



LiNK

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Unzipping the Zombie Phenomenon • Page 12

‘WHAT’S WRONG WITH THE SYSTEM?’

Protesters Demand Answers at Second Annual March for Victims of Police Violence



PHOTO RACHEL FOX

Holding their second annual march and vigil on a chilly Saturday afternoon, the Justice for Victims of Police Killings Coalition demanded

*“dignity, justice and truth”
for their slain kin.*

• BRIAN LAPUZ

They gathered in front of the office of Montreal’s Police Brotherhood near Laurier Metro Station, where family members of the victims shared their stories to the crowd of roughly 120 people. The event was organized by those related to Anas Bennis, Claudio Castagnetta, Ben Matson, Quilem Registre, Gladys Tolley and Fredy Villaneuva, all of whom were killed by police officers.

“My mother Gladys Tolley was struck and killed by a Sûreté du Québec [cruiser] in 2001,” said Bridget Tolley, a member of the Kitigan Zibi First Nation. “There is a lot of conflict of interest [and bias] and when we ask for independent investigations, the [government of] Quebec refuses us.”

She also said that not all police officers are bad—but if they make mistakes, then they should face the consequences just like ordinary citizens. The coalition also said

that no police officers involved in the deaths faced any repercussions, adding that there have been more than 60 people killed by Montreal police since 1987.

“If I killed a police officer, I would go to jail. When they kill us, they don’t go to jail. What’s wrong with the system?” Tolley asked.

This fall, the Quebec’s Ministry of Public Security said that inquiries into police related incidents by other police officers cannot be impartial. The organizers commended the government’s initiative to create an independent commission.

The protesters made their way to Berri Square by way of Saint Denis St., bearing signs with slogans in French, such as “The police are everywhere; no justice in sight” and “Police officers, assassins, the government is an accomplice.”

They paused at the corner of Ste. Catherine St. where Mario Hamel and Patrick Limoges were shot and killed by Montreal Police last June. Officers opened

fire on Hamel, who was said to be wielding a knife and was later revealed to have mental health issues, while Limoges—on his way to work at St-Luc Hospital—was shot in the neck in the crossfire.

Amine Baouche, a student at CEGEP Maisonneuve and a resident of the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce area, said he has never been a victim of physical police violence, but has been harassed and questioned by police while not doing anything illegal. He was present to support the families of the victims.

“Even if the victims were guilty of some crime, their families still want to know the truth behind their deaths,” said Baouche. “I think they want to mourn the death as it should be done. Right now, they are in the dark.”

Julie Fortier, speaking on behalf of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group at Concordia, said that many of their working groups support this movement, such as the committee that organized the march

and the Collective Opposed to Police Brutality.

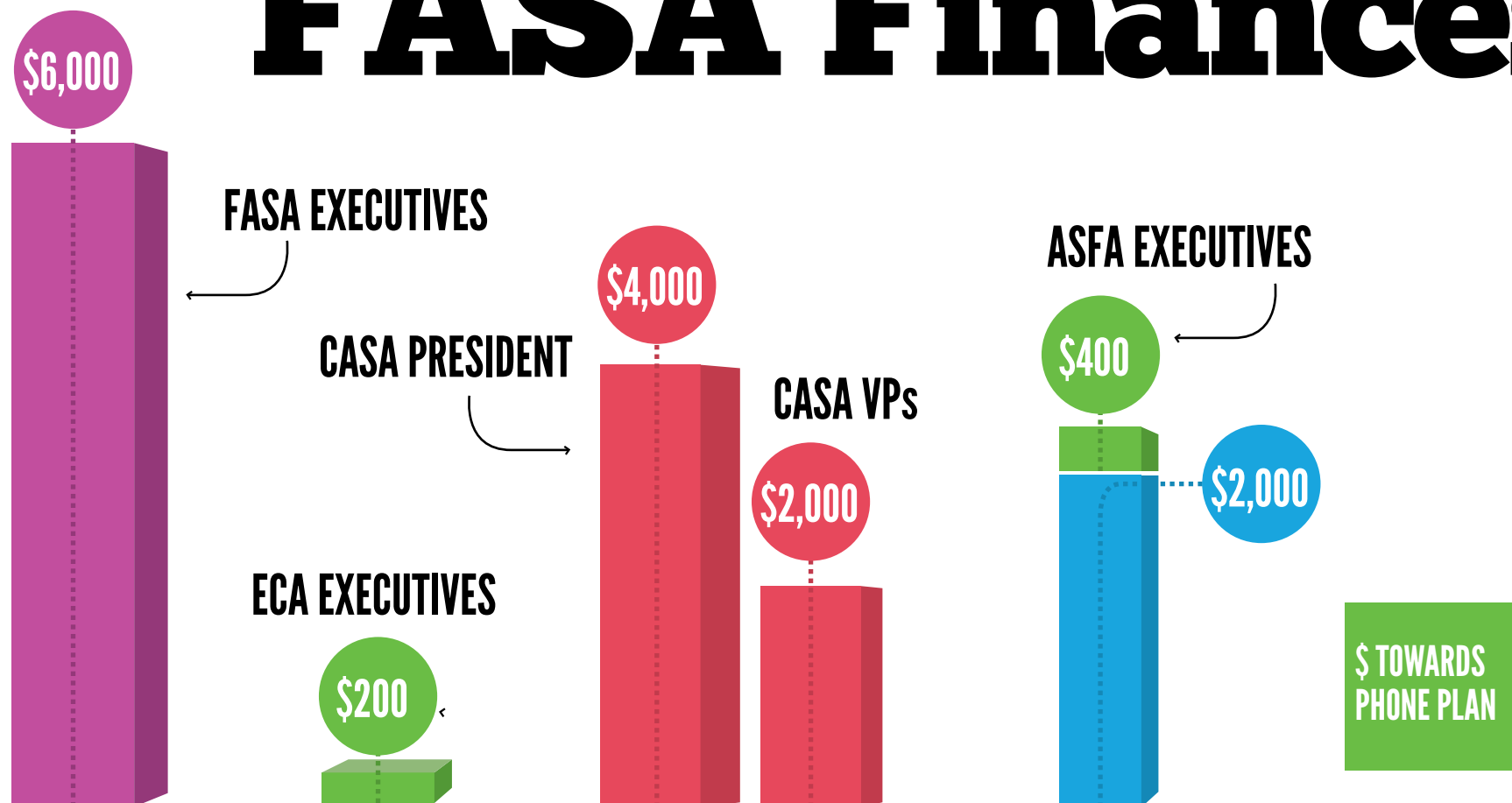
“The COBP does public education throughout the year,” said Fortier. “They also organize the other police brutality march that happens in March.”

She said police violence and racial profiling are related to other issues. For example, QPIRG’s migrant justice groups raise awareness for police violence and racial profiling.

The commemoration was scheduled to coincide with the National Day Against Police Violence protests, which took place across the United States.

Many of the families involved said that they felt isolated and wanted the event to garner support for their struggle. Some added that mainstream media are partly to blame for the lack of scrutiny towards the police and that victims are “marginalized, blamed on racial stereotypes or mental health issues” in reports on incidents of police brutality.

FASA Finances



This graph represents the total honorariums and cell-phone bonuses student associations earn each year. GRAPHIC JULIA WOLFE

• LAURA BEESTON

The Fine Arts Student Alliance council approved their budget Oct. 4, which resulted in a quadrupling of honorariums for VPs and a doubling of the presidential honorarium.

While there was some confusion regarding the amount the President would receive resulting from misinformation on Twitter, the executive honorarium is now set at \$3,000 per position, per semester—totaling \$6,000 a year.

“It was a pretty small error [online], but the implications are pretty big,” said FASA President Paisley Sim. “We all make the same

amount of money. I wouldn’t be okay with [making more than my executives] at all. It’s inappropriate.”

Prior to the approved increase, the president’s honorarium was \$1,500 per semester, and \$750 per semester for VPs, which Sims explained was a major reason for the increase.

“Seven-hundred fifty bucks a semester doing this amount of work just doesn’t make very much sense,” she said.

Putting in at least six hours per week in the office, and matching that outside of the office, Sims explained that the hours her and her executives clock each week varies.

“[Orientation was] basically a full-time job. But there’s also planning for project grants, [...] planning meetings or what we do to write and implement policies,” she said. “The hours are substantial, and it’s only fair to attract candidates in future years to take on this amount of work. You have to have some compensation.”

Comparatively, FASA executives will have the highest honorarium of any of the student associations. The Commerce and Administration Students’ Associations honorariums are \$1,000 per semester for the president and \$500 per semester for VPs. The Arts and Science Federation of Associations pay

their executives \$1,500 per year with a reimbursement of \$50 per month for cell phone usage.

“I would say these honorariums are fair, as being part of a faculty association does create additional living costs,” said CASA VP Academic & Student Affairs Danny Shakibaian. “It also serves as an award for the tireless hours we commit without any remuneration. We don’t commit to these positions for the honorariums, or to put the experience on our resumes; we do it only to give back to the students. [It’s] a nice gesture at the end of the day.”

The Engineering and Computer Science Association’s council, how-

ever, is run on a “volunteer basis,” according to ECA President Nathanael Occenad. They receive no honorariums or bonuses at the end of the year, but do receive \$25 per month towards their cell phone plans.

“Our executive works a minimum of 15 hours a week, but some execs go up to 30 or 40 hours a week,” explained Occenad. “We’re also all full-time students. [...] We do it because we love it.”

FASA’s final budget—which has yet to be published after some adjustments concerning the fee levy are made to the document—will be revealed at their next council meeting on Nov. 1.

CEO RESIGNS, ELECTION COMPLAINTS WITHDRAWN AT MEETING

• ADAM KOVAC

The results of last week’s Arts and Science Federation of Associations byelections will stand, as former ASFA Chief Electoral Officer Nick Cuillerier promised a special meeting of the ASFA council to withdraw a complaint he had made to the faculty association’s Judicial Committee.

Cuillerier had filed a complaint after noticing irregularities in how the byelection was conducted by his successor, Marvin Cidamon. Prior to the meeting, Cidamon, who was not in attendance, had submitted his letter of resignation.

Council voted on a series of motions recognizing that the election had been mismanaged, but that will allow the winners to take up their seats on the ASFA executive and council once a recount of

the votes has been completed. In an e-mail on Oct. 21, the Judicial Committee confirmed that the recount had taken place and the election results would stand.

“I do feel that the measures implemented in this motion satisfy most of my concerns,” said Cuillerier after the meeting. “I don’t feel the candidates themselves should be penalized, and I don’t feel the ASFA students should be on the hook to pay several thousand dollars more for another byelection they had no part in failing.”

The meeting began with Cuillerier reading a list of the potential bylaw violations he had noticed throughout the campaign, which included allegations that students may have been able to vote multiple times and that several polling clerks and ballot counters were in-

eligible to hold those posts.

Last week, Cidamon acknowledged to *The Link* that he knew he was violating bylaws by hiring former ASFA VP Internal Nicole Devlin. Nevertheless, he said, “Time was against me and I had other choices, but she seemed like someone who knew her stuff, and knew how to deal with an election.”

One of the motions voted on enables ASFA’s Finance Committee to take Cidamon’s performance into consideration when deciding what kind of compensation he will receive for his services.

Cuillerier expressed no ill will towards his successor, despite what he felt was an inadequate job overseeing the elections, saying that sometimes “good people don’t make good leaders.”

While Cuillerier had withdrawn his complaint, the Judicial Com-

mittee must still meet to give an opinion on matters brought before it jointly by Cidamon and ASFA VP Internal Schubert Laforest.

However, the JC is currently unable to meet the minimum quorum of three members, after one member resigned due to a conflict of interest resulting from mistakenly volunteering to count ballots on election night.

“We’re in the middle of a deliberation of it, but we do need to find at least one additional member of JC,” said one of its members, Justin Famili.

“It’s up to council to fill vacancies on the Judicial Committee. According to bylaws they have to do it by a special council meeting at the earliest convenience. My assumption right now is that would be next week.”

Laforest told *The Link* that ef-

orts are underway to find a replacement for Cidamon, and that ASFA is looking for “someone as enthusiastic as Nick for being by-the-book. Someone who is really going to adopt not just the spirit of the bylaws, but follow them to a T.”

It was also confirmed at the meeting that council and the executive have access to an updated set of ASFA bylaws. Cuillerier, who had overseen reforms to the bylaws regarding elections last year, had accused members of ASFA of consulting an outdated version.

However, while the downloadable version on the ASFA website was indeed out of date, Laforest said that members of the faculty association had looked into the matter and determined they had the correct version at their disposal.

Cancelling the Cleric

Muslim Student Association Pulls Out of Controversial Event

• ADAM KOVAC

A speech by a controversial cleric scheduled to take place on campus was cancelled this week, after the Muslim Students' Association was approached by the Concordia Student Union and a university official about potential backlash to the event.

The speech was to be given by British Imam Abdur-Raheem Green, who has been criticized for allegedly calling for harsh punishments for homosexuality, condoning domestic violence towards women and controversial remarks about Islamic-Jewish relations.

"I was approached by CSU President [Lex Gill] and Dean of Students [Andrew Woodall] to talk to me about how this event could attract negative media attention to our association," said MSA President Musab Abu-Thuraia. "We took that into consideration, and we took into consideration that it was not our event initially, and decided not to go through with it."

Abu-Thuraia said the event was not planned by the MSA, but that the group was approached by a former MSA member, who asked that the group book the atrium in the MB Building for the event.

While the MSA was scheduled to pay for the space, they were to be reimbursed by the Islamic Education and Research Academy, the group to which Green belongs. Abu-Thuraia said the space was booked before he could consult the rest of the MSA executive due to Concordia requiring a 30-day advance notice, but cancelled the speech after speaking with Gill and Woodall.

The event was ultimately held at the Centre Communautaire Laurentien on Friday, without any affiliation with the MSA.

Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota said that while the decision to cancel was made by the MSA, "The university certainly supports that decision," adding that there has been feedback from Jewish, feminist and gay and lesbian groups within the community who opposed Green's presence.

"When the controversy started, there was communication with the students saying, 'You realize there's a controversy, people are saying certain things, do you know who you're bringing in? Are you comfortable with this? Can you ensure that the event will run smoothly?' They thought about it, and they decided to pull out."

"I think it's pretty clear that a



"I had nothing against the speakers or the association. We looked at the group and their goal, and it seemed fine with us," said Muslim Students Association President Musab Abu-Thuraia.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

lot of what this individual would say was not going to be popular, and in fact would be inflammatory," she added. "But if it hasn't broken Canadian law, and if this person is allowed to speak in Canada by the authorities, it's a tough call for a university to say, 'No, you can't speak here.'"

In the past, Green has been re-

fused entry to Australia due to his views. On Oct. 18, members of the National Assembly in Quebec voted on a motion to encourage the Harper government to deny Green entry into Canada.

Abu-Thuraia, on the other hand, said that while he doesn't necessarily agree with Green or other members of the IERA,

which describes itself as "a global dawah organization committed to presenting Islam to wider society," he supported their right to speak on campus.

"For me, in principle, I had nothing against the speakers or the association. We looked at the group and their goal, and it seemed fine with us."

ACCORDING TO REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS, THIS YEAR SAW

55

JOURNALISTS
KILLED

3

MEDIA ASSISTANTS
KILLED

159

JOURNALISTS
IMPRISONED

9

MEDIA ASSISTANTS
IMPRISONED

123

NETIZENS
IMPRISONED

MEDIA MATTERS.

MEDIA DEMOCRACY SPECIAL ISSUE BRAINSTORM

THE **LiNK** 4 PM FRIDAY, OCT. 28. H-649

THE OCCUPIERS PROJECT

BY PETER HAEGHAERT



Photojournalist Peter Haeghaert spent the better part of his week camping out at Occupy Montreal, capturing the faces of protestors he met.

Hoping to discover more about the movement that has gained international traction, Haeghaert said he felt it was important to document. “There’s this sense that it’s something big we’re a part of, the people there seem very aware of that,” he said.

Capturing the “crazy mix of stereotypical activist-types, young people, old people, lots of students [...] and significant groups of homeless down there,” Haeghaert explained that, “everyone gets along. It’s so cohesive. And

every night there’s a festive atmosphere.”

His photos are not so much about what he personally took away from the experience, but about disseminating the message.

“I’m kind of on the fence in terms of where I think this thing is going to go, but I do think that it is a good cause,” he said. “My part is to make a project that shows a different side of the movement. It doesn’t touch too much on politics, but gives it a human aspect, a human light.”

Haeghaert plans on getting in touch with Occupiers internationally to expand on his project.

For all the images, go to occupiersproject.net



“My part is to make a project that shows a different side of the movement.”

How to Build a Revolution



One Week Later, Occupy Montreal Holds Fast

• LAURA BEESTON

Braving the bitter cold, rain and hail that many thought would dissuade the Montreal version of the massive, worldwide protest Occupy Wall Street, over 200 tents have stayed pitched in Victoria Square over the last week—and the occupiers aren't going anywhere.

A structure has sprung up, and a sophisticated internal organization has emerged within the park that is taking care of security, food, health care, water and electricity—as well as sowing the seeds for revolution.

"The value of this space is twofold," explained Concordia philosophy student Laura Alexandra Boyd-Clowes, who has become an unofficial media-liaison for the movement over the occupation due to the number of interviews she's done.

"One is that it is its own microcosm for the world we'd like to see replaced—a de-centralized but organized beautiful mass of people—and the second thing is, because of a lot of education needs to happen, [...] we've been working together to make sure our duties as democratic citizens are being fulfilled as we are learning to understand the roots of what is going on in our society."

Standing beside a massive amount of donations that included blankets, warm clothing, information pamphlets and books, Boyd-Clowes said the outpouring shows

that Montreal wants this occupation to succeed.

Calling the local occupation 'magical,' Boyd-Clowes explained that the people who have been living in Victoria Square are attempting to personify that famous Mahatma Gandhi quote and be the change they wish to see in the world, while educating people about the issues that brought them to camp out in the park at the same time.

The momentum, in Montreal at least, is catching on—the movement has grown so large that there's talk of taking over a second park.

"We need to vote on that in a general assembly for sure," she explained, talking about the consensus-based meetings that take place daily. "But it's important that we're taking up a lot of space. For the first time, it's not about virtual political engagement. Taking physical space is hard to ignore."

There are a limited number of parks close to the banking and business district, however, a fact that acts as "a whole critique on how our cities are designed in the first place," maintained Boyd-Clowes. "[City planning] doesn't lend itself to assembly or democratic engagement, or connection between people."

Occupy Montreal, on the other hand, does.

The leaps and bounds the Occupy Montreal contingent has

made over the last week is nothing short of impressive. With two generators running, an Internet connection, and hot food and drinks being served 24/7, it's a volunteer-run operation that shows no signs of slowing.

Even with the approaching cold, the consensus of the group is that they are here to stay as long as it is necessary to maintain the occupation. A committee has already been making arrangements with the fire department about the possibility of having small fires throughout the winter, and other strategies for keeping warm are being discussed.

Besides the practical things required to keep Occupy Montreal alive, the people who camp and participate in collective agreements have also undergone a political and philosophical evolution of sorts. While standing primarily in solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street movement in New York City, Occupy Montreal has also seemingly welcomed a number of local causes under their banner.

"On one hand, we want to be as inclusive as possible. We have to accept a diversity of voices. It's actually our biggest strength that we don't have a top-down hierarchical ideology that imposes itself on people," explained Boyd-Clowes.

While she doesn't personally agree with all of the "extreme stuff" floating around the camp—mostly concerning conspiracy theories and

"hardcore nationalism"—she does see the value of the radicalism that has inspired the revolution.

"What I've decided on, personally, is that every single person in Canada and the United States have had a flame of dissent burning in their hearts for a very long time," she explained. "And now, all of a sudden, we have this opportunity, and the space to express our dissent."

"There are really 'mainstream' people that have come down and supported us because we have ignited that flame," she continued. "[The Occupy movements] blew on a spark and [...] what's currently manifesting [itself] worldwide is the bigger fires of dissent that have been left smoldering for the last century. A lot of people have had enough."

Taking a page from Michael Hardt—a professor of philosophy and politics who has written extensively about social uprising—Boyd-Clowes saw the Occupy Movement as the answer to the revolutionary question in North America.

"How do you have a revolution [here]? This is the answer. It's symbolic. [...] We live in a society of control, and it's a very subtle control. It's conscious and given to us every day. The facts are that we are symbolically controlled; our very tastes and values are controlled."

The power of the Occupy movement worldwide, she said, is that

it's a re-awakening that provides a space for people to re-imagine modes of production and value.

"We're waging a symbolic revolution," she explained. "The medium is the message—this camp is the message."

To the critics of Canadian-based Occupy movements, who say we don't have the same banking crises, problems and inequalities like the states, Boyd-Clowes doesn't mince words: "We have to wipe our own assholes."

"Look, if America falls, the rest of the world is going to follow," she said. "In a globalized economy, it doesn't matter where you are, this critique can still apply."

In the foreseeable future, Montreal's Occupy camp is going to continue its course, keeping the dialogue alive. This camp can't be the end of it, its spokesperson asserts. "The next step is a mass-awakening in consumer and corporate consciousness."

With corporate suits coming down from their skyscrapers during lunch breaks to bring coffee to the Occupiers, and even with the notoriously rough Montreal police force willing to turn a blind eye to the camp's lack of a permit, it seems as though the movement—for the moment, at least—is immovable.

Stay tuned next week for more coverage following the Occupy movement.

KEEPING UP WITH MUNACA



MUNACA strike coordinator Joan O'Malley says she was chest-butted by a member of the SPVM as she was forcibly arrested at a McGill alumni luncheon. PHOTO JACOB ROBERTS

STRIKE COORDINATOR GETS CUFFED

• JACOB ROBERTS

On Oct. 14, Joan O'Malley—a 63-year-old woman and striking non-faculty employee of McGill University—was forcefully arrested in the entrance to the Bonaventure Hotel, as McGill's labour dispute grew even more heated.

Until Sept. 1, O'Malley was a secretary in the Pathology Department at McGill. Since then, she's been a strike coordinator for the McGill University Non-Academic Certified Association.

The 42nd annual Leacock Luncheon—a meeting of McGill alumni—was held in a ballroom of the Bonaventure Hotel. Outside the hotel, a group of MUNACA workers were picketing, not in protest of the event, but to make the alumni entering the building aware of their situation.

Several members of MUNACA are themselves McGill alumni, and had purchased a table at the Leacock Luncheon where they intended to hand out flyers and encourage the attendees not to donate any money to McGill until after the university and its workers had come to an agreement.

O'Malley and five others were stopped just inside the entrance by McGill security and members of the Montreal police.

"The first thing I'd like to say is, I'm extremely distressed about this," O'Malley told *The Link*.

Because the hotel is not on McGill property, and the luncheon is open to any McGill alumni with a ticket, O'Malley believes that their presence—especially just inside the entrance of the hotel—was well within their rights.

As soon as McGill security saw O'Malley, they singled her out to the SPVM.

According to O'Malley, a McGill security agent—someone she knew from having worked at McGill and considered a colleague—said, "That's Joan O'Malley, she's an organizer, she's a troublemaker, get her out of here."

O'Malley said she asked to speak to the hotel management, as she wanted to know if the Bonaventure had requested the security presence or if it had been McGill.

When she was denied this request, O'Malley and her party began to leave, but were immedi-

ately stopped. She said an SPVM officer chest-butted her, at which point she put her hands up in defense.

"I screamed for help, I couldn't believe I was being attacked by a police officer at the invitation of McGill security. I didn't believe I had done anything illegal," said O'Malley. "Who are you going to call when it's the police who are attacking you?"

Four police officers pushed her up against a wall, spread her legs, confiscated her cell phone then handcuffed her and took her outside. They put her in the back of a police car and drove around to the back of the hotel.

The police then gave O'Malley a ticket for impeding pedestrian traffic and released her.

McGill officials denied any responsibility for the arrest.

Michael Di Grappa, a former Concordia VP and current Vice-Principal of Administration and Finance at McGill, told *The McGill Daily* that, "If we have an event at another location, that location is responsible for security and they can take whatever security measures they deem appropriate."

"Our people might be there to assist with their own people, to help identify our VIPs that need access, but we don't have any authority off-site."

O'Malley pointed to the incident as evidence of the divide not just in negotiations between the two sides, but also in the basic relationship between MUNACA and the McGill administration.

"Where is the dialogue, where is the community? Where is, 'We're all one, we're all McGill?'" she asked, referencing McGill Principal Heather Munroe-Blum's rhetoric. "Get yourself on strike at McGill and you'll find out we're not all McGill. There's the 'haves' and the 'have-nots.' I just happen to be one of the have-nots."

Neither McGill University nor Securitas, the private security company employed by McGill, could be reached for comment. The SPVM was also unavailable.

You can watch video of O'Malley's arrest by searching for 'MsUnionGal' on YouTube.

NDP GETS BEHIND STRIKING MCGILL WORKERS

• JACOB ROBERTS

The National Democratic Party showed up in full force to support striking McGill University Non-Academic Certified Association workers Friday, by publicly attending a rally at the number-one school in the country and encouraging strikers to settle the dispute out of court.

"With the NDP, you can be sure of one thing: we know on which side we are, and we are on your side," said Alexandre Boulerice, NDP MP for Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie.

President of the NDP and candidate for party leader Brian Topp—who attended McGill in the early '80s—also showed up, voicing his opinion of the rally, which happened across the street from McGill, since a recent injunction prevents MUNACA workers from congregating on the property.

"All the effort you are putting into lawyers [and] injunctions to tell people that they can't peacefully protest right over there, spend it at the table, [make] a reasonable settlement and do it now," he said, gesturing at the McGill campus.

MUNACA has almost 1,700 workers who have been on strike since Sept. 1 to achieve wage parity with other Montreal universities, as well as improved pensions and benefits.

Boulerice and Topp's views were echoed by Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians—an organization devoted for economic and social justice for Canadians.

"McGill University wants to lower your benefits, they want to lower your pensions and they most importantly want to lower expectations for the next generation. This is happening right across the country," said Barlow. "Don't think you can't have a sense of rights because we're in a new era of 'dog eat dog,' 'race to the bottom,' 'hope you can make it,' 'sorry if you can't.' Too bad, because

we don't accept that kind of society and we never will."

MUNACA president Kevin Whittaker is grateful for the notoriety that comes with an endorsement from the NDP.

"We are very encouraged by the statement that they were making, specifically Mr. Topp, that McGill should stop wasting its time and money in getting injunctions and should be focusing instead on producing a fair resolution to this strike," said Whittaker. "Any time we get such an endorsement [from the NDP] it helps our cause, because it gets the message out to a broader public."

"Certainly if [...] the NDP are focusing on our core issues then they must understand that these are fair and equitable demands, otherwise they wouldn't be backing us on this. So it's very reassuring," said Whittaker.

MUNACA has received support from many members and groups from the community, including the Federation des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec, who refused to cross the picket line at McGill recently.

"Last week when we picketed at the construction site at McGill hospital, we received the full cooperation of FTQ members who were working on site," said a MUNACA spokesperson, who asked not to be named. "They agreed not to cross our picket lines and stand in solidarity with our actions."

Michel Arseneault, the president of the FTQ, offered his support of MUNACA alongside the NDP on Friday.

Nearly every sentence was punctuated by cheers from the crowd of MUNACA workers who had flooded McGill College Ave. Police had to set up roadblocks with their cars to prevent people from spilling out onto Sherbrooke St. W.

McGill University was unavailable for comment.

Capital Idea



PHOTOS HILARY SINCLAIR

Protesters outside the Centre des congrès de Québec paused for 325 seconds of silence to protest the planned \$325 per year tuition increase.

Students Gather Against Tuition Increases in Quebec City

• HILARY SINCLAIR

As members of Quebec's National Assembly went back to work on Friday, they were welcomed with chants of, "Students, united, will never be defeated."

Over a hundred demonstrators gathered outside the Centre des congrès de Québec on Oct. 21 to protest rising tuition rates. Armed with signs bearing slogans like, "Educated people will never be defeated," and, "It's a right," the protestors donned red felt squares—a traditional symbol of the student movement—and marched for four hours.

For many of the students in the crowd, fighting tuition hikes is about ensuring access to education for future students, not for themselves. Most of the protesters will never be directly affected by the proposed \$1,625 increase in yearly tuition. Students like Holly Nazar, VP External for the Concordia Graduate Students' Association.

"I don't like to see essential

public services that increase social solidarity and produce thoughtful citizens privatized," said Nazar, who will be entering her final semester in Concordia's Masters program in Media Studies this winter.

Indeed, solidarity seemed to define the spirit of the protest, which brought together students from Concordia, the Université de Montréal, the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec and the Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec.

"We are solidaire," said FECQ President Leo Bureau-Blouin. "The people that are here are going to be workers one day. They are going to need doctors, teachers and lawyers. They are going to pay taxes. I think that they are all concerned about the future of Quebec."

This way of thinking seems to signify the shift in social consciousness of the generation that is coming into power. Increased enrollment is not viewed as creating increased

competition for jobs, but as a catalyst for diversifying culture.

GSA President Robert Sonin said that increasing fees changes the thinking for many students who will choose to go into fields that are more likely to guarantee jobs upon graduation, instead of pursuing their real interests.

"There's always a tipping point," said Sonin. "At some point, somebody says, 'That's it for me.' We are going to get people who are only going to school with an eye for paying off debt. What ends up happening there is, you have so many graduates, there are no jobs [in those fields]."

The students' thinking is that, when access to education is limited to only those who can afford inflated tuition fees, society suffers.

"We are all concerned about tuition hikes because of the future of Quebec society. We need educated people to make a society that works, a society that can compete with other nations," said Bureau-Blouin.

BEST OF THE
WEB

THELINKNEWSPAPER.CA

TEA-IN

Concordia's culture-jamming club überculture had a near run-in with Montreal police on Oct. 18—for drinking tea.

A rotating group of five to six activists sat on the floor of the foyer of the Hall Building for their annual tea party in a peaceful protest against the lack of student space.

Security seemed bewildered about what to do about the students' refusal to move, quoting a number of breached policies, including fire safety concerns, and threatened to call police.

When CSU President Lex Gill was called in, however, she backed up the tea party.

MEDIA CONFERENCE

The Promise of the Media in Halting Mass Atrocities was a conference held at Concordia, featuring speakers such as ex-PM Paul Martin and Concordia history professor and MIGS director Dr. Frank Chalk, among other esteemed journalists and human rights activists.

"It is perfectly clear to me that the media, or at least some of the media, have a responsibility to report [on human rights atrocities], and it is a responsibility that the media accept willingly," said André Pratte, Editor-in-Chief of La Presse.

O'MALLEY ARRESTED

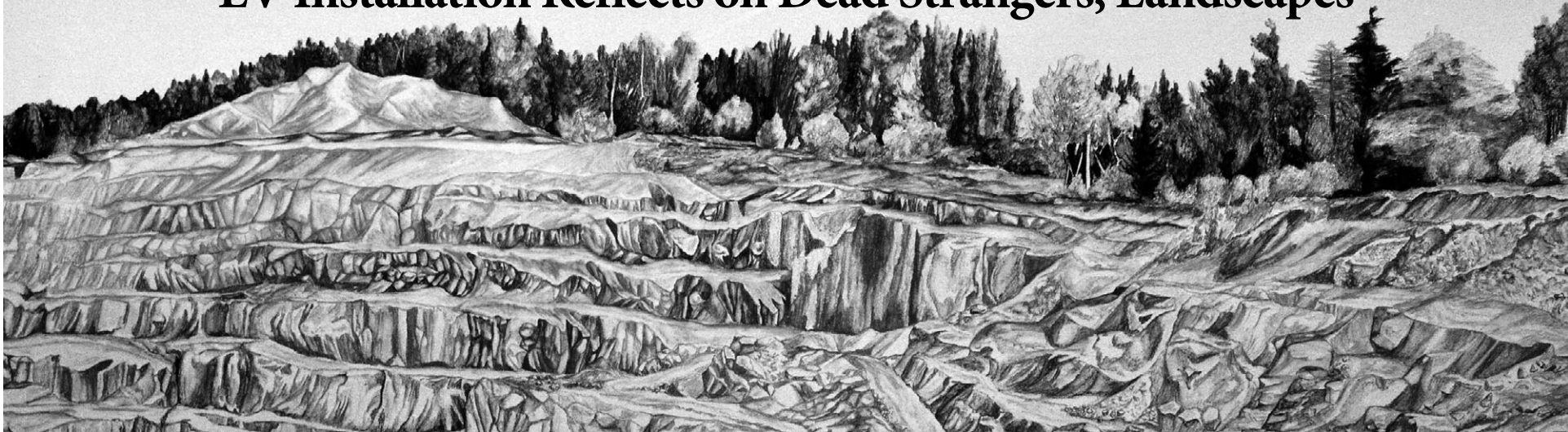
Watch the video of MUNACA's Joan O'Malley, 63, a union "troublemaker," getting arrested by Montreal police at the Bonaventure Hotel.





Walking With a Ghost

EV Installation Reflects on Dead Strangers, Landscapes



The exhibit in Concordia's EV Building by Andréanne Godin depicts an open-pit mine that devastated the natural landscape of the Quebec mining region of Val d'Or, where she grew up.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

• REBECCA HISCOTT

It begins with a box.

Six years ago, Andréanne Godin received an unused, limited-edition box of Derwent watercolour pencils. The elegant wooden chest, one of only 1,000 ever produced, had previously belonged to a complete stranger, a woman now deceased. For six years the box sat in Godin's home, silently challenging her to create something worthy of a stranger's memory.

This year, she did.

"It's a statement on ephemerality," says Godin, now an MFA student at Concordia. "From the first mark, its destiny is to [be] lost."

Memorial For a Stranger, an ongoing exhibit in the York Corridor vitrines of the EV building's first floor, is a work constantly in flux, uniting this mysterious gift with the landscape of Godin's childhood. The mural depicts a panoramic vista, drawn from memory, of an open-pit mine that devastated the natural landscape

of the Quebec mining region of Val d'Or, where Godin grew up. Despite the harshness of the mine's presence in the wilderness, the mural's use of vibrant colour makes the vista breathtakingly beautiful.

The work is a memorial both for a person, a stranger, and a landscape, thoroughly familiar, both of which exist now only in memory. It's this statement of ephemerality that unites the two foci of Godin's work.

"To see everything change just to exploit that land," Godin muses, "[are] very drastic changes in nature, in landscapes that I was so close to, it was almost like losing a member of the family. Every day you're reminded that you've allowed this to happen to your land."

A departure from her usual black-and-white compositions, *Memorial for a Stranger* nonetheless follows Godin's interest in projects of a dualistic nature. Past works have focused on the interactions between sound instal-

lation and static composition.

"For me it's really interesting to work [with the] three-dimensionality of sound and two-dimensional drawing, and how these two things can [be in] dialogue even if the sound is progressing and changing and the drawing is just there."

The project is a work in transition, and its execution will not be truly complete until it's dismantled. Godin has been working on the nostalgic landscape since September, using the colours of the Derwent pencil set as her guide.

The landscape, drawn directly on the walls of the York corridor, merges realism with the abstract, the mineral composition of the climbing rock face in contrast with the surreal wash of mauves and indigos of the forest and the deep evergreens of organic life. The overall effect is dreamlike; even the mine is illustrated with sympathetic and vibrant attention to detail.

The project is now in its second

phase, as Godin uses a spray bottle and various recycled fabrics to gently efface portions of the landscape, blurring details and delineations. There is a method behind this process of dismantling, a further reflection on the decomposition of the region.

"This week I will erase all of the trees, everything that is organic, that can change on its own," Godin explained. "The mine will stay for a week and then [it] will go down. It's a reflection about [how] when we mine landscapes, when we change things as humans, these changes [last] much longer than our lifetime."

The exhibit has exacted a physical and emotional toll on the artist. In addition to the back and wrist aches developed from hours of working against the wall, there is a profound sense of loss in the gradual erasure of these months of effort.

"Everything that the box represents for me is so important that I don't want to lose any bit of it."

There has been a similarly visceral reaction from fans and critics of the work, particularly those who would like it to be preserved in permanent form. When the exhibit is finished, the wall will be washed clean and the Derwent box will be virtually empty—this painful process of erasure mirroring the very cyclical nature of human existence.

"It's interesting to think about all of the cycles [of nature]. They are cycles as we are cycles, as we are ephemeral."

On Oct. 26, Godin will be giving a talk to further illuminate the process and motivations of this ambitious undertaking, and the pressure of doing justice to a stranger's memory.

Appropriately, in a few short weeks the piece, too, will exist only through recollection. Pass by the York corridor vitrines before Nov. 4 to participate in this colourful meditation on impermanence and celebration of life even in its most fleeting forms.

CONCORDIA'S FIRST FINE ARTS MAGAZINE

Interfold Wants Your Art

• HANNAH HACKNEY

Browsing Concordia's agenda back in September, Bella Giancotta noticed a description of *Folio*, a fine arts magazine run for and by McGill students. In spite of Concordia's internationally renowned Fine Arts program—and McGill's lack of such a faculty altogether—she realized this school has no such publication.

"I asked myself, 'Why don't we have something that really brings

together the awesome program we have here?'" Giancotta recalled. "We need to show off what Concordia has."

Thus, the idea for *Interfold* was born.

Now the Editor-in-Chief of the publication, Giancotta is working with a core group on launching the first edition in January. The magazine will contain a wide variety of visual art forms with a few short articles interspersed, all of which are curated around a specific theme.

The result will be a bi-annual, full-colour multimedia periodical.

A multidisciplinary focus was key for Giancotta during the magazine's development; anything from photography to sculpture to fiber work is welcome to adorn *Interfold's* pages. In addition to the print edition, more content will be regularly available online, such as videos and audio recordings.

Giancotta and her team of editors aim to change the way Concordia's communities interact.

"I feel like this project might allow for more interconnection within the fine arts community.

Unless you have a class with [some of] these people, you don't really get to see their work," she said. "We want this magazine to be everything coming together within the faculty."

Outside the faculty, *Interfold* hopes to help students explore and celebrate the art that Concordia has to offer, creating a rich archive of work in the process. It's not

exclusive to Fine Arts students either—Giancotta welcomes work from every faculty on campus.

***Interfold* is now welcoming submissions on the theme 'boundaries and confines.' Artists or writers interested in having their work featured are asked to send photographs, a short description of themselves and their work to info@interfoldmagazine.com by Nov. 1.**

Women on Top

POW WOW's Dany Desjardins on the Fierce Female Form



Despite what the promotional material may lead you to believe, POW WOW's female dancers are anything but delicate

PHOTO MARQUI MONTES

• LAURA BEESTON

Black leather heels are strung about the brightly lit studio, and a beautiful model-esque woman emerges in high fashion. Jerking her body in angular motions to the beat, she poses—arms outstretched, shoulders concaved, hips swiveling. She strikes a pose: vogue.

Suddenly, the model is on the floor and looking ill. Gagging, a string of pearls slowly starts projecting from her mouth; she wipes the beads from her face and they fall to the floor. Throwing her head back, neck outstretched, a crystal emerges from her mouth, pushing from her round, pink lips.

The video—visceral, raw and feminine—is for Montreal choreographer and artistic director Dany Desjardins's newest dance creation, *POW WOW*, playing in La Chapelle theatre from Oct. 25 to 29.

The only thing that the video doesn't represent about his work, Desjardins explains, is the musical score. In the place of delicate chimes, he says, the audience should expect disco, dirty R&B and house.

"When the guy made the video I was pushing to find a disco song, but we tried over 10 tracks and it didn't work," Desjardins said with a laugh. "It's too dark and ambient; the show is really about pumping up the music and dance—that rhythm, beat and bass. It's about jacking

it up."

Looking at the video again, Desjardins said he wouldn't be surprised if his audience leaves with something they never expected, especially if they've only seen the delicate trailer footage.

"While [my work is] still feminine, the base to the show are these strong women—women who are powerful and on top of everything. I'm tired of seeing women [in contemporary dance] depicted in a ball on the floor," he said. "For me it was really a joy to see my girls get into that kind of evolution, exploring their strong feminine side. It's not seduction by sexuality, but being seduced by the force of these women's power onstage—their real, strong characters."

POW WOW—which Desjardins has been working on since last summer—has a glamorous, high-fashion aesthetic that certainly carries over from the promotional material to the live show. The set will include "a catwalk with extravagant, super costumes. Diamonds and pearls. It's over the top—while getting into something very pure, very clear," said the choreographer.

Inspired by '80s voguing documentary *Paris Is Burning*, which features folks of limited means "faking rich, famous and glamorous superstar lives," Desjardins explained that *POW WOW* came from the same stimulation.

It was about "getting into the theatre and assuming glamour in the industrial space [of La Chapelle]. It was like, while we were voguing and walking and acting super trashy, we were stars, even if we were pretending."

His beautiful dancers—Geneviève Boulet, Isabelle Arcand, Claudine Hébert and Esther Rousseau-Morin—round out the high-fashion-meets-art physical creation. Desjardins, who has a visual art background, said he always keeps the aesthetic aspect present in his works.

"It's important for me to have good light, costumes and objects. I'm not of the [contemporary dance] style when you just care about the movements and you do things in rehearsal clothes," he explained. "I like my image clean—there's a magic in that."

Taking the work back to the basics of dance—"Why does dance exist? To celebrate!"—Desjardins explained he wanted to create something tribal, something positive, something "within us."

"I called the show *POW WOW* to celebrate that venue for a whole society to collaborate in a communal space, where [the audience] can hear the beat, feel the movement and become hypnotized in it. It's very raw."

POW WOW / Oct 24 – 29 / La Chapelle (3700 St. Dominique St.)

CALL OF THE WILD

Hyena/Subpoena is
multimedia magic

• ALEXANDER ST-LAURENT

Catherine Kidd, the writer/performer and mastermind behind *Hyena/Subpoena*—a one-woman theatre and spoken word piece now playing at Les Ateliers Jean Brillant—said she doesn't bother reading bad reviews because "it takes you off your game."

Kidd, who is a graduate of Honours English and Creative Writing at Concordia, teams up with director Alison Darcy and her Scapegoat Carnivale Theatre Company, as well as DJ Jacky Murda who provides instrumentals to the show's spoken word narrative. Geoff Agombar adds a dash of videoscape magic, and the result is a multimedia performance that leaves you wondering why more people aren't talking about Kidd's work.

"She's a true troubadour," I heard one woman say as I was putting on my jacket to leave after the show. I saw another wiping tears from her eyes. So I have to wonder: who is writing bad reviews about a show that has been picking up steam this past week and has plenty of track left to travel (Kidd confessed she intends to take the show on the road)?

Hyena/Subpoena is the story of fallen poet and activist Mona Morse who has fled to South Africa to escape the controversy surrounding her latest work. Enthralled by hyenas and inspired by their resistance to binary classifications such as good/evil, male/female, and scavenger/hunter, Morse explores their lifestyle and habits.

We then jump through a series of formative moments in Morse's life, from her time in a mental institution, to her psychiatric evaluation, to flashes of junior high school and elementary. Agombar's videoscape images of hyenas, lions and South African landscapes, coupled with Kidd's free flowing prose-poetry, delivers a strong production in a beautiful space. Why more shows aren't produced at Les Ateliers Jean Brillant is anyone's guess.

Kidd is a powerhouse performer. She sings, dances, climbs the rafters and asks the big questions, such as, "What is society's obsession with the need for a scapegoat?"

Discussing the traditional mythology of hyenas, the animal's poor reputation (see *The Lion King*), and the pitfalls of taxonomy, Kidd admitted that a major goal of this piece was to explore the social forces that serve to alienate people.

"Everyone feels like an outsider at some point in their life," she said, "and if we're all on the outside, who is on the inside?"

She also emphasized that it was important for her to avoid writing a story about victimization, preferring to find something constructive to say instead. "Who knows what the appropriate response to tragedy is?" she asked. "Tears and laughter are two sides of the same coin."

Friday night, *Hyena/Subpoena* earned both, and there is inevitably more of the same in store for the remaining performances. Les Ateliers Jean Brillant is no more than a 15 minute walk from campus, so do yourself a favour, see this show and bring a friend.

Hyena/Subpoena / Oct. 27-29 / 8 p.m. / Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. / catkidd.com/hyena-subpoena.



Bite of the Living Dead

Sights, Sounds and Sociopolitics at the Zombie Walk



Brains were the breakfast of cadaverous champions on Saturday, as Montreal's downtown was overrun by hordes of participants taking part in the annual Zombie Walk.

• ADAM KOVAC

Though brains are their mantra, what being part of a zombie walk really takes is guts.

True, it's preferable if those guts are dripping out of gaping abdominal wounds or being worn like a grisly feather boa in a glam-goes-gory fashion statement, but it takes guts nonetheless.

If you're talking real bravery, or at least confidence to let your blood-splattered freak flag fly, that's another story. Go back a few years, and people were terrified of anybody who would openly cop to being obsessed with the zombies.

In the post-Columbine world, it was definitely not okay to be associated with any scene that was the least bit macabre. Zombies were a subculture in the truest sense—you may have risked social stigma if you were a true believer, you had to go out of your way to be really into it, but once you did, you found obscure gems like *Garden of the Dead*.

Times have changed. Now, the walking dead are everywhere, including mainstream television, where AMC, the station that brings you *Mad Men*, also brings you... well, *The Walking Dead*.

Brad Pitt is slated to a star in an adaptation of quirky nonfiction bestseller *World War Z*. Hell, Wikipedia lists *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* as a bona fide zombie flick.

Safe to say, it's never been safer to be a corpse.

Partial to the Perished

I've been down with the dead since taking

in my first zombie movie, the 2004 remake of George Romero's seminal *Dawn of the Dead*.

Sitting in Decarie Square's Dollar Cinema, a bag of ultra-cheap popcorn in my lap, I waited eagerly for each new dismemberment, hoping that the next bite would lead to an even bigger burst of blood than the last. Since then, it's been nothing but love for the lifeless, and Hollywood seems to match my love heartbeat for terrified heartbeat.

I've sat through countless movies, both great (*28 Days Later*, *Shawn of the Dead*), terrible (*Land of the Dead*, the *Resident Evil* series) and as is often the case, a cheesy combination of both (*Dead Snow*, which is either a brilliant analysis of the Norwegian government's actions during World War II, or an excuse to dress zombies up as Nazis and let them disembowel people).

I've played countless rounds of the Nazi Zombie mode in *Call of Duty*. *The Walking Dead* is literally the only comic book I've read since I hit puberty, and in its TV show form is now one of but a handful that I watch religiously. I've read *The Zombie Survival Guide*, and yes, I do have plan for the inevitable apocalypse, thank you very much.

I've even dressed up and lurched through Montreal's downtown as part of our annual zombie walk. And I'm not alone. By my count, roughly 1,000 ghouls showed up at this year's edition, in varying stages of decomposition, and similar events have been held around the world, from Stockholm to Edmonton.

Meeting outside of Mont-Royal Metro on a slightly chilly afternoon, the zomb-romp's atmosphere was less "pure terror" and more "fun for the whole family." It was a sort of utopia for the non-living; there was a zombie

costume for everyone, no matter what your taste or station in life.

Doctor zombies mingled with cop zombies. Army zombies and prisoner zombies shuffled to the same beat. Punks, metal-heads and hockey players with even bigger head wounds than you would normally see took turns checking each other out. French and English-speaking corpses wandered around, chain smoking (I guess once you're dead, cancer stops being a concern.)

Similarly, a lot of zombies seemed to be into weed. Getting high must have a certain appeal if you've been six feet down. Perhaps most disturbingly, a zombie Santa toting a bag of body parts was hanging out with zombie clowns, perhaps the only kind of zombie that is even more frightening when actually alive.

Horror is something these people take seriously.

"I watch horror movies day and night. I fall asleep to horror movies," bragged Christine Valente, who was one of the more popular sentient cadavers around. While her costume was suitably disturbing, the real draw was Charlie, her blood-splattered Pomeranian, who waddled among the ghouls with a human hand in his mouth.

While getting a dog to carry around a plastic severed appendage is surprisingly easy (just stuff it with bacon and dog treats, according to Valente), not all zombie-related enterprises come that easily; there are still places the zombie plague hasn't spread.

"I'm from Newfoundland; we don't have things like this," said first-time walker Nancy Kelly. "If I did something like this in Newfoundland, I'd be carted away in a police van. It's fun to have the freedom to do it."

"I'm from Newfoundland; we don't have things like this. If I did something like this in Newfoundland, I'd be carted away in a police van,"

—Nancy Kelly



PHOTOS ERIN SPARKS

Post-Life Politics

The diversity at the event was amazing, especially since the horror of a zombie apocalypse is that the enemy is homogenous. Ask any fan, and they'll tell you: one zombie equals a funny, gory kill. Shit only goes down when there's a big, hungry crowd of what used to be people, all with brains on the brain.

This is also the fundamental appeal of zombies. Unlike vampires or other monsters, zombies are us. They have the same blood we do, the only difference being that theirs has congealed in their veins.

"I also have always liked the monster-within idea," George Romero once said. "I like the zombies being us. Zombies are the blue-collar monsters."

Romero is the king of the corpses. His 1968 film *Night of the Living Dead* arguably set the template for every zombie movie that followed.

While his later efforts grew increasingly tired—especially those made in the new millennium—there is one aspect of his films that was ignored by his hackier successors but adopted by auteurs: a political message.

A film like *Resident Evil* may have a vague anti-corporate message (the villain is the ridiculously evil Umbrella Corporation, which seems to want to profit by turning all of its customers, i.e. humanity, into mindless horrors. Any similarities to Fox News is purely coincidental).

But Romero's films have a sublime beauty in the themes hidden among the severed limbs. *Night of the Living Dead* accidentally became an allegory for racism following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. *Dawn of the Dead*, which was set in a besieged mall, was about mindless consumerism. Even the awful-except-for-

Dennis-Hopper *Land of the Dead* tried to portray zombies as a metaphor for the oppressed underclass, struggling under the tyranny of the rich.

If you think I'm stretching on this political thing, keep in mind that there is currently a book out by Tufts University professor Daniel Drezner entitled *Theories of International Politics and Zombies*.

Despite their fondness for brains, few in the zombie mass shared my fondness for mixing cultural deconstruction with my carcasses.

"I don't read that deep into zombie films, honestly," said Valente. "I think they're awesome, and I love zombie movies, and I think it's fun to have a day to dress up like a zombie."

Nevertheless, I couldn't help but feel there was a message in there somewhere. One guy held up a sign claiming, "Bin Laden and Ghaddafi will be with us soon." Many were dressed in torn up business suits, the glazed look on their faces little different than mine after eight hours staring at a computer screen.

Could it be that this was all a big statement on the military-industrial complex, or the stupefying nature of labour in a capitalist system? Not so much, according to Gilles Rousseau.

Rousseau is a VP at the Spasm Film Festival. Founded in 2002, the festival has been bringing the bloodiest of the bloody to audiences who need a little screaming at their film screenings. Though the festival didn't organize the zombie walk, the event ended at Club Soda, where Spasm showed several locally made short zombie flicks.

"It's a representation of society," he said. "So yes, there's that commentary in a second degree, but it's primarily I think that most of

the people want to live in this moment, and have fun."

Brains for Thought

It seems stupid to get upset that an event that included a guy dressed as an undead member of pop-group LMFAO shuffle-dancing down the street didn't have a political message. It's missing the forest not for the trees, but for the friggin' leaves—an intensely anal bit of nitpicking.

The fact is, the zombie walk is just *awesome* from any point of view. It's quite fun and boasts amazing creativity. Aside from hockey, a zombie walk might be the only thing that people from every single demographic in Montreal can agree on.

"We're here because it's fun," said Vincent Tremblay, giving me a look that implied I might have actually had my brain removed by a zombie when I asked him if his military zombie getup had any underlying message. "I like the military and I like zombies. Combine them together, you get awesomeness."

Maybe it's easier to discuss the socio-political message of *Diary of the Dead* when the guy you're talking to doesn't have an eyeball dangling from his socket. Or maybe I'm over-thinking things.

But as I drifted through the sea of dangling body parts and exposed crania, I couldn't help but think of *The Shawshank Redemption*—though it features all of zero zombies or references thereto—when Tim Robbins' character, rather dwelling in his thoughts, learns to "get busy living, or get busy dying."

On a cold day in October, a thousand Montrealers did him one better. They got busy living *by* getting busy dying.



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FRAME TO FRAME

The Miserably Glorious Apocalypse. Three films about the end of the world



WEEKLY SPINS

We spin the latest from Japanther and Holy Ghost!



FRINGE FOODIE

Think Loyola has no answer to the People's Potato? Learn about Loyola Luncheon in this week's Fringe Foodie.

THRILLER IN NDG

Yes, the NDG Food Depot is re-enacting the classic music video this Halloween. Check out a video of last year's dance below.





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BASEBALL

After ruling the Canadian Intercollegiate Baseball Association standings with their 13-3 record, the Concordia Stingers walked away from last weekend's nationals empty-handed. The Stingers lost to the Durham Lords 3-2 in Sunday's semi-final.

WOMEN'S RUGBY

ConU's women's rugby team is in the conference finals after edging out the McGill Martlets last Friday 18-8. In order to secure a spot at Nationals, though, they must go through the Laval Rouge et Or this Saturday at Telus Stadium in Quebec City. The final starts at 1:00 p.m.

FOOTBALL

The Stingers' playoff hopes are in jeopardy after a 36-1 thrashing last Saturday by the Université de Montréal Carabins. In order to make it to the postseason they must beat the winless McGill Redmen at Percival Molson Stadium or they'll have to depend on Laval to knock off the Bishop's University Gaiters. Both games are Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

MEN'S HOCKEY

The drought is over for Concordia's men's hockey team. They won 3-2 in overtime over the McGill Redmen, a feat they hadn't accomplished since Oct. 10, 2008. The Stingers will try for back-to-back wins at McConnell arena this Friday at 7:00 p.m.

MEN'S SOCCER

Concordia's men's soccer team has lost six straight games, largely as a result of their ongoing five-game goalless drought. Their latest loss came at the hands of the Université du Québec à Montréal Citadins, 1-0 on Oct 21. Concordia heads to Sherbrooke Friday night to play the Vert et Or. The game starts at 8:30 p.m.

Université de Maciocia

Grey Cup Champion Coach Brings Winning Pedigree to Carabins



• ANDREW MAGGIO

Danny Maciocia is no stranger to the game of football. He's successfully coached at every level, going back to his days as the coach of to the Canadian Junior Football League's St. Leonard Cougars, right up to his Grey Cup with the Canadian Football League's Edmonton Eskimos in 2005.

In that sense, Maciocia's experience coaching young teams has been invaluable in his first season as the head coach of the Université de Montréal Carabins.

"I'm coming off a recent volunteer coaching stint at André

Grasset College, so I understand how it works when you're dealing with young, up-and-coming players," said Maciocia.

Maciocia said that unlike with professional players, as a university coach, touchdowns are just one of his responsibilities.

"When it comes to student athletes, you're molding a certain type of player, molding them as not only a player but as an individual as well," he said.

Maciocia was familiar with many of the university's football people, and it took him only a few days to make his decision to take on the position.

A key factor in Maciocia's de-

cision to take the job with the Carabins was that it allowed him to return to Montreal.

"Football is a very volatile business and it leads to a lot of bouncing around over the years, so to be back home with my wife and kids, working within a great program, surrounded by great people, it's the best thing I could ask for," he said. "Hopefully we'll be grounded here for a while now."

While his current roster is filled with young players, Maciocia is confident that this group is on the rise and will be in the top tier of Canadian Interuniversity Sport teams within a few years' time.

"Hopefully by the time playoffs roll around we'll be more in sync and start playing our best football at the most important part of the year," he said. "Down the road, I think this team can become a force to be reckoned with."

Maciocia's pedigree left no doubt that he could have found work in the CFL, but, as he put it, "I felt that after weighing my options, this was the best place for me to be."

Maciocia's Carabins, have now clinched third place in the Réseau de sport étudiant du Québec standings, after hanging the Concordia Stingers out to dry in a 36-1 bout last Saturday.

Drug-Free Stress Solutions



GRAPHIC CHRIS TAN

Using Alternative Medicine to Defy Midterm Anxiety

• GAIL COROBOW

Whether you're a straight-A student or barely passing, midterm anxiety can affect us all—there's no one specific group that suffers from nervousness and worry.

Everyone has their own experiences with this mental health issue, and whether you're over-indulging in cigarettes, marijuana or alcohol—or perhaps have taken to using copious quantities of energy drinks, or your friend's prescription for Ritalin to stay alert and focused for long periods of studying—chances are the effects of exam anxiety are playing havoc with your health.

The anticipation of the test can also be enough to create severe symptoms. Although we know certain amounts of stress can help you be both creative and productive, too much stress can be incapacitating. Known stress symptoms can also include trouble sleeping and changes in appetite, diarrhea, fre-

quent urination, rapid heartbeats and shortness of breath.

Panic is an experience that frequently arises in moments of extreme anxiety. A sense of being overwhelmed takes over and can be difficult to come back from. That's when anxious students score lower than their non-anxious peers on tests. Anxiety can block thoughts and create difficulty in accessing information, even in a well-prepared student.

One interesting case was Nobel Prize winner Barbara McClintock. She was quick to finish her final genetics exam at Cornell, but when it came to returning to the cover page and filling in her name, she forgot it completely; it took a full 20 minutes before she realized her mistake.

It may seem shocking, but this scenario is all too common. Going blank or 'freezing' at a performance or exam is a way that stress affects many.

While stress and anxiety can be

cured with anti-anxiety medications, prescription drugs are not always effective. Misuse of prescription drugs—like using anxiety pills to help sleep—can also become addictive. Here's where holistic medicine comes in.

Holistic medicine is a way to treat the whole person with non-practical methods to get to the root of a problem through different therapies. Homeopathy, for example, is currently second on the list of most widely used methods of alternative treatment in the world. It has 200 years of history and uses remedies that do not contain any harmful substances.

Chiropractics, massage and osteopathy are considered homeopathic solutions for anxiety, and biologically based practices like herbs, teas, foods and vitamins are also known to help relieve the symptoms of stress.

Practicing focus and concentration techniques may also help re-

lieve stress. Mind-body medicines, which include mindfulness-based stress reduction, and therapies that use sound, art or music, have also proven effective. Yoga is also a well-known and efficient stress-relieving practice for many. Eating well, exercising, and other lifestyle choices can help when stress levels are high.

These are all methods that work from the inside out; they aren't band-aid treatments to suppress your symptoms, but rather work with your body and mind to influence healing.

Despite many questions concerning its effectiveness, homeopathy works when the treatment is tailored to the individual. It also doesn't interfere with prescription medications. Whatever you choose to cope with stress, a clear understanding of products and their interactions with other treatments is necessary to ensure safety and efficacy.

Choosing a holistic approach

has benefits beyond just safe and effective non-addictive treatments. Holistic practitioners are accessible, and they follow through with your treatment afterwards.

People have different ways of coping with their exam and performance anxiety. If you are someone who is having difficulties managing, then know that you are not alone. Acknowledging your predicament is an important first step.

While it is always necessary that a qualified health professional be consulted to make recommendations, these holistic methods can provide relief and allow you to function and perform according to your skills.

Gail Corobow, MA, D.Hom., is a member of le Syndicat professionnel des homéopathes du Québec and the Canadian Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists.

VIRGIN RADIO SHAVES HEADS, RAISES CASH FOR CANCER RESEARCH

• ASHLEY COUILLARD

Breast cancer awareness month is coming to a close, but it's still not too late to shave a head for cancer—or just to donate to the cause.

Virgin Radio 96 is hosting their 11th annual Shave to Save campaign this month as part of the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Shave to Save started off as a breakfast promotion 11 years ago where \$14,000 was raised.

Now, it's one of the largest contributors to the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation—raising \$3.9 million towards funding research projects, awareness and education programs, and support programs according to the QBCF.

Virgin Radio's Lisa Player, of

"Freeway and Lisa in the Morning," shaved her head six years ago. She did so to support a high school friend who battled breast cancer and beat it—twice.

"She was so young to have to go through that," said Player. One in nine women will be diagnosed with breast cancer during their lifetime, and one in 29 will die from it according to the Canadian Cancer Society.

This year, an estimated 23,400 will have it, and 64 Canadian women will be diagnosed every day.

Player said shaving her head wasn't easy, but she's learnt a lot from the experience and seeing others do it too.

"I thought I was going to black out," she laughs. "I was nervous

because I shaved in front of a bar full of people [...] when I look back at the pictures, I did notice a look of uncertainty on my face.

"A shaved head is the least of most people's worries when they're waging a war against cancer," she said. "I've learned huge respect for a big chunk of the younger generation, who put the needs of patients and the fight against cancer over outer appearances and superficiality."

Shave participants who raise a minimum of \$2,000 for the cause get to be shaved by a stylist with the Virgin Radio 96 staff. Last year over, 150 people shaved their heads and this year, still early in the month, they've already hit approximately 100 shaves.

"Not only has it raised a lot of

money for research, but it's a huge viral campaign. Everyone who shaves their head is a walking awareness campaign—people ask them, 'Why the haircut?,' and they tell their story. It's extremely powerful seeing women and children doing it, especially young female adolescents," said Melissa Dimakos, Promotions Director at Virgin Radio.

Twenty-year-old Shaugn Best shaved his head for the first time three years ago, when he found out his mother had Stage 2 breast cancer.

"I saw firsthand how devastating and challenging the disease can be. Fortunately for us, my mom survived," said Best.

Best said the whole family worked together to help out dur-

ing his mother's battle—they had to do most of the housework, cooking and washing.

"It was hard," he said. "But we all just kept looking forward, keeping high spirits."

There will be a final shave held on Oct. 28. The grand total of all the donations will be revealed during the broadcast, along with thank yous to all those who participated. The QBCF accepts donations by cash, credit and check. People can also give money online through ruban-rose.org or virginradio.ca, and Virgin Radio has enabled donations by text—simply text ROSE to 41010 to automatically donate \$5.



KILL, KILL, KILL

THE CRUEL FATE OF PAUL DALEY

BY CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

PHOTOS RILEY SPARKS

As he stepped into the cage in the centre of a sparse Montreal crowd screaming for him to “kill, kill, kill,” it must have been difficult for Paul Daley not to realize how abrupt his fall from grace has been.

When he last came to Montreal, just 16 months ago, Daley was one win away from a shot at the Ultimate Fighting Championship welterweight title. There was a moment before his bout with Josh Koscheck, with the electric roar of 17,000 fans echoing through the Bell Centre, where you could almost feel the sky start to open up for him.

Daley lost a grueling three-round decision that night, but it wasn't the loss that would get him blacklisted from UFC. Just after the final bell, in front of a television audience numbering in the millions, Daley calmly walked over to Koscheck and sucker-punched him.

“Obviously, I feel terrible about what I did that night,” Daley told *The Link*. “In the heat of the moment, you do things you end up regretting, but I’ve apologized and I want to move on.”

While he may spend the rest of his fighting days in exile from the UFC,

which holds a virtual monopoly over combat sports, the 28-year-old Englishman is an easy sell for smaller promoters.

Besides having a left hook that could knock out a horse, Daley looks exactly like a villain in a Guy Ritchie film.

He's short, stout and has an almost perfectly round head. A deep scar extends from his right eye and towards his cauliflower ear. He has a kind of subtle, alligator grin that reveals a gold plated front tooth, and a blunt charm and charisma that seem to typify cinematic British gangsters.

Perhaps the greatest asset Daley brings to a small-time promoter is the guarantee that he will take a healthy dose of “the old ultra-violence” into the ring with him. Daley fights with a kind of calculated madness, punctuated by feats of daring creativity: flying knees, spinning elbows, wild kicks and the

willingness to trade punches liberally.

“When I step into the cage I don't look at it as a game with points and a scoring system. It's a fight,” he said. “The other guy knows I'm going after him, he knows I'm trying to finish him no matter where the fight goes. I don't think about it, I don't get psyched up for it, I just go out there and fight the only way I know how.”

After his dismissal from the UFC, Daley signed with the organization's main competitor, a San Jose-based organization called Strikeforce. His three-fight stint with Strikeforce provided some of the most memorable MMA moments in the past calendar year.

His fight with top-ranked Nick Diaz, for instance, was a whirlwind of a match that saw Daley knock his opponent down twice before succumbing to punches with just three seconds remaining in the first round.

Strikeforce was eventually bought



“When I step into the cage I don’t look at it as a game with points and a scoring system. It’s a fight. The other guy knows I’m going after him, he knows I’m trying to finish him no matter where the fight goes.”



out by the UFC, sparking rumours that the promotion will be dismantled and raided for salvageable fighters by early 2012.

“I don’t see Strikeforce surviving more than six months,” Daley said at a press conference on Wednesday.

“It’s unhealthy to have one company monopolize a sport. It’s like what was happening with Microsoft in the late ‘90s. The government had to step in and regulate it. As a fighter, it takes away your ability to bargain for a better living. But I can’t worry about that; I’ll travel the world to beat dudes up if I need to.”

As the UFC’s stranglehold over the market tightens, Daley finds himself having to take more fights for less money on regional circuits. In the past 13 months, he has fought seven times, rarely taking a moment away from training camp and

almost constantly visiting dojos across North America and Europe in order to stay sharp.

Before arriving in Montreal on fight week, Daley was living out of a suitcase in Holland, where he was sparring with professional kickboxers in preparation for last Friday’s bout with Luigi Fioravanti.

In Holland, Daley was reportedly clocking in at a whopping 210 pounds—40 pounds above his natural fighting weight. When asked how he planned on losing that much weight just 24 hours before weigh-ins, he fired off a typical Paul Daley answer.

“No eatin’, no drinkin’, lots of shitting, sauna-ing and sitting in hot baths. I might even have to chop something off. It weighs a lot, but I’ll just leave it at that,” he said in a thick London accent.

“I’m banged up,” he admitted.

“It’s rare that I’ll go into a fight completely healthy, but it’s what you have to do to remain relevant. After the Montreal fight I’m thinking of taking some time off to heal up.”

Indeed, while warming up during a public workout on Wednesday, the former contender looked worn-out: occasionally missing his coach’s focus mitts with sluggish punches, his footwork stunted by a slight limp in his knee.

But on fight night, in front of a small but ravenous Montreal crowd, Daley was on point. Ever the showman, he emerged from backstage holding a Quebec flag over his right shoulder like it was a baseball bat.

As Daley walks to the ring, he doesn’t usually mean-mug for the camera; he rarely opts for the vacant-looking thousand-yard-stare you see in so many other fighters’

faces. On Friday, Daley was sporting the old alligator grin on his way to the cage. He even had a little swagger in his step, as though he were walking through an English disco.

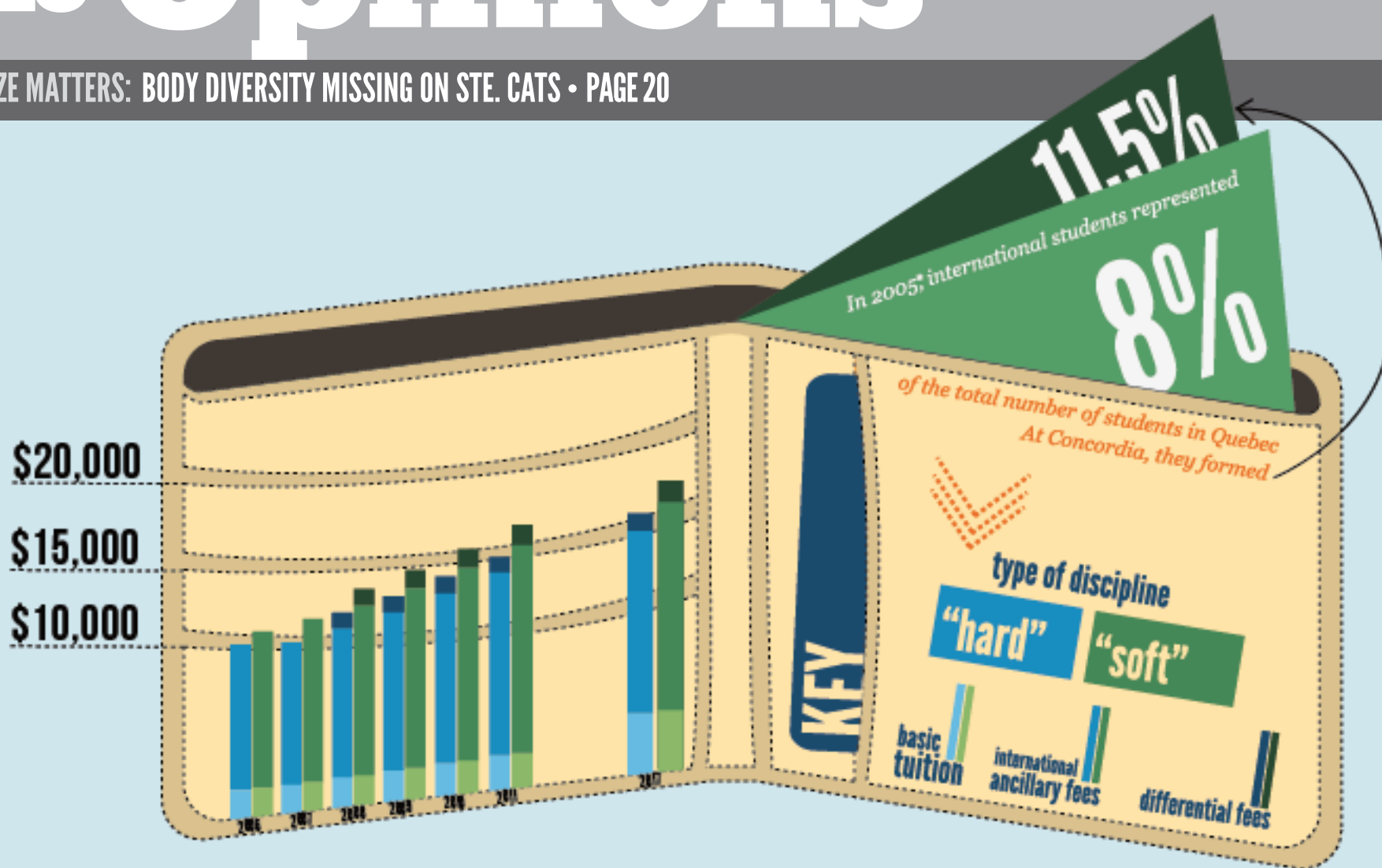
The ring announcer—adorned in a pinstriped suit, with a pink tie, pink dress shirt and a Mohawk haircut—began theatrically introducing the fighters. Daley looked across the cage to Fioravanti, also a former UFC employee, shrugged his shoulders and smiled as if to say, “We might as well make the best out of this.”

Once the bell rang, Daley was completely in his element. Never mind the fact that he was matched up with a guy coming off a two-fight losing streak, fighting in a promotion sponsored by a man who calls himself “The Truck King.” He was in a fight.

Sure enough, he would step to Fioravanti with a series of hisses as he threw a six-punch combination. Every time Fioravanti would fire back, Daley was already out of his range and setting up the next move.

There’s something visceral about the feeling you get from the sound of a man’s shin connecting with his opponent’s ribs. MMA is all about these moments, when your heart stops beating as a fighter leaps at his opponent, staggering him with a flying knee or an inverted elbow strike, as Daley often does.

He may not be fighting for a UFC championship, but as long as Daley can keep those sensations alive in his audience, he should be able to find gainful employment in the fight world. Even if the stands are half-empty and the crowd is screaming, “Turn on the machine, Daley! Kill him!”



The Worst of the Worst

GRAPHIC JULIA WOLFE & HILARY SINCLAIR

International Students Hit Hardest by Tuition Hikes

• NADINE ATALLAH
& ARIANE CAMPEAU

On Nov. 10, students from across the province will march in solidarity against the impending tuition fee hikes proposed by the Charest government.

But if anyone needs to stand up for accessible education, it is the international students. Our tuition is already the most expensive and is about to go up even more.

International students at Concordia have seen their tuition steadily increase by 35 per cent since 2005-2006, yet we still aren't immune from the current Charest-proposed hikes.

The government is going to hike the tuition fees for all students by \$325 per year for the next five years. That means that by the 2016-2017 academic year, all students will be paying \$1,625 more for their education than they do today—international students included.

That's bad news for all students,

but tuition is increasing from a substantially higher baseline for international students than for Quebec residents.

Adding insult to injury, international students also face hikes above and beyond those applicable to residents—and this isn't something new. In 2007-2008, when Quebec students' tuition increased by \$100, international students saw their bill jump by almost \$600. Since then, things have been gradually getting worse.

Tuition Breakdown

In order to fully grasp the impact of these hikes, it's important to understand how an international student's tuition bill works.

Essentially, the bill is composed of four types of fees: the basic tuition and ancillary fees paid by Quebec students, international ancillary fees, and differential fees.

The basic tuition and ancillary fees paid by Quebec students are included in international students' fees, so any increase in Quebec stu-

dents' tuition will be automatically reflected in international students' tuition as well.

Ancillary fees have been increasing since the '90s. In 2010-2011, differential fees reached, on average, \$375.57 per credit for "soft" disciplines like the social sciences and \$427.02 per credit for "hard" disciplines. Remember, that's per credit—multiply that by 15 for a full semester's course load and you see what we're talking about.

That doesn't include the six families of programs that have deregulated fees since 2007-2008—administration, law, computer science, engineering, mathematics and the pure sciences.

Essentially, it is the individual universities that set the fees for these programs. There is a minimum, but no cap, and soon they might not be regulated at all.

The Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport recently announced that it plans to revise its

policies concerning tuition fees for international students—but given the history here, it's unlikely that those changes will be in our interests or to our benefit.

There's Hope

Thankfully, it's not all bad news.

For the last few years, the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec has been working on the implementation of a tax credit for international students who wish to settle in Quebec after their studies.

These students would then be credited the difference between the fees they paid for their tuition as an international student and those of a Quebec student. The FEUQ recently presented this project during consultations on the Quebec's 2012-2015 immigration strategies.

But if the FEUQ is going to be working for international students, we need to stand together and support them.

The numbers are on our side,

both in this province and the country, but even more so at this school. In 2005, international students represented eight per cent of the total number of students in Quebec. At Concordia, they formed 11.5 per cent.

Contrary to what some people might want us to believe, we have the means to voice our dissatisfaction and have it resonate to the government.

International students more than anyone else need to be out in the streets on Nov. 10. Go to Mob Squad meetings every Friday at 6:00 p.m. in the CSU Lounge. Keep on top of the movement at concordiastudents.ca, and know your issues. For more information, visit 1625wontpass.ca.

We'll see you on the streets.

Nadine Atallah is an independent councillor on the Concordia Student Union and Ariane Campeau is the FEUQ's VP Sociopolitical Affairs.

Media Concentrate

CBC Calls Out Quebecor, Raises Questions of Convergence



This week the CBC called out Quebecor on their accountability, in a statement entitled "Get The Facts"

GRAPHIC CLEMENT LIU

• MEGAN DOLSKI

When the media becomes the subject of the news rather than the source of it, someone isn't doing their job.

Last week, words like 'vendetta' and 'malice' were thrown around by major Canadian media players—but instead of appearing in shocking news coverage, they were used by one news source in reference to another.

Last Tuesday, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation re-

leased a strongly worded statement entitled "Get the Facts" that defended the corporation's own accountability and transparency with regards to those of their competitor, private corporation Quebecor.

The statement is both concise and catty, making it crystal-clear that the CBC has had enough of the conglomerate's antics—which include attempting to have the its budget cut and being persistent in sending an influx of access to information requests its way.

Quebecor has since demanded the CBC apologize and remove the "defamatory" text from their website or face a lawsuit. The CBC has yet to do so, but say they will respond to Quebecor's letter in due time.

To fully grasp the extent of this media mudslinging, it's crucial to understand the scope of the opponents.

You have the CBC—Canada's national public broadcaster, self-proclaimed as one of this country's largest cultural institutions. The CBC provides Canadi-

ans with almost-exclusively Canadian content through television, Internet and satellite-based services.

On the other side of the scuffle, you have Quebecor, a massive conglomerate that owns both Sun Media and Osprey Media—headed by Pierre Karl Péladeau.

Take a look at the numbers and you'll see that Péladeau has some 36 daily newspapers and more than 180 non-dailies and scads of additional outreach in the form of the publishing and broadcasting companies under his belt (Search 'newspaper chain' at quebecor.com to see the full list).

CBC's statement makes three claims that, according to them, "Quebecor won't tell you."

It states that the media mogul has received "more than half a billion dollars in direct and indirect subsidies and benefits from Canadian taxpayers over the past three years, yet it is not accountable to them."

It also suggests that Quebecor "uses this public subsidy and its dominant position in protected industries to make record profits, yet complains that its TVA television network 'competes' against Radio-Canada," and finally that Péladeau has sent "over a dozen letters to the Prime Minister and others in government to complain that Radio-Canada does not spend enough money advertising in his newspapers."

All of the above claims can be boiled down to a single common theme—dolla, dolla bill, y'all.

This little scuffle has everything to do with media convergence in this country.

The media in Canada is no longer a mom-and-pop scenario consisting of a congregation of independently owned publications, but rather a struggle between a handful of far-reaching businesses that are actively cutting at each other's throats while fighting for your eyes and ears—and wallets.

Péladeau defended his company's attack of the CBC, stating, "The CBC is not a small entity in the media business in Canada and I think if you're going to come out and challenge them, that takes some courage as a media player in Canada." According to him, no other Canadian media organization is brave enough to take on the evil corporation.

Chances are he's right—the media business has become a tangled web where breaks in the chain are few and far between. The current structure of media ownership is such that the suits on top of the food chain are so few that those at the bottom can't call each other out without stepping on someone with the same boss's toes.

So, regardless of who you think is in the right regarding the current media battle, as a reader you should take this as a lesson in awareness.

Realize that no matter how much news you read, listen to and watch, you may not be consuming as many viewpoints as you think. There's a good chance that all of the information you receive comes from fewer head offices than there are fingers on the hand you just used to change the channel.

NDP NEEDS TO BACK CANADA'S 99%

Party Has Potential to Guide Muddled Movement

• BRIAN LAPUZ

Canadians are standing together against the current economic divide in our population via Occupy movements ongoing in almost every major city in this country. Like their peers around the globe, this country's poorest "99 per cent" are out on the streets and asking for change.

While their qualms with the capitalist system have been made clear, the movement has been met with criticism for lacking direct and specific demands for change.

Fortunately for the 99 per cent in this country, we have a political party that has long supported the rights of the working class; a party with socialist roots. This is the time for the New Democratic

Party to seize the opportunity to defend and guide the interests of the Canadian 99 per cent.

This party has the potential to take the occupiers' plea for change and turn it into policy that truly listens to the all-the-more vocal majority. But if they want to do that, they need to step their game up and put forward a socialist platform.

While the middle class is being squeezed, those at the top have been hoarding. According to a report by Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, the country's top one per cent have seen their income double over the last 30 years.

"People are sick and tired of seeing their leaders always taking the side of big business with billions in tax cuts," NDP Interim

Leader Nycole Turmel said in a CBC report last week, referring to the Occupiers.

Acknowledging the protests and denouncing the capitalists is a good start, but left-wing phraseology shouldn't be the end of it. The NDP needs to follow up its talk with concrete proposals that people know will make a difference.

Again last week, Turmel was interviewed by the CBC after a day in the House of Commons where she mentioned that the government should limit raises for CEOs. With corporate greed finally becoming a dominant point of political discourse, this is a pretty meagre attempt at change.

After having been squeezed for so long through inflation, low

wages and poor services, what difference does it make to the indebted workers and students that a CEO would have to, for example, get a \$100,000 bonus instead of a \$500,000 bonus, while they're still making their million dollar salaries every year? It's a nice thought, but we're looking for something a little more substantial.

The NDP needs to think big. Their biggest success to date is Medicare, something the party fought long and hard for, championed by Tommy Douglas. They made a big, long-lasting change—and that is the kind of action that we need now.

Through the Occupy movement, the workers and youth learn to rely on their own strength and

ingenuity, but they must ask the NDP to be their voice in Parliament.

In return, the party must fight for free education, universal child-care, invest in public housing projects, free public transit, an end to war, an end to corporate tax cuts and bailouts, a halt on attempts to privatize healthcare and push for an overall end to austerity.

In order to do so, the party must cease its talk of moving to the centre—instead it should be a socialist alternative. If the NDP stands in the middle of the road, it will get hit by traffic from both sides. This is what the Liberal Party has been trying to do for decades—and we all know what happened to them.

SCREAMS IN THE HALL

Concordia On: Zombie Apocalypse

• PIERRE CHAUVIN

With the world economy crumbling, #Occupy protests happening throughout the world and a general depressive trend in world news, we decided to ask students about a more festive topic this week: Halloween.

So, we asked students what they would do in the (very) probable case of a Zombie Apocalypse:

“I think I would act like a zombie—that’s always a technique they use in the movies. But I still think that running is the best idea possible.”



—Hira Singh
BA Accounting

“You join the Zombies, they always win. If you want to keep your flesh, walk in a bank, into the vault, and bring some food. [Zombies] aren’t that smart, what are they going to do? If you’re in the vault, they can’t get you.”



—Costa Tagalakas
B Commerce

“I would probably climb somewhere where they couldn’t get to me, [like] the top of the building. I wouldn’t be a superhero, I would just [try to] outsmart them. I guess a shovel comes to mind [as a weapon] or I would probably carry a baseball bat—it’s pretty easy to carry around.”



—François Letourneau
BA Finance

“[I would] find an aircraft and fly away.”



—Joany Pagé
B Commerce

“I would go far away from the city. I’m assuming that’s where the zombies would be. [I would go] where there are no people—like up North—and I would obviously stock up on reserves: food, water, guns.”



—François Judge
BA Computer Science

“The truth is, I would probably be the people in movie who stay there and die of shock. I would probably have a heart attack. The other thing would be to run and hide somewhere, because I’m a chicken and I don’t like blood.”



—Melissa Pascal
BA Sociology

“I would probably try to build a house or some sort of habitat under Earth, I’m [also] an architect student so I’ll try find a way so they won’t find me.”



—Richa Chuttani
Independent Student—Physics

“[I would] lock myself in a grocery store, then try to bring survivors there and try to help people. [Then] make a plan, an escape route, probably up north. Hopefully the infection wouldn’t get there.”



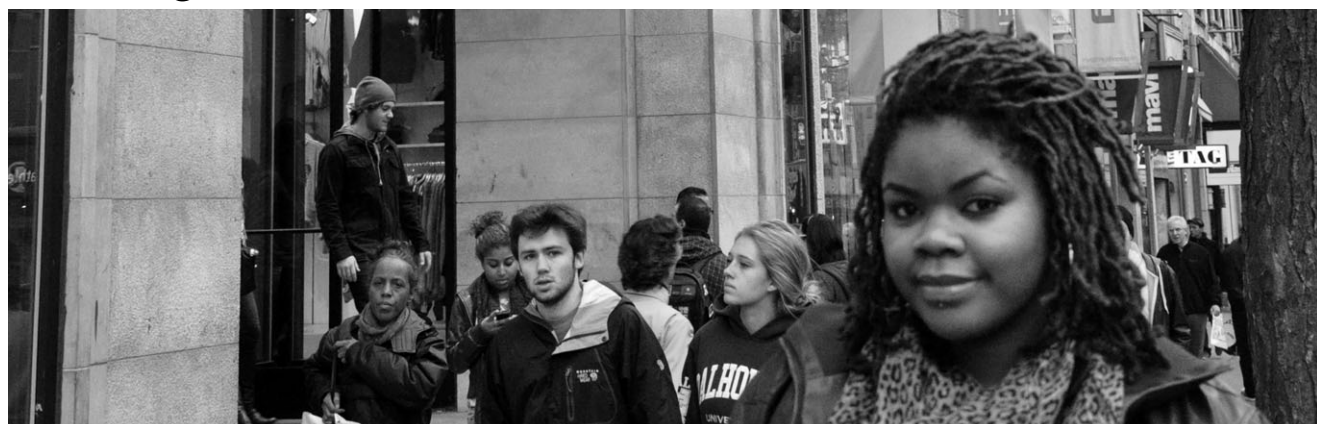
—Faizul Rahaman
Independent Student—
Mathematics



Settlement Shopping



Full Figured Fashion Nowhere to Be Found on Ste. Cat



Ste. Catherine St. is known for its great shopping, but if you are looking for plus-sized fashion, the selection is scarce.

PHOTO ERIN SPARKS

• SARAH ST-FLEUR

Montreal is on its way to becoming a fashion hotspot, bursting with the latest and greatest in trends and styles. The city is a fashionista’s dream and a shopper’s paradise—assuming you fit into a size 12 or smaller.

Shopping in this city goes from amazing to abysmal if you’re searching for anything catering to diverse body types.

Just take a walk down Ste. Catherine St. Out of the 11.5 km of shopping complexes that dot the bustling street’s underground, you’ll only find one that caters solely to plus-size women. And let’s face it, one store can’t possibly satisfy every single one of us.

As a result, plus-sized women are forced into “settlement” shopping—since we have to settle for choosing from what’s available, instead of from what we like.

Did it never occur to anyone that F.A.T.—that is, fabulous and thick—girls love fashion too? This may come as shock to some, but unlike most people, I’m neither afraid nor offended by that three-letter word. Society has given this word an automatic negative connotation, though it’s nothing more than an adjective. Somehow “skinny” has become a compliment, making “fat” by default an insult.

I’m a confident woman and I was raised to believe that your actions define your character rather than what

other people may think of you. I refuse to tolerate the lack of body type diversity in the fashion world—a shortcoming that is exemplified all too well here in Montreal.

Of course, bigger women in this city are not pushed aside to special neighborhoods or denied entrance into public locations—that would be barbaric. But that doesn’t mean they aren’t discriminated against.

Instead, retailers choose not to sell clothes in our size. That way, full-figured women will not even bother coming into their store and the brand will only be associated with skinny women. Clever, huh?

Let’s take Forever 21 as an example. This store actually has a plus-sized collection. They sell it online, but refuse to do so in stores. I wanted to know why, so I asked.

In response to my question, my email queries were ignored, I received rude customer service and got ridiculed in-store.

I did receive one response to my question though; it came in the form of an email from a teenage reader, who read about my experience on my blog. She told me about a shopping experience she had with her mother that went sour.

Initially, all this girl wanted was to be able to wear the same clothes as her skinnier friends—which they had purchased from Forever 21.

Once she and her mother arrived at the store branch, however, they were told

that plus-sized clothing was never available there, nor were they ever planning on making it available. The salesperson suggested that maybe this girl’s mother should bring her to a “specialized” store.

Just imagine the pain and the embarrassment she felt at that time.

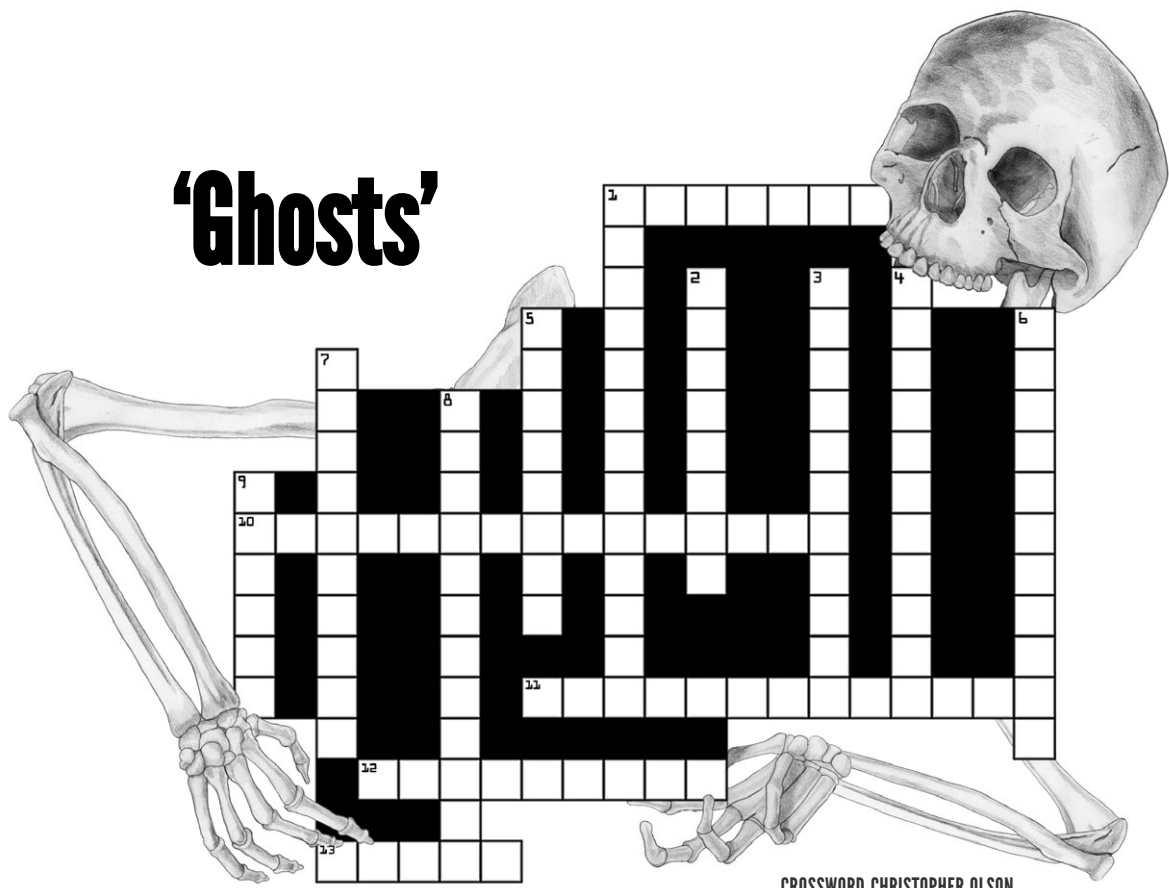
Enough is enough: just because someone doesn’t fit into a standardized size does not mean they warrant this type of exclusion or treatment.

New York, the Mecca of fashion has acknowledged the importance of the plus size industry, and Montreal would do well to do the same. Our city has been piggy-backing off of New York’s fashion influences—snatching every new trend and style—so why have we completely overlooked plus-sized fashion?

If for no reason other than simple economics, Montreal should open their eyes to the plus-sized industry as a valuable market—one that, until now, they have blatantly ignored.

Sarah St-Fleur is the author of QueenSizedFlava.com, a blog that raises awareness, highlights trends, provides plus-sized fashion references and promotes self-esteem for women all over the world. She has also started a campaign called “We Want Forever 21+ in Quebec,” which you can check out on her blog.

'Ghosts'



CROSSWORD CHRISTOPHER OLSON

Across

1. The premise of this movie involves a movie (meta!) that kills you one week after you watch it. Why do I have a feeling that the negative reviews wrote themselves? (2 words)
10. Old man loves his money more than anything else, ghosts tell him what a crappy person he is, and everyone has a merry Christmas. (3 words)
11. Not to be confused with *Angels in the Outfield*, in which angels conspire to help a struggling baseball team to reach the pennant in order to reunite a kid with his family. In this one the baseball players and the angels are one and the same. (3 words)
12. One of many American remakes of Japanese horror films in the early '00s, this one features a begrudging ghost who's anything but passive-aggressive. It's very, very aggressive. (2 words)

13. Features either the hottest sex scene between a ghost and a living person—or the least creepy.

Down

1. A boy who can see ghosts of the child psychologist variety. (3 words)
2. Bill Cosby is a befuddling ghost. Family-friendly fun is had. (2 words)
3. Four Michigan State students inadvertently release ancient demons back into the world when they discover the "book of the dead" in an abandoned cabin in the woods, and the results are very, very funny. (3 words)
4. Some recently deceased ghosts consult a bio-exorcist to get rid of the humans inhabiting their former home. It's like an orgasm composed entirely of whimsy.
5. The spirit of an African slave whose arm was cut off and

replaced with a hook for the crime of impregnating a white woman takes out his vengeance on superstitious modern-day Americans who summon him by saying his name five times while looking in the mirror. That's some fucked-up form of reparations right there.

6. The first rule of real estate is location, location, location. For instance, don't locate your real estate on top of an old burial ground with lingering spirits. You'd be surprised how often it happens. Dead people are buried just about everywhere.

7. A boy who can see ghosts of the twin variety. (2 words)

8. You'd think that real-life "ghost hunters" led exciting and entertaining lives, but watching this movie proves you tragically wrong.

9. I still contend that this film's main character is the ghost of Richie Rich.



Letters@thelinknewspaper.ca

Fed Up With Food

If you have your classes at the downtown campus, you have a lot of options for affordable grub. There are cheap burritos across the street, sushi, or pretty much anything you want.

But, if you are marooned at the Loyola campus the pickings are pretty slim—especially if you have evening classes.

I get so pissed off when my choices are an inexpensive but uninspiring flat grilled cheese sandwich from the dears at the G Lounge, cafeteria food or, if I have 15 minutes to grab my snack and wolf it down (which is typical), the little café's in the various campus buildings.

But I experienced the ultimate insult today, when I swallowed my pride and bellied up to buy a \$3 cookie and a \$2 yogurt—the establishment wanted to charge me an extra 25 cents for the privilege of using my bankcard to pay! Are you kidding me? You gouge me on a pastry and then you want me to cough up more cash?

How can we be so complacent about the fact that our university administrators are allowing corporations to come into our hallways and get rich with such obviously inflated prices off students who are fighting tooth and nail to keep the tuitions down? How can we not think this is a big deal?

Why isn't it a policy to keep

corporate business at arm's length? Why aren't these café spaces student-run or at the very least university run? Put the money back into the school, don't let the Kevin O'Leary's of the world stuff it under their mattresses as they laugh in our faces.

At least give us options that make sense.

—Celia Ste. Croix
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.



The Skinny on Squirting

I'm sleeping with a guy and things are going great—except for one thing. He's convinced he can make me "squirt." He says that every girl he's been with did but I'm pretty sure it's not happening and I'm sick of feeling like something is wrong with me. Can every girl do it?

—Trouble Squirting

Simplest answer—no one really knows. Squirting (aka female ejaculation or gushing) is probably the least-agreed-upon topic in female sexuality. So let's explore the debates:

On the yes side, the argument is that all women can, but most don't, because they don't know how or aren't comfortable enough to let it happen.

Squirting is often explained as an intense orgasmic reaction from stimulation of the G-spot—another lovely thing that not all professionals agree exists!

The G-spot (also known as the urethral sponge) is located directly over the urethra (where pee and mystery squirting liquid come out of) and the Skene's gland (where the squirting liquid is said to originate from). Stimulation of the G-spot can make women feel like they need to pee, so many of them will stop or contract their vaginal muscles to avoid peeing, when really they're preventing themselves from squirting.

Another related theory is that every woman is capable of squirting and actually does at every orgasm, but for some women it's internal and absorbed and for others it's external.

The difference is in the women who embrace the peeing feeling and "let it out," and the women who contract their pubococcygeus (PC) muscle during orgasm, which is the muscle you use to start and stop your urine flow—or your squirting.

It's worth noting, at this point, that there have been studies done examining the make-up of this liquid, and they prove that it is not urine. However, as with everything else in this area of interest, those studies are questioned.

The naysayers claim there is no concrete scientific proof since thorough and focused research has yet to be conducted—and many women haven't squirted. It isn't always a case of denying it exists, but rather that they don't believe what is happening is "ejaculation."

Some professionals have associated squirting with stress incontinence, commonly experienced when some women pee a little when they sneeze too hard, so they assume that if you orgasm too hard, you pee.

So what do I think? There hasn't been enough research done specifically on squirting to know what it is and why it happens, but women are clearly experiencing something and it's really problematic when medical professionals ignore or dismiss their lived experiences. Can every woman do it? That I don't know.

I definitely think that if you want to try to make it happen, there's a necessary combination of emotional and physical factors—not only do you physically need to be capable of doing it, you also need to be comfortable doing it.

My guess is you'll never do it with this guy putting the everyone-else-can-do-it kind of pressure on you, though, and this should be about doing it for your pleasure.

If you want to actually try learning how to squirt, it's really about stimulating your G-spot, embracing that peeing sensation, no matter how intimidating that seems, and letting it all out.

There's a sexologist on YouTube that you should check out who explains it (complete with hand motions!)—search NewWorld-SexEducation and watch "Benefits, How To, and Need to Know Info About Female Ejaculation."

If you try and it doesn't happen, don't look at it as you failing or as something being wrong with you because there actually isn't any proof that every woman can even do it. Our bodies and sexualities are all different—so relax.

If it happens, it happens, and if it doesn't, you're not any less of a woman, and your partner shouldn't think any less of you or himself.

—Melissa Fuller

Submit questions anonymously at sex-pancakes.tumblr.com and check out "Sex & Pancakes" on Facebook.

Tremendous Tales
by Christopher Olson



“Ma’am, we’ve traced the subspace signal, and it’s coming from inside the spaceship. I repeat: it’s coming from *inside* the spaceship!”

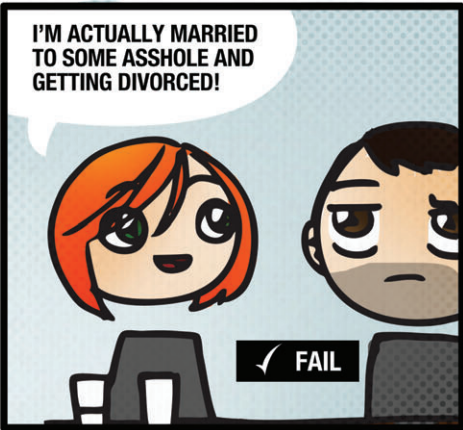
Barton Flats
COMIC JONATHAN WOODS



Cher, dahling -
how goes it?

Unbeknownst to most Canadians,
Pierre Trudeau had his own
Cold War hotline set up

Living The Life
COMIC CLAUDINE LAMOTHE



Nah'msayin?

Ragin' On The Road

When I get in my car, rage takes over me—I just can't help it.

So instead of bulldozing the next bad driver I encounter, I figured I'd try to clarify some basics that the general automobile-operating population ought to know before getting behind the wheel. And yes, Granny, you may be cute and bake good cookies but these things apply to you, too. Listen up.

People take the highway when they want to get places quickly—mind-boggling epiphany, I know. For those of you who are nervous drivers or just partial to a slower pace, guess what? There's a service road on the right-hand side just for you. Take it.

And for those of you that follow that whole three-car distance thing—please be reasonable. I know you learned that in driving school, but consistently braking when there happens to only be two and 7/8ths of a car's space ahead

of you is actually dangerous. The car behind you isn't expecting you to halt abruptly and will come crashing into you. (P.S. This will be your fault.)

Worst of all are the drivers that seem to have a phobia of red lights. You know the one's who are afraid to approach the stop line? I swear the light is not going to shoot out a blast of fire into your face. Also, there's this little thing called an inductive loop—a sensor that's placed underground to tell the lights that there is a car waiting. So when you come to a stop miles away from this sensor, you can bet you're going be waiting at the light for a million years. Yes, people will honk at you. Yes, this is also your fault.

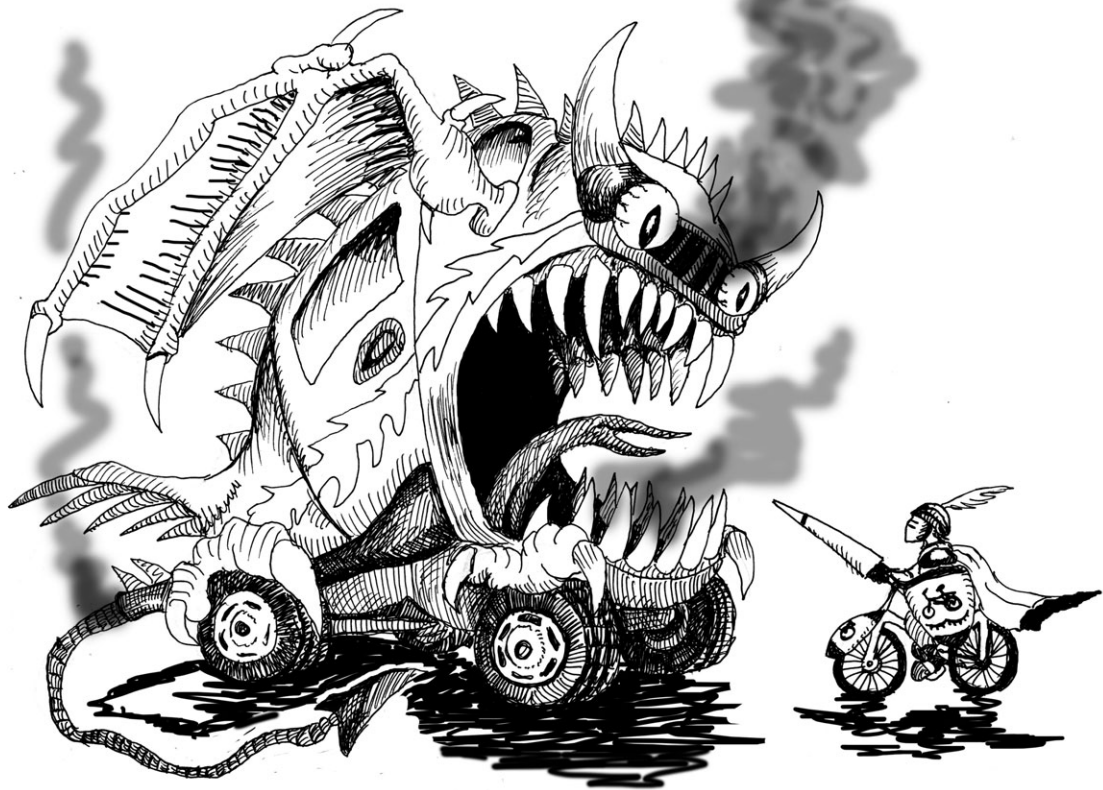
Please keep these things in mind; it will make the roads a happier place.

—Ashley Couillard



GRAPHIC SHOSHANA EIDELMAN

editorial cartoon



GRAPHIC ERIC BENT

Transport Tragedy

I know two people who were killed by cars in the last two weeks.

The absolute shock, immediate impact and staggering sense of mortality that comes with such a sudden loss really makes you stop and wonder: Wow, is everything arbitrary?

Deep in grief, I kept hearing that tired expression my friends were “in the wrong place at the wrong time,” but I began to wonder if it wasn’t the other way around; that maybe, cars are in the wrong place *all* the time.

A speeding, 4,000-pound machine doesn’t give the pedestrian, cyclist or other motorist much of a chance, does it? And in that moment of impact—when you hear that sickening crunch, or that final cry—who was ‘in the wrong’ is pretty much an afterthought because someone has *died*.

Last week, motor vehicle fatalities seemed to be everywhere on my radar.

The more I started thinking about it, reading about it, and seeing it on the television screen, the more I realized that perhaps it’s not arbitrary at all. It’s

actually not about ‘chance’ at all, but about the fact that our car-crazed culture is a system that kills many people every, single day.

You may never read about the real effects of an oil war, or the devastating environmental havoc caused by the creation and maintenance of this Age of the Automobile in a mainstream newspaper.

But for whatever reason, motor vehicle accidents are the staple we’re fed; part of the ‘if it bleeds, it leads’ media mindset that ensures at least a news brief will be there each morning with our cup of coffee.

A five-year Statistics Canada study saw an average of eight Canadians killed each day in motor-vehicle accidents, with the deaths peaking in summer of 2004 at more than 10 fatalities a day.

These accidents account for more than one in six deaths among Canadian youth each year.

Transport Canada also suggests that there were nearly 172,000 total injuries

in Canadian motor vehicle traffic collisions in 2009. Over 2,200 of those were fatal with 135,000 serious and personal injuries.

Given the shocking figures, how has car use not become a bigger public-safety issue?

Have we become desensitized to the conception of cars as killers, just as we’ve become desensitized to violent and sudden death?

Last week’s extremely graphic footage of two-year-old Wang Yue—who was run over *twice* by vehicles and left bleeding in a Chinese marketplace as 18 people went by without stopping—was an especially demoralizing example.

Closer to home—and to this reporter personally—a flatbed truck took a ‘right hook’ out on my buddy in Williamsburg, NY on the night of Oct. 19, reportedly dragging his bike for a block and leaving him crumpled on the side of the road.

The state of his body suggested he passed fully underneath the vehicle; he

was pronounced dead on the scene, just 30 years old.

The scene of the crime also reportedly suggests the driver must have known he had struck something and, while the truck was located a few blocks from the accident, the person who killed my friend has yet to turn himself in.

There are over 20 million cars and trucks clogging Canadian infrastructure today, and an overwhelming sense of entitlement—and disillusion to the realities of car-related deaths—that feeds the rolling epidemic.

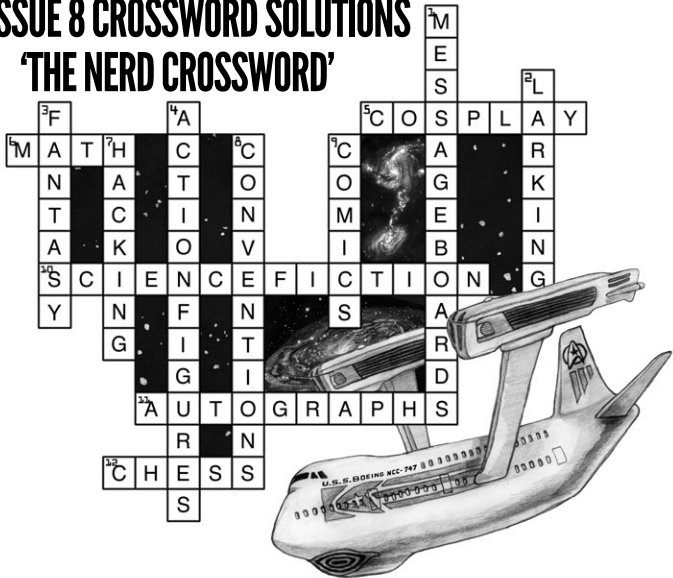
The number of shocking, violent and sudden losses of life that have become epidemic on our road systems makes me wonder why there isn’t some vigorous political response from our governments about the amount of motor vehicle-related deaths, improved infrastructure and accessible public transit alternatives.

Lives actually depend on it.

—Laura Beeston
Editor-in-Chief

editorial

ISSUE 8 CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS
‘THE NERD CROSSWORD’



THE LINK

CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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