

**THE**

**LiNK**

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Concordia

**ONE  
AT THE  
TABLE**

**Student Representation Slashed • 3 pages on the BoG**

SELECTING SENATORS: CSU APPOINTS REPS TO ACADEMIC BODY • PAGE 9

# Bypass Bill 38

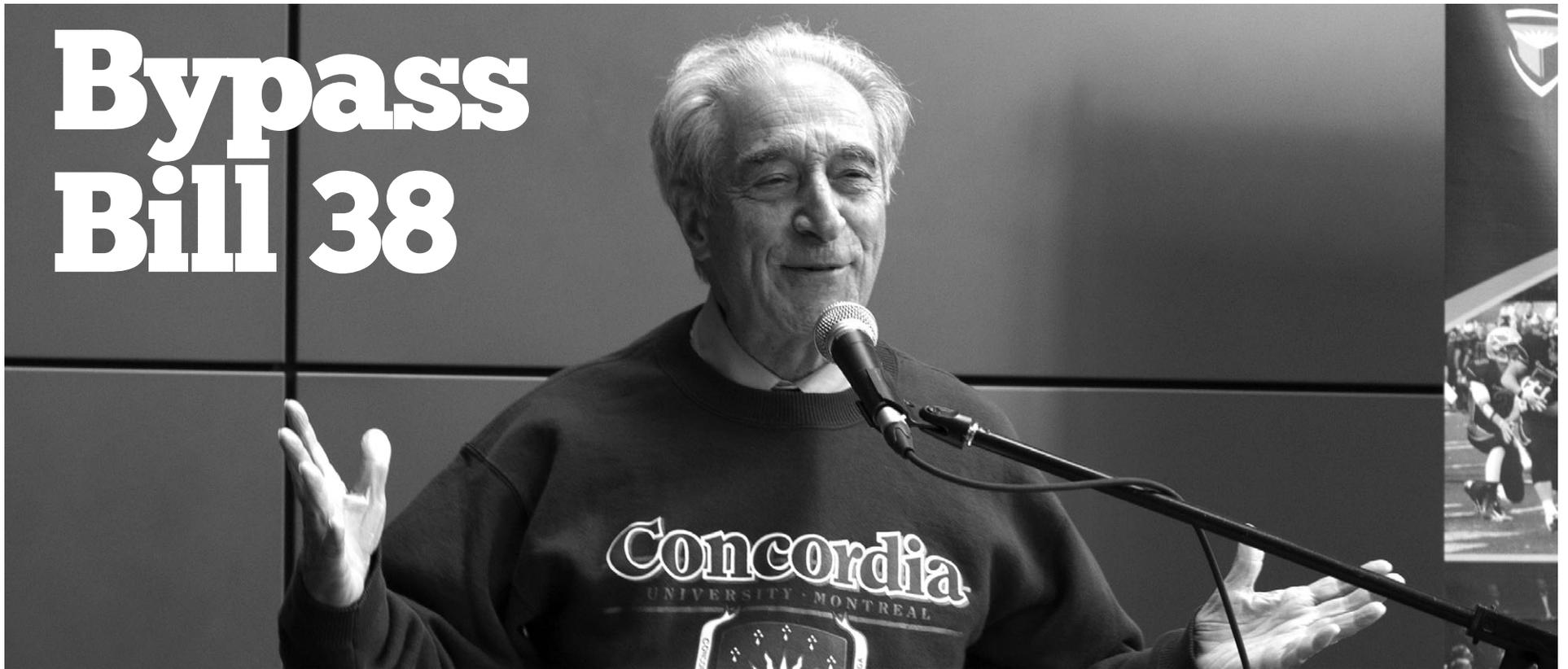


PHOTO NICOLAS MARTEL

## Tabled Bill Behind New Board's Undergrad Rep Cuts

• LAURA BEESTON

A provincial bill that was tabled in 2009 is being cited as one of the major reasons the Concordia Board of Governors aims to cut its student membership.

Bill 38, which was introduced by then-Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports Michelle Courchesne, proposed standardized restrictions on university governance and procedural control on the Board's makeup.

It received a scathing response from Quebec's 18 university bodies when it was introduced for breaching academic freedom, limiting internal representation and drawing governance models from the corporate sector. It was eventually abandoned.

Concordia Interim President Frederick Lowy, however, explained to CBC's *Daybreak* on Sept. 13 that the forgotten bill was one of two major influences that led to the decisions about the composition of the new board, the other being the External Governance Review Committee's report, which was completed in June.

The committee, led by former McGill principal Bernard Shapiro, was established after the departure of President Judith Woodsworth—an event that raised questions among students, faculty and the general public about how the school is governed.

Both documents, according to the president, call for student representation to dwindle.

"The bill was withdrawn, but it hasn't been scrapped. It's still on the order paper and could be re-introduced at any point," Lowy said. "That bill guides us in terms of what the government believes university representation should be like. [...] It's telling us that student representatives need to come down."

Trimming the board down from 40 to 25 members over the course of this year, undergraduate students—who currently hold four

of the 40 voting seats on the Board—are expected to have only one seat at the table if the recommendations are implemented.

When asked if he felt it was the right path for Concordia to take, Lowy said he was unsure.

"I understand the student's point of view and I'm sympathetic to it," he explained. "When you go down from 40 to 25, the math gets difficult."

The abandoned Bill 38 also would also have required the BoG to maintain 60 per cent external members at the expense of internal governors, who are represented by professors, administrators and students.

"Bill 38 specifies quite clearly the proportion of [the board membership] they're calling for," continued Lowy. "If, indeed, it's introduced, we don't want to have a double-shift, to move from something we think might be desirable to something that has to be changed as soon as the government passes it."

There is currently no news on whether the government will resurrect the bill, which the Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec argued would undermine university management and make universities weaker.

The legislation also doesn't sit well with the Concordia Student Union, who have been very vocal about their position on proportional representation.

"We are deeply troubled by the proposal to cut both the absolute and proportional undergraduate representation on the board," Concordia Student Union President Lex Gill told *The Gazette* on June 16. "I cannot stress enough the value of having a vocal, empowered student presence at that table."

University spokesperson Chris Mota told *The Link* it would be "inappropriate" for the president to comment before the Sept. 28 Board of Governors meeting in response to an interview request.

## DEAR GOVERNANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

### Please Add Another Student Rep to the Board

*Excerpts below are from a letter by the Concordia Student Union's Board of Governors student representatives to the Ad Hoc Governance Review Committee on Aug. 30.*

Concordia has a long history of engaged students and educators [...] Students have historically been able to engage in difficult issues, take part in university affairs and influence decisions.

One need only point to recent controversies to illustrate the damage done to the University and to our reputation by ignoring the internal community, particularly students.

Students, for their part, take a considerable amount of pride in being such a powerful force for positive social change.

They have the ability to directly impact the University's reputation, serve as ambassadors to the greater community when things are well, and are, on the inverse, able to command a significant amount of respect and public attention in the face of injustice. [...]

Resolutions made at the Board of Governors directly impact our members. [...] Such a dramatic reduction of proportional student representation undermines the important role that students play in the university community and its governance.

It is no secret that our membership is the most deeply affected internal constituency in the context of the proposed changes to representation at the Board level.

We, the current undergraduate student Governors, on behalf of the Concordia student body, feel compelled to address this issue head-on. The proposed reduction is

simply unacceptable. [...]

It is reasonable to expect that the absolute number of student representatives on the Board should decrease proportionately with the total size of the Board. However, this is not what the Committee has proposed.

Currently there is one student Governor for every 9,000 students, making up 12.5 per cent of the Board. If we are to maintain this level of representation, theoretically there would be 3.125 student reps.

The recommendation of the Ad Hoc Governance Review Committee to reduce the student representation on the Board to eight per cent, or one student governor for every 22,500 students at Concordia University, this would constitute a 36 per cent reduction in student representation.

Especially when some constituencies have seen increases of 5 per cent or more in proportional representation on the Board, this decrease sends a clear message that the University believes that undergraduate representatives are inconsequential and that their political positions, financial investment and values at this University are not worth fighting for. [...]

This recent challenge to student representation suggests an unwillingness to continue to treat students as equal partners. [...]

With so many promising opportunities for collaboration in the near future, including the proposed Student Centre project, we find this gesture puzzling and unacceptable.

—The Concordia Student Union Board of Governors Representatives

# Still Four on the Board



PHOTOS PIERRE CHAUVIN



AJ West and Cameron Monagle are two of four undergraduate Board Reps.

## Student Reps Speak Up on BoG Membership Cuts

• LAURA BEESTON

Student representation on the Board of Governors—the university’s highest governing body—is in the process of being slashed.

For the time being, though, Concordia’s 35,408 undergraduate students still have four student reps on the 41-person Board—and they’re not leaving without a fight.

At an informal meeting Sept. 6, Laura Beach, AJ West, Cameron Monagle and Concordia Student Union President Lex Gill spoke at length with the Board of Governors about the recommendations made to proportionally decrease student membership by 36 per cent.

“One thing that really irked me was the lack of justification in pursuing this decrease in representation,” said Beach. “We were fed, again and again, this line that when you’re going from 40 to 25, some seats have to be cut, [...] but there was a real lack of any proper motivation for this recommendation, regardless of the fact that I did ask for it very specifically, and more than once.”

The Ad Hoc Governance Committee, a faction of the Board that has been reviewing Board membership since 2009, made the recommendations after reviewing the External Governance Review Committee Report, which was published last June.

The Ad Hoc Committee then endorsed cutting undergraduate student represen-

tation to one voting member, while allowing for a non-voting “Alternate Governor” who will have the right to be present, but not speak at regular meetings or in closed sessions.

“The thing about the alternative representative is that it recognizes that there is a huge problem with [cutting undergraduate membership] and that this is a huge deficiency, but absolutely fails to adequately address this problem,” Monagle explained to *The Link*. “[The Alternate Governor] wasn’t even in the ERGC report, and [the Ad Hoc Committee] changed it to give us this token gesture, saying, ‘That’s the best they can do.’ But it’s most certainly not. The best they can do is to maintain our proportional representation.”

Monagle also said there seems to be an inconsistency with regards to which recommendations from the ERGC the Ad Hoc Committee has chosen to keep, and which they are tweaking.

“At the meeting they kept telling us, ‘we can’t cherry-pick,’ [and were] constantly using this rhetoric to try to discount the changes we’re requesting,” added Beach. “But if some recommendations are malleable, why aren’t others? This is a major issue of contestation.”

If student representation were truly valued at the board, she argued, there would be a way to work around these issues—adding that the best solutions will come from a more meaningful dialogue

on the Board and in the Senate moving forward.

“We’re looking for a bit more time for multi-stakeholder discussion on how to preserve representation of all the factions on the Board when dealing with a decrease of this magnitude. It’s not in anybody’s best interests to adopt [the recommendations] right away,” Beach said.

The student reps are also encouraging students to educate themselves on the governance issues facing Concordia, especially as decisions taken at the Board level—on rising tuition and the joint purchase of a Student Centre—directly affects them.

“We want students to come to the BoG meetings, and we will tweet from the meetings and started a Facebook page,” explained West. “We really want to get input from students about what they think, too.”

All the reps maintained they are looking forward to having a meaningful, respectful conversation when the Board meets this Wednesday, Sept. 28.

“We have to work together towards a better university,” said Beach.

**You can find the Concordia University Board of Governors Student Representation page on Facebook, or follow @ajwest on Twitter for updates at the meeting, which kicks off at 8:00 a.m. on Sept. 28 in EV 2.260**

## THE REST OF THE REPS

• ADAM KOVAC

Concordia’s undergraduates might be on the verge of raising hell because of the proposed changes to the Board of Governors’ bylaws—which aim to reduce their representation—but they aren’t the only ones affected.

One large group that will see its role change is the school’s part-time faculty, who currently don’t have a voting seat. The group is represented by a single observer with speaking rights, a position currently held by Jean Freed.

“I have the right to speak and ask questions, but I do not vote and that is unacceptable for many, many reasons,” said Freed. “We teach close to half of all student course hours, yet we have no actual voting representation, which is a real problem.”

That will change if the new bylaws are adopted, however—part-time faculty is slated to get a voting seat.

According to Freed, having the ability to vote will help towards legitimizing the concerns of part-time faculty members, a group that does not garner the respect they feel they deserve.

“It’s a big improvement for part-time faculty. I’m still concerned that many of the full-time faculty do not seem to consider us to be faculty, but hopefully that’s changing and they’ll come around in that regard.”

While the part-time faculty gains a vote, the full-time faculty stands to lose one, going from six to five. However, due to the Board’s overall reduction in size from 40 to 25, they will see an actual increase in their proportional representation.

There is one unforeseen side effect of that: currently, there are three reps for Arts and Science, and one each for Fine Arts, the John Molson School of Business and Engineering and Computer Science. Under the proposed new numbers, Arts and Science would only have two representatives.

Nina Howe, who is one of the current governors from the Arts and Science faculty, said that this drop represents a similar concern to that of the undergraduate students.

“Certainly the faculty representation, our representation is going down from three members to two. We are 60 per cent of the university in the faculty of Arts and Science, so of course I worry about that.”

While both Freed and Howe expressed sympathy with the undergraduate students, graduate student governor Erik Chevrier said that despite his constituency holding steady at one vote, “Our position would be to have as much student representation in proportion as there is right now.”

“Proportionally we go up, but in general the student’s proportion goes down. Graduate students, even though there is an increase in proportion, it doesn’t change very drastically for us.”

While Chevrier expressed qualms about reducing the size of the board at the price of democracy, Freed and Howe both opined that a smaller Board would be better able to run the university.

“I think hopefully it will streamline things a bit,” said Freed. “I think having fewer governors is probably a good idea, because I think that people will be more involved, but that is indeed an assumption, so let’s hope we’re all correct.”

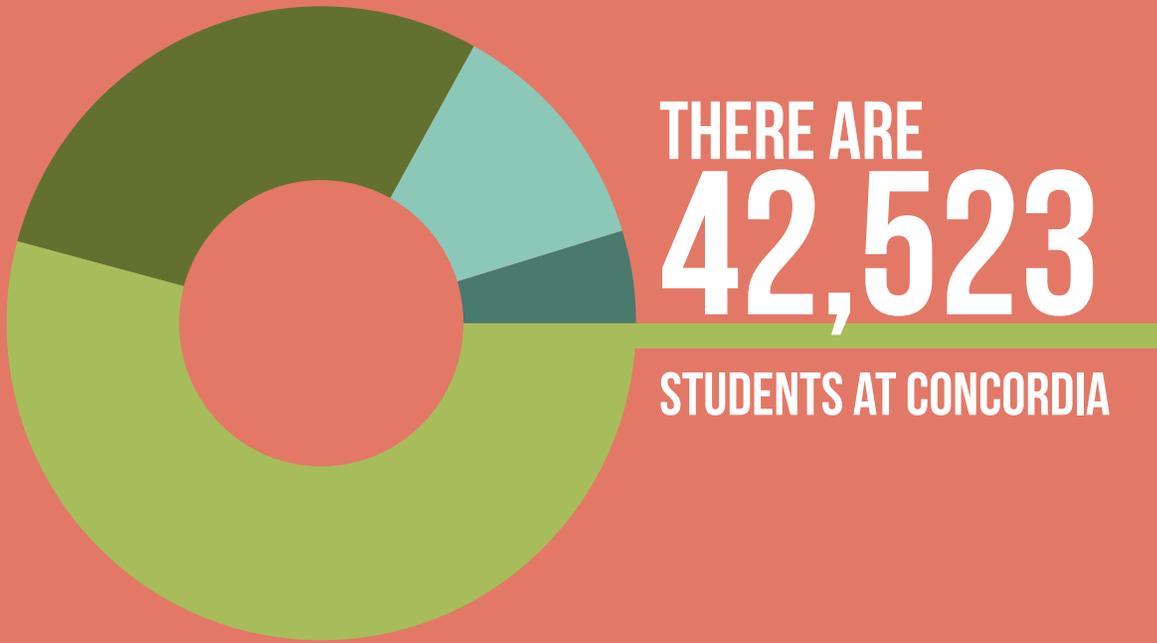
Also affected will be those who are part of Concordia’s pension plan. Under the current bylaws, the pensioners have a non-voting observer who is allowed to speak on matters that directly affect that constituency.

Under the changed bylaws, that position will be eliminated entirely. *The Link* could not reach William Knitter, the current observer, for comment.

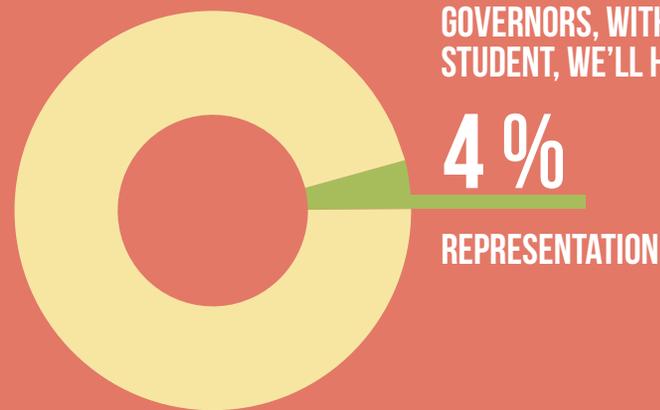
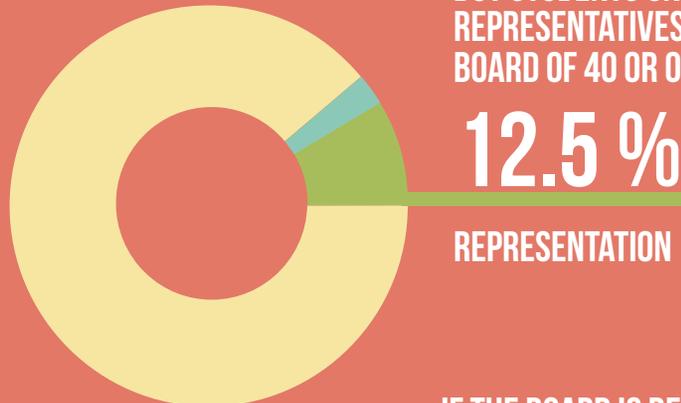
# Represent

## A Breakdown of the Board of Governors

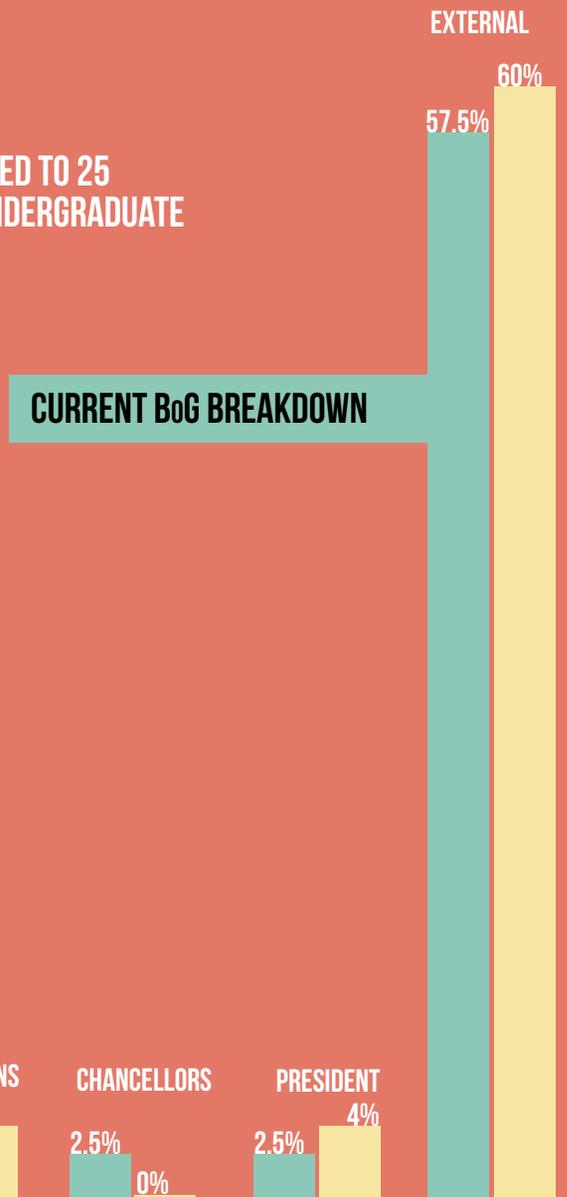
GRAPHIC JULIA WOLFE



IF THE CURRENT PLAN GOES THROUGH, WE WILL HAVE 1 REPRESENTATIVE FOR ALL **35,408** UNDERGRADUATES AT CONCORDIA



**POTENTIAL BoG BREAKDOWN**



# Caring by Not Car-ing



Protesters in bloody bandages enacted an accident en masse on the corner of Ste. Catherine St. and University St. on Sept. 22.

PHOTOS JULIA JONES



PHOTO NICOLAS MARTEL

## Workshops, Conferences, Arcade Fire Mark Car-Free Week

• ELISE FAVIS

From Sept. 19 to 23, the Agence métropolitaine de transport, in partnership with the Société de Transport de Montréal and POP Montreal, presented In Town Without My Car All Week Long, an event that showcased eco-friendly events, concerts and conferences to educate citizens on the effects of car-use and alternative transportation.

"Whether by train, subway, bus, walking or cycling, planned activities this week will be easily accessible and will allow the public to examine the impact of public transportation from all angles," said AMT CEO Joël Gauthier in a press release prior to the events.

Events were also held outside the city, in Trois-Rivières, Blainville, Longueuil, and Lachine, among the places promoting a car-free culture.

Closer to home, workshops, student-oriented discussions, guest-speaker conferences and information booths were set up at Philips Square all week, free of charge.

Thousands of Montrealers and tourists attended the festivities in the square each day, with around 50,000 people strolling through the park on Sept. 22, the only day traffic was closed through much of the downtown area. Cross streets, however, remained open to reduce congestion.

"I love the fact that [the street] is closed to cars," a Westmount

citizen said while walking down Greene Ave., which was exclusive to pedestrian use last Saturday. "It's wonderful to see families and people enjoying the area. People are too attached to their cars. Most cities in Europe have pedestrian zones all year 'round."

"The primary aim of the event is to raise awareness, educate citizens and let them know about the many alternatives to driving in a car alone," explained Charles Durivage of Morin Public Relations. "The AMT works in collaboration with other public transportation organizations and experts to do so."

On the first day of events, several Radio-Canada and *La Presse* journalists spoke to the crowd about the status of public trans-

portation and its future use in the city, while on Wednesday, AMT members discussed their plans for the train system and what they will be implementing to make it more relevant in citizens' lifestyles.

Other events included a 'Die-In,' a bicycle spin on the traditional 'lie-in,' which took place on Ste. Catherine St. on Sept. 20. Participants dressed as wounded cyclists, lying on the pavement, surrounded by ketchup blood and bent bicycles.

The event was held to raise awareness for automobile-related cyclist accidents. According to Statistics Canada, 14,135 people were killed in road accidents in Canada between 2000 and 2004, and 263 of them were cyclists. In

2007, 65 cyclists died, which made up for 2.3 per cent of deaths caused by road accidents.

In the evening, Place des Festivals was closed off for a free concert by local Montreal band Arcade Fire. The event was part of POP Montreal, and sponsored by the AMT, to mark the end of the no-car festival. There were approximately 101,000 spectators.

"We can definitely say 'mission accomplished,'" concluded Gauthier. "We are elated with the success of our awareness-raising activities. I'm confident that they stimulated a lot of worthwhile discussion and enabled the general public to see the brilliant future that public transit and active transport have in our city."



PHOTOS NICOLAS MARTEL

On Sept. 24, a few hundred people gathered in front of the Premier's office on Sherbrooke St. to protest against corruption in the construction industry.

The protest was against the refusal of the Charest administration to set up a public inquiry into the construction business. A study that leaked last week accused Quebec civil servants of colluding with members of organized crime groups to drive up the price of public works projects.

# Arab Spring Turns to Fall in UN

## Montrealers Weigh in on the Bid for a Palestinian State

• ADAM KOVAC

If the bid for Palestine to be recognized as a state that is currently working its way through the bureaucracy of the United Nations is successful, the irony is that Palestinians may wind up being less represented at the UN.

According to Mostafa Henaway, a member of Montreal-based Palestinian rights group Tadamon—which means 'solidarity' in Arabic—his group won't take an official stance on the bid for that reason.

"It's a fact that Palestinians here [in Canada] who are refugees will no longer have any representation, because the Palestinian Liberation Organization right now has an observer seat at the UN [rather than the Palestinian Authority]," he said.

The PA is the ruling administrative body of the Palestinian territories, while the PLO is the body that represents the Palestin-

ian people.

The difference here is that while the PA's powers are limited by geographical borders, the PLO, which has had observer status at the UN since 1974, is able to represent all Palestinians around the world.

"The PLO itself [...] represents people here, and what will happen is that the Palestinian Authority will become the representative body, so the Palestinians here, who cannot return to their homes, will no longer have any representation or any decision-making over their ability to return," said Henaway.

It's an opinion that is shared not just by those outside of the territories, but by some who reside there as well.

That's part of the reason why Hamas, the group that governs the Gaza Strip, and which Canada recognizes as a terrorist organization, neither condones nor condemns the bid for statehood,

according to Julie Norman, a political science professor at Concordia who has written two books on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

"I would say there's a lot of support for this in Palestine, but there's some who don't, for a variety of reasons," she said. "One is that by putting the label of a state on Palestine, it starts demarcating borders that aren't clear for everyone in the region, Palestinians as well as Israelis.

"In particular for refugees and a lot of people in Gaza and in the refugee diaspora, the idea of a Palestinian state defined by borders, there's a worry it would exclude people in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt who are not within those borders."

The president of the UN Security Council announced on Sept. 26 that it would discuss the bid on Sept. 28. Though there are 15 countries on the Council, and just nine votes are required for a vote to pass, the five permanent states

each can veto, which the United States has vowed to do in this case.

When that happens, the issue will go to the General Assembly, where all member countries have a vote. There, they could vote to change the Palestinians from observer status to elevated status, which would open the door for them to join organizations such as the International Criminal Court.

Norman said the Palestinians have anticipated this, and that the purpose is not to obtain statehood, but to put themselves in a better position to negotiate with Israel.

"The General Assembly resolution wouldn't have a lot of direct effects in terms of real changes, but what it does do is it gives Palestinians more leverage in negotiations. It's a very visible show of world sentiment and international support for a state.

"We've seen in the past grass-

roots movements, but not so much state government showing support. It would show, at a very clear scale, that there is an international will at a state level to see a state."

Though Norman explained that the effects of the vote on Canada would be minimal, as it is well known that Canada plans to back the U.S., the bid has already seen repercussions locally. The group Palestinians and Jews United held a solidarity protest on Sept. 23 in front of Montreal's Israeli consulate.

Concordia Hillel President Evara David said that her group has nothing planned, but added, "We are aware, however, that this is inevitably going to be a topic that will be discussed on campus, but in terms of discussing measures, [...] we haven't done that yet."

Concordia's Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights could not be reached for comment.



Speakers gave their speeches before sparse crowds at the QPIRG Bethune Block Party on Sept. 23. The all day event featured free food, guest speakers and workshops. PHOTO ADAM KOVAC

## CEO No-No

ASFA Postpones Byelection;  
Elections Officer Search Ongoing

• BRIAN LAPUZ

Elections will come later than expected for the Arts and Science Federation of Associations, as Concordia's largest faculty association is still looking for a Chief Electoral Officer.

"We have one person who is interested in the job right now, but we're leaving the application process open until Tuesday, to keep it fair," said ASFA President Alex Gordon.

The deadline for appointing the CEO was extended this past week until Sept. 29, as there had been no viable candidates for the position, which oversees ASFA's elections and byelections. A byelection is required to fill the spots left open by the resignation of VP External Affairs & Sustainability Asma Omar on Sept. 15, as well as the vacant VP Communications seat and an independent councillor seat.

Gordon explained the extended nomination period and delay of the elections as necessary in order "to prepare and to train the CEO."

The campaigning and polling periods

for the 2011 byelection have also been moved. Candidates will be campaigning from Oct. 3 to 11 and students may go to the polls on Oct. 12 and 13. The election was originally to be held on Oct. 5 and 6.

During the March 2011 ASFA General Election, candidates ran independently. The slate system, where students run as a team to fill all executive and councillor positions, was abolished due to an overly aggressive election campaign in 2010.

That year, candidates called the CEO in tears and even sought legal advice because of bullying on the part of opposing slates. The change to an independent system meant there was no guarantee that positions would be contested, or even that a single candidate would run for any given spot.

"I see the ups and downs of both the slate system and the independent system," said Gordon. "I don't think it's a better idea to have people run independently. I think we have to find a middle ground. No slates means this happens, there are vacancies, whereas having a slate means you're going all or nothing with your team."

## More Than a Free Show

Arcade Fire's Régine Chassagne Talks  
Haiti at ConU

• DAVID MURPHY

Arcade Fire's Régine Chassagne replaced rock 'n' roll with rubble and rebuilding, as she spoke about the effort to reconstruct Haiti at the closing of Concordia's Homecoming speaker series.

Chassagne was joined by Madeleine Féquière—the two are both Concordia alumni—and Dr. Paul Farmer, to speak about the devastation in Haiti and how to move on from the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that devastated the island nation in 2010.

"When the band started to get popular I realized, 'Maybe this is going to be my real life. Maybe this is what I'm going to do—be a musician,'" said Chassagne. "Then I started to think about how this could benefit Haiti."

Though Chassagne's parents fled Haiti during François Duvalier's dictatorship in the 1960s, she still feels a connection to the Caribbean nation. Hundreds of thousands of Haitians have died as a result of devastating hurricanes in 2004 and 2008 and the earthquake in 2010.

"I'm not a doctor, so what can I do? I

can't cure people or build things," said Chassagne, explaining her thoughts during her first visit to the island state. She eventually began to sing for the "skin and bone" children, which she said boosted their morale.

"It's good to have not just the basic needs in life. Songs, something fun, helps you get through it," she said.

Farmer explained the role of Haiti Compe—the project, whose name translates to "Rise Up Haiti," is one that all three speakers are involved in—is to aid in fighting poverty and to raise awareness about the many needs of the Caribbean country.

"I may fight poverty my way, as a doctor; Madeleine will fight poverty as a successful businesswoman, and Régine fights poverty her way with Arcade Fire," said Farmer. "I think that's the message of Compe. It's about bringing groups together, about breaking this cycle of poverty."

Since the beginning of their latest tour last year, Arcade Fire have been donating a dollar, euro, or pound for every concert ticket they have sold towards Partners in Health, a non-profit organization that contributes to the Haitian cause.

# Academic Appointments Abound



PHOTO PIERRE CHAUVIN

## Council Names Senators, Gives CJLO Another Shot at Fee Levy

• JACOB ROBERTS, ADAM KOVAC & BRIAN LAPUZ

Four new senators were appointed by the CSU at their first Council meeting of the school year on Sept. 21.

The new senators—Michaela Manson, Gene Morrow, Jaime Kelly and Chuck Wilson—all expressed excitement to *The Link* for the change they hope to effect.

"I feel in the past that representation wasn't what it could have been. Hopefully this year we can do a better job to get what students need," said Manson, who also serves as an Arts & Science councillor.

She expressed her dissatisfaction with the current Gender and Sexuality program offered by the university, which only allows for a minor in Interdisciplinary Studies in Sexuality.

"One of my priorities is making sure that the [major in Gender and Sexuality] program sees the light of day."

Morrow's goals are to focus on the Concordia students, saying, "I'm there to be responsive to what senate is doing. I feel like my role there is to observe what is happening in Senate and ensure that students aren't forgotten."

Wilson said he would also like

to see a stronger student representation in school government.

"I think we need to work with the faculty, because school can't work without faculty or without students. Students really deserve a place in the governance of the university," he said.

While Senate added members, Council lost two more. Chair Nick Cuillerier announced the resignations of Erick Ung, who represented independent students, and Stephanie Laurin from the John Molson School of Business.

These resignations followed the announcement last week that councillors John Bellingham and Gregory Syanidis would be leaving their positions.

Council also heard a plea from Judicial Board Chair Cassie Smith for the councillors to nominate more members to the JB, which currently only has one other student sitting on it.

"I really encourage Council and the Exec to take immediate action to appoint as many qualified people to JB as possible," said Smith. "We're basically non-functional because we don't even have quorum."

Smith pointed to last year's heated CSU election, which ended in both slates being disqualified, as a moment that resulted in "a loss of faith" in the

Judicial Board. The JB ultimately re-instated the Your Concordia slate while upholding the disqualification to Action, a decision that was later overturned by Council.

"I feel like it's dangerous to the accountability of the CSU as a whole, insofar as JB is a part of the checks and balances system," said Smith.

"So I've been thinking about where the Judicial Board could be more effective [...] I think it would benefit the Board to be more active throughout the year and receive training that would specifically qualify us to make these kinds of decisions."

Also discussed at the meeting were Concordia radio station CJLO's efforts to have their request for a fee levy increase put on the ballot in November's by-election. The station had been on the ballot in the last CSU election in April, but was ultimately voted down.

CJLO's station manager Brian Joseph claimed that their defeat could partly be attributed to a failure on the part of election organizers to properly provide informational materials to voters.

"Last year, during the [CSU] Election, CJLO asked for a fee levy increase of 9 cents [per credit]," said Brian Joseph,

CJLO's station manager. "We had a huge team of volunteers who went out in droves to speak to as many students on both campuses as possible."

Joseph said that they received a lot of positive feedback from the students they spoke to and that both slates endorsed them during the election.

Last year, former Chief Electoral Officer Oliver Cohen had requested that CJLO provide a brief for students to read at the polling station, but it never materialized. According to Joseph, this might have contributed to the students' refusal.

"I know that at the voting station that I went to on Loyola Campus, the information was not available," said Joseph. "Students who were volunteering for CJLO radio told us that the information wasn't available."

When CJLO heard the news last semester, they became concerned.

"All groups at Concordia University have a C at the beginning of their [acronym]," said Joseph. "When you are a student and you're not informed about something and you just see 'C-something' and it's asking for an increase and you don't know why, then you're more likely to say no."



THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

## WALK FOR HIV / AIDS

Andrie Despere was diagnosed with HIV 20 years ago. "I am living proof of the success of the Farha Foundation," he said. "Today is the day that HIV patients stand equal [with everyone else]."

## OCCUPY WALL STREET

Occupy Wall Street seeks to emulate the uprisings sweeping the Arab world by mobilizing public support for their calls of economic justice. "This is just the beginning of the revolution."

— Paul Thacker, organizer.

## KAI NAGATA

"I took a lot of heat for being 24 and saying, 'This isn't right, there's something out of whack here,'" said Kai Nagata. His speech covered all that he sees wrong with Canadian television news, including corporate ownership, a fear of transparency, underfunded stories, staff cuts and the use of dramatization in order to attract ratings.

## A MOUNTAIN OF SHOES



## HARPER MUTINY

As one organizer impersonated Harper, participants discussed what was stated in the press release as the "coming years of austerity, cutbacks and regressive social policies." The next Harper Mutiny meeting is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 1.

THE LINK 2011 BYELECTION

Byelection October 21 4:00 p.m. H-649

If you have any questions or need more info, email: [editor@thelinknewspaper.ca](mailto:editor@thelinknewspaper.ca) or call 514-848-2424 ext.7407

**There are 1980  
ways to join**

 Concordia

Campus Loyola  
7141 Sherbrooke O.

**THE LiNK**

**#13: Streak through the Loyola Campus**

**or, come to our **friday** meetings. **4 pm,  
H-649****

# Death to the Graphic Novel

## Creator of *Maus* Comes to ConU

• JULIA WOLFE

I really wanted to hate Art Spiegelman.

As a long-time comic nerd and admitted Marvel-rat, I really despise the whole culture surrounding the graphic novel. People who refer to long-form comics this way almost always fit a mold of snobbish philistines who are quick to dismiss a rich and long-standing comic culture without which their precious graphic novels never would have existed.

These people probably have a blog, yet definitely hate what the Internet is doing to our generation and they almost certainly put on affections like dropping words like 'synæsthesia' into day-to-day conversation. You know the type.

My main beef with these people, though, is that they know nothing about comics and seem to treat this ignorance as a point of pride. They label the mass of comics as 'low art' and other, better-marketed pieces, as high-class.

**"I've been saddled as one of the fathers of the graphic novel, and I'm still demanding a blood test."**

—Art Spiegelman

So when I learned that the author of *Maus*—which, besides Alan Moore's *Watchmen*, stands as the king of all 'graphic novels'—was giving a talk at Concordia as part of POP Montreal, I was understandably upset. After all, it was *Maus* that set this culture in motion.

When the two-part Holocaust narrative starring anthropomorphized mice hit stands, the world seemed genuinely surprised that comics weren't just for kids.

The industry had been putting out books of various lengths and moral complexities for years, but publishers hadn't tried calling any of them 'graphic novels' yet. Before that, we just called everything comics and that was just fine by us.

As it turns out, though, Spiegelman was right there with me.

"The graphic novel is a really stupid name," Spiegelman said during his talk, "I've been saddled



PHOTO NADJA SPIEGELMAN

as one of the fathers of the graphic novel, and I'm still demanding a blood test."

Instead of glorifying his own work and speaking, as the man who introduced him suggested, on our "post-literate" culture, Spiegelman spoke about comics. Real comics.

He told us that he learned about sex contemplating *Betty and Veronica*, feminism from *Little Lulu*, economics from *Uncle Scrooge*, philosophy from *Peanuts*, politics from *Pogo* and everything else from *MAD* magazine.

Comics, he argues, are such a great medium for learning because they "recapitulate the way the brain works." It's a sound bite people often use, which is probably good because he says it a lot.

"People think in iconographic images, not in holograms," he told *The Gazette*. "People think in bursts of language, not in paragraphs."

He even credits comics with teaching him how to read. Because the nature of the medium is to illustrate every action, it's a great place for a young kid to start.

*Maus*, however, was never intended for children. "*Maus* wasn't made to teach anyone anything," he said. "It was meant to be read."

He does offer a few example of good learning tools for children, though. *MAD*, which is his favourite, he sees as an "antibody to

pop culture," like *The Daily Show*, *The Colbert Report* and *The Simpsons* (which *Maus* has been featured on).

These shows, he says, "tell you the truth in a way that won't bore you, but [are] still something you need to know." He's coined this trait as 'neo-sincerity,' and it's his highest compliment.

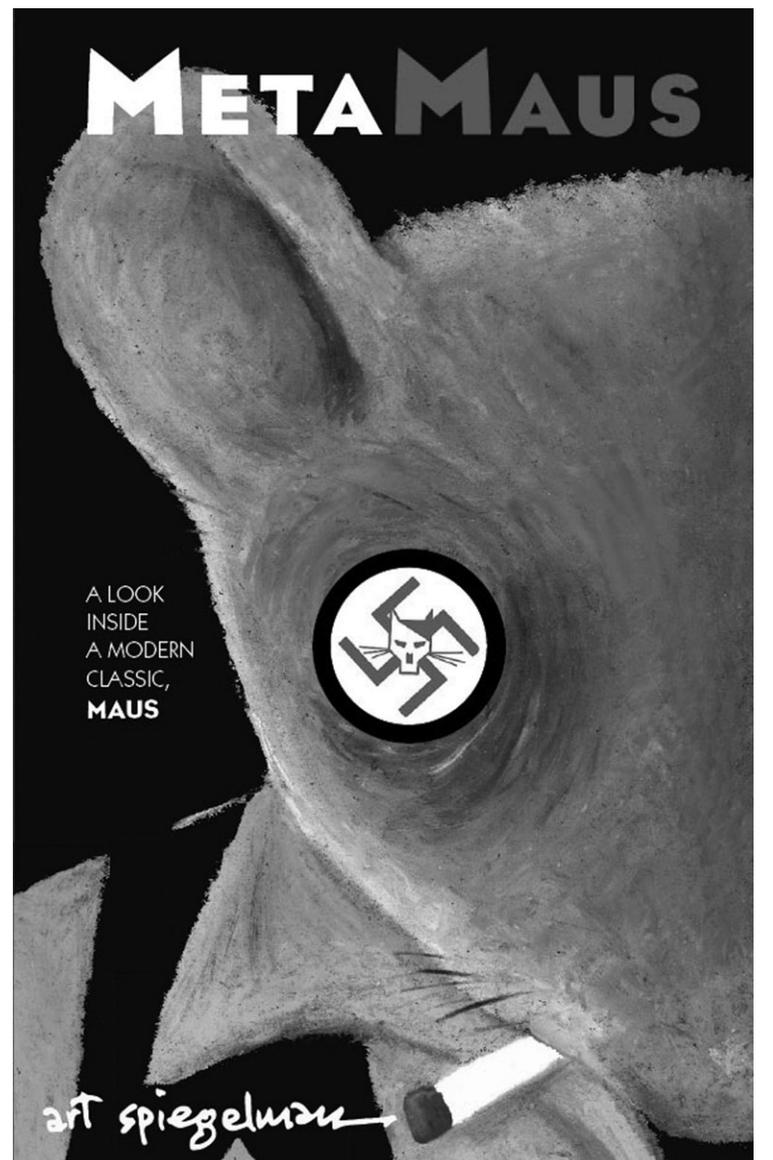
But he feels less kinship with some of the front-runners in the Pop Art world—another movement he's often associated with. Roy Lichtenstein's works, which almost always draw from the world of comics to a degree that verges on plagiarism, do more harm than good, he argues.

"Lichtenstein did no more for comics than Warhol did for soup," he said.

By boiling down comics into single panels in order to mock and degrade out-of-context pieces, Lichtenstein is not "a pop artist who actually respects his sources."

That's not the kind of art that Spiegelman thinks will keep the comic book industry alive. Instead, he points to the flourishing world of indie comics that don't rely on a typical superhero narrative.

Interesting stuff is coming out all the time, it's just important that comic nerds buy the actual books. "The future of comics," he said, "is in the past."



# Art Alive

## Viva! Art Action Offers Food, Performances You Can Take In

• ELENA PAUN

VIVA! Art Action is preparing to run its third edition in Montreal from Oct. 4 to 9.

The biannual art show will be held at the Bain St-Michel and will feature 20 Canadian and international artists. This year, the festival brings events to satisfy all the senses with contemporary artistic performances, DJs and even pre-show suppers.

The show exhibits the rarely-highlighted practice of performance art. Often described as experimental and radical, the art form requires an engagement between the artist and the audience. In a culture where technology has become the primary medium of interpersonal connection, performance art brings us back to the root of human interaction.

VIVA! aims to capture the importance of communication through the physical body. Some works take a more political standpoint, while others will explore themes including memory, identity, physical sensation and the connection between listening and creativity.

Quebec artist Jessica MacCormack will explore the complex position of a cultured society

locked in a neoliberal political framework.

Two German-based artists, Eisenächer and Harder Claims, will explore the importance of rituals within a culture through the examination of Haitian voodoo, Brazilian antropofagia (read: cannibalism) and Southern Pacific cargo cults.

To build a better connection between the audience and the artists, VIVA! Art Action will be hosting pre-show suppers. The meals will be served by French artist SP38, who uses cooking and food in his street art. The suppers are open to everybody, and are a great opportunity to see another side of the performance and the artists themselves.

Expect to be shocked, entertained and to be left with an everlasting impression about this physical art form.

Michelle Lacombe, head organizer for the event and a Concordia alumna, said that the show has “a lot of passion behind it, with great artists and great work. It is a sustainable and meaningful encounter with the art.”

For more information, visit [vivamontreal.org](http://vivamontreal.org)



GRAPHIC CHRISTOPHER OLSON

## LIT ALIGHTS AT THE SPARROW

### Fall Mega-Reading to Feature Three Concordia Profs

• ANTONELLA VICTORERO

Fall is officially here, which means it's the perfect time to curl up with a good book under the swiftly changing foliage.

To celebrate this, the most bookish of seasons, Coach House Books, DC Books and Snare Books are throwing a free mega-launch for the beginning of the fall literary season, featuring multiple authors, drinks and good vibes on Main Street at The Sparrow bar.

“Every season we have a book launch of all of our new fiction and poetry writers in Toronto. We often try to do events in Montreal as well,” explained Evan Munday, Coach House Books’ publicist and the organizer of the event, copping to the inherent duality of the Can-Lit scene. “And this fall, we decided to do so.”

The launch will feature 10 Canadian authors, including Concordia professors David McGimpsey, Sina Queyras and Jon Paul Fiorentino. Each writer

will (theoretically) give a five-minute reading and signing books and mingling afterwards, which will be a great opportunity to casually sip drinks and interact with the authors and assorted CanLit-erati in the house.

“I see this event as a chance to read some of my work, hear some other writers’ work, maybe sell a couple of books and meet people that are interested in literature,” said Coach House author Leigh Kotsilidis. “I hope to interact with the public. I enjoy meeting new people and hearing their thoughts about poetry and writing in general.”

Her new work, *Hypotheticals*, a compilation of poems exploring science as a way of understanding the world, is being launched at the event.

“My poetry is primarily an attempt to expose our own un-reliabilities, as well as the fallibility of science—especially when theories can change from being so true to untrue over time,” she explained.

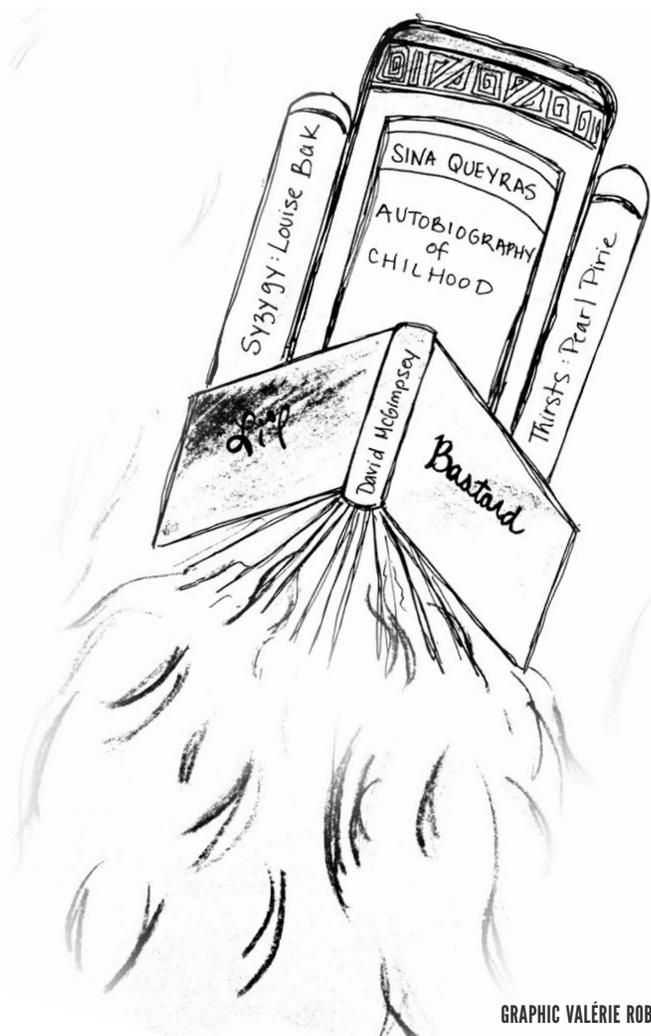
“The title of my book applies

directly to ideas that are supposed but not necessarily true. It also refers to the use of a hypothesis in the Scientific Method, a process that is considered objective, unbiased and non-arbitrary. It is intended to conjure both certainty and uncertainty.”

The launch will also feature new books by two of the three Concordia profs, as Queyras, a long-time poet, will read from her debut novel, *Autobiography of Childhood*, and David McGimpsey will introduce *Lil' Bastard*, a collection of surreal, pop-culture-referencing 16-line poems he calls “chubby sonnets.”

There should be something for every type of literary aficionado at the reading, whether they're hungry to hear some fresh material, or just out to watch highly intelligent and creative people get sloppy drunk first-hand.

The launch takes place Oct. 2 at The Sparrow (5322 St. Laurent Blvd.), with readings starting at 8:00 p.m.



GRAPHIC VALÉRIE ROBITILLE

# Sustainable Style



## Local Clothing Line Gives Unused Fabrics Second Chance

• REBECCA HISCOTT

After working for over 10 years at one of Canada's leading fashion houses and watching mountains of unused luxury fabric accumulate in warehouses at the end of each season, local designer Suzanne Bateman decided to take action.

The British Columbia native and longtime Montreal resident created Rescued. Designs in 2010, buying leftover high-end fabrics from Canadian designers and creating eco-conscious apparel at a fraction of the original price.

"[Rescued.] is basically making a landfill diversion," explained Bateman. "Things aren't just going in the garbage. We're using what's already out there, not creating more 'stuff.' Most of the fabric is from Italy and France; it's never been used, it's never been worn."

In addition to "rescuing" fabrics that are otherwise destined to gather dust in a warehouse, the label makes an effort to minimize its carbon footprint by using recycled

boxes for shipping, eschewing paper lookbooks in favour of online content, and, best of all, using hang tags made from plantable paper—when the tags are removed, soaked in water and planted, wildflowers grow!

Bateman's design credentials are impressive: in addition to studying fashion design at Lasalle College, she apprenticed, modeled and designed for over a decade for Zenobia Collections—founded by prominent local designers Pina Iannelli and Marisa Minicucci.

The ethical clothing line also employs a local charitable organization called Les Petits Mains to sew the garments. Les Petits Mains provides opportunities to women who have immigrated to Canada, as well as single women within Montreal, who need to learn French and English language skills. The organization offers language classes and provides necessary services such as day-care facilities while giving the women an opportunity to learn a marketable trade.

Rescued.'s Spring/Summer

2012 collection was recently unveiled at Montreal Fashion Week as a part of ModEthik: Le Salon de la mode éthique de Montréal, a collaboration between Bateman and two other ethical clothing lines.

Bateman describes the Spring/Summer collection as inspired by "Japanese women and the Asian aesthetic." It was created envisioning a Japanese seaside resort or village, taking cues from the Hayao Miyazaki animated film *Ponyo* and the colours of ocean life.

Bateman's favourite piece is a bright V-neck kimono dress with a wide cummerbund waist that flatters most body types. Although the line is generally designed for career women and mothers, many of her dresses are playful enough to be worn by younger women, like the flirty white "belle du jour" frock from the Fall/Winter.

"Part of being a sustainable collection is that we want longevity within the garments," Bateman explained. "We want classical pieces that are going to

last from season to season."

The collection is available online, at Ottawa's Flock Boutique or in Montreal at Emmeline & Annabelle couture café. Dresses generally retail for \$250, skirts for \$150, and tops range from \$75 to \$100—in many cases a bargain considering the line's environmental consciousness and quality. "This fabric used to be sold on dresses that were worth thousands," said Bateman.

As the sole designer for the company, finding boutique representation is difficult at a time when affordable, fast-fashion chains are more popular than ever. Rescued. is a small operation, and the expense involved in creating an ethical clothing line represents a major challenge to expanding.

Despite the aims of the project, Bateman has nothing against affordable, mass-produced fashion; as a mother of two, she is no stranger to the concept of thrift. But Rescued. offers an ethical alternative for the environmentally conscious fashionista, and that choice is priceless.



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### THE PEOPLE'S POTATO'S HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

*"Every day there is a social element to what happens here. I might be cutting veggies with an engineering student from India, a newly-arrived sociology student from Vancouver..."*

— Gustavo Rodriguez, long-time collective member

### FOFA & POP'S ONE-ON-ONE THEATRE EXPERIMENT



### A ROOM WITH SOME VIEWS: NARRATING TRAUMA

*"Most of the time, I shifted between listening attentively and drifting off—lulled by his torturous thoughts, his fixations on sounds that weren't there, or even his slow and steady retreat from the physical world..."*

— Sara McCulloch

### WEEKLY SPINS

*Find out what we think of the latest releases from Dog Day and Wild Beasts before they come to town.*

### CHECK OUT PICS FROM ARCADE FIRE'S FREE POP SHOW





CUPCAKES: VEGAN LOVE TASTES SO GOOD • PAGE 15



Richard Yu-Tim races around a 13-metre velodrome—the smallest in the world—during the Red Bull Mini Drome in Montreal on Thursday. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

## GENTIL ALOUETTE

### Ex-Al Chiu Takes on Leadership Role With Stingers' Staff

• ANDREW MAGGIO

For most of his 13-year career, Bryan Chiu was considered the best center in the Canadian Football League.

Chiu was the recipient of various accolades, such as the 2002 Most Outstanding Lineman award, 16 total all-star selections (seven-time CFL All-Star, nine-time CFL East All-Star), all while anchoring a dominant offensive line en route to two Grey Cup championships with the Montreal Alouettes.

His resume speaks for itself—his rise to CFL greatness was never in doubt—but his legendary journey was cut short all too soon.

Chiu's surprising retirement announcement via his Twitter account during the summer of 2010 caught the city of Montreal by surprise, but Chiu had ample reason to call it quits.

By then, various injuries and surgeries had hampered his ability to compete at the elite level he had maintained throughout his career. But that was only part of the reason.

"I had to do it in the best interest of my family," said Chiu. "I have two young kids and a wife and I wanted to make sure I was going to be healthy for them down the road."

While his retirement was a

heavy blow to the Alouettes, it was a blessing for the Concordia Stingers football team. Two weeks after the announcement, Concordia head coach Gerry McGrath hired Chiu to take on the roles of assistant offensive coordinator and offensive line coach.

"I was really planning to take some time off and just regroup, just to give myself a little time before I started the next chapter of my life," he said. But when word reached McGrath that Chiu was free, he wasted no time.

"When Gerry got back from training camp in Saskatchewan he gave me a call. [...] We went out for lunch and he basically just offered me the job."

His good relationship with McGrath was also a big reason for joining the Stingers' coaching staff.

"Over the years I had gotten to know Coach McGrath. We built a good relationship and I would always joke with him that someday I'd come and coach with him."

Although Chiu never actually gave serious thought to coaching after his career, his love for the game of football was too great to drop the game entirely and coaching provided a way for him to stay involved with it after his retirement. Despite opportunities to immedi-

ately coach professionally, Chiu didn't feel the timing was quite right.

"I still have a lot to learn about the game of football and I think [Concordia] is a great place for me to be," he said.

"I have some security here right now, and I'm comfortable here. I just feel like it's more rewarding for me to get the 17-year-old kids out of high school who want nothing more than to become pro football players. If I can help those guys out, all the better."

But while Chiu admits he is reaping the rewards of his coaching experience, the long workdays make it difficult for him to spend time with his family during the season.

"When I was a player I did four-and-a-half-hour shifts. Here at Concordia, I'm in the office at around 7:30, 8 o'clock in the morning, and I'll be getting home at 9 [or] 10 o'clock every day. The long 15-hour days can be taxing during the season," he said.

"I can go three, four days without seeing my kids because they're asleep when I get home and I'm out the door before the sun rises. There was a little period of adjustment there, but having an understanding wife certainly helps."



PHOTO AMANDA LAPRADE

Chiu admits that once in a while he still gets the itch to get back on the field, but he is content with his new role as a leader from the sidelines, instead of at the center position he dominated for over a decade.

As a former professional athlete he understands that, while it does serve as an advantage in coaching, his experience as a college player helps him relate to his players better.

Having been in their shoes, Chiu said he knows what it takes to get to the next level. This invaluable experience

will no doubt serve great purpose to the up and coming stars not only on the Stingers offensive line, but to the entire roster.

"Seeing these kids mature and helping them balance not only football, but their academics, jobs and personal lives, it makes you much more than just a coach to them," he said.

"It makes you a counselor, and for the out-of-town kids, the coaches are like their father figures. The best thing about this job is being able to have a positive influence on these kids."

# Cupcake Love



• ERIC WHITE

Concordia transfer student Marie-Pascale Des Rosiers loves baking, but when she started a cupcake club at McGill University less than a year ago, she had no idea the impact her cupcakes could make.

Starting this fall with a new name and a budget from the Student Society of McGill University, Peace Treats sells cupcakes to clubs at 25 cents per cake for fundraising. All proceeds are then donated to Little Footprints, Big Steps, an organization in Haiti that Des Rosiers worked with in a volunteer trip over the summer.

"I just really love [baking and] helping people and I thought it would be a good way to do both," said Des Rosiers. Little Footprints, Big Steps focuses on aiding abused children in Haiti. One of their main projects is to build a safe house for these children.

Having worked directly with the children last time she was in Haiti, the decision to donate the Peace Treats proceeds was an easy one. "I'm going back this summer," she said. "I'm going to see those kids again and I'm going to try and make cupcakes

with them."

But before doing that, she has a whole lot of baking to do.

Last week, Peace Treats threw 600 cupcakes in the oven, selling them to six clubs.

One club, Change for Change, was raising money for Le Refuge des jeunes, which aids homeless youth in Montreal. When clubs donate to a worthy cause, Peace Treats is often able to charge less per cupcake to raise more money, and sometimes they even donate the cakes.

They also donated cupcakes to Somalia Training Aid and Relief, who are holding a 30-hour famine from Sept. 29 to 30 to raise awareness about the ongoing famine in Somalia that has already killed tens of thousands of people.

Besides baking, Peace Treats is also up for some awards. One of them, run by the Aviva Community Fund, will give away a total of \$1 million to innovative Canadians who are trying to improve their communities. Another contest, run by Campus Perks, approached Des Rosiers and gave Peace Treats a chance at a \$10,000 prize when they compete against other clubs at the end of October.

Peace Treats also has a strong environmental focus, and almost all of the cupcakes they bake are vegan. This is due in part to their use of McGill's Midnight Kitchen, a vegan soup kitchen similar to the People's Potato at Concordia.

"I love that our cupcakes are vegan," Des Rosiers said. A devout vegetarian, as well as an environment and international development student, Des Rosiers is happy to once again combine her passions.

For those who think that there is no way a vegan cupcake can be as delicious as one that uses milk and eggs, try one of Peace Treats' tasty morsels. Besides the classic chocolate and vanilla, red velvet is another one of their specialties, and last week they experimented, producing a batch of green tea cupcakes. With a slight green tint, a spongy texture and a subtle green tea flavor, this probably will not be the last time they incorporate tea into the mix.

When making orders, which can range anywhere from 20 to 500 cupcakes, Peace Treats is extremely accommodating: they're happy to include options for people who have allergies or eat gluten-free. "Anything is possible," Des Rosiers said. "I ask

them if they have any requests and if not, I just have fun."

For Des Rosiers, the real goal of Peace Treats is to spread joy. "Cupcake club is just like a circle of happiness, basically."

She noted that, besides the pleasure she feels as she bakes all those cupcakes, she is able to make a wide variety of clubs and organizations happy, too. But her main focus will always be on the kids in Haiti. "If they can have a better life, that would make me so happy."

As Peace Treats continues to develop at McGill, Des Rosiers wants to continue expanding and would like to start a chapter at Concordia in the winter. Beyond that, she sees a potential business opportunity, a social entrepreneurship where she would sell the cupcakes, but still donate money to Haiti.

"There's another way to do business, and it's not just NGOs that can do good things," she said.

Visit [facebook.com/peacetreats](https://www.facebook.com/peacetreats), follow Peace Treats on Twitter @PeaceTreats, or email [peacetreatsmcgill@gmail.com](mailto:peacetreatsmcgill@gmail.com) if you are interested in getting involved.



THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

SHERBROOKE 3, CON U 1

"We played well in sequences, but we made bad mistakes at bad moments, and when we had the situations contained they were able to find ways to score, and we're not mature enough as a team to play from behind," said Stingers head coach Jorge Sanchez.

## FOOTBALL PHOTOS

SHERBROOKE 33, CON U 26



## BASEBALL

MCGILL 6, CON U 4

"I don't think the umps cost us the game; I don't think the errors cost us the game. We didn't play well enough to win. We just came up a little short."

## CUPCAKES



Scan this to see the green tea cupcake recipe used by Peace Treats

# Breaking Down the Blood Ban



PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

## UK's New Donation Restrictions Are Ass-Backwards

• CAMILLE CHACRA

On Thursday, the United Kingdom's Health Department announced that as of November, gay men will be allowed to give blood—if they refrain from any form of sexual contact for an entire year. Despite being deemed as progressive, this newly established concession is actually more ignorant than it is groundbreaking.

In light of the UK's new stance, Canada is seeking to reconsider its own position—as it is currently one of many countries that forbid gay men from donating blood at all.

It's great that Canada is trying to be “progressive” and “tolerant,” but hopefully our country can realize that the UK's recent

announcement is neither of the above. To the contrary, this “lightened” ban is actually more of a colossal slap in the face than a step in the right direction.

“Blood donation eligibility criteria should be based on individual behavior, backed by advanced screening, not on sexuality,” wrote *Nursing Times* reporter Steve Ford.

Although it is crucial that blood agencies follow strict protocol that requires their donors to be tested for any medical, sexual or drug-related blips—they shouldn't assume that HIV is exclusively a homosexual disease.

*Best Health Magazine* recently reported that, in a 2010 issue of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, the Jewish General Hospital's Mark Wain-

berg argued that the ban is illegitimate. He wrote that “the risk of a false negative on an HIV test has been nearly eliminated since Canada's blood system began using a highly sensitive nucleic acid test to screen blood.”

With that said, this “12-month rule” suggested by the UK is absolutely ludicrous and unnecessary. If health systems are able to thoroughly screen blood, why must gay men kiss their libidos goodbye for an entire year? Better yet, with the technological advances the world has seen, why hasn't this ban been abolished sooner?

The only real reason for these full or partial bans must be called what it is—flagrant discrimination.

Partially lifting the ban in the

United Kingdom just isn't good enough. The gay community is asking for complete equality—and they deserve it. It is nonsensical to stereotype a group based on sexual orientation, depriving them of the fundamental right to donate clean blood.

All I have to say is shame on the UK Health Department. They shouldn't be patting themselves on the back; what they've done wasn't progressive, it was discriminatory. If they want to earn their kudos, they should abolish the ban, use the technology available to effectively screen blood and stop hiding behind dated stereotypes. As for Canada, we should learn from the mistakes made across the pond, and make a change that actually moves us forward.

## THE NUMBERS AREN'T ADDING UP

### Board Needs to Bone Up on Math Skills

• JULIAN WARD

The current Board of Governors would do well to enroll in an elementary math class before deciding to mess with undergraduates' representation and membership.

Concordia Interim President Frederick Lowy was interviewed on the CBC podcast *Daybreak* about the shakeup occurring in the Board with the number of governors being reduced from 40 to 25. “The math gets difficult,” he said, when figuring out how to adjust how many seats go to specific groups on the Board.

Under the proposed changes, undergraduate students would see their share of voting power on the Board reduced from 10 per cent to just four per cent. Lowy cited a piece of provincial legislature—Bill 38—as the guiding light in reforming the Board.

But the bill is a contentious piece of legislation deemed undemocratic by the organization of 18 universities and colleges in Quebec, and never passed as law.

When asked if he thought Bill 38 stated that student representation on the Board should come down proportionally, Lowy said, quite clearly, “yes.”

The only problem is that there's nothing proportional about undergrads losing 60 per cent of their power on the board. If the adjustment were truly proportional, undergrads would be given, instead of just one meagre seat, either two or three seats, raising their power to eight or twelve per cent, respectively.

An interesting figure to think about is that the 35,000-plus undergraduates will now have the same share of seats as the 7,000-plus graduate students.

Faculty members on the Board, on the other hand, will see their share of voting power skyrocket from 15 per cent to 24 per cent. It is unclear why students and faculty—both internal members on the Board—are being treated so differently. It doesn't add up.

Before the Board rushes to pass the sweeping reforms currently before them, adjustments need to be made to fix the inequities in the proposed distribution of power.

It wouldn't be that hard to solve this: two seats could be taken from faculty, bringing their share of power to almost exactly what it was before, and given to the undergrads—taking into account the simple fact that they represent over 35,000 people, more than any other group on the Board.

# 'Drastic Assault on Student Representation'



GRAPHIC NICK WATERS

## The CSU Weighs in on Board Breakdown

• LEX GILL & KYLE MCLOUGHLIN

As it stands, undergraduate students control 10 per cent of 40 seats on the Board of Governors—the highest governing body at Concordia—and certain parties are interested in seeing this wholly inadequate number decrease even further.

Under both the External Governance Review Committee and the Board of Governors' proposed structural changes, undergraduate representation will drop down to one seat out of 25.

**The question remains, in many minds, why a body who claims to represent the "Concordia community" would engage in such a drastic assault on student representation.**

In other words, while students bankroll nearly 40 per cent of the University's operating costs, there are people on top perfectly content to see us control just four per cent of the votes on the Board of Governors.

Admittedly, the Board has tossed undergraduates a scrap in the form of

what they've called an 'alternate governor.' This one additional person sits on the board with the power to speak, attend closed session meetings and sit on committees.

Yet the 'alternate' lacks the ability to vote, essentially enabling them to only offer consultation—and if this struggle has been anything for us, it's been a clear reminder that the Board doesn't care about student consultation.

Maybe the problem is that the majority of the Board is made up of rich, mostly white, mostly male CEOs, lawyers and financiers who have no idea what it means to be a student at Concordia University.

The vast majority—especially those 'external' or 'community-at-large' members—have never had to worry about bills, tuition or textbooks. They don't share our interests or experiences.

They've never had to choose, like some of us have, between going to class and standing in line at the People's Potato, because otherwise we're not sure where our next meal is coming from.

They act like owners, but some of them haven't seen the inside of a classroom for more than a decade. Worse still, the small but aggressive minority of full-time faculty who agree with them would rather push for more control than step aside and let the largest constituency on this campus have a voice.

So now the Board would like to see what little representation we have

shrink even more, fortifying the gap that exists between students and those who can influence the way fees, tuition, research, and countless other elements of University Governance are conducted.

This would effectively ensure an institutionalized gag order on any discourse that could lead to alleviating the many struggles that the average student faces. The question remains, in many minds, why a body who claims to represent the "Concordia community" would engage in such a drastic assault on student representation.

So, when they close us out of the boardrooms and start closing us out of classrooms with fee increases no ordinary student can possibly afford, we're left with just one choice: we'll meet them on the streets.

On Nov. 10, when Quebec students will stand together in protest against tuition hikes, the issue for Concordia students is actually much bigger than broader accessible education—it's about representation and a serious voice for students.

We'll see you there.

**Lex Gill is the president of the Concordia Student Union and Kyle McLoughlin is a councillor and a university senator. Follow the BoG news on Facebook by searching "Concordia University Board of Governors—Student Representation."**

## HEARD IN THE HALL Who Represents You?

• PIERRE CHAUVIN

This week, we initially set out to find out what students thought of their representation on campus. We quickly found out that most students didn't even know who was representing them. So with this in mind, we opted for a new question—we asked students what their union should do to make them more aware. Here's what they said:

"I think they're doing a pretty good job. I see the posters around everywhere. My honest answer is: I don't know. I see what they're doing already and I know they hold events. Maybe students don't see where the student union does benefit [them] so they don't really explore or look into it."



—Aaron Tyree  
BA Urban Studies

"I think [the CSU] should have newsletters to collect at the doors, or they should come during the beginning of classes early on in the semester."



—Valencia Walcott  
BA English Literature

"I know who my reps are and I think that's because of the [election] campaign last year. But if you're not from the year of the election, it's kind of hard to know who they are because they kind of take a back seat as soon as they're in the CSU. I think Lex [Gill] is doing a good job with trying to open up the general assembly, have more people come and make it student-wide."



—Eric Seguin  
BA Philosophy

"I have no idea who my student reps are, but I know what they should be doing. They should post things around campus so people know who they are, maybe have little events here and there just so people know their faces, their names and how to get a hold of them."



—Joseph Esteves  
BEng Mechanical Engineering

"I can speak in terms of the Engineering and Computer Science Association—they send us out regular emails and at the beginning of the year that say, 'These are the members,' and we have department reps, which would be analogous to student reps at the CSU for the engineering department. If the student rep just sends an email saying, 'Hey, by the way, I'm your rep at the CSU, this is my name this is what I do, this is my email, send me ideas,' then the exposure would increase exponentially."



—Adam Schaefer  
BEng Mechanical Engineering

"I have no freaking idea who they are. To me, [the student representatives are] only there during the two weeks they have to get voted for—that's when you know who they are, and then after that you don't hear of them at all. It's not a student union—they don't do anything, they don't show anything at all to me. To me they're not showing any progress as leaders."



—Anthony Rubino  
BEng Mechanical Engineering

# Up for Sale?

## Academic Autonomy and the Azrieli Institute

• ERIC SHRAGGE

Concordia University's recent announcement that it will be forming the Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies—courtesy of a \$5 million donation from the Azrieli Foundation—raises some interesting questions.

Specifically, it raises questions pertaining to the idea of the university being bought by those with personal wealth and an interest in backing their favourite cause.

Supporters of this Institute argue that it will be politically neutral and judge projects, speakers and visiting professorships exclusively on academic merit.

In an article published on June 30 in the *Canadian Jewish News*, Norma Joseph, co-director of the Institute, critically addresses academic boycotts of Israel: "Academics are scholars, people who search for knowledge untainted by political or religious (or any sort of) preference," she wrote. "Their tasks are to seek information removed from common prejudice and slanted stereotypes."

But politics—whether on the left or the right—are always present, and always seep into academia, wherever high-minded ideals are being professed. Denying this is either naïveté, or deliberate manipulation in order to allow a political position on Israel to be introduced into the university under the guise of free inquiry.

Institutes for the study of Israel and related Israel studies are not unique to Concordia, and they have historically been established through the support of private foundations having a strong identification with the Jewish community and Israel.

The university accepts the outside money and, in presenting its programs, attempts to normalize and legitimize the Israeli state—describing it as culturally and socially diverse, modern, progressive and facing various challenges.

The proposal for Concordia's program is couched in academic language that avoids any discussion of Israel's very contested role in the region and its relation to the displacement and colonization of the Palestinian people.

Would it be fair to teach a course or program on Canada that avoids a discussion of white settler colonization and its consequences for First Nations peoples? Of course not—so why are we letting a similar situation happen here?

Israel Studies programs have been developed in the context of mounting criticism of Israel internationally. Many forms of mobilization against it are on the rise—such as the presence of Israel Apartheid Week on campuses and the growth of the Boycott, Divestment and

Sanctions movement in Europe and North America.

Clearly, for the organized Jewish community that supports Israel, there is a battle to be waged for the hearts and minds on university campuses at home and abroad, and it is in this context that programs and Institutes for Israel Studies have been put in place.

**Would it be fair to teach a course or program on Canada that avoids a discussion of white settler colonization and its consequences for First Nations peoples? Of course not—so why are we letting a similar situation happen here?**

But the process of developing the Institute reflects a wider problem about the emerging culture of the university, which couples the

liberal ethos of academic freedom of free inquiry with the neoliberal ideology of entrepreneurialism.

It suggests that academics are free to do their own thing and pursue their academic questions—especially if they can raise their own funds.

The alleged autonomy of the Institute from its funder is also a huge concern, especially since academic freedom is at the core of this debate. The Azrieli Foundation and David Azrieli himself are known to be strongly pro-Israel.

But when the Institute was presented, the Faculty Council was assured that it would be academically independent from its funders. This is a superficial understanding of autonomy and ill befits a university.

For Concordia to be awarded a grant of this magnitude, it is more than likely that implicit guarantees upfront about the direction and pro-Israel positions of the Institute's founders and leaders exist. In this case, academic "autonomy" is a kind of "non-issue," since, if the leadership of the Institute shares an ideology with the Foundation to begin with, then the matter of autonomy becomes a moot point.

An underlying goal of the Institute, similar to the US programs de-

scribed above, is to "de-politicize Israel," erasing the role it plays in its region and the occupation of Palestinian territory with all of the consequences.

A telling example of this is the following extract from an article published on June 21 in *The Gazette*: "One of the institute's founders says that the institute 'is not about the politics.' [...] It's about the study of a geographic area—its culture, its history, its economics, its diversity, even its food."

"[Norma Joseph] added that she believes the institute will bring together Jewish and Muslim students, possibly preventing conflicts like the 2002 riots that caused the cancellation of a speech by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"Understanding eliminates conflict," she said."

Dialogue and understanding are fine when there is equal power and justice. But unless there is an end to the occupation and a just solution for the Palestinian people, "understanding" is not possible. Until that happens, conflict will not go away.

If there is to be academic openness, the politics cannot be pushed to the side, rather, it is the core question and seems to be precluded

from being addressed at the Institute, given the clear academic restriction on inquiry from the beginning.

A particular challenge for critics is that, so long as the liberal entrepreneurial system is in play, academics can claim "academic freedom" to justify whatever they want to do as long as it uses the rhetoric of objective inquiry and openness to diverse opinion.

There are very few restrictions on university research besides the standard ethical reviews for animal or human subjects. In the context of struggles against cuts to public education, this is a key example of the way in which the future direction of education is being sold off to the highest bidder.

This practice should be resisted, along with broader movements against the privatization and corporatization of the public sector. The university is clearly for sale and its academics are bought in service of causes that are part of the dominant political ideology. Dissent, unfortunately, is not usually financed.

Eric Shragge is an Associate Professor and Principal of the School of Community and Public Affairs at Concordia.



GRAPHIC ALEX MANLEY

# Porn With A Purpose

## PETA to Launch XXX Site to Promote Animal Rights

• ERIKA HEALES

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is sparking controversy again with its recent announcement of an erotic website called *peta.xxx* that will feature porn in the name of animal rights.

The site's goal is to increase awareness about animal suffering. Regardless of the negative reaction the campaign has received, if showing a little skin is what it takes for PETA to get its message out, then I support it whole-heartedly.

The animal rights organization applied to the ICM registry last Tuesday for use of the .xxx domain and is set to launch the site by early December.

There will be a collection of graphic pictures and videos of both porn stars and PETA activists with accompanying messages about adopting a vegan diet and showing more compassion and respect for animals.

**If using sex to sell products like makeup and booze is socially acceptable, it seems ludicrous to me that using the same tactic to promote animal rights is not.**

As marketing companies know, sex sells. Alcohol, cosmetic and even clothing companies frequently use racy and sex-based advertisements because they attract the public's attention and they encourage people to purchase the company's product. It's a tried and true strategy if ever there was one.

If using sex to sell products like makeup and booze is socially acceptable, though, it seems ludicrous that using the same tactic to promote animal rights is not.

Even medical associations make use of nudity to get their message across. Throughout the summer, advertisements by the Colorectal Cancer Association of Canada were popping up on Montreal's buses with a picture of someone's buttocks accompanied by a message that directed people to *faitesvoirvosfesses.ca*, the French version of *getyourbuttseen.ca*.

Was it necessary to add the picture of a rear-end? Not necessarily, but it made people look—which was the Association's goal. It is important for people to think about screening for colon and rectal cancers, and the Association used whatever tactics it could to accomplish this.

The campaign was also so controversial that three Canadian

Animals killed for their fur are electrocuted, drowned, beaten, and often skinned alive.

Be comfortable in your own skin, and let animals keep theirs.

### Elisabetta Canalis

FOR *PETA*

I'd rather go naked  
*than wear fur.*

*Elisabetta Canalis Italian Actor bares all in the name of animal rights*

PHOTO COURTESY OF PETA

cities refused to put up the advertisements, and an argument can be made that people in those three cities lost out on some valuable motivation to do something beneficial to their own health.

The announcement of the PETA porn site has also struck a nerve with women's rights groups concerning sexism and the exploitation of women's bodies.

"Exploiting porn to get people's juices going seems lame; exploiting pornographic images only of women to make their point is retrograde and misogynist," explained Jill Dolan, a Princeton University professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies.

As a woman, I am neither offended by the launching of this new website, nor do I think it is sexist. These are consenting adults who are agreeing to participate and to show off skin in the name of animal rights. I think it would be more sexist, in fact, if society began telling women what they can or cannot do with their bodies.

Yes, PETA's ads are controversial, but they are also creative and well-executed. In the past, PETA has used celebrities such as Pamela Anderson, Naomi Campbell, Eva Mendes and Khloe Kardashian in campaigns against wearing fur, often using the slogan "I'd rather go naked than wear fur." These

women are obviously consenting adults who have opted to strip for something they believe in, and in doing so help PETA clearly get its point across effectively.

While distributing pamphlets and books about animal rights on street corners does send a message, it is not nearly as effective as PETA's 'shocking' campaigns that draw crowds of people and make newspaper headlines.

When people access the website expecting graphic pictures, viewers will also be presented with graphic pictures of animal suffering—tell me that won't, at the very least, get people thinking about animal rights.

PETA's philosophy goes against mainstream society's views about using animals for food, clothing and entertainment, and the organization wants these views to change. It uses various means to reach out to the public in hopes of changing the status quo. The organization wants people to be aware of the real story behind hamburgers and fur coats.

Saving animals and trying to prevent suffering and abuse are PETA's ultimate goals and they will do whatever they can—including the use of sex and nudity—to encourage people to show more respect and compassion. Where's the harm in that?

# 'Government, Legality and Such'

## Across

3. If a leader is accused of illegal activity—such as disobeying their marriage vows—a formal hearing can be conducted to investigate and remove that person from office. The same is not true for careless decisions that get thousands of innocents killed in a senseless unending clusterfuck of a war, however.

8. "Whatever Mr. Chaplin says, there's nothing 'great' about a person assuming absolute power and rule. If Mr. Chaplin told you to keep a portrait of him in your bedroom during your child's conception, would you?"

9. Worked—in theory. In theory, elephants should be excellent pets. In reality? Dung the size and consistency of beanbag chairs.

12. The most powerful person in the world is one of these. That's right. Barack Obama is a Reptilian.

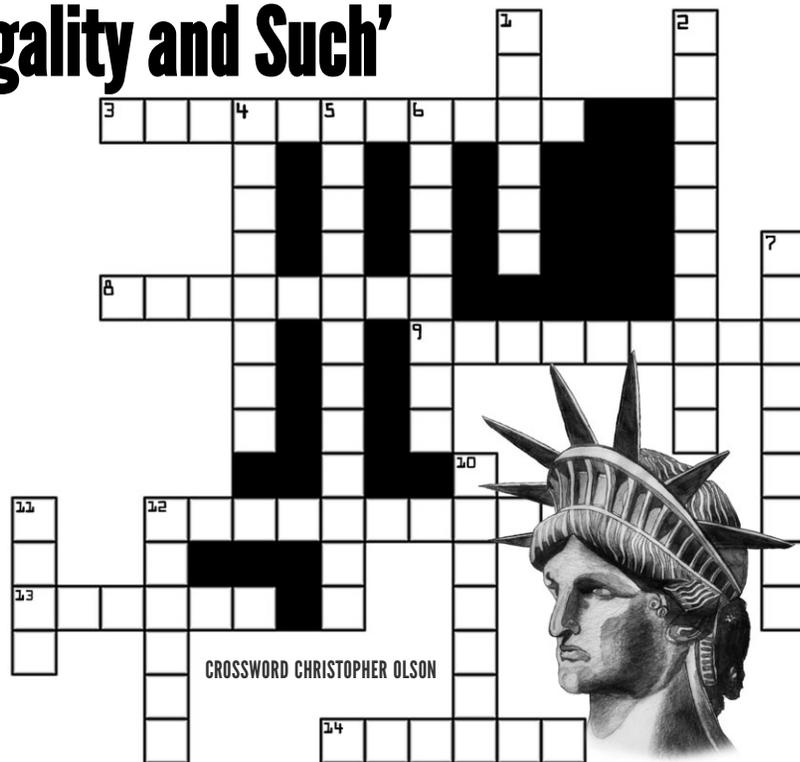
13. Judge Dredd is this. (2 words)

14. Even if your rights and freedoms are guaranteed in writing in some musty government office, properly arguing that your rights have been violated requires years of study and experience. That's why it's always important to have one of these on retainer. That is, if you have insane amounts of cash, presumably as a result of the lawlessness for which you will plead not guilty.

## Down

1. A deliberative assembly typically comprised of a veritable bone-yard of aging public servants clinging to relevance, and a who's who of who voted not to allow women to have the vote.

2. The great thing about representative government is that if you don't



like the way things are done, you can always pick up your musket and pitchfork and forcibly overthrow it. In the U.S. the Second Amendment guarantees it.

4. There are some things the majority shouldn't be able to decide unilaterally, such as whether or not to curtail the rights and freedoms of the minority. Choosing a public representative, and which new flavour to add to Lucky Charms is another matter, however.

5. A set of fundamental principles that any organized group, whether they form a society or a corporate entity, promises to uphold. Despite its depiction in political cartoons, it doesn't have to be written on parchment—it's not like our core values are written in stone, if you know what I mean.

6. This is not government by butterflies, but rather, a system where the head of state inherits the position from the previous head of state, typically the

guy's dad. Batshit insanity provides contextual flavour so that you know which one of these you're in.

7. The worst form of government, according to Winston Churchill. I choose not to remember the rest of what he said.

10. Some equate it with lawlessness and disorder, while for others it's simply a lack of political organization. I associate it with the bathroom stalls at Arby's.

11. In a democracy, everyone gets one of these, and it's not a chicken in every pot and a car in every garage—I heard there's a loophole where you can get two chickens.

12. Even if you pass a bill outlawing murder, you still need a group of people to enforce it, and because mutations that empower the subject with the ability to fight crime are still a few years off, you might as well pay a few dudes and give them guns.

# THERE'S MORE TO INDEPENDENCE THAN AN APPLICATION

## Statehood Won't Necessarily Mean Progress for Palestine

• ALEX WOZNICA

This past Friday, Palestinian National Authority President Mahmoud Abbas applied for formal recognition of Palestinian statehood at the United Nations General Assembly. This move, despite being symbolically uplifting for his constituents, was a step in the wrong direction for the Palestinian cause.

The Palestinian state that Abbas sought recognition for has been under varying levels of Israeli occupation since 1967 and has enjoyed observer status at the United Nations since 1974.

While the application for official recognition of Palestinian statehood was meant to further the progression towards the achievement of an independent Palestinian state, that outcome seems unlikely.

Unfortunately for Palestinian leadership, it is the Israelis who exercise the real control over the territory that would make up any future Palestinian state. Antagonizing them with unilateral applications for statehood at the UN is not a good way of getting them

to ever relinquish any of that control.

For years, internationally-mediated peace talks have been the accepted procedure for concessions made by both the Israelis and the Palestinians. In bypassing such mediums, the Palestinian National Authority has created a situation where the realization of an independent state seems less likely today than it did a week ago.

The most obvious obstacle keeping the Palestinians from creating a state at this point is the civil war that has divided that community since 2006.

No state can be created until the leadership of Hamas and Fatah come to some understanding whereby the rights of each are fully respected within a democratic framework.

An independent Palestinian state cannot emerge until the Palestinian people cease to be at war with themselves.

Palestinian leadership and the people need to think about what kind of state they eventually want to see created.

Based on how the Palestinian National Authority has conducted itself in the past, if an independent Palestinian

state were created tomorrow, it would be plagued by corruption and government mismanagement.

The future citizens of a Palestinian state should pressure their leaders to root out the systematic mismanagement and corruption that characterizes many of the current institutions of the Palestinian National Authority.

It would be a great shame if over 60 years of Palestinian struggle resulted in the creation of a state in which many Palestinians would not even want to live.

Formal recognition of statehood from the United Nations is something that most newly independent states apply for, but it does not make them independent.

If the Palestinian leadership truly wants to make progress in their national project, they would be wise to acknowledge the facts on the ground.

They should continue in their talks with the Israelis and, perhaps more importantly, undergo internal changes that will make a future state both possible and deserving of the struggles and aspirations of the Palestinian people.



## Sober Sex

*I'm a 23-year-old woman. I have been sexually active since I was 15. I have slept with many people, both guys and girls, but only while drunk. I can count on one hand the times I had sex sober but I can't tell you how many people I slept with because I can't possibly remember (30-40?). I need to stop using alcohol as a way to get close to people. I want to have a normal relationship one day. Help?*

- Sober Second Thought

While having a "normal" relationship seems like an end goal for you, this should really come down to your physical and emotional wellbeing.

It's everyone's right to have as many or as few partners as they please (with consent of course), but it's pretty clear from your question that you're unhappy with some decisions you've made and are experiencing some regret.

You write that you need to stop using alcohol to get close to people, implying that you have trouble connecting to people sober. I think it's really important to look within yourself and figure out what's causing this behaviour.

What is making it difficult to connect? Are there any insecurities or negative thoughts that surface when you think about sex?

Think about the times you had sex sober: what were they like? Who were they with? Are there any experiences that stand out and can be directly linked to your current problem? Is this problem only sex-related, or do you feel you have difficulty connecting to people in general?

Explore reasons why this may be. While getting drunk is one way to temporarily numb feelings, we have feelings for a reason, and if you're too uncomfortable to have sex with someone while sober then maybe you shouldn't be having sex with that person at all.

I also think you should reflect on your relationship with alcohol. How often are you drunk? Why are you drinking? Do you think you have a problem with alcohol abuse?

From an outside and very limited viewpoint, it seems to me like you're using it as an escape and, while I don't think you match the textbook definition of an alcoholic, without the answers to those questions, I have no way of really knowing.

What I do know though, is that you're definitely engaging in some risky behaviour. I'm sure you're aware of the many risks that come along with having sex drunk but to name a few—when drunk, we're more likely to have slower reactions if we find ourselves in unpleasant situations, to forget or regret decisions made and we're less likely to practice safer sex (condoms? Dental dams? Nahhhh).

I also think it's important to consider consent in relation to alcohol consumption.

Depending on how drunk you get, do you trust that the people you've slept with would have stopped, or that you would have been able to properly express if you had changed your mind?

While it can seem easier to connect with people after a few drinks, they're connecting with a version of you and not always a version you might want representing the full you.

So my advice: think really hard about your relationships with others—what things make you comfortable and uncomfortable, what makes you want a drink and why. Set a drink limit for yourself, even if it's temporary, and—no matter how nervous you are—be sober the next time you have sex.

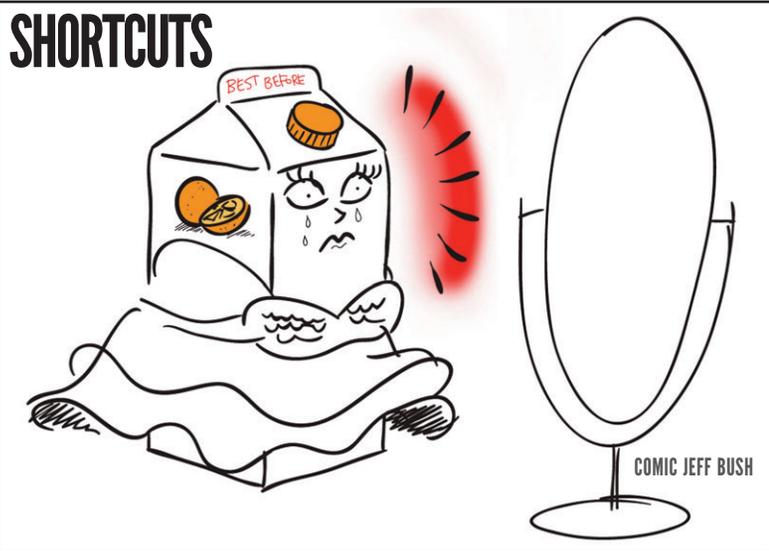
—Melissa Fuller

Submit questions anonymously at <http://sex-pancakes.tumblr.com> and check out "Sex & Pancakes" on Facebook.

LIVING THE LIFE



COMIC CLAUDINE LAMOTHE



COMIC JEFF BUSH

Nah'msayin?

Normally when you enter a coffee shop and order a medium coffee, the employee behind the counter reacts by saying "Sure" and proceeds to pour a medium amount of coffee into a medium-sized cup. However, if you walk into a Starbucks franchise with the exact same request, a slightly different scene unfolds.

The counterperson will respond by saying "Oh, you mean you'd like a *grande*?" while holding up the medium-sized cup, obviously understanding your request, yet refusing to serve you until you've conceded to Starbucks' perverse nomenclature.

Quite frankly, this little lingo run-around is really un-fucking-necessary to anyone's morning caffeinating process.

Firstly, these cup names don't even make sense. The word *venti* is Italian for the number 20, which works for the 20 oz. hot-beverage large, but not for the 24 oz. cold-beverage large. The word *grande* means big, and *mezzo* actually means half. And in the States, a small is called a "tall." Don't even get me started.

Somehow, because these names are Ital-

ian, the classiness overpowers the need for logic. The only reason Italian even enters into it is a corporate branding strategy that attempts to make customers feel as though they were in an authentic Italian café instead of a franchise belonging to multi-million dollar American-owned corporation, the ubiquity of whose locations has been a punch-line for about a decade now.

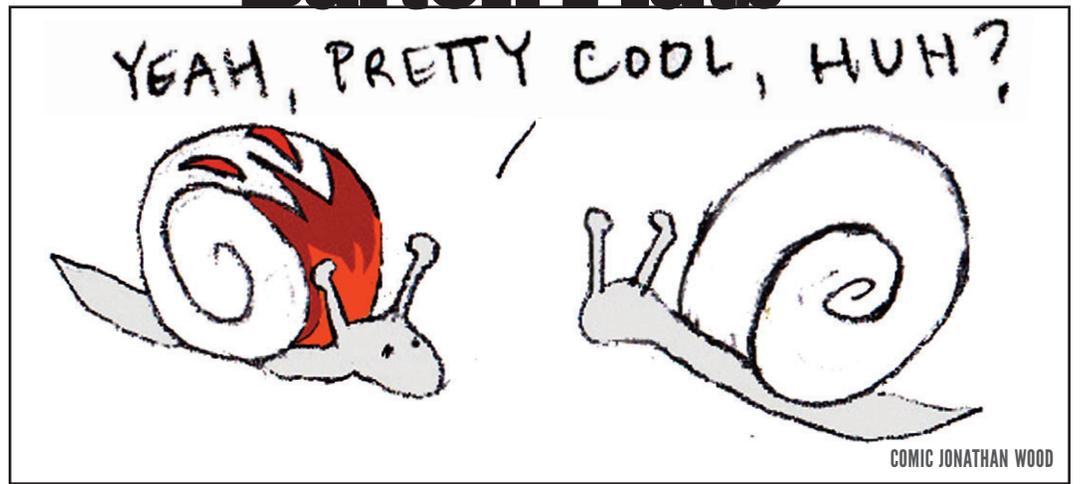
At the end of the day, all these fancy cup-names have done is breed snobbery. I was at a "we-brew-Starbucks"/"not-actually-a-Starbucks" location recently when I heard a customer harassing an employee who didn't understand what a *venti* was.

The man refused to ask for a large and the poor minimum-wage employee, who barely spoke English to begin with, just stood there dumbfounded like she was about to cry.

Well done, Starbucks—you've succeeded in exporting your brand of pretentiousness outside of the rarified atmosphere of your own cafés into other people's. How *Americano* of you.

—Megan Dolski  
Opinions Editor

Barton Flats



COMIC JONATHAN WOOD

Tremendous Tales

by Christopher Olson



As the new star took its place in the heavens, Jonah couldn't help but think of how mad his mother would be when she found out.

Java Jerks



GRAPHIC SHOSHANA EIDELMAN

editorial

# Bring Bodies to the Board Room

Concordia's Board of Governors seems to think they're stuck in some sort of *28 Days Later* scenario. I think they picture a Concordia campus void of students; building after building empty, wind whistling through unoccupied desks, blackboards gathering dust.

They must, anyway, or else I'm sure students would place somewhere on their priority list—right?

The school's highest governing body doesn't seem to think that our representation matters, even though a cursory glance at the bustling activity going on at the actual university will prove that we account for 35,000-plus of the Concordia community's population.

A committee on the Board recommended they cut student representation by a whopping 36 per cent, while other groups' proportional representation is set to—well, to put it in basic mathematical terms—*increase*.

It's all the more fucked that we're being squeezed out given what's coming up: an unprecedented commercial contract for a student centre, and a 75 per cent province-wide tuition spike. These situations are the exact reason we need student representatives on the Board.

Choosing to listen to students and giving them a serious place to participate in the university's governance isn't, as Bram Freedman, Concordia's VP Institutional Relations and Secretary General said, "cherry picking"—it's common sense.

The 'alternate governor' position they've proposed (to keep the lone undergraduate student representative company?) will have no real power and can't speak or vote at meetings. The fact that they'd include it is insulting.

We're at a used-car dealership being sold a lemon, and they're throwing in a free air freshener.

We need another voice at the table—if not more—and we've got to keep our proportional representation intact. Students are more than just the *raison d'être* of the school—we also happen to generate 40 per cent of the cash flow. We're serious stakeholders and should be treated as such by the Board.

We've yet to hear any good reasons to deny students space on the Board, and Interim President Frederick Lowy even admitted to CBC's *Daybreak* on Sept. 13 that he wasn't sure it was a good idea.

Bill 38—the admin's stated reasoning behind the shrinkage—is a piece of dead legislature. Barring a Lazarus-esque amendment, it's not coming back; it's a moot point. If the BoG has any opinion other than "We don't think students should have any power because we're uncomfortable giving up any of ours," I'm sure we'd all love to hear them.

But you know what? Student presence is incredibly powerful, so we're asking regular students and community members who read *The Link* and give a shit **to show up to the Board meeting Sept. 28 at 8:00 a.m.** (it's early, we know, but it's important) **in EV 2.260** and make their presence felt. If you can't be there, you can follow the CSU on Twitter (@ajwest) or like their Facebook page.

Speaking of which, the external Board members could be taking some PR hints from their student governor counterparts in terms of accessibility,

transparency and dialogue.

Board Chair Peter Kruyt, of all people, has never agreed to an interview and doesn't appear to want to ever publically clear the air over some of the puzzling decisions that were made during his tenure.

Lowy told *Daybreak* that, while he doesn't know Kruyt's intentions, "[He] also has a job which he does not want to involve in any way in his extra-curricular activities."

Great excuse, but this university is not an "extra-curricular activity" for those of us attending it, and if Kruyt is too shy or too busy to speak to students and the community he serves, he could step down like we unanimously called him to in January and let us get serious about the direction of governance at our school.

It's time for multi-stakeholder discussions about the future of this university, and they need to seriously include students. There are too many important issues on the horizon, like the search for a new president and the huge possibilities for reform in Concordia's bylaws and Charter.

At the end of the day, we're the bodies in the seats; we're the ones walking up the broken escalators; we're the people staying up nights in the library on a Red Bull and a prayer.

This is our university and the decisions that are facing it are too important to leave us out of the picture. Add another seat for students at the table.

—Alex Manley  
Copy Editor

## Corrections

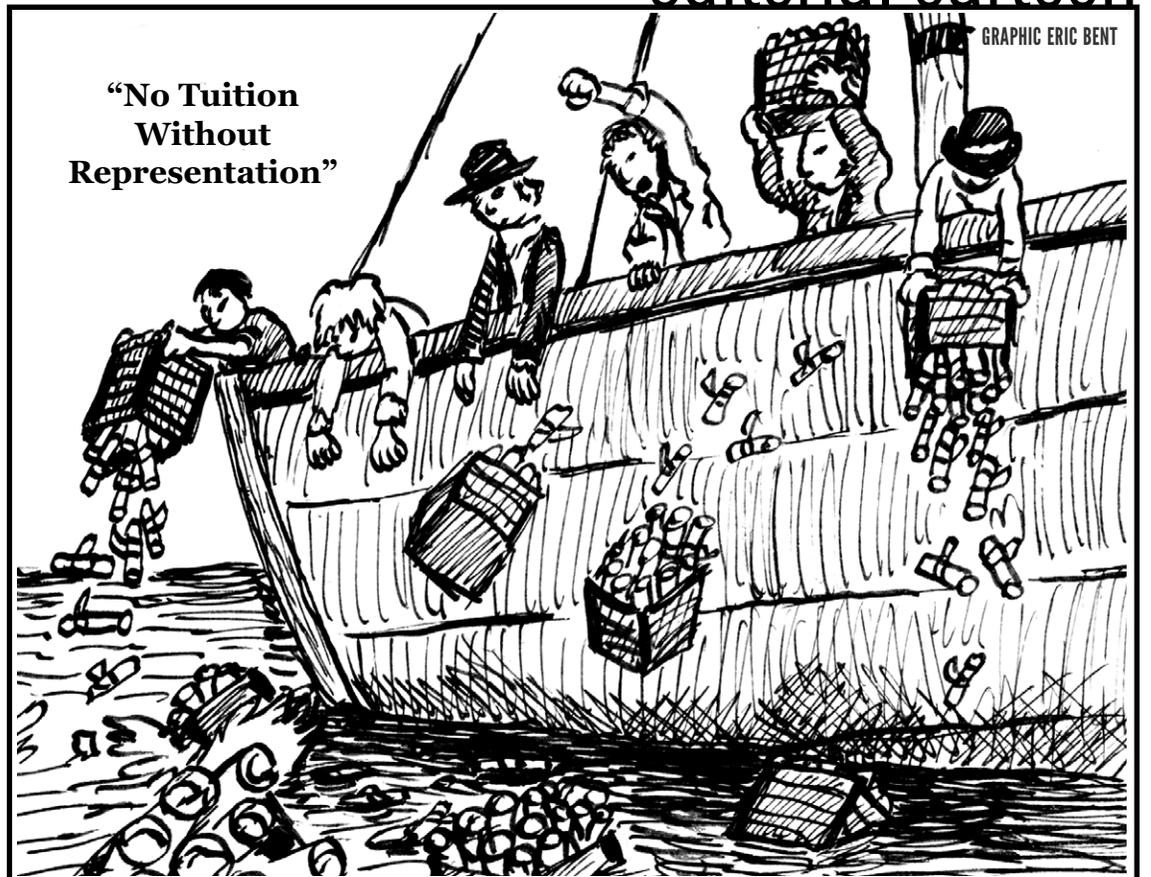
In Vol. 32, Issue 2 of *The Link*, we wrote that Cheap Thrill's new records were 'slightly overpriced.' While they aren't the cheapest place to find new vinyl, *The Link* would like to clarify that there are indeed record stores with higher prices and regrets any assumptions this may have caused.

And in Vol. 32, Issue 4 of *The Link* we wrote that Kendo was in its 37th year at Concordia when in fact it is in its 13th year. *The Link* regrets the error.

## Letters @thelinknewspaper.ca

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

## editorial cartoon



## ISSUE 4 CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

**'THE APOCALYPSE'**

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## THE LINK CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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