



The money The issues

A look at what's in your wallet • Special insert

contents

5 news

The president has some explaining to do: GSA

8 features

An inside look at the Israel-Palestine conflict

14 literary arts

Canada's "good guy" image gets busted

15 fringe arts

One more reason to dodge Colombian Coke

18 sports

What's huge, white, full of hot air and not Rush Limbaugh?

22 opinions

Double-teaming relationship problems

THE LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Volume 30, Issue 18 | editorial: (514) 848-2424 |
| Tuesday, January 12, 2009 | ext. 7405 |
| | arts: (514) 848-2424 ext. |
| Concordia University | 5813 |
| Hall Building, Room H-649 | ads: (514) 848-2424 ext. |
| 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. | 8682 |
| Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8 | fax: (514) 848-4540 |
| editor-in-chief | business: (514) 848-7406 |
| TERRINE FRIDAY | photo editor |
| news editor | OPEN |
| JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI | graphics editor |
| features editor | VIVIEN LEUNG |
| Laura Beeston | managing editor |
| fringe arts editor | CLARE RASPOPOW |
| MADELINE COLEMAN | layout manager |
| literary arts editor | MATHIEU BIARD |
| CHRISTOPHER OLSON | webmaster |
| sports editor | TRISTAN LAPOLINTE |
| CHRISTOPHER CURTIS | business manager |
| opinions editor | RACHEL BOUCHER |
| DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ | distribution |
| copy editor | ROBERT DESMARAIIS |
| TOM LLEWELLIN | DAVID KAUFMANN |
| student press liaison | ad designer |
| OPEN | ADAM NORRIS |

The Link is published every Tuesday during the academic year by the Link Publication Society Inc. Content is independent of the University and student associations (ECA, CASA, ASFA, FASA, CSU). Editorial policy is set by an elected board as provided for in *The Link's* constitution. Any student is welcome to work on *The Link* and become a voting staff member. *The Link* is a member of Canadian University Press and Presse Universitaire Indépendante du Québec. Material appearing in *The Link* may not be reproduced without prior written permission from *The Link*.

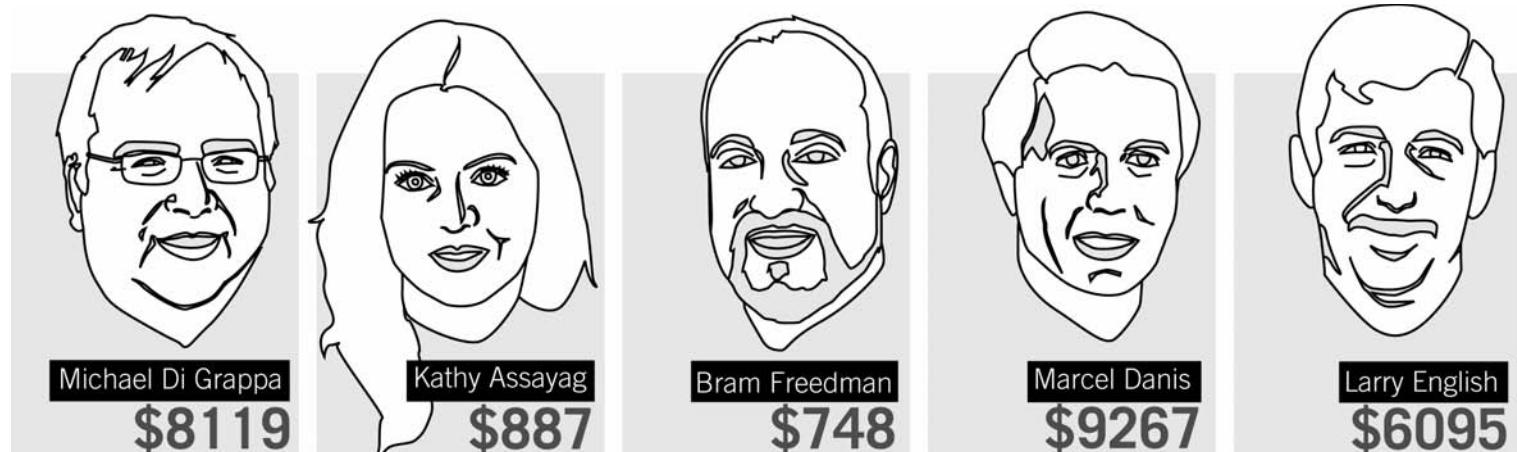
Letters to the editor are welcome. All letters 400 words or less will be printed, space permitting. Letters deadline is Friday at 4 p.m. *The Link* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length and refuse those deemed racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, libellous, or otherwise contrary to *The Link's* statement of principles.

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

THIS WEEK'S CONTRIBUTORS

Maude Abouche, David Adelman, Audrey Bisailon, Simon Bouchard, Marie-Eve Bourque, Gene Duval, Elisabeth Faure, R. Brian Hastie, Clay Hemmerich, Les Honwill, Elsa Jabe, Ami Kingdon, Adam Kovac, Simon Liem, Tania Mohsen, Ashley Opheim, Jonas Pietsch, Lupe Perez Pitka, Rebecca Rosen, Danya Rukhiyadeva, Shawna Satz, Catherine Vallières.

cover by Jonathan Dempsey, inside cover by Clare Raspopow



The cost of gym and golf memberships paid to Concordia's senior administrators in 2009. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

Concordia tops spending on perks

University spent \$25,119 on golf and gym memberships in 2009

• TERRINE FRIDAY

Concordia University spends more public money on perks for senior administrators than any other Quebec university, according to documents obtained by *Le Journal de Montréal* through an access to information request.

The report reveals that Concordia paid over \$8,000 in private golf course and gym memberships to Vice President of Services Michael Di Grappa in 2009.

The report also reveals that Concordia paid over \$9,000 in

private golf memberships alone for former senior administrator and current political science professor Marcel Danis.

Advancement and Alumni Relations VP Kathy Assayag's membership fees of \$887 and Secretary-General Bram Freedman's \$748 private club membership were on the lower end of the scale.

Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota said covering senior administrators' private memberships in their contracts is "a pretty standard practice."

"All the universities do it and

our policy is [to fund] up to two memberships per senior administrator," she continued.

Mota said there is a misconception about what the club memberships are actually intended for.

"When you say club membership, you picture someone sitting in a sauna, but a lot of work is done [there]," Mota said, like doing business on the golf course or seeking donors. "It's used for university business."

Mota noted that all major companies and organizations pay for their administrators' club memberships.

Although the university is not strict on where memberships are permitted, "it would have to have some value to the university as well," Mota said.

The request revealed that unlike Concordia, other universities favoured private clubs. McGill Principal Heather Munroe-Blum received memberships to the Mount Royal Club, University Club of Montreal and the now defunct Club St. Denis, costing her university over \$10,000. Université de Montréal Rector Luc Vinet received a similar package.

Coca-Cola lawyers threaten Cinema Politica

Claims upcoming film screenings violate confidentiality agreements

• MADELINE COLEMAN

Concordia-based film collective Cinema Politica received a threatening letter on Jan. 11 from the lawyers for Coca-Cola stating that the network's planned film tour for documentary *The Coca-Cola Case* violates a confidentiality agreement.

The film follows two American lawyers and union leaders as they attempt to bring a case against the soda pop giant for its alleged complicity in the murders of union leaders at Colombian bottling plants.

Cinema Politica founder Erza Winton said the letter claimed the film was "defamatory" and included details of private negotiations between the company and the people who are the focus of the documentary.

Cinema Politica, in cooperation with the National Film Board of Canada, plans to screen *The Coca-Cola Case* at Cinema Politica locals, first stopping at Concordia on Jan. 18 before touring over 20 cities across the country and abroad.

"[The Coca-Cola Co.] knew about the film from the early days and I'm sure followed its progression. They probably thought that it would play at some film festivals then go away," Winton told *The Link* after the legal letter was received on Jan. 11. "Now I think that [they're contacting us because] it's not just going away—that in fact it's having a resurgence through our network."

Filmmakers Carmen Garcia and Germán Gutiérrez said Coca-Cola and the film's subjects had already settled prior claims of a breach of confidentiality. The company now requires information about where and when the documentary was filmed, but could not force the filmmakers to cut footage.

The company never contacted Garcia or Gutiérrez directly, choosing instead to level its criticism at the subjects of the documentary and Cinema Politica.

"The idea that you can take legal recourse against an exhibitor is pretty unheard of," said Winton. "The film is already in the can. It's already out in public with thousands of copies circulating. It's

with a national public production house. So [when their lawyer sent us that letter] it's kind of just them going after the little guy because we're grassroots."

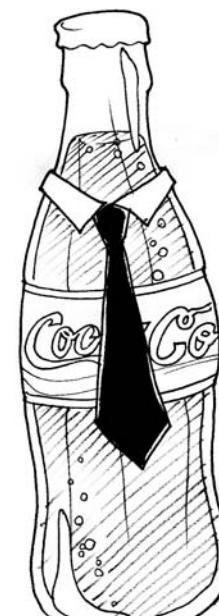
The lawyer who sent Winton the letter, Faith Gay of Quinn Emanuel Trial Lawyers in New York City, did not return *The Link's* phone calls.

Winton said he felt Coca-Cola was concerned about the Cinema Politica screenings because they will mostly take place at university campuses, in full view of the youth and students who are the company's target market. Coca-Cola routinely seeks—and gets—exclusivity contracts with universities and other institutions.

Students at schools including the University of Guelph have held successful campaigns to ban Coke from campuses, citing the company's record of human rights abuses. Most recently, a Norwegian student association shut out Coke products from all universities and colleges across Norway.

Concordia currently has an exclusive contract with Pepsi Co.

Cinema Politica plans to go ahead with its *Coca-Cola Case*



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

tour regardless.

"If the NFB or the filmmakers asked us to stop screening it we would," explained Winton. "But lawyers that represent Coca-Cola that simply don't agree with some of the representations in the film—with what the characters in the film say, not the filmmakers [themselves]—it's as if they're saying Coca-Cola is beyond any kind of criticism in a documentary film."

"Now they're sending us this letter, which to me means we're doing something right."

Read *The Link's* exclusive interview with filmmakers Carmen Garcia and Germán Gutiérrez on page 15.

Walkin' Wheels for Rocco

NDG panhandler needs \$3,000 for dog's surgery

• ELISABETH FAURE

If you live in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, chances are you've seen Justin Durrell.

He is often found panhandling on Sherbrooke Street West, between Hingston and Beaconsfield Avenues. Many of the locals are friendly with Durrell, bringing him hot coffee from the nearby Dunkin' Donuts or stopping to pet his two pit bulls, Rocco and Molar, who are always by his side.

Both dogs are popular with NDG residents, often licking the hands of people who stop to chat with Durrell, before returning their heads to their master's lap.

Lately, Rocco has been noticeably absent. That's because on Christmas Eve he took a bad fall while playing with Molar, tearing three ligaments in one of his hind legs. Now, Rocco is unable to walk and members of the community are coming together to help pay for the expensive surgery he needs.

"The vet told me that it would cost about \$3,000 for the operation, plus another \$400 for the Walkin' Wheels that Rocco needs after the operation," said Durrell.

Ever since he heard the news, Durrell has been going out in temperatures as low as -30 degrees Celsius to beg on the streets for Rocco. Despite residents who have expressed worries about his health, Durrell said he needed to raise money for his dog's operation. Local animal group, Eleven Eleven Animal Rescue, heard about the story and volunteered to help.

"Some people are uncomfortable with the idea of giving money to someone begging on the street, so our website is another way to



Justin Durrell sits in front of the SAQ on Sherbrooke Street West with his dog Leila. PHOTO JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

help out," said Caroline Ross, founder of Eleven Eleven Animal Rescue. The group has so far raised over \$400 online.

Rocco's accident came at a bad time for Durrell. Born in Montreal, he had a difficult childhood spent in the foster care system. He then struggled with poverty as a young man and lived on and off the streets across Canada.

Those hard years on the street were marked by one constant: his beloved dogs.

"Rocco and Molar were my best friends," said Durrell. At times, he even chose to remain on the streets rather than part with them. "It's not that easy to get an apartment when you're already on welfare, and then the landlord sees you walk in with two pit bulls [...] but I would

never get rid of my dogs."

Durrell sometimes went without food to feed his dogs. The two loyal companions also protected him during his often-dangerous life on the streets.

"It's not that easy to get an apartment when you're already on welfare, and then the landlord sees you walk in with two pit bulls..."

—Justin Durrell

Things seemed to be turning around for Durrell when he returned to Montreal. A friend who was moving away let him move into his apartment. But his newfound sense of security was threatened when his roommate

developed a serious respiratory illness and could no longer be around animals. He was faced with a choice: get rid of Rocco and Molar or head back to the streets.

At that moment a guardian angel stepped in to save him.

Natalie Darveaux happened to be running errands one day when she met Durrell and spoke with him. He told her his story and Darveaux was so moved, she invited him into her home until he found a new place. She then worked tirelessly to help him find a new apartment.

Once Durrell was successfully settled, she continued to check in on the young man, bringing him food and used clothing. She even bought Christmas presents for him, which included a rubber ball for Rocco and Molar.

Soon after, Rocco collided with Molar while playing with a ball, resulting in his injury and devastating both Durrell and Darveaux.

Since then, Durrell's familiar face has greeted locals with a new slogan. "Can you please help me? This is for my dog," he asks, handing out flyers that feature pictures of Rocco and his story, along with all the information donors need to know about Eleven Eleven and the website.

The neighbourhood has responded. Many local businesses have begun displaying Rocco's poster in their windows and handing out flyers to clients.

The story has also been noticed throughout the city. CBC's radio show Homerun featured it during a holiday show and Ross reports that she is receiving press inquiries about Rocco at Eleven Eleven.

Recently Centre DMV, a 24-hour animal hospital in Lachine, offered to help with free veterinarian consultations and a substantial donation from the DMV Foundation. The foundation can only help a select number of animals a year, but according to DMV Board President Nathalie Simard, Rocco and Durrell's story touched everyone at the animal hospital.

Despite the aid, more money is needed to help Rocco get back on his feet. "People just don't know how grateful I am. This dog means everything to me," said Durrell.

Given the history that Durrell has already shared with Rocco, it's no surprise he feels that way.

At press time *The Link* learned that Walkin' Wheels will donate a dog wheelchair for Rocco to use during his recovery.

Eleven Eleven's website is at elevenelevenanimalrescue.org.

'The elephant in the room'

Cinéma du Parc looks at Gaza one year later

• MICHAEL BRAMADAT-WILL-COCK

One year after the Israeli Defense Force launched an assault on the Gaza Strip, Montreal's Cinéma du Parc will be screening *Rachel*, a film about American activist Rachel Corrie, who was killed by an Israeli bulldozer during the invasion.

Working with the organization Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East, the Jan. 29 screening will be preceded by an exhibition looking at the wider Middle East conflict.

"The opportunities in which we can shed light on the reality of what's been really going on in Palestine are limited and often make us feel powerless," said Sara Aly, a Concordia student and volunteer at the exhibition.

Sarah Anderson, a former Concordia student and the 2005-2006 Hillel VP of Social Action speculated that Rachel Corrie willingly put herself in harm's way.

"She was in Gaza during a period where there was a lot of violence and she died as a result of that violence," Anderson said.

When asked what she thought about Israel's 2008 offensive—dubbed Operation Cast Lead by the IDF—Anderson responded that Israel acted too strongly.

"Although I do support Israel, I believe the government went too far and should not have acted with such a disproportionate amount of force," Anderson said.

Israel and its allies are the "elephant in the room," according to Thomas Woodley, the president of Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East.

"There are ways to come to a solution that will bring security to

"She was in Gaza during a period where there was a lot of violence and she died as a result of that violence."

—Sarah Anderson,
former Concordia student
and Hillel VP Social Action

both Palestinians and Israelis," he continued. "However, most of the cards are in the hands of Israel and its allies."

According to Woodley, Corrie's

story was unique in the Gaza War because she was a prolific writer and her life could be documented through her own words.

"If there is one conflict that should be resolved, above all else, it is the Israel-Palestine conflict," he continued. Woodley quoted Corrie's own words: "We should be inspired by people [...] who show that human beings can be kind, brave, generous, beautiful [and] strong, even in the most difficult circumstances."

For more on the Israel-Palestine conflict, turn to page 8.



Graduates share their feelings about the president's vision for Concordia and the high tuition it might create. PHOTO CLARE RASPOW

Explaining the American model

Graduate students demand answers from Concordia president

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

In late October, Concordia President Judith Woodsworth set out her vision for the future of the university.

The call for more private funding and American-style tuition left many student organizations worried about the future of Concordia.

"There has been a backlash about what Judith Woodsworth said in

The Link," said Graduate Student Association VP External Erik Chevrier. "A lot of students were quite offended by her comments."

In the Oct. 27 issue of *The Link* Woodsworth showed enthusiasm for the American tuition model. She stated, "If we can get to the point where we have enough funding to support students who are really in need and charge tuition to the ones who have the money, that would be

the best solution."

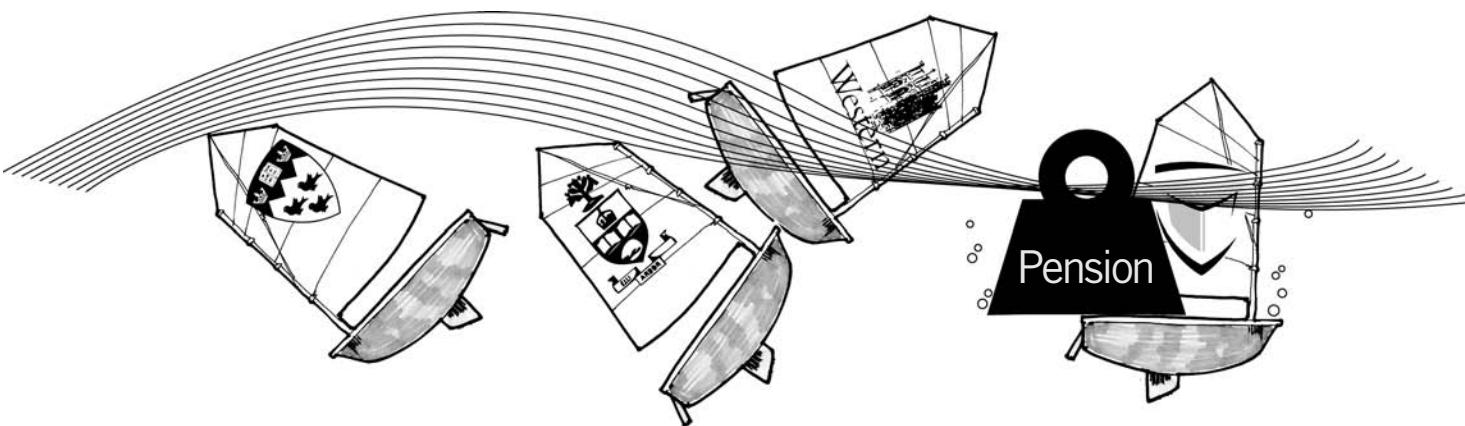
Concerned about the future direction of Concordia, Chevrier, along with GSA councillor Nadia Hausfather, will meet with the president on Jan. 15 to discuss her comments.

"We will be asking her to clarify her position on the American model, as well as what kind of direction Concordia will take on tuition," said Chevrier. "We want to know

what the American model really means."

To prepare for the meeting, the GSA met with graduate students on Jan. 7 to hear their concerns directly. A dozen graduate students were on hand to help their executive.

"We want to see if the administration will work with us, instead of conflicting with us," added Chevrier. "At this point, we are facing a lot of uncertainty."



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

In the same boat after all

Concordia may not escape pension problems

• CLARE RASPOW

Even with rosy first quarter results, Concordia may still end up like its Ontario counterparts: dragged down by a deficit caused by failing pensions. The university just won't know until its third financial quarter.

The problem, explained Concordia Controller Nathalie Laporte, is that, starting this year, all Quebec schools must conform to the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

The GAAP are standardized

guidelines for financial accounting. These guidelines require, among other things, that the school manage its pension fund beyond the short-term needs of recipients.

Concordia's pension is a defined benefit plan. This means that, regardless of the financial state of the economy, everyone who pays into the pension will get a set package of benefits. In the past the school had no cause to worry, so long as the pension was doing well enough that those who were ill or retiring could claim their benefits.

With the GAAP, should the health of the pension fall below a certain level, the school is required to pay into the pension from its operating budget. This requirement is responsible for the burden on Ontario schools like Queen's University, which was obliged to pay \$6 million into its pension to make up the shortfall.

"[Quebec schools] really should have been using [GAAP standards] for the last 15 years," said Laporte.

Since Concordia has just switched over to GAAP standards as

of January 2010, Financial Services isn't yet sure how great the impact will be. A pension problem wouldn't even figure into the school's financial results until the third financial quarter, and would have to be addressed in next year's budget.

Laporte isn't responsible for Concordia's pension and could not comment on its health. The administrator in charge of the pension, Marc Gauthier, executive director of finances and business operations, could not be reached for comment.

Briefs

Kohail spared death sentence

Mohamed Kohail, a former Concordia student sentenced to beheading by sword in 2008 for manslaughter in a schoolyard fight, was granted a reprieve and a review by a Saudi Arabian court on Jan. 9. The Conservative government claims to have been lobbying for clemency since the original sentence was delivered.

Concordia student should not have been on no-fly list

Concordia student and Longueuil resident Hani Al Telbani's barring from a flight to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 2008 should never have occurred, according to a report from Transport Canada. Al Telbani was placed on the Transport Canada-administered no-fly list despite a lack of evidence, the report found. Al Telbani was the only known person barred from boarding a Canadian flight.

Quebec students yet to receive federal grant money

A \$118-million portion of the Canada Student Grants fund allocated to Quebec students by the federal government has yet to be distributed, the Concordia Student Union said in a statement on Jan. 8. The grants run from \$100 to \$250 per month and are given to help students in financial need. Students in all other provinces have received the grants since 2008.

CanWest newspapers for sale

Struggling media giant CanWest Global, which owns *The Gazette* and has a monopoly on daily English broadsheet newspapers in every major Canadian city except Toronto and Winnipeg, announced Friday that it would be shedding its newspaper division.

'No Name' designer dies

Don Watt, the Avro Arrow cockpit designer who created the "No Name" brand packaging for Loblaw's in the mid-1970s, died at 73. The unadorned yellow labels with black text contributed to the dominance of chain grocery stores' house brands, which were formerly considered to be bottom-rung.

Le Devoir at 100

Facing the Internet after a century on the presses

• HUGO PILON-LAROSE

While other newspapers around the world are embroiled in financial difficulty, Montreal-based *Le Devoir* celebrated 100 years of publication on Jan. 10 with 1,000 readers and journalists at the Marché Bonsecours in Old Montreal.

"My father was a linotype at *Le Devoir* and when I was a child I was always waiting for him to get back from his job to read the edition of the day," said 98-year-old Madeleine LeBlanc Michon.

As a child, LeBlanc Michon met Henri Bourassa, a Quebec politician and activist who defended francophone rights. Strongly opposed to prime minister Sir Wilfred Laurier, Bourassa founded *Le Devoir* in 1910 and remained as the newspaper's editor until 1932.

"We are a newspaper with a small budget, but being independent also means more liberty. We decided to specialize in politics, culture and the debate of ideas. In that field, we are better than everyone else in town," said edi-



After a century, some of Le Devoir's most famous covers hang over the milling crowd. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

tor-in-chief Bernard Descôteaux.

Being free of corporate ownership means a lot for Descôteaux, who has headed the paper since 1990. As editor-in-chief of *Le*

Devoir, Descôteaux controls 50 per cent plus one of the newspaper's shares—a tradition that began with Bourassa. This means, according to Descôteaux, that no

corporation could ever dictate what should be written in the newspaper.

"We are a small team of journalists committed to *Le Devoir*'s

success and we are currently building new strategies to capture the Internet market with the development of broadcast stories," said web editor Benoît Munger.

The Internet has had a devastating effect for print journalism, causing an unprecedented loss of readership, which increases the cost of news coverage.

Munger conceded that *Le Devoir* could not compete with the CBC or *La Presse* in terms of video and audio stories, but he pointed out that the newspaper's online direction has been different. *Le Devoir* recently launched a new website that updates stories continuously over the course of the day.

Even if the themes was celebration on Jan. 10, *Le Devoir* still has many challenges to face.

"The main challenge for *Le Devoir* as for other [newspapers] is to attract young professional and students to subscribe," said Manon Cornelli, the newspaper's parliamentary reporter. "This public is only looking for free products, but that is not a viable way of doing journalism."

'They put this one under the rug'

Failed 2008 attempt to sell Studentsaver card uncovered

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

In July 2008 the Canadian Federation of Students attempted to sell the rights to its Studentsaver Card for \$1.9 million—without informing its student members.

The attempted sale was only revealed more than a year after it failed due to the economic recession.

A numbered company, 6968643 Canada Inc., was established by the CFS and Toronto-based Futura Loyalty Group to transform the Studentsaver Card into a swipe card. Futura was supposed to transfer \$1.9 million to the numbered company, but the relationship between Futura and the CFS fell apart after only \$115,096 had been transferred to the numbered company.

"They put this one under the rug," said Greg Johansson, president of the CFS' Quebec branch. The attempted sale of the card was first revealed at the CFS' Annual General Meeting in late November.

"At the general meeting [the CFS] swept it aside. The deal is off now," they said. They wouldn't really tell us what was going on with the numbered company," said Johansson.

"[6968643 Canada Inc.] was

established to set up a joint venture with a company that was going to fund the creation of this swipe card service, which has not happened," said CFS Treasurer Dave Molenhuis.

"The obligations on behalf of Futura have been unfulfilled, so the national executive is trying to figure out a different logistics provider to fulfil that."

No new company has been found to continue the project.

"The Studentsaver program was valued at \$2 million precisely because it encourages students to spend money, often money they do not have."

—Greg Johansson,
CFS-Q president

Molenhuis confirmed to *The Link* that the money from Futura was still in the account of the numbered company and that the CFS retains the rights to the Studentsaver Card.

Johansson criticized the sale and the implied branding of the CFS'

membership—the majority of Canada's university students—as consumers.

"The Studentsaver program was valued at \$2 million precisely because it encourages students to spend money, often money they do not have. By its very nature the Studentsaver program encourages student debt," continued Johansson.

Molenhuis could not provide concrete details on how Futura was supposed to create a profit under the swipe card program.

"Merchants would pay money to Futura to offer a discount to students. At first when you look at it, it doesn't make sense," said Johansson. "But these loyalty cards encourage people to go to places they normally wouldn't go and establish brand loyalty."

He said he saw the attempted sale as part of a trend of the CFS privatizing its assets—one evident in the CFS' sale of Travel Cuts in October.

"It's part of that trend of taking services, developing them into fully-fledged enterprises and then selling them off to the highest bidder," said Johansson.

Federal stimulus money still missing on campus

• TOM LLEWELLIN

With nearly \$38 million allocated to Concordia as part of the federal stimulus package, a large sign from the Canadian government in the lobby of the Hall building touts the government's commitment to post-secondary education.

"We haven't received any funding," said Nathalie Laporte, the school's controller. "But grants are confirmed."

Under the federal government's Knowledge Infrastructure Program, grants confirmed on paper are only dispersed when projects are deemed to have broken ground, the chief accountant said.

Rather than being financed directly through the federal budget or through reserve funds, the money comes from lines of credit that the federal government promises to reimburse, including interest.

Confirmed grants as opposed to hard cash are fairly common in post-secondary education, said Laporte, with the yearly operating grant from the provincial Ministère de l'éducation, loisirs

et du sport still pending.

Out of a total pool of \$2 billion in matching funding, Concordia received \$38 million, divided up between three proposed research facilities: a Genomics Centre at Loyola's science complex, an Environmental Chamber in the basement of the Hall building and the PERFORM Athletics Lab at the Loyola sports complex.

The fund specifies that every dollar amount must be matched by either the province, universities or unspecified "private sources."

Disbursement is the responsibility of the VP Research and Graduate Studies Louise Dandurand, but she could not be reached by press time, despite repeated attempts.

Much of the funds are targeted at the relative investment magnets of the hard sciences and business, with humanities and the social sciences being left in the lurch.

The Link will follow up on stimulus money on campus next week. For more info on Concordia's new research facilities, visit thelinknewspaper.ca.

The cost of land

Looking at the Israel-Palestine conflict from the inside



Children play outside their elementary school Sderot. The black reinforcement on the roof is designed to suck in fumes from a rocket attack. Across the street are two rocket shelters. PHOTO TERRINE FRIDAY

• TERRINE FRIDAY

JERUSALEM—Inside the walls of Jerusalem's Old City is the Temple Mount, one of the holiest religious sites for both Muslims and Jews. Thousands of people who have come on pilgrimage to bear witness to the Mount mill about.

At midday, hundreds of women and men line up on opposite sides of the Western Wall. Some read from the Torah and look up to the sky, while others rock quietly back and forth. Less than a five-minute walk away, Muslims answer a call to prayer from the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third-holiest site in Islam—after the cities of Mecca and Medina. Across from the Mosque and perpendicular to the Wall is the Dome of the Rock, where Muslims believe the prophet Muhammad ascended into heaven. The Islamic dome houses the Foundation Rock, part of the bedrock, which is also the holiest site for Jews.

At noon, church bells sound off from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a church originally constructed in the second century (and since rebuilt), where Christians believe Jesus was crucified and resurrected. Inside the church, steep stairs leading up to an effigy of Jesus Christ slope in the middle, testament to the millions who've journeyed to what Christians consider to be the centre of the universe. Pilgrims kneel at the entrance of the church where the Stone of Anointing is on display.

Jerusalem is the bridge between the world's three monotheistic religions. Although Israel and the Palestinian National Authority claim religion is not a major factor in their negotiations, the question the conditions under which non-Israelis will be granted

"The conflict between Fatah and Hamas is definitely one of the saddest in the history of Palestinians."

—Xavier Abuid,
spokesperson for the PLO's
Negotiations Support Unit

access to holy sites makes it difficult to separate religious affiliation and ideologies from the state.

Jerusalem's Old City is currently under Israeli jurisdiction and the Temple Mount is controlled by the Palestinian National Authority. If Jerusalem is officially separated into east and west in a "two-state solution," who would gain control of the holy sites? Would a wall run directly through the Temple Mount, which would not only be an eyesore but also leave a dark stain on the self-proclaimed sanctity and mercy of religion? Or would the international community govern its quarters?

Interpreting the wall

An ugly, electronic separation fence (which is not electrified, but does transmit a signal to a nearby Israeli military post if touched) separates Israel proper from PNA-controlled territory and a jarring separation wall cuts through Jerusalem suburbs. Although less than five per cent of the separation barrier—which has also been dubbed an apartheid wall by such notables as former American president Jimmy Carter—between Israel and PNA-controlled territory is a concrete wall, both

the wall and fence have the same psychological interpretation and have the same purpose: to keep people out.

Israel has come under international criticism for not respecting the Green Line—also called the Armistice Line—and building its separation fence far into what should be PNA-controlled territory. In some areas, the separation wall or fence cuts as deep as 22 kilometres into what should be PNA-controlled territories and was constructed over fertile land. However, Israel has argued the wall/fence had to be moved into Palestinian territory to either build around plateaus or protect pre-existing Jewish settlements.

Although the word "settlement" is often used in mainstream media to depict the areas between the Green Line and the separation wall/fence that have Jewish settlers, these "settlements" are actually small cities relative to Israel's population. There are no tents or makeshift shelters with displaced peoples; there are no emergency personnel with cargo in tow lining the streets. Instead, there are communities with beautiful sand-washed homes, schools and community gardens. Although these settlements may have been constructed beyond the Green Line as a strategic measure, an observer's interpretation of these illegal communities leads to an obvious conclusion: these settlements are here to stay. For the average Israeli family, living in a settlement isn't political; it means paying far less for a suburban home than a cramped apartment in a metropolitan area.

Since the barrier has been installed and checkpoints closely monitored, terror attacks have almost stopped. Obviously

it's working, but at what cost?

On Jan. 10, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu green-lighted the US \$405-million construction of a separation wall/fence between Israel and Egypt, according to Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz.

"I took the decision to close Israel's southern border to infiltrators and terrorists," Netanyahu said in a statement. "This is a strategic decision to secure Israel's Jewish and democratic character."

Egypt currently has a blockade in effect between itself and the Gaza Strip, a response to Hamas' 2006 take-over.

Palestine Liberation Organization

Hamas, a Palestinian political party that has been lauded for its support of social services, won the Palestinian Authority's 2006 election and seized control from Fatah. As Fatah is considered moderate (former Fatah leader and Palestinian president Yasser Arafat sought peace talks with Israel), Hamas is considered a terrorist organization by Canada, the United States, the European Union and Israel.

Hamas, which claims it is not responsible for recent Qassam rocket attacks that have landed in southern Israel, controls Gaza. During the 2006 general elections, Hamas won a majority over Fatah. Mahmoud Abbas, leader of Fatah and president of the PNA since 2005, unilaterally extended his leadership in 2009 and is still in office.

Ongoing clashes between Hamas and Fatah has stalled negotiations with Israel. Egypt and Saudi Arabia have stepped in to work with both political groups.

"The conflict between Fatah and Hamas is definitely one of the saddest in the history of Palestinians," said Xavier Abuid, spokes-

"You can't walk into a Palestinian village and say, 'Hello, my name is Matthew from *The Globe and Mail*, I'd like to speak to Hamas please. [Israelis] said, 'we're not going there, it's too dangerous.'"

—Khaled Abu Toameh,
reporter for The Jerusalem Post



A wall tagged with spraypaint in Jerusalem's Old City. PHOTO TERRINE FRIDAY

son for the PLO's Negotiations Support Unit, an advisory unit to the PLO's Negotiations Affairs Department. However, Abuied noted "Hamas is not seeking to replace the PLO, Hamas is seeking to enter the PLO."

Although Abuied said "the Palestinian position is not to condone violence," he pointed to mounting frustrations from Palestinians who cannot move freely.

"We as Palestinians are tired of having the security of Israel [trump] our own freedom," he continued. "It's beautiful to be a Christian from the oldest Christian community in the world. [...] I don't think that [applying for a pass] to go to church is something that respect my rights in the holy land."

According to the PLO, there are 593 movement restrictions in the West Bank alone, even though the West Bank should be under PNA control.

The PLO said their demands include: right of return for refugees, whom they say fled during times of war; end of occupation of East Jerusalem, to be the future capital of a Palestinian state; a settlement freeze; construction of a safe passage from Gaza to the West Bank; the defragmentation of territory clusters in the West Bank; and full civic rights for Palestinians living within Israel proper.

The PLO is not currently negotiating with Israel, although Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed to stop building settlements in return for the PNA's cooperation in November.

In Israel, there is a saying: "the left talks peace while the right makes peace," due to former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak's progress with the Camp David accords and Netanyahu's recent move towards peace.

Abuied, who lives in Ramallah, said he has

If Israel is willing to negotiate for one soldier, how many Israeli soldiers may be captured in the future for a prisoner swap? If Israel is not willing to negotiate, how will its citizens respond to their country that enforces mandatory military service but will not do what it can to keep them alive?

access to running water three times a week, sometimes four. Electricity in Gaza is controlled by Israel.

According to Abuied, 35 per cent of the Palestinian economy relies on East Jerusalem.

"[Palestine] cannot be viable without East Jerusalem being its capital," Abuied said. "Netanyahu said he wants to talk peace, but let's talk money."

Understanding the conflict

"Israel is probably the most misunderstood country on Earth," said Jim Lederman, a former CBC foreign correspondent and contributor to NPR and the *New York Post*. "It's a country in becoming. It's not a country that's [already] fixed."

Lederman is a critic of the Israeli legislature, called the Knesset, which uses a proportional representation model. Over the past 62 years, the Israeli government has been short-sighted and unstable: thirty-two governments have been formed since 1948 and the eight-

teenth Knesset is currently sitting. Between 1951 and 1955, there was an election every year. Coalition governments are formed to pass legislation and meet the short-term demands of several parties.

Lederman, who is currently a senior analyst for Oxford Analytica, said the average length of service for Israeli ministers is 16 months, whereas the average length of time required to be well-versed in a portfolio is 18 months.

"As a result of this, there's a tendency for [...] corruption," Lederman said. Being such a relatively young state, Lederman said "Israel is overloaded."

"[One foremost] sin of foreign correspondents is using labels without knowing what they're talking about," he continued, such as using the label of "right-wing" for those who support occupation of the West Bank between the Green Line and the barrier. Lederman pointed out, "there has not been a Jewish right-wing party [...] since about 2,000 years ago."

Lederman, who is also writing a book about Israeli governance, said Israel's unstable political climate and its inability to form a majority government "is something that international correspondents don't understand."

Measuring the cost of life

Sderot is an underdeveloped town in southern Israel 1,400 metres away from the Gaza Strip. Since Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, Sderot has been hit by homemade rockets from Gaza to the point

where rocket shelters were built across town. In conversation with Israelis, some mention how ironic it is that a rocket launched from Gaza has yet to hit the hydro tower sending power into the strip, which is located within range. Gaza still gets power for humanitarian reasons, they say.

When a rocket is launched from Gaza, Israeli forces sound an alarm in the general vicinity where the rocket might fall, leaving residents with 15 seconds to make it to a shelter. Several homes in Sderot now have makeshift shelters built onto their infrastructure. Others are located just seconds away from a shelter. Some are not.

During Israel's December 2008 retaliation, dubbed Operation Cast Lead, over 1,200 Palestinians were killed. Nine Israeli soldiers, with a mean age of 23 years old, were killed within the same timeframe, four from friendly fire incidents.

In December 2009, several Qassam rockets were fired into Israel from Gaza, landing in Sderot and nearby Netivot. In response, Israel blew up two underground tunnels leading from Gaza to Israel.

Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier, was captured by Palestinians in 2006 during a raid and is being held in Gaza. Although Shalit has been held captive for three years, proof of life was released last October, prompting prisoner swap talks with Hamas. During November negotiations with a German mediator, close to 1,000 Palestinians detained in Israel—several considered terrorists—were drafted to be exchanged for Shalit.

The exchange for Shalit is significant to Israelis: if Israel is willing to negotiate for one

Khaled Abu Toameh said the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been grossly misconstrued by western media and he also criticized Israeli Apartheid Week, which was launched at the University of Toronto in 2005.

continued from page 9

soldier, how many Israeli soldiers may be captured in the future for a prisoner swap? If Israel is not willing to negotiate, how will its citizens respond to their country that enforces mandatory military service but will not do what it can to keep them alive?

Israel, the only recognized democracy in the Middle East, argues it's fighting for its existence; Hezbollah, Al-Qaeda and Hamas are surrounding terrorist organizations that unite under the banner of Islamist extremism.

Palestinians argue they fled out of necessity and their land was expropriated.

Reporting from across the wall

Khaled Abu Toameh is a Palestinian from East Jerusalem. A former writer for the PLO, Toameh now works for *The Jerusalem Post* (originally called *The Palestine Post* and regarded as an advocacy paper, the *Post* became more centrist during its ownership by Conrad Black's Hollinger Inc. running from the late 1980s until 2004).

After the second intifada broke out in 2000 when then-Israeli President Ariel Sharon led a military inspection tour around the base of the Temple Mount, Toameh was approached by the Post with an offer of employment; Jewish Israelis were too scared to venture into Gaza.

"You can't walk into a Palestinian village and say, 'Hello, my name is Matthew from *The Globe and Mail*, I'd like to speak to Hamas please,'" Toameh explained. "[Israelis] said, 'we're not going there, it's too dangerous.'"

Toameh said corruption under Yasser Arafat's leadership is what "drove the Palestinians into the arms of Hamas."

Furthermore, he said, there is a misconception about Palestinians who live or work in Israel: "There is no boycott of the Israeli media by Palestinians," he insisted. "The first time I heard about boycotting Israel was when I visited a university in North America."

Toameh said the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been grossly misconstrued by western media and he also criticized Israeli Apartheid Week, which was launched at the University of Toronto in 2005.



This wall inside Bethlehem cuts into PNA territory in the West Bank.

"The first time I heard about boycotting Israel was when I visited a university in North America."

*—Khaled Abu Toameh,
reporter for The Jerusalem Post*

"Instead of hosting an Israeli Apartheid Week, why not host a Palestinian Democracy Week?" he asked. "You are inciting the same way Hamas is inciting. Arabs and Israelis live here together."

"I believe in being fair and balanced... not to use Fox News' slogan."

Looking forward

A general consensus for understanding how to move forward in the Israel-Palestine conflict is as follows: let Israel and Palestine

handle it. Although Canada might be able to provide symbolic diplomatic support, understanding the layered complexities to the conflict and trying to balance national security with humanitarian compassion trump idealistic niceties.

Honest dialogue needs to exist between the people, said Razal Abu Ria, a self-identified Israeli Arab. "You don't enter the window to get into the house, you walk through the door," he explained.

For peace talks, Ria said "you can't have the legs here and the head in the United States;" the drawing board needs to be propped up by Israel and Palestine.

Access to competitive employment is also an issue for Israeli Arabs (some who are Palestinian), several of whom do not serve in

the military; although service for them is not mandatory as per their Israeli status, job applications require military service. Although these grounds for employment have been called discriminatory or a false screening process, it is still not outright discrimination.

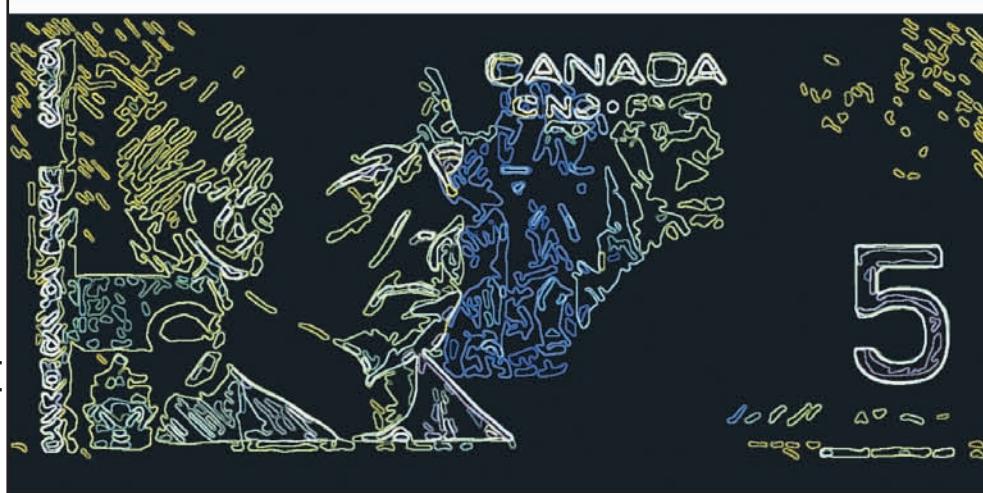
"How can I be expected to fight my brother?" Ria asked. "I can't."

Uzi Rabi, chair of the department of Middle Eastern and African history at Tel Aviv University, said failed states in the Middle east are going through "a very complicated process where the state is being torn to pieces and the centre cannot exert full influence over the territory." Israel should have the right to protect itself from Islamic extremism, most notably from Iran.

Looking ahead, Rabi said "it would be very difficult for people in this region to foster a new future. [...] That's a problem."

THE LiNK

concordia's independent newspaper
it's the dolla dolla bills yo since 1980



The money issue



All about the Bordens

It's that time of year again. Leftover Christmas turkey (or Tofurkey, as the case may be) has long since been polished off, school has long since started, your minimum payments on those credit cards are edging upwards, you're on your 14th consecutive day of the ever-tasty za'atar and Kraft Dinner diet, and that tuition deadline is awfully close. You've got money on the mind, but what's to be done?

Unfortunately, you won't find the answer to that in this special insert. Along with New Year's resolutions and gym memberships, January is traditionally awash with helpful guides to put you back on financial track after a spendthrift December and quell your buyer's remorse. Rather than trudge a halfway-informative path through the financial ties that bind (or strangle), we decided to question the ties themselves. What is money, both materially and figuratively? When a handful of bills rolls out of the ATM, just what are you holding?

The next few pages will look at how we see money, how we think about money and the economic basis for money. And we're not just talking about dollah dollah bills, but anything people use as currency. We think it's important that people not only question how they spend their money, but the role of money in their lives and in society. So buckle up and prepare yourself for an adventure in cash, credit and everything in between.

—Tom Llewellyn and Clare Raspopow,
Special issue coordinators



Mo money, mo problems

A full reservist strikes out against fractional reserve banking

• CLARE RASPOPOW

Reach into your wallet and pull out a \$20 bill—okay, a \$5 bill—and ask yourself what it is that you’re holding in your hand. The simple answers come first: it’s money, it’s currency, it’s the thing that’s going to buy you your coffee this afternoon. But what is this thing called money we’ve all come to know and love (or hate as the case may be)? According to Steven Mauzy, it’s a fat lot of nothing.

The evolution of banking: a quick and dirty breakdown

Once upon a time, people paid for things with other things: grain for livestock, livestock for smith work and so on. When bartering and gift economies—economies where people do things with the expectation that when they need something done, someone will help them out—became unwieldy or unreliable, people resorted to transactions using small nuggets of precious things: metals, salt, shells, stones, and really anything else people have convinced themselves is inherently valuable.

The transition to commodity money—money whose value is based on the value of what it’s made of, i.e. gold—happened pretty quickly; historians peg the widespread adoption of coinage as early as the first millennium B.C.E. Instead of herding cattle long distances to buy a couple of slaves, a bag full of gold would suffice. How simple!

But even commodity money would prove too cumbersome as the size of economies increased and wealth began to concentrate. No one wanted to carry giant, heavy bags of gold around to buy things. Big piles of gold in your home made you a target for thieves. And on top of that some people were known to cut their coins with cheap base metals to make more of it and to make the cheap, pliable metal more durable.

People then began storing their gold with gold merchants (that could verify the quality of the goods), who would in turn give them vouchers for the sums they had deposited. These vouchers—sometimes small bits of leather, sometimes pieces of paper—would form the basis for a financial system of representative money.

Eventually, these gold merchants

discovered that most people didn’t take their money out too often; they could lend gold out to people who needed it at an increased interest rate and their depositors wouldn’t know or care. These businesses, which were tantamount to private banks, would reserve a fraction of their deposits to cover the amount they would probably need, allowing them to, in effect, multiply the money at their disposal. This system, though crude, would become the basis for fractional reserve banking, the system that all major banks now use.

Eventually, due to the prevalence of private bank failures and political manoeuvring on a national scale, countries would adopt a central banking system. This gives one nationalized bank the authority to print a country’s currency, set the reserve rates—what percentage of their deposits the banks must retain—and control interest rates. These central banks can serve as a safety net when smaller privately owned banks run into trouble—think the United States credit meltdown—and are often charged with the responsibility of seeing that the country’s financial institutions aren’t behaving recklessly.

Fractional reserve banking

“When you loan something that isn’t yours, it’s a fraud,” explained Stephen Mauzy, a financial analyst in the U.S. and part of a minority that favours a return to the full reserve banking system. A full reserve system would require banks to keep the full amount of every client’s deposit on hand.

Mauzy writes for the Ludwig von Mises Institute, an organization created to advance the Austrian School of economic thought which says that, due to the complexities of human beings and economic systems, financial modelling is difficult to the point of being useless.

He is troubled by what he sees as the artificial inflation of wealth that fractional reserve banking allows.

“The supply of money is basically driven by loan demand,” he explained.

If one bank has \$10 and the reserve rate is 10 per cent (as it is in the U.S.) that means the bank only has to keep one dollar on hand and can loan out the other nine to clients or, as often happens, other banks. A bank receiving nine dollars from the first bank is only required to keep



Mauzy feels the fractional reserve system is as secure as a castle in the sky. GRAPHIC ELSA JABRE

90 cents on hand, allowing them to loan out \$8.10. In effect, most money is a guarantee on the part of the banks, a cool coercive, “you know me, I’m good for it.”

As this process continues, the multiplication of the original \$10 continues to many times its real value. The more people want to borrow money, the more likely the banks are to oblige them by producing more money—which is, in effect, just producing more debt.

“When you get a [money] oversupply, assets get bid up,” said Mauzy, explaining why he thinks fractional reserve banking is harmful for economic stability. “You get a

In effect, what most money is, is a guarantee on the part of the banks, a cool, coercive “you know me, I’m good for it.”

huge expansion [of available capital] and people start paying more and more for assets, more than they should. Then something happens and you find out that the assets aren’t worth that much and you get a crash.”

Mauzy sees the housing bubble as a prime example of this phenomena where houses double or triple in a few years only to crash back down to their original value, sometimes lower. People who had over-extended themselves on the bet that their houses would continue to inflate in value end up losing everything.

If the oversupply of money gets out of control, the central bank—in

our case The Bank of Canada, in the U.S. the Federal Reserve—can raise the reserve rate, requiring banks to keep more of their original deposits on hand. But Mauzy doubts that something like that would happen.

“There’s too much pressure not to raise the reserve requirement,” he said. “People forget what happened [in an economic crisis] pretty quickly. When the pressure subsides from the bankers, they always want more money to lend.”

In Mauzy’s eyes, the solution to this vicious economic cycle is full reserve banking.

“[We need to] get rid of the idea of treating the money supply as a

function of debt demand,” he said. “If we had full reserve [...] there would not be a business cycle anymore. You wouldn’t get these mass speculations, people would be more prudent, I think. You wouldn’t have [such dramatic] inflation either. You’d see a lot less distortions.”

“It would make banks a lot safer. You wouldn’t have bank runs.”

A bank run happens when those people who have invested in a bank lose faith in its financial stability and everyone tries to get their money out at once (think *It’s a Wonderful Life*). If the bank is unable to call in the loans it has made to others or has lost a great deal of money in specu-

lative investing, so many depositors requesting their money back could cause the bank to fail entirely.

But, while Mauzy believes that full reserve is the answer, he’s decidedly in the minority. Most economists think that, the world being what it is, an attempt to return to a full reserve system would be tantamount to economic suicide. Credit at the levels we have come to depend on would disappear. The money supply would drastically dry up.

In fact, some economists such as George Selgin, a professor at Terry College of Business in Athens, Georgia and also from the Austrian school, believe not only that fractional reserve banking is not to blame for the dramatic economic cycles we’ve been seeing, but that it’s the efforts of the central banks to regulate and control the money supply that cause recessions and compound economic difficulties. He advocates the dissolution of the central banking system in favour of commercial banks, whose currency—which they would have the right to produce—would be backed by their own assets.

While his view point is most definitely not in vogue, Mauzy stands behind it. He believes something is to blame for the ups and downs we’ve been seeing and that there’s a simple, but unpopular solution.

“You can’t lend what you don’t have,” he said. “[Full reserve banking] would go a long to curbing the excesses we’ve seen.”



Consumer credit: Casanovan complexity?

• TOM LLEWELLIN

Like most people who grew up during the consumer age of the 1990s, I was raised to believe that one lives and dies by their credit rating. That didn't stop me from promptly wrecking mine as soon as I moved out, but it later became obvious just how recent the concept of using credit in virtually all aspects of life is.

Money lenders were first conclusively documented by Aristotle in the fourth century B.C.E. They managed limited success despite scriptural prohibitions on charging interest—most notably in the *Qu'ran*. But consumer credit for the masses, and the euphoric “shopper's emancipation” that it purports to bring, is a many-headed hydra that only the 20th century could have given us.

The story of consumer credit in Canada parallels similar developments in the United States around the turn of the century. It begins in Canada with Eaton's, the fabulously wealthy “grand old dame” of department stores that once boasted the largest retail store in the British Empire, with 800,000 square feet of floor space, much of it devoted to furs and other fineries.

Faced with a sudden influx of unprecedented wealth triggered by the trans-continental railroad, the store began extending credit to its regular customers who were considered enough of an asset to bank on—they'd certainly return for another beaver pelt scarf at a later point.

The credit notes issued were at

first typed on small rectangles of cardstock, giving rise to the “credit card” nomenclature. The sheer amount of goods available for purchase, thanks in part to these monolithic department stores, drove banks to follow suit by offering on-demand loans to their biggest customers, which they required to be paid back in full upon receiving the bill.

The first independent charge card, free of a department store's mantle, was the Diner's Club brand, launched by a group of New York businesspeople in 1950 and acquired last year by the Bank of Montreal. They decided to target the jet-setting “wine and dine” market that American Express had been marketing travellers' cheques to for nearly half a century.

Up until the beginning of this year, American children between 12 and 17 could hop on the consumption train and enjoy, with a minimum of easily-collected parental information, their Very First Credit Card.

The credit card as we know it today sprung forth in 1968 when a consortium of banks in California unveiled the BankAmeriCard, which was soon renamed Visa. Unlike its predecessors, the card allowed users to run up a monthly balance and take their time to pay it off. The Interbank Association launched their nearly-identical Interbank Mastercharge the following year. In an audacious marketing stunt, they dropped ready-to-use cards with

high limits and interest through a giant regulatory loophole in advertising laws and into half a million American homes.

Many now-forgotten imitators followed, but only American

Express stuck to its guns and stayed a charge card. The privilege of financial ruination with the company remained only for those who could handle paying their entire balance every month. The world's only state-run credit card, Air Canada's *Enroute*, was launched in 1978 when the airline was still a Crown corporation, but died a whimpering death in 1992.

In the 1980s, the American Reagan administration took a puni-

tive approach to living on the margins while living with credit-induced debt by deregulating interest rates. A parallel boom in advertising targeted at children made the debt vortex take its next step—towards the young.

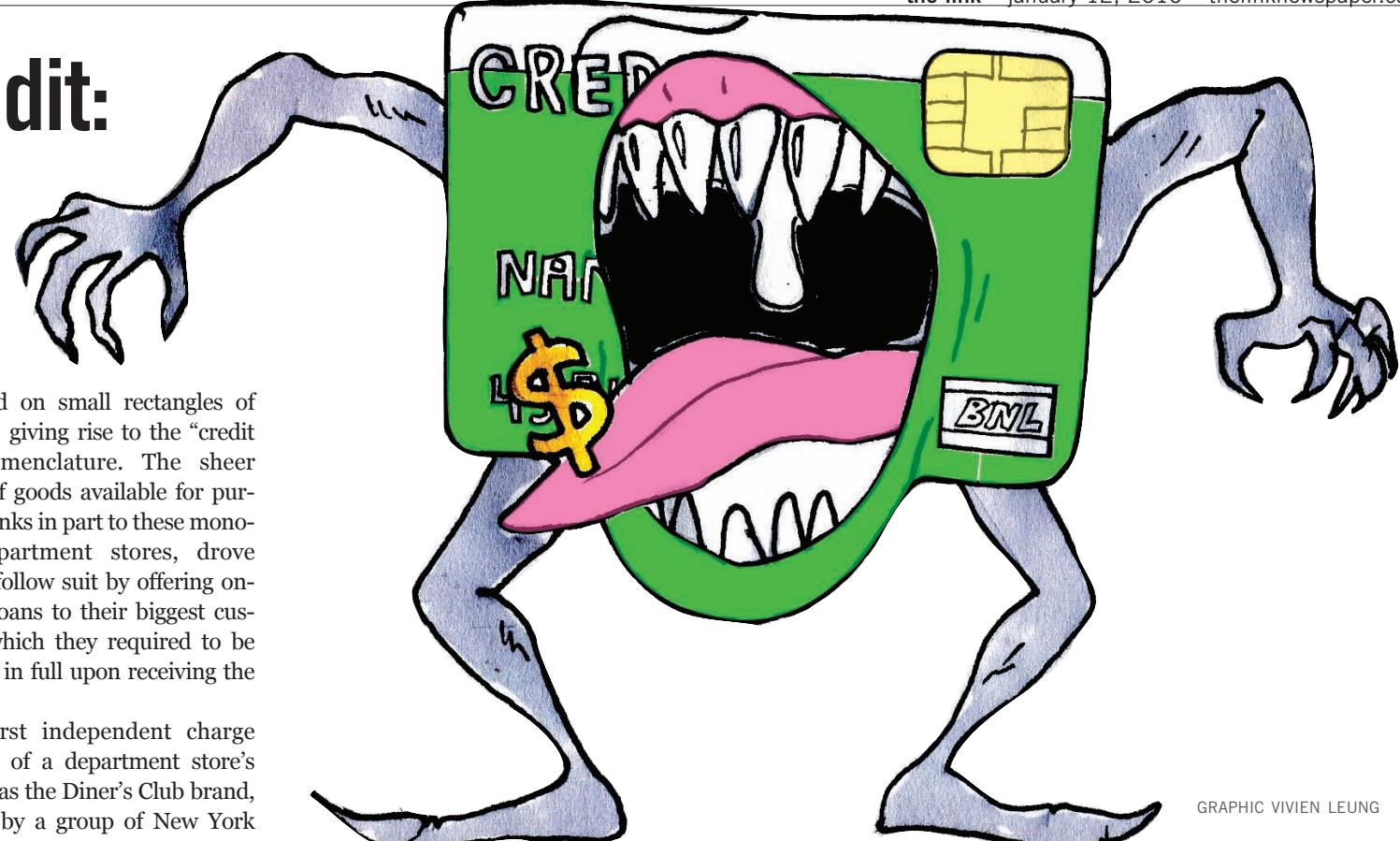
Up until the beginning of this year, American children between 12 and 17 could hop on the consumption train and enjoy, with a minimum of easily-collected (or forged) parental information, their Very First Credit Card, touted to their guardians as a way to enter the future with good credit.

A piece in *Wired* magazine in 2002 captured the spirit of the untrammelled spending euphoria that led to our current recession: parents, up to the gills with inflated mortgages and tuition pricier than a BMW, would wrack up debts in their children's name. The perceived high risk of young borrowers didn't stop lenders from extending obscene amounts, sometimes well into the

five figures, to the young.

In the especially punitive world of American system of credit records, where even the number of credit checks performed counts against you, they were certain to have difficulties getting accepted to university, finding a decent place to live or a job. Mandatory credit checks for a position or a promotion happened 43 per cent of the time in 2006, according to the non-profit Society For Human Resources.

The earliest charge cards have more in common with the cash of today than anything else. A fat wad of bills is simply a fat wad of interest-free loans offered by an underwriting entity—in this case the Bank of Canada—to be repaid upon spending the money. Its value is underwritten in turn by the worth of our natural resources and American companies that together dominate Canada's economy almost completely. Central banking is consumer credit with a prettier face.



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG



GRAPHIC LUPE PEREZ PITA



In the pursuit of status

Cash, consumerism
and those damn Joneses



GRAPHIC DARYNA RUKHLYADEVA

• LAURA BEESTON

More than just the change in your pocket or the balance of your bank account, the concept of money reaches far beyond basic economics. Ideas about cash flow deeply influence our social and psychological behaviours, attitudes and identities.

The relationship between money and status may seem obvious but, according to Bev Best, an assistant professor at Concordia in sociology of culture and media, money has not always been as significant as it has become in our modern world.

"Status, authority or power in traditional, feudal societies wasn't signified by money itself or accumulating money per se," said Best, explaining that it was communicated through aristocracy, property, education and leisure time.

The mental shift that would forever bind money and status came about when a new, industrial class

of the 20th century began communicating their social status through "conspicuous consumption," said Best, adding that, at the same time, "buying beyond the most basic needs became something that almost everyone in the west was able to participate in."

Although conspicuous consumption markedly changes over time and demographics, a fundamental pattern remains.

"The modality of showing, of wanting to differentiate, and of signalling yourself and your social status through what you own persists today," Best said. "There's a cycle of consumption, disposal and need built into it, pushing capitalism and consumption forward—but you can never really get ahead. Eventually people will catch up to whatever you've found to signal your privileged ownership, so you'll seek out the next thing."

Cred without cash

But accumulating or demon-

strating status doesn't necessarily require an iPhone, various degrees of "blinging out" or designer merchandise.

French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu emphasized the influence of political and cultural capital throughout his work, contending that distinction and social stratification may be acquired through education and specialized knowledge.

"To an extent, this carries on today," said Best. "And this is something I try to point out to my students, who are surprised that—though they may have very little in their bank accounts—in their pursuit of education they are acquiring cultural capital, which is something that has status and can be mobilized."

Other examples of cultural capital as removed from straight-up wealth can be seen in our culture of celebrity, added Best.

"There are studies among young people demonstrating it is

more common for them to say 'I want to be famous' than 'I want to be rich and powerful,' which might have to do with how much value we place on visibility in our culture," she said. "[Celebrity] has become a kind of symbol of status in itself, but people mistake this for having actual power or agency in the world. [...] People are distracted, and are maybe getting misled by the way society has fetishized visibility and mistaken it for power."

Status crisis

Considering that "credit crisis" was the catchphrase of 2009, any quest to create, maintain or accurately identify what exactly has 'status' can prove misleading when looking beyond the basic cultural symbolism and at the bigger picture.

Even if you can't afford the next "big thing," a combination of socially acceptable debt and readily available credit enables the con-

sumer cycle to keep on turning. This cycle, by virtue of capitalism, is often competitive at the core.

"It has become the acceptable norm for people to participate in a consumer society, even if they don't have the money. There is a pressure to go beyond your means," agreed Best. "Whether you are 14 or 44, there is a lot of social stress to spend and consume—to give the appearance that you are at least successful enough to participate."

But the collective anxiety to keep up and outdo "the Joneses," ironically detracts from the very thing a person seeks through status: individuality.

"Someone like Karl Marx would say that this competition takes away from our true individualism," which is at the very heart of a sense of status, said Best. "If we are putting our concern and energy into outdoing our neighbour, we cannot really explore or meet our own potential."

The philosophy of money

A roundup through the ages

• TOM LLEWELLIN

German sociologist Max Weber grasped at a "social ethic of capitalism" in 1909 when he tried to figure out the reasons why Protestant Christians—those influenced by Calvinism in particular—were more successful in business enterprises. He boiled it down to the acute self-denial those sects practiced, and their fondness for one of the Proverbs in particular: "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings."

Perceptions of money and why it exists have become much more liberal since the first coins were minted in the first millennium B.C.E.

The mere act of accumulating money was tainted with associations of despotism well into the Middle Ages. Because the state underwrote the value of a given amount based on its reserves of a precious metal of some kind. It was the Roman emperor of the time that truly legitimized the currency—it was the state's currency, and vulnerable to being tainted by association as a tool of the powerful. As far as the collection of ascetic live-off-the-land sects that later coalesced into modern-day Christianity were concerned, the coins of the emperor were his

tyranny and oppression cast in copper and gold.

The "auri sacra"—lust for gold, or *aurum*—was an object of shame for much of the same period in the western world. The Catholic Church were the bankers of Europe and virtually all wealth was concentrated in their hands; for an independent merchant class to accumulate money was not only socially subversive, but also heretical.

Weber's musings prove to be fertile ground when we try to figure out what made the United States—for many years the world's most deliriously successful economy, and one with strong Puritan lean-

ings to be found in its earliest movers and shakers—into what it is. Early American sentiments towards money echo the "Protestant work ethic"—a phrase Weber coined that is tossed around frequently as a potential explanation for American financial success. If given a raise, family-focused, otherwordly Catholics, Weber observed, would rather work less for the same pay as before, while self-denying, world-aware Protestants would rather work more for more pay, and end up with more in their pockets at the end of the day.

John Locke, the single most

important philosopher of the Enlightenment in the eyes of those who framed the country's constitution, laid out a blueprint for the emancipation of capital activity from the state. Again drawing on the Psalms, this time stating that God gave the earth and its resources to humankind to use and define as they "saw fit," Locke wrote that access to those resources, divided up amongst people, was the most efficient way to protect against tyranny. He saw the (mostly) unrestrained accumulation of capital that resulted not as an enabler of despotism, but a means toward liberty.

Money's got soul

What goes on our bills says a lot about us

• CLARE RASPOPOW

The argument started with five women and a \$50 bill. In early 2000, as happens every 10 years or so, the Canadian government redesigned our bills to add security measures, to put in tactile features for the visually impaired and just generally freshen them up. To get them just right the Bank of Canada, who oversees the design and printing of the bills, consulted over 4,000 Canadians from across the country.

The problem arose with a group of five women known as the Famous Five. Consisting of Emily Murphy, Louise McKinney, Nellie McClung, Henrietta Muir Edwards and Irene Parlby, the Famous Five were responsible for bringing the landmark Persons case before the Supreme Court of Canada in 1929. In their appeal, these five women asked that the court clarify whether women were considered people in the eyes of the law. The court came back with a resounding "no," but many agree that the case opened the door for serious public debate on women's rights.

To honour these pioneers, it was suggested they be added to the \$50 bill in the most recent series of bills, Canadian Journey. The only hiccup? Beyond their first-wave feminist rallying,

many of the Famous Five openly espoused racist views; some even supported eugenics legislation that would, among other things, mandate forced sterilization for the mentally disabled and inmates.

But why should that really matter? The images on bank notes are just tiny pictures on pieces of paper that people use to buy things.

"I think most people care about what their money looks like," explained Andrius Tomonis. "[A country's money gives] you a sort of feeling about the soul of a place."

Tomonis is a notaphilist—banknote collector—and runs an online business buying and selling bills from all over the world called banknotes.com. He's been collecting banknotes since the '80s when he was 12 years old.

Beyond their first-wave feminist rallying, many of the Famous Five openly espoused racist views; some even supported eugenics legislation.

"My father had a book full of bank notes," he said. "When he died I found it and started collecting."

Tomonis believes that what a



These five women are the only women—not royal—to grace our currency. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

country puts on a bill says a great deal not only about the kind of people who live there but the country they live in.

"When [the country is] a dictatorship you'll usually just see a picture of a politician on the bills," said Tomonis. "When you have a true democracy, you put something that applies to the whole population on the bills, you put something that everyone can connect with."

Julie Girard, a senior analyst for the Bank of Canada, agreed.

"Bank notes are a national symbol that represent a country to its citizens and to people around the world," she said. All

of the designs are evaluated for whether or not they represent a national, rather than regional, perspective, whether they reflect our modern country, and whether they will still be relevant a decade from now.

At the consultations, the issue of the Famous Five's questionable points of view and political histories were raised. Though they had contributed significantly to Canada's history, there were aspects to these women that were definitely "un-Canadian."

Frances Wright, founder of the Famous 5 Foundation, defended the contribution of these women.

"All people—including our

heroes—are complex beings with strengths and weaknesses," the foundation's website explains. "The information [these women] received was filtered through a lens coloured by their limited experiences."

Though flawed, these women taught Canadians a lesson we value to this day. So the Famous Five have joined the Canadian prime ministers, John McCrae's *In Flanders Fields*, Bill Reid's Haida sculptures and Roch Carrier's *The Hockey Sweater* as indelible pieces of Canadiana. Around the world people will pick up our currency and see a little piece of Canada's soul.

Forgetting dot-com

Why Web 2.0 superstars may be overvalued

• DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

Can you really get something out of nothing?

Surprisingly, this is not the preface to another *Seinfeld* critique; rather, it's one of the fundamental questions of our era.

From a logical standpoint, getting value out of nothing is impossible. "You get what you put in" is an expression with wide-reaching implications. However, social networking media seem to be subsisting off the idea that this alchemical transformation is not only possible, but probable.

Large amounts of money are being invested without the guarantee of eventually turning a profit. In fact, profits are much less important than an ever-expanding client base, and even though current returns are not terribly impressive, there is

boundless optimism about the earnings potential for these new innovations.

I'm speaking, of course, about the many billions that YouTube, Facebook, MySpace and the like are reportedly worth right now. However, if I hopped into a time machine and was transported back to 1999, I could just as easily be talking about the dot-com boom.

For those with short memories, the dot-com boom resulted from an influx of investments into so-called "dot-com" companies. That is, Internet-based companies with an Internet-based business model. Without any guarantee of future profits—most companies ran up operating losses—many still invested heavily in the earning potential that the Internet supposedly had in store. As a result, these companies became massively overvalued. The ensuing

adjustment to the ir stock prices resulted in a minor economic recession and, one would assume, a drastic re-appraisal of online earning potential.

If we have indeed learned our lesson, then why is Facebook valued at over US\$5 billion when its total revenue—not profits, but gross income—from 2009 was a relatively small \$500 million?

YouTube, Facebook and MySpace's monetary value is largely based on assumptions of future earnings potential. In the fiscal year when Google bought YouTube, YouTube pulled in a mere \$15 million in revenue, yet still was bought for \$1.6 billion by Google. They have since increased their revenue to the tune of \$300 million, and are officially "optimistic" about the potential growth of online advertising revenue.

Clearly their earnings have fallen a little short of what was expected—otherwise, why would they be suggesting a subscription model for some content where users would pay a monthly fee? The dream of completely subsisting off of the golden goose of internet advertising revenue seems to have been tempered somewhat.

If the proposed monthly subscription model of service is installed by YouTube, will it continue to be the dominant video-streaming service on the web? Isn't the fact that it is free comprise the bulk of the appeal of YouTube, and wouldn't another free streaming site replace YouTube if users were forced to pay?

Which brings us back to our original question; can you get something out of nothing? Both the users and shareholders of social media sure hope so.



The other national currency

Canadian Tire money, more than just 'funny money'

• R. BRIAN HASTIE

Canadians pride themselves on many things: a beautiful landscape, a thoughtful and reserved population, many respected literary figures, and to those in the know, a second secret currency, still running wild after 50 years in existence.

Canadian Tire money is seen as a hindrance by some, the punchline to a joke about the Canadian identity, but to most, it's seen as one of Canada's best-loved and successful customer loyalty programs, still attracting customers decades after its inception.

The "money" (which is actually classified as bonus cash coupons, since they are not an actual real currency) was first introduced by the Canadian Tire company in 1957, and recently the company rolled out actual coins to complement the paper stock. Originally designed to be used at Canadian Tire gas bars,

the pseudo-currency has found its way into the cash tills of the regular store as the company realized that its rewards program was bringing in a lot of business.

I've witnessed many instances where people regard this "artificial" money as the real deal; people pulling out wallets while trying to pay for something at the pharmacy I am currently employed at often have regular money grouped together and then neatly-placed rows of white-bordered bills, ready to be spent at the appropriate time, behind the regular currency.

Most recently, establishments in parts of the country have offered to take in the bills, treating it as a real currency. A West Edmonton liquor store did just that in 2006, offering clients the ability to trade in the money for alcohol, the only provision was that the client could not spend more than \$50 of the "funny Canuck money" per transaction.

Sometimes Canadian Tire money may be treated as a collectible too. A quick glance at online bidding sites like eBay reveals a market that places an amount of money far exceeding the face value of the money, both coins and paper.

A roll of Canadian Tire dollars, worth \$25 normally, is now up to close to \$50 on the auction site, turning paper money produced as part of a company's loyalty program into a commodity.

Though many mock that this "Monopoly money" does little to help, it's hard to deny that the \$100 million dispensed by the company yearly does quite a bit to stimulate the economy in a number of interesting ways. The face of Canadian Tire mascot Sandy McTire lives somewhere in almost all of our lives, in our cupboards, closets and wallets, hanging out, silently waiting to be spent. A Canadian institution, located right in your pocket.



GRAPHIC GENE DUVAL

Credit river

Illusion of money creates post-holiday doldrums

• CHRISTOPHER OLSON

You wake up from a hangover and your wallet is empty—you briefly remember being kicked out of a cab for not being able to pay the fare—you begin to wonder if during your elucidation, someone took the opportunity to rob you.

Then suddenly it makes sense. You spent it all. Whatever chump change you had left was either spent on shots or tipping the barmaid.

This January, many more of you were waking up from a holiday-long hangover, wondering who emptied your bank accounts. Then suddenly it makes sense. All that money is under the Christmas tree. You paid with credit without keeping tabs on how much you were spending, and now your credit is no good.

Of course, this is all anecdotal evidence, but it goes to prove one old saying: a fool and his money are soon parted. It also puts another old saying in a new light: "Cash or credit?"

A wise man once said, "I'd gladly pay you tomorrow for a hamburger today." Had that wise man owned a credit card, his wise words would probably have been "I'd gladly pay you next month—plus interest—for a hamburger today, or the full balance with no interest if I pay you before the end of the month."

Credit cards underline the illusory quality of money—there is no real, hard cash to slip through your fingers and no smelling the scent of it, like a Colombian drug dealer. But if you own a business, credit comes at an extra charge from the banks. The cost of copper and other metals to make a penny exceeded the worth of a penny for the first time last year, according to the Royal Canadian Mint, but even though wire transfers don't depend on the manufacturing of metal, they cost a few more pennies to your employer for service charges.

There's no way of getting around it: it costs money to make money, literally.

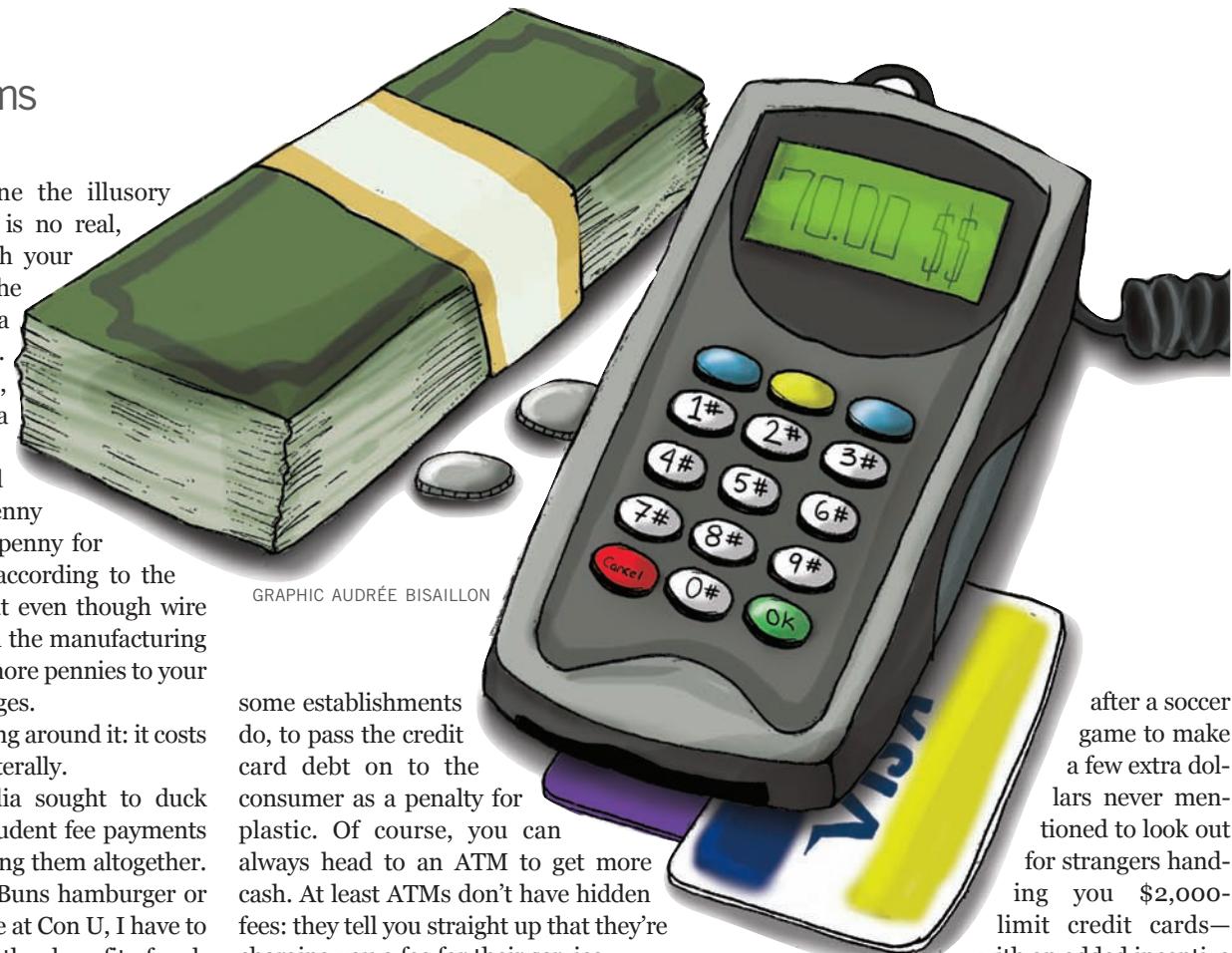
Last August, Concordia sought to duck bank handling fees for student fee payments via credit cards by dropping them altogether. So if I want to pay for a Buns hamburger or enrol in English Literature at Con U, I have to dish out the Bordens (another benefit of cash is that dollar amounts have names once belonging to dead prime ministers, and now poems about hockey jerseys).

The alternative is to raise prices, like

some establishments do, to pass the credit card debt on to the consumer as a penalty for plastic. Of course, you can always head to an ATM to get more cash. At least ATMs don't have hidden fees: they tell you straight up that they're charging you a fee for their service.

But most of you probably don't remember a time without credit cards. Whoever taught you that spending prolonged hours collecting cans from under the beer-soaked bleachers

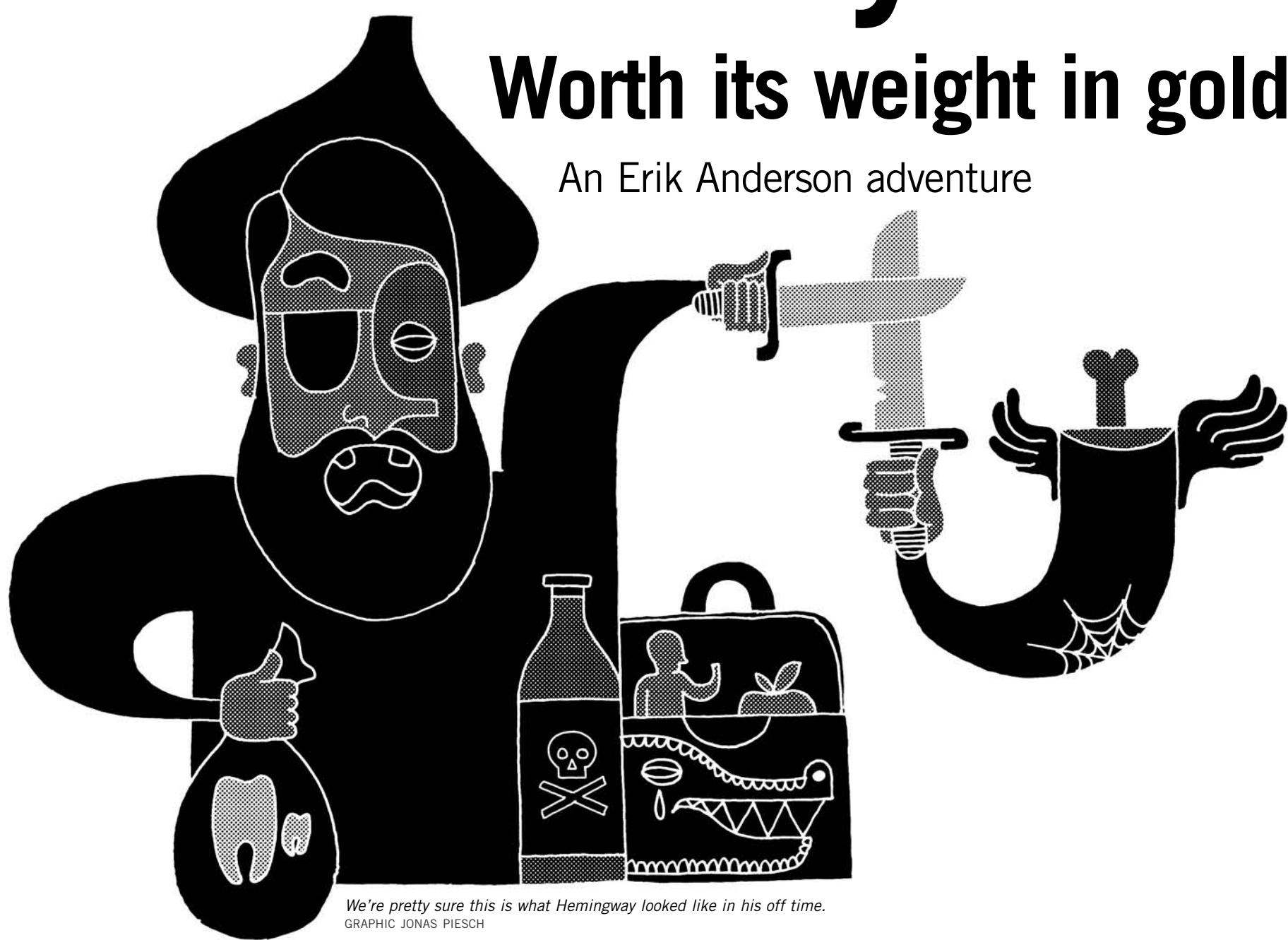
after a soccer game to make a few extra dollars never mentioned to look out for strangers handing you \$2,000-limit credit cards—with an added incentive of a hat just to seal the deal—on street corners. Just don't forget how much fun it was collecting cans when it comes to pay off that \$2,000 bill—and the interest, of course.



GRAPHIC AUDRÉE BISAILLON

Money: Worth its weight in gold?

An Erik Anderson adventure



We're pretty sure this is what Hemingway looked like in his off time.

GRAPHIC JONAS PIESCH

• ERIK ANDERSON

After the meteoric success of my last article in *The Link*, "People's Potato... Famine?", the pressure was on to deliver another slice of literary genius pie. Editors at *The Link* were literally hounding me with phone calls and emails:

"Erik, please, we need you! Your virile and masculine writing is the only thing that can save this paper!!"

My response?

"Ladies, please, there's more than enough of this pen to go around."

(I'm paraphrasing what may or may not have been said of course, but you get the idea)

Anyway, little did they know I had actually run in to *Link* Writer's Block, or LWB.

Yes. Tragic, but true. LWB affects one out of every five male Link writers, and it's nothing to laugh about. It can hurt a male writer's self esteem, his sense of self worth, and even the way he feels about himself. Sure, I tried popping pills, but after a bout of temporary blindness and three inexplicable burns, I realized there must be another way. So I did what any red-blooded hunk would do: I turned to the most masculine writer ever... Hemingway.

Ernest Hemingway used to bathe in malt liquor, punch crocodiles and eat small humans for breakfast. So what did he do

when he felt like his best work was already behind him and that the world was just a dump truck full of stinky crap?

The answer? Good old-fashioned suicide.

.... <cough>

But who needs suicide when you have money, right!?

Money is a fabulous thing! It allows us to commercially barter for goods and services of all kinds. Whether it be an apple or a tug-job, money truly makes the world go round. But not all money is the same. Sometimes a dollar is worth a dollar, but sometimes it's less.

Sometimes a dollar is worth a dollar, but sometimes it's less. This can make life extremely difficult if, like me, you're a jet setter who gets his apples in Frankfurt and his tug-jobs in Peru.

This can make life extremely difficult if, like me, you're a jet setter who gets his apples in Frankfurt and his tug-jobs in Peru. Thus, there is a gold standard by which the fluctuating tides of money will always be measured: standardized gold.

Yes, gold.

The word instantly conjures up images of a Scottish mallard wearing a top hat and spats, diving into a silo filled with coins and riches. But that's not just a duck tale. Money and gold are inextricably linked to each

other. In fact, one used to even equate the other; gold being real money, and money being the phony paper one could redeem in real gold. People would carry it around like change, keep it safe in safes and even grind it down as a topical foot powder by creating a gold bond.

Because of this priceless versatility, super-villains often attempt to hijack gold, most notably Auric Goldfinger, who in 1964 devised a plot to heist Fort Knox's supply.

Luckily for the world, this plan was thwarted by a beguiling British secret agent and his sexy aeronautical accomplice, Pussy

villains take my gold, and Swiss alchemists have the rest, where can I get my mitts on some of this sweet sweet booty? Well, there are really only two ways, and both have their dangers:

1. You can wait until a pirate dies, then try yanking out his gold teeth. This is obviously problematic, as often times a pirate will only appear to be dead, but not actually. The best way to check is to poke the pirate incessantly with a stick, and audibly mock him by saying "Arrrrr."

Pirates hate this, and will immediately maim you in knife fight if they are alive. However, if they don't get up, the gold teeth are yours. Put them in a zip-locked baggie for storage and melt them down later.

2. If you are a pirate, pretend to fall asleep until a passerby tries to poke you with a stick and mocks you by saying "Arrrrr." Chances are they've done this before, and therefore may be carrying several gold teeth in a zip-locked baggie. Engage them in a knife fight, maim them, take their stolen gold teeth and melt them down later.

The good news is: either way, someone is going to get as rich as a Scottish mallard. And I think anyone, even ol' Hemingway, would be inspired to write about that.

From Montreal, I'm the rugged and handsome reporter Erik Anderson, and this has been another Anderson exclusive.

Galore. But is versatility the only thing that makes gold so special?

"All my life I've been in love with its colour..."

That's right, Goldfinger. It's the colour.

Gold is the yellowest metal in the world. A chemical compound, it was created by Swiss physicists attempting to beautify lead. These men were called "alchemists," and remain the primary shareholders of the world gold deposits.

So perhaps you're wondering: if super-

Just watch him

John English finishes the definitive biography of Canada's most divisive prime minister

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

The dial in the elevator turned to 37, the top floor. Sharply dressed, John English walked out and took a seat in the Club Lounge of the Sheraton Hotel. Looking over the southern half of downtown Montreal, an area built between the 1960s and '80s, English reflected on the life of one of the men responsible for building modern Canada.

"The books on Kennedy and Lincoln sell like hotcakes in the United States. In Canada we do not have the same approach, but of our Canadian prime ministers, only Pierre Trudeau stands out," said English. "He was a singular figure, he was dramatic and he was the only prime minister since [Sir Wilfred] Laurier who was truly charismatic."

The past eight years of English's life were spent in the personal archives of Pierre Elliot Trudeau—the size of a three-car garage, according to English—digging through the letters and papers of Canada's 15th prime minister. From his research, English first wrote *Citizen of the World* in 2006, followed by a second volume late last year: *Just Watch Me*.

This second volume is named after Trudeau's famous quip during the October Crisis in 1970 when he was asked how far he would go to protect Canadians. Three days after saying "just watch me," Trudeau invoked the War Measures Act and ordered the military into Montreal.

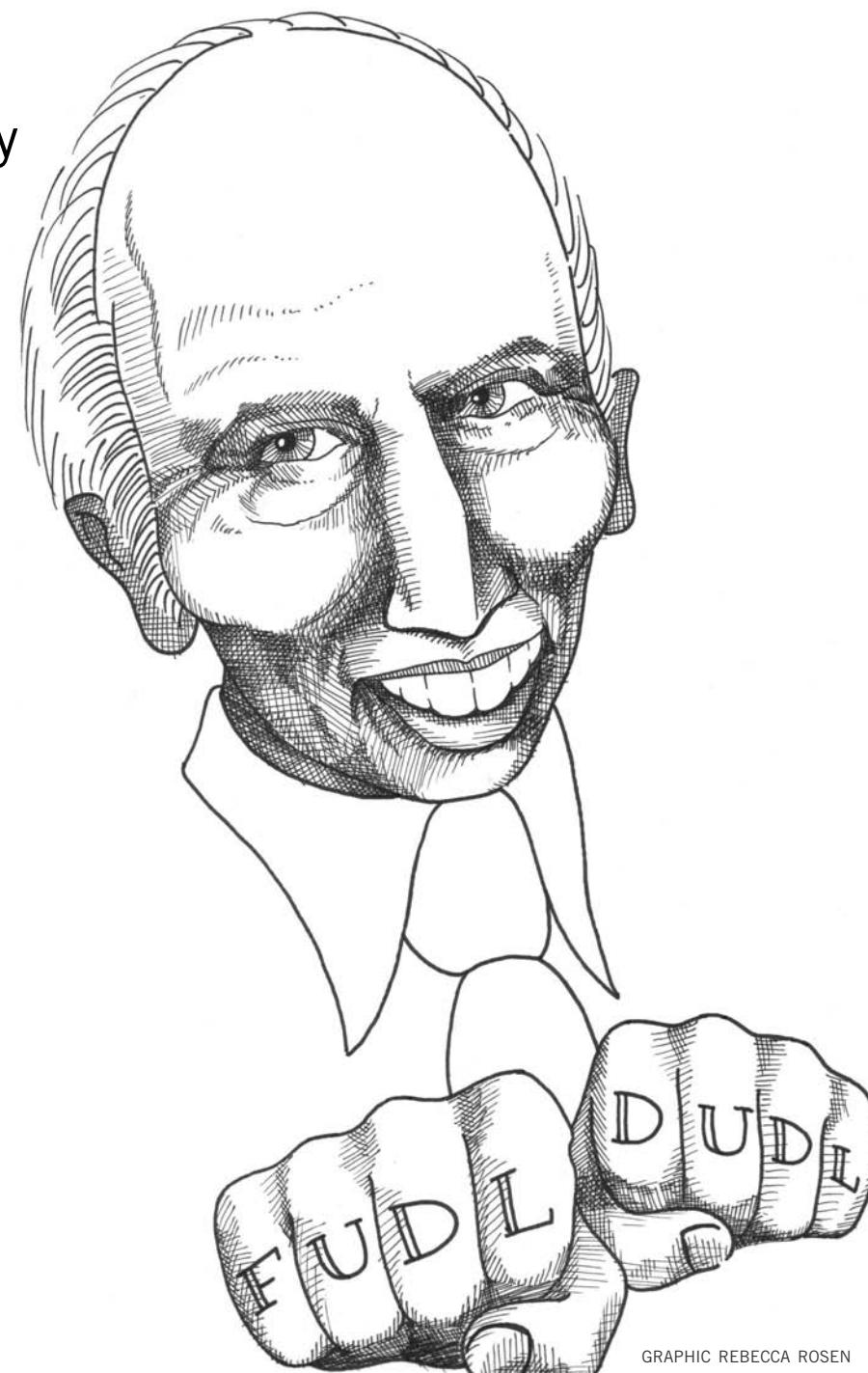
The eight-year project began soon after Trudeau's death in 2000, when English was approached to write an authoritative biography of the late prime minister.

"The Trudeau family asked me to consider writing a book—I had written one on Pearson before—so I thought about it and thought that it was too great an opportunity to pass. His papers are so vast, personal and rich in detail," said English. "Even if Trudeau is of the past, his women are not: Barbara Streisand, Lona Boyd and Kim Cattrall."

During his decade and a half in power, Trudeau was often surrounded by women. The word "sexy" came past English's lips more than once while speaking of Trudeau; the historian seemed genuinely surprised by the prime minister's many escapades with singers and actresses.

Often seen as an arrogant and aloof leader, English saw a different view of Trudeau through his personal writings.

"He pretended he was an intellectual.



GRAPHIC REBECCA ROSEN
AFTER DAVID LEVINE

He wasn't. He stopped reading once he became prime minister and devoted himself fully to politics," said English. A skilled actor—who ran pirouettes behind the Queen, literally—Trudeau also created a myth that he had been drafted to be prime minister. According to English, Trudeau's ambitions were clear.

"He had a tremendous drive for power and leadership, from the earliest pages of his diary he wanted to be a leader and he eventually did," said English. "He was not happy after he left politics. Only politics had the excitement, energy and challenge that kept him intellectually and emotionally fulfilled."

A Liberal member of Parliament during the late '90s, English said he felt pressure to not appear to be too biased in Trudeau's favour.

"I always felt inclined to make judgments but then I realized that it's really too close [...] it's too soon to tell. It's hard to be judgmental about something that still affects our lives, things like the Charter, colour-blind immigration and the social welfare state. All those things kind of define Canada now," said English.

Despite being a dividing figure, Trudeau's name is still invoked in Canadian politics, whether it be in refer-

ence to his son Justin—who English said could become the Liberal leader in the near future—or during a debate on the constitution.

"His memory is decisive," said English. "Michael Ignatieff framed himself to look like Trudeau: an intellectual, citizen of the world, a Canadian who had gone abroad to make his mark, who was so articulate. He is a brand and he remains a brand."

"They will make movies about him for years to come because here is a great story that will play on for generations."

A third book in the series is possible, based around Trudeau's writings and letters, but English warned that Canadian privacy laws make it unlikely as many of the people Trudeau corresponded with are still alive.

Just Watch Me was recently announced as a finalist for the Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction.



Just Watch Me: The Life of Pierre Elliott Trudeau Vol. 2
John English
Knopf Canada
832 pp
\$33.95

quick reads

Inside the mind of mental illness



The Road To God Knows...
Von Allan
Von Allan Studio
144 pp
\$12.95

The Road To God Knows... is an interesting study in how mental disability not only affects the person who is afflicted, but also their peers. The protagonist, Marie, is teenage girl whose mother is schizophrenic. Through the graphic novel, we explore the relationship between mother and daughter, the good days and the bad, the ups and the downs in an unflinching manner.

Marie is painted as a normal teenager, with a best friend who is part of her support network and also harbours a passion for professional wrestling, which allow for some comedic interludes to puncture the tough-as-nails struggle pictured in-between Marie and her mother.

The subject of Marie's mother's schizophrenia is handled quite deftly throughout the novel: the subject of mental disability is never exaggerated or caricatured, minimized or excused, leading the reader to perhaps really feel for Marie.

Allan's drawing style is slightly cartoony but it adds to the story, knowing when to tone down those aspects and adding a *vérité* edge during certain segments for emotional depth. His frame placement is also highly interesting and allows the story to move forward fluidly while keeping it visually interesting.

4.5/5
—R. Brian Hastie

Classic cinema meets short stories



In a Mist
Devon Code
Invisible Publishing
126 pp
\$14.95

Devon Code's debut collection of short stories, *In a Mist*, finds beauty in the ordinary as he explores individuals lost in their seclusions and longing.

Highly perceptive and insightful ideas are instilled within his short stories; such as an outlandish but logical correlation between *Casablanca*, Chess, and God in "The White Knight," the healing power of music in "The Death of Benjamin Hirsch" and the destructive power of good fortune in "Edgar and Morty."

Early jazz and classic cinema are common mediums within the collection—easing the reader into something deeper inside the human soul—as he uses these styles of human expression to articulate and elucidate the enigmatic qualities of our simple actions. The pages are a mere facade to the complications of our lives and are filled with laughs, delightful and horrific surprise endings, cliff hangers and resolve, loss and consolation.

I read *In A Mist* in all of one sitting, but the residual effect, I feel, will extend far beyond one sitting.

3.5/5
—Clay Hemmerich

The little black book

Former Concordia Student Union VP takes Canada to task for its “good boy” image

• AMI KINGDON

Montreal activist Yves Engler presents an impressive list of Canada's international sins in his latest book, *The Black Book of Canadian Foreign Policy*.

Whatever your politics, it's hard to put down *The Black Book* without seriously questioning Canada's image as the G8's good guy.

“Canada's self-appraisal is better than anywhere else in the world,” said Engler. “Canadians as a force for good in the world—I wanted to obliterate that idea.”

The Black Book certainly does that. Some actions perpetrated on behalf of the Canadian government, like the massive presence of Canadian banks in the Caribbean, are offences from a mainly ideological perspective. Others, like Canada's involvement in the removal of Haitian leader Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 2004, should make everyone stop and think.

“Canadians as a force for good in the world—I wanted to obliterate that idea.”

—Yves Engler,
author of *The Black Book of Canadian Foreign Policy*

Engler has a long history of activism. A former VP of the Concordia Student Union, he was expelled following the protest-turned-riot in 2002 during the visit of former (and now current) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Engler violated the university's subsequent ban on handing out pamphlets. He describes his expulsion as a “political witch hunt.”

Engler is also the author of two previous books; *Playing Left Wing: From Rink Rat to Student Radical* and *Canada in Haiti: Waging War on the Poor Majority*.

The Black Book began when Engler visited Haiti eight months after the 2004 coup. After learning of Canada's involvement, he researched Canadian peacekeeping, aid and military exploits in countries from Chile to Egypt over the last century.

Engler got a job as a night doorman, which gave him time to read up on foreign policy. After *The Black Book*'s publication, Engler spoke at a wide range of events to raise awareness.

“A lot of Canadians had trouble believing what we were saying,” he said, adding that people often asked him why Canada was in Haiti at all. Some of those factors, according to Engler, include protecting the interests of corporations and sucking up to our next door neighbours.

“After Ottawa didn't join in the ‘coalition of the willing’ in Iraq,” Engler said, “Ottawa wanted to make it up with Washington.”

One of the more disturbing nuggets in *The Black Book* is how Canadian mining companies avoid prosecution in Canada for environmental and human rights crimes by staking their claims in other countries. According to law, they must be prosecuted in that country, where legislation is often quite different. The book tells how Peruvian indigenous peoples protested Canadian company Talisman in 2008, saying that “petroleum has not brought any development to them [...] on the contrary they are sick and poverty-stricken.” In Papua New Guinea, a Barrick Gold mine “disrupted the area's social order, increas-



Yves Engler, former Concordia Student Union VP, wants Canadians to learn what Canada's foreign policy really looks like. PHOTO AMI KINGDON

ing alcoholism, crime, and rape” in 2007. And a Marcopper mine in the Philippines spilled toxic waste into local rivers in 1993, killing two villagers.

Other issues the book raises are Canada's support of perceived U.S. imperialism, and international aid policies that serve Canadian or elite interests in poor countries.

The Black Book doesn't attempt to explain why Canadians have developed a self-image so at odds with reality, except to suggest that we like to think of ourselves as

better than our southern neighbour.

“Historically, people don't vote based on foreign policy issues,” Engler said. “We don't have personal experience [abroad] [...] we're much more dependent on political leaders and the media.”



***The Black Book
of Canadian Foreign Policy***
Yves Engler
Fernwood Publishing
288 pp
\$24.95

No, you are not ‘tripping’

The Workhorsery launches first novel in second person

• SIMON LIEM

“Cold, dull, pastoral stuff... written by people named Margaret.” This is how an editor of a recent collection of new Canadian writers described the state of Canadian literature.

Whether the description is apt is up for debate, but Jocelyne Allen is part of a growing group of young Canadian authors who is challenging that stereotype.

You and the Pirates, Allen's first novel, is a surreal adventure story, partly written in the second person. Set in Japan, it features explosions, pirates and armies of cats. It definitely does not fit into what her publisher, The Workhorsery, describes as “the traumatic landscape of Canadian fiction.”

“I don't understand why we can't go crazy,” Allen said jokingly, giving her take on Canadian literature. “I find a lot of [fiction] in Canada so earnest and so sincere.”

You and the Pirates is The Workhorsery's first publication. When



What does an army of cats and Can Lit have in common? Nothing. GRAPHIC SIMON BOUCHARD

Todd Ferguson, media rep and founding member of The Workhorsery, found the book, its weird and fun-loving tone was what he and the other members always thought was missing from CanLit.

“We were bandying about how horribly

clichéd Canadian literature was,” said Ferguson, explaining the birth of the publishing company. “We were always talking about how great it would be to start something, but never actually doing it. [Allen] giving us the book was daring us to stop talking shit and go through with it.”

Ferguson is hoping that The Workhorsery can carve out a niche similar to the one McSweeney's occupies in American literature and provide a Canadian forum for more adventurous works of fiction.

Since its September release, *You and the Pirates* has received positive press and comparisons to authors such as Haruki Murakami, a noted post-modernist and recipient of the Franz Kafka Prize. This isn't a huge surprise, considering that Allen wrote the book near the end of a 10-year stint in Japan, while being immersed in the culture and working a variety of odd jobs.

The book is ambitious. None of the characters have names and Allen keeps the first third of the book in the second person. The

device can be jarring, replicating the feel of a Choose Your Own Adventure novel: “You must have passed out again on the way to the hospital because when you open your eyes, you are faced with white.”

“I think it's easier to accept a person as a distinct character but also project yourself [on the character] when it's just the personality,” said Allen.

Allen is not looking to reshape the Canadian identity, but she is hoping that people realize that it can't be pegged down as one single thing.

“If you grow up in Canada, you see a certain representation of Canada and ‘Canadian.’ I do think it's important to identify as ‘Hey I'm Canadian, but guess what, I'm also able to be not the stereotypical Canadian.’”



You and the Pirates
Jocelyne Allen
The Workhorsery
397 pp
\$14.99



A unionized worker cradles a gun at a Colombian Coca-Cola bottling plant in a scene from *The Coca-Cola Case*. The film starts an international tour at Concordia next week.

Corruption Classic

The murder of union leaders at Coca-Cola plants should leave a bad taste in your mouth, say filmmakers

• MADELINE COLEMAN

There just might be blood in that bottle of Coke.

In their documentary *The Coca-Cola Case*, filmmakers Carmen Garcia and Germán Gutiérrez show that a corrupt government coupled with dependence on cheap labour and marauding paramilitaries make Colombia a perilous place to be a union leader. Coca-Cola plants are no exception. The film accuses the Coca-Cola Co. of complicity in the brutal and near-routine assassinations of eight union leaders by right-wing paramilitaries at Colombian Coca-Cola bottling plants over the last 16 years.

Garcia and Gutiérrez want people to take a closer look at what they're drinking. Their documentary follows two American lawyers, Daniel Kovalik and Terry Collingsworth, and the union workers whose rights they fight for in an attempted lawsuit against the beverage giant.

The film, which also features activist group Stop Killer Coke, kicks off an international campaign at Cinema Politica next week in conjunction with the National Film Board. The documentary will screen at all Cinema Politica locals over the course of two months, both in Canada and abroad.

Garcia said that one lawyer, Kovalik, broke a confidentiality agreement with Coke in order to continue speaking with her and Gutiérrez during filming.

"He knew if he didn't talk about the negotiations," she said, "there was no film."

The Link: How did Coke react to that?

Carmen Garcia: The first time the film was shown was in Colombia in September, and we don't know how, but Coke got a DVD copy of the film. They went to the judge who was involved in the negotiations and they said, "Okay, there is a problem there, those people have broken the confidentiality agreement."

"Unions protect themselves with laws, with words, with demonstrations, by talking to the news. But these paramilitary people, paid by the multinationals, they talk with guns."

—Germán Gutiérrez,
director of *The Coca-Cola Case*

The first decision of the judge was that we had to cut some pieces in the film, but they never talked to us directly. They talked to Dan Kovalik and said, "Okay, you have to ask those producers to have those pieces cut." But Dan and Terry [Collingsworth] and the head of the Colombian unionists made an objection to the decision of the judge.

So the final decision is that we have to tell Dan when the film is being shown somewhere. Dan needs to try to get as much information as he can from us so he can tell Coke when we are showing the film.

In this case, Cinema Politica will be showing the film all across the country. Has Coke responded to that?

CG: They had the information before me almost. At one point they wrote to Dan saying, "Why didn't you inform us the film was going to be shown in the Cinema Politica

circuits?" Because Cinema Politica and the NFB did put the information online and at the minute they did that, Coke knew. I was not aware, I was aware the next day or two days later. But Coke knew! Maybe they're very good at getting Google alerts [laughs].

But really, there is not much they can do. We have insurance. Our lawyers talked to the insurance company. There is nothing in the

film that hasn't been said, that hasn't been public one way or the other. There shouldn't be any problems.

What has happened with the lawsuits since you finished filming?

CG: Most of the cases have been dismissed, so that's bad news, but Terry Collingsworth wants to present new cases to the American court. They want to appeal on a few cases. It's very complicated.

Colombian President Álvaro Uribe and his government claim that he's done all these things for the country: gotten rid of paramilitaries, improved work conditions. We haven't heard much about unions. What do you think about that?

Germán Gutiérrez: It's sure that he's reduced the number of assassin paramilitaries, but not in a proportional number. They've killed already 5,000 guys, so now they've killed 3,000 guys. It looks like less,

but it's because there's less people to kill. Less people want to be in unions and less people want to be a leader but they're still killing a union guy every four, five days.

Have any more union leaders from the Coca-Cola plants been killed recently? In the film you say the last time was in 2002.

GG: No, thank god, no. In the last year there were two union leaders killed from the same union, but it was not related to Coca-Cola. But we know one of the [union leaders] in the film received threats of assassination [on] his personal telephone, at his personal address.

How can Colombian union workers protect themselves?

GG: Unions protect themselves with laws, with words, with demonstrations, by talking to the news. But these paramilitary people, paid by the multinationals, they talk with guns. It's not equal fighting and that's why it's terrible. That's why we have to do these kinds of films to show the violence against them and how far the multinationals want to go to keep their privilege [of cheap labour].

What do you think Coke will do when we screen this film at Concordia?

GG: For sure they are going to be around. For sure they are going to try to advertise in the student newspapers. I've been a few times in campaigns around the country, and the same days we are making these demonstrations against Coke, the student newspapers have published a one-page ad explaining why Coke is innocent.

The fact is, Coke wants to make

universities resign [their exclusivity contracts]. [Concordia has an exclusive contract with PepsiCo.]

I showed the film in Bogotá two months ago. It did very well. We had tremendous coverage in Spanish newspapers.

Coca-Cola, the day after, went to one of the major universities and gave Coca-Cola away for free! At the Universidad Nacional. They never, ever do that.

What kind of effect do you hope the Cinema Politica campaign will have?

GG: To show that the company's not so friendly and not so good with the workers. Boycott it or talk to universities to [make sure they] have free [drinking] water in universities.

I know a lot of people who this year at Christmas time said, "Okay Germán, I'm sorry, but there's a lot of people coming and I don't know what to offer them! I bought Coca-Cola, but believe me, after Christmas I will not buy it!" [laughs]

People should be aware of what Coca-Cola is doing.

For the full transcript of this interview, including going up against a corporate giant and why cocaine is the least of Colombia's worries, visit thelinknewspaper.ca/blog.

The Coca-Cola Case screens at Concordia Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in room H-110 in the Hall building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.). Stop Killer Coke activist leader Ray Rogers and the filmmakers will be in attendance. Admission is free. For more info on the Campaign to Stop Killer Coke, see killercoke.org.

Human after all

Toronto's Daft Punk Tribute put a warm-blooded touch on electronic hits

• ADAM KOVAC

What better use for a formal music education than to start playing in a tribute band?

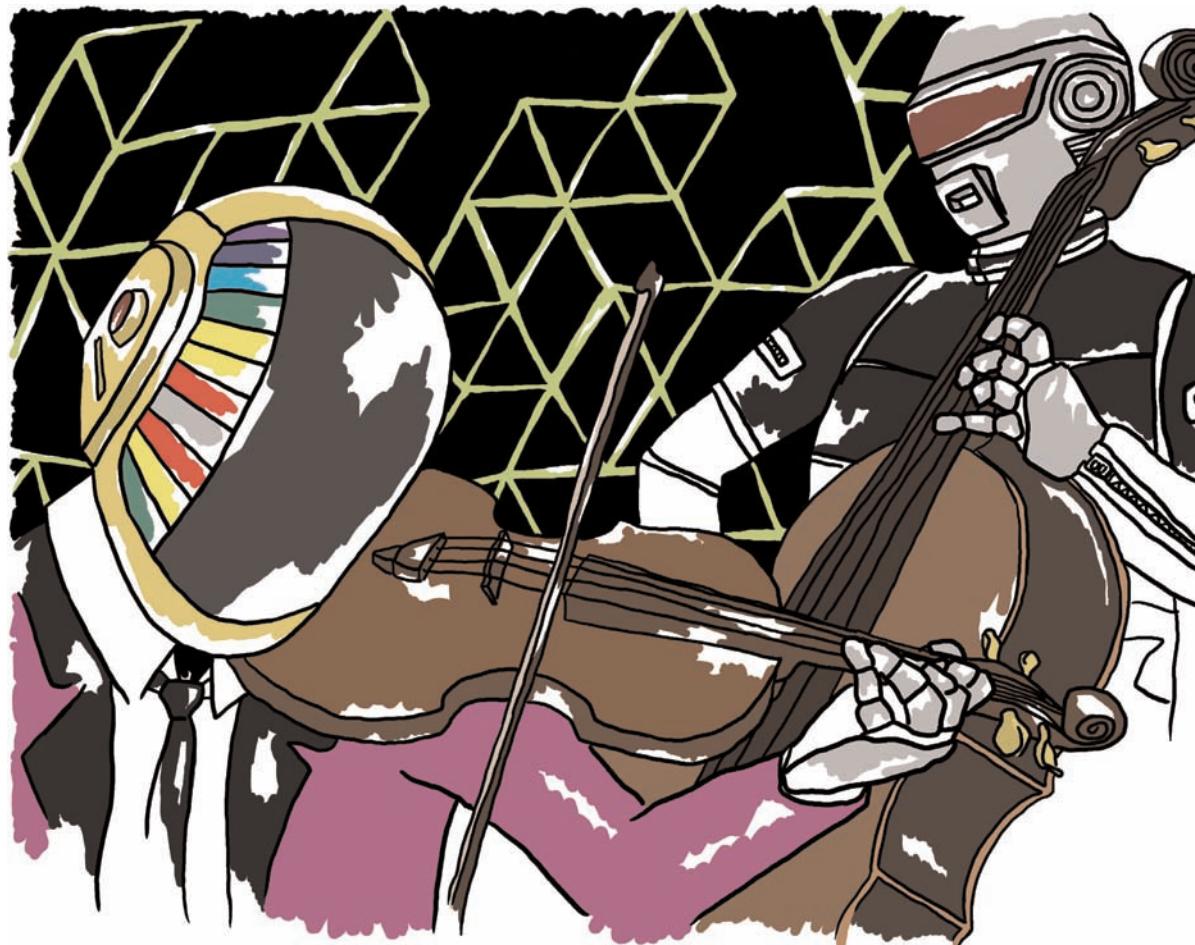
But throw out those images of cruise ship ballrooms and sad sack fan conventions. Toronto's Daft Punk Tribute is no hollow imitation. The 10 members of the band transport the French electronic duo's music into a whole other dimension—one that includes a full horn section.

"We try to stay faithful to the [original] music," said Ryan Spratt, the man behind the Tribute's "vocoder/laser noises." "People have been immediately receptive and supportive. The crowds have been fantastic."

French duo Daft Punk are best known for massive 1997 hit "Around the World," iPod commercial jingle "Technologic," and the sure-to-be-played-at-every-bar-mitzvah number "One More Time."

The members of DPT have all attended Toronto's prestigious Humber School of Creative and Performing Arts, best known for turning out classically-trained players.

While some purists may argue



Precious metals: Daft Punk Tribute's Ryan Spratt says the band "needs ten to do what those two [in Daft Punk] do."
GRAPHIC MARIE-ÈVE BOURQUE

that banging away on laptops does not qualify one as a musician, you won't hear that kind of talk from the members of DPT.

Despite the band's bona fides, translating digital music to acoustic instruments proved to be a daunting task.

"I doubted we could do this when Mike [Eckert, guitarist] proposed it," reminisced Spratt. "Oh man, I remember lis-

tening to it and thinking, 'How the fuck are we going to do this?' Some of the songs came together quickly, others were harder. There's a lot of crazy shit going on, so everyone has their own challenges."

The band includes guitar, bass, drums, keyboards, two singers and a full horn section.

"We feel it's necessary [to have so many musicians] because we don't have the fancy equipment, and what we do is very different from what [Daft Punk] do. We need 10 to recreate what those two do because they're such geniuses," Spratt explained.

DPT obviously can't afford the gigantic light and laser shows Daft Punk are famous for. But do they copy the most iconic visual representation of the band?

"We've talked about wearing the helmets, but instead we wear matching gold jackets," said Spratt. "It would be so hard to play the show with the helmets on. Our trumpet player tried, and at the end of show he was dying of exhaustion. The music's the same, and that's the main thing."

Daft Punk Tribute plays Jan. 15 at 9 p.m. at Le National (1220 Ste-Catherine St. E.). Tickets are \$15.

Breaking it down

Dance festival shows language of movement is really all about your interpretation

• DAVID ADELMAN

Amy Blackmore wants to help the public crack the code of contemporary dance.

"I have heard many people say that they don't appreciate dance, because they don't understand it," said Blackmore. "It's not like a movie or a story that gives everyone the same story. In dance, it's all about interpretation."

A contemporary dance student at Concordia, Blackmore said she felt like there weren't many chances to display her work outside of class. Between the gloss of *So You Think You Can Dance* and what Blackmore calls a "lack of realistic opportunities" for would-be choreographers and other artists, contemporary dance falls between the cracks.

CoMotion Farm's Dance Week, produced by various Concordia graduates and students in contemporary dance, is a festival Blackmore hopes will help to span the divide. She founded the festi-

val this year with a DIY attitude.

"I believe that in order for an artist to gain a professional name, the artist must network and get out into the world," she explained.

Blackmore created local dance company CoMotion Farm last year as a "medium for artists to express their work to an audience and for them to network with each other." Dance Week, the company's first major event, features a special dance edition of Indyish.com's Monthly Mess event and a Common Space Showcase which will invite choreographers to take part in a "compilation performance."

Dance Week also includes a workshop series, open to the public and touching on everything from tap dance to "structured improvisation."

"Amy is trying to bring various artists together from all different types of artistic backgrounds in order to encourage them to create a diverse show," said Holly Greco,

a fellow contemporary dance student and choreographer taking part in the showcase.

Greco said that while she knows most of the dancers—Montreal's dance community is notably tight-knit—she has not seen any of the performances as of yet.

"We are all going into the performance this week blind. We can all relate with the audience in seeing each other's shows for the first time on stage," she said.

"With so many different styles in the show," said Blackmore, "something has to talk to you and really stick with you after the show ends."

CoMotion Farm's Dance Week runs Jan. 11 to 16 at MainLine Theatre (3997 St-Laurent Blvd.). The Indyish Dance Mess goes down Jan. 15 at 9 p.m. The Common Space Showcase happens Jan. 14 and 16. Tickets for both are \$10 general admission, \$8 for students. See comotionfarm.com for more details.



Dancers Stéphanie Bernard and Caroline Rochefort rehearse before Dance Week. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

Good bad, not evil

Local artist unleashes the menagerie in her first solo show

• TANIA MOHSEN

Sickly Pokémon, a dandy giraffe reading the alphabet book and Jesus in an astronaut suit are all members of Claire Boucher's family of freaks.

Boucher, a McGill student who also performs music under the name GRIMES, mounts her first solo exhibition of eerie ink and watercolours this week.

"My work is much more about the bad things. All really good things are usually scary or uncanny," said Boucher. "But I still feel like my ideal world is by necessity pretty earthbound, and I don't think my work is very much associated with my real life or at least the functional aspects of it."

Boucher may be earthbound, but that doesn't mean the material of her art has to be.

"My influences change quite frequently, but I generally have an overriding obsession at any given point in time," she said, citing a current fascination with *The X-Files* and Vancouver's Museum of Anthropology. "The big ones in recent years have been outer space, aliens and things like that. Monsters, demons."

Her fascination for morbid things can be found lying in the shadow of most of her works. Death and gore are commonly found elements in her paintings.

"I like dead faces," admitted Boucher. "They seem like live faces but they aren't, [although] it's hard to tell in a static image—like the faces on statues with empty, staring eyes that are around churches. I kind of want to make paintings that give a similar impression, except less earthly."

Yesterday Boucher caught sight of a dead mouse. This can only mean one thing: new painting!

Claire Boucher's solo show goes down at Bar St-Laurent 2 (5386 St-Laurent Blvd.) on Jan. 14 at 7 p.m.



Claire Boucher: "My work is much more about the bad things." GRAPHIC CLAIRE BOUCHER

spins

Kristina Train

Spilt Milk

Blue Note



Kristina Train's debut album is a relaxing, melancholic and yet heartening journey into the warmth and simplicity of the southern United States. Borrowing heavily on soul and blues, with hints of country thrown in for good measure, it works on making jazz accessible to even the most sceptical. Tracks "Moon Rivers and Such," "Far from the Country," and, of course, title track "Spilt Milk" alone make the trip worthwhile.

The subdued piano, guitar and strings, and the occasional horns and gospel choir combine beautifully to back up Train's voice, the definite focus of the album. A dark, husky timbre complements the singer's flawless pitch and delivery, making the lyrics all the more poignant: intimate, bittersweet words that resonate with the listener. It is a confident and surprisingly mature-sounding start from a promising young singer.

8.5/10

—Maude Abouche

Beach House
Teen Dream

Sub Pop



The third album from Baltimore-based duo Beach House oozes everything I love about their music: the heavy-hearted lyrics, the dark after-hours organ magic, the atmospheric guitar lines and lead singer Victoria Legrand's lush, sultry voice.

Teen Dream expands on the band's haunting sound while settling onto more rhythmic foundations. I am tempted to say that *Teen Dream* is a somewhat predictable release for Beach House, but the band's instantly recognizable sound manages to retain its mystique. The album floats along with a hazy internal logic as Legrand's confident lyrical assurance pulls you willingly from song to song. The arrangements on songs like "Silver Soul" and "Walk in the Park" are familiar yet refreshing, while tracks like "Lover of Mine," show a new side of the band. *Teen Dream* is remarkable because of Beach House's willingness to stick with what comes naturally, while also somehow man-

aging to give you new reasons to love them.

8/10

—Ashley Opheim

Mutiny Within
self-titled

Roadrunner



Jersey kids know how to rock. I mean metal. I mean really. "THE FUTURE OF METAL HAS ARRIVED," reads a sticker on the CD case, and rightfully so. Mutiny Within's debut album is promising and true to die-hard metal fans. The lyrics touch, crush and energize as they explore love, death, sorrow, nostalgia, wrath and other things that we hold near and dear. Unlike most of their musical peers, they happen to know how to enunciate properly, meaning listeners can actually understand what they're bitching about. The aggressive shredding of the guitar combines well with the softer notes of the keyboard, making for a very pleasant ride—if you can call metal pleasant at all.

9/10

—Tania Mohsen

Rosanne Cash
The List

Manhattan



Before Johnny Cash died, he left his daughter a list of country songs he felt she needed to listen to if she wanted to understand the soul of country music. Rosanne Cash decided to turn her father's best of list into an album, *The List*.

That's where the Johnny Cash influence ends.

The resulting album can best be described as Manhattan country, and not just because that's the name of the record label: a sound more dependent on jazz strings and the vocals of Rufus Wainwright than raw guitar. The music is pure vanilla and lacks the soul and emotion that characterizes the other Cash's songs.

The real verdict was delivered by Starbucks, who has decided to play the album in its coffee shops. Rosanne Cash is a Cash in name only.

5/10

—Justin Giovannetti

The DOWN-LOW

Event listings
Jan. 12-18

ART

Il était là

Concordia students Maxime Brouillet and Michael Magnussen show ceramics, painting, photography and drawings.

Monday, Jan. 18 to 29, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Vernissage Jan. 19 at 7 p.m.

VAV Gallery

1395 René-Lévesque Blvd. W.

MUSIC

Crowd Karaoke!

Lyrics projected on the wall, your voice projected from the dance floor.

Friday, Jan. 15 at 8 p.m.

Le Cagibi

5490 St-Laurent Blvd.

Tickets: \$5

Gala at La Sala: Benefit for CME Trust

TONSTARTSSBANDHT, The Pop Winds, Homosexual Cops and Hollerado. Benefits a scholarship fund for students in Kenya.

Saturday, Jan. 16 at 8:30 p.m.

La Sala Rossa

4848 St-Laurent Blvd.

Tickets: \$18 at the door

LECTURE

Beautiful Minds

Interdisciplinary lecture series. Dr. Ivar Mendez, Carmine Starnino and more in dialogue with Professor Norman Cornett.

Tuesday, Jan. 12 to March 27

Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Saturdays, 1 p.m.

Galerie Samuel Lallouz

1434 Sherbrooke St. W.

Contact reception@galeriesamuel-lallouz.com for more information.

DANCE

KATHARSIS: An Evening of Belly Dance Fusion

Dancer and choreographer Audra Simmons in a distinctly non-orthodox take on belly dancing.

Friday, Jan. 15 at 8:30 p.m.

La Sala Rossa

Tickets: \$15

FILM

Carte blanche to Louis Bélanger Local filmmaker screens films by Werner Herzog and more.

Thursday, Jan. 14 to March 12 at 7 p.m.

Goethe-Institut of Montreal

418 Sherbrooke St. E.

Tickets: \$7 general admission, \$6 for students.

See

goethe.de/ins/ca/mon/enindex.htm for more information.

— compiled by
Madeline Coleman

Return to Stinger Dome

New sporting facility excites Con U's athletics department

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

In case you were keeping tabs, this is the 100th article The Link has published about Concordia's Stinger Dome.

The Stinger Dome is fully operational. The seven piece, 75-foot-tall inflatable structure now looms over the Loyola campus like an inflatable King Kong above a used car lot. And while it's easy to get lost in the details, (over 2000 six-inch metallic clips hold the dome's seven sections together, an army of high-powered air compressors are constantly at work to keep the dome inflated, and a series of intersecting steel cables clamp the structure to a concrete foundation) we haven't really taken a timeout to consider what the dome means for Concordia's athletic department.

Years ago, Loyola's South Field was just a plain old grass surface. But the maintenance of grass sporting surfaces is a tricky business; it requires a complex irrigation system, and the field's sods are constantly being torn by cleats and are therefore often in need of repair.

"We could only use [the South Field] about 25 to 35 days a year," said Katie Sheahan, Concordia's director of athletics and recreation.

"When synthetic field turf replaced grass, we saw that number of useable afternoons grow to about 180. And with the dome, we now have a surface that can be used 12 months a year."

Howard Schwartz, manager of Concordia's baseball team, is equally enthusiastic in his assessment of the dome.

"We can have full batting practice in January," he said. "Along with the championship we won last year, the dome gives our baseball program leverage over every university in the country."

"This is the kind of facility you

would have at a NCAA Division I school," he continued. "It really gives the school an edge in terms of recruiting athletes."

For Concordia's football team, the dome means not having to run winter practice on a tiny basketball court.

"Practising in the gym really limits what we can do in the winter," said Christian Walcott, a Stingers half-back who was recently selected to the world football team. "We can do more than just lift weights now. We can get our pads on and have real practices."

Katherine Grace, Concordia's director of sports information, has been helping organize the school's sporting events for years.

"We used to have to host winter league soccer games all the way up in St-Eustache," she said. "It will be so much easier hosting them in our backyard."

Looking beyond Concordia athletics, Katie Sheahan hopes the Stinger Dome can have a positive

affect on the community at large. Sheahan recently reached out to Simeon Pompey?director of Comité Jeunesse NDG, a non profit organization that looks to offer community and cultural groups in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce free sporting facilities?to see how the dome

could accommodate local youth groups.

"We want to give a chance for kids that need this resource to use it," said Sheahan. "So we're looking for the easiest way to get schools and community organizations in here."

Until the university gets its first hydro bill, we can only speculate as to the financial and environmental cost of keeping the Stinger Dome inflated for five months a year. So, for now, we can all bask in the giant white meat loaf-shaped splendour that is Stinger dome.

\$4.2

Cost, in millions, to build the Stinger Dome

\$350

Cost, in millions, to build the Stinger Dome



scoreboard

| | Home | Away | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Men's Basketball | Concordia 69 | UQAM 77 | 2-5 |
| Women's Basketball | Concordia 76 McGill 57 | UQAM 62 Concordia 66 | 3-4 |
| Women's Hockey | McGill 3 | Concordia 0 | 1-9 |

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

schedule

| | Who | When |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Women's Hockey | @ Montreal vs Carleton | Friday, 7 p.m. Saturday, 2:30 p.m. |
| Men's Hockey | @ McGill @ Ottawa | Wednesday, 8 p.m. Friday, 7:30 p.m. |
| Men's Basketball | vs Bishop's @ UQAM | Friday, 6 p.m. Saturday, 7 p.m. |
| Women's Basketball | vs Bishop's @ UQAM | Friday, 8 p.m. Saturday, 5 p.m. |



GRAPHIC JONAS PIETSCH

Stinger eyes world domination, sort of

Men's football player named to World football team

• DERRICK EASON

The Concordia Stinger's football team can boast having one of the world's best young players.

Christian Walcott was one of 31 Canadians that were named to the 45-man World football team roster, which will play the American national junior team in Florida next month. The Link recently spoke with him to find out more about Concordia's up and coming running back.

The Link: How did you feel when you found out you were named to the World football team?

I was shocked. I actually thought it was a hoax at first because I originally got told by Facebook that I had been named to the roster of the World team. Then when I got a call and I found out that this was for real I was happy. I was excited to get a chance to go down to Florida to play with some of the top players in the world who are 19 and under.

How did you get into football?

Well, I used to hate football; I was in love with basketball. My friend begged me to come out and try football when I was 10. He told me I was a big kid and I should play football. Since then I have never looked back.

Was there ever a time that you felt like quitting football? Who kept you going?

I felt like quitting plenty of times, [because of] frustration, losing, etc. My mother was always there to keep me going. She always

told me to keep with it and not let the little things bother me and to continue doing the things I love.

Before playing for Concordia were there any coaches that helped you along in your football development?

Two coaches in particular helped me a lot with my football. My first coach was Ian Warner, and a coach I had as I got older by the name of Robert Allen (but we all called him "Bubba") [helped me too]. They didn't just help with my skill and the game of football, but helped me mentally and helped give me inspiration.

What do you think is your greatest attribute as a football player?

I would have to say my versatility. I can play multiple positions effectively. I play as a running back and linebacker at times and for the World team I'm playing strong safety. I can cover and blitz well along with playing running back. So I would have to say my versatility is my greatest attribute.

What's your next step with football? Where do you want to end up?

I want to continue to improve at Concordia and eventually turn pro. I want to go to the CFL.

What are your expectations for the Stingers next year?

I have high expectations. I think we're going to win the Dunsmore Cup.

Stingers drop eighth straight

Women's hockey team continue to struggle offensively



This is going to hurt. Stingers defenceman Keely Covo braces herself for a shot block. PHOTO ESTHER BERNARD

• ALEX DI PIETRO

Concordia's women's hockey team was outshot 48 to 13 in a 3-0 loss to the McGill Martlets on Saturday at the McConnell Arena?a venue the Stingers haven't won at since 2004.

"We've been preaching it and preaching it but we're still not getting results," Stingers coach Les Lawton said of his team's hesitation to shoot the puck. "There were a couple of opportunities today where we could have gotten pucks to the net, [but instead,] we chose to pass it off and the play got broken up."

The Martlets extended their ever-growing winning streak to 72 games with the win on Saturday, but the Stingers were able to keep McGill off the score sheet in the first period.

"Concordia pressured us to start off and that really helped set the tone of the game," said McGill coach Amey Doyle. "[However,] I felt our girls reacted well."

Stingers' centre Mary-Jane O'Shea had what was arguably Concordia's best chance of the game just four minutes into the opening period, as she caught a drop pass from Natalie May a couple of feet over the opposing blue line and flung a left-handed shot off the outside of the right post.

"I think we did OK in the first two periods, but they were in our end for most of the third," said O'Shea. "They [the Martlets] are fast, but we can keep up with them when we're playing five on five. Their power play is what really gets us."

Concordia was penalized just twice during the game, but the first penalty was enough for McGill's Rebecca Martindale to break the deadlock less than a minute into the second period.

McGill increased its lead to two with an even-strength goal a few minutes later. Kim Ton-That beetled down the left, fired a shot right at Concordia goaltender Audrey Doyon-Lessard, and tucked away her own rebound with a wraparound.

The Stingers were afforded a power play late in the period, as McGill's Amy Soberano brought down Catherine Rancourt. Concordia's Emilie Bocchia and Erin Lally had chances in front of the McGill net, but goaltender Andrea Weckman was there to alleviate the pressure. The Stingers have not yet scored with the man advantage, despite 45 attempts this season.

"We're a young team and we've got some growing to do, and some of that growth has to come on our special teams," said coach Lawton. "We've got some players that can do things offensively, we've just got to get them on track."

McGill's Vanessa Davidson rounded out the scoring early in the third period, after she pounced on a loose puck and flicked it in amidst a scrum in front of the Concordia net.

The Stingers will play back-to-back road games this week, as they meet Université de Montréal on Friday and make the drive to Ottawa on Saturday to face Carleton.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

missed connections

The other day in the library, I was taking out books near the design and architecture section. I was initially startled when you ran into me in the aisle. You: tanned with dark hair, wearing a smart grey and black striped scarf. You leafed through Picasso tenderly. Me: long, dark hair with sophisticated glasses and a flare for fashion. Let's meet up to create our own masterpiece.

Me: sitting on the 51 bus. You: hitting me in the face with your iPod chord. Next time, I'll sever your chord, sire, with my teeth.

I saw you at Lulu lemon... my heart stopped. I've been meaning to write you a poem, but this missed connection is the best my feeble mind can

come up with. If only I was into yoga...

In the elevator, Library Building, French department. You: tall, pot-bellied, beard, bags under your eyes. Me: fur, khaki jacket, couldn't stop awkwardly staring at you in the mirror. The elevator doors opened and you left. Merde.

Saw you on the metro last Sunday headed towards Lionel-Groulx on the Green Gremlin. You had adorable strawberry locks that I want to make sweet fiery love to, and a rad woolen hat with rad buttons. Let us be fiery and rad together.

For Sale

Hunk 'a burnin' love bright red, sturdy bike. This street bike is softly used and works well, a nice fixer-upper. I'm

leaving the country at the end of the month, so I'm selling this steamy find at the low-low cost of \$50. Email me at mail@jonaspetsch.net.

For sale: road bike frames, all sizes, all colours. Single-speed builds available upon request. Email me at tilapointe@gmail.com.

Long brown hair, box-framed glasses, vast reserves of wit. You know who you are. Get your ass out to Montreal so we can drink king cans in public once more.

S.D. from Omeleteland. You're a real slice and you know it. Be the pinnacle of my dessert experience.

roommates wanted

Looking for two people who ain't a couple to share a sweet 7 1/2 in the Plateau at

Hôtel-de-Ville and Duluth come January. Must wash their fucking dishes, rinse out their fucking beer bottles, and enjoy their fucking lives. No kittehs or dawgs, please.

Rad people preferred.
Call: 514-435-6719

wanted

Wanted: clean and friendly, preferably francophone roommate to join two clean, friendly girls in a swanky pad in the heart of the village. Adorned with winding stairs, high ceilings and hardwood floors, this apartment will leave you salivating with roomie envy. Contact laurabethbeeston@hotmail.com for more details.

Wanted: Battletanx and Battletanx 2 for Nintendo 64. Will pay \$15 each or \$20 for both. Email me any time at

mgntrn@hotmail.com. I will be online all day.

Wrestling with difficult questions that I need some answers to. Please send some in a stamped envelope to Jonathan South, 6339 Esplanade, H2Y 2G7. Olé.

Edit my papers and I will oh-so-sensually feed you strawberries dipped in chocolate as you recline on my giant ottoman of love. Kisses, S.S.

Retired boxer with a taste for the aural looking for unwanted children to eat.

Looking for penguin-related items to add to my rapidly-growing collection. Of particular interest: coasters, bottle openers, penguin-flavoured snack foods.

Feeling small? Insignificant?

Contribute to THE LiNK

Get your voice heard.
WRITE, DRAW, TAKE PHOTOS.

Come to our weekly staff meeting on **Fridays at 4 p.m. in H-649** and get to know us. If that's not good for you, contact us by e-mail:

editor@thelinknewspaper.ca



Con U for Vendetta

Women's basketball team avenge December loss to UQAM

• LES HONYWILL

**Concordia 76
UQAM 62**

Jill Verhesen's 16 points helped the Concordia Stingers basketball team vanquish the UQAM Citadins 76-62 last Friday at Loyola campus, avenging a Dec. 5 loss to their cross-town rivals.

"This was huge because we didn't have a great performance against them in the first semester and it's the first league game back from the break," said Stingers coach Keith Pruden. "The last time we played them we got distracted and it hurt us, but we did our jobs, so I was really happy with our effort."

"Concordia played much better than us," said Citadins coach Jacques Verchuère. "They played with more basketball sense; they anticipated more and shot the ball really well."

The Stingers benefited from a balanced attack, with four players

scoring in double digits and shooting 46.8 per cent from the field.

Nikita Lee led the charge for Concordia in the first half, draining all of her 10 points in the initial two frames, while Verhesen added nine to help Concordia build a 35-27 lead at the break.

"[Verhesen] is our most consistent player," Pruden said. "To have someone like that is something we can build on with the other kids because now they know what consistency actually looks like. She just goes and goes and nothing ever rattles her. She makes mistakes, but she just keeps playing, and it's starting to rub off on everybody else, so she's really important."

The Citadins never held the lead but kept the game close, never allowing the Stingers to pull away by more than 12.

"UQAM made two big runs, cut the game to a three-point lead twice, and we just kept playing and that's something that we haven't done," Pruden said. "The

kids were able to stay focused and follow the game plan and when we do that we're actually a pretty good team."

The atmosphere heated up as words and shoves were increasingly exchanged to keep up with game tempo.

"I'm very happy with how tough we played, but more importantly how mentally focused we stayed," said Pruden. "They're a chippy team, they lead the league in fouls, they're a very physical team and they were getting frustrated at the end. It's all a challenge; if you get whacked the natural instinct is to whack someone back, but for the most part we did a good job of staying disciplined."

"There will be [a rivalry] after tonight," Verchuère said. "They played really aggressive, really physical basketball and I feel our girls didn't respond to that well, so they'll be ready next time."

The win for the Stingers was highlighted by two similar circus shots made by Andréanne

Grégoire-Boudreau. On both plays Grégoire-Boudreau drove the lane and hit shots while getting fouled hard to the ground.

"I knew I messed up two three-point shots, so I just wanted to drive hard and hit as many people as I could," Grégoire-Boudreau. "They are definitely a rough team to play. They are aggressive, they are all over the place, but that's when you have to keep your focus. You don't want them to get in your mind because that's when they start to score."

Although the Stingers haven't quite reached the halfway mark in the season, Pruden said the win was of vital importance.

"It was big, but as I just finished saying to the team, every game that's left is important because Bishop's, McGill, UQAM and us are all so close that every single game, even the point spread, is significant at this stage," Pruden said. "It's a real knife fight, it's up close and personal with this league. It always is."

46.8

Stingers' field goal percentage against UQAM

4

number of Stingers who scored 10 points against UQAM

16

points scored by Stingers' guard Jill Verhesen

10

First half points scored by Nikita Lee

Late rally falls short for Stingers

Loss puts men's basketball team last in league rankings

• LES HONYWILL

**Concordia 77
UQAM 69**

A late surge by the Concordia men's basketball team failed to overcome a disastrous first quarter as the Stingers fell 77-69 to the UQAM Citadins.

The loss was the third straight for Concordia, who fell to 2-5 on the season while UQAM extended their winning streak to three, to remain tied with Laval for first place in the CIS Quebec Division.

"They were more ready than us," said Stingers guard Evens Laroche, who led the team with 18 points and eight rebounds. "We took them for granted and didn't play hard."

The Citadins started the game on a 22-5 run and closed the first quarter up 32-11. UQAM continued the trend in the second quarter outscoring the Stingers by six and ending the half with a 44-17 lead. Concordia turned the ball over 12 times in the half while allowing UQAM to shoot 5-9 from the three-point range.

"We came out flat, we didn't compete and we paid the consequences," said Stingers coach John Dore. "In the second half we came alive, we played some defence and we stopped them."

The game's momentum swung back in Concordia's favour in the third quarter, where Concordia scored 22 points, five more than the previous two quarters combined.

"We started to feel a little too comfortable and say 'this is too easy,' and we started to lose

focus," said Citadins coach Olga Hrycak. "We've got to remember we're here at Concordia, there's a lot of pride here, they know what it is to win, our guys are learning what it is to win."

"I don't think we've met our expectations. I think we're underachieving right now."

—John Dore,
Stingers head coach

Powered by a 15-point second half by Deecee Krah, the Stingers chipped into the large UQAM lead, cutting it to single digits. Laroche then brought the crowd at Ed Meagher Arena to their feet with an emphatic block.

"In the second half [Laroche] did what he was supposed to do, what he's capable of doing," Dore said. "He can score inside, he can rebound, he's a beast on the boards and he got us going."

The Stingers failed to complete the comeback, however, coming within only five points before running out of time and being forced to foul and turn the game into a free-throw crap shoot.

Hrycak said she wasn't overly worried when Concordia erased her team's once comfortable lead.

"In the past we've been in some tight games and somehow our guys found a way to come through, and I was hoping they still had that in them, and they did," Hrycak said. "We looked shaky at the line for a while, but then the guys



Stingers forward James Clark looks for the open man. PHOTO HUGO-S AUBERT (RUEFRONTENAC.COM)

that went to the line finally did their job, but I tell you we'll be running on Monday."

The Stingers are now tied for last place with the McGill Redmen, but Hrycak doesn't believe that means the Concordia squad should be counted out of the playoff hunt.

"There's not really any team that's going to walk away with it in our league, and [Concordia] has great talent," Hrycak said.

Concordia's next game against the Bishop's Gaiters will mark the halfway point in the season, and Dore hopes the team can improve on what has been a disappointing first half.

"I don't think we've met our expectations," Dore said. "I think we're underachieving right now, I think we have to get better as a team, compete on a more consistent basis, and then we'll be alright."

3

consecutive league-play losses for the Stingers

17

points scored by the Stingers in the first half against UQAM

55.5

UQAM's shooting percentage from the three point line



Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

Support the Alternative

The Montreal-based NGO Alternatives is in trouble, and I want Concordia students to know. The Harper government wants to slash their funding for what seem to be political motives. And that means Concordia students and grads will lose a source of great opportunities. True, Alternatives is left-leaning in their stands on the environment and other issues, so I can see why the Conservatives have no interest in letting them stay in business. But as far as Concordia students might be concerned, Alternatives also provides a great way to get experience in international development and communications.

In my case, for example, I took time off my political science degree at Concordia to do a web design internship with Alternatives in Mozambique. I learned how to design websites, work in the local language with people who were dealing with the fallout of civil war, environmental catastrophes, and other things. And the organization has sent hundreds of other young people on similar assignments. And they have a number of other programs for youth in Montreal who want experience doing international development and communications work, both here and overseas.

Later, when I was finishing that degree, Alternatives helped me do research for a thesis-length project on alternative media. And again, a few years down the road, when I was doing Concordia's graduate diploma in journalism, Alternatives supported one of my grant proposals. Plus, partly thanks to my experiences with them and their support, I got a position in Australia a couple of years ago, as an external communications coordinator with Amnesty International. Alternatives' fundraising training gave me skills I used as a fundraising manager job just last year. And I'm just one guy. Think of all the help they've given their hundreds of interns in Montreal over the years, to say nothing of the thousands of people whose rights they defend and whose skills they build overseas, and how that helps bolster Canada's international reputation.

So for any Concordia students with an interest in international development and communications opportunities, there's a chance to help Alternatives out right now by writing your

MPs and Harper himself, to make sure he doesn't close the door on them, and doors for the rest of us too.

—Darren Shore,
Journalism graduate

Missing the point

Diego Pelaez Gaetz has a point, but is missing one as well. He rails, appropriately, against the self-righteous indignation and fervent moralizing of the anti-meat crowd ("In Defense of Meat" vol. 30, iss. 16). Yet, the domesticated animals of today were more or less created by humans through selective breeding and environmental control. They were domesticated and reshaped for labour and food to the point where their ancestral forebears have little resemblance to their present incarnations.

This species-paternalism helps explain the primacy of meat in the western meal but doesn't justify it. There's nothing wrong, inherently, with eating meat. It is little more than cells processed from the plant matter they eat (unless perversely fed the discarded, unusable parts of its brethren—an industry norm). The problem comes from its cultural place on the plate.

Nutritionists will tell you that the foundation of every meal should be whole grains. Many, though, are content to devour a bacon-sausage-eggs breakfast, a turkey sub lunch, and a steak dinner, all the while somehow divining that they imbue the deepest visceral (and somehow masculine) satisfaction. The question should neither be moral (to a degree) nor defiant but rather of proper nutrition.

Good vegans know they should be supplementing their diet with B12, a vitamin principally found in animal food, and every food pyramid will inform you that your diet should contain far more whole grains and far less meat than people normally consume.

For further proof, look no further than your own mouth for guidance. Your teeth (wisdoms intact) are as follows: 4 canines, perfect for tearing flesh (and ever present in strictly carnivorous animals); 8 incisors in the front, suitable for cutting vegetables into pieces; and 20 molars. Molars, coming from the Latin mola, meaning millstone, are wider, flatter, and more rigid: perfect for grinding grains. Following these proportions, and filling the rest with a complete nutritional regimen, changes the

debate from being one of morality or the right to personal taste, to one of health, proper nutrition and well being. Good health, good taste and good morals all tend to follow in tandem anyhow.

The central role of meat has changed the industry to perverse practices, mass commercialism (detrimental to animals and us) and our idea of what a meal actually looks like, but we have the information and knowledge to begin empowering ourselves again.

—Takeo Kushi,
Finance

Analyzing Copenhagen

First and foremost I would like to wish you all a warm welcome back and a very happy new year.

For those of us who followed the recent international events, the year 2010 might seem bleak, especially after the outcome of the Copenhagen conference. A significant amount of literature has been written on this issue, and while some see it as the beginning of the end, I look at it as the beginning of a new era.

In this I mean that Copenhagen was not a success nor was it a total failure. If one is to contextualize this conference, it was clear from the start that no significant outcome would have emerged from negotiations than involved 192 countries with diverse beliefs and interests. While rich nations regarded Copenhagen as a forum embodying hope, poorer countries saw it as a burden.

This was well reflected in the attitudes adopted by China and India, whose prime interests remained the fight against poverty. In my opinion what really stood out from this conference was not only the growing voice of the emerging powers (China, India, Brazil, etc.) but the civil movements that followed the conference. In my position of the Arts and Science Federation of Association's VP Sustainability, I have seen young and old getting together and organizing events in order to create awareness on ecological issues months before the Copenhagen conference. People who once didn't care about the environment are now forced to take action.

When I talk about the beginning of a new era I refer to the ever growing pressure on the gov-

ernments from civil movements, which will ultimately compel states to adopt environmental measures at the local and national level in the near future. In that respect I encourage everyone to stay optimistic, get involved and continue, more than ever, the fight for a more sustainable future.

—Adrien Severyns,
VP External and Sustainability, Arts and
Science Federation of Associations

More criticism of private model

I don't agree with the orientation of our president as expressed in *The Link*.

Why not intensify pressure on governments to obtain a simplification of subsidizing and granting? The governments have a strong responsibility for academic studies. In France, a budget of around 16 billion euros has been devoted to universities, through borrowing on capital markets. The French government is aware of the importance of universities for the future.

It is worthy of notice that French universities are free (except a registration fee of 200 euros), including international students. France is a populous country (65 million people) with numerous faculties around the country. How come Canada, with two levels of government, with a far smaller population of students, does not entirely finance academic studies? How come the elitist American system is viewed as a model? What does the democratic principle really mean?

Of course, whether the universities are financed by the state or by private donors, they are to some extent subordinated to utilitarian aims, at the detriment of high general culture (fine arts, literature, history, sociology, philosophy, theology), a general culture which should not be held apart, but help direct "scientific" fields and public policy, economic, financial and business management studies towards truly democratic aims and developing discernment of

what is happening now: the generalization of corruption (in the political, financial, economic and even social spheres), a major mark of a civilization's decadence; the rise of a new form of absolutism in western countries, lurked behind an apparent freedom of expression, a freedom that is coerced by censorship (often on scientists, and on media and through medias). Added to the dominant technicist mentality of universities, the U.S. elitist model would have a still higher moral and intellectual cost.

A last point: students' involvement appearing on transcripts, as done in the U.S., is just appalling. Students needing money would work hard volunteering without being paid, to obtain help. So, they would work anyway to pay their studies. The time of university is a time to study. The level of Canadian universities, instead of being improved, would be levelled down. Canadian universities should also exert on governments strong pressure for the improvement of primary and secondary schools, the level of which is so mediocre that universities lower their standards of rating—a fact that the Conference Board of Canada, in its announcement of January 7, seems to ignore.

—Hélène Poisson,
Theological Studies

Sex work unfairly demonized

The article by features editor Laura Beeston "Sex works that works" and by erotic service provider Ariane Valmont "Selling a service" (vol. 30, iss. 17) were perfectly written and beautifully powerful.

It is a sad commentary on our society that human beings helping other human beings should be treated in such a manner while the leader of our government who worships the gun industry and the military industrial complex and shuts down parliament to avoid inquiry into his possible war crimes is not brought before the bar of justice.

—David Sommer 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.

heartaches anonymous



Dear Heartaches Anonymous,

My girlfriend and I recently attended a party and let's just say things got out of hand. After running out of beer, we started shooting whiskey and then tequila. Soon we were alone in the living room with one of my male friends. My girlfriend then joked about us sneaking off to the bathroom and having a threesome. Well wouldn't you know it, a

few minutes later I've got my pants around my ankles and we're double-teaming the love of my life. When I woke up the next day I felt disgusting and jealous. I can scrub all I want but the stench of sexual depravity remains. Am I an orgy guy now? Is my girlfriend a sexual deviant? Was my girlfriend seriously into my buddy? I need some kind of closure on this.

—Depraved and Depressed

Dearest D.D.,

Seeing as your question involves multiple partners, I have decided my mere single brain was not enough and called in some extra help on this side of the Heartaches divide. Namely, the person with whom I am in a long-term relationship of my own.

"Neither of us see why you would now suddenly be 'an orgy guy,'" said Lover o' Mine, henceforth known as "Steed." "Though I hope you pronounce it with a hard 'G.' Speaking of hard, is this a fantasy of yours? If so, if you've thought of a tri-force with your GF and friend before, then maybe it's not so bad. I mean this

is what you want, right?"

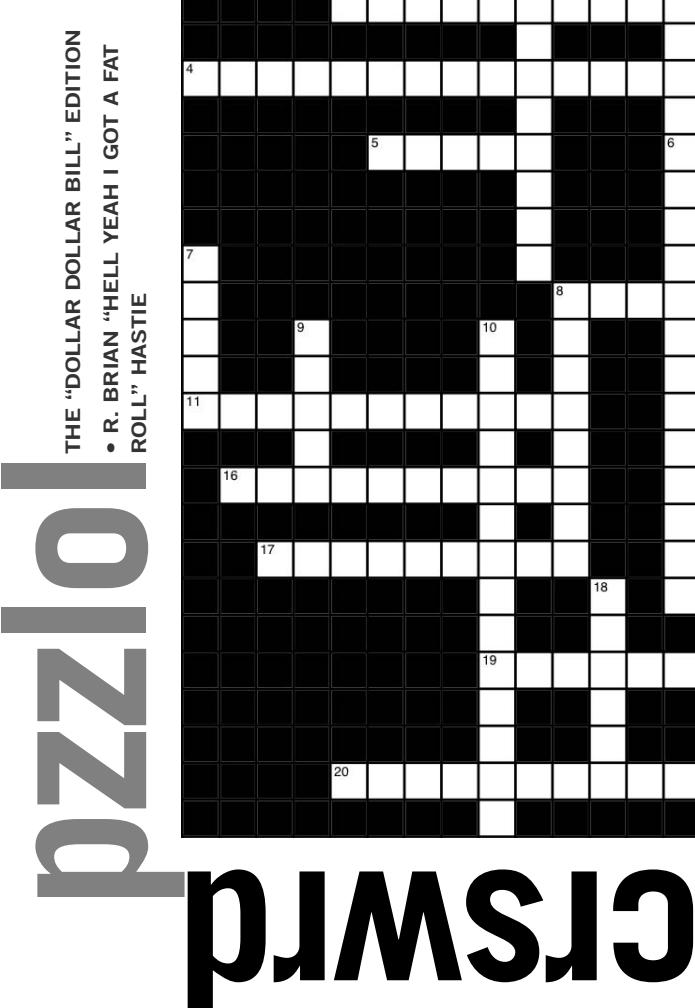
"So if I drunkenly proposed that you and your male friend do the kebab thing with me at the end of a party, you wouldn't be worried about why I would want that?" I asked him.

"Well, like, it's not MY fantasy, man. Can't we just put a cucumber in your mouth?" he said, throwing his hands in the air. "I think we're on the wrong tip though. Clearly D.D. didn't have a latent desire to do this and finds it sexually repulsive. Morals aside, he can't help how he feels. I propose that the three talk it out, which is probably how I'd approach your theoretical kebab desires."

The consensus? Sit down with your gal and hash it out. Not even sure if you need to get your friend—who I highly doubt she's actually into—involved in these preliminary talks. His role in this was, most likely, less about him personally and more about the fact that he could supply a dick.

And if she ever wants it to happen again and you don't, well, it might be her turn to compromise. Tell her to save the double-teaming desire for a special occasion.

Send your relationship queries to heartachesanonymous@gmail.com

**Across**

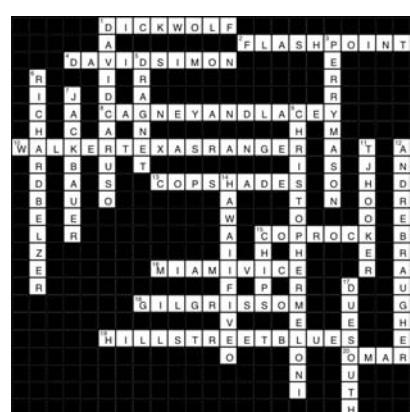
1. The collection and study of money.
4. Steve Miller did it, and so can you. Just head down to El Paso, or the closest cave. Cave: the new loft (5 words).
5. Any substitute for currency which is not legal tender and is often a form of credit.
6. To be in a state of owing. You know, like how you pay rent by borrowing offa your credit card, only to realize you can't pay off that credit card bill.
8. U.S. paper money is made up primarily of this material (as well as some linen). That's why you'll wanna sew a blanket out of bills.
11. This girl definitely works hard for the money (2 words).
12. A chemical element, as well as a sexy symbol of wealth. You can also turn it into bars and make a neato, super-expensive fort out of it, if you have six figures worth of money.
16. Short-term loan offered to cover a borrower's expenses until the next paycheck arrives. Also referred to as cash advances. (2 words).
17. To be able to easily convert to cash.
19. "_____ and chicks for free" (Knopfler would be proud) (3 words).

20. The index by which other currencies are currently measured and valued against (3 words).

Down

2. The board game that teaches you how to be a dirty capitalist bastard. GIMME MORE HOTELS, MY GOOD MAN.
3. Canada's "second currency," considered to be more stable than the dollar (3 words).
7. Slang for money, and also a really tasty part of a sammich.
8. The coins and banknotes used as the physical component of a region's money supply.
9. The root of all evil.
10. Money whose value comes from a commodity out of which it is made. It is objects that have value in themselves as well as for use as money (2 words).
13. An official medium of payment (2 words).
14. Slang for money, "I check _____ like a cheese inspector."
15. Birdman collabo with Lil Wayne and Drake. Boy, do these guys like to waste dollas (3 words).
18. Funds available for a client to borrow from another individual or institution."

issue 17
solutionz

**Correction**

The article "Meatless Feast" in *The Link*'s Food issue (vol. 30, iss. 16) contained two errors regarding proportions of ingredients. The recipe for pie crust called for 750 ml wheat flour and 750 ml millet flour. Both should read 1 cup each. The recipe for buckwheat gravy called for 2/3 cup tamari or soy sauce. It actually requires only 1/3 cup. *The Link* regrets the error.

Read it and weep

BY TRAVIS DANDRO



editorials

The War on Tourists

An exorbitant amount of ink has spilled since the failed attempt of Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab to take down a Detroit-bound flight on Christmas Day.

The anger predominantly lies in analyzing the aftermath that has come of the unsuccessful terror endeavour, with public concern growing around the hasty implementation of new security methods—particularly the 44 X-ray body scanners introduced for international flights across Canadian airports.

But what is remarkable about this issue is more than simply a debate of whether or not it's right to need to have a milky, X-ray photo of your naked body taken in order to board a flight—which arguably does cross the line of privacy and (in)decency—but rather if these new security measures are actually going to be any more effective in a fight against "terror," or if it is simply excessive technological gesturing to cover for the epic lack of information sharing in U.S. "terror" security.

It also seems as though the reactionary measures that took place post-Christmas are proof that those of us living above the 49th parallel have finally piled onto the American terror bandwagon—cultivating a fear of flying and, quite frankly, putting our money (the scanners cost US\$125,000 a pop) and anxiety in all the wrong places.

Furthermore, when it comes to the motivations of a "terrorist"—or anyone else inspired to flex their ingenuity—the general rule is: if there's a will, there's a way. If someone actually wants to take down a plane, they will find the method to beat the system in place. Airport security is undermining the efficiency and services of flying and increasing anxiety with every new technological upgrade. What's next for us passengers, the real suckers who ultimately bear the brunt of new security when someone beats the system?

The game of point/counterpoint in which authorities deal with upgrading security after the fact is little more than what Bruce Schneier, a "security guru," technologist and author, describes on his website as "security theatre."

It's also worth mentioning that he calculated the chance of airline terror at about one in 16 million.

So this notion begs a question: who really inspires terror and fear during airline travel? The random individuals with bombs and bad intentions, or airport security?

—Laura Beeston,
Features editor

The Canadian double-standard

The story of former Concordia student Mohamed Kohail does not tell Canadians what would happen if tried for a crime undemocratically in a foreign country, but it does tell us that there are various degrees of Canadian-ness which are to be interpreted by the Canadian government.

Kohail, who was born in Saudi Arabia and moved to Canada in 2000, was a Canadian citizen when his family moved back to Saudi Arabia. He and his younger brother Sultan were involved in a schoolyard brawl which resulted in a young man's death. Kohail's lawyer has argued the man who died had a pre-existing heart condition, to no avail. Kohail has since been sentenced to death by beheading, and his prospects for the upcoming retrial are grim in what is largely considered a kangaroo court by international standards.

In contrast, Brenda Martin, a Canadian woman from the sleepy town of Trenton, Ontario, made headlines around the same time as Kohail last year when she was sentenced to five years in a Mexican jail and a fine for her alleged involvement in a US\$60 million ponzi-like scheme. Canada rescued her in a chartered plane, soon after her sentencing, despite her already checkered history of fraud.

It seems as though Canada has a double standard for human rights. Our country claims to treat us all as equals under the Charter—which protects citizens and non-citizens alike—but does not act accordingly.

Canada needs to stop rolling over and playing dead, and start using the little bite it has. We need to enforce our existing extradition treaties and create new ones with undemocratic countries. The hard part is that this last call to action requires work. It's so much simpler to create extensive and detailed extradition treaties with the United States and Sweden instead of Saudi Arabia.

If Canada wants its citizens to stand up for this country, the government should stand up for its citizens.

—Terrene Friday,
Editor-in-Chief