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**HOOLIGANS OR HEROES? *THE LINK* HEADS TO WALL STREET • PAGE 5**

# Outcry Outside an Office



Students outside Quebec Education Minister Line Beauchamp's office demanded a halt to planned tuition increases. PHOTOS ADAM KOVAC

## Students Protest Tuition Hikes at Ministry of Education

• ADAM KOVAC

With signs held aloft and plastic horns, megaphones and whistles turning the peaceful fall air into a roiling cacophony, several hundred students gathered outside the office of Quebec Education Minister Line Beauchamp on Oct. 5 to protest looming increases to university tuition.

"It's kind of like a warm-up [for the province-wide Day of Action against tuition on Nov. 10]," said Concordia Student Union VP External Chad Walcott, who organized the Concordia contingent.

"It's about getting students pumped up about going to these demonstrations. I feel like there's a lot of skepticism involved with coming to protests, [but] it's to show them that it's fun, people just get pumped up and make a lot of noise."

"We come together as a community of students, which is something I really want to convey coming up to Nov. 10, so that

way we can really maximize how many students come out."

Walcott acknowledged that few Concordia students made the trek to Montreal North for the affair, but he hailed the spirit of co-operation that enabled students from different schools to collaborate, saying, "Everyone's on the same page."

Many in the crowd were students at Montreal's CEGEPs. These college students are among those who will be hardest hit by the tuition increases, which will see the cost of attending university go up by \$1,625 over the next five years.

Lenny Leprince, Director of External Affairs for the Dawson Student Union, cited concerns about his own looming university career when explaining his opposition to planned increase.

"I'm going to university next year and if the tuition hikes go up, I'm going to pay \$325 more [every semester] and won't re-

ceive any more service than the students that are currently in university," he said.

"I think we're sending a clear message to the government that, wherever they are, we're going to find them, and we're going to stop them from doing whatever they want to do."

While chants and signs were predominant, towards the end of the demonstration students were encouraged to get creative with how they got their message across. Chalk was supplied, and students scrawled notes and slogans into the asphalt of the parking lot. Loud cheers erupted as passing cars and trucks honked their support for the students.

Despite a constant police presence, the demonstration had no serious altercations, though one small group did taunt officers by asking if they were part of the GAMMA Squad, a section of the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal assigned to investigating fringe political movements.

## CSU TO SPEND UP TO \$160K ON SPACE STUDY

• JULIA JONES

The Faubourg deal may be dead, but the money lives on.

When the Concordia Student Union council voted down a \$54 million deal that would have the CSU collaborating with the university to construct a student centre in the Faubourg Ste-Catherine building, they also voted to transfer control over the already-raised \$8.1 million from the university to Scotiabank.

The vote authorized a study on student space using one year's worth of interest earned from that money.

"The way it was phrased was that we now have about \$160,000 at our disposal to do research on student space," said CSU VP Finance Jordan Lindsay, citing an estimated 2.39 per cent interest rate.

Lindsay said the university recently approved the CSU's request to operate the fund from their own bank account and that they are meeting with their banker on Oct. 11 to discuss investment options.

In the past, interest on the acquired fee levy was usually dumped into the main pot, despite the CSU having no official policy on how the interest was to be used.

As was mandated by council at the Sept. 27 vote, some of the interest from this year will be used to do research on student space needs now that the Faubourg is no longer an option.

Despite not knowing how exactly the research will be conducted, Lindsay said that having a feel for what students want is not enough and that the needs of Concordia students have likely changed since 2003, when the levy was established to go towards paying for a student centre.

"It seems like an intuitive idea that the students would want more space to [be controlled by] students, but maybe we've met the demand at the current place," he said.

According to Lindsay, the amount of money allocated for the study is way more than necessary, and whatever is not used towards research will be dropped back into the main pile.

"We did the math and you could give almost every student \$4.70 to take the survey," he said.

"The money we don't spend would obviously just go back into that pot, and just become part of the amount of money that's sitting for this student space fund—it will go where that \$210,000 went," he said, citing the amount of interest earned in the past 16 months, as the student centre money was invested in a Guaranteed Investment Certificate—a low-risk, low-return form of investment.

To avoid going through the university's approval, the CSU is holding off on the research campaign until they have the funds completely in their account, but Lindsay said it may start as soon as next Tuesday.

# Life Among the Occupiers



After a late-night visit to the neighbouring McDonald's on Broadway, a protester stands on the sidewalk across from the Occupy Wall Street encampment in Zuccotti Park, early in the morning on Oct. 4. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

## The Revolution Will Be Brought To You By McDonald's

• JULIAN WARD  
& DAVID MURPHY

NEW YORK CITY, NY—The murmur of political banter is heavy in the air, reflecting upon the day's struggle at the stock market. Some put their feet up to take a load off, others laugh and enjoy a beverage in the lounge.

A pianist plays softly on a baby grand tucked away on a private balcony overlooking the patrons. A chandelier casts a comforting light on those looking to escape the cold confines of their Wall Street workplace.

But this New York City soiree is not your average cocktail affair—this event is being hosted in a McDonald's across from the Occupy Wall Street encampment.

A franchise of the \$31 billion corporation is certainly not the first location one would think of to have a discussion on the finer points of occupying Wall Street—especially with a well-spoken 20-year-old Moldovan girl with dirty-blond hair and radical politics flowing through her blood.

"I think that [the movement] will come together when discontent goes up as things keep getting

worse," says Michelle Balon in her ever-confident yet mild-mannered voice. "What we're doing here is going to have a much more important role than it has right now, once people begin to realize that their lives aren't so great."

This is just one of her telling views on the now-global Occupy Wall Street movement.

Other occupiers were not so well spoken. Few were able to elaborate on why they were there beyond using regurgitated talking points.

"Smash the system," said a 20-something year-old man in a black jean-jacket with cutoff sleeves and a logo from some punk band emblazoned on his back.

"Down with capitalism," said a middle-aged woman with wiry chestnut hair, also incapable of defending her position.

Other people in Zuccotti Park, renamed Liberty Plaza by its occupiers, were demanding many other things, like ending the Federal Reserve, jailing the bankers they blame for the economic crisis and eliminating the debt of the poor and middle-class, to name just a few.

But these people refuse, or are intellectually unable, to attach a definite list of demands to their

cause.

And it's because of this refusal to pin themselves down, coupled with their adherence to a non-hierarchical structure and a lack of an official spokesperson that makes this movement so easy to criticize.

While she admits there are a significant number of occupiers who are able to explain their presence, Balon says the people who don't know why they're occupying make her question if she's part of a worthy cause. But she knows Wall Street is exactly the place for her, regardless of others who make it easy to be skeptical of the movement.

Though she would disagree with the idea, her ability to eloquently respond to criticism of the occupation is exactly why, if there were to be an official spokesperson for the group, she would be just right for the position.

"Do we really have a million different ideas?" she asks, responding to the oft-reported claim that there is no consensus among occupiers. "I don't think so."

She lists, as examples of common ideas, that all occupiers have a desire to have a participatory role in government, to not have to pay higher taxes than corporations and

to be able to simply afford tuition, all of which, she says, are hindered by the way the economic system currently works.

"I personally don't think we're asking for much that we can directly get," she said. "No one's going to shut down the Fed next week. That's ridiculous. What we're asking for is for people to start thinking and questioning."

This, she says, is more than what some occupiers are doing, referencing those trying to resuscitate an over-romanticized and long-dead idea of peace and love from the '60s.

"The hippies are here because they have the time, no money and there's free food, and also because revolutions are a part of their culture."

"Everyone is using them as a criticism of the movement," says Balon, who wants the focus to be on the actual work being done.

"Get a hold of the *Occupied Wall Street Journal*—that's organization and that's productivity," she said of the self-published newspaper released to help counter the poor coverage by the mainstream media. "Hippies—the people just out there smoking weed—aren't the ones who can write something like this."

It's people like Balon and the organizers she spoke of that are the driving force of the Wall Street occupation. Though she is unsure of how long the encampment will last, she knows that they will have made a difference.

"This is really good practice for when we wake enough people up," she said. "Our generation doesn't have any experience with something like this. This is our time to learn."

"If there is, in 10 or 20 years, a mainstream American revolution, we will have a strategy that is going to be awesome."

Balon understands the issues at hand while refusing to bog herself down in divisive politics—it's this that allows her to so eloquently express her ideas for an American revolution all the while sitting under the golden arches of capitalism.

Though the pianist eventually ended her set for the evening, the conversations at that most-unlikely of radical meeting places continued on—into their fourth week of occupation. It's up to people like Michelle how long they'll continue—and where, exactly, they'll go.

# ON LOCATION AT

## The Link Goes to Wall Street



PHOTOS RILEY SPARKS



Monica Lopez, 25, from Spain (left) and several protesters use a laptop to film themselves just after 2 a.m. on Oct. 4



Dre DiMura, 17, of New Brunswick, NJ, played guitar in Zuccotti Park, Lower Manhattan on Oct. 4. Speaking a few hours later, he said he had just met the woman in the photograph, and that he did not know her name as she had recently chosen to stop speaking.



• ADAM ABERRA

NEW YORK CITY, NY—The Occupy Wall Street protester looks like he could have come straight out of a 1960s hippie commune, with his thick dreadlocks and unkempt beard. He calmly sips a large coffee; it's early Tuesday and he hasn't gotten much sleep.

As protestors are banned from setting up any tents, Daniel Tankian had to find innovative ways of coping with the cold and rainy October nights. His solution, like most of the protesters', has been to cover himself and his belongings with blue tarp.

Having set up camp on Sept. 17, the collection of people occupying the New York Stock Exchange come from all walks of life and harbour wildly differing political opinions.

Both rich and very poor are in the mix, discussing their thoughts about what is wrong, what is right and what, if anything, can be done about the future of true democracy and financial stability in America.

The 26-year-old sustainable development major and Hindu con-

vert remains calm and reflective when describing the socio-political climate that led him to join the hundreds of other activists in Manhattan's financial district. Tankian has already been here for a week and plans to stay for two more. His faith is evident in his analysis of the movement.

"There's so much positive energy in the air, you can feel it," he said, sparing no modesty when asked how many people he expected to show up for the Oct. 5 march to City Hall: "Five hundred thousand, maybe a million."

Though Tankian's estimate proved to be a bit optimistic—some media estimates put attendance at around 5,000 people—there is no denying the passion of those involved, no matter their numbers. Braving the lack of formal infrastructure is not for the faint of heart.

When you look around the park, it's mostly young people in their late teens and twenties who've decided to brave the elements. Some are unemployed, others are students and others have nothing else to do.

"Lost my job, found an occupa-

tion," reads a sign lying on the ground.

At 2:00 a.m., many are sound asleep and you have to watch your step when walking around the park at night. Two boys and a girl lie on an inflatable mattress, huddled together and snoring, their heads peeking out of the tarp mat blanketing their bodies. They look remarkably comfortable, given the chilly weather.

Not everyone's asleep, though. Amy Sisenstein arrived a few hours earlier and was getting acquainted with her new home. The 29-year-old from New Paltz, NY, holds degrees in both sociology and music.

"It's pretty normal to see kids with degrees working for nine or 10 dollars an hour [and] still living with their parents," she explained. Unemployed for four months and unable to find decent work, she came here.

While each protester has their own litany of grievances, unsurprisingly, common themes emerge: apprehension about the future; anger about the apparent indifference to their plight held by those in power.

The longer one hangs around Zuccotti Park, the more the cohesion amongst the occupiers grows evident. With approximately 1,000 people camping out, tight organization has become a necessity.

"The organization of the park has grown immensely over the last couple days," said one organizer going by the name of Paul. "The level [of organization] we're at today is astounding to what we were yesterday."

Whether serving meals to fellow occupiers, ensuring the cleanliness of the park, or even looking after people's nicotine addictions with free cigarettes, organizers have it covered.

At the heart of the efforts is the people's general assembly, which gathers as often as twice a day, and where all issues relating to the occupation are addressed. A bylaw against the use of megaphones has forced protesters to get creative with how to speak to large crowds in the bustling business district.

Whenever someone is addressing the audience, the speaker will yell the first part of a sentence,

which will then be yelled again by those closest, passing the message to the back of the crowd in a strange, gigantic game of 'telephone.'

But the park is more than simply meetings and resistance. The next day, an energetic group of a dozen drummers young and old pounds away in one corner of the park as others sway their bodies to the beat.

Curious passersby stop to see what all the excitement is about and kids who have finished school for the day clamour around the noise. Extra drumsticks are laid out on the ground for anyone who wishes to join in.

Some youngsters try out the sticks, banging them on railings and empty upside-down plastic buckets while their friends groove to the music. Everyone has their own beat, yet it all comes together as one hypnotic rhythm. The spontaneous music seems like a foreign intruder in New York's conservative financial district.

A young man in an elegant three-piece suit carrying a briefcase briskly walks through the park with

# THE OCCUPATION



Protesters gathered for a general assembly in the Occupy Wall Street encampment on Oct. 4.



Nick Long, 22, and Storm Shimp, 18, roll cigarettes on a bench in Zuccotti Park on Oct. 4. "We got free cigarettes and...fuck the government!" joked Long, who said he had been at the park since Sept. 17. He said he had rolled at least 1000 cigarettes that day.

(Cover) Ignati Yurov, 24, of New York City sat wearing a Guy Fawkes mask in Zuccotti Park on Oct. 4. Yurov said before he became unemployed in Feb., he had two jobs and would often work more than 120 hours per week.

a scowl. He flips the crowd the middle finger, prompting smiles and laughs.

Some of the most powerful moments witnessed at Occupy Wall Street involved the dialogue between protesters and the few Wall Street businessmen who dared to venture into the snake pit.

There were no talking points, no sound bites, no carefully edited video clips—just sincere arguments on the part of both sides, the kind of dialogue so painfully missing from the nation's mainstream media.

Dressed in a full business suit and slicked back hair, Daniel J. Halloran III, a NYC councillor, discussed with protesters what he thinks the issues are and what can be done to change the system.

"This is about corporatism, not capitalism," he said. And though he sympathizes with the occupiers, he told them, "just protesting isn't going to get us anywhere. [...] What needs to happen is people need to get out and vote [if change is to be achieved]."

Halloran said he hopes that more people like himself—those

viewed as the "enemy" by many in the park—will come out to engage with the protesters and find some common ground.

Some in the park, though, are not so quick to trust the other side joining in the dialogue.

"I don't believe any of those fucking people," says Hamza Sinanaj, a self-identified libertarian who came from upstate New York to join in the protest. "They're all paid for by the corporations."

"I'd like to get rid of the current corporate structure," he says. "We need a new rule of law. We need to bust [the largest] corporations into six or seven smaller corporations [and] we need strong anti-trust laws.

"I have a message for the corporations: you won," he said while looking up at an office building.

But this isn't a reason for total despair, he said. Sinanaj believes that dialogue with the corporations, which he believes are now running the show, needs to be opened if change is to be achieved. "Why not go straight to the source of the problems we face?"

A stockbroker in his mid-30s who introduced himself as Mike shared his point of view with a group of young people.

"I know things are tough, believe me. My sister just got laid off, I know how it is," he asserts defensively.

You can sense how personally some in the Wall Street community have interpreted the public's anger.

"[But] I think it's unfair to just go after Wall Street. We also took a hit [during the recession]. I've had to let some people go. Do you think that was any fun?"

Mike went on to explain the value of what financial professionals bring to society. "Guys like me help raise the capital for start-ups," he argues. "We raise the funds and invest in revolutionary entrepreneurs. You can say thanks to Wall Street for helping develop companies like Apple. Thank me for your iPhone."

This reasoning created a few puzzled faces in the group.

"Look, I came from a family of eight kids," Mike continued. "We sure as hell weren't rich, but you know what? I paid my way through

college. I'm here because of me, no one else. There aren't any free rides. That's what you guys have to understand."

This doesn't play too well to the university students about to graduate into an uncertain economy. Despite the deadlock, discussions like this show that both sides are at least willing to sit down and listen to each other.

Beyond the park, subtle signs point to the general public's sharing of Occupy Wall Street's grievances. Just across the street, the construction site for the future Freedom Tower lies where the World Trade Center used to stand.

Construction workers have painted their union's name, Ironworkers local 40, in bright orange on a beam of the unfinished building, acknowledging the protest, if not openly endorsing it.

Organized labour could also pack some much-needed punch to the movement's visibility. During the Oct. 4 general assembly, activists proudly named the unions that would be taking part in the upcoming march to City Hall.

Some heavy-hitters mentioned in the speech included the Industrial Workers of the World and the United Auto Workers, which hold a combined membership of over half a million workers.

As New York goes, so too, it seems, goes the country. "Occupy" protests have spread to other major cities across the United States, but it is Zuccotti Park, a block away from the New York Stock Exchange, near the headquarters of the world's largest financial institutions that remain the epicenter of the discontent and outrage.

As the famous, open-roofed Gray Line double-decker tour buses slowly pass by the public square, demonstrators flash their placards and wave to the tourists aboard the buses.

"Welcome to New York!" the crowds yell. A few tourists grimace or look away, most do not. They nod their heads approvingly. A few raise their fists in solidarity. As New York goes, so too goes the world.

—With files from Julian Ward.

# The Ballerina and the Bull



## *Adbusters'* Micah White on 'The Last Great Social Movement'

• LAURA BEESTON

She perches gracefully on the charging animal.

Poised atop the bull, which is an iconic—and possibly ironic—symbol of aggressive financial optimism and prosperity, the ballerina extends her arms, her leg, serenely posed against the grey skies.

But they are not alone on Wall Street.

In the fog behind the bronzed beast, a crowd emerges wearing gas masks and holding batons, arms linked together against whatever is ahead.

The poster is scenic, striking and, as the events over the last four weeks have revealed, perhaps even revolutionary.

Setting this movement in motion was the Vancouver-based *Adbusters* magazine, which created the image in July.

It's part of the publication's long history of using visceral, often shocking images to inspire readers, but this one in particular has since taken off, becoming an emblem of the Occupy Wall Street movement, igniting something powerful in the public imagination that has held fast.

Calling itself a "revolutionary

magazine with a revolutionary agenda," *Adbusters* has been advocating for a cultural insurgency against consumerism and corporate forces controlling Western culture for the last 20 years.

While they may have been the first to launch the idea to occupy Wall Street with this beautiful image, "It's the people who are in New York City, and now all over the nation who ran with it and are making it what it is," explained *Adbusters* Senior Editor Micah White in an interview with *The Link*.

"The credit has to go to the people who are down there."

Following the OWS events closely, White is convinced this movement is just the beginning; that something big is in the air.

The New York Police Department has fenced off the Wall Street bull from the thousands of occupiers, with security personnel guarding it 24/7.

Taking Wall Street—a place of huge symbolic importance—and holding an assembly to reassert a people's democracy, OWS combines elements of the Egyptian Tahrir Square occupation that was a crucial component of the Arab Spring with the *acampadas* resistance model that proliferated in

Spain last May.

"That's why it's working right now," argued White. "From the beginning, it's been clear that the long-term goal is to end the moneyed corruption of our democracy and remove the influence money has over policy. [...] That's something people are throwing their weight behind."

The movement isn't without its critics, however. Mainstream media outlets were reluctant to even report on the OWS in its early stages, and have since derided it as nothing more than a fringe group with disparate demands that will eventually fizzle out.

White doesn't share that pessimism.

"Of course the people in the general assemblies are still figuring out the issues," White admitted. "And yeah, the revolutionary process is difficult, and beautiful, and exciting, and messy—but it's something we need to work through."

As for OWS's detractors, White was frank: "I would say to them that they need to wake up and look around at the world—we're in an end-time moment," he said. "There's financial collapse, ecological collapse, there's moral col-

lapse and mental collapse.

"We're entering this moment in human history where it's now or never. And we can sit on our couches and be cynical, or we can do something. If we choose to be cynical, there is no salvation. There is no light at the end of this tunnel unless we make it."

White believes that escalating the spirit of OWS and its call for a people's democracy onto an international platform is the next step, along with demanding solutions to governance and financial crises. He added that a deepening concern for the future could be felt worldwide.

For their part, *Adbusters* has endorsed calling for a "Robin Hood" or "Tobin Tax" on all global financial transactions at the upcoming G20 Summit in Cannes, France on Nov. 3 and 4.

The proposed, global, one per cent tax on all financial transactions is intended to increase the contribution of financial services to failing social structures and limit market volatility—earmarking funds for poverty reduction and other public programs.

The primary point is to "slow down fast money," while also giving people the power to participate and make demands on the

future of the global economy.

"If we get smart, savvy and inspired, there's a real possibility we can overthrow the corporate power structures and change all the rules—they're all up in the air right now," said White. "This is a really great moment of potential that should be embraced. We need to run with it."

To get the masses behind any movement, however, requires creative thinking to work towards solutions to challenges ahead, said White—be it reforming the government of the United States or confronting the Quebec government about tuition increases.

The theoretical model for *Adbusters* has been to avoid traditional, market-tested models of engagement to get people interested.

Instead, White explained, "We rely on passionate words, pertinent facts and beautiful art to try to provoke epiphanies. That's what it's all about!"

"We didn't tell people to go out to Wall Street," continued White. "All we said was, 'Wouldn't it be beautiful if people went to Wall Street,' and then they felt inspired and made it their own. It's not something that *Adbusters* did; it's something we did together."

# Planning Ahead



PHOTO AMANDA LAPRADE

## Senate Discusses Long-Term Goals and Governance at Monthly Meeting

• ADAM KOVAC

The Concordia Board of Governors might be done, but Senate is just getting warmed up.

When the highest academic body at the university met on Oct. 7, discussion focused on the latest revisions to the school's academic plan, which was issued in August. However, as with all things at Concordia so far this year, the discussion eventually veered into talking about governance, as several Senators questioned whether the plan should be completed before a new president is found.

"Is this going to be the academic plan for the next five years, or will it be an interim draft awaiting the arrival of the new president, as was clearly recommended in the report of the external governance review committee?" asked Engineering and Computer Science faculty member Ted Stathopolous, referring to the document written by a team led by former McGill Principal Bernard Shapiro that outlined recommended

reforms to Concordia governance.

Concordia President Frederick Lowy replied that the committee made that recommendation because it didn't think the plan would be ready by the time a new president was found.

"They thought we weren't able to do it before the next president came," he said. "I don't believe it was in any sense that the plan should await the next president, but that they felt it would take the next president to do it. The hundreds of people involved in preparing this plan were able to do it fairly fast."

Provost David Graham, Concordia's chief academic officer, pointed out that the report contradicted itself by saying that the school should move forward without delay on the plan, but also that the plan should be the first job of a new president.

Graduate student Senator Holly Nazar pointed out that, while a large part of the plan deals with attracting new graduate students, the plan fails to meet concerns of exist-

ing students, particularly in terms of financial needs.

"It speaks to a group of graduate students that are not here. I cannot see how any undergraduates can be happy with this document," she said. "It means reducing programs that are important to undergraduate students and larger classes."

In his opening remarks on the subject, Graham admitted that there had been reservations about the academic plan from various members of the faculty and administration, but that he thought a good compromise had been met.

"The overall message that we've been getting has been very consistent," he said. "First, people view the plan as being considerably improved. Second, overall I'm getting the sense that people are very happy with what they see in it. Third, there is no doubt that there are some irritants that remain for all of us."

"All of us are going to have things in the plan that make us uneasy," he continued. "Having said that, I have determined that there is nothing in

the plan that I cannot live with." He then noted that the plan is not final, but will be revised over the next month to be voted on at the next Senate meeting.

Senate also discussed the review committee's recommendation to allow two members of the school's administrative and support staff to gain seats on Senate, while still keeping the same proportion of representation for other constituencies. Lowy pointed out that this could be hard to do, due to the sheer size of Senate, and the amount of tampering with its makeup that would be necessary to make this possible.

"I think, even though I haven't heard from any students on this point, it would make sense to respect the proportional representation of students [on Senate]," said Lowy.

The vote came a week after members of Concordia's Board of Governors voted overwhelmingly to reduce the undergraduate representation on BoG from 10 per cent to four per cent.

## WHO IS @PETER\_KRUYT?

• LAURA BEESTON

During a heated Board of Governors meeting Sept. 28, while Chairman Peter Kruyt effectively killed future undergraduate student representation on the Board, another Peter Kruyt was born.

He goes by @Peter\_Kruyt.

A self-proclaimed "insubordinate satirist" that's been mocking the real Board Chair on Twitter since the meeting, @Peter\_Kruyt has been following administrators, faculty, student politicians and editors of *The Link* newspaper—offering his darkly comic two cents on the happenings around campus.

"I've received news that there is a Peter Kruyt impersonator online," wrote the satirist on Oct. 4. "I will beat free speech down his throat once my lawyers choke him."

Once @Peter\_Kruyt got some online attention, members of *The Link's* editorial team received phone calls from the university administration asking if we knew who was behind the impressionist, as "appropriate measures" were being taken to take down the account. [Editor's note: Our guess is as good as any.]

Since then, the university has also contacted Twitter.

"They do have their own procedures and have been alerted," said Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota. "They will do whatever it is that they do. Are our lawyers getting involved? Absolutely not. We just thought it appropriate that we alert them and they will deal with it."

While Twitter's "small and quite busy" communications team in San Francisco was unable to speak directly with *The Link* about Concordia's impersonation complaint, they did direct us to the Twitter Rules regarding impersonation and parody.

Officially, Twitter allows for parody, commentary and fan accounts that include role-playing, but impersonation is in violation of the Twitter Rules if it is done in a manner that is intended to mislead, confuse or deceive.

That said, "Twitter provides a platform for its users to share and receive a wide range of ideas and content, and we greatly value and respect our users' expression," read the rules, "and will not censor user content, except in limited circumstances."

Twitter also makes suggestions to ensure member accounts are permissible, suggesting a clarification is added to a users' bio to distinguish the account as 'fake' in some way. Accounts with a clear intent to deceive may be suspended.

While it's hard to say if the account is fair comment or not until Twitter weighs in, @Peter\_Kruyt keeps doing his thing online, while the real Peter Kruyt continues to refuse interviews with the media.

Since the Board controversially dismissed former President Judith Woodworth last December, Kruyt has reportedly refused interviews with CJAD, *The Gazette* and *Maclean's* magazine, among others.

"Peter is not doing any interviews at all," said Mota. "It's out of no disrespect to the student press, it's just [his decision] across the board. He's not doing interviews and that has not changed."

Until the real Peter Kruyt breaks his 'no comment' rule, however, there is an alternative to follow—for the time being.

"I sincerely hope @Concordia nabs that satirist mocking me on the Internet and make 'em pay with their life prospects," wrote @Peter\_Kruyt. "No mercy."

# “How Many Missing Until You Start Listening?”

## Annual Vigil Remembers Missing and Murdered Native Women

• JACOB ROBERTS

The sixth annual March for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women took over Cabot Square Oct. 4, raising awareness and demanding government money for their cause.

The march began with a drum circle and a prayer before Bridget Tolley, who founded the annual event after her mother was struck and killed by a Sûreté du Québec police car in 2001, spoke to the crowd.

“Last year the government took away the funding for the Sisters in Spirit from the Native Women’s Association of Canada,” said Tolley, referring to the Harper administration pulling funding to the NWAC’s research and education initiative last year.

“But we just couldn’t let it go. [These are] our sisters in spirit and we want to continue to honour them.”

“We are here, we are going to be here and we are not going anywhere,” Tolley continued. “We are going to continue to fight as families, as sisters in spirit with no funding. We are going to continue to go on.”

According to the NWAC, 583 Native women have disappeared or been murdered since 1980.

Last year, the Minister of State for Status of Women Canada, Rona Ambrose, detailed the fed-

eral government’s \$10 million national strategy to address the disproportionately high number of missing and murdered aboriginal women in Canada—but shut Sisters in Spirit out of it.

After creating the only comprehensive database of its kind and filing nearly 600 cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women in Canada, the SIS initiative pushed the issue into the public discourse and organized vigils across Canada to memorialize the missing and the dead.

The SIS was left out of the federal budget, however; its five-year mandate was not extended by the government. With the budget exclusion, SIS was told to shut down and to discontinue its database by Status of Women Canada.

In its place, the Conservatives announced that \$4 million would go towards creating a new branch of the RCMP’s Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children. The branch, which will be called the National Police Support Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains, is scheduled to begin operations in 2013.

At the Montreal event, speakers stepped up to the platform after Tolley’s speech to tell their stories of murdered daughters, mothers, family and friends.

Many of the stories had no ending—a loved one was seen one

morning, then never again. Some came with a kind of closure, years later, when the remains of a body were found in the woods or under a bridge and identified. The speakers described the attitudes of the police as ranging from indifferent to malicious.

The march itself started around 7:00 p.m. and flooded down Ste. Catherine St. W., where it seemed to absorb more and more sympathetic people into its folds. By the time it reached Union Ave., the marchers numbered somewhere in the hundreds.

The procession stopped in Philips Square. Candles were handed out and a vigil took place before more guest speakers stood up to share tragic stories and speak to the crowd of injustices suffered. It ended with another drum circle.

Before the final tribute to the missing and the dead, organizers asked the crowd to put away their cameras and recording devices—even the journalists. The drum circle is about sharing a spiritual connection, organizers said, and cameras can’t capture that.

The crowd obliged and gathered together around the drummers to share in the mourning for those who weren’t there and joy for those who were.

—with files from  
Laura Beeston



PHOTO RODRIGO LOZADA

## Dishing on Disease

### Stephen Lewis Wraps Up Cancer Awareness Tour at ConU

• EMILY BRASS

Students have the power to change the face of the fight against cancer.

At least, that was the message Stephen Lewis, a former Canadian politician and UN ambassador, had to deliver at an Oct. 5 stop in the Hall Building’s DB Clarke auditorium.

Lewis finished his People vs. Cancer tour at Concordia, ending a trek that had made several stops at Canadian universities to enlist the intellectual support of students and institutions in the fight against cancer.

“Concordia has an extraordinary history of gathering forces for social change,” said Lewis. “Students have the capacity to move mountains when they want to, and to rally the rest of society in the process.”

One in three Canadians will get the disease, and half of these cases could be prevented. Nevertheless, cancer meets with “astonishing indifference,” maintained Lewis.

A disappointing turnout at the event made this apathy all the more evident. Speaking to a mostly empty auditorium, Lewis called on universities to focus more research on root causes of cancer deaths, like poverty and lack of access to affordable drugs.

Lewis’ tour comes on the heels of last month’s first-ever UN Summit on Non-Communicable Diseases. These illnesses are the leading cause of death worldwide, with cases outnumbering those of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined.

Lewis said healthcare systems in developing countries are especially overwhelmed.

“There’s something appalling

about our inability to come together sufficiently to overcome the passivity and the rigidity with which these diseases are dealt—cancer in particular,” he said.

Lewis also criticized Quebec’s recent decision to resume the mining and exporting of asbestos.

“It is beyond belief that we are exporting death,” he said of the carcinogenic mineral. “It is unimaginable that we are willing to sacrifice lives in developing countries to support a relative handful of jobs in the Canadian economy.”

The evening began with a poignant speech by JMSB student Anthony Hunt, who lost his mother to cancer last year.

“This disease changed me,” Hunt said. “When a person who means so much to you is suffering from such an illness, everything about you is shaken to the core.”



PHOTO AMANDA LAPRADE



PHOTO COURTESY OF CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

# Getting Out of the Habit

## Sisters to Leave Grey Nuns Residence in 2012

• ADAM KOVAC

Fine Arts students will be packing up their dance shoes and theatre props, and moving into the Grey Nuns complex on St. Mathieu St. The only question is when, as the nuns who currently inhabit part of the building will be vacating earlier than expected.

Fine Arts Senator Andy Filipowich gave an update on the project to the first Fine Arts Student Alliance council meeting on Oct. 4, as part of an orientation presentation to the new councillors and executives.

"I had a meeting with the Dean of Fine Arts [Catherine Wild]," he told *The Link* afterwards. "I asked her about the Fine Arts building that's been rumoured since who knows when. It is going to be built at Grey

Nuns. However, there's no funding for it right now. It's not a top priority quite yet. And they're also waiting for the nuns to move out."

Concordia acquired the property in 2004 as part of a long-term deal that saw the university establish a students' residence in 2007. Since then, the school has gradually taken over more and more of the area, with the aim to eventually move all Fine Arts classes into the motherhouse.

According to university spokesperson Chris Mota, the nuns announced last week that they would be moving out of the building entirely in 2012. However, that still leaves the timeline for the next few stages of the transition unclear, as there has yet to be a competition for architectural designs for the renovation and

expansion of the complex.

"This is all a very long-term plan, as we were only supposed to acquire the entire site in 2022, but the nuns are leaving early," said Mota.

"So everything is very temporary until we go through the process. Until we're in a position to turn that into a home for the faculty of Fine Arts, there will probably be an expansion of the residence. But again, that's temporary, and when I say temporary, is it three years or five years or 10 years? That's not clear."

Filipowich also stressed the long-term nature of the project, noting that even if the funding was found immediately, the first Fine Arts classes would only be moved to Grey Nuns in about five years, with some taking as long as 20 years to move.

Currently, Fine Arts students are spread around the downtown campus. Filipowich did note that the VA Building on Crescent St. and René Lévesque Blvd., which houses visual arts students, is not ideal for their needs. The problems there are part of the reason for the impending move.

"That building was not built to be a visual arts complex, it was built to be a parking garage," he said.

"To say that the current infrastructure is best suited for visual arts would definitely need a lot of evidence to support. I think they're doing the best job that they can at the current moment, but there's definitely issues that go with that building, and the solution to the problem on a long-term basis is them building a new building at Grey Nuns."

## RESTORATION PROJECT LIKELY TO GENTRIFY ATWATER NEIGHBOURHOOD

• JACOB ROBERTS

The term revitalization might conjure up images of a lush, green sanctuary in the heart of a bustling downtown metropolis—but in the case of Cabot Square, some activists say it's an example of a whitewashed area in a gentrifying city.

Located in Shaughnessy Village near Atwater Metro, Cabot Square is in an area of downtown that has been considered a "dead space" for quite some time. But the reason it's going to waste because no one is using it. At least, that's the theory behind a \$5.5 million restoration project announced by the city earlier this year.

But as student and community activist Kelly Pennington explained, Cabot Square isn't dead space to everyone.

"That [designation] just means no one with money," she said.

Due to the low rent in the

area, Shaughnessy Village has been home to students and low-income families for years. On Sept. 26, the city announced that pursuant to the results of a public consultation, it will go ahead with its sweeping plan to build 420 new apartments in the area, as well as clean up Hector "Toe" Blake Park, located on René Lévesque Blvd. just east of Atwater Ave.

Before the revitalization project, abandoned buildings like the historic Seville Theater served as an unofficial shelter for the destitute and homeless. Not any longer.

"Our rights are really based on identity and property," said Pennington. "If someone doesn't really fit into the legal system, if they don't have property, if they don't have a phone number, if they don't have an address, it's a lot easier to marginalize them. [...] They don't have any legal grounds at all, so it's easy to just push them aside."

The three main goals of the Cabot Square revitalization project are boosting economic prosperity in the area, preserving heritage and improving quality of life. There are also, according to Pennington, terms like: improving green space and making it safe for families that make this project sound so appealing to the public.

"It's aimed at a different class of people and those people are going to end up demanding a certain quote-unquote cleanliness or standard of the area," said Pennington. "Ownership means they have more of a right to speak up, to say, 'This is my property, I want these people out of here.'"

Because there is no legal way to kick someone—even a homeless person—out of a public park, the revitalization will work something like this:

The new condominiums that are being built around the neighborhood—including where the

Seville used to be—will attract young, rich families. When those families bring their children to the park—Cabot Square—to play, they won't feel very comfortable with the homeless people sharing their space.

"There's maintenance of the premises [...] and there's increasing a police presence. If you're looking at studies of dealing with homelessness, it usually leads to criminalization and then displacement of the homeless," said Pennington.

Then it's just a matter of who has the higher legal ground to use the public park.

It might not be a violent or aggressive displacement of the homeless—quite likely, the police will just ask them to leave. In that manner, anyone who can't afford to live in Montreal—or any city facing a similar problem—will be pushed further and further away every year. It doesn't matter where they go, as long as it's not here.



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### MOBBIN' LIKE THAT

*The Concordia Student Union's Mob Squad is putting out a hit on tuition hikes. Headed by CSU VP External Affairs Chad Walcott and open to all interested students, the Mob was assembled to combat a proposed province-wide increase in tuition. "I think Concordia has the responsibility to make sure the message gets out to the wider population."*

### GOVERNORS

*"The comparison with UQAM is misleading. Their Board of Governors is a joke. The provincial government is in charge of the university since the fiasco of l'ilot Voyageur. A bit more fact-finding, please, is in order."*

—Jean-Francois Belanger, commenting on 'Going Through the Motions'

### BIKE PATH

*The city of Montreal will be working with ConU to build a permanent, greener bike path down the south side of de Maisonneuve Blvd. Instead of ugly pylons dividing cyclists from traffic there will be a proposed median of vegetation. The project is scheduled to be finished in the spring of 2012.*

### #OWS

*"Surrounded by people sleeping, two young protesters dance slowly to no music, just after 2:00 a.m. at #Occupy-WallStreet" -@sparksriley [Riley Sparks]*



### ASFA

*"The Arts and Science Federation of Associations' byelections are wrapping up as polling begins tomorrow and ends on Oct. 13. A total of six candidates are running for the open spots, which include an independent councillor seat, VP Communications, and VP External & Sustainability."*

# Knitting a Community

## Tight-Knit Friendships Form at Espace Tricot



PHOTOS HILARY SINCLAIR

• HILARY SINCLAIR

Lisa Fruscia and Melissa Clulow co-created Espace Tricot two summers ago, hoping to establish a knitting space that was both conducive to building a community and practicing the craft.

“We based the store on what we wanted as knitters and stemmed from that,” said Fruscia. “We wanted a nice design element; we wanted it to be modern, to be cool and cozy.”

And cozy it is. Espace Tricot, located in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, feels more like a living room than a business. The bookshelves are filled with a rainbow of richly coloured wool, and in the centre a big leather couch sits surrounded by comfy chairs—making it hardly surprising to hear that the patrons feel at home there.

Priscilla Lefebure is a regular that has been coming to Espace Tricot since it opened. “I’ve been to a few knit shops and I’ve got some cold, serious vibes from there, but you come to [Espace Tricot] and you feel invited,” said Lefebure. “It’s very social. For me, it’s my only outing other than the odd family function.”

The sound of clicking needles and happy chatter fills the space. Regulars say they have profited from Espace Tricot by becoming better knitters and forming friendships.

Lucette Deschesnes—dubbed “speedy needles” by the others—said that coming to the knit nights and knit-alongs has allowed her to learn new techniques while discovering different styles of patterns. Sylvie Croteau, who is working on a lace project, said the

store has absolutely everything she needs.

Sharing a space that encourages interaction and promotes a common interest has also allowed the women to all become very close friends.

“What’s really nice is that at knit nights you’ll have the whole age range so you’ll have the older ladies speaking with the young ones,” said Clulow. “That’s a lot of exchange of humor and wisdom.”

With their clientele ranging in age from 18 to 70, young and old come to mingle and de-stress. The store has even attracted a snowboarder who was looking for guidance in starting his own line of knitwear for riders but needed to learn how to start.

While knitting creates community, it is also very personal. Many people who come find the act of

knitting helps to relieve stress and fulfill the desire to create.

Knitting entered Fruscia’s world as a result of having to drive her infant son around in the car to get him to sleep. On these trips she would always pass a knit shop that peaked her curiosity until she finally went in.

“I wanted to be creative,” Fruscia said. “I was always doing some creative endeavour, but I had done nothing since my son was born. So I took a class and I learned how.”

Clulow said she was attracted to knitting after she realized a need for more interaction in her daily life. Being new to Montreal, working from home and having a small child limited her ability to socialize, so attending a knitting group allowed her to get out while also creating something unique.

It was at a knit night that Clu-

low and Fruscia met and later began to stitch together plans for their own shop.

Clulow says that knitting gives her “total peace of mind. I had a very stressful job [and] didn’t expect the benefits that it gave to me fairly quickly. I realized that I was so much calmer and that it was sort of a meditative experience.

“I [now] start my day with it. I sit down for 10 or 15 minutes and just knit and [mentally] go over the stuff I had to do that day,” she said. “I found that it kept me really calm and really centered. I know when I’m not knitting enough the stress starts to rise.”

Espace Tricot is located at 6054 Monkland Ave. Check out their website [espacetricot.com](http://espacetricot.com) to find out more about classes and events.

# Keep It Cool & Pay It Forward



## The Aggrolites Are Dirty Reggae Pioneers

• COLIN HARRIS

There's nothing like smooth reggae vibes to expel worry from tired bones, and generally, the simpler the rhythm the better. For L.A. reggae-rockers The Aggrolites, the addition of a little American soul was all they needed to get their signature groove just right.

"When it comes to playing reggae it's more about that groove, it may be a two-chord progression song, but as long as that rhythm is tight and the band's locking in, it'll sound like a big machine, a unit," said singer/guitarist Jesse Wagner.

That reggae machine has been churning out only the tastiest grooves for the last nine years.

Their old-school ska and rocksteady influences blend with soul and blues, creating what the band lovingly refers to as "dirty reggae."

"Reggae is rebel music, singing about social issues going on at the time, and that's obviously why the working class got into punk rock in the late '70s and '80s," said Wagner. "Hardcore bands were influenced by reggae because it meant something to them, socially."

The Aggrolites go right to the source of the groove; they're more than just an homage to lost island rhythms. Bands the world over still pull from these sounds, The Aggrolites serving as an influencer and guide to a whole new generation.

"Reggae changed my life, it

changed everyone in the band's life," said Wagner. "[Having kids] walk away with that interest and wanting to listen to more, digging deep into old ska and rocksteady, that's really cool."

Partying and positivity remain central to the band's message, one that's come down to them from their most sacred influences. It's not quite the politically charged subject matter of Jamaican groups, but rather that of reggae's forefather, soul.

"Early reggae music was influenced by soul; if you listen to '69-era or early '70s, a lot of that was just 'I love you' songs," said Wagner. "You listen to American soul music, the words are just about

feelin' good, James Brown and so on."

The Aggrolites see themselves as a gateway band into a proud but under-the-radar canon of Jamaican ska pioneers.

"There's a lot out there man, there are a lot of old school artists, album after album of great performers and singers that never did it," said Wagner. "In Kingston, guys were basically working for free in those days, not getting any publishing rights or anything. Probably not even realizing back then they'd get all the way over the world."

And for the ones who did break through, The Aggrolites have only the utmost respect.

"One thing I love about the old stuff, The Skatalites especially, is that you can think about them as a ska band, but there's jazz to it," said Wagner.

"If you go to a jazz club and watch a jazz band of guys in their 60s and 70s, you're going to see older people watching. But with the Skatalites, there's some magic thing about their music, they've been around playing since 1964 and their crowd always stays young. I mean, how can you beat that?"

The Aggrolites / Oct. 13 / Café Campus (57 Prince Arthur St. E.) / montreal-skafestival.ca

## Carnal Knowledge

### Angus Balbernie on Direction, Dance Ecology & Studio 303

• LAURA BEESTON

"People ask me to describe my work and, wickedly, I tend to just write what I want for fun—you're allowed to at my age. When I write about my workshops and pieces, I'm a bit naughty," says Angus Balbernie.

That's how Balbernie—an award-winning, international choreography director extraordinaire—described his upcoming work *Compasses, Felons and Carnal Knowledge*.

"[The audience] is always looking for interesting, different narratives in all these dance blurbs and write ups—but the truth is, if you want to learn about something, you should go to a book, you don't go to a dance.

"I prefer dance to be ambiguous and abstract in that sense. You let your own perceptual system work it out. You trust your

own gut, not the write up."

The articulate Balbernie, who had no trouble speaking at length about his upcoming performance work in collaboration with local dance legend Guillaume Chouinard and Studio 303, explained that performance is "a shortcut through language," while simultaneously acknowledging the textuality of his practice.

Returning to Studio 303 after nearly a decade, Balbernie admitted that he and Chouinard, who collaborated in Montreal extensively 22-odd years ago, don't remember anything about the duet they did back then, and are starting from scratch.

"This is how I love to work," he mused. "I don't really ever have any pre-conceptions about making work as a director; you start with the people. An idea comes up, about art, about life, and you just take a walk—but this

is going to be about two people being lost, and finding themselves again."

Paired with a live musician, the duet will encompass elements of theatre, dance and interaction with the physical space. "We'll get the compass out, get the map, put it in the studio and start," he said.

Balbernie—who taught contact improvisation and release techniques for nearly 30 years—explained his "active thinking" about choreography has been inspired by a "failed PhD" in the social and environmental sciences.

He asserted that "There are no good books on choreography [...] but if you read a good book on anything else—let's say architecture—and you cross out the word 'architecture,' you'll have a perfect guide [to choreography]."

Drawing influences from academia—namely ecology, anthropology and urban studies—

Balbernie explained this is the basis of what he believes choreography should be, or "the objective shaping of tuned space."

"It's kind of denying the body as a unit of performance making," he admitted, "but I have a fascination with space and how you use it choreographically and physically. There is an equal agreement between both the body and the spaces—it's how you work with both, really."

Ecology seems a fitting theme for his oeuvre, as it will be aired and paired with work by local artists Kira Kircsch and Kelly Keenan, who are presenting a work entitled *Useless Creatures* that explores displaced species, disturbed ecosystems and physical survival attempts.

The 'science' of dance direction is what he will also explore in his Studio 303 intensive professional workshop *10 Ways to Work With a Sleeping Animal*,

taking place Oct. 17 to 21.

Open to "all interested in moving, making work and finding clarity in directing," the workshop promises an intensive study on the direction of dance as "another language."

"Directing is not choreography," he explained. "Often it's working with people to make decisions about movement, to become editors of movement. There's a break between being the choreographer, and having the discipline to edit your work."

*Compasses, Felons and Carnal Knowledge*, with Guillaume Chouinard, and *Useless Creatures*, featuring Kira Kirsch and Kelly Keenan, will be performed Oct. 22 and 23 at Studio 303 (372 Ste. Catherine St. W.). Tickets are \$15.00 regular, and \$12.00 for students. For more information, check out studio303.ca

# Fringe Foodie

## The Slow Return of Street Food



Catch Grumman 78 around the city to grab a gourmet taco on the go.

• JOSH DAVIDSON

Summer trivia: which of the following events this past July was the bigger milestone for the city of Montreal?

One-hundred-thousand people attending a B-52s concert

A taco truck parked outside said B-52s concert

If you chose the taco truck, you're likely reading the correct column. Whilst the B-52s peaked in 1979, any local foodie knows that a real live taco truck parked in the heart of downtown is a truly momentous occasion for this city.

The pioneering truck is not only being spotted around town, but encircled with lineups—sometimes for as long as 12 hours straight, which is what happened during the momentous B-52's gig.

The lime-green truck with the smiling taco has actually become somewhat of a legend in a city starved of street food since 1947.

Yes, 1947. If you get as hungry as me walking past slews of restaurants out of your price range, you may have even remarked upon such an absence yourself.

Montréal's 64-year-old street-food ban is indeed one of the great ironies of the city's culinary

identity.

After all, we like to brag; we have more restaurants per capita than any other city in Canada. We have Martin Picard, Chuck Hughes, Schwartz. We have a mélange of international restos from Antillean to Venezuelan.

We even have Gordon Ramsay on Laurier St. But did you ever wonder why we feel the need to keep chattering about these things to New Yorkers, Los Angeles or Torontonians?

If we keep them distracted enough, if we feed them enough bagels, we might just keep them from noticing the dark, depressing yet blatantly obvious blemish on the Montreal foodscape: its utter lack of street food.

But now we have Hilary McGown and Marc Leclerc's miraculous success of a taco truck, which they call Grumman 78, and the light has been shone on the city's ban, we're waking up to what we've been missing. It's happening slowly, one gourmet taco at a time.

A few years ago, the two chefs were on an all-inclusive trip in Cabo San Lucas. They began to tire of resort food, venturing out to the city to taste tacos from a street vendor. It must have

tasted good, because a short time later, Grumman 78 was born.

Taking inspiration from the San Lucan street-food vendors, McGown and Leclerc teamed up with longtime Au Pied du Cochon manager Gaele Cerf to offer their own version of the "unpretentious, delicious" handheld delicacy that is the taco, in the words of McGown.

But replicating a traditional Mexican dish was not the endpoint for McGown and Leclerc. The two also sought to bring their own culinary creativity to bear on their dishes, and to challenge the traditional restaurant model this city has grown so accustomed to.

"We could have opened up a regular restaurant," said McGown. "But we didn't want to." Given their collective chops at the city's finest establishments, one gets the feeling that they might have done so rather effortlessly.

But the lineups and the cult following are evidence enough that Montrealers were hungry for something besides just another restaurant.

"The truck showed people: 'Look at what you could have that the city won't let you have,'"

said McGown.

In a very short time, they've managed to drive through taco-truck-sized loopholes in Montreal's dated street-food ban, setting up shop at outdoor festivals and on the grounds of the Nouveau Palais, which are both legal.

"Street-food lends itself to connections," said McGown, citing not only the countless conversations she enjoys with customers (something she missed out on as a restaurant cook), but also those she's witnessed her customers take part in.

Likewise, a trip to Grumman includes not only taste explorations such as their signature pulled-pork taco (a divine dish whose price tag would easily be doubled in a traditional restaurant) but social ones as well.

After all, a sidewalk curb is the ultimate communal table: everyone's welcome, there's tons of elbow room, and no reservations are required.

Catch Grumman 78 at Nouveau Palais every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from midnight to 3:00 a.m., at outdoor festivals and at various markets.



THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

## FRINGE FOODIE

We continue looking into Montreal's street food with Montreal's first gourmet doughnut shop, Saint Donut.



★ Saint Donut ★

## BLACK WAVES

Check out an interview with Danish producer Trentemøller. His dark electronics will mix with live instruments this Saturday at Metropolis.

## UNE BANANE

"People just re-post their images over and over again and it's not necessarily their own materials, whereas on Une Banane, everything is created by us from A to Z. There is nothing that we re-post, ever."

- blogger David Olivia



## GAUNTLET HAIR

Check out the site this weekend for our video interview with the indie duo.



# There are 1980 ways to join

#69: Sleep with an editor



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



The McGill Martlets outlasted the Concordia Stingers with a score of 7-5 at McConnell Arena Sept. 7. Read up on the Stingers' encouraging performance despite the loss online. PHOTO SEAN CELESTIN

## UNHEALTHY HAB-SESSION

• DAVID MURPHY &  
ASHLEY COUILLARD

On Thursday night, the bars were packed. Beer was shared, nachos were ordered and a good time was had, though the Montreal Canadiens ultimately fell 2-0 to their archrivals, the Toronto Maple Leafs. It wasn't just the beginning of a new National Hockey League season, though—it was also the start of another unhealthy body season.

During the NHL season, die-hard Canadiens fans will drop everything to sit down and watch their team play. Often, this is to the tune of six hours a week minimum, for eight months straight.

Many people think of the hockey season as positive—an economic shot in the arm for local businesses, an excuse to drink and eat more and a chance for hard working people to get away from their professional lives and relax with their buddies.

Students especially will head to the local watering hole for some cheap drinks and an excuse to escape the fortress of books and midterms—in some cases, at the expense of both their grades and their guts.

“A lot of students can easily get distracted from their school work,” said 23-year-old Concordia student Maria Sofroniou. “They may end up watching the game on their laptops

during their night classes, which leads to them not paying attention in class.”

Some die-hards take it a step further and make it a necessity to watch hockey at all costs.

“Every time there's a game on, it's [...] hard-wired in our heads that we have to watch the game and not do any homework,” said 19-year-old Concordia student Tyler Finigan. He sees his peers openly admit to professors that when the Habs play, their productivity drops—and the professors buy it.

“People prioritize hockey over anything else.”

This includes their bodies, it turns out. Drinking, as you may have heard, stops all functions of the liver, and it also stops the distribution of nutrients, which the body needs in order to keep your metabolism working properly.

So eating pizza, chips, burgers and topping it off with a couple brews—for eight months straight—might have you weighing about the same as Habs defenseman Hal Gill, (who's listed at 241 pounds), but certainly not looking like him (he's a 6'7" millionaire professional athlete).

“It would be interesting to see how many people who go to the arena are obese, and if their eating habits at the arena are carried on at home,” said Université de Québec à



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

Montréal kinesiology expert Anthony Karelis about the culture of hockey unhealthiness.

Karelis thinks one simple lifestyle change could benefit people when they watch hockey. Like many an old-time goalie coach, Karelis suggests people, well, just stay standing up.

According to Karelis, there's a significant correlation between cardiovascular disease and jobs that require people to stay sitting, and it doesn't help that most people sit down to watch the game when they get off work, too.

“The difference between thin people and obese people is that thin people stand up more during the day,” said Karelis. “Maybe [hockey fans] should stand up when they watch the game.”

It may not seem like much, but the difference between standing and sitting during the day is substantial. People can burn 352 calories more during the day just by staying upright—the equivalent of a 30-minute treadmill workout.

Though some might not like the sound of it, of course, the best way to maintain your beach-bod is often

to do it the old-fashioned way.

“Good management is the key,” says Concordia University biochemistry professor Abbas Kezouh.

“People should at least develop a healthy schedule, plan ahead, eat healthy during the day and exercise in the morning so that when the game comes on at night, you've felt rewarded.”

The same can be said for studying and completing assignments—but with enough praying to the hockey gods, guilt-free hockey might still be had come April. (After your exams, of course.)

# Cutting the Caf

## Expect Less Caffeine in Your Favourite Pick-Me-Ups



The new regulations will allow for no more than 180 mg of caffeine per one beverage—less than one of the above advil tablets. PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

• DAVID MURPHY

Health Canada clamped down on energy drinks last Thursday, now classifying the caffeine-infused drinks as food, so more regulations and rules can be imposed on them.

Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq announced the new regulations, which include mandatory warning labels on the drinks—much like cigarette packs—as well as restricting vitamins, minerals and caffeine to a maximum of 100 mg per 250 ml can, and to no more than 180 mg per single beverage

regardless of size.

The new restrictions will be imposed within the next two years, according to the ministry's decision.

McGill chemistry professor Dr. Joe Schwarcz, who hosts *The Dr. Joe Show* show on CJAD radio, believes these rules should have been implemented five years ago—and that energy drinks should be classified as a drug, not a food.

"It's interesting, because the Health Ministry went against their own suggestions of classifying them as drugs," said Schwarcz.

"Caffeine pills are only available in a pharmacy, but all you have to do is dissolve them in water. So why are caffeine pills regulated [as drugs] and not these?"

More questions—such as the regulation of energy shots, and even coffee—have arisen, but the Ministry has yet to touch on them.

"I wouldn't be adverse to having coffee labeled as well," said Schwarcz. He says the more information people have about energy drinks, the better—especially vital information about their consumption by pregnant women, mixing them with alcohol, and their ef-

fects on children aged 12 to 18.

"At the age of 12, the nervous system is still developing. So you're potentially throwing a monkey wrench into the machinery," he warned.

Richard DeBanks, co-president of the maker of the Canadian energy drink Beaver Buzz, maintains his product is safe—in moderation.

"Energy drinks are like buffed-up versions of soft drinks," said DeBanks. "Red Bull really isn't that strong. It comes down to how responsible the person is. If someone has 13 energy drinks, then

yeah, you'll have a problem."

But DeBanks doesn't see the new restrictions hindering Beaver Buzz's sales in the future.

"I don't see any negatives," said DeBanks. "[All energy drinks] will be in the same boat. Consumers will have to accept the products and new ingredients."

In fact, he believes new energy drinks will enter the market now that companies don't have to apply for right to call the drinks a natural health product, like they used to.

"At the end of the day, we'll see more products from the U.S.A. and Asia."

## HOW TO WORK OUT WHEN YOU CAN'T WORK OUT

• DAVID MURPHY & ASHLEY COUILLARD

There's nothing better than slotting a nice hour-and-a-half workout into your day to spice up the monotony of your routine. Getting your workout in the morning is a great idea, you think—or maybe after class.

But maybe the alarm doesn't go off. Maybe class drags on for an extra 15 minutes, or a group project need to be discussed. Oh, and what about that family thing tonight? And the Canadiens game is on, too.

Looks like your workout just got cut in half—or worse. Maybe you decide to leave it 'til tomorrow—and tomorrow, and tomorrow. Unfortunately, there's no true replacement for a good, heart-

pumping workout at the gym.

But you can still reach the targeted goal of 500 to 1000 metabolic equivalent (MET), minutes per week, which is 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous intensity activity each week, according to Concordia health promotion specialist Owen Moran.

One MET minute is measured by the rate at which someone starts to sweat, or the rate of energy consumption.

"You're better off doing 150 minutes of vigorous physical activity a week," stressed Moran when asked about trying to find easier alternatives. Nevertheless, there are ways to do less vigorous activities and reach the desired 500 MET a week.

"Rigorous [exercise] has more

benefit to moderate, but nevertheless, [500 MET] is the minimum," said Moran.

A 1.0 MET measurement is about the amount of energy you might expend while sleeping. A 2.0 is the equivalent of taking a shower, and a 3.0, like, say, walking the dog, is considered moderate-intensity activity. Each MET minute is measured at the point that the heart starts pumping and sweating occurs.

Here's a few tips if you're tight on time and need to get your sweat on in a hurry, with how many MET minutes it adds up to.

- ▶ 1. Cleaning the house—Mopping or scrubbing the floors can get you huffing and puffing. Up to 3.5 MET.
- ▶ 2. Sex—Yup, it's a workout.

And it's free—usually. Up to 2.8 MET.

▶ 3. Groom and grip—Squats, calf raises, and bicep curls are all possible in the shower or when brushing teeth. Be careful, though—bathtubs can be slippery when wet. 3.8 MET.

▶ 4. Stretching—Not the best for burning calories, but important nonetheless. And it helps with tip number two. 2.3 MET.

▶ 5. Running on the spot—Too many super-fit joggers judge you when they pass by? A 10-minute stationary run will do the trick. Up to 6.0 MET

▶ 6. Ball power—Squeeze a stress ball and buy an athletic ball to sit on while you work at your desk. Let go of your stress to the tune of 2.8 MET.

▶ 7. Use your feet—Instead of taking the bus to the metro, walk. And don't get angry when the escalators aren't working—get climbin'! That'll use up at least 4.0 MET.

▶ 8. Sit and push—When you're watching the Habs play, get your ass on the ground and do some pushups and sit-ups. At least 3.8 MET.

▶ 9. Dance—Let loose and swing your partner. If you play your cards right, this could also lead to tip number two. Up to 7.8 MET.

▶ 10. Standing—Why sit when you can stand? You can't be a couch potato when you're chilling against the wall. This also comes in handy if you're in a bar and can't manage tip number eight, and it'll still net you 2.5 MET.



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## BASEBALL

### MCGILL 0, ConU 9

After splitting the double header last Sunday, the Stingers advanced to the conference final yesterday by shutting down the McGill Redmen in a 9-0 decision. The Stingers will hit the mound again when they take on the Carleton Ravens this Saturday at Trudeau Park. Games are at 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. respectively.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

Concordia's men's basketball team beat the Laurentian Voyageurs in a 79-75 decision at the annual Nike tournament, but fell to the hands of the Sir Wilfred Laurier Golden Hawks losing 80-75. "If you have 26 turnovers it's hard to win a game so we really have to take care of the ball," said Stingers forward James Clark. The Stingers return to action Oct. 16 when the Ottawa Gee Gees pay a visit. Tipoff is at 1:00 p.m.

## WOMEN'S HOCKEY

The Stingers gave the McGill Martlets a run for their money Oct. 7 but couldn't complete the comeback, as they were downed 7-5 at McConnell arena. "We never got any momentum. We'd score a goal and they'd come back right after that. Mentally we were pretty soft," said Stingers head coach Les Lawton. They will be looking for a win when they head to Ottawa on Oct. 15 to face the Gee Gees. The puck drops at 2:00 p.m.

## FOOTBALL

The Stingers were thankful for slotback Michael Harrington last Saturday as he caught seven passes and a touchdown to lead them to a 36-14 victory over the McGill Redmen on home field. They will try move above .500 when they head to Sherbrooke to take on the Vert et Or on Oct. 15. Kickoff is at 7:00 p.m.

## MEN'S HOCKEY

After opening their season with a pair of losses over the Windsor Lancers over the weekend, the Stingers are back in Quebec looking to reverse their luck. They must go through the L'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières Patriotes tomorrow night before heading to their home opener Friday as the Brock Badgers wait. The puck drops at 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. respectively.

# Love From a Stranger



PHOTO AMANDA SIINO

## Bringing the World Closer Together, One Note at a Time

• AMANDA SIINO

Most people spend little to no time thinking about how a stranger's day is going and even fewer consider talking to one.

But one person in the Concordia community is challenging that cultural norm. Stranger—who wishes to remain anonymous to maintain the integrity of her project—leaves sticky notes with messages like 'you are beautiful' or 'no one is alone' in busy public places like bathrooms and the metro.

"The basic idea is to scatter around little reminders of things that people forget to believe or be happy about," Stranger told *The Link* in an email interview. Her overall aim is to make a small difference in a passerby's day.

"The magic happens in the few seconds it takes to read the note and lasts however long the smile does," she said.

There are no measurable goals for the project, but Stranger says she is happy to "generate an atmosphere of a friendly world where strangers aren't some sinister force to be

afraid of."

Dr. Jeffrey Derevensky, a McGill psychology professor, further explains this phenomenon.

"I think as a society, we are now becoming more fearful. The increased awareness of pedophiles, home attacks, shooting and violent attacks leaves people afraid to interact with strangers," said Derevensky. "This has often led us to be suspicious of others—even acts of kindness."

The project started when Stranger wrote her first note. It was a response to an experience in her own life experience where she felt unable to express herself to another person due to a fear of potential awkwardness.

"I wrote it all down, folded it up and wrote on the outside something like 'someone thinks this about you and is too scared to tell you,' then left it on the bus—I was frustrated with having something good to say and not being able to say it," Stranger said.

"That started me thinking about how so many people never know anyone cares about them

because we're all too terrified to tell each other."

Stranger includes her email address on her messages so people can talk about their anxieties. She was reluctant to do so at first, but soon realized it was good to give others an option to talk if they wanted it.

Though only five people have contacted her, she feels the project has been effective in simply comforting people with the knowledge of others going through similarly difficult experiences.

"The first reply I ever got was a lovely message from a girl saying she was in tears when she read it because it related to her life so much," she said.

Recently, someone emailed her for help in making a big life decision to pursue an important goal, but she would not divulge any further details.

"There will always be one or two people who smile because of it and that makes it worthwhile."

She says the project has had a greater effect on her than she expected.

"Part of why I love the

stranger-notes is that I can feel like I'm doing something useful without getting overwhelmed by the enormity of it all," she said.

Derevensky praises Stranger's project and wants to see more people like her carrying out random acts of kindness in the future.

"We tend only to be kind in a moment of great tragedy or disaster. Our newspapers are filled with violence as opposed to acts of kindness [like this one]," said Derevensky. "I personally applaud her efforts; I wish we had more people like this."

Although Concordia security is required to remove unapproved public displays around campus due to school regulations, be on the lookout for more to come.

"I put up notes at school almost every day, except for the weekend, but they disappear pretty quickly."

"Things that are there all the time start to lose impact and feel like they're intended for everyone, not for you, so I actually really like the ephemeral nature of the notes," she said.

# Hush-Hush in Hampstead

## By-Law Amendment Disregards Religious Freedom



GRAPHIC CHRISTOPHER OLSON

• CAMILLE CHACRA

The religious freedoms of Hampstead residents took a hit last Thursday when the Montreal town's councillors modified its "no noise" bylaw, limiting excessive noise from lawnmowers, leaf-blowers and other loud equipment, especially during statutory holidays.

The newest version of the bylaw now includes three additional days—the two days of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and the one of Yom Kippur, a traditional day of atonement.

"I think it's completely asinine," said CJAD radio host Dan Delmar, who has been keeping a critical eye on the tweaking of the policy. "People who are religious can observe privately, no matter what religion they are—there's no reason why government should get involved in anyone's religious practices."

Delmar also explained that town officials are catering to the predominantly Jewish community, which, according to a letter from Hampstead Mayor William Steinberg, is "about 85 per cent" Jewish.

"We have to observe statutory holidays that are federal. It doesn't make sense to start accommodating every single religion when it's not a holiday for everyone," Steinberg noted in a written statement.

The mayor was quick to come to his own defense on the matter. In the letter, he explained that the nuisance bylaw isn't related to Judaism, but to the concept of good ol' peace and quiet—whether it applies during religious or non-religious holidays.

Funny, though—considering Stein-

berg's council chose to specifically highlight two Jewish holidays during which this bylaw is now to be enforced.

"It is unfortunate that the Town of Hampstead is being accused of imposing the religious views of our majority on the minority when we are just being even-handed," he wrote.

The need for some tranquility in a residential neighborhood is understandable, but Jewish and non-Jewish residents alike should be allowed to mow their damn lawns whichever day they bloody well want—so long as it's at a reasonable hour.

Common courtesy is always appreciated, but government intervention into personal and religious affairs like this is just uncalled for.

This bylaw is restricting homeowners from getting their work done, plain and simple. It's absolutely ludicrous to slap the community with a religiously-driven rule—especially one so utterly trivial—and at the end of the day, it just seems like Steinberg's trying to curry favour with his voter base.

On the other hand, many people don't see the restriction as a religious imposition.

Hampstead resident and Concordia student Ariel James is in agreement with Steinberg—she believes that this issue isn't even worth the squabble.

"From a Jewish perspective, I can't really give my opinion because I'm not very religious," she said. "I respect my religion and other religions—I just don't see the point in all of this arguing."

That may be a common-sense approach to the hullabaloo, but the argu-

ment against the bylaw has more depth if you take a closer look.

The Town of Hampstead is infringing on religious freedom. A town banning lawn mowing three days a year is barely worth mentioning—but the fundamental principle behind the action is out-of-line and frankly worrisome in a secular society like Canada's.

"I think the bottom line is the councillors in Hampstead have passed really ridiculous laws and, as far as I'm concerned, it's a town that I think our government should seriously look at taking under trusteeship," said Delmar.

Hampstead's governing body is evidently fixated on the dated church-state model. It isn't democratic to forbid members of a community from going about their day-to-day lives in the name of a religion—no matter how many of its constituents identify with the faith.

The government, to paraphrase Pierre Trudeau, has no business in the front lawns of the nation.

Councillors should take the negative reactions that have accompanied their decision into account and review the impact of the revised bylaw. The actual impact of the legislature may be minor, but the impetus behind it is highly troubling.

They are fueling a strong religious rift, when they should be bringing the community together—finding ways to bring the remaining 15 per cent together with the Jewish majority, not stirring up potential resentments over trivialities.

It's time to clean up your act, Hampstead—and your garden.

# AN UNHOLY MISTAKE

• ALEX WOZNICA

The federal government recently announced it would be establishing the Office of Religious Freedoms. While in theory the creation of such an office appears to be both progressive and beneficial, it seems like more of a Conservative Party PR move than a real attempt to protect religious rights on the international scene.

It's a questionable initiative at best, considering the terms, funding and the precedence this incentive has taken over other, much more fundamental needs at this time.

This office, which will fall under the aegis of the Department of Foreign Affairs, is designed to monitor and promote religious freedom around the world.

The federal Conservatives have been attempting to transform themselves from a party of white Christians to one that embraces conservatives of all stripes and colours. Despite the party's stance in favour of Israel and against abortion rights, they have otherwise modified their image with a considerable amount of success. It seems likely that the establishment of an office to protect religion at the international level is a continuation of that effort.

The level of commitment that the government has made towards the goals set out for the Office of Religious Freedom becomes almost laughable when taking a closer look at its funding, however.

So far, the federal government has allocated only \$5 million per year to fund the office's operation.

While it might seem like a large amount of money to the average individual, at the international institutional level, it is a paltry sum. Canada is a wealthy country, and if our government were truly serious about promoting and protecting religious freedom around the world, perhaps it would allocate funding proportionally.

On the other hand, the Office of Religious Freedoms seems to have taken priority over other, more pressing needs.

While the freedom of religion is certainly cherished and exercised by many, it is hardly an essential freedom. At this time, much of the world is still living on less than a dollar a day and access to clean drinking water and proper medical care remains a distant dream for billions of people. As such, it seems absurd that our government would prioritize the promotion of religious freedom over problems that concern the basics of life and death.

While some would argue that the federal government is already engaged in dealing with such problems, any effort that steers our attentions away from problems of human existence is a grave mistake and a misuse of time, energy and money.

The federal government should rethink its establishment of the Office of Religious Freedom, and it shouldn't be too difficult: judging by the reasons they likely created it in the first place and the extent to which they are funding it, they aren't too serious about it anyway.

The Conservatives would do well to focus their attention back on issues of human survival and only once everyone's basic needs are met should they endeavor to promote and monitor religious freedoms.

# The Meaning Behind the Movement

## There's More Than Tuition on the Table



PHOTO ADAM KOVAC

• MATTHEW BRETT

The province-wide student demonstration slotted for Nov. 10 is now only weeks away. In preparation for protest, it is crucial that students ask what they are protesting against, what their goals are and how they can be achieved.

On Nov. 10, students will stand in solidarity against a planned tuition hike in Quebec—but we need to realize the struggle for accessible education runs a lot deeper than a \$1,625-more-per-semester hole in anyone's pocket.

These planned hikes mark a big step towards a society where attending university is based on one's economic class, rather than one's desire for free and creative thought.

But students will miss out on the true meaning of protest if we boil the issue down to simply one of dol-

lars and cents and the Charest government's plan to raise the cost of an education.

What's at stake here is the struggle for a more egalitarian and free society, as students are now part of an education system that is increasingly unequal, hierarchical and dominated by corporate interests.

Under the current system of power, students have been trained to become passive partners in an organization that keeps the dominant social order running efficiently. We must see the Nov. 10 protest and the events that follow as a movement to change this established order.

Right now, students organizing on campuses across the province and the world are taking seriously the ideals of democracy and equality—ideals that have been thoroughly degraded in our institutions today.

But these are big ideas and broad goals, so how they can actually be achieved?

First, the student unions need to be democratized now. Currently, decisions continue to be made by the executive and its council—this is not democracy in any meaningful sense of the word. Students should have the right to make their own decisions in a General Assembly.

And there is also nothing to prevent student unions from aiming for these broader social transformations except fear of reprisal. Of all unions in society, student unions should perhaps be the most radical. The student unions need to be fundamentally democratized.

On campus, the student community is a microcosm for the new society that students are struggling to create. They are producing and distributing their own local and free

meals, student media is becoming more open to direct participation and there is a culture of spontaneous collaboration and creativity.

In these critical early stages, the broader student community needs to play an active role in shaping the rising student movement. Department associations and clubs are closer to the community than the union, and their views and ideals should be reflected in the decisions that are made. Their voices are essential.

Another danger of this growing student movement is to confine it strictly within the university walls, as there are countless organizations and individuals who share the same ideals for a better future, though they are not "students" in the narrow sense of the term.

There is a genuine need to extend the movement beyond the uni-

versity early and actively participate with the broader community. This community should be encouraged to participate in movement building; otherwise, the student movement is merely replicating the hierarchies they seek to overthrow.

The ideas and goals of this movement largely depend on those who decide to take an active role in this process. One can only hope that the radical ideals of equality, democracy and freedom are taken seriously in these critical early stages.

We need to start now. The next assembly for this movement is happening this Friday—be there.

**The Mob Squad is holding a meeting Oct. 13 at 6:00 p.m. outside of the Concordia Student Union office on the seventh floor of the Hall Building.**

**THE LINK**

**2011 Byelection**  
**October 21, 2011 4:00 p.m. H-649**

## THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ARE OPEN:

• **Lifestyle Editor** • **Assistant News** • **News Editor** • **Current Affairs Editor**

### **The following contributors are eligible:**

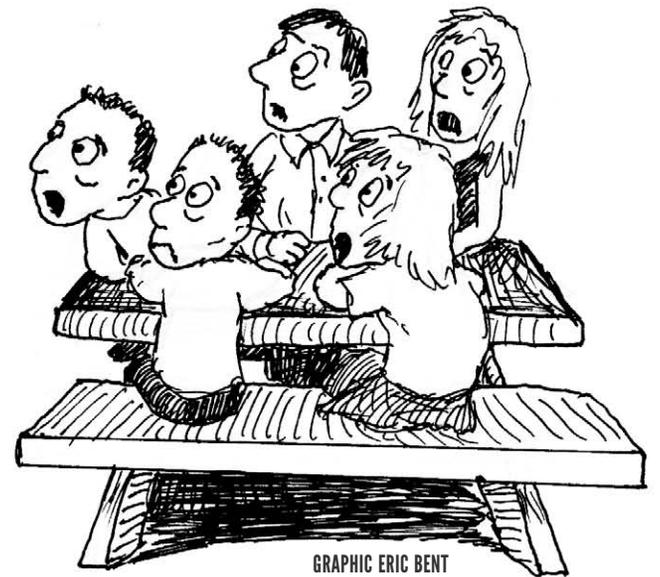
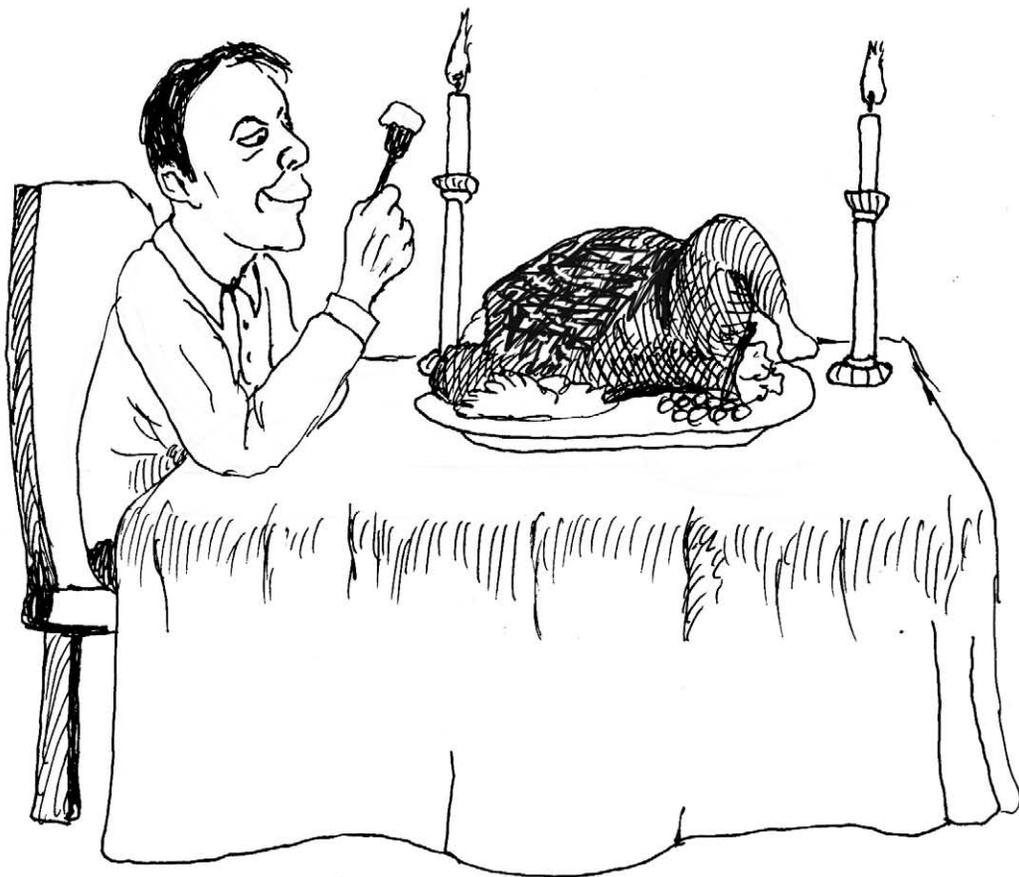
Jeff Bush, Josh Davidson, Shoshana Eidleman, Melissa Fuller, Rebecca Hiscott, Adam Kovac, Claudine Lamothe, Amanda Laprade, Brian Lapuz, Caitlin Leroux, David Murphy, Christopher Olson, Corey Pool, Jacob Roberts, Riley Sparks, Julian Ward, Jonathan Woods and Nicole Yeba.

### **The following need one more contribution to be eligible:**

Adam Aberra, Boris Degas, Andrew Maggio, Dylan Maloney, Nicolas Martel, Alan Morais, Amanda Siino, Eric White and Alex Woznica.

Applications for the positions must be posted one week before the election in *The Link* office, Hall Building, room H-649. Applicants must have contributed to at least four (4) issues during Volume 32 and must include a one-page letter of intent, as well as three (3) contribution samples.

For more information email: [editor@thelinknewspaper.ca](mailto:editor@thelinknewspaper.ca) or call 514-848-2424 ext.7407



# The ConU Powder Keg

## Concordia's Governance Crisis Continues

• DAVID BERNANS

Concordia's top decision-making body, the Board of Governors, claims to have reformed itself by passing a set of bylaw changes. But does this mean Concordia University's governance crisis is over?

Don't bet on it.

The bylaw changes, put forward at the Sept. 28 BoG meeting, are a reaction to the widespread outrage from the Concordia community over the mysterious behind-the-scenes decisions taken by the corporate-dominated board that led to the premature departure of two university presidents and other high-ranking administrative personnel.

They are a reaction to popularly expressed outrage, but far from a response to it.

In a highly defensive reaction, Board Chair Peter Kruyt, a vice president of Power Corporation of Canada, is not only doggedly holding on to power, but also blocking access to voices of dissent, drastically reducing the proportion of undergraduate student representation in their new "streamlined" board.

Concordia's governors seem to have taken a page from the Joseph Stalin School of Governance: when your hold on power appears endangered, tighten your grip and purge any threatening elements.

Such reforms may make the Governors feel more secure, but they actually create an even bigger powder keg that is bound to explode sooner or later. If the BoG really wanted a happy ending, more substantial reforms would have been the order of the day.

This first set of bylaw changes has not bestowed the Senate with full authority over academic matters, as was recommended in the review process. For the moment, the BoG keeps its near-absolute power. How much power will ultimately be divested to the Senate if and when the BoG comes through on the next set of bylaw changes it has promised? Its actions to date do not pro-

vide much ground for optimism.

Giving Senate a real share of power could save the university much embarrassment.

If the Senate had had such authority in the wake of the 2002 Netanyahu protests, the Board of Governors could not have contemptuously overruled the Senate on its decision to revoke President Frederick Lowy's academically-inappropriate decree banning all discussion about the Middle East on the university campus.

Similarly, the BoG could have worked to address the issue of Concordia's "culture of contempt" by opting to retain the proportional representation of undergraduate students (or, better yet, increasing their proportional representation) on the new 25-member BoG with two or three representatives instead of one.

Ultimately, the generally very-well-to-do Governors do themselves no favours by further insulating themselves from the struggles faced by generally poor-and-debt-ridden students.

Students are one of the few constituents likely to inform Emperor Kruyt that he is naked. Other internal representatives—full-time and part-time faculty, for instance—have understandably been reluctant to speak against the corporate leadership that rules Concordia, since they depend on the university for their livelihoods.

Students, on the other hand, only depend on the university to provide them with an education. If access to that education is blocked, they are likely to make some noise.

With accessibility under threat and power firmly held in the iron grip of the privileged corporate class at the top, the BoG's recent actions have struck a match and lit the fuse on the ConU powder keg, so don't be surprised when things blow up again.

**David Bernans studied translation at Concordia University and from 2005 to 2006 was the president of Concordia's Graduate Students' Association. He is currently a translator and writer based in Saint-Jean-Port-Joli.**

# From Chair to Chair

## Mr. Kruyt Needs to Revise the Rules

• NICK CUILLERIER

In the wake of last year's controversial dismissal of Concordia President Judith Woodsworth, much optimism surrounded the future of Concordia University's Board of Governors.

As a result of a unified effort put forth by both students and faculty, ideas such as reform, transparency and good governance began to make their way back into an institution that had previously lacked such principles.

But—as became evident at the most recent BoG meeting held Sept. 28—it didn't take long for the Board to return to its old ways.

Last week's meeting was organized in a manner that should be of great concern to all members of the Concordia community and the responsibility for this major mishap lies primarily with one person—Board Chair Peter Kruyt.

It is important to remember that being a chairperson is a very difficult position; it requires having sound judgment, a strong knowledge of the rules and an ability to demonstrate quick critical thinking.

While the Board Chair is entrusted with using discretion, the recent actions of Kruyt during BoG Meetings have demonstrated that he does not conduct himself according to these values.

Instead, over the past year, Kruyt has demonstrated alarming amounts of egotism, contempt and questionable objectivity. As such, his continued presence as BoG chair should be seriously reconsidered.

When examining Kruyt's position in the boardroom, there are a number of disturbing trends that have come to define the meetings he chairs.

First, Kruyt has continually demonstrated his willingness and capacity to ignore both the BoG's own rules and basic general conduct expected by any chairperson.

For example, during the last BoG meeting, Kruyt ended debate on important motions prematurely multiple times and openly

criticized student representatives who criticized his handling of the meeting.

Secondly, the demeanor and attitude with which Kruyt treats some Board members during these meetings can be best described as unchecked arrogance. Board meetings should be an opportunity to express all points of view, but Kruyt has clearly abandoned this principle. During meetings, it has become increasingly apparent that those do not support his position's opinions are unwelcome.

As chair, Kruyt should keep his personal opinions from impacting the way the meetings proceed—a fact that he seems to have conveniently forgotten. Kruyt even went so far as to suggest closing BoG meetings to a general audience at the most recent meeting—an outrageous proposition that is the polar opposite of transparency.

As a result of these trends, it's difficult to believe that Kruyt is truly serious about bringing good governance to our university. He seems more interested in the preservation of his own power than he is about properly reforming Concordia University's upper administration.

I believe the time is now for all members of the Concordia community to consider how committed our highest decision-making body is towards the values of good governance.

Despite numerous promises, the BoG remains chaired by an individual who has clearly and repeatedly demonstrated a willingness and predilection to seriously deviate from the basic framework of such values.

The next time Kruyt has the audacity to claim that certain students are doing a disservice to this university, he should take a hard look in the mirror and judge his own actions instead.

**Nick Cuillerier is currently the Chair of the Concordia Student Union and former Chief Electoral Officer of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations.**

# Slippery Discourse

## The Danger Behind the Green “Job Killing” Argument

• COLIN HARRIS

Whether you read the newspaper, watch the news or simply find yourself leaving your business classes with a head full of stats, you’re probably under the impression that there are some serious problems with the global economy right now.

Maybe you’ve been following the Eurozone crisis, or maybe you’ve noticed increased use of “folks are struggling,”—Barack Obama’s new favourite catchphrase.

You’ve probably also heard the phrase “job killer” rushed into action whenever policy affecting big business finds its way into Congress. It’s become something of a knee-jerk response from anyone hailing what they see as free enterprise, and it’s the same defence being used in Ottawa over the Keystone XL pipeline debate.

This isn’t a question of killing jobs, it’s one of expanding industry—one that’s an extreme pollutant even when it’s not leaking into water supplies, which happens to be another risk this investment takes.

Being an essential resource for military, manufacturing and transportation for nearly a hundred years has allowed the oil industry to become the mammoth

in the energy sector.

The oil lobby holds more capital and sway than any activist could dream of. Since 2007, ExxonMobil alone spent more than \$2.4 million lobbying with national political organizations and state officials.

Limiting the development of alternative energy sources is good for the oil business. So don’t be too quick to jump on this bandwagon; have a sip of the critical think-tea us leftist hippie job killers must be brewing. Banning the export of Quebec asbestos

would be job-killing, too.

What’s most troublesome is that the Conservatives are relying on the distraction tactics of the GOP. South of the border, Republican candidates have fused “Environmental Protection Agency” and “job killing” in their rhetoric

based on the fact that the EPA is helping to reduce the number of American coalmines still operating going forward.

When it comes to the pipeline debate, the worst environmentalists can be accused of is being job abortionists, since the jobs that they’re apparently killing don’t even exist yet.

So we must rely on exporting raw materials, a tactic much more familiar to the global south’s economic policy than a so-called “great power” like Canada. Stephen Harper may say the pipeline deal is a contract free from strategy and politics, but even that seems to be a smoke-screen.

While our tar sands may seem more attractive than the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries’ oil, the opportunity for the development of alternative energy must not be shrouded under the job killing defence.

Want to talk about job killing, oh mighty lawmakers? Then let’s talk about how that applies to cutting services to the most vulnerable people in our country. Let’s talk about the environment—it’s not a fringe issue anymore, but one that is necessarily involved in every decision that breaks ground and burns oil.

I’m no foe to capitalism, but we must reconcile the two.



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT & JULIA WOLFE

## Oh Hell No, *NatPo*!

### Canada’s Trusted, Transphobic Source of News

• LAURA BEESTON

On Sept. 28, the *National Post* ran a full-page advertisement from the Institute for Canadian Values, a right-wing think-tank “dedicated to advancing knowledge of public policy issues from a Judeo-Christian intellectual and moral perspective.”

**If the *NatPo* really wanted to engage in a free speech debate [...] they should have just run a pearl-clutching editorial about how the Ontario curriculum is going to “corrupt children” their own damn selves.**

The ad featured the piercing brown eyes and pouting mouth of a small girl, with the text “PLEASE! Don’t confuse me. I’m a girl. Don’t teach me to question if I’m a boy, transsexual, transgendered, intersexed or two spirited. [...] I face enough in the world already.”

After receiving hundreds of complaints, the *National Post* issued an apology on Sept. 30, claiming the ad’s appearance was a mistake. Improper vetting procedures meant it was run unintentionally nation-wide, they explained, and they promised to donate the ad proceeds to a yet-to-be-identified LGBTQ organization.

All that would be fine and good had the *NatPo* not also made an argument in their apology that the content of the advertisement—which took aim at the Toronto District School Board for allowing LGBTQ topics to enter the curriculum of kindergarten to grade three students—was a “freedom of speech” concern.

In their retraction, the editorial board explained that, while they were sorry, “free speech does not apply only to views that will not offend.”

“Being in an open society, these positions are worthy of being part of a debate on this issue,” read the apology. “They are also legitimate arguments to make in a paid advertisement in a media outlet.”

But any newspaper worth its salt knows advertisements aren’t the place to take and justify an editorial position: doing so sets a dangerous precedent and besides, that’s what the articles are there for.

An advertisement—especially one that involves manipulated images of children and anti-trans undercurrents—is simply not the appropriate venue to provoke public debate on an issue, deliver pertinent background or make arguments for or against.

If the *NatPo* really wanted to engage in a free speech debate in favour of the IFCV’s unpopular and hateful position, they should have just run a pearl-clutching ed-

itorial about how the Ontario curriculum is going to “corrupt children” their own damn selves. Especially if they ultimately consider the advertisement’s position “worthy.”

Curiously, before the controversy dust had the chance to settle on Oct. 8, longtime hyper-conservative *NatPo* columnist Barbara Kay did just that: writing what can only be understood as a reactionary opinions piece—in the news section—that claimed “Too-early sex ed is psychologically harmful to a child” without citing a single source or study.

She went on to assert, without any substantiation, that, “many parents want their children to associate sexuality with morality” and that “it is ethically wrong to burden children prematurely.” Sigh.

In any case, seeing as the *National Post* is intended to be read by Canadian conservatives who dislike ‘liberal bias’ in other Post-media Inc. publications, it’s not surprising that this ad made it through the vetting process in the

first place, while a half-assed apology—and equally half-assed follow-up coverage—followed. The fact that their editorial position actually legitimizes and maintains the hateful sentiment in the ad, based solely on the merit of its copy, is.

If you want to have a conversation about education reform in Ontario, that’s one thing—talk to sources, gather facts, make the (ridiculous) arguments that a queer-friendly curriculum “corrupts children” and run it in the newspaper: that’s what a newspaper’s *opinions* section is there for.

But using a shame-based, anti-trans advertisement to make and support a ‘free speech’ editorial position on the subject is just lazy at best, homophobic and transphobic at worst.

As Jim Oulton, President of the Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health, wrote to the *National Post* following the scandal, “the ad did not serve the public interest and was harmful to the dialogue regarding equity and human rights.”

# THAT TRANSEXUAL GUY

column 2



• OLIVER LEON

*"I want to share my transition. I want to write to you about public bathrooms, navigating my name change and taking hormones. I want to tell you about the scary parts, the fun times and share with you the celebrations that come along with transitioning. I want to tell you all of this because I think that it is important that you know about it."*

## TRANS 101

### Some 'Do's and 'Don't's

Goods news, Concordia! I start hormones on Oct. 26. Are you excited for me?

If you are, congratulate me! Really, do. It's a good thing. It means that you are acknowledging my struggle and patting me on the back.

Same goes for any other trans person you may know—depending on how well you know the person and what they're comfortable with, offer a fist-bump, high five, or a hug. It's exciting for a transsexual to finally be on hormones. Be excited with them.

That brings me to what you shouldn't bring up with a trans person—because a lot of people seem to be iffy on whether to ask questions or not ask questions, and have a tendency to sometimes ask the wrong questions. Hopefully this helps to clear things up a bit.

Firstly, ask if you can ask questions. Trans people get questions about themselves all the time. Answering them is time-consuming and emotionally exhausting. The trans person may not be up to answering you at just that moment, for reasons that don't have anything to do with you.

Please do not inquire about genitals. It's a rude and invasive line of questioning—period—whether you're a trans person or not. In college, I had a professor ask me about mine after class. I stared at her pointedly until she looked away and changed the subject.

When a trans person is talking about their body, mimic the language they are using. Don't gender their body by referring to their parts as "boobs," "vagina," and "penis." They may not use those words. Those words could be triggering painful memories.

Please, please be careful when inquiring about trans people's bodies. We have a lot of hurt and shame surrounding them due to years of confronting heteronormative ideals, parental expectations and any number of other issues that trans people have to deal with.

Ask about pronouns if you are unsure. Unless a person is used to this question, you may get an irate answer. Breathe. It's okay. The person is not mad at you particularly—

they're frustrated with the circumstances that always force them into these situations.

If the person is not mad, they might be appreciative that you took the time to check in. Assuming pronouns and getting them wrong is really embarrassing, after all. If you mess up someone's pronouns after they have told you their preference, just apologize, correct yourself, and move on.

While being taken aside to apologize is nice and it's awesome that you realized that you messed up, it's not like anyone's going to smite you for getting their pronoun wrong. Although, if you continue to ask questions about their genitals and whether or not they're getting surgery "down there," be prepared for lightning bolts. Maybe.

Don't ask about birth names. That's like accusing them of being someone they aren't—like you can't believe them when they tell you what their chosen name is, which suggests that they're untrustworthy somehow.

I think that's my biggest bruise—the idea that trans people are tricking people, lying or not telling the truth about their real identities.

Hey, I chose to be true to myself. Don't question the integrity of that decision, okay? Please don't ask me about regret either. The real lying was pretending and going along with being a girl. That was a shameful lie that lay on my tongue for too many years.

So, maybe you've figured out by now that I've considered gender a lot. This is true. As such, please do not try to give me or any other trans person gender "tips." Again, this is equivalent to telling someone they're "doing it wrong." Most of the time, trans folks are aware of gender on an extremely visceral level.

We know what we feel comfortable doing and what we don't. I can't pull off the macho tough guy swagger. I am a man that feels comfortable crossing his legs and gesticulating a lot.

Sure, that can be perceived as a little feminine, but you know what? I'm okay with that. I'm a bit of an effeminate guy. You should see all the flowery button-down shirts I have—plus, nail polish goes really well with

my bow ties.

Please do not assume the sexuality of trans people. I know MTFs who are lesbians and I know MTFs who are straight women. I know FTMs who are gay men and FTMs who are straight men. Heck, I know trans people who have just given up on figuring out who they are attracted to because gender is just too complicated!

Anyway, when I say "don't assume," this also means "don't assume we're all going to get married, have kids and a nice house." Trans people are just as varied and colourful as cisgendered people are.

Oh, and here's a good one: don't out trans people without their consent—even if they write about their lives in a newspaper column. Not everyone needs to know such personal information.

Am I going to inform every single person I meet that I am trans? No. The guy who sells me my OPUS pass every month doesn't need to know. Nor does the baker I get pizza subs from. My gender is completely irrelevant sometimes.

The above also applies to lesbians, gays, bisexuals, asexuals, pansexuals, queers and others as well. Essentially, if someone is not straight, don't out them without asking.

Just one more thing and I'll stop haranguing you—please don't say, "I understand." You really don't. As a cisgendered person, you have no idea what you are talking about. People don't think you're sick in the head for being your own gender, do they? (If they do, contact me—I have resources for you! Or a shoulder to lean on, if you want it.)

Here are some alternative comments to make:

"I can imagine."

"Yeah, that must suck."

"Yup."

Oh—and one more one last thing. Yes, I do know who Chaz Bono is. Cher's son—he transitioned from female to male. No, I did not see him on Oprah or Ellen. He's living his life and I am living mine. And that is all I want to do—in a safe, healthy, and whole way.

Oliver is @inkwrite on Twitter.

## TRANS TERMINOLOGY

*People sometimes don't know how to refer to trans people, or misuse words they don't properly understand. So, I compiled a list of some handy words and terms that might help you out when talking to, about or with a trans person.*

► **Trans:** I use this as a short word for "transsexual" but in other circles, it is short for "transgender." See below.

► **Transgender:** this word has come to encompass all gender-variant identities including, but not limited to: butch, drag queen/king, effeminate men, cross-dressers, etc. Not everyone identifies as such, however.

► **Transsexual:** a person who may be physically altering their body to feel more at home in it. They were assigned a gender at birth and disagreed with the assignment. They are therefore choosing to modify their body accordingly.

This often involves taking hormones and having surgeries—but doesn't have to. You choose how far along you want to go. There are many non-op or even non-hormone folks out there who prefer to remain as they are, but just go out and about as the gender they truly feel they are. Don't doubt their decision.

► **MTF:** a person who is transitioning from male to female. They may or may not have identified or gone along with their "male" identity throughout their life.

► **Trans woman:** an MTF person.

► **FTM:** a person who is transitioning from female to male. They may or may not have identified or gone along with their "female" identity throughout their life.

► **Trans man:** an FTM person (like me).

► **Top surgery:** surgery to alter your chest.

► **Bottom surgery:** surgery or surgeries to alter your genitals or to remove reproductive organs (hysterectomy). The removal of reproductive organs is required by law if you want to have your "sex designation" changed on your birth certificate.

► **Genderqueer:** a person who does not identify as male or female. A genderqueer can feel they are in the middle of the two, neither, or a mix of both—or something else entirely.

► **Genderfuck:** someone who enjoys messing with the given cultural expectations of gender.

► **Cisgender:** a non-trans person.

► **Heteronormativity:** the straight world—and all the assumptions, expectations, and rules that go along with it.

► **Passing:** Successfully being perceived as the gender you transitioned/are transitioning towards. Passing is a problematic word. It puts the onus on the trans person in question for getting their gender "right." Rather, we should see it as onlookers perceiving a trans person incorrectly. One can't embody one's own gender wrong.

The only time I would use the word "passing" is when I need to be perceived as something I am not in order to survive. For example, I may need to "pass" as a woman in order to get access to bathroom stalls with garbages in them so I can throw my pads away.

(Yes, I still have a period. It will go away after three months of hormones, thank the gods.)

# People, Power, Politics & Protest



A crowd listened as Dr. Richard Wolff, an economist and professor of international affairs at the New School, speaks about capitalism at the Occupy Wall Street protest in Zuccotti Park, Lower Manhattan on Oct. 4. "The way we organize the production of the goods and services we all depend on [...] has failed and broken down," said Wolff.

PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

## Occupy Wall Street and the Pursuit of a More Perfect Union

• TAKEO KUSHI

From the American Revolution to Tahrir Square, everyday citizens have brought on many great moments of sweeping historical change.

As the foundation and centerpiece of all political power, with every institution existing for their benefit, it is the obligation of the citizen to assert their individual and collective sovereignty in the face of institutional power.

Urged by a feeling of mass injustice, the New York City General Assembly has established a national Town Hall—this time in Liberty Park—so that our voices may be heard and our concerns addressed by fellow citizens domestically and globally.

The recent trends in American politics have been towards the greater division of the people from one another, the depletion of their

political influence and the expansion and ascension of institutional power.

**Remember, that in order for you to become the person you are today in America, someone had to stand up for you years, decades, and protests ago.**

Any attempt to modernize health-care, infrastructure and education is vilified bitterly as socialism and class warfare. Yet middle-class Americans watch, helpless, as downward mobility and shrinking opportunity is their reward during record corporate

prosperity. In a system that favours and exalts the few, 'equity' is a dirty word.

By focusing on only the most contentious issues, the media and political class intentionally reinforce the divisions between Americans and gain power of office or influence by inciting them.

At the expense of issues they can agree on, citizens battle over abortion, capital punishment, immigration, race, sexuality and religion, drawing distinct lines between people. All the while, new legislation barely falls under the scrutiny of the public eye.

Corporations have exerted undue influence over the political process through the decisions of the Supreme Court, their presence in the Executive branch and by courting representatives to pass favourable legislation—or by writing it themselves.

As globalism and free trade

break down barriers to business, the average citizen finds it harder to travel transnationally and many do so under the duress of suspicion.

While corporations have achieved first amendment rights, the individual right to privacy has slowly been eroded. The notion of corporate personhood has extended rights normally reserved for natural persons to multinational corporations, while the individual rights of the people are diminished.

With billion-dollar campaigns and carefully controlled marketing, elections in the United States are more of a spectacle than a process—built for a society where the pinnacle of civic participation is grandly writing letters to representatives or feebly checking a ballot once every four years.

In pursuit of a more perfect union, the people—unable to rely

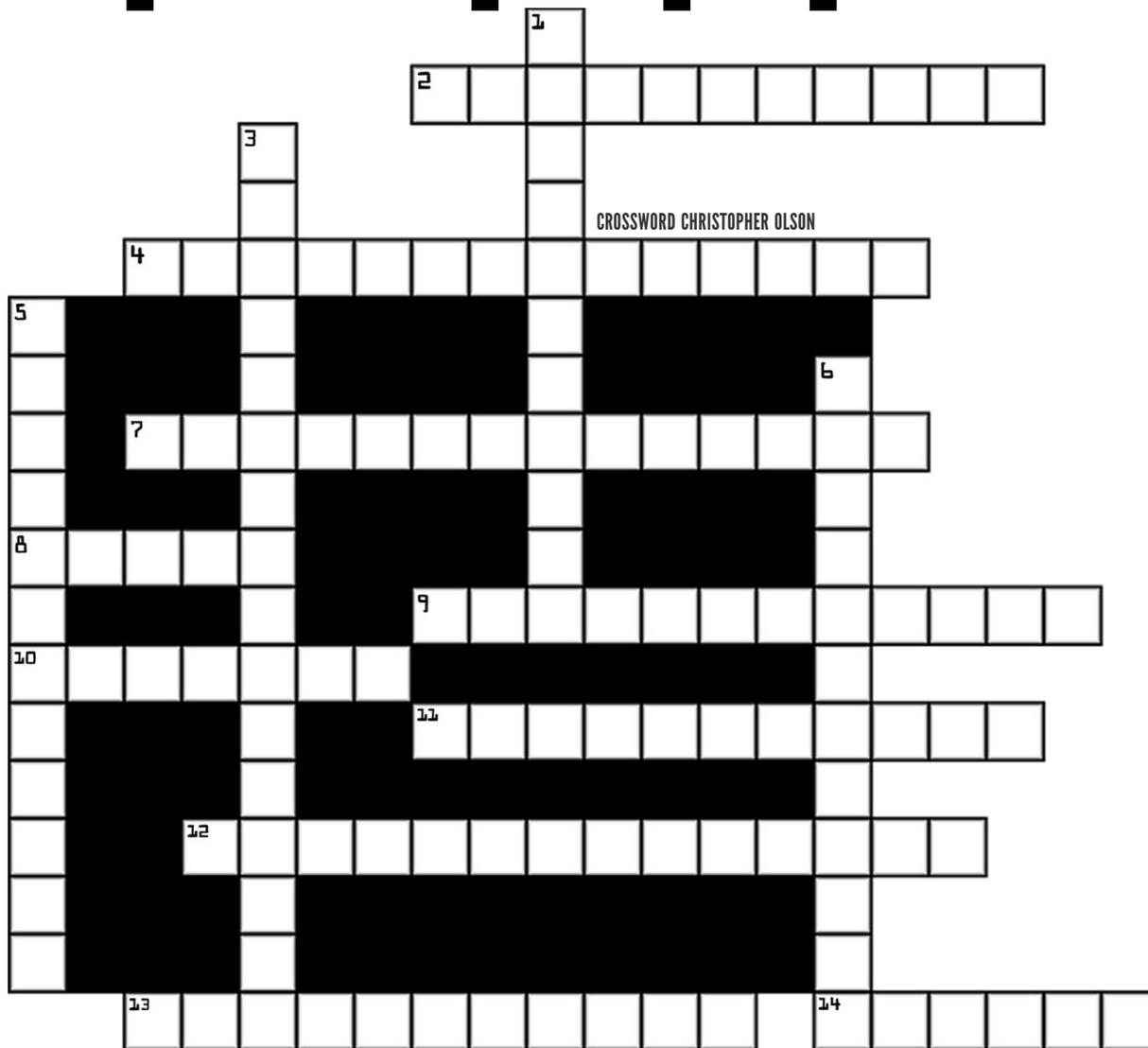
on existing power structures to deal justly or fairly in protecting their interests—have sought to redress their grievances by asking the participation of all Americans in democratic action.

Apathy and ignorance are not tolerable any longer. Freedom is indivisible to the point that acceptance of an unjust condition by a fellow citizen is acceptance on your behalf as well. People must be informed, and must understand the full scale and breadth of the encroachment on their political power.

Remember, that in order for you to become the person you are today in America, someone had to stand up for you years, decades, and protests ago.

What if the one thing holding back the tides of change today is the false notion that it somehow felt different for those people back then than how it does to you now?

# 'Just [Samuel L.] Jack[son]'



## Across

- 2. The one where he gives all the girls—cough cough—jungle fever. (2 words)
- 4. The one where he's a cartoon. (2 words)
- 7. The one where he tries to recuperate a raging nymphomaniac by chaining her to the wall, as one does. (3 words)
- 8. The one where he's a complicated man and no one understands him but his woman. (1 word)

- 9. The one where he purchases a violin at an auction house in Montreal. (3 words)
- 10. The one where he started an eight-picture deal with Marvel to show up after the credits, a lot. (2 words)
- 11. The one where he eats a lot of hamburgers and quotes verse. (2 words)
- 12. The one where he hates reptiles of the no-limbs variety. (4 words)
- 13. The one where he fights sharks but they're, like, super smart. (3 words)
- 14. The one where his thoughts be-

come reality and he enjoys himself some Jules Verne.

## Down

- 1. The one where he's super brittle. Like Haley Joel Osment could kill him.
- 3. The one where he has a light saber. (3 words)
- 5. The one where he hates reptiles of the extinct variety. (2 words)
- 6. The one where he stars in the sequel to *The Hunt for Red October*. (2 words)



Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

## Promotion, Not Exploitation

In reaction to the two "Letters to the Editor" published in Vol. 32, Issue 6 of *The Link* on Oct. 4—I, as the writer of the article in question "Porn With a Purpose" would just like to make a clarification.

While certain people may believe women are being used as mere sex objects who are exploited by PETA, these women are willingly using their bodies to promote a worthy cause and to become a voice for the voiceless.

According to the Food and Culture Encyclopedia, the percentage of vegetarians in Canada and the United States is about one per cent of the population. This is a very small minority of people who are going against a majority of people who have been bred into thinking that using animals for food, clothing and so forth are acceptable.

For those vegetarians who wish to speak out against the suffering of animals, it is necessary to create shockwaves, or else no one will listen or pay

animal activists any attention.

I could stand on Ste. Catherine St. and distribute copies of books such as Peter Singer's *Animal Liberation* or Gary L. Francione's *Rain Without Thunder: Ideology of the Animal Rights Movement*. However, I am highly doubtful most people would take the time or have the patience to read these two thought-provoking and highly recommended books.

PETA understands that the majority of people will not bother reading books or pamphlets. Instead, the organization makes use of tactics such as awareness campaigns that will reach a large number of people quickly. While PETA does use some sex advertising, their intention is to use it as a means to draw people's attention to animal rights issues.

People enjoy living an "ignorance is bliss" lifestyle; we buy meat in clean styrofoam trays without even giving a second thought to the animal that gave up its life for someone's supper. PETA is

stepping in and refusing to let people be ignorant about animal suffering. As I stated in my article, PETA will use any and all means to try to help increase awareness about the lives of our fellow animals.

Frankly, if I was given the option between going nude or having to wear the skin or fur of a murdered animal, I would—without a doubt—go nude. Wearing fur and leather is wrong and revolting.

As PETA would say: "Be comfortable in your skin and let the animals keep theirs."

—Erika Heales  
BA Journalism

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.



## Sometimes It's Hard

*My boyfriend of one year and I don't have intercourse. We aren't squeamish about anything and enjoy oral sex and heavy petting, but every time we try to have intercourse he loses his erection. We are a very open, communicative couple and have tried talking about it—but our talks haven't gone anywhere and it's gotten to the point where I'm afraid to ask for it. I feel like intercourse is something that should bring us closer, but instead it's putting a wedge between us. Help?*

—Sexually Frustrated

So there are a few directions for me to take on this, but I'm kind of taking a shot in the dark without knowing what actually came up in your talk together.

Off the top of my head, this issue could be the result of some trauma related to sex such as a history of abuse, or an emotionally scarring or embarrassing moment. It could also be caused by either social or personal pressure, or even disapproval from parents or friends. It could be a religious issue, a loss of interest, a fear of not being good enough or, plain and simple, maybe your man isn't into intercourse.

I'm not going to get into all of these because they could be completely irrelevant to your situation, but I'd be really curious to know what came up during your talks because that would point you (and me!) in the right direction.

I'd also want to know if things have always been like this or if this is a recent problem.

I know that sex can be really difficult to talk about, especially if the reason you're talking about it is because you're not having any. It sucks, but if there is something deeper going on he might not be ready to talk about it.

However, this is not a reflection of your overall relationship or level of trust—he just might not be comfortable with this one topic. With that in mind, be sensitive. Don't push too hard and try not to approach this with a "there's something wrong with you" attitude.

If you want to keep working at this, I think you should continue to maintain a relationship where he'll feel comfortable opening up to you, if he does have something he wants to talk about. Don't be offended if he doesn't immediately open up though because this isn't something that's going to be solved overnight. Be patient.

It's also important to remember that, as much as you do your best to be sensitive to your guy's situation, you're not doing anything wrong by wanting to have sex.

The fact that you both still enjoy and continue to have oral sex and heavy petting shows that you're both still sexually interested and active. It might help to focus on maintaining your sexual relationship and your own pleasure the way you've been doing it for now.

If he never does open up to you and nothing changes over time then there isn't much you can do. Try not to focus on a negative outcome.

For now, it's better to focus on open communication and strengthening your relationship. And write in if you have more questions later or want to let me know how it goes!

—Melissa Fuller

Submit questions anonymously at [sexpancakes.tumblr.com](http://sexpancakes.tumblr.com) and check out "Sex & Pancakes" on Facebook.

# Tremendous Tales

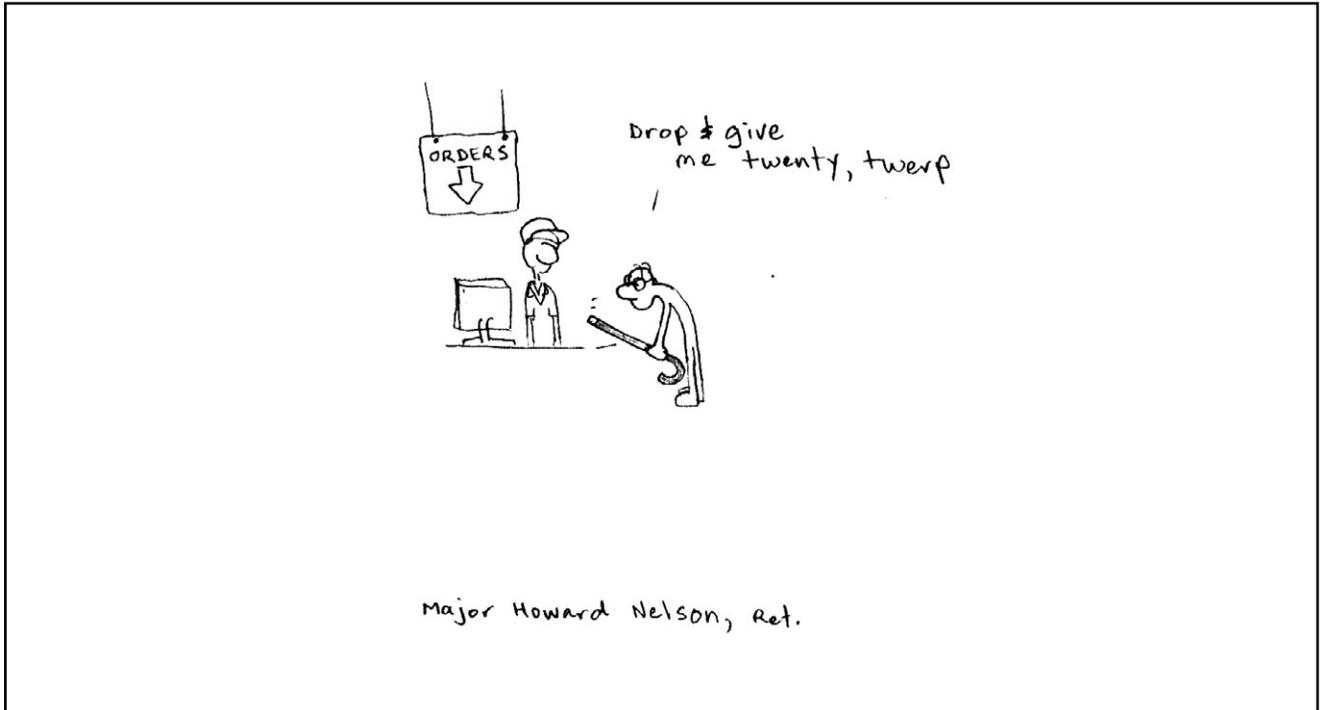
by Christopher Olson



Julie had never learned to read tea leaves before, but there was no mistaking it: that was her husband, and that was her bedroom. But who, or what, was that beside him?

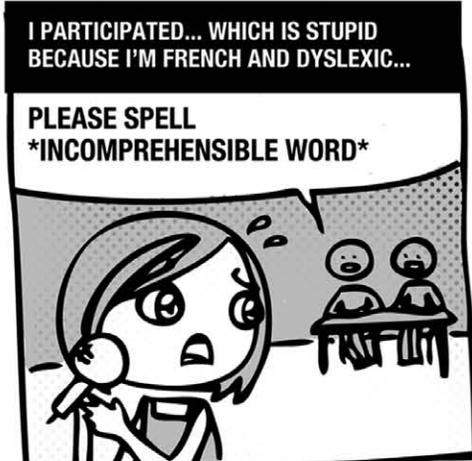
# Barton Flats

COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



## Living The Life

COMIC CLAUDINE LAMOTHE



## Shortcuts

COMIC JEFF BUSH



# Nah'msayin?

## Oh, the Annoying Band of Bros

So, a girl goes out and parties hard downtown, stays 'til last call and is now trekking home alone to the Mile-End.

All of a sudden she spots a group of five guys up ahead. They obviously spend considerable amounts of time pumping iron (they're fucking jacked!) and those tight, Ed Hardy v-necks aren't hiding much. One of them is wearing shades—even though it's dark out. Cool, eh?

This girl knows full well that the whole her-walking-by thing is not going to go unnoticed.

She gets closer and—surprise—one of them perks up and says, “Hey, how’s it going?,” and the other one whistles. She passes them, and the first one speaks again as if the girl hadn’t heard them already. “What’s up, girl?”

They continue to shout and harass her as she keeps walking until she is almost out of sight.

Almost every girl I know has been this girl—and none

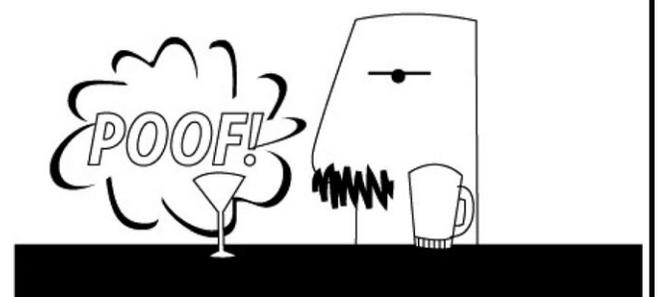
of them should have to be.

As a guy, I don’t understand what these dudes ever think they are going to accomplish. Because, as far as I know, not one of “those girls” has ever stopped to give any of these guys the time of day—and they shouldn’t. Don’t even get me started on the dirty ass-grabbing guys in the clubs.

Sorry, Ed Hardy-wearing guys. I’m not trying to single you out as the typical douche bags. I know that assholes come in all shapes, sizes and don all sorts of clothing brands (but they do sometimes (often) wear Ed Hardy).

Either way, to all of “those guys” out there—you’re not some knight in shining armor, you’re not cool, you’re not hot—and trust me, girls don’t dig degrading.

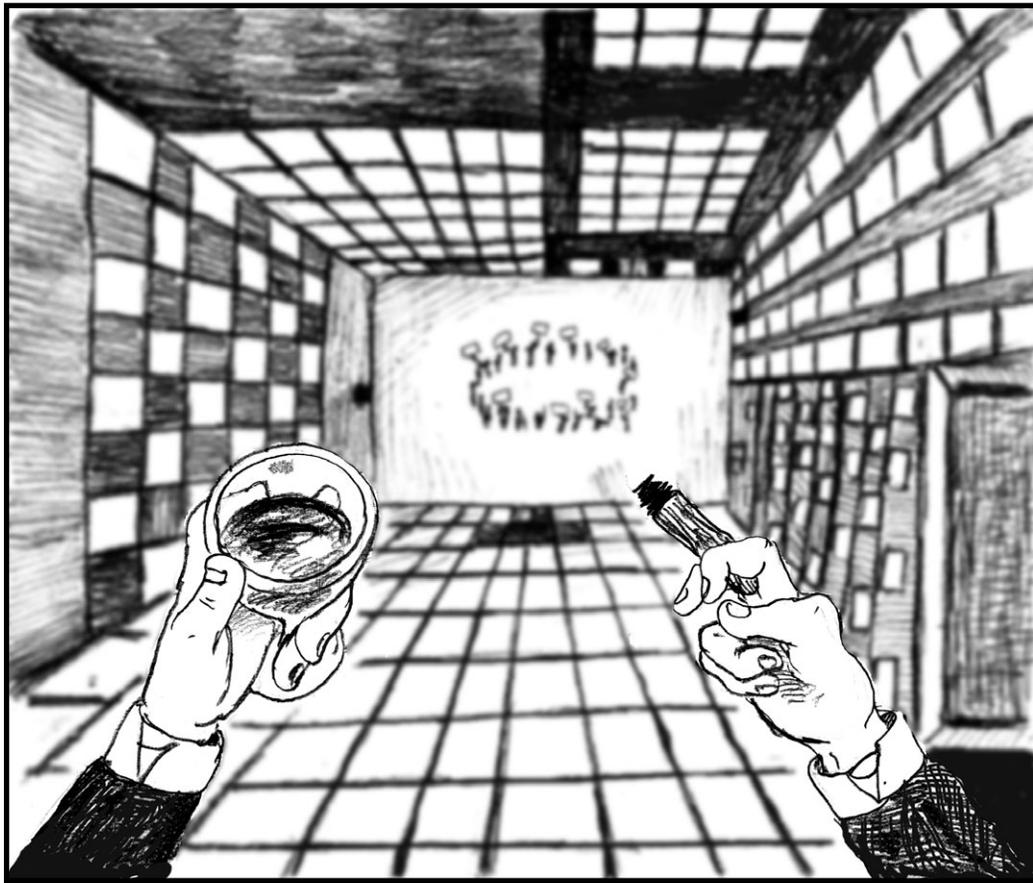
—Brian Lapuz



“...how YOU doinnnnn?”

GRAPHIC SHOSHANA EIDELMAN

editorial cartoon  
GRAPHIC: ERIC BENT



## Know Your Fight

We're a reasonably radical group here at *The Link*, so it takes a lot for us to write off any fight—the-man protest. But after some of our journalists returned from Occupy Wall Street, it was not uncommon to hear the phrase, “fucking hippies” bandied about the office.

The reporters we sent told us that, while there were many people at the protest who had informed and varying opinions, there were also a ton of, well, idiots.

A lot of the people they spoke to were uninformed or couldn't articulate what it was that they were actually angry about beyond uttering stock rebellious phrases.

That doesn't mean our reporters couldn't relate to what brought so many people out to Wall Street in the past weeks. After all, this is our fight too.

Not the Wall Street struggle—but the entire concept that has sprung up of the 99 per cent of us who are not in the richest one per cent of the population. Because, really, who does this apply to more than students?

Here in Quebec, Jean Charest—a

man who makes roughly \$200,000 a year—thinks he has the right to tell students about to be affected by a steep tuition hike to “pay their fair share” and that this wasn't up for debate. Charest made it clear that a conversation with the people the hike will actually affect was something not worth his time.

At Concordia, Peter Kruyt was even less subtle. When asked by Concordia Student Union President Lex Gill to explain why he called for a secret ballot on the question of student representation—student representation that's all the more crucial in the face of these looming hikes—he responded, “It's not debatable. I've called for it.”

To him, we're a couple of kids interrupting mom and dad's dinner discussion.

So if anyone understands the frustration of having a bunch of old, rich, white men destroy our financial future, it's students. Like the people in New York, we've been given no real recourse. As Gill so succinctly put it, “When you're closing people out of boardrooms, out of classrooms, fine: we'll meet you on the fucking street.”

And with Montreal having the high-

est number of university students per capita of any metropolitan centre in North America, Charest and Kruyt may not be so happy with what that's going to look like.

But we'll do more harm than good to our cause if the public feels that students in Quebec are a bunch of uneducated hooligans when it comes to fighting for their education. People need to know why we're angry and what we want—regardless of whether what we want is a definite goal, like tuition freeze, or something broader, like an end to corporate or boardroom greed.

When we're out there—on Nov. 10 and beyond—we can't lose sight of our goal. These protests will call for a full tuition freeze, nothing less. It's attainable, as long as we stick to the three most important characteristics of a successful protest: urgency, clarity, and direct action.

Urgency isn't something we'll have to work for. Starting next fall, we'll see the first raise in our tuition—an extra \$325 on your tab. The semester after that, it'll be \$650 more than usual. And so on. Tell your wallet to brace itself.

Clarity is essential. When asked to defend our position, we need to be capable of articulating our wants and needs. If you believe in affordable education, but would like to learn more about the issue, there are tons of great resources at your disposal.

Just ask your CSU councillors and executives, visit the websites of student lobby groups Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec and L'Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante, read [freezetuition.ca](http://freezetuition.ca) and [tuitiontruth.ca](http://tuitiontruth.ca), or hell, keep your eyes on these pages over the next few weeks as our coverage intensifies leading up to the Nov. 10 Day of Action.

As for direct action, we don't have to tell you how that works; you tell us. But when we're out there covering whatever crazy, creative protest/manifesto/occupation/demonstration shindig you throw, please, don't leave us walking away muttering about the fucking hippies.

It's time to get angry. But more than that, it's time to get smart.

—Julia Wolfe  
Managing Editor

## editorial

## ISSUE 6 CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

**'BOARD GAMES'**

## THE LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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