riveting Celtics game



LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers led his team to a stunning comeback against the Celtics at the TD Bank-Fleet Center. GRAPHIC JULIA WOLFE

• STEVEN MYERS

The Weather Network sounded a warning siren. A wicked "nor'easter" was on its way. You'd think the Second Coming was here, but in fairness to fear-mongers, blizzard's aren't nature's fashion craze these days.

We were headed towards the storm's eye and nothing would stop us. Our destination was the Bohsten Gahden. And we even ignored its new name, the TD Bank-Fleet Center.

King James, the basketball version, was coming to Beantown. Somewhere between Randolph and Lebanon, Vt. our rental car—whose make, model and colour has been washed from my memory—entered a winter vortex.

Our car slipped and smashed into the metal embankment. The left turn signal was crushed, my knee destroyed the gas cap lever, the steering wheel bruised my ribs, the car 360'd. But our destination remained Boston. We rolled on.

We parked in Sullivan Square for \$4, and hopped an inbound orange line two stops to North Station. My 14-year-old, Jacob, fished out pocket change for a middle-aged squatter looking for a nip of vodka. Teenagers reward honesty.

After a Philly cheesesteak sandwich at Quincy Market and a cold walk in the rain, we scored

two tuques from a street vendor: one Red Sox, one Celtics, five bucks a piece. A steal compared to the \$20 you pay inside the Fleet Center where the Gahden loses its name.

We tried sneaking into the game early, but Tea Party authorities smelled our Mark Twain trickery. We were doing a "documentary" on the squirrel-paced pit crew transforming Bruins ice into parquet Celtics floor. Oh well. We watched the lights change on the big train scoreboard instead and wound up beside a Quebec family, a mother of two wondering out loud why the Bruins were yellow when the Red Sox were red and the Celtics green.

"Good question," I countered. This was America, after all. Strangers talk to each other, especially when they happen to be Canadian. We fell silent for a few moments, silent together. All of us deep in thought. We realized the Boston colours make no sense when considering three Montreal sports teams once upon a time modelled red, white and blue, and the same for Pittsburgh in their yellow and black.

There was a lineup before tip-off. Two Celtics fanatics wearing green tilted hats atop their shaved heads stole the show, one outfitted in Pierce jersey and the other Garnett. They bantered with a caped LeBron impersonator, and

Jamario Moon sank 28 mid-range jumpers in a row. That's why reserve players make millions. Moon tossed balls to fans with \$800 courtside seats and waited for their return pass-assist. And that's why \$800 seats are such a good deal.

it was all NBA love except the young naysayer in front of us.

"Great," she squealed to her mother. "Just what we need, more white rappers."

That's exactly what we need, I thought, more Beastie Boys. She was wearing an Eddie House jersey. The Celts released the long-distance shooter last week. What did she know anyway?

We were Crow-bound, section 320, row 2, upper deck, but the long walk was postponed. We raced to the front row for the pre-game shoot-around/LeBron close-up. He never showed up, but the Cavs' Jamario Moon spent the entire 45-minute session playing 'round-the-world and sank 28 mid-range jumpers in a row. That's why reserve players make millions. Moon tossed balls to fans with \$800 courtside seats and waited for their return pass-assist. And that's why \$800 seats are such a good deal.

The authorities booted us to where we belonged, but upper deck cheapies do have advantages. They are loud and unsupervised. Boston speak is a paradoxical mix of confidence and disbe-

lief, a consequence of countless Red Sox tragedies. And the sound....oh, that New England accent.

The lights are turned off. A pre-recorded Garnett scream echoes throughout the building. Fans become fanatics. We are a smart race, us humans. But give me some Celtics noise. It's better than the Louvre.

And Celtics rants can be sarcastic ("Go on Shaq, take yah shot. Take it all day!"), insulting ("How does it feel, LeBron, to be Rondo'ed?") and just plain nasty ("LeBron, you 6'8" bitch! You prima-donna, you get all the calls!").

The Celtics dominated the first three quarters and then LeBron played ring around the Celtics with Mo Williams, who drained three consecutive three-pointers. In a matter of minutes, the Cavs transformed a deficit into a 20-point lead. The King scored 30, grabbed double-figure rebounds and chased down a ball heading for the seats, his momentum taking him atop a press table where he balanced himself and paused to scan the sell-out crowd.

The King had arrived.

What is she wearing?

The niqab and Quebec values

In the West, can we limit the choices about not only what a woman does with her body, but also what she thinks, how she asserts herself and how she chooses to be seen?



Is the niqab really against Quebec values? GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

• SURER DERIA

We use clothing as a signifier. We collect information on someone's class, income, artistic preferences, political leanings or gender bias based on individual choices of wardrobe and we never think twice about our own assumptions.

In the postmodern context, some of the codes we display can be difficult to decipher.

Recently, a young female student at Cégep St-Laurent has been cast into the spotlight because she wore something that some found offensive and difficult to decode. She wore the niqab, an Islamic face veil.

In the discussions surrounding it, two recurring objections are heard from news panellists and anonymous internet posters alike: fear of the Islamization of the West and fear of accepting a regressive attitude towards women's rights.

To explore the validity of these fears, first let's look at the history of the niqab.

The niqab face veil was introduced to Islam by the wives of the prophet Muhammad. A religious edict revealed in the Qur'an specifically instructed them to cover themselves in a special manner. Some Muslim clerics say the specificity of the order was to assist these particular women in their special role in the new Muslim community to whom they were

second-hand dispensers of the new revelations contained in the Qur'an.

The female covering is mentioned two times overall, the first time directed at the wives and the other including the entire believing populace surrounding Muhammad. Other Muslim scholars are of the opinion that the first edict indirectly includes all believing women, and therefore the Islamic attire for believing women involves covering the entire body except the eyes. The majority opinion is to cover the body and hair except the face and hands.

Some secularists may see the instructions, whether directed towards a small group or a larger group, as a willful attempt to control women. However it's important to note that in the sheer number of recorded edicts regarding the Muslim dress code, a disproportionately large amount is directed at male Islamic dress.

Furthermore, the women surrounding the prophet are documented in biographies and in religious traditions as intelligent and strong-willed, one being a businesswoman and another a scholar and doctor. One of the wives, Aisha, is documented as being an excellent orator, a skill the ancient Arabs admired greatly, which she used to successfully raise an army against Ali, the cousin of the prophet, whom she believed was usurping the position of authority

(a stance she later changed, however, has made her very unpopular with certain Muslims).

All this to say that in its initial inception, the niqab was worn by women who made themselves heard and contributed to their society.

According to the Muslim holy book, women have a right to vote, economic independence, the right to choose a spouse and even petition for divorce. Many young Muslim women cite these first Muslims as their point of reference, especially while they navigate towards a path of self-assertion and independence.

On the other hand, looking at the history of the veil, we can't deny that the same dress code has been used forcefully to strip women of their rights and monitor their behaviour. One need only look at modern references of Afghanistan or Sudan where police recently harassed women for wearing pants.

And so, among the prototypical modern Muslim feminists, the face veil began to be a point of contention. As the years moved forward and away from those early Muslim men and women, interpretations of religious texts became largely dominated by male scholars—a move that was assisted (but not started by) colonialism—and thus rights that were initially granted in the holy book and traditions of the prophet became diffi-

cult or impossible to assert, let alone negotiate.

Which brings us back to the West, where the women's movement was also very interested in guaranteeing women the right to choose, not only what she does with her body, but what she thinks, how she asserts herself and how she chooses to be seen.

Can we then limit those choices only to what we're comfortable with? Is that not counter-intuitive to the meaning behind the slogan?

The problem with the situation surrounding the niqab is that it's not just a women's issue, much as we'd like to frame it as one.

Canada and many other western countries are expressing a growing fear of Islamization, a fear that I would categorize as xenophobia. One need only look at our campus here which has a large Muslim populace, many of whom are visible and many others who aren't.

We have Muslims who wear the veil and some who choose not to; some who will drink alcohol and others who will not. The differences are many—not only in beliefs, but in practices as well. We can't backtrack on ideals such as religious freedom and multiculturalism because their manifestations make us uncomfortable. We can however object to factors that are against Canadian, or in this case more specifically Québécois, values.

So what of the face veil? Is it against our values? Can it be accepted in the modern context? I like to think with increasing dialogue it can be, at least, tolerated. I don't think, however, the face veil will be a growing trend amongst Muslims unless they are alienated by the larger society to the degree of being ghettoized. As it is now, many of the young Muslims I have spoken to expressed a desire and need to conform while still upholding their beliefs. They see it as necessary to give and take from their adopted/birth country.

Alienation, however, may lead to breakaway groups or sects who live within the state yet apart from it, where in such instances women's rights groups may have something legitimate to worry about.

Muslims today enjoy and take advantage of the freedom of being a part of the West. Many mosques and religious organizations, for example, make it a point to be a part of their larger communities—whether in the civic or political realm—and, ironically, that's why the face veil is in the news.

A young woman wanted to learn French, the official Quebec language. Of course there is something to be said about the rigidity of a stance that positions one so markedly apart from their adopted country's culture.

But who am I to tell someone what to believe?

TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO RUN AND HOW TO APPLY TURN TO PAGE 26.

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wear the pants, call the shots, get the big office, reminisce about what it was like to have a social life, in charge of the editorial direction of the paper, oversee production of paper and website, administrate.

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you are the Hutch to the editor-in-chief's Starsky, maintain order within the office; keep up to date with tasks and issues, fulfill duties of any vacant editorial position, oversee and enforce the production schedule, keep the ship afloat.

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get the facts straight, live, breathe, eat news, that's not blood coursing through your veins, it's vegetable ink and recycled pulp, gather, assign and edit stories for the news section, recruit and train writers.

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gather, assign and edit stories for the features section, recruit and train writers, features are anything you want them to be, just longer.

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gather, assign and edit stories for the fringe arts section, recruit and train writers.

LITERARY ARTS EDITOR

know the difference between Ralph Waldo Emerson and Ralph Walden Emerson, recruit writers, assign them stories, review books, write short stories, assign short stories, critique short stories.

SPORTS EDITOR

gather, assign and edit stories for the sports section, recruit and train writers, hope and pray most of your writers don't have significant brain damage.

OPINIONS EDITOR

read countless angry letters to the editor, weed out the libellous ones, have an opinion about stuff that, like, matters, suggest editorial ideas, recruit and train writers.

COPY EDITOR

know the difference between its and it's, it's a big deal, rummage through dozens of stories, obsessively looking for errors in punctuation,...and grammar and style, get the facts right by fact checking, catch typos.

STUDENT PRESS LIAISON

know how to drop the word liaison in a conversation, check the Canadian University Press wire regularly and prepare CUP copy for all section editors, be an assistant to the news editor, act as liaison (see) between CUP and *The Link*.

PHOTO EDITOR

shoot people, shoot buildings, shoot animals, shoot anything masthead tells you to with impunity, assign photography requests, edit all assignments, recruit and train photographers.

GRAPHICS EDITOR

like drawing? not for long, draw/design whatever masthead tells you to and then have them yell at you for doing it wrong, create and assign graphic requests for print and web, trick people into contributing graphics to *The Link*.

LAYOUT MANAGER

lay out as many pages as possible, have a keen eye for design, remind everyone how keen your eye is for design, bask in the keen-ness of your eye for design, work with the online editor to lay out web content, teach section editors to lay out but don't expect them to learn.

ONLINE EDITOR

bring *The Link* into the 21st century, write for the web and manage our online presence.

Denouncing Mafia stereotypes

Italian community 'must learn to speak out'

• GIULIANO D'ANDREA
& DINO SABELLI

Giuliana D'Andrea is the Vice-President of Communications for the Canadian-Italian Business and Professional Association, while Dino Sabelli is the Director of the same organization.

This past year witnessed a marked resurgence in the use of Italian stereotypes through the reporting of numerous stories involving corruption in this city.

Italian names are usually prevalent in stories about collusion, bid-rigging, brown envelopes at city hall, scandals in the construction industry, illegal electoral financing or the intimidation of rival political candidates. Yacht trips to the Virgin Islands, affluent black tie funding events, Italian cafes going up in flames or the grandiose funeral of a presumed Mafioso: each becomes a canvas for writers and commentators to portray events through the looking glass of Mafia stereotypes.

The overall effect of this on Montreal's Italian community is disheartening. Headlines that portray Montreal as the "Rottenest city on the continent", the "Palermo of the North" or a "Corrupt, crumbling crime-ridden disgrace" dominated Montreal's recent city elections.

The Economist, a London-based magazine with 1.4 million copies printed internationally, characterized our city's scandals as centred on construction firms thought to have underworld ties. All the people named and presumed to be involved were, unsurprisingly, Italian.

Such reporting undoubtedly inspired Radio-Canada's *Tout le monde en parle* to air a disgraceful skit featuring a game show in the style of *Family Feud* which features a French-Canadian family, "les Bienveillant" (in English "the Benevolents"), facing off

against an Italian one, the Jamboni.

Contestants were asked for the number one way to get a contract at the City of Montreal based on a poll of one hundred construction contractors. The Bienveillant's answer of "You make the best submission possible ensuring that there are no cost overruns and that time delays are respected" was rejected. "Frank" Jamboni's "You beat up the one who makes the best submission" is the top answer. The next two answers, both correct, from "Paolo" and "Giancarlo" respectively, are "You issue little brown envelopes to civil servants" and "You invite civil servants on a little boat ride." The final answer by "Gino" ("Break a leg," he said), while initially refused, is later accepted due to a threat. The Jamboni family wins, get a thick brown envelope and walk off stage having visibly intimidated the game show host.

The contrast between the two families cannot be overstated. The Bienveillants were dressed in shirts, sweaters and dress pants and looked impeccably honest and naïve. The Jambonis, by contrast, were in sinister dark garb, leather jackets or suits with overcoats and dark sunglasses. The family head sports a visible knife scar across his face. All spoke in exaggerated Italian-French accents; all made threatening gestures (a knife to the throat, for example). The Bienveillants, a symbol of innocence, are cheated, intimidated and utter no protest against those who inflict corruption upon Quebec society. This symbolism cannot be escaped: the corruption faced by the Quebec state has at its root a foreign, imported and alien dimension.

How peculiar that after last year's Bye Bye 2008 fiasco,

74%

Percentage of Americans who believe most Italians have ties to organized crime, according to a survey from the Sons of Italy in America

where apologies had to be issued to the black community, to women, to René Angélil's family and to Nathalie Simard for sketches deemed outrageous, that Radio-Canada would today lack such sensitivity towards our Italian community. Perhaps there is an all-too-wide acceptance of Italian stereotyping underlying how it was the Italian Jamboni family (not a mafia family) which got all the questions right. The review by Valerie Lessard of *Le Droit* commended it for not having created any of the "propos scandaleux" as the Bye Bye of 2008.

These stereotypes against Italians are highly prejudicial and deeply offensive. A survey commissioned by the Sons of Italy in America order found that three-the Princeton, N.J.-based Response Analysis Corporation found that 74 per cent of adult Americans believe most Italian Americans have some connection to organized crime. In Canada, and more particularly in Quebec, no Italian association has followed suit and commission any similar study.

Quebec's Italian community deserves to be treated with greater sensitivity and greater respect. The leadership of the Italian community has to become more reputable and credible. It must learn to speak out and correct ill-conceived and unchallenged impressions. Only by such actions can erroneous caricatures and misinforming stereotypes be effectively challenged and ultimately corrected.



Mafia stereotypes are nothing more than imagined misgivings. GRAPHIC ALEX MANLEY



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Why only monogamy?

The love of competent, consenting adults should not be regulated

• COREY KING, *THE MANITOBA* (UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA)

WINNIPEG (CUP)—The only legally recognized form of marriage in Canada is monogamy. This may not seem strange to most people, but have you ever wondered why our society has not only wholly adopted this custom, but outlawed other forms of marriage? I certainly have.

My personal feeling is that if we are truly free, and our state is not based on religious dogmas, then we should be allowed to associate with other free people however we mutually decide, so long as we don't violate anyone else's rights and freedoms. If you believe this to be true, you must be willing to accept an array of marriages that sit outside of monogamy, including polygamy and polyandry (marriage of a woman to multiple men).

Though I have personal reservations about both polygamy and polyandry, as they create inequal-

ities within a family unit and among people, there is a non-monogamous marriage structure that I feel is equally valid to monogamy and in fact has a few interesting advantages.

I'm referring to group marriage. In group marriage, everyone is married to everyone else, and the economics and child-rearing are the equal or collaborative responsibility of all married parties. If we allow pluralistic sexuality, then we can see how such marriages can be formed among bisexual people with as little as three individuals.

Let's examine monogamy as it exists in Canada and the rest of the world.

At best, the average Canadian engages in what's called serial monogamy. This is when a person has multiple partners over their lifetime, but is monogamous during the course of each relationship. We can see this is true when we consider that the average number of sexual partners over a lifetime for Canadians is 10.6.

But even once Canadians have committed to marriage, the idea that we are not monogamous is convincing. Sixteen per cent of Canadian families are lead by unwed couples, but of those that are married, there is a divorce rate of 38 per cent in the first 30 years of marriage. Eighty per cent of divorced persons remarry. Two of the leading causes of divorce are financial problems and infidelity, wherein one in nine Canadians admit to having extra-marital affairs, though we can assume that the number of affairs is probably higher, as some people would not admit it.

Outside of Canada, 80-85 per cent of societies allow non-monogamous marriage. Despite propaganda, there is little evidence that monogamy had anything more than a minority presence in humanity throughout history. In fact, according to University of Alberta historian Sarah Carter, even in North America monogamy was not a dominant worldview until late in the 19th century, and even then it

arose as a means of social control, not organically as is often believed.

So why maintain these unnatural customs?

Many point to our religious traditions, which is odd, because in the most influential group of world religions—the Abrahamic ones—polygamy is given frequent mentions. The Qu'ran tolerates plural marriages if it serves the interests of all parties involved, and many of the great Jewish kings in the Torah and Old Testament were openly polygamous. In Christianity, monogamy was not a central tenet until after the religion had become infused with Roman cultural influences. Rome's version of monogamy, at the time, was a form of social monogamy that didn't necessarily require sexual monogamy.

So why have western societies enforced monogamy?

There are many theories supporting monogamy, the best of which point to economic advantages, but what economic advantages you choose to work towards

should be up to you. If we return to group marriage, I can fathom many social and economic advantages of group marriage that override monogamy.

Consider that personal debt in Canada is at an all-time high, that many families need both parents working to stay afloat and that, in 2003, 54 per cent of our children six months to five years of age received some care from people other than their legal parent.

In my view it seems possible to solve these chronic social problems for some if we allowed larger family units to be legal. It would let adults have sex with a variety of partners without creating infidelity. There would be more adults per family to divide between the workforce and child-rearing and a net savings in cost of consumer goods needed per family, as people would be sharing appliances, big-screen TVs, and iTunes libraries, with a greater number of people per unit purchased.

Hmmm, maybe it is all about economics after all.

• MATTHEW BRETT

Concordia is in shambles, and it's high time everyone come forward and share their Concordia gripes.

Take the ECON 201 microeconomics midterm this February, for example. There were not enough seats to hold the entire class and the exam started late because the professor did not show up on time.

Ten students had to find a table, carry it into the classroom and squeeze it to one side of the door while the exam was taking place. Every time a student left the room, a guy had to get up and move, in the middle of the test, because he was in the way of the exit. Everyone was watching this gong-show instead of writing their exam.

You're supposed to enter an exam focused and ready, not distracted and irritated because of overcrowding.

We've also heard the stories of students sitting in classroom aisles because of overcrowding.

Concordians may be lucky compared to other large Canadian universities, but classrooms are still bursting with students.

This is partially a result of the financial crisis. Concordia has emerged from an expected deficit of \$4.2 million to reach a \$1.7 million surplus. The surplus is largely due to increased enrolment, but it has come at the cost of major strain on academic infrastructure.

The library and hallways are zoos at the best of times and many simply avoid the downtown

campus altogether because of the lack of public space.

Escalators do not work, and yet new buildings are being constructed. It's completely irrational.

Teachers are overworked and underpaid, and teaching assistants are currently facing a 30 per cent pay cut. International students face complete tuition deregulation, and education minister Michelle Courchesne promises more tuition hikes are on the way. Enough is enough.

Stories like those of the microeconomics exam are common and we want to hear them. Please send us all of your Concordia gripes and we will make sure the dire state of higher education becomes a national issue. We'll publish all we can.

Have a Concordia gripe? Send them to opinions@thelinknewspaper.ca

 Letters @thelinknewspaper.ca

What business plan?

Seeing what Le Frigo Vert considers a “business plan” was perhaps one of the saddest moments of my postgraduate life. Simply put, the organization is a complete failure, is designed to be so, and I am glad that the Concordia Student Union recognized that fact.

What do I mean by this? Let me explain: I run a small business and we are still struggling to make enough money to survive. However, our business plan is functional: we only need to sell more of our services to become sustainable.

Le Frigo Vert is the opposite. The more you shop there, the more indebted they become. Abstaining from shopping there would help slow the rate at which they lose money. They need to raise prices, fire employees and lower wages for those they keep, until they reach a point at which they earn money from customers shopping there (perhaps ending the member discount?). Ideally this process would continue until they no longer need help from their “parents” (the CSU).

It is understandable that a university store could require assistance from the school, after all everyone there is still learning how this is done (and it’s extremely difficult). But there should at least be a chance of self-sustainability. As it is, they are total failures and bailing them out will actually only reverse their education.

Thankfully, I am no longer a student and am no longer paying for their folly.

—Ben Jackson,
Études françaises alumnus

Missing the point

So yeah... maybe James Augustynski should stick to studying mechanical engineering because he clearly doesn’t know the difference between the concept of a “social economy” (cooperatives, NGOs, charities) and, well, authoritarian statist socialism. I’m pretty sure that Le Frigo Vert never resulted in “crippling poverty, starvation, political repression” and “state-sponsored murder.” While it’s impressive that he could somehow link “social economy” to “socialism,” maybe he should take his own advice and actually study history to understand how those political systems became authoritarian, or how living conditions were in those countries before implementation of socialist policies,

and while he’s at it, he could even look up some of the sneaky, undemocratic, authoritarian antics that capitalism has resulted in, too. As if socialism was just tried, y’know, for fun. Right.

—Nick Comilla,
Creative Writing

Fighting for Mackay

Congratulations on an excellent piece regarding the “greening” of Mackay. It was refreshing to read that the issue of closing down Mackay Street to create a downtown green space and campus for my alma mater, Concordia, has again been addressed.

My family has owned the former Second Cup building on the corner of Mackay Street and de Maisonneuve Boulevard for 60 years. I am a proud graduate of Concordia, formerly Loyola College (B.Comm. ‘76), and the debate about closing off Mackay has been going on for 30 years without any resolution.

Last summer, I got excited when I was informed that Mackay Street would be “somewhat” closed off in some convoluted way, though some traffic would still be able to pass. “Better than nothing” was my attitude. Apparently Mr. Robert Landau, owner of his world-famous art gallery on Sherbrooke Street, took offence to the idea because his clients “wouldn’t be able to park” and the test closing of Mackay for the summer was scrapped.

Here’s a solution to Mr. Landau’s ridiculous concern. I’ll personally valet park every one of his three clients daily in order to close off Mackay from below the fire lane to Ste-Catherine Street, and offer Concordia students a potential green space, free of double parked Mercedes SUVs, and a place to meet your friends and eat your lunch outside!

I believe we are the only non Concordia-owned property on Mackay below Sherbrooke on the west side. We want Mackay Street closed!

When do I get to offer my opinion regarding the closure of Mackay? Apparently, Mr. Landau, with his gallery in a different postal code on Sherbrooke, carries much more weight.

Close down Mackay Street if you truly want a “Quartier Concordia!”

—Peter Fogl,
Commerce Alumnus 1976

Israel singled out

Aaron Lakoff rants about no “winning arguments to contest why Israel isn’t an apartheid state.” Here are a few arguments, based entirely in fact, that I would certainly call “winning.”

Firstly, apartheid. If you pronounce this word in such a way that it rhymes with “hide,” clearly you’re blatantly ignorant of its meaning. Secondly, that meaning, is of a constitutionally-guaranteed regime of systematic racial separation that was enacted by the National Party in South Africa in 1948, and continued until the National Party President of South Africa, F.W. de Klerk, began to dismantle the laws starting in the end of 1989. In Israel, under the Basic Law, all persons are declared equal, and any racial discrimination is expressly illegal, as it is in most decent countries, for example Canada. Not only is Israel not a systematic racist state, but such racism is expressly forbidden.

Checkmate—there is no further argument possible.

It is extremely disgusting in today’s culture of openness and equality that anti-Semitic pogroms such as Israeli Apartheid Week are so prevalent on our campuses. My favourite, of course, was last year’s homosexual lobby group, whose name I have forgotten already, who were railing against Israel.

Of course, Israel is the only country in the entire Middle East where a homosexual person could spend even a few minutes without the fear of being summarily arrested and executed for living such a lifestyle.

But instead of these real human rights issues, our “activists” have eyes only against Israel, not even for the well-documented human rights abuses in the Palestinian territories, typically related to the conflicts between Fatah and Hamas, which include summary executions and kidnapping. Why is this? The only plausible explanation is that the IAW gang is so blinded by their hatred, that all else cannot be seen. This is a disgrace to the legacy of real activists like Raoul Wallenberg, Lech Walesa, Aung San Suu Kyi, Andrei Sakharov, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, Neda Soltan and even Tank Man, last seen in Tiananmen Square, who fought for freedom and human rights and put their lives on the line for it.

The Israel-Palestine conflict is not going to end in the foreseeable future. The problem is

rather evident, in that the parties involved, particularly Palestine, have no interest in ending it.

—James Augustynski,
Mechanical Engineering

Open up dialogue

What is the objective of the university? It is to provide a space for the enlightened exchange of ideas, in which complex issues can be debated in an informed manner, a forum where a diversity of perspectives are granted space, where no single personal or political agenda stifles others.

Israeli Apartheid Week, a week dedicated more to singling out and delegitimizing Israel rather than seeking to tangibly ameliorate the situation, is the antithesis of what should take place in an institution of higher learning. With such a complex, politicized and emotionally-laden issue, it’s crucial that a multitude of perspectives be granted space, without labelling such efforts as “apologism” or “censorship.”

Appropriating and decontextualizing the spectre of apartheid and aligning it with Israel in the title frames the debate in a way which effectively closes any endeavours for discussion. Leaving little room for dissent or debate, this imposes ideas onto students, many of whom are far removed from the complexities of the conflict.

Israel, like all other countries, has not had a perfect track record. However, it should be granted the dignity of being evaluated on the same, as opposed to utopian, standards as others. Emphasizing technological and medical contributions, including the Save a Child’s Heart foundation—which provides cardiac care to Israelis and Palestinians alike—is a more tangible way of addressing the Palestinian situation than the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign. There is no mention of social justice or peace in the BDS, and rather than ameliorate the issues, it seeks to pressure Israel into making concessions, ignoring the fact that a boycott would equally harm the many Palestinians

employed in Israel.

One of the most disturbing problems about IAW could be seen in last year’s Gender Advocacy event at Concordia. In response to a question directed at one of the 2005 IAW founders, the speaker retorted, “I don’t have to answer your question; we’re not in an interrogation!” In what way is this opening up dialogue?

If the premise of IAW is to provoke discussion and promote social justice, students should be exposed to a variety of dissenting perspectives without being accused of contributing to the suffering of the Palestinians. It should not be the voice which is loudest or the poster which has the most emotional appeal, but a true effort to bring about dialogue and a reconciliation of the situation. As Khaleb Abu-Toameh, an Arab-Israeli journalist who has worked with both the Palestine Liberation Organization and the *Jerusalem Post* said, “using the language of apartheid only makes things worse on the ground for everyone. If you truly want to help Palestinians, do something positive for them.”

—Marian Pinsky,
Sociology

Not really apartheid

The article “Size doesn’t matter...but apartheid does” (Vol. 30, Iss. 24, Mar. 2) has some false information that needs to be refuted. Firstly apartheid is an Afrikaans word that did apply exclusively to a system of legal racial segregation in South Africa between 1948 and 1994. It no longer exists in that country or anywhere else. Secondly the author of this article takes great pride in pointing out that since this anti-Israel activity has been going on for six years it must be worthwhile. He should be reminded that hatred against the Jewish people has been going on for many, many centuries.

Joseph Goebbels believed that if you lie often enough and repeatedly, people will eventually believe you.

David S. Rovins,
Independent Student

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

TRAC president speaks out

• THOMAS LEONARD

Thomas Leonard is president of the Teaching and Research Assistants at Concordia. He is currently completing his master’s degree in public policy.

A new executive was voted in at the Teaching and Research Assistants at Concordia’s winter general assembly on Feb. 18, and I was elected president of this executive.

While some members of our union may feel that there is little that can be done to improve or change the situation with our contracts and should therefore head straight to arbitration, this is simply not true.

Dates for arbitration have been

set for the end of August, but in the meantime the university is open to negotiations. If an improved agreement can be settled upon, arbitration will not be necessary.

Unfortunately, this does not leave TRAC members with much time, but it does allow us to make a stronger case for an improved contract worthy of teaching assistants.

This can only be done with the aid and support of the members of TRAC, though.

Currently, the executive is gathering information on the TA and RA contracts from each department, such that we will be able to compile a general idea of what sort of salaries and tasks would be acceptable to all of the TAs.

But we aren’t omniscient. Thus,

it is up to all of you to voice your problems with the contracts.

Second, the executive is circulating a petition to show our utter disgust not only with the contract that was negotiated on our behalf, but for the complete lack of respect on the part of the university for the work that TAs do.

Petitions will help show the university that we are informed and organized and that we won’t accept a weak offer. Moreover, this will give us support in front of the judge if we ever do have to go to arbitration.

People can help by simply signing the petition, but we also need help passing out these petitions within different departments. For our part, we will be placing as many

petitions in grad lounges and offices as is possible, but it would certainly be more effective if we had the help of students from the departments.

Third, the executive is attempting to rectify the lack of representation for eConcordia TAs, who unfortunately are not covered by TRAC and thus have no union representation at Concordia—yet another bonus for the university with eConcordia.

Finally, we are gathering information of the many TAs and RAs to ensure that any moves on the part of the executive are known to all its members.

Everybody can help in this process by writing us at trac.concordia@gmail.com, by sending me an email at thomas19828@yahoo.com,

or by joining the Facebook group TRAC-Union.

We will need the support of everyone, especially if we are going to pressure the university to give us what we deserve.

And believe me when I say that pressure, in any and all forms, is still an option open to TRAC while negotiating with the university over the next couple months.

People need to understand that if you are a TA or an RA, except for eConcordia, this deal affects you and this includes every department and every level, from undergrad to PhD.

It is up to all of us to make sure that our interests are not trampled on. This can be done simply by being informed, organized and united.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS



books for sale

Thomas' *Calculus*, *Early Transcendentals*, *Media Upgrade* (MATH 203, MATH 205).

Includes Math XL one year subscription perfect condition, never used

Still has the new book smell.

ConU bookstore: \$105.95

My price: \$90

apartment for rent

Cozy and warm 5 1/2 with exposed brick wall, open concept kitchen (three bedrooms, \$1,235/month). Close to many amenities including; metro, parc Lafontaine, Plateau. Backyard (terrace) and laundry room which also has stor-

age space.

We are also subletting a room in the apt for the month of April. If this interests you, please contact us for further details.

Sublet a 2 1/2 in Verdun from May 1 to Aug. 31, 2010.

The apartment has 1 bedroom, furnished (television included).

Rent is \$550/month, utilities included (heat, air conditioning, electricity, Internet).

Near grocery store and bike paths.

About 20 minutes to get downtown from De L'Eglise metro station.

roommates wanted

I am looking for a roommate for a nice large 4 1/2 located at about a 15-minute walk from Loyola campus. Also very close to 105, 162 & 51 bus stops.

You would get your room with two closets and we would share the closed kitchen and very big living room.

I am a male student, pretty easy going, non-smoker, who is responsible and mature, these are also qualities that would be appreciated in a roommate. Guys or girls welcome.

Please send me a message if you are interested and we can go from there.

volunteer

V-Day is a campaign to create awareness of violence against women and girls. Volunteers In action is organizing many events related to this issue, from self-defense workshops to the theatrical play *The Vagina Monologues*. Volunteer activities include advertising, organizing bake sales, setting up events and more. If you are interested in getting involved contact aoaconcordia@gmail.com. Volunteers get free access to all the events. Reference letter can be provided at the end of the campaign.

All funds raised through V-Day will be donated to women's shelters in Montreal and the Congo.

services offered

I am looking for a job babysitting children of any age and am available most evenings and weekends. I am a full time student at Concordia University, living at the downtown campus but have the use of a car. I am able to babysit at my apartment or at your place of residence.

I am a Psych major and studying to become a child psychologist. I also have ample experience working with children both at a daycare and a toy store. References available upon request. Hourly rates negotiable.

These are samples from the Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank. For a complete listing of classifieds, visit hojo.csu.qc.ca.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:
HOJO.CSU.QC.CA



THE LiNK

2009-2010 General elections

General elections March 26, 2010 4 p.m. H-649

The following people are eligible to run and vote:

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

The following people need one more contribution to be eligible to run and vote:

Alex DiPietro, Emma Healey, Tania Mohsen, Daryna Ruhklyadeva, Julia Wolfe.

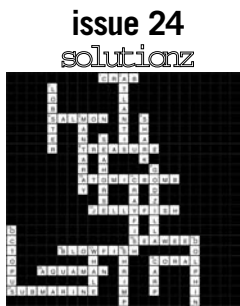
The following people need two more contributions to be eligible to vote:

Maude Abouche, Oksana Cueva, Megan Dolski, Chris Hanna, Kamila Hinkson, Jaime Klinger, Sarah Long, Jaime Mathieson, Helen Savage, Jesara Sinclair, Natasha Young, Hiba Zayadeen

All editorial positions will be open:

Applications for the positions must be posted one week before the election in *The Link* office, Hall building, room H-649. Applicants must have contributed to at least four (4) issues this semester as of March 19 and must include a one-page letter of intent, as well as three (3) contribution samples.

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



Across

3. Reign In Blood. Seasons In The Abyss. South Of Heaven. All classic. Ah, screw it... The answer's Slayer! If you don't know this then you shouldn't even be doing this crossword. Slayer is the reason why we're all still breathing, I'm sure of it.

6. Half-time chugga chugga, alternatively known as the "mosh" part.

8. The Dillinger Escape Plan's Irony Is A Dead Scene EP contained a cover of this classic Aphex Twin song (hint: Not "Windowlicker"). (3 words)

11. Landmark death metal band known as much for their abrasive artwork and shocking song titles as for their actual music. (2 words)

15. Pioneering industrial metal band showed that it was cool to mix your sweet and your sour, your death metal growls with clean phrasing, your techno and your guttural. Alternatively, band that forced you to wake up the edgedcrusher. (2 words)

17. From early metalcore leanings towards the "space rock" of their later work, this band has seen it all, including a visit to Jupiter. (2 words)

18. Florida thrash metal band known for screaming and then subsequently admitting that it wasn't "cool" and quickly fell into James Hetfield-worship territory before realizing they alienated their fanbase and so... back to screaming. Pull harder on the strings of your own martyr, dammit.

20. Canada's answer to "melodic hardcore," which just plainly sounds like an oxymoron to me. Like "jumbo shrimp" and "free love." Well, at least those young cardinals know how to write a good hook.

21. Premier tough-guy hardcore outfit that's been chugging along for more than a decade, even though their lead singer's missing a thumb.

22. NOLA-based sludge metal supergroup who've told their listening audience that they want to be buried in smoke. Band is definitely unfuckwitable throughout three stellar releases.

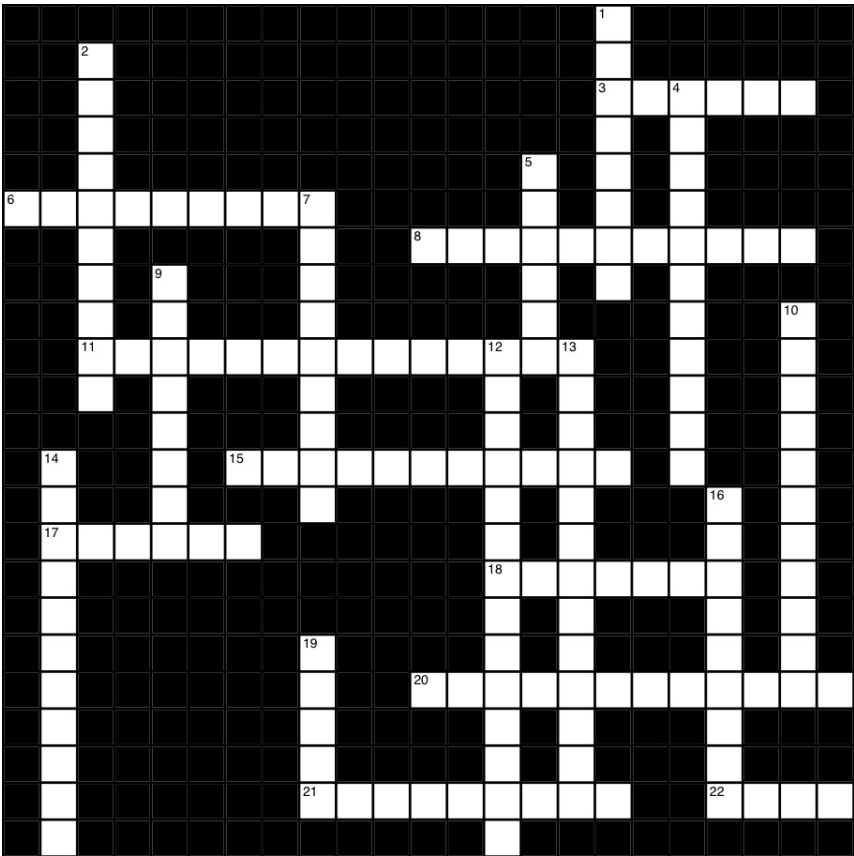
Down

1. Atlanta-based band with prog rock tendencies. Also

pzzlol

crswrd

THE "LOUD MUSIC" EDITION
• R. BRIAN "HELL YEAH I LOVE STUCK MOJO" HASTIE



have a hard-on for Moby Dick and other mystical shit.

2. Original frontman for Killswitch Engage, left and subsequently started blues-infused outfit Seemless. (2 words)

4. Faulkner novel, or band whose 2007's *An Ocean Between Us* peaked at number eight on the Billboard 200 chart. (4 words)

5. Shadows Fall frontman Brian Fair's distinguishing physical trait.

7. The only metalcore band I've ever known who's won a Grammy.... for best album package. Consider this dude nonplussed. (2 words)

9. Even though their lead singer sounds like a dog barking with no discernible lyrics being said, this innovative hardcore band brought an artistic edge to the scene.

10. Washington, D.C. band that created a fight song for the Capitals during their 2008 playoffs run. (2 words)

12. "Did you come here to kill, or did you come here to die?" (insert Nintendo-sounding guitar solo) (3 words)

13. Buffalo, N.Y. band known for songs such as "Ebolarama," "We'rewolf" and "Kill The Music." (4 words)

14. Classic Deep Purple album, or the namesake of an Oakland, Cali.-based band whose career has had an active second act after falling off/raping too much during the late '90s. (2 words)

16. The 1:44 point of "Black Label" is probably the most metal part of every day. Randy agrees. (3 words)

19. You can blame an entire subgenre of metal music (associated with mathcore) as well as humorous long-winded song titles on these Washington natives, who bowed out as Romans in 1999.

Corrections

In "Frigo Vert's fee levy request denied again" (vol. 30, iss. 23, pg. 4), it was stated that Frigo employees earn \$15 per hour and nearly half the proposed fee levy increase would go towards a salary increase. Rather, employees earn \$14 per hour and proposed a \$1 increase, and nearly half the proposed fee levy increase will go towards staff costs. *The Link* regrets the error.

heartaches anonymous

Dear Oracle,
My friend goaded me into placing a personals ad on Craigslist, so I did, and I surprisingly got lots of replies from people that all seem really cool. Here's the kicker, though: I've never met any Internet people in "real life" before. Is it weird? What do I do? How do I do it?
Sincerely,
Lost In Cyberspace

Dearest Lost,
In a public place. During the day. Don't take off your pants. Well, okay, the pants are

your call—I know many might scoff at this particular precaution—but I will feel much better if I know you aren't wandering off into the ether to meet a stranger with a clever e-mail voice. If you do decide to pursue one of these seemingly "really cool" people, please tell a friend what you're planning to do. It doesn't need to be in a deadly serious way—"Here's where to look for my corpse"—but you should mention, at least casually, that you're setting out to meet so-and-

so at such-and-such a place.
What are you hoping to get out of any potential encounter? Love, sex, handjobs? Trolling Craigslist for sex tends to be a fairly solitary pursuit, but because it was a friend that originally persuaded you to post the ad (or so you say), I'm guessing that if you're in it for anything, it's not all about an Internet-generated sexual opportunity. In that case, keep it casual. If someone piques your interest, maybe propose

you meet at a neighbourhood bar. There's no reason this has to be uncomfortable—at least not beyond the first five minutes—but a beer or two couldn't hurt. Take it slow.
And if you wake up behind a dumpster with a tattoo on your forehead and no shoes, my god, am I ever sorry.

Love advice your best friend is too nice to give. Send your queries on sex, dating and a total lack of romance to heartachesanonymous@gmail.com.

editorial

Queer rights not a given

While a collective of radical queers currently gather, party and wax political about the state of gay rights in Montreal during Radical Queer Semaine, it has come to light that mention of queer rights in this country mysteriously disappeared from the Canadian citizenship guide drafted last fall. All prospective citizens are required to study the guide and take a test based on its contents.

Canada's Conservative Minister of Immigration Jason Kenney denied that he ordered that same-sex rights to be removed from the guide, but also claimed "full responsibility" for the new changes.

Kenney is intentionally disingenuous and clearly insults the intelligence of all Canadians by refusing to name who ordered the removal of any mention of the constitutionally-guaranteed rights, while at the same time claiming full accountability for the end result.

Future Canadians studying the immigration guide should be well-versed in the social values of our country based on our civil history, and the battles for tolerance and equality under the law.

Kenney's retort that he has a "higher estimation about new Canadians" is patently ridiculous. The issue is not whether or not Kenney believes, as he has said, that potential immigrants are "not all potential gay-bashers," but rather that there are many cultures around the world where homophobia is not only tolerated, but legally institutionalized. Potential immigrants from these countries, therefore, would be well-served to learn of Canada's culture of acceptance and equal rights for queers.

The most recent example of this disturbing trend is found in Uganda, where a proposed law would institute life imprisonment, or even the death penalty, for homosexuals.

In Jamaica, homosexuality between males is punishable by up to 10 years in prison and it is not uncommon for gangs of civilians to brutally murder members of the queer community.

Clearly, Kenney is aware of the existence of such institutionalized gay-bashing worldwide and his lofty moral expectations of potential immigrants is an entirely irrelevant emotion-based argument.

The most troubling aspect of Kenney's position is the idea that the rights of homosexuals are a given that needn't be explained to new citizens.

Though Kenney has since agreed to restore references to gay rights in a future version of the guide, the actions of his ministry should not be exonerated, especially when the reasons for these actions have not been explained.

The alteration to the guide becomes all the more disconcerting upon examining Kenney's track record against same-sex marriage. According to *The Sudbury Star*, during a 2005 discussion with members of the Toronto Punjabi-language media, Kenney stated that "marriage is open to everybody, as long as they're a man and a woman." Kenney went on to say that "it doesn't say you can't marry if you're a homosexual. The fact is that homosexuals have been married and do marry."
Kenney is arguing that equal rights for queers only extend to those who, paradoxically, don't desire long-term romantic relationships with members of the same sex (and by extension the legal benefits included in marriage). Confusing doesn't begin to describe Kenney's views on this topic.

Queer rights are not a universal truth, as the changes to the immigration guide suggest. Many courageous people have fought to get legislation guaranteeing the equal rights of LGBT citizens. The conscious removal of the passages detailing this fight indicates at best an alarming naïveté, and at worst a conscious desire to downplay the civil liberties afforded to the gay community.

Queer rights are a part of our national narrative and their story is significant to share with future citizens of this country. This institutional gesture seeking to censor our history is a good reminder about how delicate and revocable our rights truly are.

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